

A Journey of Discovery
through Japan Heritage

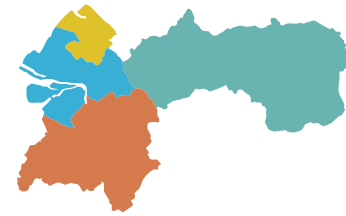
Ishitabi

The Masons of Yatsushiro
—The Stone-making Legacy of Masonry Town



Traces of Yatsushiro's masons as elements of Japan Heritage

A large area of reclaimed land extends across Yatsushiro, home to numerous water channels and sluiceways. These civil engineering works were carried out with extensive use of stones, leading to the advancement of technologies for using stone, and were applied to the construction of *meganebashi*, arched bridges, which still stand today as a symbol of Yatsushiro's culture of stone. These artisans who worked with stone now tell their story as Japan Heritage: The Masons of Yatsushiro—The Stone-making Legacy of Masonry Town.



About Yatsushiro City

Located almost in the center of Kyushu, Yatsushiro City has prospered through overseas trade since ancient times. In early modern times, it flourished as the castle town of Yatsushiro Castle. During the Meiji period (1868-1912), numerous factories began to open in Yatsushiro, setting the city on the path of development as an industrial hub. The city is home to popular tourist attractions, such as Hinagu Onsen, a hot spring resort which boasts a history of over 600 years, and Gokanoshō, a set of five villages steeped in the legend of the fallen Heike warriors. There are also a variety of local events, including the Yatsushiro Myōken Festival, which has been inscribed as intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO, and the Yatsushiro National Fireworks Competition Festival.

What is Japan Heritage?

Japan Heritage is a certification system established by the Agency for Cultural Affairs that recognizes culture, traditions, sites, objects, and other attractive regional features as “links” or “aspects” of bigger stories worthy of telling as a single narrative. There are already more than 100 such stories in various regions, one of which is The Masons of Yatsushiro. The Agency for Cultural Affairs supports the revitalization of local communities by disseminating their stories to a wider audience, both in Japan and overseas, which will also help remind local residents of their identity and play a part in creating a local brand.

The Masons of Yatsushiro

—The Stone-making Legacy of Masonry Town

Masonry Legacy 25



● STORY OUTLINE

In Kumamoto, you can still see many *meganebashi*, a type of stone arched bridge that once existed all over Japan. Many of these were built by masons born and raised in Yatsushiro. Their outstanding skills were in demand throughout Japan and led to the successful construction of numerous bridges, such as the Kanda Sujikai Meganebashi Bridge (Manseibashi Bridge) and the Tsujunkiyobashi Bridge. Through the construction of these bridges, the skills of the masons became famous throughout the country. For this reason, Yatsushiro is called the “home of masons,” having produced many master masons.

These masons were involved in land reclamation projects which brought a vast plain and abundant harvest to Yatsushiro, and in the construction of arched bridges which supported local transportation. Over the years, they contributed to the development of Yatsushiro and people's livelihoods, in the process honing their skills and growing from nameless masons to master masons.

The masonry legacies they built, from robust sluice gates on reclaimed land to bridges with beautiful arches over rivers and magnificent stone walls around terraced rice paddies, still live on in the townscape and in people's daily lives, inviting visitors to the home of masons more than a hundred years later.

Central Yatsushiro Area

P5-

- 01 Mizushima (Shiranui and Mizushima)..... P5
- 02 Shiroshima P7
- 03 Ruins of Mugishima Castle
(Group of Yatsushiro Castle Ruins)..... P7
- 04 Ruins of Yatsushiro Castle
(Group of Yatsushiro Castle Ruins)..... P6
- 06 Takashima Shinchi remains of dike
(Yatsushiro remains of reclamation)..... P7
- 11 Former Kogo Sluiceway Gunchiku Shinchi
(Yatsushiro remains of reclamation)..... P8
- 12 Gunchiku Nibancho Sluiceway
(Yatsushiro remains of reclamation)..... P8
- 20 Hashimoto Family Archive..... P7

