The Broader Region Surrounding Gifu

To Central Gifu City

**Departing from Nagoya**
- JR Nagoya Station → JR Gifu Station
  - JR Tokaido Main Line Rapid • 18 min • ¥470

**Departing from Central Japan International Airport**
- Central Japan International Airport → JR Gifu Station
  - [Passing through Meitetsu Nagoya Station] → Meitetsu Gifu Station
    - Meitetsu Limited Express • 1 hr 20 min • ¥1,340
    - Meitetsu Airport Rapid Ltd. Exp. μ-SKY (read “mu-sky”) • 1 hr • ¥1,700

**Departing from Tokyo**
- Tokyo Station → JR Gifu Station
  - JR Tokaido Shinkansen • 1 hr 40 min
  - JR Tokaido Main Line • 18 min • ¥11,310 in total
- Tokyo Station (Nihonbashi Exit) → JR Gifu Station (North Exit)
  - JR Tokai Bus “Dream Nagoya” • 8 hr • ¥6,580

**Departing from Osaka**
- Shin-Osaka Station → JR Gifu Station
  - JR Tokaido Shinkansen • 50 min
  - JR Tokaido Main Line • 18 min • ¥7,210 in total

To Shirakawa-go

**Departing from Nagoya**
- Meitetsu Bus Center → Shirakawa-go
  - [Gifu Bus on the Shirakawa-go Express Line] • 3 hr • ¥3,900
Customers cannot be accommodated when seats are full, so prior reservations are highly recommended. Two buses per day. ☎️058-240-0469

**To Hida Takayama**

**Departing from Gifu City**
- JR Gifu Station → Takayama Station
  - JR Takayama Main Line Limited Express Wide View Hida • 2 hr • ¥4,940
    - Or ~
- Meitetsu Gifu Station Bus Terminal → Takayama Nohi Bus Center
  - [Nohi Bus/Gifu Bus on the Takayama-Gifu Line] • 2 hr • ¥2,570

**Departing from Nagoya**
- JR Nagoya Station → Takayama Station
  - JR Limited Express Wide View Hida • 2 hr 30 min • ¥6,030
    - Or ~
- Meitetsu Bus Center → Takayama Nohi Bus Center
  - [Nohi Bus/Meitetsu Bus/JR Tokai Bus on the Takayama-Nagoya Line] • 2 hr 30 min • ¥2,980

**Departing from Tokyo**
- Tokyo Station → JR Gifu Station
  - JR Gifu Station (North Exit)
  - JR Tokai Bus “Dream Nagoya” • 8 hr • ¥6,580
- Tokyo Station → JR Toyama Station → Takayama Station
  - JR Hokuriku Shinkansen • 2 hr 8 min
  - JR Limited Express Wide View Hida • 1 hr 30 min • ¥15,830 in total

**Departing from Osaka**
- Shin-Osaka Station → JR Gifu Station
  - JR Tokaido Shinkansen • 50 min
  - JR Tokaido Main Line • 18 min • ¥7,210 in total
- Osaka Namba Station West Exit → Takayama Nohi Bus Center
  - [Nohi Bus/Kintetsu Bus on the Takayama-Kyoto/Osaka Line] • 5 hr 32 min • ¥3,300

Note: All times and prices indicated are variable, are dependent on a variety of factors (such as the time of year), and are subject to change.

Central Japan Railway Company (JR Central)
http://english.jr-central.co.jp
Nagoya Railroad (Meitetsu) http://www.meitetsu.co.jp/eng/
Nohi Bus https://www.nouhibus.co.jp/english/
The Broader Region Surrounding Gifu

石川/Ishikawa

Kenroku-en Garden
Thought to be one of the finest gardens in Japan, Kenroku-en is a spacious area complete with ponds and tea gardens that is rife with seasonal beauty.

Omi-cho Market
Almost 300 years old, this marketplace is the perfect place for purchasing fresh fish or any of Ishikawa Prefecture’s many unique products.

獨立／Ishikawa

Tojinbo
Stretching for over one kilometer, these precipitous cliffs were formed by volcanic activity millions of years ago, and are thought to be one of Japan’s most beautiful natural wonders.

Awara Hot Spring
As Fukui’s foremost hot springs district, it boasts many scenic areas that are unique to hot springs towns. Explore this location as you enjoy the feel of stone pavement beneath your feet and the fragrance of steaming hot spring water in the air.

