

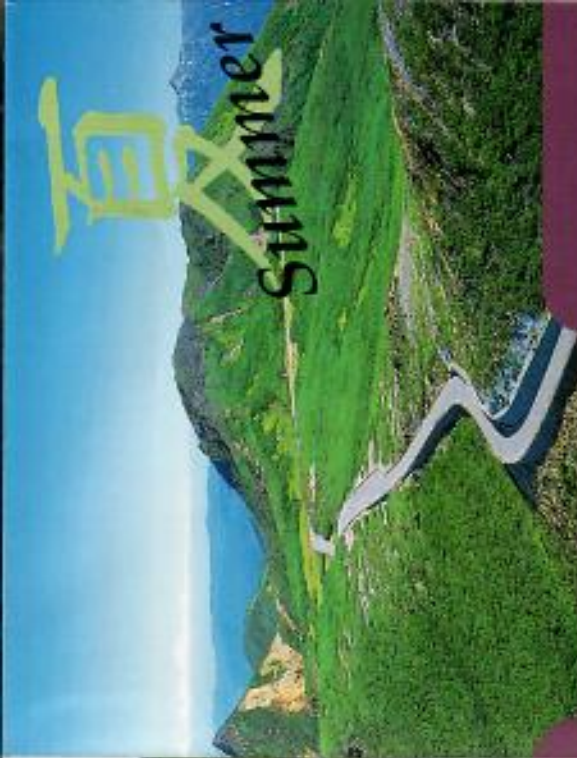


Hida Takayama

home of the Japanese spirit



Spring



Summer

*Welcome to Hida Takayama, the home of the Japanese spirit.
Here you will find majestic natural surroundings,
and Japanese culture as it was in the good old days.*

*Situated in the center of Japan, Hida Takayama has been dubbed "Little Kyoto".
Old parts of the town have been preserved, and offer a unique fusion of Kyoto and Edo cultures.
Set amidst the Northern Japan Alps—"the roof of Japan"—Hida Takayama is surrounded by
spectacular scenery and delightful spas.
Each of the four seasons brings a different scenic beauty.*



Autumn



Winter



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About Hida Takayama

History

Located in the center of the Japanese archipelago, Hida Takayama has absorbed cultural influences from all directions over a history that dates back to the prehistoric Jomon period. This complex fusion of influence has given rise to a unique local culture.

The area has long been a center of carpentry. It is believed that carpenters from Hida Takayama worked on palaces and temples in Kyoto and Nara.

The town and its culture, as they exist today, took shape at the end of the 16th century, when the Kanamori clan built Takayama Castle. Under the central rule of the Tokugawa shogunate, the area developed its own unique cultural characteristics over a period of about 300 years. Limited contact with the outside due to a mountain-locked topology helped to preserve the traditional culture up to the present day.

Traditional Events

Takayama Festival

"Takayama Festival" is in fact two festivals—the name refers to both the Takayama Spring Festival (Sarino Matsuri), which takes place on April 14 and 15, and the Takayama Autumn Festival (Hachimari Matsuri), held on October 9 and 10. Both festivals run for two days. The Takayama Festival is one of the three grandest Japanese festivals, and one of the seasonal attractions of Hida Takayama. It dates back to the late 16th or 17th century.

The festivals feature gorgeous floats—12 in the Spring Festival and 11 in the Autumn Festival, which continue to be preserved by the members of the festival float association.



Getting to Takayama



Location

Hida Takayama is easy to reach from all of Japan's major cities. You can come by train, by bus, or by rented car. If you come by rented car, the easiest way is to follow the same route as the regular bus.

From Tokyo

By Train: Take the shinkansen (bullet train) to Nagoya Station, and change to the Tokkyu Hida (Hida Express) train. It takes about two hours to reach Hida Takayama from Nagoya.

By Bus: Nonstop express buses take about 5 1/2 hours.

From Osaka or Kyoto

By Train: Take the shinkansen (bullet train) to Nagoya Station, and change to the Tokkyu Hida (Hida Express). Traveling time from Osaka to Nagoya is 52 min.

Alternatively, take a non-stop express train from Osaka straight to Takayama. It takes about four hours to get there.

By Bus: Non-stop express buses take about 5 1/2 hours.

From Nagoya

By Train: Take the Tokkyu Hida (Hida Express). You will reach Takayama in about two hours.

By Bus: Regular buses take about 2 hours and 45 minutes.



