

まっふる

Shiga pref.

Koka is here!



Koka city

Secrets to Enjoying Koka

Driving

Ninja

Post Stations

Shigaraki Ware

Fun

Gourmet

Events

この先忍者が
とびだす
要注意
高野区



Be a Ninja and Explore Koka

Traveling around Koka by Car

There's so much to see in Koka. **Drive** a road that meanders through tea orchards and stop along the way to see **Shigaraki tanukis** as well as **try some ninja tricks**. You'll find many shops where you can discover good things to eat and great souvenirs plus more fun places to visit, so explore if time allows.

Exiting the tunnel on the Shin-Meishin Expressway, you suddenly find yourself in a ninja village.



A ninja standing face-to-face with a special guest, Ninjaemon, in front of the Ninja Trick House at Koka Ninja Village

This is Koka.

1300 years ago, during the Nara period, Emperor Shomu built the Shigaraki Palace. The 13th century Kamakura period saw the birth of Shigaraki ware. During the Warring States (Sengoku) period, Koka ninjas played a key role in the quests of Lords Nobunaga, Hideyoshi, and Ieyasu to rule the country. Once the 53 Stations of the Tokaido Road were completed under Ieyasu's rule in the Edo period, Minakuchi-shuku and Tsuchiyama-shuku thrived, paving the way to modern-day Koka.



Japan Heritage cultural assets are marked with the logo shown above. See the back cover for more information about Japan Heritage.

About the Koka brand

The Koka brand is designed to introduce people around the world to exciting things and products found only in Koka that will leave lasting memories.

Among the unique Koka products and facilities featured in this guide, those bearing this mark have been awarded the Koka brand certification.



START Shin-Meishin Expressway Shigaraki IC
↓ 5 km/Approx. 10 min

Fun Detour Pottery Quarter P. 8
2 km/Approx. 3 min

1 Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park
↓ 15 km/Approx. 25 min

2 JA Green Hnrayakaichi
↓ 7 km/Approx. 15 min

3 Koka Ninja House
↓ 2 km/Approx. 5 min

4 Narita Fureai Farm
↓ 6 km/Approx. 12 min

5 Koka Ninja Village
↓ 13 km/Approx. 25 min

6 Michi-no-eki Aino Tsuchiyama
↓ 5 km/Approx. 10 min

7 Koka Hot Spring Yaponpon no Yu
↓ 10 km/Approx. 20 min

GOAL Shin-Meishin Expressway Koka-Tsuchiyama IC

Recommended driving route
Stay time: Approx. 7 hours and 30 minutes
Travel distance: Approx. 65 km / Travel time: Approx. 2 hours

Fun Detour Kusuji Cakushukan/Rakuyaji Temple...P. 5
5 km/Approx. 10 min

Fun Detour Tamura Shrine...P. 6
Close by

Fun Detour Kamoshika Villa P. 11
7 km/Approx. 15 min

Shoppo kun in a ninja costume is a sign you see when driving around Koka that means "caution, children at play."



1 START Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park
Stay time: 1 hour

Start at the Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art before moving on to the Plaza of Star and the Exhibition Hall of Industrial Ceramics where you can take a break at a fashionable cafe and shop. Although the slope is steep, it's lots of fun to walk.

There are many tanukis (raccoon dogs) in Shigaraki.

Spot tanukis along the roadside.

MAP P.14 A-4 See page 8 for more information.

Fun Detour

Go to the Pottery Quarter if you have extra time. Here you'll find that perfect piece of pottery as well as a cozy cafe. A relaxing stroll down the street should take about an hour. (Go to page 8)

A lush green park dedicated to the art of pottery

Pandas frolicking in front of the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park museum.



A theme park where you can be a ninja

5 Koka Ninja Village

Stay time: 1 hour

Featuring the Ninja Trick House, Water Spider Pond, Shuriken Dojo, and more, it's a fun place for ninja lovers of any age to spend all day.

MAP P.15 D-2

See page 4 for more information.

Don't miss the Miss Kunoichi contest!



The 31st Miss Kunoichi (left) and runner-up (right).

The gelateria offers fresh-made deserts starting at 350 yen.



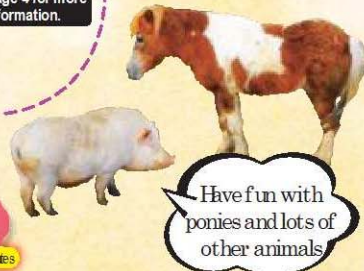
4 Narita Fureai Farm

Stay time: 30 minutes

Not only a producer of high-quality milk, this farm lets you get up close to ponies, goats, pigs, and other animals. You can also enjoy barbecuing, depending on the season (reservations required).

MAP P.14 C-2

See page 11 for more information.



Have fun with ponies and lots of other animals

Fun Detour



Tamura Shrine is just across National Route 1.

Priced at 730 yen, the Ninja Combo is a special menu item that comes with Kurokagemai udon noodles and Kurokagebo sushi rolls.



Enjoy a complimentary cup of Tsuchiyama tea.

6 Michi-no-eki Aino Tsuchiyama

Stay time: 30 minutes

This Michi-no-eki (roadside station) features local specialties from the Tsuchiyama area of Koka. Be sure to try the self-serve green tea ice cream.

MAP P.15 E-1

See page 6 for more information.

Enjoy a relaxing dip in the outdoor hot spring with magnificent views of the mountains.

7 Koka Hbt Spring Yapponpon no Yu

Stay time: 1 hour

Equipped with luxurious private baths for families, bedrock baths, and more, it's the perfect place to escape the daily hustle and bustle and just relax.

MAP P.15 E-2

See page 11 for more information.



The indoor baths use 100% natural hot spring water that leaves your skin feeling soft and smooth. The outdoor baths are spacious and relaxing.

3 Authentic period ninja house Koka Ninja House

(Former Residence of Mochizuki Izumonokami)

Stay time: 1 hour

Here you'll discover a trove of hidden secrets and ninja equipment. Learn all about the ninja house's revolving door, traps, hidden ladder, and more.

MAP P.14 C-2

See page 4 for more information.



There are ninjas in every corner of the house.

2 JA Green Hanayakaichi (Farmer's Market)

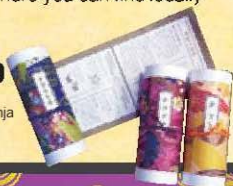
Stay time: 20 minutes

The shop carries locally grown farm products as well as food products such as miso and pickles. It also has a souvenir section where you can find locally made sweets and liquor.

MAP P.15 E-4

See page 13 for more information.

Tea packaged like a ninja scroll is also sold here.



Lots of fresh produce inside Fresh vegetables harvested every morning



Column Where to stay

Kamoshika Villa

Set in a tranquil environment, the villa offers creative cuisine made from local ingredients plus spacious and elegant guest rooms for a comfortable stay.

MAP P.15 E-1

See page 11 for more information.



Enjoy the spacious guest room, hot spring baths, and superb dining.

The year-round natural beauty of the Suzuka Mountains holds a healing power.





Experience

the World of the Ninja in Koka

Follow in the footsteps of the Koka ninjas who played a vital role in Japan's Sengoku period.

Step inside the last remaining ninja house and discover the world of the ninja



The only real ninja house in Japan

Koka Ninja House

(Former Residence of Mochizuki Izumonokami)

The house was built during the Genroku era (1688-1704) as a residence of Mochizuki Izumonokami, the head of the Koka ninjas, consisting of 53 Koka families. Packed with hidden features as well as displays of ninja equipment, it is an authentic ninja house of great historical significance.

☎ 0748-86-2179 MAP P.14 C-2
🕒 9:00 am - 4:30 pm 🗨️ Open daily 🏠 700 yen
📍 ADD 2331 Konan-cho Ryuboshi, Koka-shi
🚶 Walk from JR Konan Station (20 min) 🅇 Free

Ninja was an actual profession during the Sengoku and Edo periods. The work of a ninja included gathering information and waging warfare using special tactics. Koka ninjas had a great knowledge of medicine and they would sometimes disguise themselves as medicine peddlers. The legendary Sarutobi Sasuke is believed to have been a Koka ninja. Go ahead and immerse yourself in the world of the ninja.

Mt. Iwao

A sacred mountain towering 471 meters high, it was used as a training ground by ninjas and monks. The mountain has sheer cliffs and unusually-shaped rocks with unique names, such as Ouma-iwa, which is shaped like a horse, and Mokugyo-iwa, which makes the sound of mokugyo (wooden fish) when struck. The mountain is also known for its magnificent cherry trees and is a great place to have a picnic.

☎ 0748-60-2690 MAP P.14 C-3
(Koka City Tourism Association)
📍 ADD Konan-cho Sugitani, Koka-shi
🚶 Take a taxi from JR Konan Station (20 min)



EXPERIENCE



Crossing the Water Spider Pond using water walking shoes

Come to the Koka ninja theme park and turn into a ninja!



Koka Ninja Village

Featuring the Ninja Trick House, Water Spider Pond, Shuriken Dojo, and more, it's a modern-day replica of a ninja village. Stop at the ninja museum to see real ninja gear and learn all about the life of the 53 samurai families of the Koka clan. It is possible to rent a ninja costume and there are outdoor barbecue facilities.



