

# Places to go near Nagoya

# TSUMAGO-JUKU

**Type:**  
Sightseeing, Hiking

**About:**  
Tsumago-juku (妻籠宿) was the forty-second of the sixty-nine post towns on the Nakasendō. It is located in Nagiso, Kiso District, Nagano Prefecture, Japan. It has been restored to its appearance as an Edo-era post town and is now a popular tourist destination.

**Directions:**  
Approx. 2 hours from Nagoya  
• Nagoya St. to Nagiso St.  
• Walk the Nakasendo to Tsumago Juku

**Map:**  
<https://goo.gl/maps/jeCu8rfaCvp>



**Website:**  
<http://www.tumago.jp/english/>



## Points of Interest:

- Tsumago-juku's former *honjin* and Okuya, the *waki-honjin*, are both open to visitors today. The Nagiso Museum of History (歴史資料館) contains information on the area's history, the preservation of row houses and data about row houses throughout the country.
- Kabuto Kannon Shrine (かぶと観音) is a small shrine dedicated to *Minamoto no Yoshinaka*, the "General of the Rising Sun," who built a citadel at Tsumago. The shrine was built around 1180.
- Tsumago Castle (妻籠城) is nothing but a few ruins today. During the Edo period, however, its mountaintop location gave it wonderful views of both Tsumago-juku and *Midono-juku*.
- Rurisan Kōtoku-ji Temple (光徳寺), with its white walls and stone base, rises one story above the area's buildings. Founded in 1500, its main deity was added in 1599, and is notable for its *Nightingale floors* and a 500-year-old weeping cherry tree out front.

# Ise-Jingu

## Type:

Shrine, Sightseeing, Shinto

## About:

The Ise Grand Shrine (伊勢神宮 Ise Jingū), located in the city of Ise, Mie Prefecture of Japan, is a Shinto shrine dedicated to the sun goddess Amaterasu. Ise Jingū is a shrine complex composed of a large number of Shinto shrines centered on two main shrines, Naikū (内宮) and Gekū (外宮).

## Directions:

Approx. 2 hours from Nagoya Station

- Nagoya Station to Ise City (Kintestu Rail)
- Ise Station to Ise Shrine by taxi or bus

## Ise-Jingu website directions:

<http://www.isejingu.or.jp/foreign/access/index.html#train>



## Website:

<http://www.isejingu.or.jp/foreign/index.html>



## Nearby Points of Interest:

- Oharaimachi – At almost one km long, this nearby street is lined with shops, souvenir stands and restaurants
- Toba Aquarium – The city of Toba is a 20 minute train ride from Ise and has one of the largest aquariums in Japan.
- Mikimoto Pearl Island – Famous throughout Japan for being the first to cultivate pearls, visit this unique museum and learn its history from Japan’s famous female diver, known as “ama”.
- Meoto Iwa (Husband and Wife Rocks)– Best viewed at high-tide, these two rocks are bound by marriage and enshrined as gods at Futami Okitama Shrine.
- Azuchi Momoyama Bunka Mura (Edo Wonderland) – This samurai themed amusement park is built like a small castle town and includes a ninja museum, tricky maze and theater performances.
- Ise Kadoya Microbrewery – This small local microbrewery that has won awards for its beer and also operates two restaurants which serve up local delicacies and its famous brews.

# Hida Takayama

## Type:

Sightseeing, Hiking, Waterfall, Historical, Onsen

## About:

Hida Takayama (or just “Takayama”) is a city located in the northern part of Gifu prefecture, about 2.5 hours from Nagoya City. It is well known for its historic district Sanno-Machi, and its biannual festival, famous for its hand-crafted floats.