富山／Toyama

Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route
This route takes those who pass through it on a journey through the Northern Japanese Alps, which includes mountains over 3,000 meters tall. Marvel at the many wonders of Mother Nature that can be seen here, including great valleys of snow.

Gokayama
This UNESCO World Heritage Site is home to many gassho-zukuri-style thatched roof houses that can only be seen in certain areas that experience heavy snowfall.

獨立／Ishikawa

Ishikawa

Lake Biwa
With a surface area of over 670 kilometers squared, Lake Biwa is the largest lake in Japan. The nature surrounding it thrives, and its many stunning vistas make it quite the picturesque location.

滋賀／Shiga

Nagahama
Most well known for its “Kurokabe Square,” a distinctively atmospheric historic district that houses a wide variety of glass galleries and workshops, and restaurants that serve local cuisine.

獨立／Ishikawa

Nagahama

Lake Biwa
With a surface area of over 670 kilometers squared, Lake Biwa is the largest lake in Japan. The nature surrounding it thrives, and its many stunning vistas make it quite the picturesque location.

滋賀／Shiga

Ise Grand Shrine
Hidden away deep in the forest, this Shinto shrine dedicated to Amaterasu-omikami, goddess of the sun and patron deity of the Japanese imperial family, has existed for millennia.

愛知／Aichi

Nagoya Castle
Originally constructed in 1612 and then largely destroyed in the fires of the Second World War, the remnants of the original were carefully integrated into its reconstruction.

獨立／Ishikawa

Lake Biwa
With a surface area of over 670 kilometers squared, Lake Biwa is the largest lake in Japan. The nature surrounding it thrives, and its many stunning vistas make it quite the picturesque location.
The Different Regions Within Gifu

Located precisely in the center of the country, Gifu Prefecture has long been an important crossroads of east and west Japan. The culture of Gifu has therefore been heavily influenced by both, resulting in a great diversity of traditions nurtured here. Gifu is also a land of varied terrain, from the majestic mountains of Hida to the north - which stretch to heights of up to 3,000 meters above sea level - to the fertile, expansive plains and riverlands of Mino to the south - which are located right at sea level. Gifu Prefecture is broadly divided into these two regions, which used to exist independently - as Hida Province and Mino Province - before Japan’s adoption of the prefectural system. The Mino region - a term often used to refer to the entire southern half of Gifu Prefecture, corresponding to the territory of Mino Province - is today further divided into four sub-regions: the western region of Seino, the eastern region of Tono, the central region of Chuno, and the Gifu region that encompasses the capital of Gifu City. Take particular care not to confuse the Hida region and the Mino region with Hida City and Mino City!

The Different Regions Within Gifu

- **GUJO** 郡
  - The site of one of Japan’s most famous summer dance festivals, the Gujo Odori.

- **MINOKAMO** 美濃加茂
  - A place where Edo period townsplces remain preserved.

- **SEKI** 関
  - Home of Mino Washi, one of the most celebrated types of traditional Japanese paper.

- **GIFU** 岐阜
  - Home to the spectacle of cormorant fishing, a tradition that has continued on the Nagara River for 1,500 years.

- **OGAKI・SEKIGAHARA** 大垣・関ヶ原
  - The “water capital” of the region and the site of Japan’s most famous battle.

- **YORO** 岳老
  - A place of rejuvenating natural beauty and stunning postmodern art.

- **MINO** 美濃
  - The production centers and home of Mino Yaki, the dominant type of pottery in Japan.

- **OKUHIDA HOT SPRING VILLAGES 奥飛騨温泉郷
  - Five onsen districts nested in nature that, together, boast the most open-air hot spring baths of any region in Japan.

- **TAKAYAMA** 高山
  - Internationally famous for its picturesque old quarter and home to one of Japan’s most beautiful festivals.

- **GERO** 下呂
  - An onsen paradise which has historically been counted among Japan’s Three Great Hot Springs.

- **NAKATSUGAWA** 中津川
  - Famous for the old post town of Magome and its superb wagashi Japanese sweets.