Descending into a secret passage

☎ 0748-88-5000 MAP P.15 D-2
🕒 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
🗨️ Monday (Tuesday if Monday falls on a holiday)
🏠 Admission 1,030 yen, Costume rental (adult) 1,030 yen, Barbecue 2,160 yen and up
📍 ADD 394 Koka-cho Oki, Koka-shi
🚶 Take a taxi from JR Koka Station (10 min) (complimentary bus service available from the station, reservations required)
🅇 Free

Column

Ruins of Koka's unique medieval castles

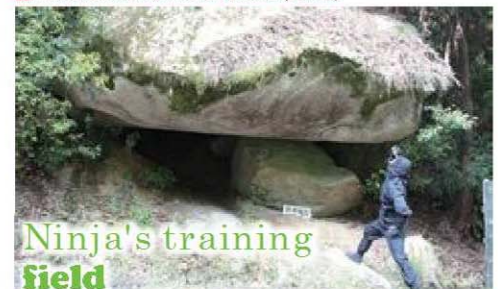
Medieval castle ruins

(Archaeological Site of Koka-gun Chuso)

Koka-gun Chuso was an autonomous organization formed by Koka samurais during the Sengoku period. Medieval castle sites dot the city where you can still see tall mounds, moats, and baileys just as they were ages ago. Five of these castle sites (Jizen, Murasame, Shingu plus its annex, and Takenaka) are designated as National Historic Sites. MAP P.14 C-2



On display at the Koka Ninja Museum you'll find ninja equipment, shuriken, and more.



Ninja's training field

Ninja training grounds dotted with odd-shaped rocks

An old shrine on the Koka ninja's training grounds

Hando Shrine (Mt. Hando)

Situated near the summit of Mt. Hando (664m), this ancient shrine was built in the early Edo period. The grounds are covered with rhododendrons which bloom in April and May. For ages Omi's sacred Mt. Hando and the monks who came here to lead an ascetic life are said to have greatly influenced the birth of the Koka ninja tradition.

☎ 0748-60-2690 MAP P.14 C-2
(Koka City Tourism Association)
🕒 Grounds open 24 hours
🗨️ Open daily 📍 ADD 7 Shigaraki-cho Miyamachi, Koka-shi
🚶 Take a taxi from JR Kibukawa Station (10 min) and walk to the summit (60 min) 🅇 Free

The main hall featuring a thatched roof covered with Japanese cypress bark is a nationally designated Important Cultural Property.



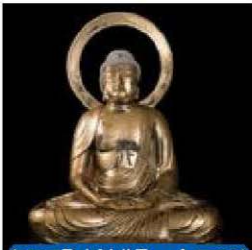
From left, statues of Shaka Nyorai, Yakushi Nyorai, and Amida Nyorai



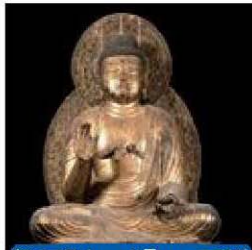
Three great Buddhas Three Buddhas of Koka

The three Buddhas of Koka are immense statues of Buddha located in three local temples. Follow the driving route to see these larger-than-life-size statues known as rokujo-butsu measuring 2.2 - 2.8 meters high. The grand statues of Shaka Nyorai, Yakushi Nyorai, and Amida Nyorai are sure to amaze you. It is believed that praying to the three Buddhas will bring peace upon the past, present, and future.

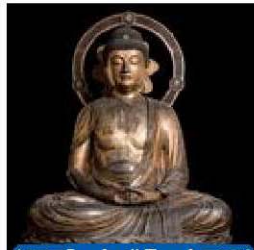
Serving as a holy site of the esoteric Tendai Buddhist sect since the Heian period, Koka thrived as a sacred place close to the capital. This religious culture was the crucible that shaped the art of the ninja. Koka is a sacred place of Kannon worship.



Daichi-ji Temple
Statue of a sitting Shaka Nyorai



Rakuya-ji Temple
Statue of a sitting Yakushi Nyorai



Juraku-ji Temple
Statue of a sitting Amida Nyorai

Learn about people's relationship with medicine and the history of medicine.

Kusuri Gakushukan (medicine museum)

Drug-making tools, signs and advertisements, as well as other materials dating back to as far as the Edo period are displayed in chronological order in the permanent exhibition room. In the workshop room you can get a hands-on lesson on how to make hyorogan, ninja energy pills (open to groups of 10 or more, reservations required, 200 yen per person).

☎0748-88-8110 MAP P.15 D-3
🕒 9:30 am - 4:30 pm 🗓 Monday (Tuesday if Monday falls on a holiday) 🆓 Free ADD: 898-1 Koka-cho Oharanaka, Koka-shi 🚗 Take a taxi from JR Koka Station (10 min) 🆓 Free



You can do an herb search, skin diagnosis, and more in the permanent exhibition room.



Located just across from Kafuka Yume no Mori

Also known as a spiritual "power spot" Juraku-ji Temple

The temple houses Japan's largest statue of a seated Amida Nyorai, which is its honzon (or principal object of worship), as well as the eleven-headed thousand-armed Kannon and statue of a seated Guze Kannon. Another must-see is the statue of a standing Queen Maya. This temple and Horyu-ji are the only temples with statues of Queen Maya depicted in the same posture in which she gave birth to Gautama Buddha.



Temple located on National Route 1 MAP P.15 E-2

☎0748-68-0364
🕒 9:00 am - 4:00 pm 🗓 Not scheduled 🆓 500 yen ADD: 351 Tsuchiyama-cho Yamanaka, Koka-shi 🚗 Take a taxi from JR Koka Station (20 min) 🆓 Free

The Treasure House boasts an outstanding collection of Buddha statues Rakuya-ji Temple

Rakuya-ji is a Tendai sect temple, which is believed to have been founded by Dengyo Daishi Saicho who carved an image of the eleven-faced Kannon on a live oak tree and enshrined it there. Measuring about 3.3 meters tall, the wooden statue of a seated eleven-faced Kannon, the temple's honzon, is the largest in Japan.



A Heian period temple housing a treasure trove of Buddha statues

MAP P.15 D-3
☎0748-88-3890 🕒 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (The honzon is open to the public on: Apr. 19 - second Sunday of May; Aug. 9, Oct. 19 - second Sunday of Nov.) 🗓 Not scheduled (Closed from Dec. 17 through Jan. 3) 🆓 500 yen, 800 yen (on dates when the honzon is open to the public) ADD: 1377 Koka-cho Ichino, Koka-shi 🚗 Take a taxi from JR Koka Station (10 min) 🆓 Free



Horai Garden features exquisitely pruned azalea bushes.



The main hall stands in the center of a huge pond Daichi-ji Temple

A branch of Myoshin-ji Temple, the Rinzai sect's Daichi-ji is famed for its Horai Garden, a rock garden believed to have been designed by Kobori Enshu. Legend has it that the temple was founded by Gyoki. It's a great place to view azaleas at their peak from late May until mid-June as well as the beautiful fall foliage.

MAP P.15 F-3
☎0748-62-0396
🕒 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (doors close, varies depending on the season)
🗓 Not scheduled 🆓 400 yen
ADD: 1168 Minakuchi-cho Nasaka, Koka-shi
🚗 Take a taxi from JR Kibukawa Station (10 min)
🆓 Free

Aburahi Shrine

Built at the foot of Mt. Aburahidake, this shrine to several gods stands 700 meters above sea level. The shrine is dedicated to the god of flaming oil and consists of a main hall, a hall of worship, a tower gate, as well as east and west roofed corridors, which are all designated as national important cultural properties. Its solemn atmosphere has made the shrine a popular location for filming movies and TV dramas in recent years.

☎0748-88-2106 🕒 Grounds open 24 hours MAP P.15 D-3
ADD: 1042 Koka-cho Aburahi, Koka-shi
🚗 Take a taxi from JR Koka Station (5 min) 🆓 Free

Those working in Japan's oil industry have a special feeling for this ancient shrine.



Stroll down the streets of towns that take you back to the Japan of yesteryear.

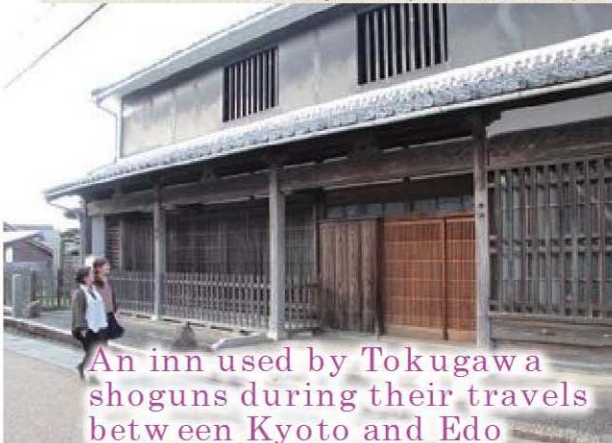
Step Back in Time along the Old Tokaido Road

Built by Tokugawa Ieyasu, the Tokaido was one of Japan's major routes in the Edo period. The road connected Edo with Kyoto and had 53 post stations along the way. Among the 53 post stations, Tsuchiyama-shuku and Minakuchi-shuku are located in Koka. Take a leisurely stroll along these streets where ninjas probably once walked too.



A street in Tsuchiyama-shuku

This old building looks exactly as it did back in the Edo period.



An inn used by Tokugawa shoguns during their travels between Kyoto and Edo

Formerly the Tsuchiyama-shuku Honjin

Tsuchiyama-shuku Honjin was built as a lodging for Tokugawa Iemitsu, the third shogun of the Tokugawa dynasty, when traveling between Kyoto and Edo. Since it is still used as a private residence, a reservation is needed to see the interior. Guest books, visitor signs, crafts, and other precious materials are kept there.

☎0748-66-0007 **MAP P.15 D-1**
 🕒9:00 am - 5:00 pm (reservations required) 🗓️Not scheduled 🎫300 yen
 📍ADD: 1628 Tsuchiyama-cho Kita-tsuchiyama, Koka-shi
 🚌Take Koka Community Bus Tsuchiyama Honsen from JR Kibukawa Station (35 min), get off at Ohmi Tsuchiyama, and walk 5 min 🆓Free

EXPERIENCE



Enjoy tea-dyeing
 Get a photo of yourself dressed as a traveler

An information center replicating Tsuchiyama-shuku

Tokaido Tenmakan

Providing information about Tsuchiyama-shuku and the culture that flourished along the Tokaido Road, this facility was originally a private residence built in the late Edo period. It features models and panels showing what Tsuchiyama-shuku looked like in the Edo period as well as a diorama using 100 Kyoto dolls to portray a daimyo procession. You can also try tea-dyeing in the workshop.

