

Sasara, an ancient Japanese musical instrument

Sasara percussion instruments are used in the Kokiriko dance, and are among the most popular gifts from Gokayama.



Traditional Japanese paper from Gokayama

Described as the Japanese paper of Echū province in the old documents housed in the Shosoin Treasure House in Nara, this masterpiece in craftsmanship continues that tradition and is a pride of the region.

Souvenirs from Gokayama

Techniques passed down through the hands of each generation... Bring the warmth of Gokayama back to your own home.

Gokayama tofu

Gokayama *tofu* preserves the traditional taste of *tofu*, made from home-grown soy beans.



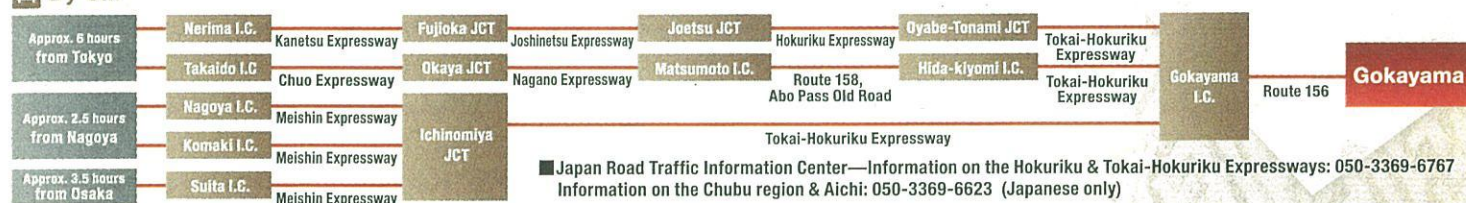
Clear Seishu Sanshoraku

An old man once said, "Sake is oil for the body." Sanshoraku, brewed with spring water from deep in the mountains, is a superior brand of sake featuring a refreshing aftertaste.



ACCESS INFORMATION

By car



By JR train and bus

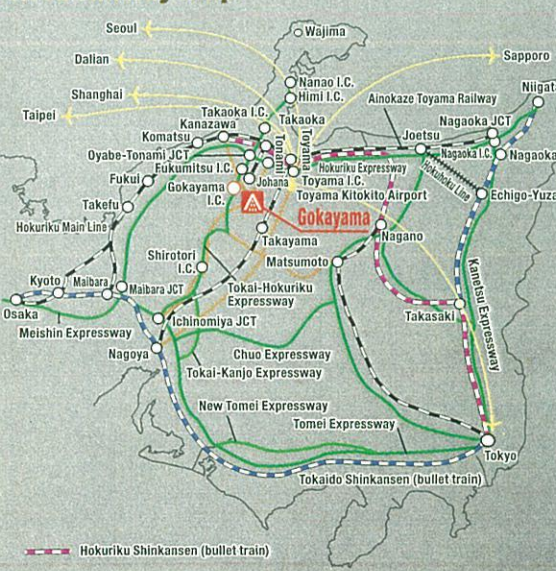


By airplane and rental car



Bus Inquiries
Kaetsuno Bus / World Heritage Bus 0766-21-0950 (Japanese only)
Highway Bus Reservations / Inquiries
From Nagoya Midland Square 0766-21-7777 (Japanese only)
(Kitokito Liner Reservation Center)
From Kanazawa Station <http://www.hokutetsu.co.jp/en>
076-234-0123 (Japanese only) (Hokuriku Railroad Reservation Center)

Area railway map



Nanto & Tonami area enlarged view



World Heritage Site



Gokayama

Gokayama — a destination for any season of the year

Nanto City, Toyama Prefecture

Inquiries

Gokayama Web Page : <http://www.gokayama-info.jp/en> (English)

Gokayama Tourist Information: Tel: 0763-66-2468, Fax: 0763-66-2469

754 Kaminashi, Nanto City, Toyama Prefecture 939-1914 Reception hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Nanto City Tourism Association: Tel: 0763-62-1201, Fax: 0763-62-1202

