

# 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.



Michelin  
Green Guide  
Two Stars

## 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, summer orange trees, clay walls, and stone foundations.



Movie

### 2 Hagi Castle Ruins: Shizuki Park

Hagi Castle was constructed in 1604 by the Mōri lord. 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 / Elem. & Middle School 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 lords 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 / Elem. & Middle School 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 / Elem. & Middle School 100 yen

### 8 Unrin-ji 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 "Cat Temple" to show their appreciation.

2489 Kibekami, Hagi City  
40 min drive from downtown Hagi



Movie



## Nature



### 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 summer orange ice cream will be your favorite summer memory.

Horiuchi, Hagi City

### 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



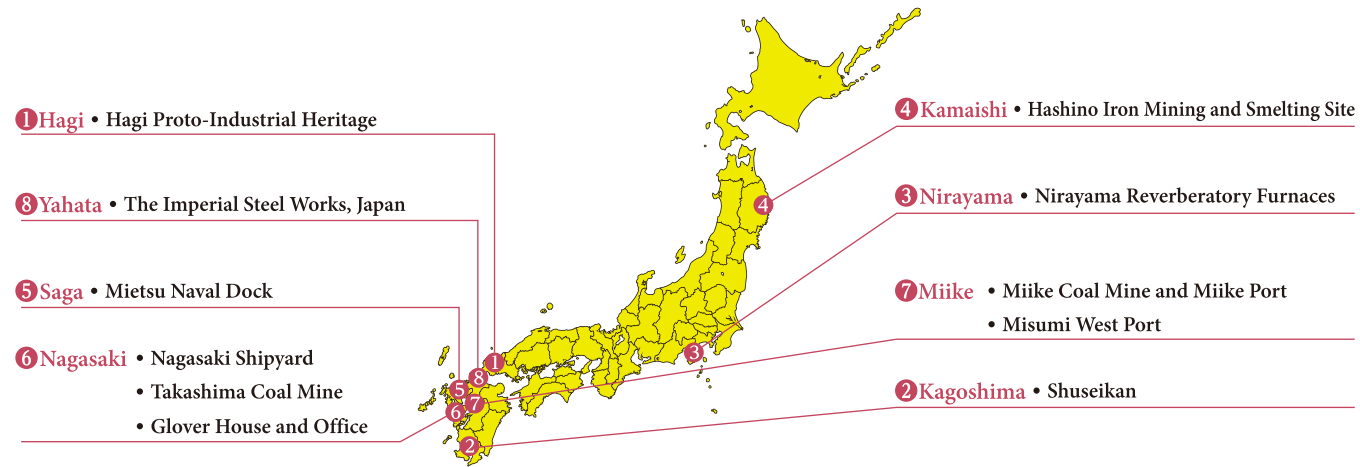
Movie



## World Heritage Sites: Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution



Japan imported Western technology in the later half of the 19th century, followed by rapid breakthroughs in development 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.



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 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 Tataru Iron Works

Ironworks for the traditional Japanese tataru 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 Marchant Class District.  
Horiuchi and Gofuku-machi, Hagi City etc.

### 16 Shokasonjuku Academy

Private school supervised by Yoshida Shōin in the late Edo period. Preaching the urgent importance of engineering studies, many students performed 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 /  
Elem. & Middle School 100 yen  
Closed 1st Tuesday/Wednesday of February

## Hagi World Heritage Sites Virtual Adventure (VR)

Explore  
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, know as the "seven disguises" of Hagi Yaki pottery. Recently, artistic display 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.



Movie

### 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 / 3-12 yo 600 yen

Walk through  
town wearing  
A kimono!

### 3 Kimono Experience

Hagi's antique atmosphere provides the perfect chance 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 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. Please try Hagi's local foods including top quality Kenran brand beef, and specialty products made with summer 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 Summer Oranges

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

5 Joki Manju

Soft little cakes in the shape of steam ships, 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.



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 are only found in Hagi.



Movie

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.

3 Autumn [Maple] All November

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

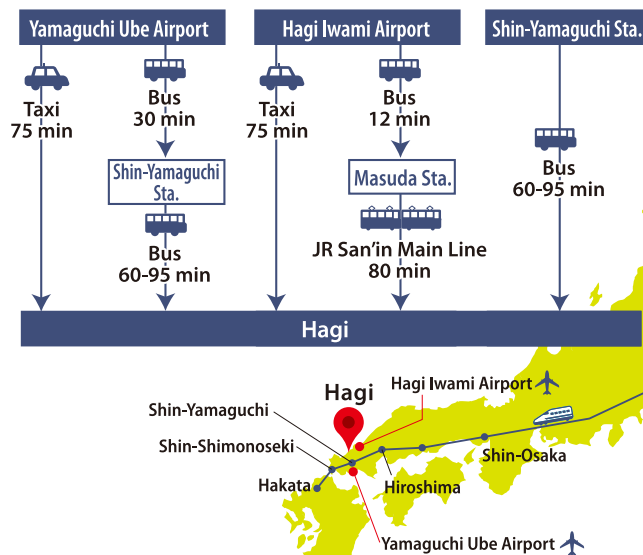
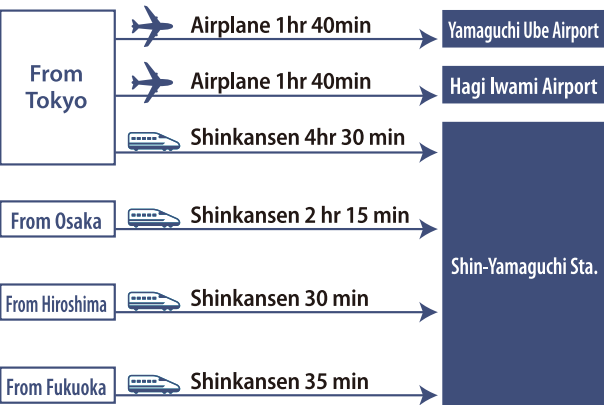
4 Winter [Camellia] Late January - Late March

