

Walking guide for 17 post stations in Gifu Prefecture

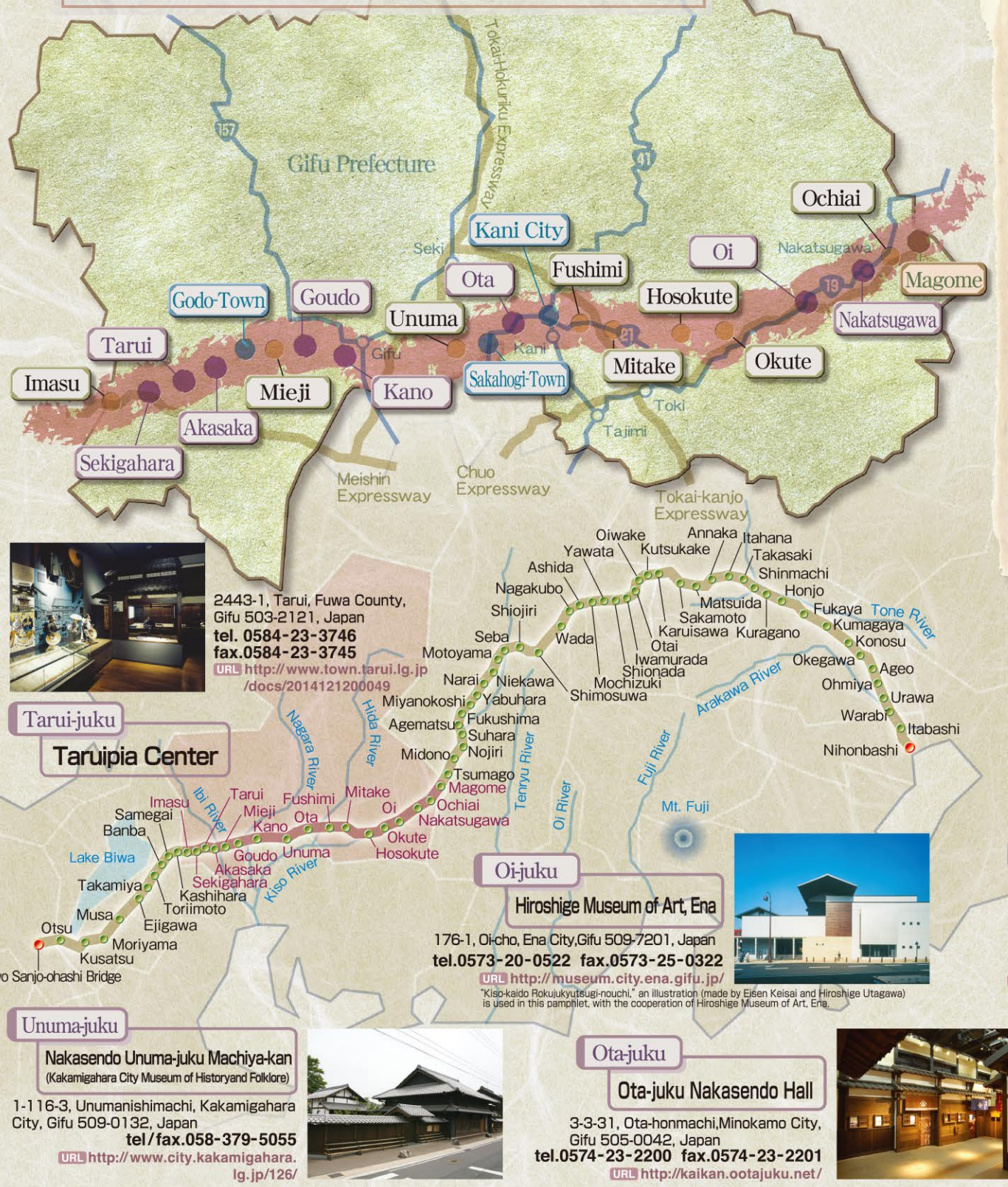
“Japan Rekishi Kaido
(historical path)”
Mino Nakasendo Association
and
Gifu Prefecture