1058-1 Noda, Johana, Nanto City, Toyama Prefecture 939-1892

Road Traffic Information Center

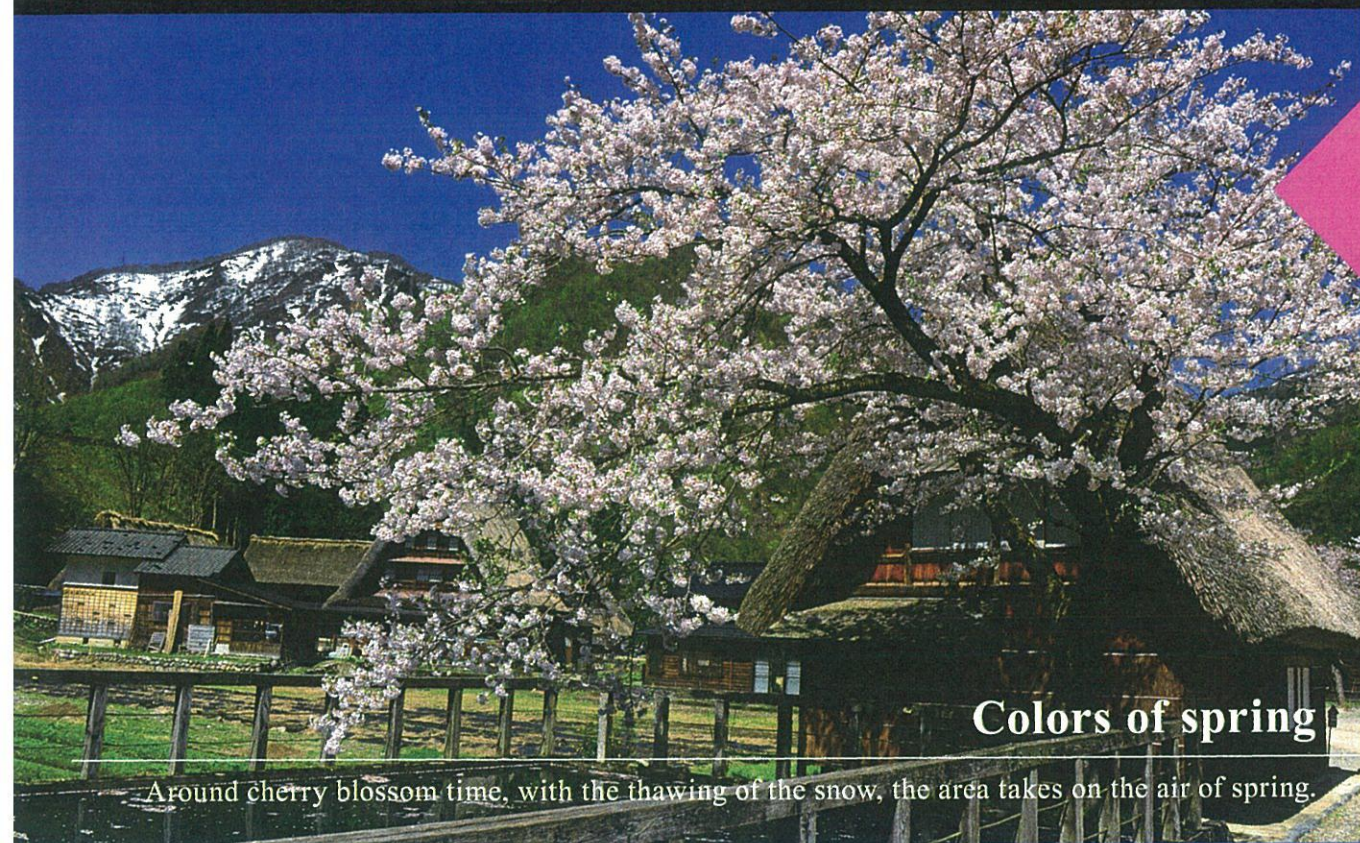
Information on Toyama

050-3369-6616

March 2017

GOKAYAMA THROUGHOUT THE FOUR SEASONS