Kagami/Sencho Area

P9-

- 07 Group of Ozaya Sluiceways
(Yatsushiro remains of reclamation)..... P10
- 08 Kannaikyo Bridge P9
- 09 Grave of Iwanaga Sangoro P9
- 10 Bunsei Shrine..... P12
- 21 Soft Rush and Soft Rush Products..... P12
- 22 Ozayabushi/Ozayameisho Work Songs..... P12
- 23 Female Sumo Wrestling P11
- 24 Shibaguchi Bo-Odori (Bar Dance) P12

Hinagu/Futami/ Sakamoto Area

P13-

- 18 Akamatsu Meganebashi Bridge No. 1..... P13
- 19 Group of Arched Bridges*..... P14

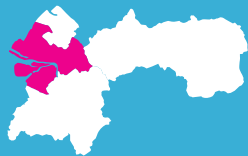
Toyo/Izumi Area

P15-

- 05 Shoga Tanada (Rice Terraces) in Bisho P18
- 13 Mt. Shiragadake Natural Stone Bridge P15
- 14 Kajiya Kamibashi, Nakabashi and
Shimobashi Bridges..... P17
- 15 Rokurobashi Bridge..... P17
- 16 Kasamatsubashi Bridge P16
- 17 Tanigawabashi Bridge P17
- 25 Twisted Stone Lanterns
(Wakamiya Shrine and Sugawara Shrine)..... P18

* (19) The group of arched bridges, scattered throughout Yatsushiro City, is introduced on P14.

Central Yatsushiro Area



Legacy 01 Mizushima (Shiranui and Mizushima)

This small island, located just a few meters from the bank at the mouth of the Kuma River, produced sturdy limestone that was used to build castles. The island had been earmarked for reclamation, but it was left as is on account of the fact that it is mentioned in the *Manyoshu*, an ancient anthology of Japanese poetry.

📍 Uyanagi Shimomachi, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation National Place of Scenic Beauty



The island is designated as a National Place of Scenic Beauty and has a shrine dedicated to the dragon god. The shrine can be visited by crossing a pier. You can also walk across to the island at low tide.

● STORY 01

A climate that fostered masonry in the wake of land reclamation

The city of Yatsushiro developed through the use of high-quality limestone and tuff formed by the eruption of Mt. Aso. In the past, there were few plains here, so land reclamation began in the Edo period (1603-1867) to enrich the area. Two-thirds of the current plains were created as a result of this reclamation work. Masons played an active role in this undertaking. These masons honed their skills and built many stone arched bridges for which they gained renown throughout Japan, including the Kanda Sujikai Meganebashi Bridge (Manseibashi Bridge) in Tokyo.



Legacy 04 Ruins of Yatsushiro Castle (Group of Yatsushiro Castle Ruins)

This castle was built in 1622 by Kato Masakata, a vassal of the Kato clan of the Kumamoto domain, using stone blocks diverted from Mugishima Castle, which had collapsed in a major earthquake, as well as new limestone from Yatsushiro. The limestone, which is said to be difficult to process, has been beautifully piled up as a stone wall, and the sophisticated workmanship of the masons is still evident today.

📍 Matsuejomachi, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation National Historical Site



Beautiful limestone that was also used to build Yatsushiro Castle!



Legacy

03 Ruins of Mugishima Castle (Group of Yatsushiro Castle Ruins)

This castle was built in 1588 by Konishi Yukinaga, a Christian daimyo. Local limestone was used for the stone walls, but the castle collapsed during a major earthquake in 1619 and was abandoned. Many of the stone blocks were later used for the construction of Yatsushiro Castle.

📍 Furushiomachi, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture
Designation National Historical Site

Legacy

20 Hashimoto Family Archive

The Hashimoto family, a leading family of Yatsushiro masons, left behind blueprints of arched bridges and estimates for their construction. As these documents show, they were not only engineers and designers, but also capable business managers.

