

Recommended Walking Courses

These walking courses designed by the Yamanaka Onsen Tourism Association make a great way to enjoy the natural beauty, history, and seasonal dishes of Yamanaka Onsen.

Trace the Footsteps of Matsuo Basho

Required time: about 50 minutes/about 0.5km

Basho-no-Yakata Museum ⇄ Site of Izumiya Ryokan (the Japanese-style inn where Basho stayed) ⇄ "Kasa-no-Tsuyu" drinkable onsen / "Ashiyu" foot spa ⇄ "Kiku-no-Yu" bathhouse / Yamanaka-za ⇄ Ioji Temple (free entry to the exhibition hall)

"A Walk Along the Streets of Yamanaka Onsen"

Required time: about 1 hour/about 1.2km

Korogi-bashi Bridge ⇄ Yuge Kaido District ⇄ "Kiku-no-Yu" Hotspring/Yamanaka-za ⇄ Souvenir Shops ⇄ The "Shamisen-dori" Ave ⇄ Kurotani-bashi Bridge

For Ryokan(Japanese-style Inn) Information:

Kagari Kisshotei (0761)78-2223

かがり吉待亭

Kayotei (0761)78-1410

かよう亭

Kissho Yamanaka (0761)78-5656

吉祥やまなか

Kuriya Yasohachi (0761)78-8080

厩八十八

Kocho (0761)78-4500

胡蝶

Shirasagiyu Tawaraya (0761)78-1321

白鷺湯たわらや

Suimei (0761)78-1616

翠明

Suzuya Konnichiro (0761)78-4848

すゞや今日楼

Yukai Resort Premium Yoshinoya Irokuen (0570)550-178

湯快リゾートプレミアムよしのや依緑園

Hanamurasaki (0761)78-0077

花紫

Oiwai-no-yado (0761)78-5438

お慰いの宿

Ohanami Kyubei (0761)78-1301

お花見久兵衛

Miyakowasure-no-Yado Koorogirou (0761)78-1117

みやこわすれの宿 こおろぎ楼

Yukai Resort Premium Yamanaka Grand Hotel (0570)550-178

湯快リゾートプレミアム山中グランドホテル

Yukai Resort Yamanaka Onsen Hana-Saichoraku (0570)550-178

湯快リゾート山中温泉花・彩朝楽

Yubatake-no-yado Hanatubaki (0761)78-5500

湯畑の宿 花つばき

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Highlights of Yamanaka



Kurotani-bashi Bridge (Autumn)



Kiku-no-Yu (Winter)



Kakusenkei Gorge Walking Path (Summer)



Kakusenkei Gorge Riverside Seating Area (Spring)



Korogi-bashi Bridge (Summer)



Hot Spring District (Spring)



Kakusenkei Gorge (Autumn)



Korogi-bashi Bridge (Winter)

YAMANAKA ONSEN WALKING MAP





Sightseeing Destinations

A Yamanaka-za

Yamanaka-za features a stately atmosphere, with its lacquered pillars and lattice-style walls, and the maki-e inlay work on the ceiling. On Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, geisha performances are held here — just one of the forms of traditional culture that visitors can enjoy. Admission: Adults ¥700, children ¥350

B Great Sugi of Kayano

This 2,300-year-old sugi cedar tree is located at Sugahara Shrine, and known in Japan as the emperor's great sugi cedar tree. The teahouse in front of the shrine offers delicious kusa-dango dumplings, and is a must-visit while you're here.

C Ioji Temple

Established 1,300 years ago by the Buddhist priest Gyoki, this temple protects the town's hot spring. Offers a magnificent view of the hot spring town.

D Yamanaka-za & Kiku-no-Yu Bath (women's bath)

This elegant and feminine building is located near the source spring for Yamanaka Onsen. At the Kasa-no-Tsuyu foot bath in front of Kiku-no-Yu, visitors can even drink the spring water. Yamanaka-za next door is a concert hall where Yamanaka geisha shows are performed, and is worth a visit simply to see the beautiful maki-e inlay work and Yamanaka lacquerware in the recessed panels of the ceiling in the lobby. Coin-operated lockers available for bath visitors.