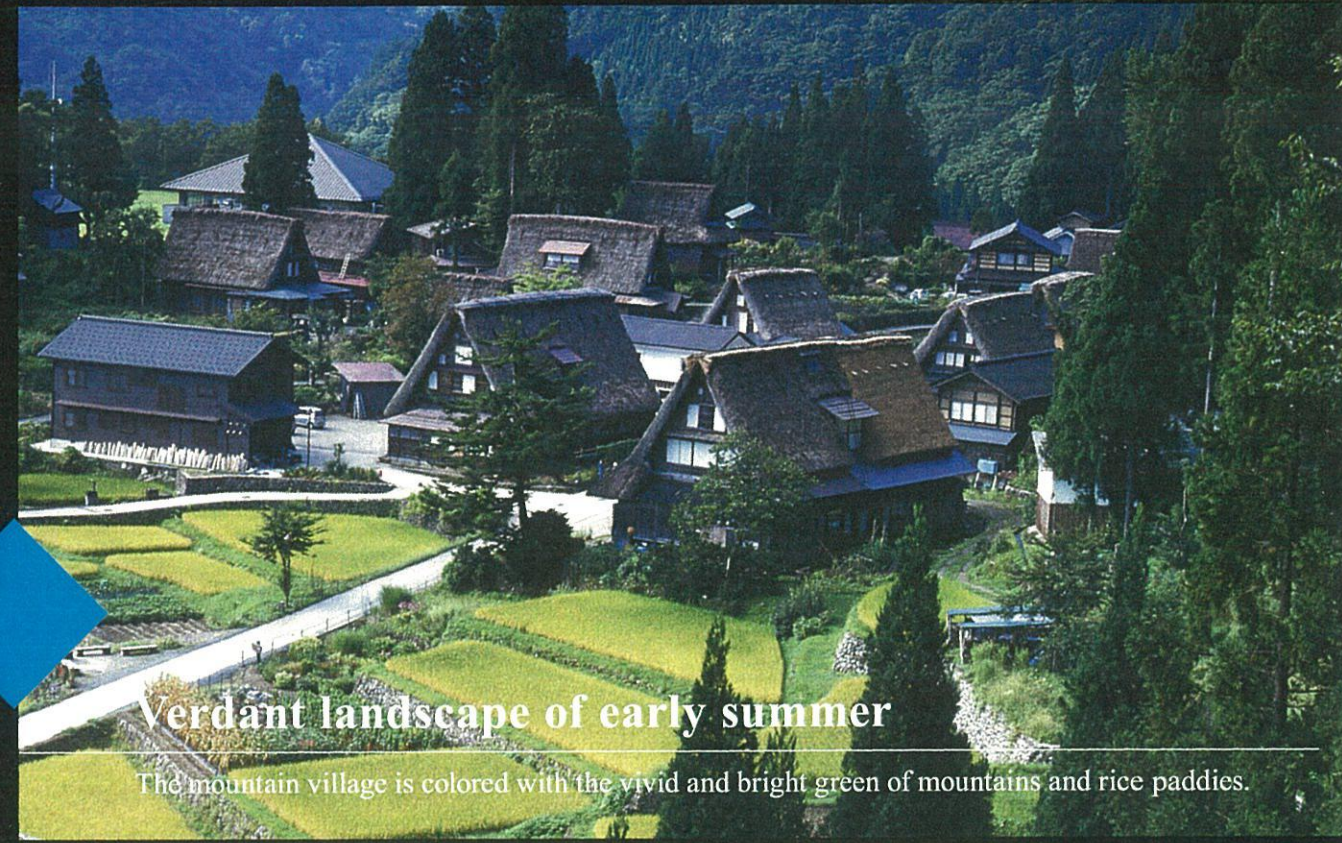
The four faces of World Heritage Site Gokayama's *gassho-zukuri* houses.



春 Spring

Colors of spring

Around cherry blossom time, with the thawing of the snow, the area takes on the air of spring.