📍 Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture
Designation Undesignated (historical documents)



Legacy

02 Shiroshima

This area was once an island where high-quality limestone was quarried, but is now connected to the land as a result of reclamation work. The beautiful limestone quarried from the island was used to build Yatsushiro Castle.

📍 Gunchiku 1-Bancho, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture
Designation Undesignated (historical site)



Legacy

06 Takashima Shinchi remains of dike (Yatsushiro remains of reclamation)

This dike was built in 1816 by Matsui Akiyuki, keeper of Yatsushiro Castle, in conjunction with new land development. It is approximately 85 m long, 9.4 m wide, and 4.5 m high at its highest point, and was built by piling up locally quarried limestone rocks without processing them.

📍 Iagemachi, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture
Designation National Historical Site

Legacy
11

Former Kogo Sluiceway Gunchiku Shinchi (Yatsushiro remains of reclamation)

A beautiful stone sluiceway with 10 arches. It was built during the Gunchiku Shinchi land reclamation project in the Meiji period (1868-1912) using advanced stone processing and construction techniques, and is one of the largest extant stone sluiceways in Japan. It is still functioning 100 years after its completion.

📍 Gunchiku 3-Bancho, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture
Designation National Important Cultural Property (Architectural Structure)/National Historical Site

Legacy
12

Gunchiku Nibancho Sluiceway (Yatsushiro remains of reclamation)

This sluiceway was built in 1938 to reinforce a Meiji-period embankment that had been destroyed by a high tide. While many sluiceways in Japan at this time were made of concrete, this one is made of stone, indicating that masons had played an important role in Yatsushiro for a long time.

📍 Gunchiku 2-Bancho, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture
Designation National Registered Tangible Cultural Property (Architectural Structure)/National Historical Site



Since you're here, you might as well stop by!

Recommended Spots Near Japan Heritage

Promoting the appeal of traditional performing arts and nurturing successors for the next generation

This facility preserves and passes on the folk cultural assets that remain in Yatsushiro, such as the Yatsushiro Myoken Festival, Shibaguchi Bo-Odori (Bar Dance), and female sumo wrestling, and conveys their charms. It also serves as a place to nurture successors who support festivals and traditional performing arts.



Omatsuri Dendenkan

📍 1-47 Nishimatsuejomachi, Yatsushiro City
☎ 0965-37-8737

🕒 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(admission until 4:30 p.m.)

Closed Mondays (or the following day if Monday falls on a national holiday, etc.), December 29 – January 3

👤 Adults: 300 yen; high school and university students: 200 yen; junior high school students and younger: free



Popular items include local specialties and processed products made from tomatoes, soft rush, and much more

You will find a variety of processed products made from locally grown vegetables, fruits, soft rush, and more. In particular, tomatoes, ginger, citrus fruits, and other specialty products are available in abundance when in season.

Yatsushiro Yokatoko Produce Market

📍 4459-1 Kamihiokimachi, Yatsushiro City ☎ 0965-32-3600

Closed Second Thursday of the month, January 1 and 2

🕒 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (restaurant: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
*Opening hours have been revised for the present in response to COVID-19: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (restaurant partially closed)

Kagami/Sencho Area



Legacy 08 Kannaikyo Bridge

This bridge is said to have been built by Iwanaga Sangoro, a master mason. The bridge is unique in that it is made of sandstone produced in Amakusa, indicating that Iwanaga was in contact with a mason who was active in the Shimoura area of Amakusa at that time.

📍 Kagamimachi Uchida, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation
Yatsushiro City Designated Cultural Property (Architectural Structure)

Legacy 09 Grave of Iwanaga Sangoro

This is the grave of a master mason who was born in the former village of Nozu (now Hikawa-cho, Yatsushiro-gun) and later became a central figure in the masonry industry. In 1821, he headed a large number of masons in undertaking the Nanahyakucho Shinchu land reclamation project, contributing greatly to its success and bringing fame to Yatsushiro's masons throughout Japan.