- **ENA** 恩那
  - Home of Ena Valley, a site of great natural beauty through all four seasons.
WINTER [Dec ~ Feb]

Day 1

JR Nagoya Station
Limited Express Wide View
Hida (1 hr 40 min)

Nohi Bus (1 hr)
Nohi Bus Center
Takayama Station

Gero Station
Limited Express Wide View
Hida (45 min)

Takayama Station

Stay in
Takayama

Day 2

Takayama Sake
Brewery Tours

Takayama Nohi Bus Center
Nohi Bus (50 min)

“Shirakawa-go” bus stop

Explore the
village of
Shirakawa-go

Stay at the
TOYOTA
Shirakawa-go
Eco-Institute

Day 3

Enjoy an outdoor —
nature activity at
the TOYOTA
Shirakawa-go
Eco-Institute

“Shirakawa-go” bus stop
Nohi Bus (50 min)
Takayama Nohi Bus Center
Nohi Bus (1 hr)

Stay in the
Okuhida Hot
Spring Villages

Day 4

Look upon the —
grand Japan
Alps after taking
the Shinhotaka
Ropeway to the
top of
Mt. Shinhotaka

Shinhotaka Ropeway
Nothi Bus (1 hr 30 min)

Stay at the
TOYOTA
Shirakawa-go
Eco-Institute

Day 1

Winter in Japan is the absolute best time to enjoy hot springs! Have a soak in Gero’s mineral-rich spring water that will refresh your body and mind. Outdoor hot spring baths are especially relaxing in the winter, with the water acting almost as a shield against the crisp air!

Day 2

Enjoy a Japanese-style breakfast with some hoba miso, a local specialty dish in which miso paste and assorted vegetables are grilled over a magnolia leaf.

Day 3

This grand waterfall transforms into a pillar of ice because of the cold. Mid-February marks the beginning of the Ice Festival, during which the waterfall is illuminated to stunning effect.

Day 4

Dip some scrumptious Hida beef in hot water a few times and enjoy it shabu-shabu style, a very common way of eating beef in the region! After the meat’s color changes, dip it in a sauce of your choosing and eat it right up!

If you want to delve deeper into Gifu...

One of Japan’s very best castles

Matsumoto Castle is designated a National Treasure and is one of the most beautiful castles in all of Japan. Come enjoy the castle and the rest of the pleasant city!

Shop for ceramics in Tajimi!

Tajimi is famous for its superb pottery, so it is a perfect place to visit if you want to get your hands on some beautiful, traditional Japanese tableware!
**SPRING** [Mar ~ May]

This former post town, where many inns were located and where many travelers stayed for the night, is built along a 600 meter-long stone-paved path that makes for fantastic photos!

Elegantly constructed merchant houses line both sides of Takayama’s old quarter, making this part of town particularly popular with tourists both from in Japan and from abroad. Springtime here is synonymous with the Takayama Spring Festival, and the cherry blossoms that decorate the town reach their peak from mid to late April.

Ogimachi is a village in which old houses constructed in the gassho-zukuri style remain to this day. Their value is recognized far and wide, and Shirakawa-go is even designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Stay in Takayama

Famed for the okoshi-daiko Shinto ritual - part of the Furukawa Festival held every April - and the white-walled storehouses pictured here lining the canal.

Stroll through the old post town of Magome

You can get some delicious locally made ice cream made with thick, rich milk.

Appreciate the transient beauty of Japan’s most famous flower at the Nawashiro-zakura Cherry Trees

The cherry blossoms’ peak season is from early to mid-April, and their reflection in the pond next to them is one of the most unique and striking elements of any sakura-viewing spot in Japan!

Explore the village of Shirakawa-go

Ogimachi is a village in which old houses constructed in the gassho-zukuri style remain to this day. Their value is recognized far and wide, and Shirakawa-go is even designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Stay in Gero Hot Spring

Known across Japan for its “water of beauties,” Gero is a perfect place for you to spend some quality relaxation time.

Explore the streets of Gero’s hot spring district

Soba (buckwheat noodles) are a specialty of the Magome area.

If you want to delve deeper into Gifu...