Nakasendo passing through Gifu Prefecture

From Kisoji (Magome) to Minoji (16post stations)

There are 69 post stations between Nihonbashi in Edo and Sanjo-ohashi in Kyoto (a distance of 138 ri, 24 cho, and 8 ken, or approximately 532 kilometers). Mino Province (the present Gifu Prefecture) accounts for one-fourth of the length of the Nakasendo (approximately 128 kilometers). Mino Nakasendo, along which there are 16 post stations, passes through mountains and gives us a view of seasonal beauty of nature in trees and valleys. Especially, the portion between Nakatsugawa-juku and Ota-juku remains relatively unchanged.

Kisoji Magome-juku, which was incorporated into Nakatsugawa City, Gifu Prefecture in February of 2005, flourishes as a tourist spot where the city landscape is preserved.



History of the Nakasendo

The predecessor of the Nakasendo was called the Tosando and played an important role in connecting the west and east. (There is a mound left near Fushimi-juku, which was part of the Tosando).

Tosando was the generic term used to refer to Ohmi Province, Mino Province, Hida Province, Shinano Province, Mutsu Province, Shimotsuke Province, Kouzuke Province and Mutsu Province in ancient times, but around the Taka Reform (645), it came to be used as a road name and in the Mommu Tenno period, (697 to 707) it became established. Compared with the Tokaido which has been well-repaired, the Tosando has been regarded as a byroad.

In the Warring States period, post stations were established along the highways and Iiyasu Tokugawa, who won a victory in the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600, started to organize roads all over the country. In the following year, an inspection of the Tokaido was conducted and 53 post stations were established along the Tokaido, and consequently kaidos (highways) that were directly controlled by the government, such as “Nakasendo,” “Koshu-docho” and “Otsu-docho” (formerly called “Tosando”) were established. In 1659, the Go-kaido (five main roads), including Nikko-docho, were organized. Among these Go-kaido (Tokaido, Nakasendo, Koshu-kaido, Otsu-kaido and Nikko-kaido), “Tokaido” and “Nakasendo” were the most important kaido connecting Edo and Kyoto. It is said that, unlike Tokaido which crossed rivers which caused troubles in rainy weather, the Nakasendo was good for the passage of travelers including women.

The name originated from the fact that Nakasendo was a mountain path located in the middle of Japan and Nakasendo was occasionally written as 中山道 in kanji, but in 1716, it was unified to 中山道 in kanji by the Tokugawa Shogunate.

The Nakasendo, which passes from Nihonbashi in Edo through Gifu and Shiga prefectures to Kyoto, and through Saitama and Gunma prefectures to Nagano Prefecture, is the longest among the Go-kaido, the main roads in the Edo era, and there are 69 post stations along the Nakasendo. The Nakasendo flourished as a route for the Zenkoji Temple pilgrimage, Atsuta-san pilgrimage, Ise pilgrimage and others. At the same time, it was often used as a route for the marriage of daughters of Kuge (court nobles) in Kyoto to generals in Edo. Along the Nakasendo, which passes from Kyoto, the splendidly beautiful capital city, to Edo, through the depths of mountains, there are many traces left by the daughters of Kuge and it is also called “Hime-kaido” (princess road).

Magomejuku
Toson Memorial Museum
4256-1, Magome Nakatsugawa City, Gifu 508-0502, Japan
tel.0573-69-2047 fax.0573-69-2231
http://toson.jp/

Nakatsugawajuku
Nakasendo Historical Museum
2-2-21, Hon-machi Nakatsugawa City, Gifu 508-0041, Japan
tel.0573-66-6888 fax.0573-66-7021
http://www.city.nakatsugawa.gifu.jp/museum/habito/