📍 Kagamimachi Kagamimura, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation
Yatsushiro City Designated Cultural Property (Historical Site)



●STORY 02

Vast plains brought about by land reclamation —Reclamation projects and the activities of masons

In the old days, Yatsushiro was said to be “the poorest area in the domain” in terms of the scarcity of flat land. The plains that are now one of the leading agricultural areas in Kumamoto Prefecture are the result of the construction of the Yonhyakucho Shinchu land reclamation project that took place between 1818 and 1819, and the Nanahyakucho Shinchu land reclamation project that began two years later. The masons of the time used the skills they had cultivated over the years to build the Ozaya Sluiceways and other irrigation channels and bridges in these new areas. They also contributed to the establishment of these technologies and played an active role as a group of engineers supporting Yatsushiro's land reclamation.

Legacy

07 Group of Ozaya Sluiceways (Yatsushiro remains of reclamation)

These sluiceways were built in 1819 as part of the Yonhyakucho Shinchu land reclamation project. Remarkably, these structures were built with boulders, which were rarely used at the time except for castle stonework. It is believed that masons from Yatsushiro processed, transported, and laid the boulders during the construction.

📍 Kagamimachi/Senchomachi, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation National Historical Site



Legacy
23

Female Sumo Wrestling

During the development of newly reclaimed rice paddies in 1855, construction of a tide embankment encountered difficulties. According to legend, this event began when strong wrestlers were gathered from surrounding villages to tread down on the ground to complete the work. However, at some point in time, it became a female sumo event in which women played the leading roles, a form of folk art that is found in very few places in Japan.

📍 Senchomachi Kogade, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation Yatsushiro City Designated Cultural Property (Intangible Folk Cultural Property)

Female-led folk
entertainment filled
with cheerful
laughter!

Legacy

21 Soft Rush and Soft Rush Products

Yatsushiro's plains, which were developed through land reclamation, are rich in minerals and other elements. This makes the plains suitable for the cultivation of soft rush, which has been grown in the region for more than 500 years. Even today, about 90% of Japan's domestic soft rush is produced in Yatsushiro. In addition, Yatsushiro also has a thriving industry producing a variety of daily necessities, interior goods, foodstuffs, and other products made from soft rush.

📍 Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation Not designated (area set aside as a Furusato Cultural Heritage Forest)



Legacy

22 Ozayabushi/Ozayameisho Work Songs

These traditional work songs about the harshness and hardships of reclamation work in the Edo period (1603-1867). In later years, the style was changed to dancing to the accompaniment of taiko drums and shamisen music, while holding hoes or shoulder poles, which were used to carry soil in bamboo baskets.

📍 Kagamimachi/Senchomachi, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation Yatsushiro City Designated Cultural Property (Intangible Folk Cultural Property)



Legacy

24 Shibaguchi Bo-Odori (Bar Dance)

Settlers from various areas moved into the new areas created by land reclamation, bringing with them the customs and cultures of their regions. Dances to express the joy of the harvest and for entertainment took root, eventually taking on the form we see today.

📍 Kagamimachi Shibakuchi, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation Yatsushiro City Designated Cultural Property (Intangible Folk Cultural Property)

●STORY 03

Richness brought about by the activities of masons

The land reclamation projects to which the masons contributed not only produced vast and fruitful plains, but also gave birth to folk songs and traditional performing arts that remind us of the hardships of the construction work and still bring liveliness to the town today, such as Ozayabushi work songs and female sumo wrestling. In the mountainous area where they were based, a variety of cultural properties remain standing that demonstrate their advanced skills and playful spirit, including not only arched bridges but also twisted lanterns and beautiful stone terraced rice paddies, telling us of their activities that supported the modernization of Japan and serving as "bridges" that invite people to this area.



Legacy

10 Bunsei Shrine

This shrine was constructed in 1910 by local residents to commemorate the land reclamation projects. The shrine is dedicated to the deity Kanakogi Ryohei, known as the "father of land reclamation," who was appointed as headman by the Kumamoto domain and devoted himself to the projects, as well as other people who worked on them.

