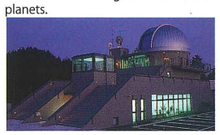
a Ayabe City Astronomical Observatory: Pao

It boasts one of the largest reflecting telescopes in Japan with a 95 centimeter diameter, which enables the observation of galaxies as well as planets.



Access … 5mins walk from the [Sato] stop on the Aya Bus Shinoda Sakuragaoka Line from JR Ayabe Station
Tel … 0773-42-8080 **Admission** … 200 yen **Open** … Tue/Wed/Thu 9:00–16:30 Fri/Sat/Sun 9:00–21:30
Closed … Mondays/Day following a public holiday/New Year' s break

b Ayabe City Museum

Visitors can appreciate important cultural relics from ancient eras and learn about the historical heritage of Ayabe City. In addition to a permanent exhibition about the geographical features and history of Ayabe, various special exhibitions are held every year.

Access…5mins walk from the [Sato] stop on the Aya Bus Shinoda Sakuragaoka Line from JR Ayabe Station **Tel**…0773-43-1366
Admission…Free
Open…9:00-17:00
Closed…Mondays/New Year's Break

c Ayabe Rose Garden

The Ayabe Rose Garden has been lovingly created by volunteers. The garden is host to a rose festival in spring and autumn where 120 varieties and 1200 roses fight for supremacy.

Access…Same as Ayabe Gunze Square

Access to Ayabe City

By car

From Kyoto: Approx. 80km via Kyoto Jukan Expressway → National Route 27

From Osaka: Approx. 115km via the Chugoku Expressway → Maizuru Wakasa Expressway, or Approx. 90km via National Route 176 → National Route 173 → National Route 27

From Nagoya: Approx. 215km via the Meishin Expressway → Hokuriku Expressway → Maizuru Wakasa Expressway or Approx. 210km via the Higashi Meihan Expressway → Shin-Meishin Expressway → Meishin Expressway → Kyoto Jukan Expressway → National Route 27

By train

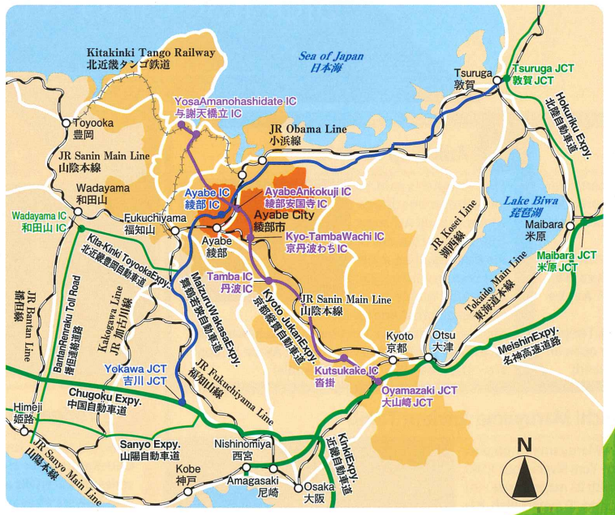
From Kyoto: Approx. 1hr on the Sanin Main Line (Limited Express)

From Osaka:Approx. 1hr 50mins on the Tokaido Main Line (New Rapid Service) →Sanin Main Line (Limited Express) or Approx. 1hr 50mins on the Fukuchiyama Line (Limited Express) → Sanin Main Line

From Nagoya: Approx. 2hrs on the Shinkansen → Sanin Main Line (Limited Express)

By scheduled bus

From Osaka:Approx. 2hrs 10mins direct
From Tokyo (Shinagawa): Approx. 8hrs 30mins direct



Cycle Rental

300 yen for the first 4 hours and 100 yen for every additional hour. Full-day cycle rental for 600 yen.Bicycles can be rented from 9:00 to 18:00.

Reception/Rental location

Ayabe Tourist Information Center／0773-42-9550(South Exit JR Ayabe Station)

Ayabe City Tourist Agency
11-4 Higashi-Ishigatsubo Ekimae-Dori, Ayabe City, Kyoto
(Inside the Ayabe Tourist Information Center)
TEL：0773-42-9550 FAX：0773-42-8514
http://www.ayabe-kankou.net/

Ayabe City Sightseeing Exchange Division
8-1 Wakatake-cho, Ayabe City, Kyoto
TEL：0773-42-3280
FAX：0773-42-4406
http://www.city.ayabe.lg.jp

The gateway to the coastline of Kyoto
A city of textiles woven with harmony

Ayabe

海の京都

The city of Ayabe is known for two symbols, Gunze and Oomoto. These two forces, each with their own history, go hand in hand, just like the supple nature of twill weaves. Feel a sense of the nostalgia and warmth of old Japan as you walk around the city and its streetscapes steeped in history, with old Japanese inns, sweet shops, and range of other unique specialty shops.