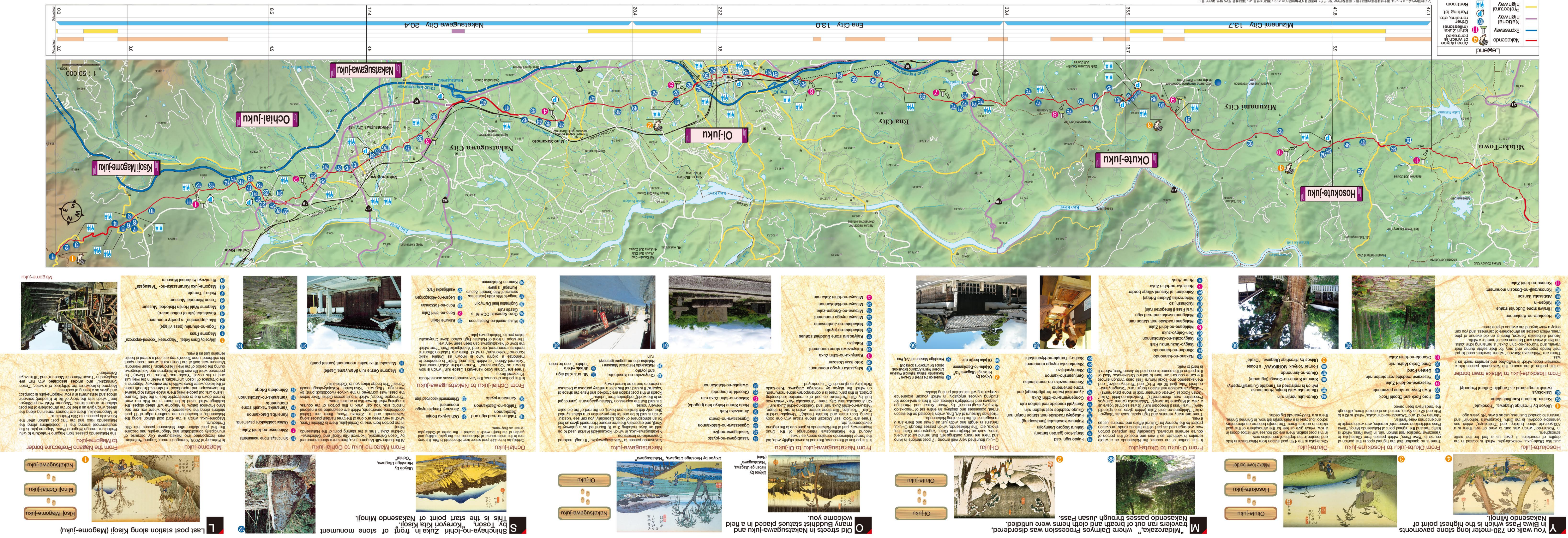
Mitakejuku
Nakasendo Mitake-kan
1389-1, Mitake, Mitake-Town, Kani County, Gifu 505-0116, Japan
tel.0574-67-7500 fax.0574-68-0005
http://www.town.mitake.gifu.jp/mitakekan/



Nakasendo Minoji is enriched with festivals.
Festivals give us feeling for traditions
and novelty and flourish during all seasons.
Glittering festivals in Minoji are
an integral part of the lives
of people living there.