📍 Kagamimachi Ryode, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation Not designated (architectural structure)

Recommended
Spots
Near Japan Heritage

Kagamigaik Park

📍 Kagamimachi Kamikagami, Yatsushiro City

🆓 Free admission

Park with the atmosphere of a Japanese garden and playground equipment for the whole family to enjoy

This quaint park is where the Funatori Shinji, a traditional event of Kagamimachi, is held. The spacious park consists of an open west side with the atmosphere of a Japanese garden centering on Kagamigaik Pond, and an east side with playground equipment and a lawn area where families can enjoy a day of fun and relaxation.



Onsen boasting free-flowing hot spring water, as well as jacuzzies and waterfall showers

The popular Sencho Kenko Onsen Center is located on the second floor of Patoria Sencho. The center boasts a large bathhouse with free-flowing hot spring water, and is equipped with jacuzzies, waterfall showers, electric baths, and other bathtubs, as well as saunas, to relax and heal your body.

Patoria Sencho

📍 1433 Senchomachi Shinmuta, Yatsushiro City

☎ 0965-46-2611 🕒 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (admission until 8:30 p.m.)

Closed Mondays (or the following day if Monday falls on a national holiday, etc.), December 30 – January 2

👤 Adults (junior high school students and older): 420 yen; 4 years old to elementary school students: 320 yen; 65 years old and older and persons with disabilities: 320 yen; under 4 years old: free

Hinagu/Futami/ Sakamoto Area



A robust arched bridge that withstood torrential rain, demonstrating the outstanding workmanship of the masons!

Legacy **18** Akamatsu Meganebashi Bridge No. 1

Although the year of construction and masonry work are unknown, the bridge itself was not severely damaged by torrential rain that hit the region in July 2020, proving the high level of skill of Taneyama's masonry industry. Reliefs of fans and gourds can be seen on the balustrades.

📍 Futami Akamatsumachi, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation Yatsushiro City Designated Cultural Property (Architectural Structure)



Ohira Meganebashi Bridge (New Bridge)



Koyabu Meganebashi Bridge



Shinmen Meganebashi Bridge

Legacy **19** Group of Arched Bridges

In Yatsushiro City, there are 46 arched bridges in existence, built from the Edo period (1603-1867) to the modern era. Various types of bridges can be seen, ranging from simple bridges made of natural stone to large bridges made of hewn stone.

📍 Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation

Yatsushiro City Designated Cultural Property, etc. (Architectural Structure)

Recommended Spots

Near Japan Heritage

Hinagu Onsen Center Banpeiyu

📍 316 Hinagu Nakamachi, Yatsushiro City

☎ 0965-38-0617

🕒 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Closed Third Tuesday of the month (or the following day if this day falls on a national holiday, etc.), January 1

- Main bath (first floor)
Adults: 200 yen; children: 50 yen
- Banpeiyu bath (second floor)
Adults: 520 yen; children: 310 yen; persons over 70 years old and persons with disabilities: 310 yen



Quaint onsen facility with a rich history

An onsen facility with a rich history that once served as a hot spring for the Hosokawa clan during the Edo period (1603-1867). The main bath is on the first floor, the Banpeiyu bath with sauna and open-air bath on the second floor, and family baths on the third floor.



Located in an idyllic spot along the Kuma River, with a variety of processed products only available here

This facility is located along the Kuma River in a spot offering a variety of seasonal sights. You will find a store selling local agricultural produce, local specialties, and processed products that are only available here, such as Banpeiyu Miso Sauce. There is also a restaurant.