☎0748-66-2770 **MAP P.15 D-1**
 🕒9:00 am - 5:00 pm 🗓️Monday and Tuesday
 🎫Free, Tea-dyeing (reservations required) 700 yen and up
 📍ADD: 1570 Tsuchiyama-cho Kita-tsuchiyama, Koka-shi
 🚌Take Koka City Community Bus Tsuchiyama Honsen from JR Kibukawa Station (35 min), get off at Ohmi Tsuchiyama, and walk 3 min 🆓Free



Using an old private residence in Tsuchiyama



A spring shower in Tsuchiyama depicted by Utagawa Hiroshige in his Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido

Carvings in the main hall and the hall of worship are a must-see.



Famed for its magnificent fall foliage

Learn about the history and culture of Tsuchiyama

Tsuchiyama Folk History Museum

Like the town itself, "the road" lies at the heart of this museum whose exhibits focus on the history and people of Tsuchiyama. Here you'll see a panel display telling the story of the Saio Princess Procession as well as a video of the Kenketo dance.

☎0748-66-1056 **MAP P.15 D-1**
 🕒10:00 am - 5:00 pm 🗓️Monday and Tuesday
 🎫Free **ADD:** 2230 Tsuchiyama-cho Kita-tsuchiyama, Koka-shi
 🚌Take Koka Community Bus Tsuchiyama Honsen from JR Kibukawa Station (30 min), get off at Tsuchiyama Shisho Mae, and walk 5 min
 🆓Free



Exhibits include audiovisual equipment and models.

A welcome rest stop for people traveling through the Suzuka Pass

Tsuchiyama-shuku

MAP P.15 D-1
 The 49th post station along the Tokaido, Tsuchiyama-shuku served as a rest stop for people making the arduous journey through the Suzuka Pass. You'll see historical stone markers here and there as you stroll lanes lined with traditional wooden buildings bearing signs indicating what they once were, such as honjin (inns for government officials).

Tamura Shrine

This ancient shrine is believed to have been built in 812. The main deity enshrined here is Sakanoue no Tamuramaro, a general and shogun who subdued evil ogres that were harassing travelers along the Suzuka Pass. The shrine grounds command a beautiful view of the Tamura River.

☎0748-66-0018 **MAP P.15 E-1**
 🕒Grounds open 24 hours (prayers, amulets, etc. offered 9:00 am - 4:00 pm)
 📍ADD: 469 Tsuchiyama-cho Kita-tsuchiyama, Koka-shi
 🚌Take Koka City Community Bus Tsuchiyama Honsen from JR Kibukawa Station (40 min) and get off at Tamura Jinja.
 🆓Free

Column

Enjoy green tea ice cream and brown rice crackers while savoring green tea

Michi-no-eki Aino Tsuchiyama

This Michi-no-eki (roadside station) is where you can find local specialties from the Tsuchiyama area of Koka. Be sure to try some brown rice crackers made with flavorful locally grown tea leaves and self-serve green tea ice cream. You can rest while sipping a complimentary cup of Tsuchiyama tea.

☎0748-66-1244 **MAP P.15 E-1**
 🕒9:00 am - 6:00 pm (5:30 pm Dec - Mar), Restaurant 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
 🗓️Tuesday (following weekday if Tuesday falls on a holiday) **ADD:** 2900 Tsuchiyama-cho Kita-tsuchiyama, Koka-shi
 🚌Take Koka City Community Bus Tsuchiyama Honsen from JR Kibukawa Station (40 min) and get off at Tamura Jinja. 🆓Free

Simple architectural design



Self-serve green tea ice cream 400 yen



Built to resemble Kyoto's Nijo Castle

Also known for its spectacular view of the cherry blossoms

Shiga Prefecture-designated historic site Minakuchi Castle Ruins

(Minakuchi Castle Museum)

Shogun Tokugawa Iemitsu ordered Kobori Enshu to build Minakuchi Castle, also known as Hekisui (clear blue water) Castle, so he would have a place to stay during his travels between Kyoto and Edo. Inside the Minakuchi Castle Museum, which is designed to look like the castle's corner tower, you'll find a model of the castle and materials related to Minakuchi-han.

☎0748-63-5577 MAP P.15 E-4

🕒 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

🗓️ Thursday and Friday 🏠 100 yen

📍 ADD: 4-80 Minakuchi-cho Honmaru, Koka-shi

🚶 Walk 4 min from Minakuchi Jonan Station on the Ohmi Railway

🆓 Free

A thriving post town that was the most popular stop along the Tokaido Road

Minakuchi-shuku MAP P.15 E-4

The 50th post town along the Tokaido Road.

Characterized by its distinctive three-forked road (called misuji), the town of Minakuchi-shuku sprang up around Minakuchi-Okayama Castle, which was built by order of Toyotomi Hideyoshi. The town's streetscapes look the same as they did back in the Edo period.



Women drying kanpyo in Minakuchi depicted by Utagawa Hiroshige in his Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido

Column

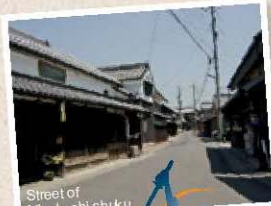
A seasonal tradition that takes place from July to early August

Drying gourd strips in Minakuchi

Locally grown kanpyo (gourd strips) drying in the sun is a familiar summer scene in Minakuchi just as it was when Hiroshige captured it in his Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido. Kanpyo is a key ingredient of the local specialty, ninja-maki sushi rolls.



Drying kanpyo



Street of Minakuchi-shuku



The castle's stone wall

See the view from the summit through the eyes of the castle lord

Minakuchi Okayama Castle Ruins (Mt. Kojo)

This castle was built on Mt. Kojo by order of Toyotomi Hideyoshi. The remaining stone walls stand as a reminder of the past. Boasting beautiful views of cherry blossoms in spring, Mt. Kojo is easy to climb even for novices.

☎0748-69-2250 MAP P.15 F-4

(Koka City Board of Education Historic Cultural Property Department)

📍 ADD: Minakuchi-cho Minakuchi, Koka-shi

🚶 Walk 20 min from Minakuchi Station on the Ohmi Railway

🆓 Free

Don't miss the floats' ornate carvings and elaborate decorations.

Shiga prefecture-designated intangible folk cultural asset.

Minakuchi Hikiyama Festival (Minakuchi Shrine)

The Minakuchi Hikiyama Festival, which dates back to the mid-Edo period, features Hikiyama floats from each community parading through the town in tune with the dynamic rhythms of the festival music known as Minakuchi-bayashi. Attracting countless tourists, the festival is the biggest event of the year for Minakuchi Shrine, which is fondly called "Omija-san" by the locals. MAP P.15 E-4

☎0748-60-2690 (Koka City Tourism Association)

☎0748-62-0231 (Minakuchi Shrine)

📍 ADD: Minakuchi-cho Miyanomae, Koka-shi/Minakuchi Shrine and all around town 🚶 Walk 3 min from Minakuchi Jonan Station on the Ohmi Railway 🆓 Free

The annual Minakuchi Hikiyama Festival takes place on April 20 beginning at 9:00 am with the Hikiyama float parade kicking off at 10:00 am and the procession of portable shrines and children starting at 2:00 pm. Yoiniya, the celebration held on the eve of the festival, takes place from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm on April 19.



Those visiting here and the Minakuchi Castle Museum can get 200 yen off the entrance fees.

Floats, historical materials, and everyday folk craft

Minakuchi Folk History Museum

The museum provides information about Minakuchi-shuku, its history, folklore, and festivals. Also on display are excavated artifacts from the Kofun period and the actual floats used in the most recent Minakuchi Hikiyama Festival. The museum has a memorial hall dedicated to Iwaya Ichiroku, a native of Minakuchi and one of the three great calligraphers of the Meiji period, and Iwaya Sazanami, the father of Japanese children's literature. MAP P.15 E-4

☎0748-62-7141

🕒 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

🗓️ Thursday and Friday

🏠 150 yen ADD: 5638

Minakuchi-cho Minakuchi, Koka-shi 🚶 A short walk from Minakuchi Jonan Station on the Ohmi Railway 🆓 Free

A place for visitors to rest and relax Koka City Hito Machi Kaido Koryukan

Here you can get not only tourist information but also learn all about the history and culture of Koka, with a focus on Minakuchi-shuku, as well as local products. It serves as a crossroads of people just as Minakuchi-shuku did when it was a thriving Tokaido post town.

☎0748-70-3166 MAP P.15 F-4

🕒 9:00 am - 5:00 pm 🗓️ Monday (Tuesday if Monday falls on a holiday) 🆓 Free

📍 ADD: 7-4 Minakuchi-cho Yasaka, Koka-shi

🚶 A short walk from Minakuchi-Ishibashi Station on the Ohmi Railway 🆓 Free

Located at Minakuchi-shuku along the Tokaido Road



Discover exquisite works of art and meet cute tanukis

Visit

Museum & Cultural Park

Shigaraki Ware Potteries



JAPAN HERITAGE
日本遺産

One of the Six Ancient Kilns of Japan, Shigaraki is a center for pottery. Take a walk around the town and check out the climbing kilns, ceramic tiles embedded in the streets, and ceramic tanuki figurines. You'll be sure to find the perfect teacup for Asamiya tea, your new favorite coffee mug and earthenware pots, plus lots more.



des'gn by AN GRAPHICS
Ponpoko-chan, the mascot of the Shigaraki Tourist Association. She loves Asamiya tea flavored ice cream and sweets.