## Directions:

Approx. 2.5 hours from Nagoya

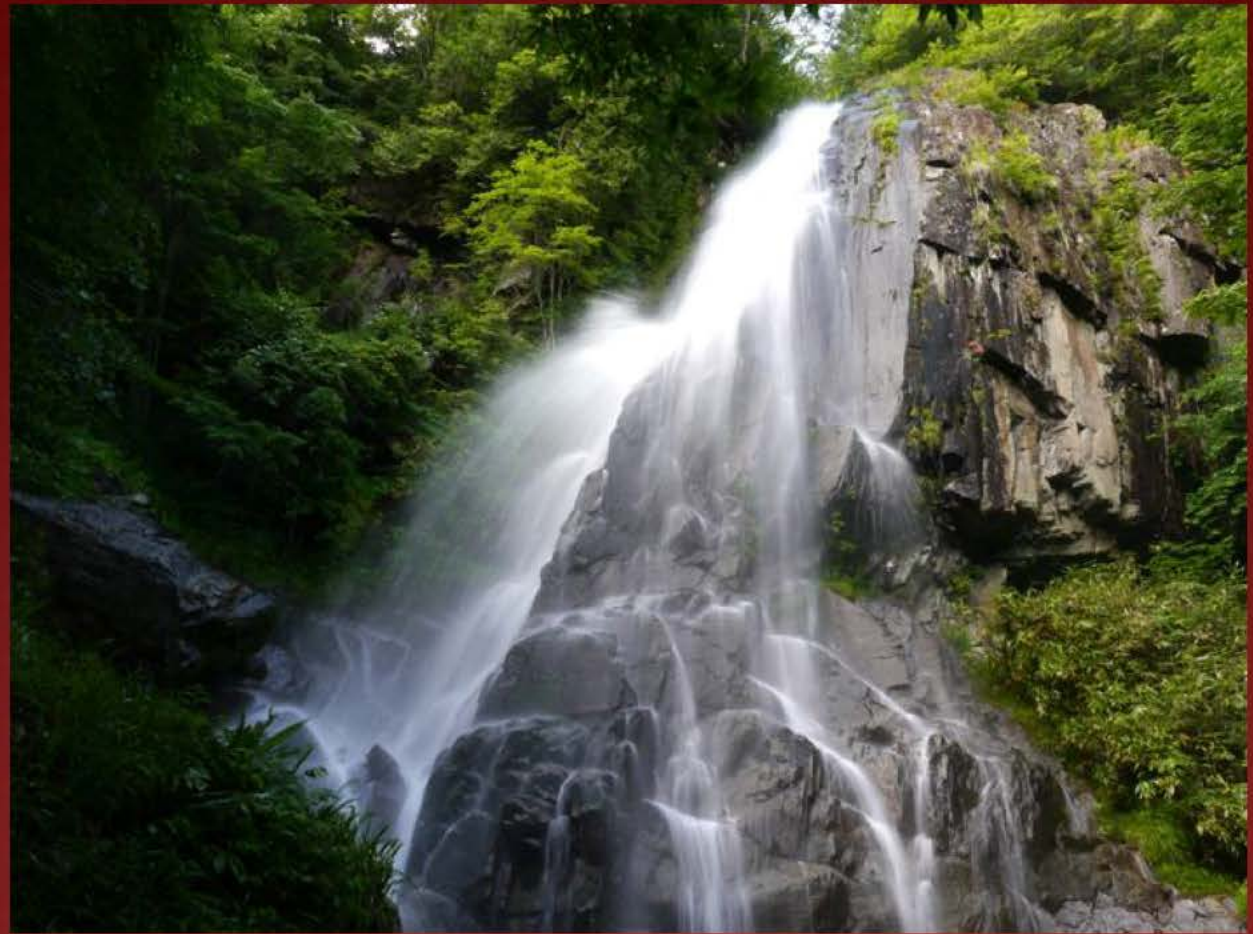
- Nagoya St. to Takayama St. (JR Railway)

## Map:

<https://goo.gl/maps/s6uvTP5k98G2>



**Website:** <http://www.hida.jp/english/>



## Points of Interest:

- Mount Norikura, a dormant volcano that is 3,026 meters (9,928 ft.) tall is located just east of Takayama.
- Shin-Hotaka Ropeway and Okuhida Spa Resort. There is a 3,200 meter ropeway offering great views of the Northern Alps.
- Hida-Kokubunji Temple is the oldest structure in Takayama. It has a 3-level pagoda and stands beside a ginkgo tree that is over 1,200 years old.
- Takayama Jinya is a historical government house that has been restored to its earlier design and is open for tours.
- San-machi, the old streets, is the iconic district for sightseeing in Takayama. This merchant center was the prosperous heart of the community during the old castle town days. Kami-Sanmachi is especially worth a visit.

