



# Sightseeing



## Toyohashi Area

### Toyohashi Station

by Ryoko Ishiguro

Toyohashi station was rebuilt in 1997. Before it was rebuilt, it was a very old station. The scale of it is a middle scale among station in Aichi. But when it is commuting time and rush hour, the station is crowded with many workers and students.

In the front of the East entrance, the Pedestrian deck spreads out into the city center. There is a fountain and it is covered with white tiles. On a clear day, these tiles glitter in the sun. The reflection of the sun is very bright, but it is very fresh and beautiful. There are many benches on the deck, so when you are tired you can rest. And sometimes there are street musicians. Almost all of them are young people. They sing Japanese pop, and play the guitar. Furthermore, some concerts are held on the deck. It is a very open space.

Buses and street cars arrive and depart many times a day, in front of the East entrance. If you go down the stairs, you can find the bus stop and the streetcar stop easily.

As you enter the East entrance, you can find the shopping center. There are many clothing shops, and there is also a CD shop, a books store, a pharmacy and a cosmetics shop in the center. You can get just about anything you need. On the ground floor, there are some restaurants. You can eat Japanese foods here.

The wicket barrier is divided into two places. One is next to a ticket vending machine. Use this wicket barrier when you take the JR train, the Meitetsu train, or the Iida train. The other is for Shinkansen (bullet train). It is near the West entrance. And near the wicket barrier, there is the Toyohashi information office. You will be able to get some information about Toyohashi. And in this office, some special products of Toyohashi are sold. In the Toyohashi station, the windows are glazed, so it is very bright. On a clear day, it is very comfortable.

## **Toyohashi Park**

**by Nobuko Hoshiai**

If you want to take a walk in Toyohashi, there are many places to go. However, it is not easy to find a nice, quiet place where you can relax and avoid unpleasant noise in the city. Toyohashi Park is next to the city hall in Imahashi-cho. Though it is in the center of the city, you can have a peaceful time walking there.

You can take the tram to get there. Get off at Shiyakusyo-mae station, which is 3 stops from Toyohashi station, or you can get off at the 4<sup>th</sup> stop, Toyohashi park station. If you get off at Shiyakusyo-mae, walk toward the city hall until you see the entrance of the park.

When you enter the park, you will see hundreds of pretty cherry blossom trees. This park is one of the famous parks for cherry blossom festivals in spring. Following the path on the right side, there is a big clock of colorful flowerbeds, a simple fountain, and a red-brick building. This building is the Toyohashi city museum where archaeological specimens, folklore data, ceramic materials, historical data, and art objects related to Toyohashi are exhibited. There are many famous artists who were born in this area, like Japanese-style painters Masayoshi Nakamura and Kazuo Omori. Their avant-garde, artistic paintings are highly valued even overseas. You can see the permanent exhibitions free, and also there are special exhibitions of many kinds.

In the park, you can relax and forget the bustle of the city as you walk through the quiet woods of various trees like pines, oaks and maples and smell the fresh air. If you like, you can go down to the narrow path on the bank of the Toyogawa River, too. In the thick forest, there are the remains of the Yoshida castle and a white traditional Japanese style building called the San-no-maru-kaikan in the northern part of the park. The San-no-maru-kaikan has Japanese tea rooms where many tea parties are held by citizens. Also it has a small beautiful Japanese style garden. You can have green tea and sweets for 350 yen there.

If you have time then, you can visit other places near the park. From the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of the city hall, you can see an excellent view of the city. In the south of the park, there is a Russian Orthodox Church, which was built in 1913, and has a lot of artistries and icons. And next to the church, there is the Shinmeisha, the shrine, which is famous for the Oni-matsuri festival in February.

## **Parks, Temples and Shrines**

## in Toyohashi

by Mieko Hagihara

There are many parks in Toyohashi where many visitors and citizens visit and make themselves comfortable. Apart from *Toyohashi Park*, which was mentioned before, *Toyohashi Synthetic Park* is another unique park that adults and young can enjoy. The park is divided into 4 zones: Animal park zone, Plants park zone, Nature Museum zone and Amusement park. Many people can enjoy themselves all day. To go there, get on Toyohashi railroad bus to Nonhoi. It takes about 20 minutes. Then get off at the terminal, and walk 3 minutes. There is also *Mukouyama Oike Park*. This park has many Azaleas. *Toyohashi Sports Park* has some kinds of sport facilities. You can enjoy any sport! *Ushikawa Yuho Park* is called “1km park” by people because it is slender. Many people love to jog and walk there.

There are also historical temples and shrines in *Toyohashi*. *Jingu-ji temple* is on the west side of Shinmei Park. This is famous for a stone *Jizo Statue*. This is the guardian deity of the people. To go there, get on the streetcar and get off at Reigi. *Fumon-ji temple* has some important cultural properties such as *Syaka Nyorai Statue*, *Amida Nyorai Statue* and *Shitennou Statue*. In addition, you can enjoy the beautiful nature during each of the four seasons. Spring is cherry blossoms, early summer is Ajisai and autumn is colored leaves. They are all beautiful! To go there, take JR Tokaido line and stop at Shin Tokorohara station. *Tokannon -ji temple* has a long history; it's 1200 years. This temple is famous for many important cultural properties such as *Tahoto Stupa*, *Amida Nyorai Statue* and *Kakebotoke*, the *Kakebotoke* is the principal image of Buddha with the oldest Inscription.

## Day-Trips in and around Toyohashi

by Yumiko Genma

### Talking of nature

Mt.Ishimaki has an altitude of 356 meters. It's the highest mountain in Toyohashi. This mountain is popular among people. There is a wonderful view at the top of the mountain. When it's a fine day, you can overlook the city of Toyohashi to Mikawa Bay, and you can see Nishiura Peninsula, and Chita Peninsula, it's not rare. Also, on the side of the mountain, you can see a beautiful night view. This mountain was created when the seabed swelled. The limestone surface is vestige of shelf of coral. On the hillside, there is Konoshiro pond where the konoshiro (fish) that failed to get out swam when the mountain changed from the sea. There are also some small shellfish. This is nominated as a natural monument. There

are rare lightning bugs called “Hime Hotal” and rare plants. To go there, from Toyohashi station, take the Shinshiro line via Tomioka to Ishimaki Tozanguchi.