Roadside Station Sakamoto/ Koiki Koryu Center Sakamoto-kan

📍 1239-1 Sakamotomachi Arase, Yatsushiro City ☎ 0965-45-2141

🕒 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Closed** December 31 – January 1

Toyo/Izumi Area



Legacy 13 Mt. Shiragadake Natural Stone Bridge

A local legend tells of a deity called Tenjin of Mt. Shiragadake, who kicked through the center of a rock which had blocked his way down the mountain, forming this arch-shaped natural bridge. In reality, it was formed when Mt. Aso erupted 90,000 years ago, during which pyroclastic flows formed a layer of tuff that was eroded over time by wind and rain. It is said that Yatsushiro's masons were inspired by this natural bridge when coming up with a structure for their own arch bridges.

Toyomachi Kita, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation

Yatsushiro City Designated Cultural Property (Natural Monument)



●STORY 04

The fruit of masons' workmanship —Arched bridges

The technique of building arched bridges is purported to have been introduced from China and the Netherlands via Nagasaki, while another theory as to their origin suggests that local masons were inspired by Mt. Shiragadake Natural Stone Bridge. In Yatsushiro, local residents financed the construction of arched bridges from the end of the Edo period (1603-1867) to the beginning of the Showa period (1926-1989). As such, master masons focused on the practicality of these bridges while meeting the budgets of residents. The skills of these masons were needed in many places from the Meiji period (1868-1912) onward; of the more than 2,000 bridges built throughout Japan, it is said that many were built by masons from Yatsushiro.

Legacy 16 Kasamatsubashi Bridge

This bridge, said to have been built by Hashimoto Kangoro in the Meiji period (1868-1912), is still an important part of local life today. Chisel marks from that time remain visible on the stone, allowing visitors to experience the skill of the masons up close. The entire area has been developed as a park and is popular among tourists.

Toyomachi Kawamata, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation

Yatsushiro City Designated Cultural Property
(Architectural Structure)



Kamibashi

Legacy 14 Kajiya Kamibashi, Nakabashi and Shimobashi Bridges

These bridges are said to have been built during the Bunka era (1804–1818) by Rinshichi, who is credited as the founder of Taneyama's masonry industry. Spanning a creek, these small bridges can be crossed in a few steps, but are renowned for their beautiful arches made of natural stone.

📍 Toyomachi Kita, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation Yatsushiro City Designated Cultural Property (Architectural Structure)



Nakabashi



Shimobashi

*A bridge over a valley
that holds a special
place in the heart of
local residents!*

Legacy 15 Rokurobashi Bridge

This bridge is said to have been built around 1848 by Kahachi, father of Hashimoto Kangoro. It is a relatively large bridge, over 20 m long, spanning a valley. Still walkable today, the local community takes great care of the bridge's upkeep.

📍 Toyomachi Kawamata, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation Yatsushiro City Designated Cultural Property (Architectural Structure)



Legacy 17 Tanigawabashi Bridge

Built in 1929 by a mason called Tanoue Jintaro, this is the newest existing arched bridge in Yatsushiro. The bridge is made of welded tuff quarried near the site, and photographs and drawings exist of the bridge during its construction. It is still used as a road for daily life.

📍 Toyomachi Kawamata, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation Not designated (architectural structure)

Legacy 05 Shoga Tanada (Rice Terraces) in Bisho

Locals believe that their ancestors worked with masons to establish terraced rice paddies on a narrow strip of land along the Bisho River, which flows between mountains. The landscape created by these stacked stones is so beautiful that it was selected as one of the Top 100 Rice Terraces of Japan. Today, ginger, a specialty of the area, is grown here.

📍 Toyomachi Kawamata, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation Not designated (cultural landscape)



Sugawara Shrine



Wakamiya Shrine

Legacy 25 Twisted Stone Lanterns (Wakamiya Shrine and Sugawara Shrine)

These stone lanterns, carved to give the appearance of having been twisted 90 degrees, are located in Toyomachi, the home of masons. The lanterns at Wakamiya Shrine were made by Hashimoto Kangoro. The lantern at Sugawara Shrine was made by a mason named Bunpachi and is twisted another 90 degrees, conveying the mason's playful spirit and expertise.