夏 Summer

Verdant landscape of early summer

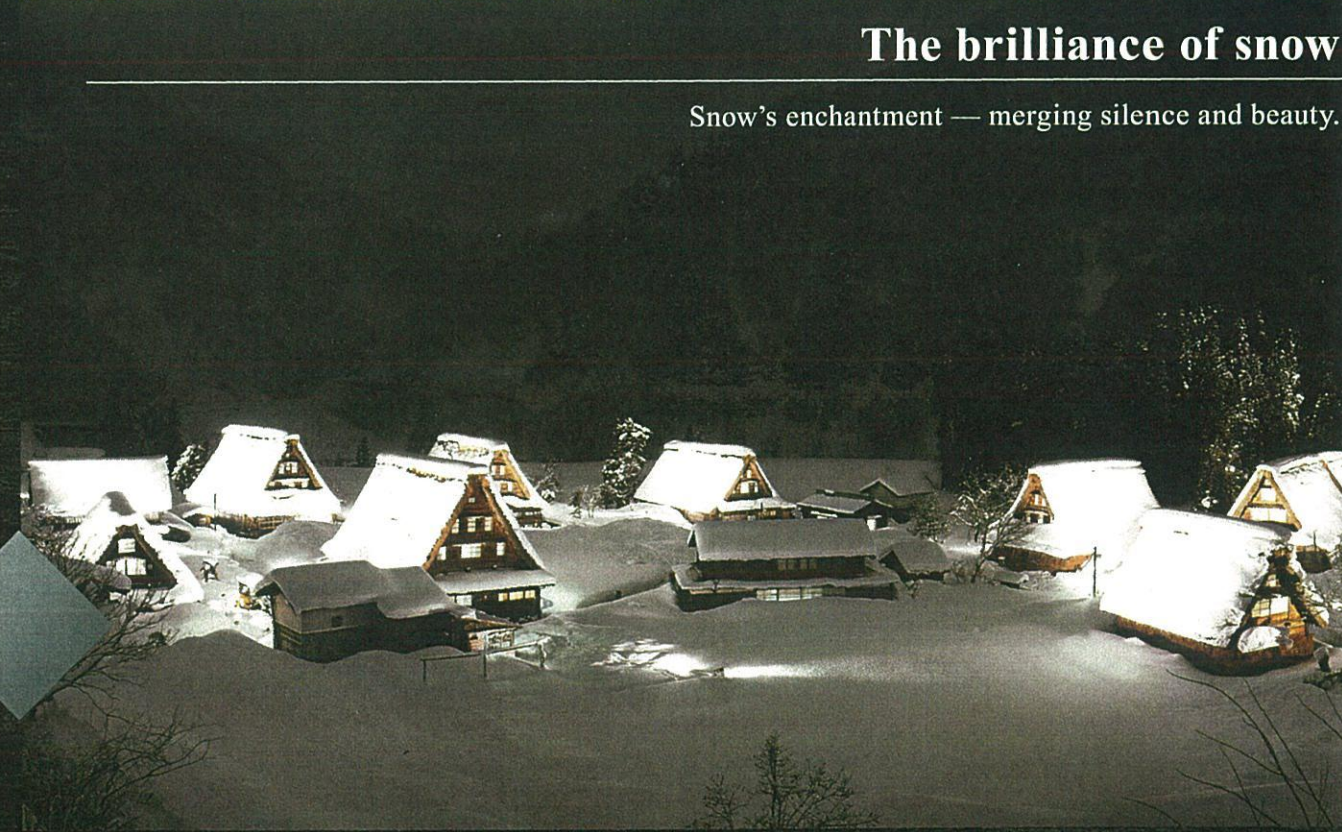
The mountain village is colored with the vivid and bright green of mountains and rice paddies.



秋 Autumn

Glorious autumn weather

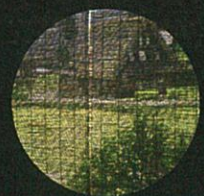
Nature is tinted with three beautiful natural colors, a blend of blue skies, snowy landscapes, and autumnal hues.



冬 Winter

The brilliance of snow

Snow's enchantment — merging silence and beauty.



寛
Relaxed



安
Peaceful



静
Tranquil



躍
Dynamic



気
Spiritual



覚
Unforgettable



手
Handcrafted



The "Gassho-zukuri Villages of Gokayama,"
a World Heritage Site

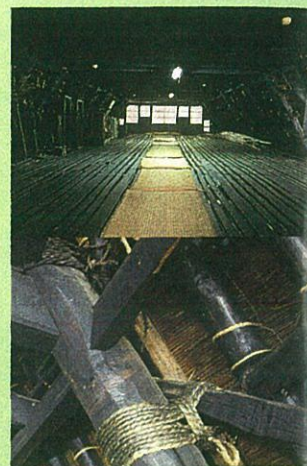
歴史 HISTORY

Arts and crafts of the past live on

The main industries of the Gokayama *gassho-zukuri* homes during the Edo period were sericulture, production of niter (an ingredient in gunpowder), and Japanese papermaking. Japanese papermaking continues to be passed down in Gokayama as a traditional industry. The *gassho-zukuri* homes, which include roofs that must periodically be rethatched, are preserved for future generations by the efforts of the local residents.



The roof thatching of *gassho-zukuri* houses is one of the seasonal events in this snowy region.

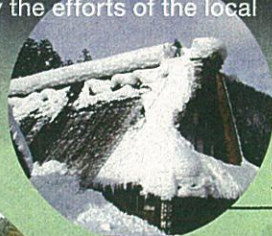


Gassho-zukuri houses are constructed using only rope and timber; no nails or metal fittings are used.

The "Gassho-zukuri Villages of Gokayama," a World Heritage Site

These villages were registered on UNESCO's World Heritage List in December 1995 as cultural properties. There are 23 *gassho-zukuri* (traditional thatched-roof style) houses in Ainokura and 9 in Suganuma, most of which are about 100 to 200 years old. Some are said to have been built 400 years ago. With a roof pitch of 60 degrees and the vertical face approaching a perfect equilateral triangle, these houses have a shape designed to allow snow to easily slip down the roof. This architectural design provides a robust structure that can endure the severe climate of deep-snow regions while combining living and working spaces. *Gassho-zukuri* houses may be considered a brilliant invention created from a human wisdom for living.