See the unique sights of this pottery capital, Shigaaki.

Column

Follow the ceramic tiles that are embedded in the streets.

Enjoy a relaxing stroll along these charming streets.

The Pottery Quarter

Along the quaint old path that leads to Shingu Shrine you'll find a climbing kiln, old hibachis piled one on top of another and ceramic signposts that take you back to a simpler time. Walk down Rokuro-zaka, Hirotsubo-zaka, and Kamaba-zaka lanes where you'll find art galleries, cafes, and guest houses.

There are visitor-friendly signposts here and there.

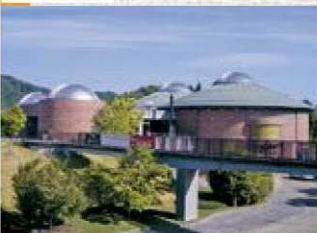


MAP P.14 A-4



Park with museums and Shigaraki ware shops

Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park



The pottery-themed park is divided into four areas.

Here you can visit a park devoted to the art of pottery, the Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art, a grass-covered plaza, the Institute of Ceramic Studies, a training facility for ceramic artists, and the Exhibition Hall of Industrial Ceramics. The Exhibition Hall has a cafe and a shop where you can buy Shigaraki ware tanuki figurines.

☎0748-83-0909

MAP P.14 A-4

🕒9:00 am - 4:30 pm 🗓Monday (Tuesday if Monday falls on a holiday, the museum is closed some days in winter)

🎫Admission free (fee required to enter the museum)

📍ADD: 2188-7 Shigaraki-cho Chokushi, Koka-shi

🚌Take Shigaraki Kogen bus from Shigaraki Station on the Shigaraki Kogen Railway (5 min) and get off at Togeji no Mori 🆓Free

Get in touch with the history of Shigaraki ware

Building facade with specially made Shigaraki ware tiles

Traditional Crafts Center of Shigaraki

Its exhibits include works of Shigaraki ware from the Kamakura period to the modern day and related materials. Special exhibitions spotlighting the work of contemporary artists are also held there.

☎0748-82-2345

MAP P.14 A-4

🕒9:00 am - 5:00 pm

🗓Thursday (Friday if Thursday falls on a holiday)

📍ADD: 1142 Shigaraki-cho Nagano, Koka-shi

🚶Walk 8 min from Shigaraki Station on the Shigaraki Kogen Railway

🆓Free



Stop here first for information!



Participate in a pottery workshop

It offers three different pottery workshops, each of which lasts about 1 to 2 hours. Once your piece of pottery is complete, it will be taken to the pottery studio where it will be dried, glaze-fired, and taken out of the kiln. The finished product will be sent to your home (additional shipping fees apply).



A guest house equipped with a kitchen is available for 1 group per day.

Making a rice bowl The bottom of the bowl is removed with a thread.



Buy making pottery in a quiet salon

Make your own pottery at a studio nestled in a serene mountainside setting

Shigaraki Kenzo Pottery Art Club

This is a pottery workshop facility run by Kenzo Ogawa, a fourth-generation potter. You can choose from the electric potter's wheel, hand work, or tatara courses. If you want to take more time to work on your pottery, you can stay in the guest house.

☎0748-82-2216

MAP P.14 A-4

🕒10:00 am - 5:00 pm (reservation required)

🗓Not scheduled

🎫Pottery workshop 5,000 yen. Lodging is available. Contact the facility for more information.

📍ADD: 755-1 Shigaraki-cho Nagano, Koka-shi

🚶Walk from Shigaraki Station on the Shigaraki Kogen Railway line (20 min)

🆓Free



Kenzo Ogawa's pottery studio is located in the Pottery Quarter





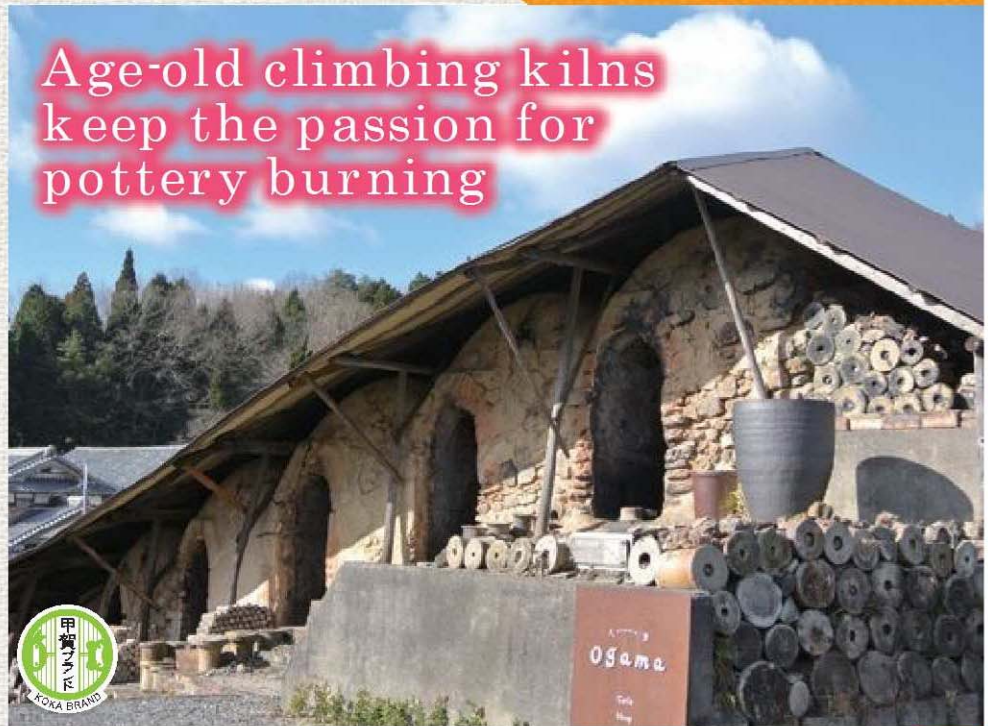
Stop at the cafe and enjoy a cup of coffee (450 yen) or locally produced Asamiya tea (500 yen).

Known to bring good luck, owls are a favorite.



A Boruto (2,160 yen) holds 2 go (360 ml) of sake. It's also great for condiments.

Age-old climbing kilns keep the passion for pottery burning



Ogama Climbing Kiln and Gallery

Employing an abandoned climbing kiln and work shed that have been restored, Ogama operates a relaxing cafe overlooking the climbing kiln on the first floor as well as an art gallery and shop on the second floor featuring figurines and dishes made by Meizangama potters and Shigaraki-based artists.

☎ 0748-82-8066

MAP P.14 A-4

🕒 11:00 am - 5:00 pm 🗓 Tuesday through Thursday (open on holidays) 📍 947 Shigaraki-cho Nagano, Koka-shi

🚶 Walk 15 min from Shigaraki Station on the Shigaraki Kogen Railway 🆓 Free

The huge climbing kiln you'll see after ascending Rokuro-zaka lane is an amazing sight.

Column

Shigaraki Kogen Railway



This third-sector railway company was founded in 1987 after taking over the Shigaraki Line from JR. The line, stretching 14.7 km, connects Kibukawa and Shigaraki. Ride the steep slopes of Shigaraki and witness nature in all its magnificence pass by the window.

MAP P.14 B-3

☎ 0748-82-3391

Enjoy riding on a local train line.



Once the capital during the Nara period

Site of the Great Buddha

Shigaraki Palace Ruins

Built by Emperor Shomu, the Shigaraki Palace was the capital where he stayed for 3 years. Wood strips bearing poems contained in the Manyoshu were excavated for the first time in Japan from the palace ruins.

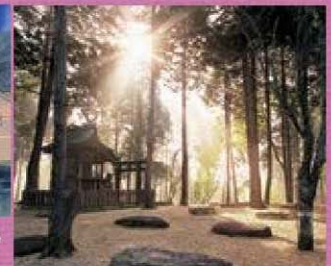


Image of a reconstructed section of Shigaraki Palace

MAP P.14 B-2

☎ 0748-69-2250

(Koka City Board of Education Historic Cultural Property Department) 🚶 Walk 7 min from Shigaraki-gu-shi Station on the Shigaraki Kogen Railway 🆓 Free



Ruins of Koga-ji Temple where the framework of a Buddha statue was constructed. You can see lots of foundation stones for the Kohabo (Golden Hall) and other structures.

Another must-see!



MIHO MUSEUM

Designed by I. M. Pei, an architect well known for his glass pyramid at the Louvre, this art museum houses collections of ancient art from Egypt, Asia, and China. It also hosts special exhibitions three times a year.

☎ 0748-82-3411

MAP P.14 B-2

🕒 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (Final admission at 4:00 pm) The museum may be closed some days. Check the official website for days it is open.

🗓 Monday during periods when the museum is open (Tuesday if Monday falls on a holiday) 🎫 1,100 yen 📍 300 Tashiro Momodani, Shigaraki-cho, Koka 🚌 Take Toisan Bus from Ishiyama Station on the JR Biwako Line (50 min), get off at Miho Museum 🆓 Free 🌐 <http://www.miho.or.jp>

An abundance of natural light pours through the geometric glass ceiling.



Even the tunnel and suspension bridge that lead to the museum are works of art.

Inviting you to an art museum hidden deep in the woods



The cherry tree-lined street turns pink in spring.



Standing Buddha from late 2nd century Gandhara (height: 250 cm)

Cherry blossoms, fall foliage,
parks, farms, hot springs,
and more

There's so much to do
and see in

Koka

Come to Koka and relax against an amazing natural backdrop that changes with the passing seasons. Rivers flowing with crystal-clear water and baths filled with natural hot spring water await you.