# Inuyama Castle

## Type:

Sightseeing, Historical, Castle,

## About:

Visit one of four national treasure castles in Japan! Inuyama castle is located in the city of Inuyama, between Aichi and Gifu prefectures. Inuyama castle is one of only 12 surviving Japanese castles built before the Edo period and is famous for being the only privately owned castle in Japan. Come and experience this timeless beauty for yourself.

## Directions:

Approx. 45 minutes from Nagoya

- Nagoya St. To Inuyama St. (Meitetsu Railway)
- Walk from Inuyama St. to Inuyama Castle (approx. 15 minutes)

## Map:



Website: <http://ml.inuyama.gr.jp/en/>



## Points of Interest:

- Urakuen - This garden contains the Jo-an tea house, built in 1618 by Oda Uraku (1547–1621), younger brother of Oda Nobunaga.
- Kiso River & Cormorant Fishing- These rapids and the rock formations are called the Nihon Rhine after the Rhine river in Germany. Cormorant fishing on the Nagara River is a 1,300-year-old tradition where fishing masters (鵜匠 ushō) use Japanese cormorants to catch fish. Nowadays, his practice is mainly used for tourists.
- Meiji Mura - Meiji Mura open-air architectural museum for preserving and exhibiting structures of the Meiji (1867–1912) and Taishō (1913–1926) eras. As of 2005, 67 historical buildings are preserved on an area of 1,000,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

# Cities of Japan

# Tokyo

## About:

Tokyo is the country's capital, one of Japan's 47 prefectures, the country's largest and most populous city. Tokyo, the city, is home to more than 9 million residents and is comprised of 23 special wards, which are governed as cities themselves.

Declared as the nation's capital in 1868, Tokyo was originally referred to as Edo, but changed its name upon being named as the capital.

Tokyo prefecture, is considered as the world's most populous metropolitan area with almost 38 million residents.

Home to some of the Japan's most iconic locations, Tokyo is a tourism hotspot with well known areas such as Shinjuku, famous for food and shopping, Akihabara, known for its geek and anime culture, Ginza, Roppongi, and more!

## Official Tourism Site:

<http://www.gotokyo.org/en/>



## Areas of Interest:

- Shinjuku – The busiest station in Tokyo and a great location for shopping and food
- Harajuku/Omotesando – Youth culture or adult playground. Spend your time in streets and boutique shops of the area
- Asakusa – Once the entertainment district of Tokyo, Asakusa is home to arcade shopping, the iconic Sensou Temple (Sensoji) and Tokyo Skytree, the tallest free standing tower in Japan
- Ginza – The finest shopping in Japan, high-end shops and markets
- Akihabara – Home to all computer/internet needs and many of Japan's subcultures including anime, maid cafes and more
- Shibuya – Famous for its incredibly busy intersection and its statue of Hachiko (Japan's most famous dog), this area is full of clubs, bars, live music and a youthful vibe.
- Marunouchi – The heart of Tokyo, Marunouchi lies between Tokyo Station and Kogyogaien National Gardens (Imperial Palace).

# Kyoto

## About:

As the most popular travel destination in Japan, Kyoto is located in the central part of Honshu Island (Japan's main island) and is well known for its iconic temples and shrines and its surrounding natural beauty.

Home to more than 1500 Buddhist temples and over 300 Shinto shrines, one can spend several days in the city and only begin to scratch the surface of this history laden city.

Kyoto stood as the capital of Japan for more than 1000 years from 794 CE to 1868 CE when Tokyo was named as the new capital. It was moved from Nara by Emperor Kanmu, who felt that the Buddhist clergy had become overly involved in political affairs.

Left mostly intact after World War II, today Kyoto is a beautiful mix of traditional and modern buildings, with 17 world heritage sites and some of its temples dating back more 1300 years.