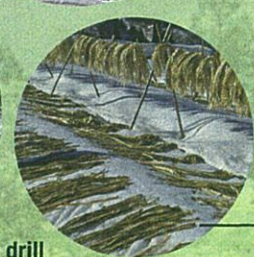
Ainokura and Suganuma are National Historic Sites and Protected Cultural Property Areas, registered on the World Cultural Heritage List. Approximately 80 local residents still live in these villages.



Clearing snow from the roof



Fire drill



Paper mulberry bark bleaching in the winter sun



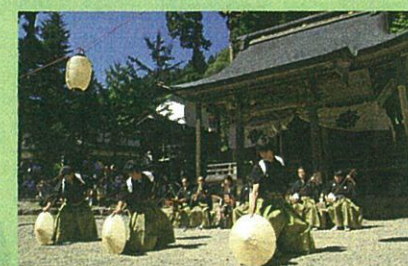
The "Gassho-zukuri Villages of Gokayama,"
a World Heritage Site

文化 CULTURE

Traditional Japanese songs and dances

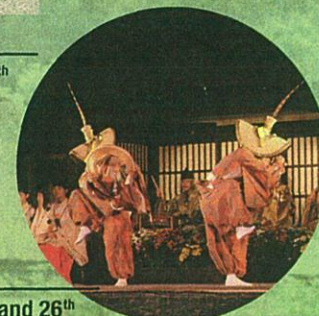
Gokayama Folklore

Gokayama is home to many traditional Japanese songs and dances passed down from generation to generation, soothing the hearts of the local people.



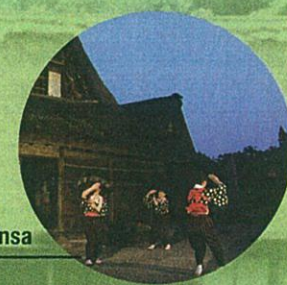
Gokayama Mugiya Festival

Held annually September 23rd and 24th



Kokiriko Festival

Held annually September 25th and 26th



Toichinsa

It's as if you've gone back in time. Come see the lifestyle of the "Gassho-zukuri Villages of Gokayama," a World Heritage Site

The "Gassho-zukuri Villages of Gokayama,"
a World Heritage Site

食事 CUISINE

Cuisine unchanged over the centuries

The flavorful mountain vegetables and freshwater fish used in this traditional cuisine will satisfy your craving for a memorable meal. Experience the flavors of Gokayama at local restaurants and inns.



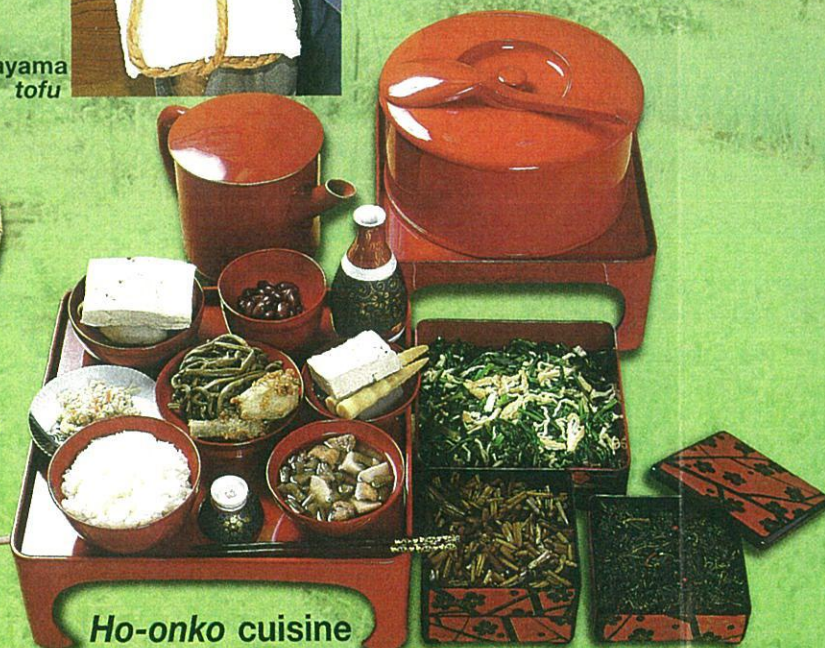
Gokayama
tofu



Tochi-mochi
(Japanese horse chestnut rice cake)