Misuji Falls

The sound of these pristine waters cascading into the Tashiro River reverberates through the mountains. Spilling in three streams, the waterfall is called Misuji (three-way) Falls. There is a rest stop along the Tokaido Nature Trail. **MAP P.14 B-2**

☎ 0748-82-2345 (Shigaraki Tourist Association)
ADD Shigaraki-cho Tashiro, Koka-shi 🚗 Drive 11 km after getting off at the Shigaraki IC on the Shin-Meishin Expressway 🅇 Free



Stunning three-stream waterfall

Water splashing against the verdant backdrop creates a beautiful contrast

It's a world of fun.



Recreational spot where you can ride fun-cycles

Ozuchi Dam Eco Valley

Situated near Ozuchi Dam, this park has camping grounds as well as barbecue and fishing facilities. You can also play ground golf or ride off-road buggies. There's so much fun to be had. **MAP P.15 E-2**

☎ 0748-66-0316 (Tsuchiyama-cho Midori no Furusato Shinkokai) 🕒 Play facilities 10:00 am - 4:30 pm, Lodging facilities: check-in 2:00 pm, check-out 10:00 am 🕒 Open daily 🅇 Off-road buggy 500 yen, Cabin 6,000 yen
ADD 101-7 Tsuchiyama-cho Ozuchi, Koka-shi
🚗 Take Koka Community Bus Tsuchiyama Honsen from JR Kibukawa Station, get off at Omi-Tsuchiyama, switch to the Okawara-sen route, get off at Eco Valley (45 min) and walk
🅇 Free



200-year old weeping cherry tree

The best time to see cherry blossoms is late March through early April.

Tokuhonzakura cherry tree at Daifuku-ji Temple

In the center of the Jodo sect temple, Daifuku-ji, stands a giant weeping cherry. Its branches hang as low as eye level. Half the area beneath the shade of the tree is a graveyard and the other half is a garden. **MAP P.15 D-2**

☎ 0748-88-4427
ADD 1171 Koka-cho Iwamura, Koka-shi
🚗 Drive 1 km after getting off at the Koka-Tsuchiyama IC on the Shin-Meishin Expressway
🅇 Free

SPRING

Relax and enjoy the cherry blossoms

Magnificent 400-year-old tree

Weeping cherry tree in Hata

This Edo Higan variety of weeping cherry in Shigaraki's Hata region is believed to have been planted when Tokugawa Ieyasu visited here. Its magnificent drooping branches laden with cherry blossoms are a stunning sight. **MAP P.14 A-3**

☎ 0748-82-2345 (Shigaraki Tourist Association)

ADD Shigaraki-cho Hata, Koka-shi
🚗 Drive 13 km after getting off at the Shigaraki IC on the Shin-Meishin Expressway 🅇 Free



At its peak of beauty mid-April



Hzuko Shrine

Formerly known as Hachioji Myojin or Omiya Daimyojin, the shrine was renamed in the Meiji period. It consists of the honden (main hall), chozuya (water ablation pavilion), and shamusho (shrine office). **MAP P.15 E-2**

ADD 163 Tsuchiyama-cho Inohana, Koka-shi 🚗 Drive 7 km after getting off at the Koka-Tsuchiyama IC on the Shin-Meishin Expressway 🅇 Free

Breathtaking fall foliage in glowing shades of crimson



Secret spot for leaf-viewing

SUMMER

Beat the summer heat

Keimei Waterfall

Legend has it that a golden rooster emerges from the nearby ancient temple ruins on New Year's morning, ushering in good fortune for the new year. The Keimei Falls together with the Kamiari, Iwashidare, Hakufu, Byakuja, Shiragami, Shidario, and Hatsune waterfalls are known as Keimei Hachitaki (the eight falls). **MAP P.14 B-3**

☎ 0748-82-2345 (Shigaraki Tourist Association)
ADD Shigaraki-cho Koyama, Koka-shi
🚗 Drive 13 km after getting off at the Shigaraki IC on the Shin-Meishin Expressway 🅇 Free

The roaring Keimei Falls is 13 meters high and 11 meters wide.



Popular summer destination for escaping the heat

AUTUMN

Enjoy stunning fall foliage

Suzuka Skyline

This 12-kilometer scenic drive leading to Yunoyama Onsen Hot Spring in Mie Prefecture offers panoramic views of the great outdoors throughout the year. The fall foliage is breathtaking. **MAP P.15 F-1**

☎ 0748-60-2690 (Koka City Tourism Association)
🚗 Drive 15 km after getting off at the Koka-Tsuchiyama IC on the Shin-Meishin Expressway *Road may be closed during the winter.

This drive is a leaf-viewer's delight!

Early to mid-November is the best time to view the fall foliage.



Resort hotel featuring tubo (ceramic pot) baths and carbonated hot spring baths

Htrel Lake Villa

Enjoy relaxing baths, including sumptuous Shigaraki ware ceramic tubo baths, carbonated hot spring baths, outdoor baths, bed baths, and more. The hot spring water will leave your skin feeling soft and smooth.

MAP P.14 B-4
☎ 0748-85-0250
🕒 11:00 am - 9:00 pm

📍 Open daily
💰 700 yen (weekdays), 1,200 yen (weekends and holidays)
➡ 1 Shigaraki-cho Tarao, Koka-shi
🚗 Take Shiga Bus from Shigaraki Station on the Shigaraki Kogen Railway (30 min), get off at Shigaraki Onsen 🆓 Free



Spacious, relaxing outdoor bath

The hotel also has a golf course and tennis court.



Day trips

Relaxing Hot Spring Baths

Indoor baths using 100% natural hot spring water

Enjoy a relaxing dip in the outdoor hot spring bath with magnificent views of the mountains.

Koka Ht Spring Yapponpon no Yu

The outdoor rock bath surrounded by mountains is the perfect place to escape the daily hustle and bustle and just relax. In addition to the large main baths, there are also saunas, bedrock baths, and private baths for families

☎ 0748-68-0250 **MAP P.15 E-2**

🕒 12:00 pm - 10:00 pm (opens 11:00 am on weekends and holidays)
📍 Open daily 💰 1,240 yen (weekdays), 1,540 yen (weekends and holidays), 520 yen for bedrock bath (adults only)
➡ 1711 Tsuchiyama-cho Kurokawa, Koka-shi
🚗 Take Koka Community Bus from JR Kibukawa Station (40 min), get off at Diamond Shiga 🆓 Free

Relaxing outdoor baths where you can enjoy beautiful natural scenery in all four seasons.

Kamoshika Villa

Hot spring baths with a scenic view of the Suzuka Mountains soothe the body and soul. Kamoshika Villa offers a tranquil setting and creative eat-the-view cuisine. Be sure to try the outdoor garden bath.

☎ 0748-69-0344 **MAP P.15 E-1**

🕒 Hours vary depending on the season
📍 Not scheduled 💰 500 yen (availability depends on the number of guests staying at the inn) ➡ 1104 Tsuchiyama-cho Okawara, Koka-shi
🚗 Take Koka Community Bus from JR Kibukawa Station (1 hour), get off at Wakamiya Jinja 🆓 Free

Tanuki-accented outdoor baths are popular among guests.

Village of Fire Shigaraki Htrel Ogawatei

The sodium-rich, hot spring-fed Tanuki Onsen baths soak away the fatigue of a long journey. Popular among tourists are the bath tubs made of ceramic tiles fired in a climbing kiln and outdoor baths that can be rented out privately. Reservations are required.

☎ 0748-82-0008 **MAP P.14 A-4**

🕒 11:30 am - 9:00 pm 📍 Not scheduled 💰 900 yen, Private outdoor bath rental (50 min) 4,000 yen for 2 persons, 5,000 yen for family ➡ 878 Shigaraki-cho Nagano, Koka-shi
🚗 Walk from Shigaraki Station on the Shigaraki Kogen Railway line (10 min) 🆓 Free

An elegant hotel located in Shigaraki



One of the oldest hot springs in Shiga

Shiono Onsen

Shiono Onsen is a long-established restaurant and inn with a hot spring. The saline spring, whose source lies within the inn's grounds, is believed to have been discovered by Kobo Daishi. The granite bath is equipped with handrails, showers, and stools.

☎ 0748-86-2130 **MAP P.14 C-2**

🕒 11:00 am - 9:00 pm 📍 Not scheduled 💰 Day trip (meal + hot spring bath) starting at 3,726 yen (reservations required) ➡ 269 Konan-cho Shiono, Koka-shi
🚗 Take a taxi from Kibukawa Station on the JR line (7 min) 🆓 Free



The outdoor bath is a Goemon-buro (cauldron bath).

Kamoshika Villa

Hot spring baths with a scenic view of the Suzuka Mountains soothe the body and soul. Kamoshika Villa offers a tranquil setting and creative eat-the-view cuisine. Be sure to try the outdoor garden bath.

☎ 0748-69-0344 **MAP P.15 E-1**

🕒 Hours vary depending on the season
📍 Not scheduled 💰 500 yen (availability depends on the number of guests staying at the inn) ➡ 1104 Tsuchiyama-cho Okawara, Koka-shi
🚗 Take Koka Community Bus from JR Kibukawa Station (1 hour), get off at Wakamiya Jinja 🆓 Free

A hot spring inn amid idyllic surroundings

Miyano Onsen

Reputed for making your skin healthier, the hot spring contains sodium and calcium chloride. Take a soothing hot spring bath in a wooden bathtub to relieve stress from your busy life.

☎ 0748-86-2212 **MAP P.14 C-2**

🕒 11:00 am - 9:00 pm 📍 Wednesday (Thursday if Wednesday falls on a holiday) 💰 800 yen ➡ 364-1 Konan-cho Sugitani, Koka-shi
🚗 Take a taxi from JR Konan Station (5 min) 🆓 Free



The main bath is also equipped with a bedrock foot bath.