Symbolic history behind Ayabe – The silk city

Gunze

Gunze Area

One of Japan' s leading textile manufacturers, Gunze, was founded in Ayabe in 1896, breathing vitality into the area to the point where it was known across Japan as "the silk city" . Today, the Gunze Memorial Hall (formerly the head office) and the head office factory gate have been restored and preserved as historic monuments that have given rise to the modern-day silk industry. Ayabe Gunze Square was also opened in May 2014 as a new attraction and has become a hub of interaction for visitors to the area.

Access … 10mins walk from the North Exit of JR Ayabe Station or less than a minute' s walk from the [Ayabe Gunze Square-mae] stop on the Aya Bus from the South Exit of JR Ayabe Station
TEL…Ayabe Gunze Square (Ayabe Tokusankan)0773－43－0811
Gunze Museum 0773－42－3181 (Mon-Fri)
0773－43－1050 (Sat-Sun)

Gunze Memorial hall **Open**…Friday only 10:00-16:00 **Admission**…Free

Gunze Museum

Ayabe Tokusankan(Ayabe Product Shop)

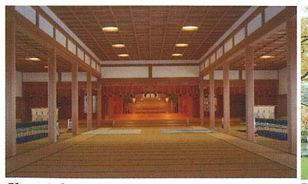
Power spot surrounded by an imperial feeling

Oomoto

Oomoto Area

The southern end of the city is home to the Oomoto Headquarters, Baishoen (translated as "garden of plum and pine trees"), a religious sect founded in Ayabe in 1892 and is surrounded by tranquility. Visitors can view a large number of valuable buildings, including the Mirokuden, designated a tangible cultural asset of Japan; the main worship hall, Choseiden, said to be one of the largest wooden structures in the 20th Century; and the Konohanaan, also designated an important cultural property of Japan. The traditional Japanese gardens are beautifully maintained, making it a popular power spot for visitors to feel close to nature.

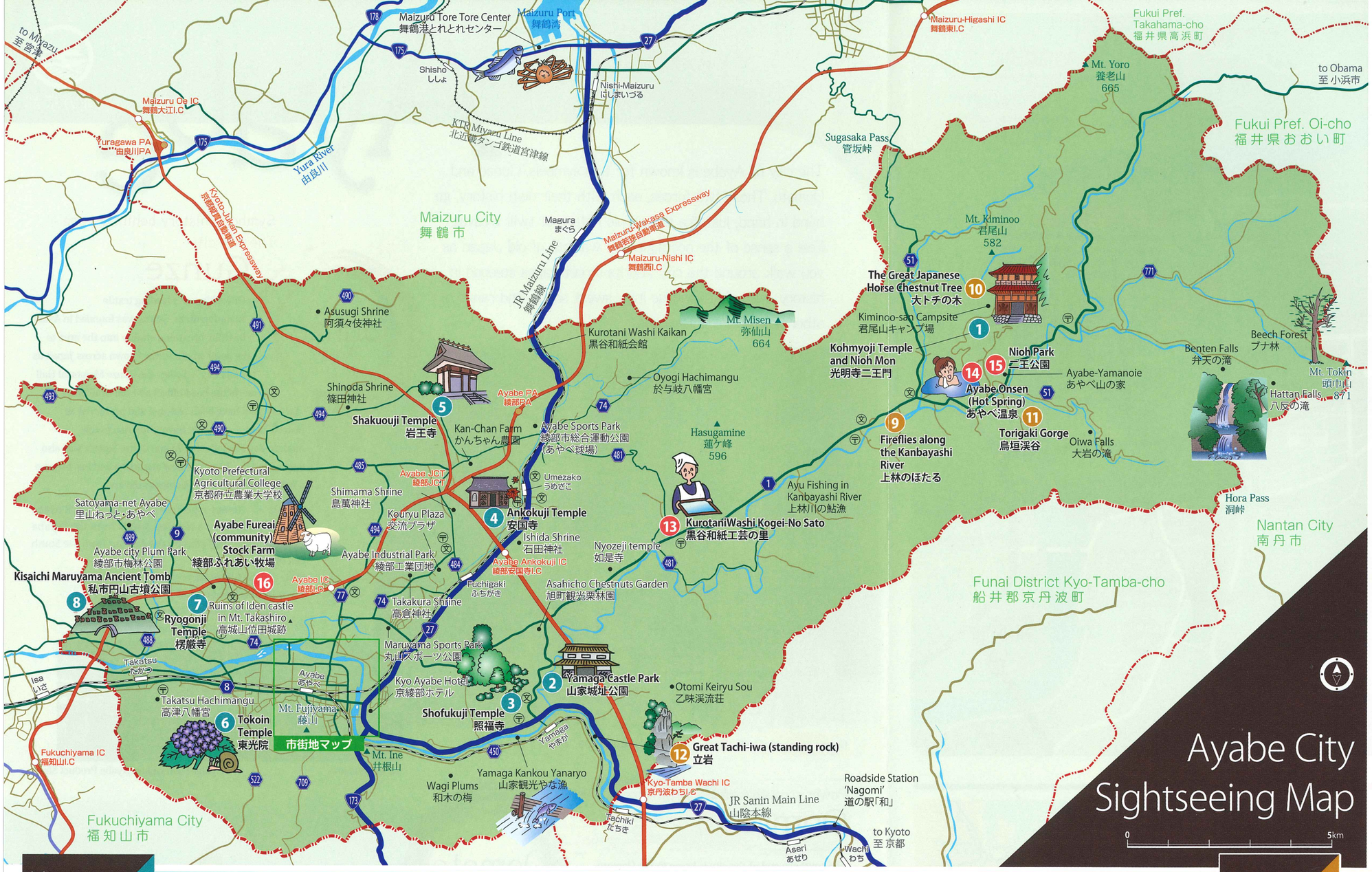
Access…20mins walk from the South Exit of JR Ayabe Station
TEL…0773－42－0187 *Bookings are required to see inside the shrines.