📍 Toyomachi Minami/Kita, Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Designation Not designated (architectural structure)

Recommended Spots Near Japan Heritage

Passing on the art of arched bridge construction in the hometown of masons

This museum is located in Toyocho, the hometown of masons who built many arched bridges, including the Tsujunkiyobashi Bridge. The museum displays exhibits related to Iwanaga Sangoro and Hashimoto Kangoro, who were considered master masons, and explains the techniques used to build arched bridges.



Sekishokan 📍 98-2 Toyomachi Kita, Yatsushiro City

☎ 0965-65-2700

🕒 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(admission until 4:00 p.m.)

Closed Mondays (or the following day if Monday falls on a national holiday, etc.), December 29 – January 3

👤 Adults: 310 yen; high school and university students: 200 yen; elementary and junior high school students: 100 yen



Local product center with a restaurant situated in famous tea production area in the mountains

This center is located in Izumimachi, one of Kumamoto Prefecture's leading tea production areas. In addition to tea, this center offers a variety of specialty products, such as dried shiitake mushrooms and bamboo charcoal products. There is also a restaurant with a large sunken hearth, as well as a charming wooden plaza.

Fureai Center Izumi

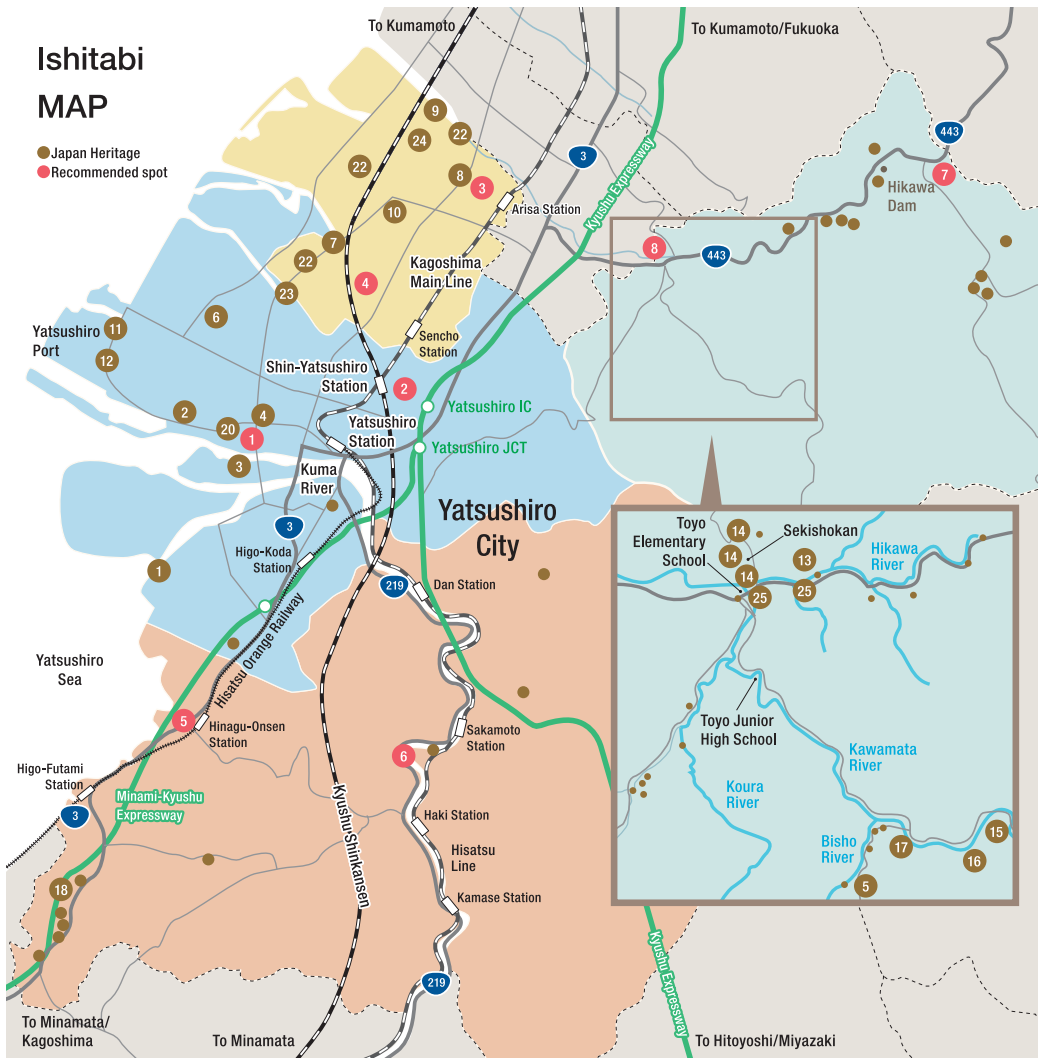
📍 3296-1 Izumimachi Shimodake, Yatsushiro City ☎ 0965-67-3500