Holding Mt. Ishimaki

<http://www2s.biglobe.ne.jp/~shirami/>

### **Of historical interest**

Yoshida castle and Futagawa honjin are important historical sites within Toyohashi city. The name of Yoshida castle was changed from Imabashi castle built in 1505. Afterward, in 1547, Yoshimoto Imagawa captured Jyodai (the man that guarded the castle). In 1562, Imagawa revenged Nobunaga Oda. In 1566, Ieyasu Tokugawa captured Yoshida castle and Tadatugu Sakai was castellan. In 1591, Terumasa Ikeda came in the castle. Since 1750, Mr. Matudaira from father to son stayed in Yoshida castle. Now, it stands in Toyohashi parks near the Toyogawa. To go there, at Toyohashi station, take a tram to Shiyakusyo-mae (in front of city hall).

Next, Futagawa honjin is an inn that the daimyo and the shogunate officers lodged in. This place was the thirty-third station of fifty-three stations along the Tokaido Road. Now, there is the “Futagawa inn museum” where you can feel what it was like at an inn during the Edo period. You can drink powdered green tea here for only 300 yen every Saturday, Sunday and holiday. The exhibition hall always has three themes about: the Tokaido Road, the Futagawa syuku, and Honjin.

Futagawa honjin opens at 9:30 and closes at 16:30. It is closed on Mondays. Adult admission is 300 yen, and children 100 yen) To go there, at Toyohashi station, take the Tokaido main line to Futagawa.

Traveling Castles Diary <http://www3.justnet.ne.jp/~tohrutj/yosida.htm>

The Honjin Museum of Futagawa Syuku <http://www.toyohaku.gr.jp/honjin/>

### **The best playground**

At Nonhoi Park, there's a zoo, a botanical garden, a museum and an amusement park. In the botanical garden, there is a pond that looks like a water lily that Claude Monet drew. These water lilies, weeping willows, wisteria and so on were contributed from the Monet garden in France. This year from July 30 (Tue) to August 4 (Sun), a flowers exhibition is being held. In the green house, there's a cactus room, hibiscus room, orchid room and squall room (see the squall on video). At the museum entrance and in the park, there are some kinds of dinosaur models. You can realize that the dinosaur was very big. In the amusement park, there's a Corkscrew, a Ferris wheel and so on, so you will enjoy yourself here all day long. To go there, at Toyohashi station, take a bus to Nonhoi Park. It's open from 9:00 to 16:30 and is closed on Mondays. Adult admission is 600 yen, and children 100 yen.

### **Toyohashi Zoo and Botanical Park**

<http://www.toyohaku.gr.jp/tzb/>

# Imou Shitsugen Bog

by Toshiko Ohta

According to local legend, Imou Bog came from the horse's color of Minamoto Yoritomo's horse – Minamoto Yoritomo who became the Generalissimo of the Empire and established the Shogunate at Kamakura in 1192. He visited Imou at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The horse, which he was riding, died while crossing a mountain. He lamented the death of his horse, and ceremoniously buried it there. The horse's color was ashige. The base of ashige color is white, and mixed dark brown and black. “葦毛”, in Japan, in general, we call the Ashige. But, we have another reading of this kanji: “IMOU”.

The Bog extends for about 7 ha. around the base of Yumihari mountain chain in the eastern part of Toyohashi. The Imou Bog was designated a natural monument by Aichi on February 28, 1992. It takes about 25 minutes by bus from JR Meitetsu Toyohashi to Iwasaki. Starting from the bus stop, pass the Nagao reservoir, and enter in the grove. Hear the birdcall and the murmur of the stream. The comfortable pass through the grove is quite elegant in the falling of leaves in fall. Cross the small bridge, and come to the Bog.

The area is small but contains about 250 different kinds of bog plants. About 450 kinds of rare insects live there also. The plants changing in the seasons are mysterious. Especially, the rare plant “Shiratamahoshikusa” blossoms are at their best like a set with stars, dust all around there at the end of September.

Take the good wooden path to walk safety, for not to damage the plants and insects. There you will meet many kinds of animals and plants. We can have a good time, and also feel the tranquility of our mind.

## References

- ☞ The Plants of Imou Bog, Conference for the Promotion of Toyohashi's Natural Path, 1984. The Plants of Imou Bog's Editing Committee.

Well come to the Imou Bog  
<http://www.tcpip.or.jp/~yoshida/>

Atsumi and Irigo Area
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## The Tahara Castle Ruins

**by Masanari Nakano, Tatsunori Kato and Kahori Sugita**

Tahara, the biggest town in Atsumi, is surrounded with nature. In the north, there is the beautiful view of Mikawa. In the south, there are grand views of the Pacific Ocean with Kuroshio Current, and Mt. Zao and Mt. Kinugasa in between. Being the only castle town in Atsumi country, Tahara had been prosperous as a center of economy and culture. Excavations, which unearthed accounts of people's daily lives in the late Jomon period in ancient times, surround the area. There are also a lot of historical structures. Among those historical structures, Tahara castle is one of the most famous.

The Tahara Castle was built by Munemitsu Toda in 1480. The second name of this castle is Hakou Castle. Munemitsu made a mansion in the center of this castle, a fence and a moat. Mansion means a house that a man of high rank in a castle can live in. Moat means to prevent from attacking by any enemy; people dug it and it was filled with water. There was no castle tower. The aspect of this castle is beautiful with its white walls, a gray roof and a deep moat. In the inside, which is surrounded by moat, there are tall trees.