List of festivals and events in 17 post stations along Nakasendo in Gifu Prefecture								
Name of cities, towns and villages	Date	Festivals and events	Name of cities, towns and villages	Date	Festivals and events	Name of cities, towns and villages		
Nakatsugawa City	1st Sunday of January (Good Friday, January)	Nakatsugawa Jukuegawa Juku "Hokusei-ichi Market" Nakasendo Inuomori Annual Festival Tokosaku Festival	Kani City	March 28	Kanomori Shrine Festival	Mizuro City		
	January 10	Nakasendo Spring Festival		1st Sunday of April	Shirahige Shrine Yabusame Festival		April 26	Kaunomya Annual Spring Festival
	August 12	Nakatsugawa Summer Festival "Oden Sai" Nakasendo Summer Festival "Oden Sai" main festival		1st Sunday of June	Kikuri-hachiman Shrine Festival		3rd Sunday of May	Meiji-juku Festival
	August 13	Nakatsugawa Summer Festival "Oden Sai" Nakasendo Summer Festival "Oden Sai" main festival		1st Sunday of October	Rannmaru Festival		August 24	Kamihondori Juku Festival
Ena City	1st Sunday of November	Nakasendo Autumn Festival	Minokamo City	1st Sunday of October	Kenkyu Festival, Sengoku Mushi Gyoruten	Ogaki City	1st Sunday of October	Kaunomya Annual Autumn Festival
	Early November	Sansyuku-kaido Festival		1st Sunday of August	Onsai Minokamo in Summer (Citizen's Fireworks Festival)		2nd Sunday of April	Akatsuki Festival
	Early February	Hyosetsu-no-himatsuri Festival		3rd Sunday of October	Onsai Minokamo in Autumn (Ota-juku Nakasendo Festival)		May 2 to May 4	Nakasendo Asakake Juku Festival
	January 7	Yabusame Shrine Annual Festival (Nakasendo March)		Last Saturday of July	Sakaguchi Festival		May 2 to May 5	Tarui Hikiyama Festival
Ena City	1st Sunday of April	Yabusame Shrine Annual Festival (Nakasendo March)	Kakigahara City	1st Sunday of October	Nakasendo Unuma-juku Autumn Festival	Tarui-Town	May 4 and 5	Nango Tamae Shrine Annual Festival
	1st Sunday of April	Yabusame Shrine Annual Festival (Nakasendo March)		1st Sunday of October	Nakasendo Unuma-juku Spring Festival		Early September	Nakasendo Tarui-juku Festival
Mizunami City	1st Sunday of April	Yabusame Shrine Annual Festival (Nakasendo March)	Gifu City	1st Sunday of October	Setsubun Tsurukoni Festival (Gyosukoin-ji)	1st Sunday of October	Osa Taiko Odori	
	1st Sunday of April	Yabusame Shrine Annual Festival (Nakasendo March)		February 3	Matsuri Komei Nakasendo Goudo-juku	Early November to Middle November	Fureai Tarui Pla	
Mitsuke City	1st Sunday of April	Yabusame Shrine Annual Festival (Nakasendo March)	Mitsuke City	1st Sunday of October	Koto-tanemanga Shrine Tenjin Festival	Seikigahara-Town	1st Sunday of October	Seikigahara Festival
	1st Sunday of April	Yabusame Shrine Annual Festival (Nakasendo March)		1st Sunday of October	Matsuri Komei Nakasendo Goudo-juku		1st Sunday of October	Seikigahara Battle Festival