Chosei-den

Konohana-an

Mirokuden A large number of valuable resources depicting the history of Oomoto can be viewed in the shrine.



Experiences

13 KurotaniWashi Kogei-No Sato

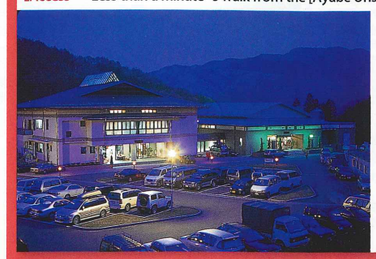
The craft of producing Kurotaniwashi(traditional hand-madeJapanese paper) has a history of over 800 years and is designated as an intangible cultural treasure by the Kyoto prefecture. This washi craft center accepts reservations from groups of 5 or more people to participate in washi-making classes. Contact the center directly for more information.

Access … Less than a minute' s walk from the [Tokura(Kurotaniwashi kogei-nosato-mae)] stop on the Aya Bus Kanbayashi Line from JR Ayabe Station
Tel…0773-45-1056 (Kurotani Kogei-No Satomae) **Open**…Saturday and Sunday

14 Ayabe Onsen (Hot Spring)

Ayabe Onsen is a public bath house where you can enjoy many different types of hot spring, such as a hot spring with medicinal herbs, an open-air hot spring, as well as other sauna facilities. They also have a Japanese restaurant, gift shop and nine guest rooms.

Access … Less than a minute' s walk from the [Ayabe Onsen-mae] stop on the Aya Bus Kanbayashi Line from JR Ayabe Station **Open** … Baths 10:00 – 21:00 (reception open until 20:30) Restaurant/Kiosk 10:00 – 21:00 (last order 20:00) **Closed** … 4th Monday of each month (following day if that day coincides with a public holiday)
Tel … 0773-55-0262 (Ayabe Onsen)

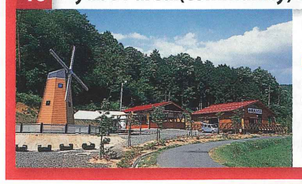


15 Nioh Park

Neighboring Ayabe Hot Spring, this park houses mini golf course, tennis courts, and three groundgolf courses.

Access … Less than a minute' s walk from the [Nioh Koen] stop on the Aya Bus Kanbayashi Line from JR Ayabe Station **Tel** … 0773-55-0318 (Nioh Park) **Open** … 9:00 – Sunset **Closed** … 4th Monday of each month (following day if that day coincides with a public holiday)

16 Ayabe Fureai(community) Stock Farm

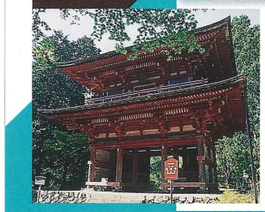


It houses a petting zoo and a restaurant specializing in grilled food.

Access … 15mins by car from JR Ayabe Station **Closed** … Tuesday (following day if Tuesday coincides with a public holiday) **Tel** … 0773-48-0266 (Ayabe Fureai Stock Farm) 0773-48-1000 Fureai Cafeteria (Heidi' s Kitchen)

History

1 Kohmyoji Temple and Nioh Mon



Kohmyoji Temple is said to have been commissioned by Shotoku Taishi (573-621: regent and politician in the Asuka period) in 599. The Nioh Mon gate of this temple is a designated national treasure. Its double-gates were quite rare when it was built (1242-1253) in the Kamakura era.