- **Day 1**
  - JR Nagoya Station
    - JR Chuo Main Line (1 hr 15 min)
  - Nakatsugawa Station
    - Kita Ena Bus (25 min)
  - "Magome-juku” bus stop
  - Stroll through the old post town of Magome
    - "Magome-juku” bus stop
    - Kita Ena Bus (25 min)
  - Nakatsugawa Station
    - Kita Ena Bus (1 hr)
  - “Kashimo Sogo Jimusho-mae” bus stop
    - Nohi Bus (35 min)
  - Gero Station
  - Appreciate the transient beauty of Japan’s most famous flower at the Nawashiro-zakura Cherry Trees

- **Day 2**
  - Explore the streets of Gero’s hot spring district
  - Gero Station
    - Limited Express Wide View Hida (1 hr)
  - Hida-Furukawa Station
  - Hida Satoyama Cycling

- **Day 3**
  - Explore the town of Hida Furukawa
    - Hida-Furukawa Station
    - JR Takayama Main Line (16 min)
  - Takayama Station
  - Walk through the old quarter of Hida Takayama
    - Stay in Takayama
    - "Shirakawa-go" bus stop

- **Day 4**
  - Explore the village of Shirakawa-go
    - Takayama Nohi Bus Center
    - Nohi Bus (50 min)
    - "Shirakawa-go" bus stop

- **Day 5**
  - Stay in Gero Hot Spring
  - Known across Japan for its “water of beauties,” Gero is a perfect place for you to spend some quality relaxation time.

- **Day 6**
  - Explore the streets of Gero’s hot spring district
  - Gero Station
    - Limited Express Wide View Hida (1 hr)
  - Hida-Furukawa Station
  - Hida Satoyama Cycling

- **Day 7**
  - Explore the village of Shirakawa-go
    - Takayama Nohi Bus Center
    - Nohi Bus (50 min)
    - "Shirakawa-go" bus stop

- **Day 8**
  - Stay in Gero Hot Spring
  - Known across Japan for its “water of beauties,” Gero is a perfect place for you to spend some quality relaxation time.

Visit Kenroku-en, one of Japan’s Three Great Gardens

Nearby Kenroku-en, you will find sites such as Kanazawa Castle and the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa.

Admire Gifu Park’s gorgeous cherry trees

These blossoms reach their peak in early April, and the cherry trees lining the Nagara River are a sight to behold as well.

Have fun cycling while gazing at the beautiful Japanese countryside scenery all around you!
SUMMER [Jun ~ Aug]

**Day 1**

Gifu Castle looming above the plains below at the top of Mt. Kinka. You can take a cable car most of the way up the mountain or hike on foot.

**Gifu Castle**

Watch the spectacle of cormorant fishing on the Nagara River

Stay in Nagaragawa Hot Spring

Enjoy the iron-rich, cloudy water that is characteristic of the onsen here.

**Day 2**

JR Gifu Station

JR Takayama Main Line (35 min)

Mino-Ota Station

Nagaragawa Railway (17 min)

Hamono Kaikan-mae Station

Explore Seki City

Hamono Kaikan-mae Station

Nagaragawa Railway (65 min)

Gujo-Hachiman Station

Jump right in and try your hand at the Gujo Odori Dance

Stay in Gujo Hachiman

**Day 3**

Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza

Gifu Bus (1 hr 40 min)

“Shirakawa-go” bus stop

Explore the village of Shirakawa-go

“Shirakawa-go” bus stop

Nohi Bus (50 min)

Takayama Nohi Bus Center

Limited Express Wide View Hida (45 min) from Takayama Station

Gero Station

Stay in Gero Hot Spring

**Day 4**

Gero Station

Nohi Bus (1 hr)

“Gandate Koen Iriguchi” bus stop

Go waterfall-hopping in Osaka Falls

“Gandate Koen Iriguchi” bus stop

Nohi Bus (1 hr)

Gero Station

Limited Express Wide View Hida (55 min)

Mino-Ota Station

Explore the old post town of Ota-juku on the Nakasendo route

Stay in Gero Hot Spring

The perfect time of year for tomatoes, one of Gero’s delicacies!

**Day 5**

If you want to delve deeper into Gifu...

Walk the historic battlefield of Sekigahara!

The site of Japan’s most famous battle 400 years ago that determined the path the country would follow, Sekigahara sees many tourists interested in Japanese history.

Unagi eel is a local delicacy in Seki and ayu sweetfish is a specialty of Gujo, so be sure to try them out!

Anybody is welcome to participate in this, one of the most famous bon-odori dances in Japan!
**AUTUMN** [Sep ~ Nov]

The colors of Ena Valley reach their peak between early to mid-November, and the combination of the red and yellow-draped mountains and the blue lake makes for a beautiful sight.

At the morning market, you can get your hands on a variety of fresh vegetables, local specialty products, and more!