Contact: Mino Nakasendo Association			
Nakatsugawa City, Tourism Section	4F Nigata Plaza, 1-1 Sakamachi, Nakatsugawa City, Gifu 508-0032, Japan TEL. 0573-66-1111 FAX. 0573-65-3387 http://www.city.nakatsugawa.gifu.jp/ kankou@city.nakatsugawa.gifu.jp	Ena City, Tourism Exchange Section	1-1-1 Shiga-Osashima-cho, Ena City, Gifu 508-7292, Japan TEL. 0573-26-2111 FAX. 0574-26-2861 http://www.city.ena.gifu.jp/ kankou@city.ena.gifu.jp
Mizunami City, Commerce and Industry Section	1-1, Uedaicho, Mizunami City, Gifu 508-6195, Japan TEL. 0572-68-2111 FAX. 0572-68-9862 http://www.city.mizunami.jp/ shoko@city.mizunami.jp	Mitake-Town, Urban Planning and Community Development Section	1-1, Mitake, Mitake-Town, Kani County, Gifu 505-0192, Japan TEL. 0574-67-2111 FAX. 0574-67-1999 http://www.town.mitake.gifu.jp/ mitadokuri@town.mitake.gifu.jp
Kani City, Tourism and Exchange Division	1-1, Hironi, Kani City, Gifu 509-0292, Japan TEL. 0574-62-1111 FAX. 0574-63-4754 http://www.city.kani.gifu.jp/ kankou@city.kani.gifu.jp	Minokamo City, Industrial Promotion Section	1-1, Ota-cho, Minokamo City, Gifu 505-8606, Japan TEL. 0574-25-2111 FAX. 0574-27-3863 http://www.city.minokamo.gifu.jp/ shoko@city.minokamo.gifu.jp
Sakaguchi-Town, General Affairs Section	46-18, Toriumi, Sakaguchi-Town, Kani County, Gifu 504-9555, Japan TEL. 0574-26-7111 FAX. 0574-27-1808 http://www.town.sakaguchi.gifu.jp/ kankou@town.sakaguchi.gifu.jp	Kakamigahara City, Tourism and Multicultural Division	1-63, Sakuramachi, Naka, Kakamigahara City, Gifu 504-9555, Japan TEL. 058-383-0925 FAX. 058-383-0765 http://www.city.kakamigahara.jp/04532/ tourism@city.kakamigahara.gifu.jp
Gifu City, Tourism and Convention Division	1-1, Chome, Kanda-machi, Gifu City, Gifu 505-8601, Japan TEL. 058-265-3884 FAX. 058-263-6631 http://www.city.gifu.jp/ kankou@city.gifu.jp	Mitake-Town, Urban Planning and Community Development Section	300-2, Miyaden, Mitake-Town, Gifu 501-0392, Japan TEL. 058-327-2103 FAX. 058-327-2120 http://www.city.mitake.gifu.jp/ syokumou@city.mitake.gifu.jp
Mitake-Town, Urban Planning and Community Development Section	300-2, Miyaden, Mitake-Town, Gifu 501-0392, Japan TEL. 058-327-2103 FAX. 058-327-2120 http://www.city.mitake.gifu.jp/ syokumou@city.mitake.gifu.jp	Ogaki City, Commerce, Industry and Tourism Section	2-29, Marunouchi, Ogaki City, Gifu 503-8601, Japan TEL. 0584-81-4111 FAX. 0584-81-4899 http://www.city.ogaki.gifu.jp/ syokukoukankouka@city.ogaki.gifu.jp
Tarui-Town Industry Section	1532-1, Tarui-Town, Fwuo County, Gifu 503-2193, Japan TEL. 0584-22-1151 FAX. 0584-22-5180 http://www.town.tarui.gifu.jp/ sangyo@town.tarui.gifu.jp	Sekigahara Town, Regional Promotion Dept.	894-58, Daza Sekigahara, Sekigahara-Town, Fwuo County, Gifu 503-1592, Japan TEL. 0584-43-1111 FAX. 0584-43-2120 http://www.town.sekigahara.gifu.jp/ chikishinko@town.sekigahara.gifu.jp
Nonprofit corporation, Yadori		Nakasendo Kano-juku Culture Preservation Society	
Takenami Area Nakasendo Preservation Society		Tourism Policy Planning Division, Gifu Prefectural Government	
Gifu Prefecture, Road Maintenance Section		Gifu Prefecture, Road Maintenance Section	



From the remains of the old streets in Unuma City to the planning roads in Naka, we can get a feel for the history of the Nakasendo.



Unuma-juku

Gifu City border



Unuma-juku

From Unuma-juku to Gifu City border

For most of this portion of the course, the Nakasendo overlaps with Route 21 and no old roads, and it is difficult to see what used to be there in ancient times.

For the portion of the course the Nakasendo used to pass through the wildlands in Kakumori, but nowadays heavy traffic and shopping streets means you can hardly see what used to exist along the Nakasendo in ancient times.

Unuma-juku is approximately 17 kilometers from Kano-juku, Gifu City and there were some roadside rest stations, where travelers and horses took a break.

