



[GUJO]: THE ESSENTIALS 郡上

http://gujokankou.com/en/

GETTING HERE

JR • Meitetsu Gifu Stations → [Gifu Bus Hachiman Express Line • 1 hr 10 min • ¥1,520] → Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza
~ Or ~

JR Gifu Station → [JR Takayama Main Line • 35 min] → Mino-Ota Station
→ [Nagaragawa Railway • 1 hr 20 min • ¥1,850 in total] → Gujo-Hachiman Station

MAIN FEATURE

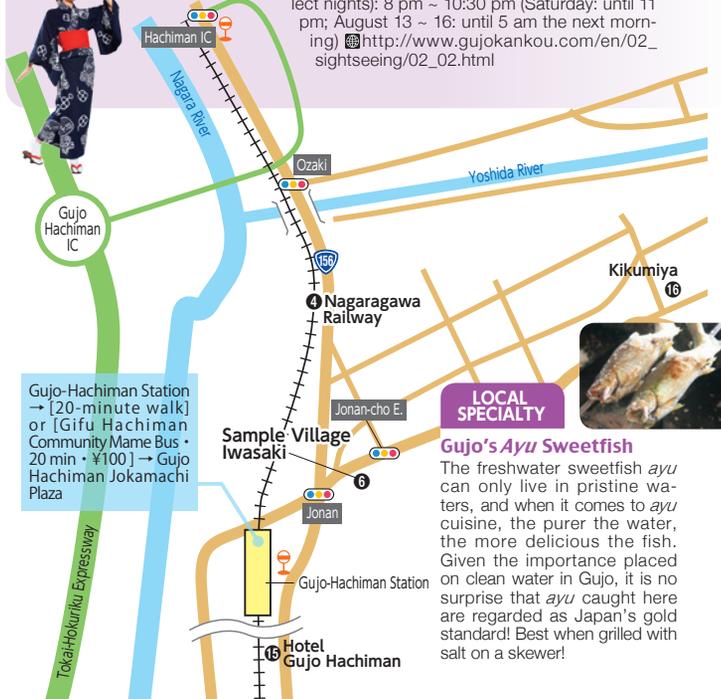
Gujo Odori Dance

The Japanese summer is marked by the *Obon* season in which Buddhist memorial services are held in order to honor the spirits of one's ancestors. Often accompanying these memorials are dance festivals featuring *bon-odori*, a traditional type of Japanese dance. Among them, the Gujo *Odori* stands tall above the rest. Counted as one of Japan's Three Great *Bon-odori* Dance Festivals, it is also the longest of them all, held over a period of 30+ nights (not all consecutive) throughout the summer.

The four-day period known as *tetsuya-odori*, or "all-night dancing," is the climax of the Gujo *Odori* during which dancing continues all the way into the wee hours of the morning! Ten numbers make up the Gujo *Odori* songbook, all of which are simple enough that anybody can jump in and participate, learning by watching other people dancing nearby. Wearing a *yukata* (light summer kimono) and *geta* (traditional Japanese clogs) is customary and highly recommended, but don't hesitate to enter the fray if you can't get your hands on them!



Various locations within Gujo Hachiman (Exact venue rotates) Mid-July ~ early September (Select nights): 8 pm ~ 10:30 pm (Saturday: until 11 pm; August 13 ~ 16: until 5 am the next morning) http://www.gujokankou.com/en/02_sightseeing/02_02.html



LOCAL SPECIALTY

Gujo's Ayu Sweetfish

The freshwater sweetfish *ayu* can only live in pristine waters, and when it comes to *ayu* cuisine, the purer the water, the more delicious the fish. Given the importance placed on clean water in Gujo, it is no surprise that *ayu* caught here are regarded as Japan's gold standard! Best when grilled with salt on a skewer!