Family Fun



Get up close to cows

Pet bunnies and cows

Narita Fureai Farm

Not only a producer of high-quality milk, this farm lets you get up close to calves, ponies, and bunnies. You can also enjoy barbecuing under the outdoor tent.

☎ 0748-86-3341 **MAP P.14 C-2**

🕒 Grounds open 24 hours, Gelateria 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (varies depending on season)
📍 Open daily
💰 Admission free, BBQ 3,500 yen, Gelato 350 yen and up
➡ 696 Konan-cho Shinji, Koka-shi
🚗 Take a taxi from JR Konan Station (5 min) 🆓 Free

Grassy plaza where you can spend all day having fun

Kafuka Yume no Mori

The park features a Dream Garden and Ninja Fort (an outdoor field and kids playground) as well as Koka Sokenkan, a library, plus a lifelong learning center.

MAP P.15 D-3

☎ 0748-88-2190 (Public Welfare Center)

🕒 Gates open 24 hours 📍 Monday
➡ 507-2 Koka-cho Okubo, Koka-shi
🚗 Take a taxi from JR Koka Station (10 min) 🆓 Free

Picnic area on a grassy hill



Fureai Hiroba is an exciting playground.



Recreation facility with a multipurpose field

Minakuchi Sports no Mori

This athletic/recreational facility set in a lush green environment has a multipurpose field, swimming pool, tennis courts, camping grounds, and more.

☎ 0748-62-7529 **MAP P.15 E-4**

🕒 Grounds open 24 hours (hours vary depending on the facility)
📍 Open daily
💰 Varies depending on the facility
➡ 230 Minakuchi-cho Kita-naiki, Koka-shi
🚗 Take Koka Community Bus from JR Kibukawa Station (5 min), get off at Sports no Mori Nishiguchi 🆓 Free

Discover the natural wonders of Minakuchi

Minakuchi Kodomo no Mori

This nature park nestled in a sprawling woodland features a biotope, public farm, and a nature museum featuring displays that take you back in time to glimpse Minakuchi as it was 2.3 million years ago along with dioramas and other exhibits.

☎ 0748-63-6712 **MAP P.14 C-2**

(Minakuchi Kodomo no Mori Nature Museum)
🕒 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
📍 Monday (Tuesday if Monday falls on a holiday)
💰 Free, Admission to nature museum 200 yen
➡ 10 Minakuchi-cho Kita-naiki, Koka-shi
🚗 Take a taxi from JR Kibukawa Station (5 min) 🆓 Free

Fossil Tunnel at the nature museum





A 50 g pack of "Shigaraki" Asamiya tea with full-bodied flavor and rich aroma, costs just 1,000 yen.



Locally produced tea with a refreshing, mild flavor

"Shigaraki" Asamiya tea from Katagi Koukaen

Katagi Koukaen is a tea plantation where people grow tea in harmony with the environment. This superb organic tea is made from carefully selected young tea leaves harvested in early summer using a special processing technique.

☎ 0748-84-0135 **MAP P.14 A-3**
 ☎ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm **CL** Not scheduled
ADD 1090 Shigaraki-cho Miyajiri, Koka-shi
 🚗 Take a taxi from Shigaraki Station on the Shigaraki Kogen Railway (18 min) **🆓** Free

Savor the exquisite flavor of Asamiya tea

Green Tea Otona Roll from Cha-no-miyagura

This shop run by a tea grower in Asamiya offers roll cakes made with the tea it produces. Featuring a rich flavor, these roll cakes are popular among shoppers. They come in sencha and matcha flavors. The shop also sells homemade gelato.

☎ 0748-84-0405 **MAP P.14 A-3**
 ☎ 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
CL Tuesday and third Wednesday of the month
ADD 89-1 Shigaraki-cho Shimo-asamiya, Koka-shi
 🚗 Take a taxi from Shigaraki Station on the Shigaraki Kogen Railway (12 min) **🆓** Free
 The sencha flavored Otona Roll is 1,405 yen.



The matcha kuzumochi cakes are 216 yen each, 1,080 yen for 5.

Sweets that accentuate the flavor and aroma of Asamiya green tea

Matcha Kuzumochi from Yamamoto-en

The center of this kuzumochi made with Yoshino kudzu is filled with sweet bean paste incorporating lots of Asamiya matcha. The robust full flavor, color, and aroma of the green tea really come through.

☎ 0748-84-0014 **MAP P.14 A-3**
 ☎ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (tearoom 10:00 am - 5:30 pm)
CL Monday (Tuesday if Monday falls on a holiday)
ADD 275-1 Shigaraki-cho Kami-asamiya, Koka-shi
 🚗 Take a taxi from Shigaraki Station on the Shigaraki Kogen Railway (10 min) **🆓** Free



Asamiya Ochabatake (green tea tiramisu) with premium hojicha (950 yen)



Inside the tea shop is a tea room called "Vth Tea."

Tea, sweets, liquor, fruits, vegetables, and more

Koka has so much to offer!

Dotted with beautiful tea plantations, Koka produces quality tea and delicious tea flavored sweets. Rice grown with Koka's pristine water goes into making Japanese sake and mochi rice cakes, the local specialties. Picking fruit when it's in season is fun for the whole family.

New! Open

Take a break at a hojicha tea salon Ohmi-cha Maruyoshi

Using the tea leaves grown in Ohmi's Tsuchiyama Tongu area and locally harvested tea leaves, this tea shop employs a special roasting technique that brings out the best of the tea's flavor. Try its original hojicha flavored sweets, such as monaka and dorayaki, in the attached tea house.

☎ 0748-67-1333 **MAP P.15 D-2**
 ☎ 9:30 am - 6:00 pm **CL** Open daily **ADD** 2723 Tsuchiyama-cho Ono, Koka-shi
 🚗 Take Koka Community Bus Tsuchiyama Honsen at JR Kibukawa Station (25 min), get off at Ono Imajuku **🆓** Free
 Relax and enjoy tea with sweets at Horaku

Hojicha in a 50 g can starts at 648 yen.



Enjoy hojicha and sweets (324 yen). You can choose one of three types of sweets.



Gallery-mamma mia has displays of woodcraft and ceramics.



Savor tasty tarts in an idyllic setting

patisserie MiA

This gallery and patisserie operating in a renovated old wooden school house offers a warm, cozy atmosphere that harks back to yesteryear. It offers cakes and more baked on the premises.

☎ 0748-86-1552 **MAP P.15 D-3**
 ☎ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm (carry-out and gallery 11:00 am - 5:00 pm) **CL** Monday and Tuesday
ADD 835 Konan-cho Nogawa, Koka-shi
 🚗 Take a taxi from JR Terasho Station (8 min) **🆓** Free

Strawberry tart (518 yen) and raspberry milk (628 yen)



What's Tsuchiyama tea?

Shiga Prefecture's biggest producer of tea, Tsuchiyama is home to vast tea plantations that stretch out across its rolling hills. The first "tsuchiyama tea" is believed to have been grown from seeds taken from Deisho-ji Temple in Kyoto.



Enjoy the savory flavor

Cold Brew Akachan Bancha from Tatsuoaka Seicha

Containing no caffeine, this tea is great for people of all ages. The company also offers fall-harvested bancha, which it makes from tea leaves harvested in October or later using a special technique.

☎ 0748-66-0025 **MAP P.15 E-1**
 ☎ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm **CL** Sunday and holidays **ADD** 982 Tsuchiyama-cho Kita-tsuchiyama, Koka-shi
 🚗 Take Koka Community Bus Tsuchiyama Honsen from JR Kibukawa Station (35 min), get off at Higashi-Tsuchiyama **🆓** Free



Tatsuoaka's cold brew Akachan Bancha (840 yen/400 g) is also sold at the Aino Tsuchiyama roadside station



Ninja Mochi (pack of 10) is priced at 650 yen.



Mochi pounded in the traditional way

Ninja Mochi from
Koka Mochi Factory

These healthy rice cakes inspired by the Ninja diet come in five different flavors: yuzu, shiso, yomogi, sesame, and yam.

MAP P.15 D-2

☎ 0748-88-5841

🕒 8:30 am - 5:30 pm 📅 Monday (Tuesday if Monday falls on a holiday) 📍 2121-1 Koka-cho Kosaji, Koka-shi 🚗 Take a taxi from JR Koka Station (10 min) 🆓 Free

Koka Mochi Kobo has a restaurant that serves light fare including gomoku anikake rice noodles (580 yen).



Check this out!

Featuring items supplied by some 500 farmers

JA Green Hanayakaichi
(Farmer's Market)

The shop carries locally grown farm products as well as food products such as miso and pickles. The shelves are stocked with fresh vegetables harvested every morning by some of the 500 farmers who have signed up as suppliers.

☎ 0748-62-0711

🕒 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

MAP P.15 E-4

📅 Open daily (may be temporarily closed for inventory)

📍 6111-1 Minakuchi-cho Minakuchi, Koka-shi

🚶 Walk 10 min from Minakuchi Jonan Station on the Ohmi Railway

🆓 Free



Bottled tea is also available.

This is the place to shop for local produce!



Sweets bearing ninja names make a perfect souvenir.



Sake made with natural spring water from beneath the Suzuka Mountains

Aiga from Sugoi Eenou Ayukawa

Made from Ayukawa rice, grown with minimum use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers and groundwater from the Suzuka Mountains, this sake is hand-crafted according to the age-old brewing tradition of a place where time passes slowly.

☎ 0748-60-4828

📍 1226-1 Tsuchiyama-cho Ayukawa, Koka-shi

MAP P.15 E-2



A taste as refined as a stream of crystal clear water. Aiga 500 ml 1,030 yen, 1800 ml 2,880 yen



Delicious fresh blueberries

Open
Late Jun.
Early Sept.