Char (trout) sake



Ho-onko cuisine

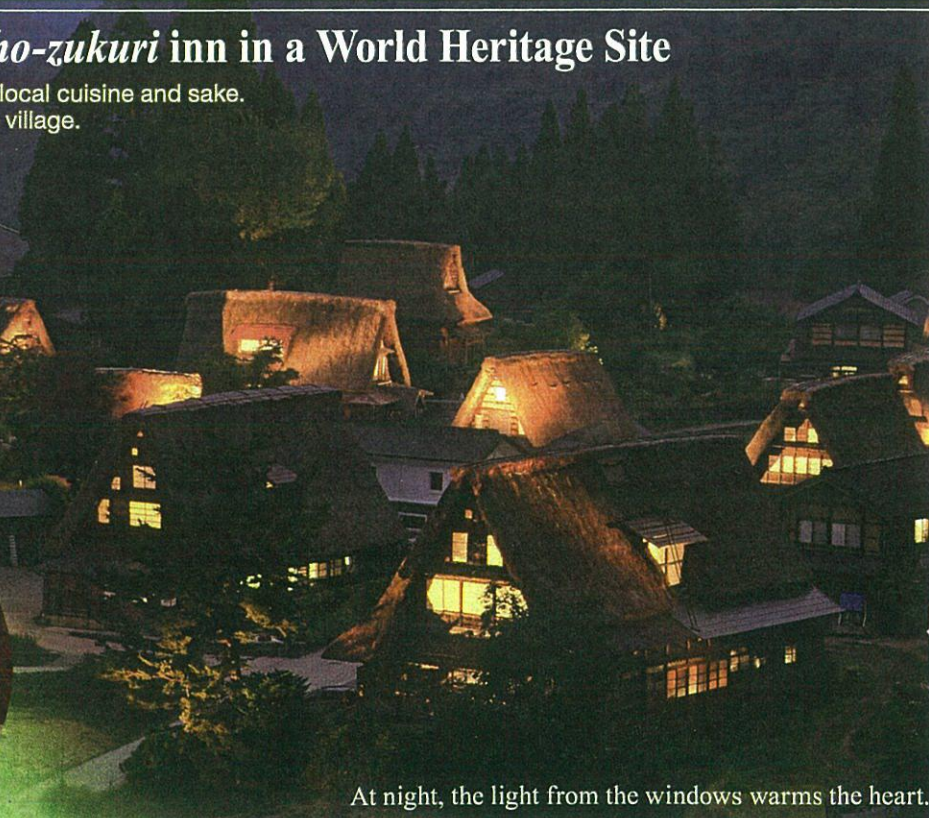
A *Ho-onko* is a Jodo Shinshu Buddhism devotional event, also known by the name *Honko-sama* or *Okou-sama*. This traditional cuisine is prepared by using ingredients unique to mountainous regions, such as red turnip and bamboo shoots.

The "Gassho-zukuri Villages of Gokayama," a World Heritage Site

宿泊 ACCOMMODATIONS

Stay overnight at a *gassho-zukuri* inn in a World Heritage Site

Gather around the open hearth to enjoy local cuisine and sake. Relax at an inn in the peaceful mountain village.



At night, the light from the windows warms the heart.

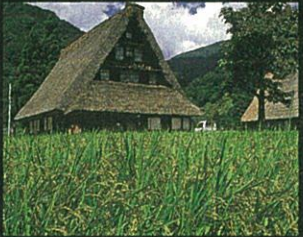
SUGANUMA 菅沼

The Gassho-zukuri Village of Suganuma, a World Heritage Site

National Historic Site & Important Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings.



Driving down Route 156, you will see a *gassho-zukuri* village on the right bank of the Sho River between the trees. The village as a whole is an Important Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings, designated as a national historic site and registered on the World Heritage List in 1995 along with the *gassho-zukuri* villages of Shirakawago and Ainokura. It is said that some of the older standing *gassho-zukuri* buildings were built before the Tempo period (1830-1843).