**Day 1**

- JR Nagoya Station
  - JR Chuo Main Line (1 hr)
- Ena Station
  - JR Chuo Main Line (10 min)
- Nakatsugawa Station
  - Kita Ena Bus (25 min)
  - “Magome-juku” bus stop
- Stroll through and stay in Magome-Juku
  - P61

**Day 2**

- “Magome-juku” bus stop
  - Kita Ena Bus (25 min)
- Nakatsugawa Station
  - Kita Ena Bus (1 hr)
- “Kashimo Sogo Jimusho-mae” bus stop
  - Nohi Bus (35 min)
- Gero Station
  - Shop at the Ideyu Morning Market in Gero
  - P82

**Day 3**

Look upon the grand Japan Alps from the heights of Mt. Shinhotaka’s peak!

- “Shinhotaka Ropeway” bus stop
  - Nohi Bus (1 hr 30 min)
  - Takayama Nohi Bus Center
  - Nohi Bus (50 min)
- Explore and stay in Shirakawa-go
  - P43

**Day 4**

- “Shirakawa-go” bus stop
  - Gifu Bus (1 hr 25 min)
- Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza
  - P60
- Stroll through Gujo Hachiman
  - Gujo-Hachiman Station
  - Nagaragawa Railway (45 min)
- Mino-shi Station
  - Explore Mino City
  - P66

If you want to delve deeper into Gifu...

The Northern Japan Alps glittering like a sea of gold is truly a sight to behold. Peak season is during the month of October, though different areas change color at different times because of the difference in altitude!

The best time to take in the autumn colors in Shirakawa-go is between late October and mid-November.

The area around Gujo Hachiman Castle becomes a blaze of autumn colors during mid to late November, a period whose highlight is the illumination of the castle and its surrounding crimson trees.

Oyada Shrine is one of the most handsome destinations in the entire prefecture during the fall season! The giant maple trees engulfing the shrine and its surrounding areas reach their red-dish peak during mid to late November.

The elegance of Hida Takayama’s old quarter attracts visitors from around the world! Autumn colors are at their best between late October and early November.

Stay in the Okuhida Hot Spring Villages

A region made up of five fantastic hot spring districts, Okuhida is a wonderful place to relieve yourself of the stress of travel.
Traditional Crafts of Gifu

Experience the Ancient Crafts of Gifu Prefecture

There is a long history of thriving craft industries here in Gifu Prefecture. Ceramics in the Tono region, woodcraft in Ogaki and the Hida region, Mino Washi paper, and Seki cutlery are among the most distinctive local industries found in Gifu. The skills and expertise of the artisans – who have passed down the techniques and technologies of these exceptional products for generations – remain treasured by many to this very day.

Mino Washi Paper

Mino Washi owes its creation to the naturally rich environment of the Mino region and the ingenuity of the local people. With recent industrial expansions, a much wider variety of products (including placemats, lamps, and other accessories) are being produced now more than ever before. In 2014, one of the techniques of making Mino Washi by hand was designated as an UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, helping it attract international attention.

Woodcraft

With forests occupying more than 80% of the land, Gifu’s abundant resources and wealth of unique craftsmanship has resulted in a variety of wood products being produced in the region. Traditional techniques have been passed down through generations resulting in advanced carpentry skills that are used to make a wide range of wooden products today, from the finger-jointed masu boxes of Ogaki to the furniture of the Hida region.

Mino Ware

Mino Ware (“Mino Yaki” in Japanese) is a style of ceramic ware produced in the cities of Tajimi, Toki, and Mizunami. Pottery production in this area goes back 1,300 years, and items such as tableware, tiles, and industrial ceramic products began to be mass produced in the 1930s. Mino Ware boasts more than a 50% share of all pottery goods produced in Japan.

Seki Cutlery

Seki cutlery has a long history that dates back some 780 years, and Seki itself originally prospered as a major sword-production area. This was possible because all of the essential elements needed for sword making were found naturally in the surrounding environment. The history and tradition of swordsmithing has been passed down to the present day, helping Seki become known as the largest cutlery production area in Japan – famous for their high-quality knives and scissors.
Experience Gifu’s World-Acclaimed Heritages

In December of 2016, thirty-three traditional float festivals all over Japan were designated as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritages. Three of the 33 festivals - the Takayama Festival, Furukawa Festival, and Ogaki Festival - are located in Gifu. In addition to the three festivals, Gifu Prefecture is home to other world-class heritages such as Shirakawa-go Village and **Hon-Minoshi** Japanese paper. Make sure and tour around these world-class heritages; you won’t be disappointed with the tradition and culture they contain!