Access … 40mins walk from the [Ayabe Onsen-mae] stop on the Aya Bus Kanbayashi Line from JR Ayabe Station
Tel … 0773-55-0550 (Kiminoo-san Kohmyoji Temple)

2 Yamaga Castle Park

During the Edo period, jinyas were the administrative headquarters of small domains governed by feudal lords. This park was built at the site of the old Yamaga Jinya administered by the Tani family. This park is famous for plums and cherry blossoms.

Access…15mins walk from the [Yamaga] stop on the Aya Bus Kanbayashi Line from JR Ayabe Station
Tel…0773-42-9550 (Ayabe Tourist Information Center)

3 Shofukuji Temple

The temple houses three gardens. One garden in particular called Ganshohtei is designated as a place of extraordinary scenic beauty by the national government.

Access … 5mins walk from the [Yamaga] stop on the Aya Bus Kanbayashi Line from JR Ayabe Station
Tel…0773-46-0185 (Shofukuji Temple)
Admission … 500yen (only open on weekdays, Appointment required)

4 Ankokuji Temple

This temple is said to have been the place where Takauji Ashikaga (1305-1358: founder of the Ashikaga shogunate) was born. In autumn, you can enjoy maple trees with beautiful crimson foliage.

Access … 1min walk from the [Ankokuji-mae] stop on the Aya Bus Kurotani Line from JR Ayabe Station
Tel…0773-44-1565 (Ankokuji Temple)

5 Shakuouji Temple

This temple houses a famous suzuri-ish (ink stone) used by the Emperor Saga (786-842). The Emperor Saga was one of the most celebrated calligraphers of his time. The temple is named after the Emperor Saga' s ink stone, which was made near the temple.

Access … 20mins walk from the [Shichihyakkoku] stop on the Aya Bus Nishiyata Line from JR Ayabe Station
Tel…0773-44-0646/0773-42-2432

6 Tokoin Temple

Tokoin Temple is an ancient temple opened in 673 and is also known as the hydrangea temple. In early summer, the approach to the temple comes alive in a sea of beautifully colored hydrangeas.

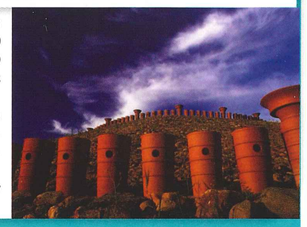
Access … 45mins walk from the [Fureai Center-mae] stop on the Aya Bus Tozai Line from JR Ayabe Station
Tel…0773-42-2432 (Tokoin Temple)

7 Ryogonji Temple

This temple is nicknamed "Crow-Temple" , because many crows are painted on its fusuma (papered sliding doors). Visitors can enjoy various flowers in its garden, such as cherry, azalea and lotus flowers.

Access … 15mins walk from the [Tachi] stop on the Aya Bus Shiga Nanboku Line from JR Ayabe Station
Tel…0773-47-0043 (Ryogonji Temple)

8 Kisaichi Maruyama Ancient Tomb



The Kisaichi Maruyama tomb was built near the Yura River about 1,500 years ago. With its majestic size - 70 meters long and 10 meters high, it is the largest in Kyoto Prefecture.

Access … 5mins walk from the [Yudono] stop on the Aya Bus Nishisaka Line from JR Ayabe Station
Tel … 0773-43-1366 (Ayabe City Museum)

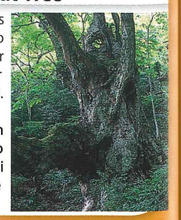
Nature

9 Fireflies along the Kanbayashi River

Kanbayashi River is a habitat for the many hotaru (fireflies).

Access … Along the banks of the Kanbayashi River. To see the fireflies get off at the [Teramachi] stop on the Aya Bus Kanbayashi Line from JR Ayabe Station.

10 The Great Japanese Horse Chestnut Tree



The tree is about 2,000 years old and the largest in Kyoto prefecture with its 23 meter height. It stands near Kohmyoji Temple and Mt. kiminoo.

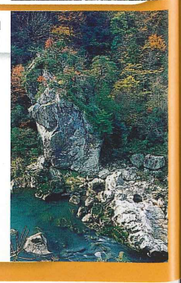
Access … 1hr walk from the [Kimiosanguchi] stop on the Aya Bus Kanbayashi Line from JR Ayabe Station.

11 Torigaki Gorge

Torigaki Gorge, located in the Oku-Kanbayashi area, boasts a series of waterfalls and beautiful wild flowers all year around. Mt. Shide and Ookuri Pass located nearby also offer breathtaking views.

Access … 20mins walk from the [Shimoichiba] stop on the Aya Bus Kanbayashi Line from JR Ayabe Station

12 Great Tachi-iwa (standing rock)



Designated as one of the 200 places of extraordinary scenic beauty in Kyoto prefecture. It is about 20 meters high and its circumference measures 40 meters.

Access…25mins walk from the [Yamaga] stop on the Aya Bus Kanbayashi Line from JR Ayabe Station