5 Gokayama Gassho no Sato

Thirteen *gassho-zukuri* homes are preserved and still used to this day. Three *gassho-zukuri* cottages are available for visitors to lodge and include facilities for preparing meals. An additional facility with space for up to 250 guests is also available by reservation. Lunch of local cuisine is available by reservation.
※Open for lodging only in summer.
TEL 0763-67-3300 (Japanese only)

5 Gokayama Folklore Museum Ensho no Yakata (Niter Museum)

This museum was opened by remodeling the interior of the oldest *gassho-zukuri* house in Suganuma. Exhibits include approximately 300 items relating to the lifestyles and industries of this area, such as materials on the process and tools for niter production, Japanese papermaking, and sericulture.
Open: 9:00-16:30 (April-Nov) 9:00-16:00 (Dec-Mar)
Closed: Dec 29 - Jan 1
Fee: Adults: ¥300, Elementary/junior high school students: ¥150
※Common pass for both museums



6 The Iwase Residence

Nationally Designated Important Cultural Property
The Iwase Residence is the largest *gassho-zukuri* house in Gokayama. Considered to be 300 years old, it is a private house that integrates living and working spaces for sericulture, niter production, Japanese papermaking, welcoming guests, and use as a residence. The house was originally inhabited by 35 people, including both family members and servants. The Iwase Residence features the most advanced style of a *gassho-zukuri* private home in aspects such as size, structure, and finish from the latter Edo period.
Open: 8:00 - 17:00 Open 7 days/week Fee: Adults: ¥300, Elementary/junior high school students: ¥150



6 Gytokuji Temple Gytokuji Temple Itoku Hall

Open: 9:00 - 17:00
Open 7 days/week (open from early April to late November)
Fee: Adults: ¥300, Elementary/junior high school students: ¥100
※Reservation required

6 Michinoeki (Roadside Station) Kamitaira Sasara-kan

This roadside station sells local specialties, from pickled turnip to wooden crafts. Enjoy a variety of foods and souvenirs unique to Gokayama.



5 Kuroba Hot Springs Resort

Open: 10:30 - 21:00 (November - March: 11:00 - 21:00)
Fee: ¥600
Closed: Tuesdays (the following day, if Tuesday is a holiday)

World Heritage Site Gassho-zukuri Village of Suganuma

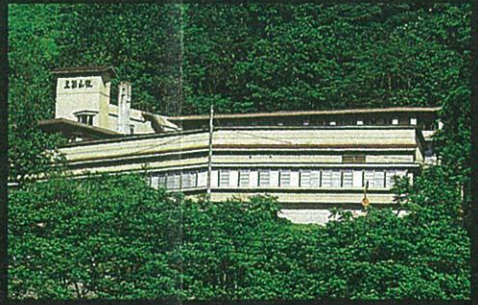
Open 8:00-17:00 (Apr-Nov) 9:00-16:00 (Dec-Mar) Entry by 16:00
(Please refrain from visiting between sundown and early morning.)
Closed Dec 31-Jan 1
Parking fee (for site conservation purposes)

Standard vehicle	¥500
Small-/medium-sized bus	¥2,000
Large-sized bus	¥3,000

Tokai Hokuriku Expressway
to Tonami & Kanazawa (Fukumitsu I.C.)
Gokayama I.C.

to Lake Katsura
Nishiakao

to Nagoya & Gifu (Shirakawago I.C.)



4 Gokayama Hot Springs Resort Gokasanso

Located near tourist facilities such as the Murakami Residence, The Gokayama Tourist Information Center, and the Exile Hut, this inn is popular as a place to stay for sightseeing in Gokayama. Gokasanso features a spacious Japanese-style lobby and an open-air bath, which commands a wonderful view of an environment full of rural beauty.

4 Gokayama Tourist Information Center

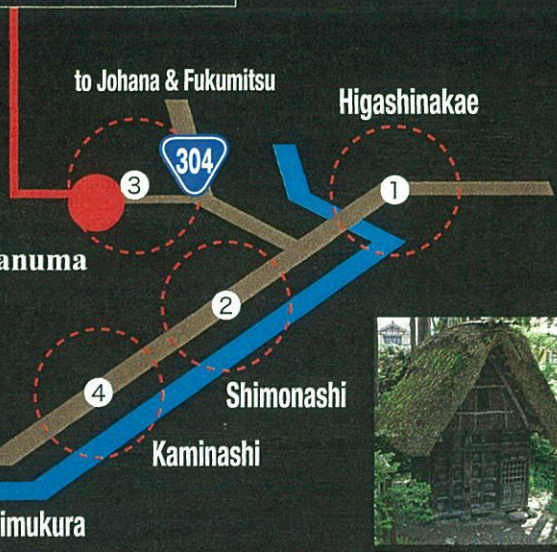


A *gassho-zukuri* (thatched-roof style) general information desk located along Route 156 next to the Murakami Residence in Kokiriko no Sato. The Gokayama Tourist Information Center provides general sightseeing information on Gokayama as well as the Etchu-Hida tourism area. This facility also provides materials on Gokayama folk songs.