### Yama, Hoko, and Yatai Float Festivals of Gifu Prefecture Designated as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritages!

#### Takayama Festival
Exquisitely Crafted Floats Color Takayama’s Historical District

**Spring Festival: April 14 ~ 15**
**Autumn Festival: October 9 ~ 10**

The Takayama Festival is one of Japan’s Three Most Beautiful Festivals and is held twice a year: in the spring and autumn. The yatai floats, thought to have been created in 1718, utilize the master-level craftsmanship of the Hida region to the utmost degree (best seen in the karakuri marionette dolls and the ingeniously engineered modoshi guruma wheels). There are 23 festival floats – 12 in the spring and 11 in the autumn – that color Takayama’s historical district with gorgeous, vibrant colors.

#### Furukawa Festival
The Historical Spectacle Filled with Raw Emotion and Intensity

**April 19 ~ 20**

The Furukawa Festival is an annual celebration held by Keta Wakamiya Shrine. It is comprised of three elements: the omikoshi portable-shrine procession, the intense Okoshi-daiko (literally meaning “drum of awakening”) performance, and the peaceful yatai festival float parade. The highlight of the festival is the Okoshi-daiko performance where different districts – each with their own tsuke-daiko drums – compete late into the night in order to get as close to the gigantic Okoshi-daiko drum as possible.

#### Ogaki Festival
Experience the History of Cultural Exchange

**Saturday and Sunday right before May 15**

The Ogaki Festival is a rare instance in Japan where the yama floats from both the townspeople and a past feudal lord are displayed together. The central location of the Mino region in Japan plays an important role in the festival because one can see connections to both eastern and western festival cultures: the karakuri marionette dolls of the yatai floats were influenced by the Chukyo region’s yama float processions, while the child ka-buki performances were inspired by those of the Kinki region.

Enjoy Breath-Taking Scenery While Connecting With Local History and Culture

### Shirakawa-go World Heritage Site
A Japanese Village Unchanged by Time Where Man and Nature Coexist Peacefully

Shirakawa-go has been designated as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO since 1995, and the thatched roof houses – which give insight into the lifestyle of Japanese people long ago – are the symbol of the village with some of them holding over 300 years of history. The village and surrounding scenery changes with each passing season, allowing for a different experience each time one visits.

### Hon-Minoshi Japanese Paper
Genuine Washi Paper Shaped by Over 1,300 Years of History

*Hon-Minoshi* was designated as an UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2014 for being one of Japan’s Great Techniques for Hand-Making Washi. Only ten percent of Mino Washi products produced can meet the severely strict standards for becoming *Hon-Minoshi*. When creating *Hon-Minoshi*, artisans strive to create the paper in a way that filters light as beautifully as possible, and the soft, pure-white color of the paper is the result of their supreme craftsmanship – it is also considered the paper’s defining characteristic.

### Ayu of the Nagara River System
The Intimate Relationship Deeply Rooted into Everyday Life Here in Gifu

The Nagara River is a symbol of Gifu Prefecture and was chosen as one of Japan’s 100 Most Famous Bodies of Water. The *Ayu* sweetfish that thrive in the river are deeply connected to the local economy, history, and culture. This mutual relationship – which is referred to as the *Satokawa* system – between the locals, the river environment, and the fishery organizations, is highly praised and was designated as a GIAHS (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System) in 2015.

### Chiune Sugihara
A Humanitarian and the Pride of Gifu Prefecture

Chiune Sugihara was a Japanese diplomat during World War II who saved the lives of thousands of Jewish refugees that were fleeing Nazi persecution by issuing them transit visas through Japan. At the Chiune Sugihara memorial hall in Yaotsu-cho, there is a reconstruction of the office in which Chiune Sugihara made the historic decision to issue the transit visas as it appeared during World War II. [http://www.sugihara-museum.jp/index_en.html](http://www.sugihara-museum.jp/index_en.html)

### Sodai Yosui
The Canal Created With Human Ingenuity

*Sodai Yosui* is designated as a Heritage Irrigation Structure (HIS) because of the fact that it is both over 100 years old, and a structure of historical and technological value. This 17-kilometer irrigation canal was built over the course of ten years (construction first began in 1663) with the sheer effort of three private residents. The creators used their own personal funds and received no assistance from the central government or local lords.