Pick sweet and juicy blueberries

Miya Berry's blueberry farm

At this pick your own farm you can enjoy all the ripe, plump blueberries you can eat. The farm also has a shop where you can buy jam.

MAP P.15 D-3

☎ 0748-60-1746

🕒 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

🍽️ All-you-can-eat 1,000 yen,

All-you-can-eat + to-go 1,500 yen

📍 462 Konan-cho Nogawa, Koka-shi

🚗 Take a taxi from JR Koka Station (10 min)

🆓 Free

Bringing delicious, healthy food from the home of the ninjas to your table

Kurokage Rice from Minori Sangyo

This ancient black sticky rice reminiscent of the ninja in black is rich in nutrients such as anthocyanin, protein, and vitamins. It's sold at the Michi no eki Aino Tsuchiyama, Konan Parking Area, and Tsuchiyama Service Area.

MAP P.14 C-2

☎ 0748-86-4778

📍 2472 Konan-cho Ryuboshi, Koka-shi



A 500 g bag of Kurokage rice is priced at 1,296 yen. It's great when cooked with white rice.



Have fun on the farm!

The largest in Shiga Prefecture

Kafuka Strawberry Farm

Forty-five minutes of all-you-can-eat strawberry picking, with complimentary chocolate sauce and condensed milk. There's also a market where local produce and Kafuka gelato are sold.

☎ 0748-63-5811

🕒 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

📅 Open daily

👉 2,000 yen (Jan. 4 - Mar. 20),

1,700 yen (Mar. 21 - May 9), 1,400 yen (May 10 - late May)

📍 5940-4 Minakuchi-cho Minakuchi, Koka-shi

🚶 Walk 10 min from Minakuchi Jonan Station on the

Ohmi Railway

🆓 Free

🚫 Barrier free



Open
Early Jan.
Late May

A sprawling farm of 35,000 strawberry plants



Pick sweet red apples

Kafuka Apple Orchard

Picking times vary depending on apple variety. Tsugaru is harvested from late August to early September; Jonagold in mid-October; Omi from late October to early November; and Fuji around mid-November.

☎ 080-3846-6773 🕒 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (reservations required)

👉 1,500 yen 📍 2520 Koka-cho Aburahi, Koka-shi

🚗 Take a taxi from JR Koka Station (5 min) 🆓 Free

MAP P.15 D-3



Apple picking is fun!

Open
Late Aug.
Early Nov.

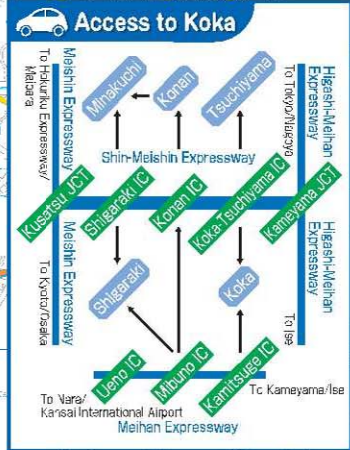
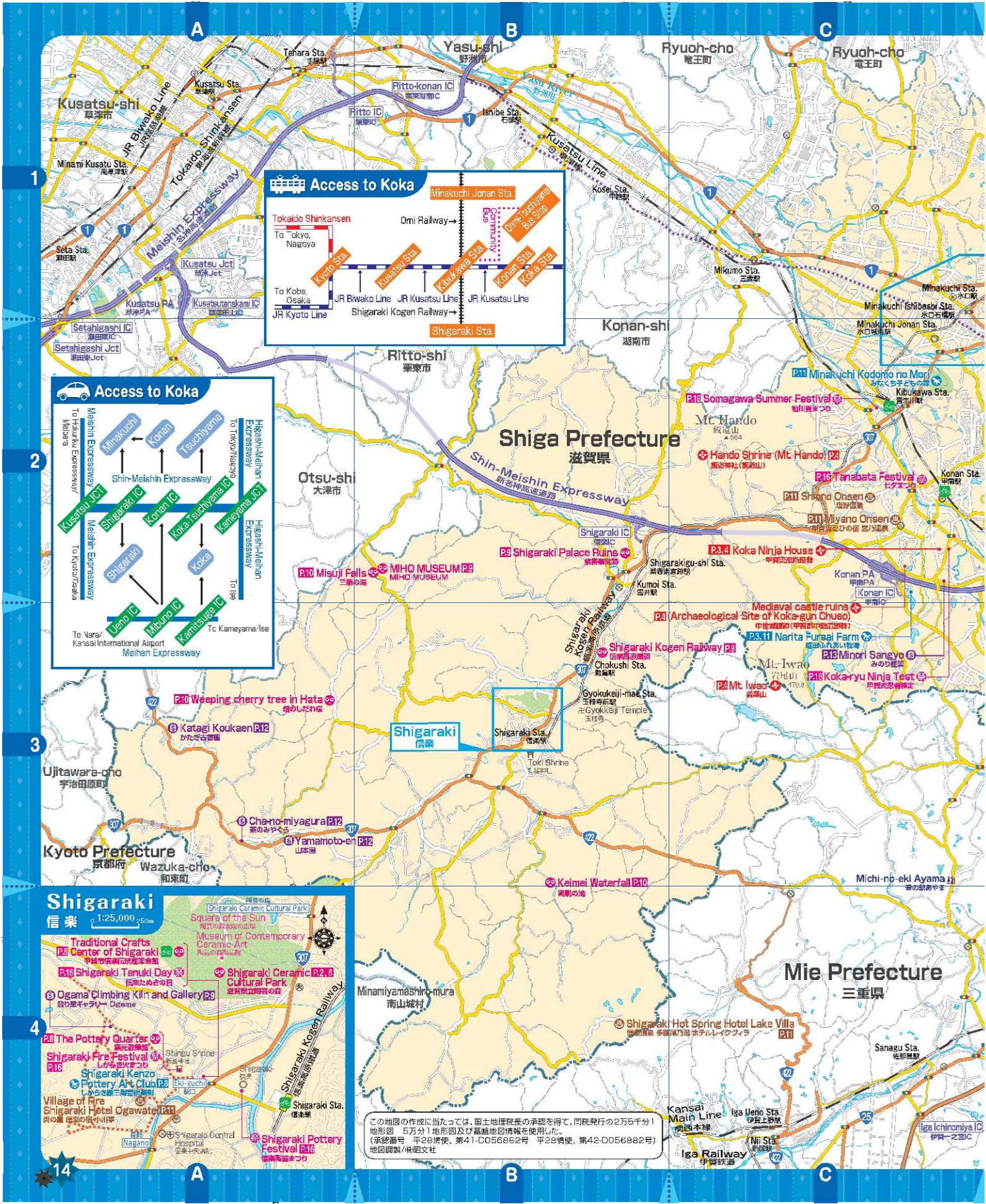
Taste different local specialties and compare

Koka-ryu Ninja-maki & Tanuki-don

Don't miss it!

Koka-ryu Ninja-maki, a sushi roll made with locally produced kanpyo and rice, is offered at restaurants that have a black ninja flag. Shigamaki's original Tanuki don is served at restaurants bearing an orange Tanuki-don flag.





この地図の作成に当たっては、国土地理院長の承認を得て、同院発行の2万5千分の地形図（5万分1地形図及び基礎地図情報）を使用した。（承認番号：平22信使、第41-0056882号 平22信使、第42-0056882号）
地図編集/集録文社