If you visit here in April, you can see the cherry blossoms at their best. Pink paints are dropped on the white walls. In June, the white moat is dyed purple by the hydrangea. The sight looks like a drawing. In October, you can enjoy the maple viewing. The ground is dyed red by maples dropping, and the maples are dancing in the wind.

There is a museum in the Tahara Castle ruins. It is the Tahara Municipal Museum. Entering the museum, you can see the movie about Kazan Watanabe on the left hand side. In the permanent exhibitions galleries, you can see many materials about the life of Kazan Watanabe as a politician and a scholar. He was born as a son of a retainer of the Tahara Clan in 1793. From the age of 8, he served the Clan. He made a great contribution to the development of the Tahara Clan. He established "Houminsou" which was a warehouse constructed to keep the people from dying or being homeless by Tenpo mass starving. As a result of that, no one was dead and homeless. In addition, he was a scholar. He studied western affairs. He wrote the "Shinkiron," which suggested abolishing the national isolation policy, but the book was considered to criticize the government in those days. As a result of that, he was put under house arrest. He killed himself at the age of 49 because he was afraid of tarnishing the image of the Clan.

Going further left, you arrive in front of two rooms. One on the left hand is the Planning exhibitions gallery 1, and the other on the right hand is the Planning exhibitions gallery 2. The exhibitions in the Planning exhibitions gallery 1 differ according to season. The remains of the Atsumi ceramics industry are displayed in the Planning exhibitions galleries 2. Between the 12<sup>th</sup> century and the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the ceramic industry flourished in Atsumi Peninsula including Tahara. In those days, Atsumi ceramics were the most expensive next to those of China, and were brought

everywhere in Japan. Pots and bowls were produced as the daily necessities, and tiles and religious instruments were produced and brought as the special products all over the country in Japan. Until now, 500 kilns are found around Tahara. After the 15<sup>th</sup> century, though, the Atsumi ceramics industry declined suddenly. No one knows why it declined.

### Information about the Tahara Municipal Museum

The museum is opened at 9:00 a.m., and it is closed at 5:00 p.m. However late you are, you should enter the hall by 4:30 p.m., or you cannot do within the day. Be careful because Monday is a holiday. The admission fee is 210 yen per adult, and 100 yen per child.

### Access

We can get there by train. Take the Toyohashi line at Toyohashi station, get off at the Mikawatahara station and walk north about 5 minutes.

If you want to get more information about the history of Tahara and Kazan Watanabe, please visit the following website:

#### **Tahara Town**

<http://www.town.tahara.aichi.jp>

## **The Koijigahama Beach**

**by Kahori Sugita**

Do you know the word “Hakusha Seisyo” which means white sand and green pine? This word expresses the most beautiful beach in Japan. If you want to see such a beautiful beach, I recommend visiting Koijigahama Beach.

Koijigahama Beach is located on the southern side of the Atsumi Peninsula, and faces the Pacific Ocean. On the top of the peninsula, a white lighthouse is standing. The lighthouse guards the seamen and the sea gulls. The blue sea spreads out before your eyes. This view makes your mind free, and you find yourself to be a part of nature.

Breathing the sea breeze to full, you feel hungry. You want to eat seafood. Don't worry! Seafood restaurants are standing in a line on the beach for you.

Go for a walk around the beach again after lunch. Going east from the restaurant, you arrive at “Hiinosekimon” which means the gate of sunrise. It is a natural rock formation.

I recommend picking up a shell, drawing it close to your ear, and closing your eyes. See! You can see the sea in your eyes.

## TRANSPORTATION

I recommend going there by CAR. This is the best way. If you do NOT have a car, you can use public transportation. Get on the Atsumi line at SHINTOYOHASHI station, and get off at TAHARA Station. In front of Tahara Station, there are many bus stops. No matter which bus you get on, you can arrive at Koijigahama. Get off the bus in IRAGOMISAKI, and enjoy your trip!

## References

- ☞ Home Town Aichi's Walks PART I, Aichi Prefecture Elementary and Junior High Schools and others, 1994. The Committee for the Promotion of Aichi Prefecture Education

# Irago

by Mieko Hagihara

Irago is located on the tip of Atsumi peninsula in Aichi. At daybreak, the Pacific Ocean is covered with orange. Some people take a walk with their dog or jog on the tranquil beach. The ocean breeze makes you feel refreshed.

If the weather is good, you should go to the sea. Irago is a famous water sports area. Now, the most popular sports are surfing and water-skiing. Many people come to Irago beach and enjoy themselves.

If you want to know about weather and the wave information, please check the web site about Irago. ( <http://www.iragomarina.com> )

Fishing is also popular. There are many kinds of fish in the ocean. People of the district lead you to good fishing points, and they teach you simply how to do it. The fishing season is from April to November. You can go sailing by yacht, too. It starts from Marina Irago. You can have fun all day. The sailing season is from May to October.

Another sport you can enjoy is cycling along the Pacific. This cycling road is 14km. You will see some beautiful sights of Koijigahama, Hiino-sekimon and the Flower Park. If you don't have a bicycle, don't worry about that. Some facilities rent out bicycles.

For more beautiful sights, Irago Flower Park is the best place. There are many kinds of flowers in Japan and other countries throughout the year. From the middle of January to the end of March, the rape blossoms are in magnificent bloom. It is like a yellow carpet all over the place. Hibiscus bloom so vivid in summer, also autumn is cosmos and winter is tropical orchid. You can see beautiful flowers each of the four seasons.

At dusk the ocean is bright and getting dark little by little. It is wonderful sight from Irago cape lighthouse. When you see the sun above the horizon, that will fascinate you and your troubles and worries will fade away.



# Gamagori Area

## Laguna Gamagori

by Ryoko Ishiguro and  
Chisako Toda

A new amusement park opened the spring of 2002. This is a synthetic facility, which has a recreation ground, a pool, a shopping mall, and a basin for yachts to congregate. In the near future, a hot spring facility will open.

