

HAGI

Travel Guide

Yamaguchi Japan

Find the authentic Japan in Hagi.



Tourist Information



A well-preserved castle town, Hagi is a place of great historical significance.

One of the crucibles of the revolution that ended samurai rule in Japan, the city is home to five World Heritage sites that chronicle the birth of Japanese industrialization. Visitors love Hagi's beautiful historic neighborhoods, rustic clay walls, summer oranges, and traditional Hagi Yaki pottery.



History

1 Hagi Castle Town

The Hagi Castle Town area, a registered UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a uniquely well-preserved example of a feudal Japanese city. Visitors enjoy walking through the old streets and seeing the old residences of wealthy merchants and upper-class samurai. Antique maps from the Edo period are still accurate today for enjoying the unchanging beauty of well-maintained authentic samurai estates, natsumikan orange trees, clay walls, and stone foundations.



Video

2 Hagi Castle Ruins: Shizuki Park

Hagi Castle was constructed in 1604 by the Mōri clan. The main buildings were dismantled in the late 19th century, but the remaining moat and stone foundations reveal the old layout clearly.

1-1 Horiuchi, Hagi City

April to October 8:00 - 18:30 / November to February 8:30 - 16:30 / March 8:30 - 18:00

Adults 220 yen / Children under 15 100 yen / Open every day

3 Hagi Urugami Museum

Fine art museum that displays ukiyoe prints such as Katsushika Hokusai, Asian ceramics, and Hagi Yaki Pottery. The building is designed by internationally admired Japanese architect Tange Kenzo. Works of modern art are also exhibited.

586-1 Hiyako, Hagi City

9:00 - 17:00 (last entry 16:30) / Admission fee varies by exhibition / Closed Mondays

4 Aibagawa Waterway

Aibagawa Waterway is a narrow canal that flows through town, loved for its scenic views and colorful swimming koi fish. Visitors of the Yukawa Family Former Residence can get a glimpse of how old homes along the canal skillfully used river water for everyday life.

Yukawa Family Old Residence, 67 Kawashima, Hagi City

9:00 - 17:00 / Adults 100 yen / Open every day

5 Shōin Shrine

Shinto shrine dedicated to Yoshida Shōin, whose revolutionary ideas helped lead Japan to modernization at the end of the Edo period, and who trained the future leaders of Japan. Shokasonjuku Academy, a World Heritage Site, is located inside the grounds.

1537 Chinto, Hagi City / Open every day

Temples

6 Tōkōji Temple

Temple of the Obaku Zen sect, founded in the 17th century based on Chinese Buddhist tradition. The elegant red main gate is just one example of many Chinese architectural influences. Hidden in the forest behind Tōkōji is the Mōri clan cemetery, which holds the graves of all odd-numbered Hagi lords from the 3rd to 11th generation, their wives and children, and their subjects. Over 500 stone lanterns face the graves to create fantastic scenery that feels like a different, mysterious world. Tōkōji is a favorite location in autumn for blissful walks between the stone lanterns and brilliant red maple leaves.

1647 Chinto, Hagi City 8:30 - 17:00

Adults 300 yen / Children under 15 150 yen / Open every day

7 Daishōin Temple

Zen temple which honors the Mōri lords with Tōkōji. Behind the temple building is the Mōri clan cemetery, which holds the graves of all even-numbered Hagi lords from the 2nd to 12th generation, and their wives, surrounded by over 600 stone lanterns.

4132 Tsubaki, Hagi City 8:00 - 17:00 (last entry 16:30)

Adults 200 yen / Children under 15 100 yen

8 Unrinji Temple

A temple on the outskirts of Hagi city. This temple is known for its deep connection with cats and various collection of cat-themed decorations. Cat lovers from around the world come to this “Cat Temple” to show their appreciation.