E Soyu Kiku-no-Yu Bath (men's bath)

This bath has not once changed its location in the 1,300 years or so since this town's hot spring was first discovered by the Buddhist priest Gyoki. Until the early to mid 20th century, the town's ryokan inns didn't have their own baths — instead, overnight guests would come out to use this bath. This bath was also praised by the famous haiku poet Basho as one of Japan's three finest.

Kiku-no-yu admission (for men's or women's bath): Adults ¥490, children 6-11 ¥130, children 3-5 ¥50, children under 3 free [Closed on 2nd and 4th Tuesday]

F Korogi-bashi Bridge

Famed for its breathtaking views all year round, and beloved by famous Japanese poets like Basho and Yumeji.

G Ayatori-hashi Bridge

This uniquely S-shaped bridge was designed by Hiroshi Teshigahara. Its redish purple color offers a stunning contrast with the surrounding natural scenery through all four seasons.

H Kurotani-bashi Bridge

A stone bridge that conjures up romantic images of the early 20th century, and was once crossed by many travelers along the Nata Road on their way into Yamanaka.

I Yamanaka Lacquerware Museum Yamanaka Urushi-za

Learn all about Yamanaka Lacquerware through exhibits of outstanding pieces and items available for sale. [Closed Wed.]

J Katsura Shozu Spring

Long ago, visitors who came for the baths' medicinal properties would be reluctant to part with the ladies who assisted them here.

K Basho-do Hut

Dedicated to the haiku poet Basho, who famously praised this hot spring.

L Hakusan Shrine

The subordinate shrine for the Hakusangu shrines scattered around the area. Features beautiful cherry blossoms in spring.

M Kakusenkei Gorge Riverside Area

This popular destination is open through the end of October. Enjoy the lush greenery of the gorge and the peaceful sound of the water, as you relax with some delicious sweets in this beautiful environment.

N Tengu Rock

They say that if you see the three rocks at the top of the mountain from far away, it's a sign of good things to come.

O Great Three-forked Sugi

This 2,300-year-old sugi cedar tree at Sugatani Hachiman Shrine is 54 meters tall and eight meters around its base. The tree is said to possess a feminine beauty, and the mossy path to it has a quiet beauty all its own.

P Tsubaki Shozu Spring at Tokushoji Temple

Tsubaki Shozu spring, the yatsubusa ume plum tree, and okoshi-kake rock are remnants from the Buddhist priest Rennyo that can still be found here today. It's a bit out of the way, but worth the trip.

Q Basho-no-Yakata Museum

Learn about Basho's most famous work, Oku no Hosomichi, and traditional handicrafts. Admission: ¥300 [Closed Wed.]

R Rokuro-no-Sato Kogei-no-Yakata

Try wood-turning and weaving at this hands-on workshop. [Closed Wed.] Tel: [0761] 78-2278

S Hasebe Shrine

Dedicated to Hasebe Nobutsura, a man closely tied to Yamanaka Onsen's revival.

T Mugen-an

A samurai house from the age of the Kaga Domain, built in the Shoin-zukuri style. Admission: ¥500 [Closed Tues.]

Local Shops

1 Kakusenkei Café "Higashiyama Bonheur" Enjoy beef stew rice in a grown-up atmosphere. [Closed Thu & Fri.]

2 Kinuya Kutaniyaki Pottery Workshop Offering Kutaniyaki pottery and souvenirs. Their Yukatabe Ningyo dolls are especially popular. [Closed Thu.]

3 Shirukuro Hands-on Pottery Workshop (inside Kinuya) Try the popular electric pottery wheel hands-on experience, or paint your own Kutaniyaki pottery or Yukatabe Ningyo doll. [Closed Thu.]

4 Japanese Sweets "Sankaïdo" Japanese sweets for a touch of luxury. [Closed Tue.]

5 Suzuki Meat Offering ready-to-eat food like outstanding sukiyaki croquettes. [Closed Wed.]

6 Handmade Gyoza Dumplings "Choraku" Delicious gyoza dumplings that can be mail-ordered to anywhere in Japan. [Closed Thu.]

7 Kodesen Try their delicious soft-boiled onsen eggs or kamaboko fish cakes, or egg-flavored soft-serve ice cream. [Open daily]

8 Yamanaka Ishikawaya Their Nyanya Manju sweets are a famous local specialty. [Closed Wed.]

9 GATOMIKIO/I A directly managed store of Mikio Gato Shoten, which has won numerous design awards both domestically and internationally. [Closed Thu.]