## Official Tourism Site:

<http://kyoto.travel/en>



## Places of Interest:

- Kiyomizu Temple – Nestled in the hills of Kyoto, Kiyomizu Temple was founded 778 and is famous for its main hall and stage, and its waterfall that millions of tourists drink from every year.
- Kinkaku Temple (pictured above) – Famous for its gold-leaf coated pavilion, this temple might be the most recognizable temple in all of Japan.
- Nijo Castle – Once the residence of Tokugawa Ieyasu, this castle is more than 400 years old and houses a “Nightingale floor” which was designed to chirp like a bird when people walked on it.
- Fushimi Inari Shrine – There are over 10,000 reasons to visit this shrine, and they straddle the paths that wind through the forest behind this shrine. Spend the day walking through the bright orange torii gates of Fushimi Inari
- Arashiyama – Home to many temples, this area is most famous for its bamboo grove and the Tokugetsu Bridge (or Moon Crossing Bridge)



# Osaka

## About:

Often referred to as the “nation’s kitchen”, Osaka is a vibrant and exciting city of almost 3 million people. Opening into Osaka Bay, the city is an industrial and commercial hotspot.

Osaka is most commonly known for its food and shopping, both of which can be found in great supply just about any where in the city. From major shopping malls in Umeda district, to the old covered shopping arcades in Dotonbori, one can find anything from bargain-basement discounts to luxury hand-bags through out the city all while with a stomach full of the local area cuisine.

Lesser-known, but growing in name is Sake (Japanese rice-wine) from the Osaka region. Thanks to the fresh, clean water originating from the hills surrounding the city, Sake from the region is garnering more and more attention high-quality local sake are making names for themselves throughout the country.

## Official Tourism Site:

<http://www.osaka-info.jp/en/>



## Places of Interest:

- Dotonbori (pictured above)– known for food, shopping neon-lights and its giant glowing Glico Man, this area is the heart of the city and youth culture.
- Tennoji – This downtown shopping area is filled to the brim with restaurants, shops and history. Located nearby is Sumiyoshi Taisha Shrine. Built 1800 years ago, this is the main shrine for all Sumiyoshi shrines throughout Japan.
- Osaka Aquarium – Located near Osaka bay, this aquarium is one of the largest public aquariums in the world.
- Shitenno-ji Temple – Founded by Prince Shotoku in 593 CE, Shitennoji is one of the oldest temples in the country. Despite being burned down multiple times, the building has always been reconstructed to reflect its original 6<sup>th</sup> century design.
- Osaka Castle – Rebuilt after being heavily damaged in World War II, Osaka Castle retains its original form. Inside, one will find a museum dedicated to the castle and the history of Osaka.

# Hiroshima

## About:

Known around the world as the first inhabited city to suffer the atrocities of an atomic bomb, Hiroshima stands today a testament to the Japanese' ability to not only endure great hardship but to thrive in spite of it.

Aside from Genbaku Dome (A-bomb Dome) and the memorial park, one could walk the streets of Hiroshima not knowing the horrors that transpired some 70 years ago. Hiroshima is now a thriving city of more than 1.1 million inhabitants, a vibrant night life, parks, restaurants, shopping, a city teeming with life and energy.

Visit Hiroshima for its history, amazing local delicacies, such as the local take on Okonomiyaki, fresh oysters, Hiroshima Castle, numerous parks & gardens, and nearby Miyajima, which is great for hiking and food!

## Official Tourism Site:

<http://visithiroshima.net/>



## Places of Interest:

- Miyajima – A short ride from Hiroshima, spend the day at this beautiful island hiking, eating and surrounded by deer. Miyajima is famous for its giant Torii Gate in the middle of the bay. At low tide, one can walk out to the gate.
- Hiroshima Castle – Originally built at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and reconstructed in 1958, this castle is surround by some 350 cherry trees and a large park.
- Downtown Hiroshima – The main feature of the downtown area in Hondori, a pedestrian shopping arcade lined with shops and restaurants. While here, make sure to search for the Okonomiyaki Village and experience this local favorite!
- A-Bomb Dome (pictured above) and Peace Memorial Park – A must for anyone traveling to Hiroshima.