Laguna Gamagori is near Mikawa Otsuka station. Use the JR train. It takes about 10minutes to get to the station from Toyohashi. If you get on a train from Nagoya station, it takes about 50min. The bus, which goes to Laguna, departs from Mikawa Otsuka station. You can also get to Laguna Gamagori from Gamagori station by bus

When you get to Laguna Gamagori, you will be able to see the Bay of Mikawa where Laguna Marina is located. This is a basin for yachts. There are lots of yachts. This marina is the biggest one in the midland area of Japan. The area of the bay of Mikawa is a mecca of marine sports in Japan. You can see the Nippon Challenge boat, which participated in the “American’s Cup”. It is a very famous yacht race. At the end of November, you can see many floodlit yachts. This illumination is for Christmas.

Next to the marina, there is Lagunasia. This is a recreation ground, and a pool. It is open from 9:00am ~ 20:00pm. The cost is 1300 yen for one person (more than 18 years old). There are many attractions in this park. The legend of labyrinth is an attraction. You ride a log boat and cruise in palace remains that a legend dragon lives in. This is the world of lights and dark. It is very exciting that a log boat goes down a heavy flow. You may cry!! Another attraction is “ Fire Fire.” In the game, you should help the port town. Many creatures attack you, so you shoot a laser gun. And in the water park, all generations will enjoy. The pool is called “ Zeus’s lightning”. It has a slide. The length is 15 meters. It is like a big snake. You can try the program of marine sports, and you can play with water as much as you like.

There is a shopping mall. It is called festival market. At this market, you can find:

**1. Laguna outlet**                      open: 10:00am ~ 20:00pm

There are clothing shops, accessories stores, miscellaneous-goods stores, and sporting-goods stores. In this shopping mall, 20 or more stores are gathered. You will be able to enjoy shopping.

**2. Fish market**                      open: 8:30am ~ 18:00pm

Vigor is overflowing in this market, and fresh foods are full loads. Fresh fish from the Mikawa-bay are sold, and lots of fish of the season, which are caught at the famous fishing ports in whole Japan are also sold. There are also the vegetables, fruits, flowers of the season, so you can feel the season.

**3. Seaside Restaurants**      open: 11:00am ~ 22:00pm

There is an individual restaurants town in the seaside, which overlooks a marina. They serve some kinds of foods, for example there is Japanese food, Chinese, Italian, and so on. You can eat a delicious dish looking at the seaside, feeling the fresh air on a terrace seat.

Laguna Gamagori has a hot spring. This is effective against neuralgia, muscle ache and so on. There is an outside hot spring. You can look over the gulf of Mikawa-bay. Yachts and boats float all over the sea. It is a very wonderful view. You will be relaxed.

\*The website of **Laguna Gamagori** was made reference to in this essay:  
<http://www.laguna-gamagori.co.jp>

## Aizome

by Masami Hioki

Indigo blue is the color of sky, the color of water, the color of the sea and the color of Japan. Indigo blue gives us peace of mind and memories of the old days. Indigo blue is the color of summer, so the color is a must for summer clothes (pp 18-25).

Indigo blue dyeing started 1800 years ago. Indigo blue has power to kill bacteria, so almost all ordinary people wore clothes that were dyed by Indigo blue in the Edo Era. We use Aigusa for Indigo blue dyeing. Aigusa is a plant, which is used to dye clothes. There are many kinds of Aigusa. At present about 5 kinds of Aigusa are used. First Aigusa is boiled and then clothes are put in it.

Now synthetic Indigo blue has been invented, so only a few people do Indigo blue dyeing. But at present, young people like blue jeans and denim. Maybe it will express Indigo blue lining in our mind!!

We can experience Indigo blue dyeing in Gamagouri. The store's name is "Snrokuen." I will provide you with store information.

Store Name: Sanrokuen

Address: Gnamgouri-city kanahira-cyou kaminobou 20

Telephone Number: 0537-57-3603

Shop Hours: 10:00 ~ 14:00

There are two courses available:

The casual course.....40min/1200yen

We can dye a handkerchief and a towel.

The original course.....40min/1800yen

We can dye everything!!

< Warning!! >

The water is very cold, so you shouldn't dye in the winter. In addition, dyeing water may splash on your clothes, so you shouldn't wear nice clothes.

\* **Bibliography** Syouaizome – Fresh Color of Japan, Tairyuusya, 1977, pp 18-25.

## Toyokawa Area

### Toyokawa Inari

by Yumiko Genma

Kangan Giin was a famous disciple of Dogen (Zen priest), the founder of the Soto Zen sect and Eihenji Temple. In 1264 (Bunei 1) he went to China to study Buddhism, and in 1267, on his return to Japan, he beheld an extraordinary appearance: a vision of a deity seated upon a white fox, carrying rice, and bearing a wish-fulfilling jewel in one hand. He recited a spell: "When this spell is chanted, the faith in me reaches everywhere, and by the true power of the Buddhist precepts, evil and misfortune will be abolished and luck and wisdom attained; suffering removed and comfort achieved. And pain transformed into delight." This experience had a profound influence on Kangan, so when he returned to Japan, he carved an image of the figure he had seen and worshipped it as a protective deity. Today, this deity is worshipped widely as a god of happiness and prosperity who wards off suffering and brings about relief. (pp. 1-2 Toyokawa Inari Visitor's Guide in English)

Toyokawa Inari stands on the Toyokawa. (The Toyokawa is located just north of Toyohashi.) If you want to go there, take the Iida Line (JR), and get off at the Toyokawa station (fare 200yen). To reach the Toyokawa Inari it takes about 5 minutes on foot.

As you enter, you pass through a large main gate. This magnificent gate is built entirely of Zelkova wood with a single copper roof. The two gate doors are especially striking as they are made of single Zelkova boards. Through the interior of this gate, there are a lot of pine trees and Nagi planted. It is very quiet.