2489 Kibekami, Hagi City

40 min drive from downtown Hagi



Video



Nature



10 Mt. Kasayama

This peninsula is home to a 112m high volcano. Visitors can see both the volcano's crater and a wonderful view of the Sea of Japan from the viewpoint at the peak. The natural camellia grove at the base is full of beautiful flowers in winter.

Chinto Koshigahama, Hagi City 15 min drive from downtown Hagi

11 Susa Hornfels

Striped cliffs formed by magma heat around 14 million years ago. Walking access to the bottom of the cliffs allows for a close-up view of the bold black and white stripes against the endless blue ocean.

Susa, Hagi City 50 min drive from downtown Hagi



Video

9 Kikugahama Beach

Kikugahama is a beautiful sandy beach near the Hagi Castle ruins, where people can enjoy a perfect combination of soft white sand and summer sun. One of the best places to see the breath-taking sunsets of Hagi. Particularly in summer and autumn, Hagi's proximity to the sea often gives its sunsets a pink hue with dramatic cloud formations. Kikugahama beach and Hagi natsumikan orange ice cream will be your favorite summer memory.

Horiuchi, Hagi City

World Heritage Sites:

Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution



Japan imported Western technology in the latter half of the 19th century, and rapid breakthroughs in development followed which enabled Japan to establish itself as an industrial nation in the short span of 50 years. "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution" covers events from the 1850s until 1910, encompassing 23 sites across 8 prefectures and 11 cities, which demonstrate the progress of Japan's industrial development.

① Hagi • Hagi Proto-Industrial Heritage

⑧ Yahata • The Imperial Steel Works, Japan

⑤ Saga • Mietsu Naval Dock

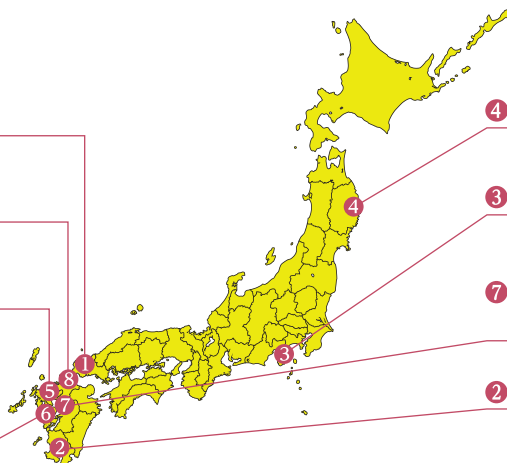
⑥ Nagasaki • Nagasaki Shipyard
• Takashima Coal Mine
• Glover House and Office

④ Kamaishi • Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site

③ Nirayama • Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces

⑦ Miike • Miike Coal Mine and Miike Port
• Misumi West Port

② Kagoshima • Shuseikan



Hagi is home to
5 heritage sites that
highlight proto-industrial
technology.



12 Hagi Reverberatory Furnace

Built in 1856 as a prototype smelting furnace for casting Western-style iron cannons. The ruins remaining today include a 10.5m tall chimney.

4897-7 Chinto, Hagi City etc.

13 Ebisugahana Shipyard

Built in the 1850s, this shipyard had a pioneering role in the construction of Western-style warships. Two frigate sail ships were built here, and the original breakwater remains.

5159-14 Chinto, Hagi City etc.

14 Ohitayama Tatara Iron Works

Ironworks for the traditional Japanese tatara method of producing iron. In the Edo period, iron was made here from ironsand using charcoal.

257-5 Shibuki, Hagi City etc.

15 Hagi Castle Town

Authentic view of feudal Japan at the beginning of industrialization and modernization. The heritage area covers three zones: (1) The Castle Ruins, (2) the Former Upper Class Samurai District, (3) the Former Merchant Class District.

Horiuchi and Gofuku-machi, Hagi City etc.

16 Shokasonjuku Academy

Private school run by Yoshida Shōin in the late Edo period. Advocating the urgent importance of engineering education. Many students went on to play significant roles in the modernization of Japan.