Getting Around

There are plenty of worthwhile attractions outside of the downtown area as well. The following means of transportation will get you there.

Rickshaws

We recommend these hand-drawn carts for getting around the old parts of town. Rates start at ¥5,000 for a half-hour for two people.

Bicycles

A convenient way to tour the downtown area. About 400 bicycles are available for rent. The rate is ¥300 per hour.

Buses

Some buses take a circle route through the city, while others take you on tours to the famous sites.

One-day bus pass for circle route: ¥550

Bus tour (4 hours 15 min): ¥3,600

You can also take local commuter buses for economical rides to tourist sites on the outskirts of town.

Taxis

Taxis are available for regular service, and can also be hired for sightseeing.



Old Private Houses

Surrounding Area

A visit to Takayama is rewarding enough in itself, but if you have some time to spare you should also consider taking in the beautiful attractions of the surrounding countryside. Indeed, the city makes an excellent base for a variety of worthwhile excursions. There are many buses and trains to take you around, and plenty of comfortable hotels and inns to be found throughout the region. For information about travel in the area, please inquire at a tourist information center.

Mount Norikura

The mountains in the eastern part of Takayama—some of the most beautiful in Japan—are part of Chubu Mountains National Park. Take a bus or taxi to the Hirayu bus terminal, and then a bus along the beautiful Norikura Skyline road to a point near the summit of Mount Norikura, a dormant volcano that rises to 3,026m.

Shin-Hotaka Ropeway & Okuhida Spa Resort

At the Hirayu bus terminal, you can board a bus that will take you to Okuhida Spa Resort. From Shin-Hotaka you can ride a 3,200-meter ropeway offering spectacular views of the Northern Japan Alps.

Kamikochi & Matsumoto

Regular buses run from the Hirayu bus terminal to both of these destinations. There is also easy access to Matsumoto Castle, one of Japan's national treasures.

Toyama & Kanazawa

From Takayama you can take a JR train north to Toyama and the Sea of Japan. From Toyama you can travel on to Kanazawa, famous for its samurai houses and Kenrokuen Garden.

Accommodation

Central Takayama offers a choice of about 70 hotels and Japanese inns (*ryokan*), as well as 35 family-run guesthouses (*minshuku*). And in the nearby Shin-Hotaka Spa Resort there are about 150 different places to stay. While prices may vary considerably, you will be warmly welcomed wherever you choose to stay.

Because the downtown area is small, if you stay in the center of town you will be within walking distance of virtually all of the major attractions. A number of in-town accommodation facilities provide their own natural hot-spring bathing. You can also take a hot-spring bath at most of the hotels and inns in Okuhida Spa Resort.

Hotel Types and Rates

(per person, per night)

Western-style Hotels

¥20,000 to ¥30,000/night, including dinner and breakfast.

Business Hotels

¥5,000 and up.



Japanese-style Inns (*Ryokan*)

Enjoy sleeping on a futon in a tatami room and Japanese-style meals. From ¥9,000 to ¥20,000/night, including dinner and breakfast.

Family-run Guesthouses (*Minshuku*)

Enjoy a traditional Japanese homesike atmosphere. ¥7,000 and up/night, including dinner and breakfast.

Youth Hostels and Government-run Lodging

Inexpensive accommodation.

Local Cuisine

Just as the culture of Hida Takayama developed from a fusion of Kyoto and Edo cultures, the area's unique cuisine is based on a combination of the flavors of Kyoto and Edo. The local dishes are reasonably priced.

Mitarashi dango



Mountain Vegetables (*sansai*), River Fish (*kawasakana*) & Hoba Miso

Since Hida Takayama is a landlocked area surrounded by mountains, its traditional local dishes are various concoctions of mountain vegetables and river fish. And be sure to taste the distinctive hoba miso—miso mixed with vegetables and roasted on magnolia leaves.

Hida Beef

In addition to fresh, tasty vegetables and fruit,

Hida Takayama has locally produced beef that you can enjoy in *sukiyaki* or grilled.

Soba & Ramen

Enjoy local soba (buckwheat noodles) and ramen called "Hida chuka" for lunch or as part of your dinner.



Soba

Light Snacks

You will find many places around town selling light snacks such as *mitarashi dango* (grilled rice dumplings coated in a soy-based sauce) and beef *kushiyaki* (Hida beef on skewers).

Sake

Hida Takayama's sake benefits from the purity of the local water and the quality of the rice that go into its making. How about trying some as an accompaniment to the local dishes?