Gujo City is located approximately in the center of Gifu Prefecture and is a mountainous region that sees a fair amount of snow in the winter months. At its heart is the castle town of Gujo Hachiman, famous far and wide for the Gujo *Odori* Dance, one of the most famous traditional dance festivals in all of Japan. Another pride of Gujo Hachiman is its food replica-making industry, the largest in the nation. Food replicas, which you will see adorning the shop windows of restaurants all over Japan, were born here in Gujo, and over 60% of them are still made here to this day! Another defining characteristic of Gujo is the immense respect with which the pure, natural waters in the area are treated, creating a truly remarkable harmony between the town and its water sources. Finally, with these brilliantly clear waters, Gujo is home to the best *ayu* sweetfish in the country! A stroll along the old streets and among the quaint town's many temples and shrines is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon during your trip to Gifu.

Water: The Pride of the Town



A Yoshida River



B Igawa Water Path

Throughout Gujo Hachiman, you will find small canals lining the roads that represent the strong bond that exists between the town, its inhabitants, and the clear water that is their lifeblood. Originally constructed for fire-prevention purposes, these canals to this day are used by the locals to wash laundry, rice, and vegetables right in front of their houses! That's how pristine the naturally flowing water is in Gujo City. Of course, keeping it this clean requires the cooperation of the entire town, so the fact that it has remained as pure as it is speaks to the vital role water has played in Gujo's history and culture.



SPOTLIGHT



A Winter Sports Paradise!

A mere 30-minute drive away from Gujo Hachiman is Gujo's more mountainous region that is characterized by a high concentration of ski resorts! Since there is heavy snowfall in this area, 11 ski resorts are available to choose from, and each year over 1.5 million enthusiasts make their way here to take advantage of Gifu's cold winter season. In fact, Gujo has previously played host to the NSBA Snowboarding Championships, an official event on the World Snowboard Tour, which speaks the quality of both the snow here and the slopes themselves! Come enjoy winter sports in Gujo from December to March!

http://www.gujokankou.com/en/02_sightseeing/02_03.html

Detailed MAP ▶ http://www.gujohachiman.com/kanko/pdf/map_e_1.pdf



1 Sogi Spring 宗祇水



A symbol of Gujo Hachiman, the Sogi Spring was one of the first springs, rivers, or underground sources of water to be selected as one of Japan's "100 Remarkable Waters." A communal watering spot, the spring is organized into several levels, each designated for a specific use. The first tub into which water flows after springing forth from the ground is used for drinking. The next downstream tub is for washing rice and cooling watermelons, then the following for washing vegetables and the like, and finally the last tub for washing linens using a bucket. In this way, there is a gradation established based upon the relative need for pure water (which decreases as you go downstream) for each activity listed. By abiding by these rules, the townspeople of Hachiman create a space in which they can all utilize the water efficiently and further foster public awareness of water's importance! There is also a mini-shrine at the mouth of the spring, which enshrines the spirit

of a water deity. ② Hornmachi, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City ③ Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza → [4-minute walk] ☎0575-67-1808 (Gujo City Tourism Federation) 🌐http://www.gujokankou.com/en/01_history/01_02.html



2 Gujo Hachiman Museum 郡上八幡博物館



This museum, through its many exhibits about the history, culture, and lifestyle of Gujo, allows visitors to learn about the area in extensive detail. In addition to its displays, the museum also offers Gujo *Odori* dance lessons four times a day (at 11 am, 1 pm, 2 pm, and 3 pm), in which experienced participants of the nationally famous festival introduce the steps to a few of the more popular dance numbers. To see videos, search for "Gujo Hachiman Hakurankan" on YouTube. ⑤60 Tonomachi, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City ☎9 am ~ 5 pm ¥520, or ¥650 with dual admission to Gujo Hachiman Castle (Middle and elementary school students: ¥310, or ¥350 also for the dual admission ticket) ☒December 24 ~ January 2 ③Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza → [5-minute walk] ☎0575-65-3215 🌐http://gujohachiman.com/e_gujohaku/

🎁 ¥100 off admission fee (Adults only) (Valid until March 31, 2021)



3 Gujo Hachiman Castle 郡上八幡城



Though the original Gujo Hachiman Castle was demolished during the Edo period (1603 ~ 1868), the currently standing one is the oldest wooden reconstruction of a castle in the entire country. Considered one of the most beautiful and distinctive of all the mountain fortresses, it offers an entrancing view of the old castle town below. Unlike most other castles in Japan, which are surrounded by cherry trees that bloom in the spring, Gujo Hachiman Castle is engulfed by fiery red maple trees in the autumn, making that the best season to visit! The vivid fall colors bring the chalk-white of the castle into sharp relief, especially during the Autumn Illumination event when the mountaintop is lit against the dark sky! ⑥59 Ichino Taira, Yanagimachi, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City ☎9 am ~ 5 pm (June ~ August: 8 am ~ 6 pm, November ~ February: 9 am ~ 4:30 pm) ¥310