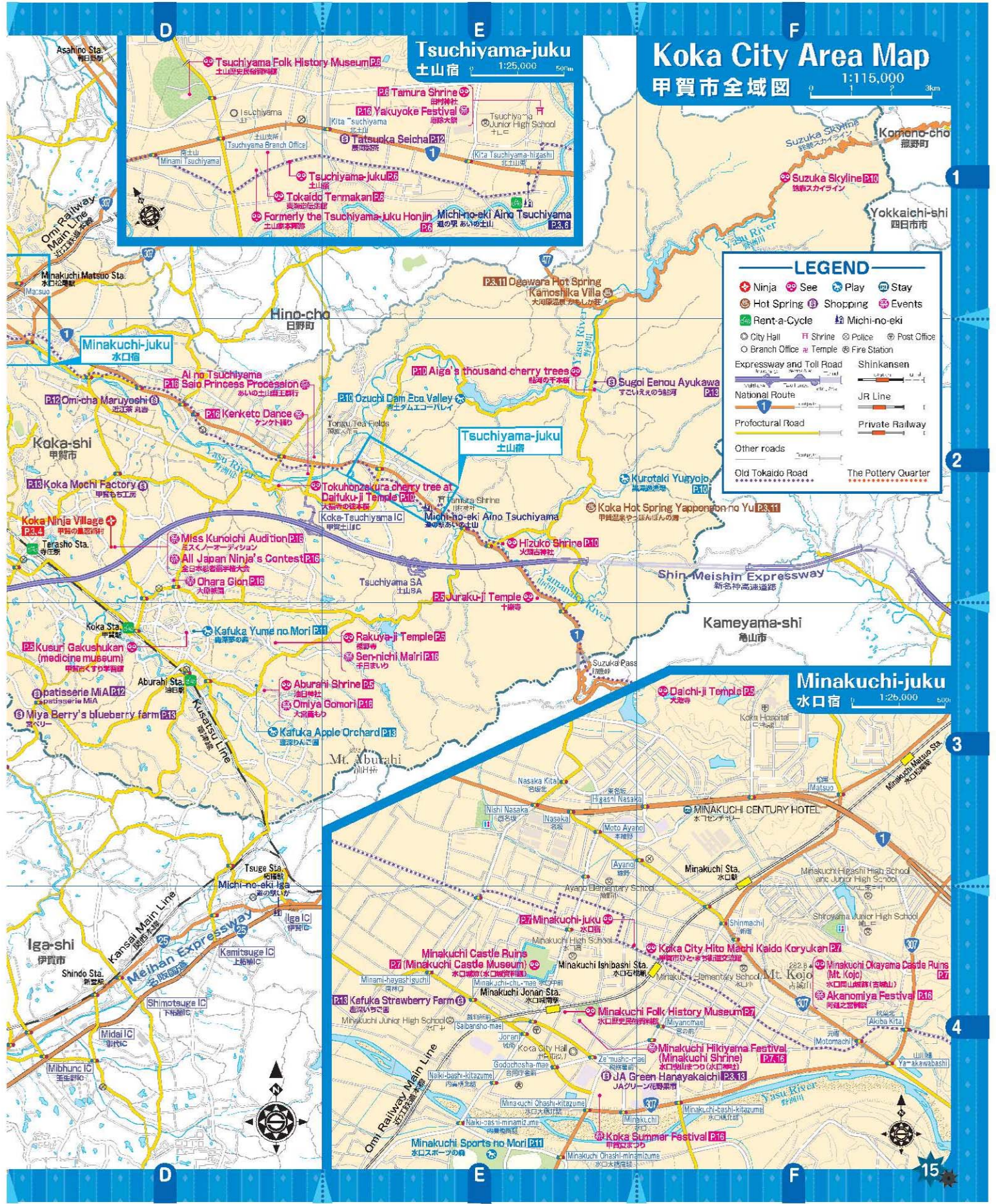
Shigaraki 信楽

1:25,000 2.5km

Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park
Square of the Sun
Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art
Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park
Shigaraki Kenzo
Shigaraki Pottery Festival
Shigaraki Pottery Festival
Shigaraki Pottery Festival

Traditional Crafts Center of Shigaraki
Shigaraki Tenuki Day
Ogawa Climbing Kiln and Gallery
The Pottery Quarter
Shigaraki Fire Festival
Shigaraki Kenzo
Pottery Art Club
Village of Fire Shigaraki
Shigaraki Central Hospital

Shigaraki Kogen Railway
Shigaraki Sta.



Tsuchiyama-juku 土山宿

Scale: 1:25,000

Koka City Area Map 甲賀市全域図

Scale: 1:115,000

LEGEND

- Ninja (忍者)
- See (見物)
- Play (遊ぶ)
- Stay (泊る)
- Hot Spring (温泉)
- Shopping (ショッピング)
- Events (イベント)
- Rent-a-Cycle (レンタサイクル)
- Michi-no-eki (道の駅)
- City Hall (市庁舎)
- Shrine (神社)
- Police (警察)
- Post Office (郵便局)
- Branch Office (支店)
- Temple (寺)
- Fire Station (消防署)
- Expressway and Toll Road (有料道路)
- Shinkansen (新幹線)
- National Route (国道)
- JR Line (JR線)
- Profectural Road (県道)
- Private Railway (私鉄)
- Other roads (その他の道路)
- Old Tokaido Road (旧東海道)
- The Pottery Quarter (陶器の里)

Minakuchi-juku 水口宿

Scale: 1:25,000

*Information provided here is current as of December 2018. Dates are subject to change.

Festivals & Events in Koka



February

17th - 19th Yakuyoke Festival

Tamura Shrine / **MAP P.15 E-1**

☎ 0748-66-0018 (Tamura Shrine)

Held in the shrine associated with Sakanoue no Tamuramaro, the festival is fondly called Tamura Matsuri.



22 Ninja Day

February 22 is certified by the Japan Anniversary Association as Ninja Day. On this day various ninja-themed events are held across Japan.

March

Late March

Ai no Tsuchiyama Saio Princess Procession

Starting at Ono Elementary School and ending at the ruins of Tarumi Saio Tongu / **MAP P.15 D-2**

☎ 0748-66-1602

(Ai no Tsuchiyama Culture and Sports Promotion Council)

People dressed up in Heian era costume re-enact the Saio Princess Procession.

April

19th and 20th

Minakuchi Hikiyama Festival

Minakuchi Shrine and nearby areas / **MAP P.15 E-4**

☎ 0748-66-2690

(Koka City Tourism Association)

The highlight of the festival is the procession of 16 Hikiyama floats and Minakuchi-bayashi, dynamic festival music derived from Kanda-bayashi, which is unusual for western Japan.



Late April

Yomigaere Minakuchi Okayama Castle

Summit of Mt. Kōjo / **MAP P.15 F-4**

☎ 070-5509-4646

(Minakuchi-Okayamajyo Association Administrative Office)

A huge inflatable castle representing Minakuchi Okayama Castle is set up atop Mt. Kōjo (site of the Minakuchi Okayama Castle Ruins) and illuminated at night.

May

3rd Kenketo Dance

Taki Shrine / **MAP P.15 D-2**

☎ 0748-67-0533 (Taki Shrine)

Elementary school boys dressed in bright colored costumes dance to the beat of drums and bells. The festival is nationally designated as a Selected Intangible Folk Cultural Property.

3rd Miss Kunoichi Audition

Koka Ninja Village / **MAP P.15 D-2**

☎ 0748-88-5000 (Koka Ninja Village)

Taking place in the birthplace of the ninja, this event is where the top kunoichi (female ninja) is selected.



June

Sunday in mid-June Koka-ryu Ninja Test

Konam-cho / **MAP P.14 C-2**

☎ 0748-60-2690 (Koka City Tourism Association)

Pass this test and you will be a certified Koka ninja. Once you pass the elementary level test, you can move on to the intermediate and advanced levels.

July

7th Tanabata Festival

Yagawa Shrine / **MAP P.14 C-2**

☎ 0748-86-2016 (Chamber of Commerce Konan Branch)

Spectacular tezutsu hanabi (hand-held fireworks) are set off as an offering to the shrine, which is decked out in Tanabata decorations.

23rd and 24th Ohara Gion

Otori Shrine / **MAP P.15 D-2**

☎ 0748-88-2008 (Otori Shrine)

On the eve of the festival people bearing lanterns on their heads clash with one another, rammng each other's lanterns. The main festival features a gauntlet run by participants carrying flowers.

4th Saturday Shigaraki Fire Festival

Shingu Shrine and Mt. Atago area

(Shigaraki-cho Nagano) / **MAP P.14 A-4**

☎ 0748-82-0873

(Pottery Capital Shigaraki Festival Committee)

This Shinto festival unique to Shigaraki, the pottery capital, is held to give thanks to fire. Many participants carry torches from Shingu Shrine located at the foot of Mt. Atago to Toki Shrine at the mountain's summit as a sacred offering.



August

9th Sen-nichi Mairi

Rakuya-ji Temple / **MAP P.15 D-3**

☎ 0748-88-3890 (Rakuya-ji Temple)

Jizo statues and the temple's main hall lit by candle lights create a magical atmosphere.

16th Somagawa Summer Festival

Somagawa / **MAP P.14 C-2**

☎ 0748-62-2027 (Kibukawa Community Center)

This riverside summer festival, dedicated to world peace, features goma kuyo (holy fire ceremony), floating lanterns, and fireworks.

September

13th Omiya Gomori

Aburahi Shrine / **MAP P.15 D-3**

☎ 0748-88-2106 (Aburahi Shrine)

This fantastical festival features flames fueled by oil, given to the shrine as an offering, that are kept burning until midnight.

October

Day before Physical Fitness Day

"All Japan Ninja's Contest"

Koka Ninja Village / **MAP P.15 D-2**

☎ 0748-88-5000 (Koka Ninja Village)

This popular event brings together ninja wannabes from all across Japan as they put their shuriken, obstacle course, wall climbing, water spider, and other skills to the test in competition with one another.



3-day weekend including Physical Fitness Day

Shigaraki Pottery Festival

Pottery market: near the Koka City Hall

Shigaraki Community Center

Exhibition: Exhibition Hall of Industrial

Ceramics (at Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park) /

MAP P.14 A-4

☎ 0748-83-1755

(Pottery Capital Shigaraki Festival Committee)

This annual festival attracts large crowds of pottery fans from across Japan. The festival consists of the Shigaraki ware art exhibition showcasing the latest works of local pottery studios and potters as well as the pottery market where you can find your new favorite dishes and tanuki figurines.



November

8th Shigaraki Tanuki Day

Across Shigaraki-cho / **MAP P.14 A-4**

☎ 0748-82-2345 (Shigaraki Tourist Association)

November 8th is certified by the Japan Anniversary Association as Shigaraki Tanuki day. It's a day dedicated to Shigaraki ware tanuki figurines. Many fun events associated with the tanuki are held on and around this day, such as the national belly drum contest and Shigaraki Kogen Railway's Tanuki Train.

Koka-Ryu Nin Nin Fireworks

JA Koka parking lot / **MAP P.15 E-4**

☎ 0748-60-2690 (Koka City Tourism Association)

*The date will be decided by the fireworks committee. Please check the Koka City Tourism Association website for updates.



Japan Heritage Site

About Japan Heritage

Japanese tangible and intangible cultural properties/assets, i.e. regional histories, traditions and customs, are passed down for generations through narratives. These stories, telling of the legacy of our culture and histories, have been designated as "Japan Heritage" by the Agency of Cultural Affairs. In April 2017, two stories from Koka earned the Japan Heritage designation.

Published in January 2019

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• Information provided in this publication is current as of December 2018.

• Information about the events and facilities (address, hours, days closed, fees, and contact information) is subject to change. Please check beforehand.

• Operating hours of a facility indicate the hours during which it is open to the public. For restaurants, the hours shown here are from the time they open until the time the last orders are taken. For other facilities, the hours are from the time the doors open until the last admission.

• Days closed refers to regularly scheduled days facilities are closed and does not include New Year, Golden Week, and summer holidays or when facilities are temporarily closed.