1537 Chinto, Hagi City

World Heritage Visitor Center

Learn more about Hagi's five World Heritage Sites through videos, replicas, and other displays.

602 Emukai, Hagi City
Hagi Meirin Gakusha, Building No. 2
9:00 - 17:00
Adults 300 yen / High School 200 yen /
Children under 15 100 yen
Closed 1st Tuesday/Wednesday of February

Hagi World Heritage Sites Virtual Adventure (VR)

Explore the
World Heritage Sites
through video and
photo-realistic
animation!



Experience



1 Hagi Yaki Pottery



Hagi Yaki has over 400 years of history, since its beginnings in 1604. This simple pottery with soft texture has many charms, from its fine crazing and mottling, to the subtle variations in color and details. Hagi Yaki is porous and with use, tea will seep into the crazing of the glaze, gradually altering the color of the piece. Pottery fans love it for this phenomenon, known as the “seven disguises” of Hagi Yaki pottery. Recently, artistic pieces and home use pieces are also being produced. Tourists can visit a climbing kiln or join a pottery class. Experience the tradition of Hagi Yaki.

Make your own Hagi Yaki!

Visit a kiln and create an original piece of pottery with the guidance of local experts.



Video



Hagi Yaki
Pottery
Experience

2 Hagi Sightseeing Boat

Feel the fresh breeze and enjoy the scenery of Hagi on these small sightseeing boats. Calm weather days may include an ocean detour to beautiful Kikugahama beach. Cherry blossom season is also a favorite time to get a lovely view of the sakura trees along the river banks.

122-1 Horiuchi, Hagi City
Ticket Office: March to October 9:00 - 16:00 /
November 9:00 - 15:30
Adults 1,200 yen / Children aged 3-12 600 yen



Walk through
town wearing
a kimono!

3 Kimono Experience

Hagi's antique atmosphere sets the perfect stage to wear a kimono! Dress up in a kimono and experience Japanese culture.

Hot Springs

Hagi offers a variety of unique places to stay, including onsen overlooking the Sea of Japan, vintage ryokans (inns), and casually comfortable B&Bs. Many onsen in Hagi are also available for customers who are not staying overnight, and can be enjoyed as part of a day trip.



Stay at a Japanese House

Experience authentic culture together with a host family in a traditional house. Get closer to the real Japan.



Gourmet

Facing the Sea of Japan, Hagi offers over 250 varieties of fresh, seasonal fish throughout the year. Don't miss out on Hagi's local foods including top quality Kenran brand beef, and specialty products made with natsumikan oranges!

1 Seafood Bowl & Sushi

Get all the best fresh seafood from the Sea of Japan!

2 Kenran Beef

Soft and fragrant brand beef boasts an elegant, rich umami flavor.

3 Roasted Kamaboko

Fresh fish is ground to a paste and baked on low heat for a uniquely springy texture.

4 Natsumikan Oranges

The same natsumikan oranges seen on trees around Castle Town can be enjoyed in sweet creations.

5 Joki Manju

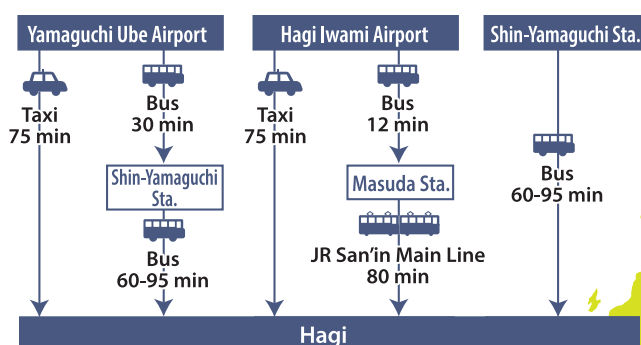
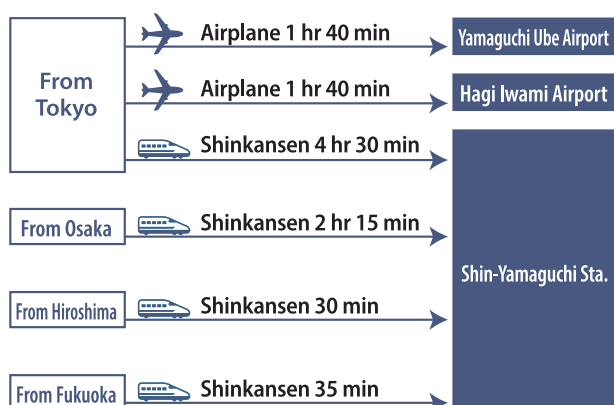
Soft little cakes in the shape of steamboats, filled with anko (red bean paste).