🕒 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (restaurant: 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; if reservations are made up to one day in advance, the restaurant can remain open until 8:00 p.m.)

Closed Wednesdays (open on national holidays, etc.), year-end and New Year holiday period

Ishitabi MAP

- Japan Heritage
- Recommended spot



Central Yatsushiro Area P5

- Mizushima
- Shiroshima
- Ruins of Mugishima Castle
- Ruins of Yatsushiro Castle
- Takashima Shinci remains of dike
- Former Kogo Sluiceway Gunchiku Shinci
- Gunchiku Nibancho Sluiceway
- Hashimoto Family Archive
- Omatsuri Dendenkan
- Yatsushiro Yokatoko Produce Market

Kagami/Sencho Area P9

- Group of Ozaya Sluiceways
- Kannaikyo Bridge
- Grave of Iwanaga Sangoro
- Bunsei Shrine
- Soft Rush and Soft Rush Products
- Ozayabashi/Ozayameisho Work Songs
- Female Sumo Wrestling
- Shibaguchi Bo-odori (Bar Dance)
- Kagamigaikae Park
- Patoria Sencho

Hinagu/Futami/Sakamoto Area P13

- Akamatsu Meganebashi Bridge No. 1
- Group of Arched Bridges
- Hinagu Onsen Center Banpeiuyu
- Roadside Station Sakamoto/Koiki Koryu Center Sakamoto-kan

Toyo/Izumi Area P15

- Shoga Tanada (Rice Terraces) in Bisho
- Mt. Shiragadake Natural Stone Bridge
- Kajiya Kamibashi, Nakabashi and Shimobashi Bridges
- Rokurobashi Bridge
- Kasamatsubashi Bridge
- Tanigawabashi Bridge
- Twisted Stone Lanterns (Wakamiya Shrine and Sugawara Shrine)
- Fureai Center Izumi
- Sekishokan

* 19 is indicated by ●, 21 is not shown on the map because these products are found all over Yatsushiro City.

Access to Yatsushiro City

By train

- JR Hakata Station (Kyushu Shinkansen) – JR Shin-Yatsushiro Station (51 min.)
- JR Kumamoto Station (Kyushu Shinkansen) – JR Shin-Yatsushiro Station (11 min.)
- JR Kagoshima-chuo Station (Kyushu Shinkansen) – JR Shin-Yatsushiro Station (46 min.)

By car

- Dazaifu IC – Yatsushiro IC (Approx. 120 min.)
- Kumamoto IC – Yatsushiro IC (Approx. 40 min.)
- Kagoshima IC – Yatsushiro IC (Approx. 115 min.)

By air

- Haneda Airport – Aso Kumamoto Airport (Approx. 120 min.) – JR Shin-Yatsushiro Station (Approx. 45 min. by highway bus)
- Itami Airport – Aso Kumamoto Airport (Approx. 60 min.) – JR Shin-Yatsushiro Station (Approx. 45 min. by highway bus)



文化庁

Agency for Cultural Affairs
Subsidy for Cultural Resource
Utilization Project in FY2022

(Comprehensive Utilization Promotion
Project for Local Cultural Properties)