In particular, the roadside rest station at Shinkano near the Gifu City border flourished as a rest station along the kado (40-day) path because Hatanoto Tabuchi had his in the neighborhood. Nowadays there are no houses from that period left along the

street, but there are crooked kado and stone road signs, which remind us of ancient times.

There were 3 *ichiji Zuka* (milestones). It is said that there were "Yamanaka-no-ichiji Zuka" around the intersection of Route 21 and the JR Takayama Line, but now there is only a stone statue on roads. As for "Rakuten-no-ichiji Zuka" and "Shinkano-no-ichiji Zuka", there is only a sign left.

- Osage Pond
- Buryo Shiro's 4 mogo monument (Yamanaka-no-ichiji Zuka run)
- Rakuten-no-ichiji Zuka
- Nakumi Kano Jokin's grave
- Hayashi Shrine
- Shinkano-no-ichiji Zuka run
- Shinkano road sign
- Stone's Temple

There was a poem about the Nakasendo, called "Only if Kiso Bridge, Ota ferryboat and Usui Pass didn't exist"



Ota-juku

Unuma-juku



Ota-juku

From Ota-juku to Unuma-juku

Most of this portion of the course is occupied by Route 21 and only mountain paths just off Route 21 are there to remind us of ancient times.

Around this area of approximately 1.5 kilometers from Kisojuku to the Onwayama road sign, there is no Nakasendo left because of the levees of Kiso River. Apart from Route 21, around Kawakami, the Nakasendo leads to the approach. You can enjoy splendid views of Kiso River, known as the Japan Fibre, in front of you.

The Nakasendo leads to the path toward Utsu Pass under JR Takayama horses with Kiso River behind. From here, you take unmarked mountain paths, though nowadays they are well-organized, on which there are "Utatsubo-no-ichiji Zuka" left, and well-organized stone pavements, known as "Japan Fibre Unuma-no-mori".

- Omaya-minato road sign
- Omaya-minato run
- Hoshikake Temple-no-Jozon
- Toriwaki-no-ichiji Zuka run
- Katsuyama road sign
- Katsuyama-minato
- Wayu-kamon
- Kurusu ferryboat run
- Utatsubo-no-ichiji Zuka
- Kakko Pond

On Route 21 today, looking at what used to be there in ancient times gives us a feeling of pathos.



Mitake-juku

Fushimi-juku

Ota-juku



Mitake-juku

From Fushimi-juku to Ota-juku


In most of this portion of the course, the Nakasendo passes Kani City, including the area from the west of "Inuyama-kado road sign" to "Inawashiro ferryboat" and "Ota ferryboat", which are on opposite sides of the river in Ota-juku (Minokamo City).

All roads in this portion of the course are well-maintained as national and city roads, and you can no longer see what used to exist along the Nakasendo in ancient times; however, you can see remains which remind us of those times, such as stone pavements "Inawashiro Temple", "Ota-no-ichiji Zuka" and "Sakurano".

It is said that ferries around here used to be located in Ota but they moved to Inawashiro with changes in the flow of Kiso River. There are some small remains of the "Ota-no-ichiji Zuka" stone monument, but there is no "Shinkano-no-ichiji Zuka" stone monument left.


- Inuyama-kado road sign
- Inawashiro ferryboat ruin Park
- Inawashiro ferryboat run
- Sakurano-zaumi
- Ota-no-ichiji Zuka run
- Ota ferryboat run
- Kawai ferryboat run

Why don't you have a "lunch box" at the "observation tower at Moronoki Pass" ?