Hoba Miso

Traditional Crafts

The area's traditional crafts took root in the early 1600s, at the start of the Edo period, when sophisticated carving and lacquering techniques from Kyoto were introduced into the area. As years passed, the simplicity and dedicated craftsmanship of generations of artisans resulted in a distinctive local style. This artistry continues to this day.

Ichii Itobori Wood Carving

This characteristic carving is done on beautiful, fine-grained wood from the area's distinctive yews. The carvings are left uncolored to bring out the natural grain. Carvings come in all forms, from large parade floats to delicate little netsuke figurines.

Shunkel Lacquerware

This lacquerware is coated with a translucent lacquer that brings out the wood's natural grain. The versatile products that are available include tableware, boxes and vases.

Pottery

Styles of local pottery range from the simple to the ornate. The town is home to four pottery houses—two manufacturers of Shibukusa ware, one manufacturer of Kaito ware, and one manufacturer of Yamada ware.

Furniture

Hida is also famous for wooden furniture embodying an unsurpassed combination of high craft and long tradition. Woodworkers put both their skill and their heart into pieces that showcase the natural beauty and grain of the wood.

Other Crafts

Shops offer a wide variety of wooden folk handicrafts including traditional toys and interior accessories, as well as straw-work items of mountain villages. Visitors have a large choice of local items to browse through, and to purchase as gifts or souvenirs.



Shunkel Lacquerware

Calendar of Events

Spring



- Apr. 3** Hina (doll) Festival — various locations around town
- Apr. 3** Ibibno (live doll) Festival — Ichinomiya Town
- Apr. 14 & 15** Takayama Spring Festival (Sanno Matsuri) — He Shrine
- Mid-Apr. to early May** Cherry blossoms
Spring shrine grove festivals — various locations around town
- May 7** Garakuta (antique) Fair — held the 7th of each month through October
- May 11** Opening of access to Northern Alps — Okuhida Spa Resort
- May 15** Opening of access to Mt. Norikura — Nyukawa Town
- Mid- to late May** Rice planting — various locations around town

Autumn



- Sep.** Autumn shrine grove festivals — various locations around town
- Sep. 15** Kinzajishi (lion dance) — Kokufu Town
- Late Sep.** Rice harvest — various locations around town
- Early Oct. — early Nov.** Autumn foliage illumination — various locations around town
- Oct. 9, 10** Takayama Autumn Festival (Hochiman Matsuri) — Sakurayama Hochiman-gu Shrine
- Nov.** Picking for the coming winter — various locations around town

歳時記

Summer



- Jun. 5** Tango (boys) Festival — various locations around town
- Late Jul. to mid-Aug.** Fireworks — various locations around town
- Aug. 1–15** Ema-ichi (market selling horse paintings) — Bato-Kannon (horse-headed bodhisattva of compassion) at Yamazakura Shrine
- Aug. 6** Japan's Best Bonfire Festival — Takane town
- Aug. 7** Tanabata Festival — various locations around town
- Aug. 9** Tezutsu (hand-held) Fireworks Display — banks of the Miya River
- Early Aug.** Narya Summer Festival — various locations around town
- Aug.** Bon Festival Dancing — various locations around town

Winter



- Early Dec.** Opening of ski areas — various locations around town
- Jan. 1** Welcoming in of the New Year — shrines and temples around town
- Early Jan. — Late Feb.** Sake brewery tours — breweries around town
- Jan. 24** Nijuyokka-ichi (24th-day market)
- Jan. — Feb.** Winter illumination in Hida-no-Sato (Hida Folk Village) ice and snow illumination — various locations around town
- Feb. 15–25** Festival at Frozen Hirayu Waterfalls — Okuhida Spa Resort

The Culture and People of Hida Takayama

You can walk across the center of Hida Takayama in about 20 minutes, and most of the attractions are concentrated in the old part of town, within minutes of one another. However, it would take several days to see all of the worthwhile sights. This brochure presents an overview of the main historical and cultural points of interest, as well as hot spring and recreational facilities.

"Must Sees!"

古い町並

A Old Private Houses

The old private houses lie at the center of Takayama. The area seems quiet, but in fact people still live here. The streets are lined with shops selling traditional crafts, Japanese-style inns, sake breweries, restaurants serving local specialties, antique shops, and more. There are also many small museums and galleries that offer a wide range of fascinating exhibits.