As you walk to the main temple, you pass through a big Torii. (Torii is a gate representing heaven's area.) In front of the main temple, there are two foxes that wear a red bib at both ends of the road. They preserve the main temple. This temple is very big and tall, and it is built entirely of Zelkova wood. To pay homage at the temple, clap your hands twice and bow once. Then you get your wish. As you proceed to the back, there are red and white flags displayed at both ends of the road, and foxes that wear red bibs all over the place. As you can see, they preserve throughout the temple.

Every year, there are many worshipers—more than 600,000 people. Some worshipers include Ichiro Suzuki, the famous baseball player. If you want success like him, you should pay a visit to Toyokawa Inari.

## Akatukayama Park

by Mariko Umemura

AKATUKAYAMA PARK is located in Toyokawa City. Because this park is popular with children, a lot of families come here. There is an aquarium, a small zoo and flower gardens. You can enjoy a full day in this park!!!

The aquarium's name is "GYO GYO LAND." Many fish that live in the Toyo River are raised here. The Toyo River flows through Higashi Mikawa Area in Aichi Prefecture, and Toyokawa City belongs to Higashi Mikawa Area. Beautiful tropical fish, overseas and rare fish are displayed here, too. When you enter the aquarium, there are two large tanks dedicated to Amazon fish. These fish are a must see, with their amazing colors and interesting faces. The other large tank is designed like a natural river. This allows us to understand these fish in their natural habitat. If you take box lunches, you can eat on the terrace of this aquarium. You can enjoy the beautiful scenery from there.

A lot of animals welcome you at "ANI ANI MAAL." There are rabbits, chickens, sheep and squirrels. The rabbits are white like snow, and since they are so cute, you will want to pet them. Every Saturday, you can pet guinea pigs and rabbits from 1:30p.m. to 2:00p.m. Every Sunday, you can play with goats and sheep. The staff teaches children how to pet them.

There is also an iris garden and an ume (plum) garden. In the fall of 1998, about 5,500 irises were planted here. If you come to this garden in June, you can see a beautiful purple world. The garden is covered all over with iris flowers. There are about 240 ume trees in the ume garden. There are about 25 varieties. In March, you can enjoy beautiful flowers. Because there are many trees around here, you can relax.

It is open from 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. It is closed on Tuesdays, the day after national holidays, the end of the year and on New Year's Day.

If you come by car, get off TOUMEI EXPRESSWAY at “TOYOKAWA” or “OTOWA GAMAGOURI” INTERCHANGE. It takes about 15 minutes. Few buses run from MEITETU KOU STATION and JR TOYOKAWA STATION. By bus from these stations, it takes about 20 minutes.

For more information about **Akatukayama Park**, visit the website:  
<http://www.yui.or.jp/7jigen/akatuka/annai.html>

## Shinshiro Area

### Sakura Buchi Park

by **Tatsunori Kato**

Shinshiro is the eastern city of Aichi. The population of Shinshiro is about thirty thousand. There are a lot of mountains around this city. Shinshiro is a forty-minute drive from Toyohashi. If you use JR, the Shinshiro station is thirty-five minutes from the Toyohashi station. Tea is a noted product of Shinshiro, and the beautiful nature is the most famous point of Shinshiro – especially Sakura Buchi.

Sakura Buchi is the park of cherry blossoms in Shinshiro. It is a forty-five minute drive from the Shinshiro station. There are a lot of cherry blossoms, flowers and green. There is the Toyo River in the middle of this park. For this reason, it is divided into the north side and the south side.

In the north side, there are many accommodations and food shops along the Toyo River. The tourist hotel of Shinshiro is my recommendation if you wish to spend the night. If you walk along the river, there is a slope and at the top of the slope there is an amazing wisteria trellis. In the center of Sakura Buchi, there is a red bridge across the Toyo River. This bridge is called *Kasaiwa* Bridge. The north side of the park and the south side are connected by this bridge.

In the south side of Sakura Buchi, a gymnasium, a Chinese restaurant, a baseball field and a tennis court stand on a hill. And if you have a reservation, you can use these facilities.

But talking of Sakura Buchi, the cherry blossoms are the most important. In Sakura Buchi, the very beautiful cherry blossoms bloom in spring, and the cherry blossom festival is held from the middle of March to early in April. At night, the cherry blossoms are illuminated, and a lot of paper lanterns are lit along the avenue.

# Okazaki Area

## Okazaki Park

by Izumi Kaneko

Okazaki has a long history. Okazaki is the hometown of Ieyasu the first Tokugawa shogun and Mikawa samurais. Here they made the basis of the Edo shogunate, which included the castle town of Gomangoku (which means nine-million kilograms rice crop) and the stage town of Tokai road. The temples and the shrines have something to do with the Tokugawa period.

The town prospered by transportation used on the Yahagi River and the Oto River. Now the city of Okazaki still retains some traces of its former prosperity. A special product called Haccyou-miso in Okazaki was shipped all over the place during the Edo period using the water transport of the Yahagi River. This miso has about 600 years of history. This miso is made from soybeans that are fermented. It has plenty of body delicious. Aichi prefecture has many dishes using miso, and Haccyou-miso is used in various dishes.

Okazaki Park is located in the south of Okazaki city. The Main gate stands right before route one, and a moat of white walls surrounds the park, so the visitor can understand at a glance where the Okazaki castle stood in the old days. Okazaki Park with many flowers and greenery is the place for relaxation for local citizens.

Cherry blossoms, Azaleas, and Wisteria come out in the spring park. During April, from the first to the 15th, the cherry blossom festival is held on the banks of Iga River within Okazaki Park. Around this season, the living things, which kept still during winter are invited to the light of a warm day, and begin to move. The ground is warm and plants begin to sprout. All are fresh and shining. Spring rains softly pour. The grasses and plants are refreshed after each spring rain. Then the cherry trees of pretty pink and milk white begin to bloom one after another. About 2000 cherry blossoms bloom around the major donjon in the park. The twinkling Iga River, the pinkish-white blossoms and you are standing in the Okazaki castle give the sense it is like something out of a picture. Especially in the night, the stands lit up look like a fantasy spring party.