6 Local Sake & Local Beer

Hagi sake made with pure water and quality rice, and locally brewed craft beer.



How to get to Hagi



City Transportation

Hagi City can be explored using the Hagi City Circular Hop-on Bus, rental bicycles or rental cars.



Yamaguchi Bus Pass

Unlimited bus pass that covers all local bus routes, and some express buses, airport buses, and community buses inside Yamaguchi prefecture for 1-3 days.



Seasonal Flowers and Annual Events



Hagi Castle Ruins: Shizuki Park 1



Mutsumi Sunflower Road 2



Daishōin Temple Cemetery 3



Kasayama Camellia Grove 4

1 Spring [Sakura] Late March - Early April

The Hagi Castle ruins are surrounded by over 600 somei yoshino cherry trees, and an unusual white-blossomed midori yoshino tree that is only found in Hagi.



Video

3 Autumn [Maple] All November

Red maple leaves can be enjoyed at Tōkōji and Daishōin, and a beautiful Japanese garden is specially opened to the public in the castle town area.

2 Summer [Sunflower] Late July - Early August

Mutsumi Sunflower Road is a broad field of 220,000 sunflowers in the mountain valleys beyond downtown Hagi.

4 Winter [Camellia] Late January - Late March

Kasayama Camellia Grove is a natural forest of 25,000 trees. More than 60 types of elegant camellia bloom here every winter.



Video



1 Hina Dolls Festival



3 Hagi Sea of Japan Great Fireworks



4 Hagi Lantern Festival



2 Hagi Tea Ceremony Fair



6 Hagi Jidai Matsuri



5 Kimono Week in Hagi

Feb/Mar 1 Hina Dolls Festival
Feb 3 - Apr 3 Hagi Castle Town etc.