朝市

B Morning Markets

Two morning markets—the Takayama Jinya Market and the Miyagawa Market—are among the town's most popular attractions. Here you will find people from nearby farms selling fresh produce and flowers. Hours are 7:00 a.m. to noon.



乗鞍岳

C Mt. Norikura

This mountain rises to an altitude of 3,026 meters. A special bus will take you to spectacular points near the summit.



奥飛騨温泉郷

D Okuhida Spa Resort

This area offers you 100% natural hot spring baths, both indoor and open-air. A lovely place to unwind.



新穂高ロープウェイ

E Shin-Hotaka Ropeway

This 3,200-meter ropeway offers spectacular panoramic views of the Northern Alps. The scenery changes markedly according to the season.



Museums

飛騨の里

F Hida-no-Sato (Hida Folk Village)

Here you will find restorations of more than 30 typical old houses, relocated here from various places around the Hida area. The site recreates the atmosphere and scenery of mountain villages of old.

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission: ¥700



高山祭舞台全館・櫻山日光館

G Takayama Matsuri Yatai Kaikan & Sakurayama Nikko Kan

The Takayama Matsuri Yatai Kaikan (Takayama Festival Float Exhibition Hall) displays four of the 11 parade floats used in the autumn festival. Sakurayama Nikko Kan exhibits an exact 1/10-scale replica of Nikko's famous Toshogu Shrine.

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission: ¥820



高山市郷土館

H Takayama-shi Kyodo-kan (Local History Museum)

Displays handicrafts and traditional items. The museum building was once the storehouse of an old local family.

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission: ¥300



Historical Buildings

高山陣屋

I Takayama Jinya (Historical Government House)

Takayama Jinya served as the government's administrative office for the Hida area during the Edo period. It is the only remaining government office from that period in Japan. The building is open to the public.

Hours: 8:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission: ¥420



日下部民藝館

J Kusakabe Folk Museum

This building brings together many of the various characteristic features of merchant houses of the Edo period. It houses a variety of exhibits.

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission: ¥500



飛騨四分寺

K Hida-Kokubunji Temple

This temple's three-level pagoda stands beside a gingko tree that is over 1,200 years old. The main hall is the oldest structure in Takayama.



Ski Areas

Hida Takayama is blessed with a lot of powder snow in winter. There are many ski runs with a lot of variation for all skiers from beginners to experts.

高山市氏スキー場

L Harayama Shimin Ski Area

奥軽高原飛騨高山スキー場

M Norikura Kogen Hida Takayama Ski Area

モリノクス飛騨高山スキーパーク

N Mont Deus Hida Kuraiyama Snow Park

ひだ舟山スノーリゾートアルコピア

O Hida Funayama Snow Resort Arkopia

平瀬温泉スキー場

P Hirayu Onsen Ski Area

はひのき早スキー場

Q Honoki Daira Ski Area

荘川高原スキー場

R Shokawa Kogen Ski Area

一色国際スキー場

S Isshiki Kokusai Ski Area

チオ御座スノーリゾート

T Ciao Ontake Snow Resort



Recreation

飛騨高山クア・アルプ

U Hida Takayama Kur Alp (Hida Takayama Spa Land)

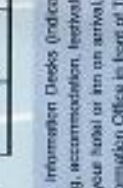
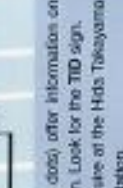
Here you can enjoy 17 different types of health baths, a fitness room, a swimming pool and restaurant—the full range of hot spring resort amenities. There is also a Hida Takayama hot spring bath for your enjoyment.

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

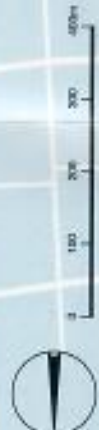
Admission: ¥800



Urban Map



- Legend**
- Railroad
 - National road
 - Other roads
 - Walking course
 - Place of interest
 - Shrines
 - Temples
 - Pay phone (domestic & international)
 - Tea stand
 - Currency exchange
 - Credit card cash dispenser (post office & banking facilities)
 - Emergency hospital
 - Free internet access facilities
 - TID (Takayama Information Desk)
 - Lavatory



• Takayama Information Desks (indicated by red dots) offer information on sightseeing, accommodation, festivals, and so on. Look for the TID sign.
 • To locate your hotel or inn on arrival, please inquire at the Hida Takayama Tourist Information Office in front of Takayama Station.