Ainokura World Heritage Site Gassho-zukuri Village

Standard vehicle	¥500
Two-wheeled vehicle	¥100
Small-/medium-sized bus	¥2,000
Large-sized bus	¥3,000

Open 8:00-17:00, all year round
(Please refrain from visiting between sundown and early morning.)

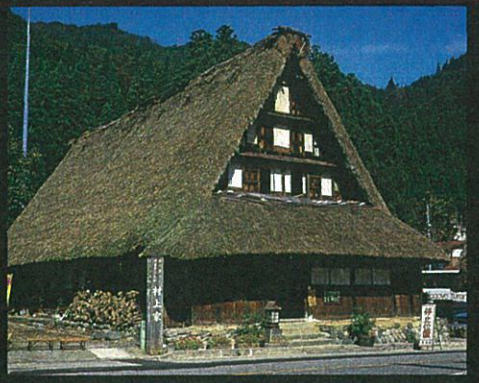


Important points to note
People still live in the World Heritage Site Gassho-zukuri Villages. Please refrain from entering the residences and crop fields. Furthermore, since the roofs of *gassho-zukuri* houses are highly combustible, smoking in the village is prohibited.

4 Exile Hut

Prefecturally Designated Cultural Property

It is said that the first exile to Gokayama was enacted by the Kaga clan in 1667, with the full exile system in place by 1690.



4 The Murakami Residence

Nationally Designated Important Cultural Property
Open: 8:30 - 17:00 (Apr - Nov)
9:00 - 16:00 (Dec - Mar)
Closed: Wednesdays (Open on national holidays)
Fee: Adults: ¥300, Elementary/junior high school students: ¥150

A single-tiered, 4-story thatched gable residence 10.96 m high, 10.74 m wide, and 20.37 m deep. This typical *gassho-zukuri* house was built in Gokayama during the Tencho period (1573-1591). The house was constructed without any metal fittings in the thatched roof, including clamps. With the original style and structure maintained, the building was designated an Important Cultural Property of Japan. In the Edo period, the major industries in Gokayama were niter production and Japanese papermaking. In this facility, more than 1,000 folk materials are exhibited, including materials on these former major industries.

相倉 AINOKURA

The Gassho-zukuri Village of Ainokura, a World Heritage Site

National Historic Site & Important Traditional Building Preservation Area



Ainokura Village is located on a terrace a slight distance from the Sho River, spreading across a long, narrow plateau and gently sloping down to the northeast. Among the 32 houses in this village, 23 are *gassho-zukuri* houses. Many of the existing *gassho-zukuri* houses in Ainokura village were built in the period from the end of the Edo period to the Meiji period; the oldest is considered to date back to the 17th century. The area designated to be preserved as a historic site includes not only these private houses, but also crop fields, surrounding mountains and forests, ponds, roads leading to the houses, fields called *kayaba* where Japanese *kaya* used for thatching is gathered, and *yukimochirin* groves that protect the village from avalanches. When visiting Ainokura, you will see a beautiful landscape woven together by the village and the surrounding environment.



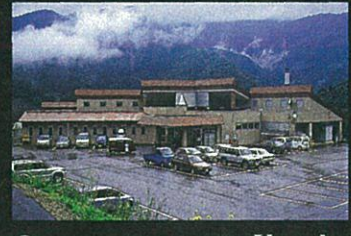
1 Gokayama Washi no Sato

Open: 8:30 - 17:00
Closed: December 29 - January 3



3 Ainokura Folklore Museum Ainokura Traditional Industries Museum

This museum exhibits lifestyle utensils, folklore materials, and tools from the old days used for sericulture and papermaking, both former major industries in this area begun since feudal times. Visitors can gain an appreciation for the Gokayama lifestyle.
Open: 8:30 - 17:00 Open 7 days/week
Fee: Adults: ¥350, High school students: ¥150, Elementary/junior high school students: ¥70
※Common pass for both museums



1 Shin-Gokayama Hot Spring Yu-raku

A popular hot springs resort along the Sho River with a commanding view of the dam lake. With open-air baths and saunas, the resort offers a refreshing experience for your mind and body. The weak alkaline water is particularly beneficial for neuralgia and chronic skin diseases.
Open: 10:00 - 21:00 (Entry by 20:30)
* Closes at 21:00 from November to March.
Closed: Wednesdays (the following day, if Wednesday is a holiday)
Fee: ¥510



2 Gokayama Washi

Open: 8:30 - 17:00
Closed: Tuesdays (May 1 - Nov 30)
Sundays (Dec 1 - Apr 30)
Holidays (year - round)