● Hagi Camellia Festival
Mid Feb - Mid Mar Kasayama Camellia Grove

May ● Hagi Yaki Pottery Festival
May 1 - 5 Hagi City Gym

2 Hagi Tea Ceremony Fair
May 3 - 4 Hagi Castle Ruins: Shizuki Park etc.

June ● Oshikurago Boat Races
Early June Lower Hashimoto River

July ● Kikugahama Beach Season
Mid July - Mid Aug Kikugahama Beach

● Susa Bay Fireworks
Late July Susa Bay Area

Aug 3 Hagi Sea of Japan Fireworks Display
Aug 1 Kikugahama Beach Area

● Hagi Summer Festival
Aug 1 - 3 Yoshida-cho Street

4 Hagi Lantern Festival
Aug 13 Daishōin Temple Aug 15 Tōkōji Temple

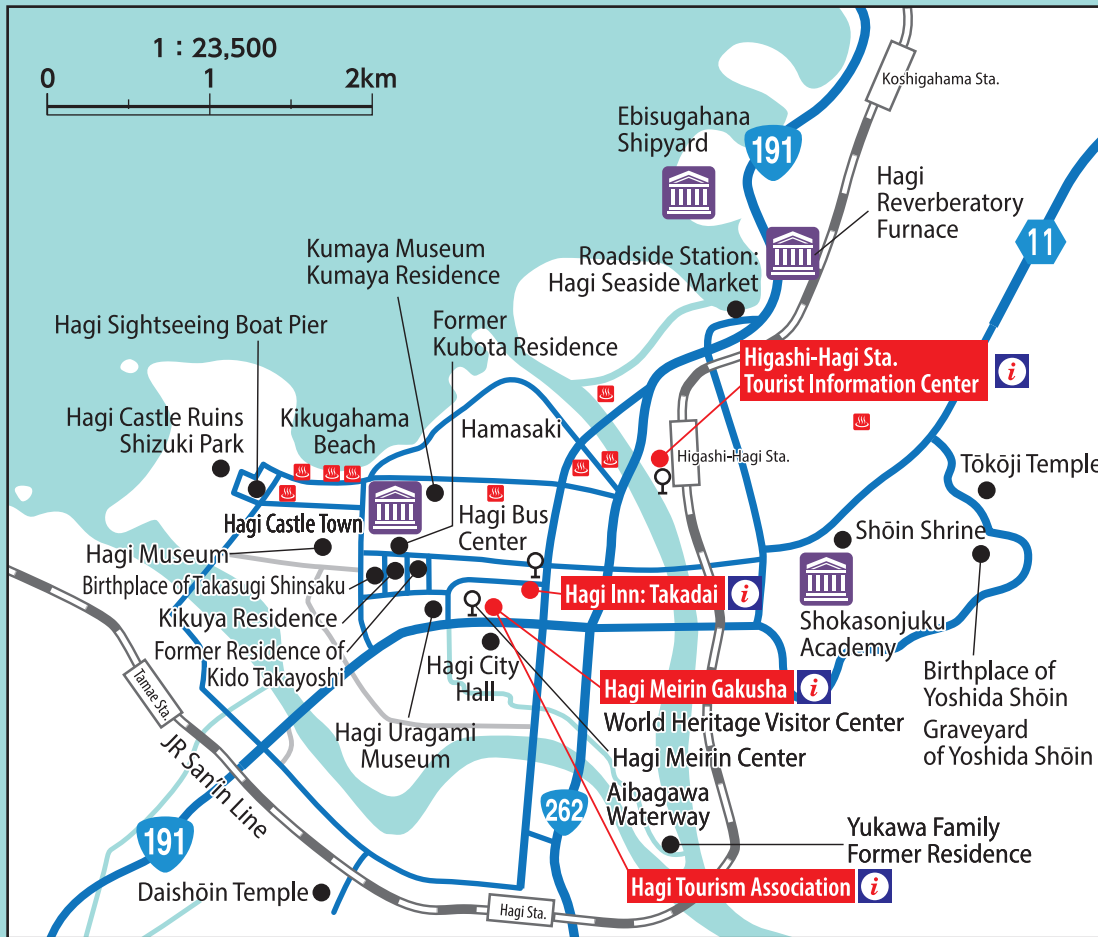
Oct 5 Kimono Week in Hagi
Early Oct Hagi Castle Town etc.

● Hagi Bamboo Lamp Festival
Mid Oct Hagi Castle Town Area

● Hagi Tamachi Hagi Yaki Pottery Festival
Mid Oct Tamachi Shopping Arcade

Nov 6 Hagi Jidai Matsuri
Mid Nov Hagi Castle Town etc.

Hagi City MAP



Scale: 1 : 380,000
0 5 10 km

Other Local Tourist Sites



Hagi Tourism Association

602 Emukai, Hagi City, Yamaguchi 758-0041 JAPAN
TEL: (0838) 25-1750 / FAX: (0838) 25-2073



Website <https://www.hagishi.com>

Japan Visitor Hotline

TEL: (050) 3816-2787

<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/hotline/>



Emergency assistance (accidents and illness), natural disaster support, and general tourist information available 24 hours/day, 365 days a year.