Mitake-juku

Mizunami City border



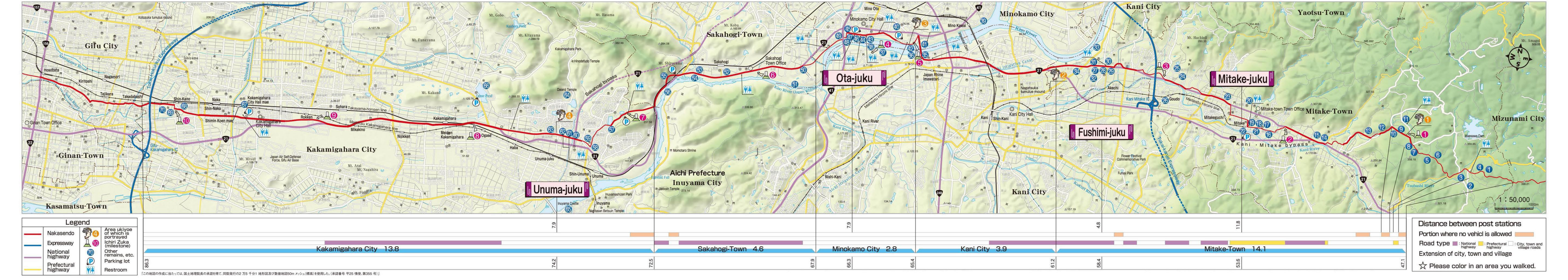
Mitake-juku

Mitake-juku

Mitake-juku flourished as the town of Gorkoku Temple from ancient times and after it was organized in 1602. First among the post stations along Nakasendo, it flourished with the passage of people, materials, information and culture.

Old streets from Nakasendo Mitake-juku to the west, there are horin runs and Shoya-kakeya, which remains just as it was, in particular the main temple building of Chishaku Temple in the east entrance of the post station and 24 Buddhist statues in the temple, which are important Cultural Properties designated by the national government, give us a feel for history since ancient times.

- Ukyoe by Hiroshige Utawaga, "Mitake"
- Kanmachi-no-Yojin-do
- Mitake-juku horin run
- Nakasendo Mitake-juku Shoya-kakeya
- Nakasendo Mitake-juku
- Gorkoku Temple
- Gukyo Temple
- Mitake-juku Wawaikan
- Mitake-juku Sanan Hiroba



Terminal point of Nakasendo Minoji Takes us back into the Warring States period.



Tarui-juku

Sekigahara-juku

Imasu-juku

Shiga Prefecture border



Tarui-juku

Imasu-juku is located on the western edge of the 16th old post station along Nakasendo Mino. In this post station, which is still quiet now, are "Toyaba" (Erawatsu-no-kawara) and "Toyota" (all-night light), which tell the story of ancient times.

- Ukyoe by Hiroshige Utawaga, "Imasu"
- Miyoshi-j Temple
- Toyaba
- Imasu-juku-no-joyoto

From Imasu-juku to Shiga prefecture border

This portion of the course is located on the western edge of Nakasendo Mino. There are remains left, such as "Kunagageshi-nosaka" (sage comes to enjoy) and "Nemomogari monument". This side ditch is the promontory border between "Mino Province" and "Omori Province" and the terminal point of Nakasendo Mino, where there are many legends and remains left.

- Kunagageshi-no-saka
- Nemomogari monument

The Seino region is guarded by Nangu-san and Tanigumi-san. There is Minokubun-ji Temple ruin.



Akasaka-juku

Tarui-juku



Akasaka-juku

Tarui-juku

Tarui-juku, facing Owake in Minoji, flourished as the town of Nangu Shrine.

In this post station, there are crooked old streets, which remind us of ancient times. There are also historic sites, such as "Hiru Otsuka tumulus mound" (famous for colored leaves) and "Minokubun-ji Temple ruin". There are many high spots, such as Mino Ichimoriyama "Nangu Shrine" (famous as a peony garden) and "Minokubun-ji Temple ruin". Off the Nakasendo, in "Minoji", which passes from Owake, Tarui-Town in the direction of Nagoya, there is an avenue of approximately 50 pine trees left, which reminds us of ancient times.

- Hiru Otsuka tumulus mound
- Enko-ji Temple (with Wooden Shokannon statue, important Cultural Property by the national government)
- Ukyoe by Hiroshige Utawaga, "Tarui"
- Imi Kamemuraya
- Kamiya-zuka
- Nangu Taisha Shrine stone torii
- Tarui-no-zaumi
- Honyoji Temple
- Nangu Taisha Shrine
- Roku Shrine big torii
- Rokushin Temple

From Akasaka-juku to Tarui-juku

This portion of the course gives us a relative feel for the atmosphere of ancient times.