Although the cherry blossoms are beautiful and glittery, they fall soon after blooming, remaining at the peak of their beauty for only a few days. The cherry tree, gorgeous in all its glory, unites and has such transience. Moreover, cherry trees have amazing mysterious beauty. Some people believe that they absorb the spirits of the dead. If you imagine that, it makes you feel horrible and beautiful at the same time. Therefore, sadness and delight would be registered side by side within the viewer's heart.

From late April to the first of May, the Gomangoku Wisteria festival is held at

Wisteria Trellis in Okazaki Park. The wisteria is the city flower of Okazaki. The clusters of wisteria are long, rich, graceful, light violet in color and have a fresh smell; consequently, the wisteria's smell fascinates flying busy bees. In the nice clear weather in May, the wisterias are at their best.

Okazaki Park is a 15 minute walk from Higashi Okazaki station on the Meitetsu Line, and 8 minutes from Okazaki station on the JR Line and Naka Okazaki station on the Aichi belt Line.

## References

- ☞ Walking Map S 10 Nagaya, Mikawa, Hamanako, 1999. Arukku-sya.
- ☞ Momoo Yamaguchi, and Barry W. Mouat, Japanese Four Seasons. 1989, Kenkyusya.
- ☞ Toshirou Kawase, Ikebana in English, The Book of Ikebana. 2000, Koudansya International.

## Okutono Jinya

by Chisako Toda

Okutono Jinya was Okutono Matsudaira's manor house. It captures the history and culture of Okutono feudal domain. Matsudaira had lived in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. He died for his master, so he was given the manor house. This house had 33 buildings then. Today Okutono Jinya is a part of what previously existed.

Okutono Jinya has very beautiful gardens. The traditional Japanese garden in there is as great as any garden in Kyoto. It is said that in this garden the nature is model of Japanese garden. The garden has a creek or pond. Pines and maples are planted. The garden is overgrown with moss and an old tree trunk is covered with lichen. The garden is silent. We can feel relaxed.

There are many kinds of flowers in Okutono Jinya. In spring, there are rape blossoms, cherry blossoms and rose blooms. Especially thousands of rape blossoms spread endlessly. A lot of roses are very colorful, really red, lovely pink, pure white, purple and yellow. In the other season, the snow willow, narcissus, iris, hydrangea, lily, camellia among others bloom.

When it is near Christmas, Okutono Jinya and most houses around the area change into a fantastic place at night. These houses and trees are illuminated with many Christmas lights. Even the police station is decorated. Okutono Jinya is in the mountains and it is quite dark at night, so the lights look vivid. It is very brilliant as an amusement park or a starry night.

Okutono Jinya is open from 9:30 to 16:30. It is free. It is closed on Mondays. (If Monday is a holiday, the next day is closed.) You can go there by bus or car. Okutono Jinya has parking for free. Get on the bus bound for Okutono Jinya from Higashiokazaki station and get off at Okutono Jinya. It takes about 30 minutes and

costs 600 yen (one way).

### Okazaki City

<http://www.city.okazaki.aichi.jp>

## IPC Wan Wan Zoo

by Mariko Umemura

Although most people like dogs, we have few chances to touch them. I recommend “IPC Wan Wan Zoo” for people who love dogs. This is a dog zoo. There are many places to play and pet them. This zoo’s area is 30,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Because this year is the also zoo’s tenth anniversary, the admission is discounted. You can get a discount ticket on the homepage.

At “FUREAI HIROBA,” we can play with dogs. It is divided into a small dog’s square and a big dog’s square. There are some pretty dogs, and you are free to pet them. They have a soft coat of hair, and are so cute—like stuffed dogs. We can have a real life experience with the dogs at “WAN WAN FAMILY HOUSE”. You can feel like you have your own dog here. Because they are so friendly, you are going to make friends with them soon. We can take a walk with a dog at “OSANPO RENTAL SQUARE.” You can choose a dog you like and take it for a walk, or play together in the large grass area. At “MEIKEN HOUSE,” there are many champions and famous dogs. Though they are kept in cages, you can watch them near by!! You can only watch some dogs here. You will be surprised at how many kinds of dogs there are. Some dogs have lovely eyes, while others have short paws. We can also enjoy a dog show at “WAN WAN STAGE.” Here they have dog races, Frisbee catching demonstrations and crowd participation is welcome. They run fast like the wind, so it is so exciting. If you get hungry, you can eat at “KEISYOKU PUPPY GARDEN.” You can buy a souvenir at “SOUVENIR SHOP”.

You can come here by car or by train. If you come by car, get off the TOUMEI EXPRESSWAY at OKAZAKI INTERCHANGE. You will get to this zoo in about three minutes. If you come by train, get off at MEITETU HIGASIOKAZAKI STATION, and ride in a taxi.

#### Admission

Adult	Child (age four and over)
1,000 Yen	500 Yen



## *References*

- 🔗 <http://www.ipcnet.co.jp>
- 🔗 IPC Wan Wan Zoo Brochure

# Tokoname

## **Tokoname ware**

by **Kiku Iwata**

Tokoname ware is the symbol of Tokoname city. Today, six old kilns including Seto, Shigaraki, Echizen, Tanba, Bizen and Tokoname are left in Japan. Tokoname is the oldest and largest. Tokoname ware has lasted over 900 years since its beginning in the 11th century, and even now the traditional methods are being handed down to the next generation.

This city is full of culture and history. The best way to feel the ceramic city's culture and history is to walk along the pottery path. There are two courses to take a walk: In course A, you go up and down a narrow crooked path, and soon can find factories with black wooden walls, tall brick chimneys, and unique sights named "Noborigama" and "Dokanzaka." Noborigama is built like steps on a slope of the hillsides to make use of raising heat and to produce potteries efficiently. Dokanzaka is utilizing earthen pipes and Sake bottles waste. The wall is piled with them, and the path is paved with pieces of them. You can see beautiful scenery of the bay of Ise from here, too. It is just like an open-air gallery, which has artistic designs and a wonderful space. In course B, you can pass by the ceramic history museum, the ceramic art institute and INX museum. There are about ten studios where you can actually try to make ceramic art on your own with an appointment.