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



Movie

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.



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

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

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

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

5 Oshikurago Boat Races Early June Lower Hashimoto River

July 6 Kikugahama Beach Opening Mid July - Mid Aug Kikugahama Beach

7 Suga Bay Fireworks Late July Suga Bay Area

8 Hagi Sea of Japan Great Fireworks Aug 1 Kikugahama Beach Area

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

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

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

6 Hagi Bamboo Lamp Festival Mid Oct Hagi Castle Town Area

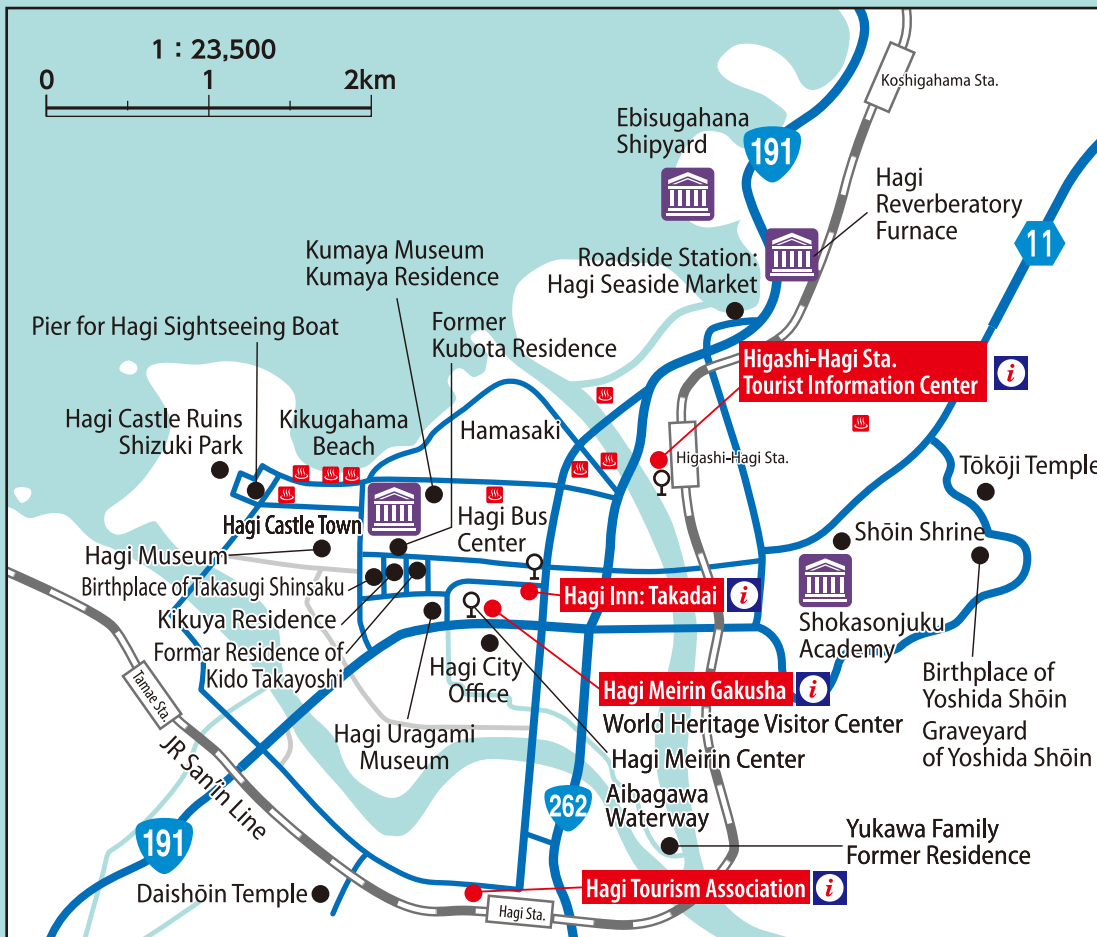
7 Hagi Tamachi Hagi Yaki Pottery Festival Mid Oct Tamachi Shopping Arcade

8 Hagi Jidai Matsuri Mid Nov Hagi Castle Town etc.

9 Hagi Open Gardens Mid Nov Multiple Locations in Hagi City



# Hagi City MAP



- Hot Springs
- Tourist Information
- World Heritage Site

1 : 380000  
0 5 10 km

## Other Local Tourist Sites



## Hagi Tourism Association

3537-3 Tsubaki, Hagi City, Yamaguchi 758-0061 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.