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- Nangu Taisha Shrine
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- Rokushin Temple

You continue into the solemn "Ibukuroishi", with a view of Mt. Ibuki in front of you.



Goudo-juku

Miei-juku

Akasaka-juku



Goudo-juku

From Mieji-juku to Akasaka-juku

In this portion of the course, the Nakasendo passes in a westward direction to Mt. Ibuki. You will proceed into the solemn "Ibukuroishi". The flow of the river used to be west of Roku village, but it changed to the current flow due to river improvement in the Taisho Era and Roku village became located on the opposite side of the river. In Roku, a "Ozu Koen" related to Imperial Princess Kasuga-no-ara, which used to be located near Shirogami Shrine on the opposite side of Harano River, which was unusually far from the Nakasendo.

The Nakasendo takes a winding route around the border between Goudo-Town and Ogaki City and gives us a feel for the atmosphere of ancient times although there are very few remains left.

- Ozu Koen
- Roku ferryboat
- Sakaishi road sign
- Yanagihara-no-ichiji Zuka run
- Aski-no-ichiji Zuka run

From Goudo-juku to Akasaka-juku


The route of this portion of the course remains unchanged and nowadays has heavy traffic. There are old streets left, especially in the area of Honden, Moushi City, in which "Honden-no-Enmeiji" gives us a feel for the atmosphere of ancient times.

There are no old houses left to remind us of ancient times. In Goudoji, because of fires due to World War II and Imperial Princess Kasuga-no-ara, which used to be located near Shirogami Shrine on the opposite side of Harano River, which was unusually far from the Nakasendo.

The Nakasendo takes a winding route around the border between Goudo-Town and Ogaki City and gives us a feel for the atmosphere of ancient times although there are very few remains left.


- Baba-no-hizishio
- Honden-no-Enmeiji
- Ukyoe by Hiroshige Utawaga, "Miei"
- Miei-no-ichiji Zuka run
- Miei-ji Temple Kanzen
- Miei-juku horin run
- Miei Castle ruin
- Monument related to Kasuga-no-tsukune at Kumano Shrine

Kano-juku was the largest post station among 17 post stations in Mino as the town of Kano Castle.



Kano-juku

Goudo-juku



Kano-juku

From Kano-juku to Goudo-juku

Unfortunately you can hardly see what used to exist in the area from Kano-juku to Kagashima in ancient times. Only the "Ichiji Zuka" run monument and "Ono-no-ichiji Zuka" stone monument, at Kikuchi Shrine slightly south of Nakasendo-horizon, remind us of ancient times.

The Kagashima area flourished, facing Kagashima-minato at Nagara River, and there are some houses along the street which remain as they were, such as "Oshichi Temple" that is linked with the legend of Kikuchi Shrine. Around here there is a ferryboat left, which is very rare now. From the "Ono-no-ichiji Zuka" you can have a beautiful view of Mt. Kinka.

- Ichiji Zuka run monument
- Ono-no-ichiji Zuka run monument
- Oshichi Temple
- Oshichi ferryboat
- Kagashima-minato

From Kakamigahara City border to Kano-juku

Nakasendo in Gifu City is paved now, but the route and road width remain nearly unchanged; even downtown, you can see houses on the street, road signs, temples and shrines that give us a historical feel.

Around here, the Nakasendo takes a route along higher natural embankments and datta edges, because it passes through the island swamp.

You can see a "Kikuchi jinja ruin" and "Ryogee-no-izodori road sign" but surprisingly in this downtown area, there are also both "Hosotate-no-ichiji Zuka" left.

- Taijikan Shrine
- Taijikan Shrine torii and road sign
- Kotachi jinja ruin
- Hosotate-no-ichiji Zuka
- Ryogee-no-izodori road sign