Shudei, a red clay tea pot is the most popular product of Tokoname ware. The iron in the local clay creates the characteristic color with a satin luster. There are many kinds of Tokoname ware, such as planting pots, vases, tableware and utensils for the tea ceremony. A big ceramic festival is held at Tokoname motorboat racing pool on the last Saturday and Sunday in August every year, but sometimes in early September for reasons of the motorboat racing pool, and a big fireworks display on Saturday night as well. During the festival you can buy ceramics cheaper than usual. Apart from this, there is also a large ceramic mall, which is always open where you can get ceramics at a discount price compared to other places.

How to get there: Take the Meitetsu line to Shingihu, and change at Jingumae for Tokoname to the Tokoname line. It is the easiest way because Tokoname is located

in the middle of the Chita Peninsula and on the coast of the bay of Ise, so you might get into a traffic jam if you go by car.

### References

☞ Visiting Tokoname, Tokoname City Commerce and Industry Department.

## Hamanao/Hamamatsu Area

### The Hamamatsu Castle

by Masanari Nakano

The Hamamatsu Castle was built by Ieyasu Tokugawa in 1570. A castle is a military structure that guards from the enemy. The oldest type is only a fence, a moat and a stone wall. During the warring state period, it changed to a new style that was livable and expressed their authority. Ieyasu lived there for 17 years before moving to the Edo Castle. After he moved to the Edo castle, it was taken over by the Tokugawa family. Because there was a man of high rank among them, it is called a success castle. The present castle tower was built in 1958.

The castle tower is 3 storied. The first floor's walls are black and the second and third floor's walls are white. The tower's roof is gray. Each floor has small windows.

There is a great spot apart from the castle tower. It is a view park where we can see the castle tower lit up between the trees in the night. A lightened castle is a solemn scene.

The Hamamatsu Park includes the Hamamatsu Castle, and it is famous for cherry blossoms. Although the Hamamatsu Park is so large and roads are complicated, there are directories for each road.

We can get there by bus from Tateyamaji at JR Hamamatu station, and get off at Bijutukann or Shiyakushomae.

### References

Yahoo! Travel

<http://domestic.travel.yahoo.co.jp/>

## Hamanao PalPal

by Yumiko Genma

“Hamanao PalPal” is an amusement

park near Hamanako Lake in Hamamatsu. (Hamamatsu is located east of Toyohashi.) This amusement park is surrounded by abundant greenery and Hamanako Lake. If you want to go there, take the Tokaido Line (JR), and get off at the Hamamatsu station, take bus number 1, and get off at “Hamamanako Palpal.” It’s open from 9:30 to 17:30. Adult admission is 1000 yen, student 800 yen, and children 500 yen.

In this amusement park, there are many attractions, such as a jet coaster, a go-cart, a Ferris wheel, and a tea-cup. Above all rides, the jet coaster is the most exciting. The jet coaster’s name is “Mega coaster 4jigen” (4jigen mean the fourth dimension in English.) At the top speed, 82 kilometer an hour, it has an inclination of 85 degrees and a drop the angle of 60 degrees. First, there is the Boomerang turn. This turn has a comfortable sweep. Next, there is the Twist dive. This reversal of 180 degrees, and rapid drop feels like you are about to strike the ground. Third, there is the Heart line roll. This roll of 360 degrees is like taking a combat plane into the sky. The final trial is the Double spiral. In this way, this jet coaster feels thrilling and suspenseful.

There is a ropeway standing in the amusement park. In December 1960, the ropeway opened and was the first cross over the lake in Japan. The size of the gondola is 723m, and can hold 61 people. When the gondola crosses over the lake for the top of Mt. Okusayama, we can experience a noble sight of 360 degrees spread out before us. We can see the Pacific, Hamanako Lake and Okusayama. In the east, we can see the sun rise, and in the south, we can see the Onsen district and Hamanako Big Bridge, and in the west, Kosai, Mikkabi, and the evening sun is a very beautiful view. There is a music box museum on the top of the mountain. In the museum hall, they give a concert twice a day. At the observatory, you can appreciate the sound of “carillon”. (Carillon is a chime of bells one of percussions. In 16~17<sup>th</sup> century Europe, this was established in a church.) The tones of a carillon feel so good and beautiful!

If you go this amusement park, you can appreciate your body, eyes and ears, and when you are tired, you should (I advise) go to Onsen.

### **References**

Hamanako Pal Pal

<http://www.entetsu.co.jp/kaihatu/palpal/>

## **ONSEN AREAS**

### **Onsen**

**by Yumi Kawahira, Toshiko Ohta, and Kiku Iwata**

Japan has many hot springs because Japan is a volcanic country. Many natural hot springs in Japan are a by-product of volcanoes. “The heat inside the Earth warms up the underground water, and the water spouts up naturally”(463). That is a hot spring. The natural qualities of the spring and its temperature depend on each place. But almost all contain chlorine ion which has positive effects for your health, such as neuralgia, circulation, muscular pain, sore shoulders, injury, bruise, sprain, burn, high blood pressure and so on. You can also drink hot-spring water. Even wild animals are cured by it. The hot spring is one of Japan’s special treasures. Japanese call a hot spring Onsen. Many of them make a resort which has, except the hot spring, hotels, restaurants, shopping malls, museums and so on. Furthermore, many resorts also have noted places and historical spots, shrines, temples and ruins because many hot springs have a long history.