10 Mokume Offering unique chopsticks made from natural wood. [Closed Thu.] Tel: [0761] 78-1757

11 Meigetsuro Annex Since its founding, this restaurant has prided itself on its eel-topped rice bowls. [Closed Tue.]

12 Lacquerware "Asada" Make your own one-of-a-kind painted bowl. [Closed for year-end & new year holidays & every second and fourth Sun.] Tel: [0761] 78-4200

13 Shokusaikan "Yamaboshi" Try making your own soba noodles or enjoy other local specialties. [Closed Wed.] Tel: [0761] 78-0051

14 Kaya-no-Osugi Chaya Kusa-dango dumplings with eight centuries of history. [Closed Wed & Thu. and from Dec.10 through Apr.12]

15 250 years of history! "Matsuura Shuzo Tsukushiya" Visitors can purchase the local sake Shishi-no-Sato directly from the brewery here. [Closed Wed.]

16 Yamanaka "Kataoka Tsurutaro Craft Museum" The works of Tsurutaro are on display and for sale. Visitors can also enjoy the coffee salon. [Closed Tues.]

17 Gallery "Nichiyoukan Kagana Soup" Exhibition and sale of art furniture and works by craft artists. There is also a cafe where you can take out food and a rest area. [Closed Tues & Wed.]

18 Lacquerware "Tadaikeikan" Production, wholesale, and direct sales of lacquered goods. [Open daily]

19 Kanamori A great place to grab a snack for walking around town, like their famous Kinton Pie! [Closed irregularly]

20 Sake Club "Kubode" Offering local sake, sake cups, and more. Try the daiginjo sake soft-serve ice cream. [Closed Wed.]

21 Amu Shop&Cafe Ishikawa Prefecture's "now" is here. Select shop & cafe in hot spring town. Closed Wed & every second and fourth Thu.

22 Yuge Kaïdo "Tezukuri Nakama-no-komichi" Featuring Saikēan soba noodles.

23 Traditional Crafts Gallery Sweets Shop Music Box Shop Enjoy traditional crafts, sweets, and a music box house. [Closed irregularly]

24 Otakaragura We sell lacquerware, ceramics, and glassware at reasonable prices. [Closed irregularly]

25 Izumiya Meat Try their delicious handmade croquettes! [Closed irregularly]

26 Nakamasa Local Vegetables & Art Gallery Yo Make your own washi paper, or visit the juice bar for Kaga vegetable juice, made by a vegetable sommelier. [Closed Wed.] Tel: [0761] 78-1112

27 Kaga Local Sake Brewery "Tsuji Shuhan" Visitors can sample various types of local sake here. [Closed Tue.]

28 Art551 We sell artwork, antiques, and modern Kutani items under the theme of "There are things to enjoy." [Closed Tues.]

Tour of Literary Monuments

If you feel like following in the haiku poet Basho's footsteps and composing a poem or two, feel free to share them with us! There are poem collection boxes at Basho-do Hut, Korogi-bashi Bridge, Ayatori-hashi Bridge, Ioji Temple, and Yamanaka-za.

1	Basho-do Hut	Tako kirete/Shiranegadake wo/Yukue kana	Toyo
2	Site of Kido-mon Gate	Yamanaka ya/ Kiku wa taorazi/Yu no nioi	Basho
3	Site of Kido-mon Gate	Kagari bi ni/Kajika ya nami no/Shita musebi	Basho
4	Site of Kido-mon Gate	Kyou yori ya/Kakitsuke kesan/Kasa no tsuyu	Basho
5	In front of Kiku-no-Yu	Akimizu no/Oto takamari te/Hito wo omou	Kyoshi
6	Site of Izumiya	Yu no nagori/Koyoi ha hada no/Samu karamu	Basho
7	Domyo-ga-fuchi	Yamanaka ya/Kiku ha taorazi/Yu no nioi	Basho
8	Korogi-bashi Bridge	Kagari bi ni/Kajika ya nami no/Shita musebi	Basho
9	Hiraïwa-bashi Bridge	Kagari bi ni/Kajika ya nami no/Shiya musebi	Basho
10	Iohji Temple	Yamanaka ya/Kiku wa taorazi/Yu no nioi	Basho