By the way, do you know the way of taking a bath at a hot spring in Japan? There are many taboos. At first, we Japanese share the same room to take our clothes off. The changing room has no partition. All things that you take off should be put into the basket settled in the room. There is the bathroom in the back of the changing room. When you come into the bathroom, you may only take toilet articles, a towel, soap, shampoo and so on with you. You must not take your towel into the bathtub. That is a taboo in Japan. Of course, soap, shampoo and so on are similar. Only your body can come into the hot water. Using the articles is all right, but it is only permitted outside of the bathtub. There is a space to wash your body in a Japanese bathroom. The bathroom is a bathhouse. Many strangers take a bath at the same time and same place. The bathroom has a big bathtub that can at least accommodate 10 people. The bathhouse is the place where naked people contact with each other. The people who have just taken off his or her clothes seem to be open and frank. Many of them speak to other people. In the bathhouse, Japanese become frank. Many Japanese change into Yukata after they take a bath. Yukata is the informal cotton Kimono and it was once Japanese nightwear and summer wear. Though present Japanese hardly put Yukata on as usual, many people put it on after taking a bath at a hot spring. Yukata is readied by the hotel. I think you should try putting it on.

If you visit a hot spring, you will meet one side of Japanese culture. In addition, the hot spring makes you harmonious. Let’s go there together. Here are three hot springs: Yuya, Gamagori and Kanzanji. They are familiar around Toyohashi.

### ***References***

- ☞ Sekaidaihyakkazhiten Encyclopedia, Fourth Volume, 1995. Published by Heibonsha.

## **Kanzannji Onsen**

**by Yumi Kawahira**

Kanzanji is the famous hot spring resort in Toyohashi surroundings. That is a small island or cape near Lake Hamana. To go there, at first you should reach the JR Hamamatsu station, and get on the Ennsyuu tetsudo bus that goes directly to Kanzanji Onsen at bus stop 1. The bus terminal is in the north exit of Hamamatsu station. It takes 40 minutes to reach Kanzanji and is costs 500yen. You can also go by taxi, a pick-up bus by your booking hotel, a ship, and your car.

There is the Buddhist temple Kanzanji on the tip of the island. This is an old temple established in 810 by Kobo Daishi who is the famous Buddhist priest in Japan. The Buddhist god who is called Bosatsu and one of Japanese ancient fire god Akiha is worshiped in same the ground. Japanese temples often worship more than one god. It's ordinary in Japan. Of particular interest in this temple is the big Kannon – the Goddess of Mercy. Her height is about 10 meters, and her face is very harmonious and beautiful. While I watch her, my mind becomes harmonious. I think she's a gentle and strong Goddess.

Speaking of Kanzanji hot springs, this place was called Horie no Shou by 1971, but the name was changed to Kanzanji. Kanzanji has many hot springs, but hotels possess these hot springs. There are almost no free hot springs. When you want to take a bath, you must pay a hotel a little money, about 200-300 yen. I recommend that you stay at a hotel. Only you have to stay there and the hot spring is free every time and you get the freedom of when you take a bath. Another merit of staying in a hotel is the problem of dinner. Many restaurants in Kanzanji are in hotels. The tourist often can't use restaurants for dinner. They are only opened for a paying guest at night. If you couldn't find some place to rest, you should use a convenience store. Kanzanji has many convenience stores. I want to say if you need the high-quality service, I recommend you to stay at some hotel. The paying guest can receive such service as he like.

### ***References***

- ☞ The information board at the entrance to Kanzanji Temple
- ☞ Kanzanji Onsen Tourist Association  
<http://www.kanzanji.gr.jp/>

## **Yuya Onsen**

**by Kiku Iwata**

Yuya Onsen is a quiet rustic hot spring in the heart of the mountain. Yuya is located at the east edge of Mt.Horaiji and is a gate way to Horai temple which is famous as a sacred mountain. The hot springs have about 1200 years of history. The beautiful valley surrounded by the mountain fascinates and relaxes you. The most

interesting characteristic of Yuya are the 52 degrees hot water springs which flow out of the earth.

Recently the public hot spring baths have been popular among Japanese because everybody can use them cheaply and easily anytime. Yuya has also opened the bath like this which Horai-cho is managing. You can try not only different types of baths, but open-air baths. The facility has a hot spring pool and a training room, so you can enjoy indoor and outdoor hot springs. Then you can find a vending machine to buy hot water near the spa resorts.

To get there: By train from Toyohashi take the JR Iida Line and get off at Yuya Onsen. By car take Route 151 from Toyohashi to Yuya Onsen.

## References

☞ Onsen Guide to Making a Day Trip in Tokai Area, 2001. Tokai Onsen Club,

### Inquiries

☞ Horai-cho Tourist Association  
TEL (05363)2-0022

## Gamagori Onsen

by Toshiko Ohta

Gamagori lies to the west of Toyohashi. The city looks out onto the Mikawa Bay which was designated a quasi-national park. The area is a very popular leisure spot and is a Mecca of marine sports. There are complete facilities for the marine leisure like a yacht basin. A lot of the yacht races will be held this summer again in the Bay. The smell of the salty water and the sound of the lapping waves on the beach relax the senses. All sizes of green islands float lightly in the calm Bay. Some white sailboats on the blue sea make a dreamlike scene. I never get tired of watching them.

First of all, there are about over 30 hotels and Japanese-style inns: Gamagori, Miya, Katahara, Nishiura – 4 areas in the city. Let's go to the Gamagori Onsen near the JR Gamagori station.

Seen from the Gamagori Onsen, "Takeshima" island looks as beautiful as a Japanese picture. The island symbolizes Gamagori. The best view of them is from the Gamagori Prince Hotel. The hotel with the light green roof towers up to the blue sky gracefully like a castle. There is a modern lobby with art deco style, and pastel colored fixtures. The balcony on the second floor overlooks the Bay. You'll feel relaxed as you look at the grand spectacle of the sea. The Japanese garden is very well kept and is a wonderful scene. In spring, azaleas bloom like red balloons. If you like French food, be sure to try the hotel. They serve the real thing. Please drop in by all means. The room charges are a little on the high side but it's worth it.

**References**  
**Gamagori City**

<http://www.city.gamagori.aichi.jp/sangyou/kankou/spa.htm>