(Middle and elementary school students: ¥150) ☒December 20 ~ January 10 ③Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza → [15-minute walk] ☎0575-67-1819 🌐http://www.gujokankou.com/en/01_history/01_03.html



4 Nagaragawa Railway 長良川鉄道



The only train line that runs through Gujo City, the Nagaragawa Railway is a relatively minor one whose stations are almost all unmanned. There are at most two trains running per hour on this railroad which is, in many ways, representative of traditional Japanese trains running through the countryside! As it travels along the Nagara River, the track is surrounded on both sides by beautiful nature, thereby providing a wonderful, scenic, relaxing ride through Gifu. Perhaps more than other trips taken via railway, traveling in a single-car train at a leisurely pace is an experience in itself, not simply a means of transportation! ☎0575-23-3921 🌐http://www.nagatetsu.co.jp (JPN)

Gujo's Food Replicas: Blending Art and Technology, the Old and the New



If you have ever traveled around Japan before, you undoubtedly will have seen the food replicas in the window displays of restaurants everywhere. There to entice customers and give them a concrete idea of what they can expect to be served, these replicas are a unique part of modern Japanese culture. Stunningly similar in appearance to the real thing, these replicas were first conceived right here in Gujo Hachiman! The father of food replicas - Takizo Iwasaki - was a native of this town, and it was here that he had his critical epiphany. As the story goes, as a child, Takizo saw a drop of hot wax fall from a candle into a puddle of cold water and was struck when, upon touching the surface, the drop bloomed into the shape of a gorgeous flower! This image would stay with him and become his inspiration as he aimed to develop a realistic way to mimic the appearance of food. Back in those early days, wax was thus used as the replica material, but today modern technology has taken on a much greater role. Vinyl resin is currently the preferred ingredient, as it is both longer-lasting and more malleable than wax! However, while technology has allowed food replicas to be more faithful to the original dish, today's replica-making workers are every bit the artists that workers were in the past. It takes over a decade to acquire the necessary repertoire of techniques, and the path to becoming a master is really no different than any traditional Japanese craft, from wood carving to lacquering. Working under a master and spending years perfecting the most basic of skills is required. In many ways, then, food replica-making is a true member of the long and proud tradition of Japanese crafts! At the same time, though it inherits this history, replica-making is innovative! Creating replicas that freeze moments in



time - such as a bowl of ramen spilling over - is a novel technique now so frequently used that replicas can almost be described as being more realistic than the real thing! In addition, replicas are not necessarily restricted to food; food replica masters will also take orders for prosthetic limbs, for example, adapting their skills to the needs of the world around them! A craft that is a fusion of many elements, then, replica-making is a great source of pride in Gujo City.



5 Sample Kobo さんぶる工房



Housed in a 150-year-old building, this food replica shop is one of the most popular destinations in Gujo Hachiman. When you enter the store, a variety of food-themed replica goods greets you, making this an ideal place to buy souvenirs that are extremely memorable and easily portable! In the back of the store is the workshop where all the goods are made, and it is arranged so that customers can come into the room to catch a glimpse of the production process. Finally, you can also try your hand at making a food

replica as they did in the old days, with wax (at a cost • reservation required)! ⑨56 Hashimotocho, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City ☎9 am ~ 5 pm ☒New Year's holiday period (length of period varies) ③Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza → [5-minute walk] ☎0575-67-1870 🌐http://www.samplekobo.com (JPN)

🎁 Chocolate replica keyholder with a purchase of ¥1,000 or more (No expiration date)



6 Sample Village Iwasaki サンプルビレッジいわさき



Creating food replicas from wax is an original Japanese craft that has been pursued since the Showa era (1926 ~ 1989). Sample Village Iwasaki was in fact the very first replica production company, started by the father of food replicas himself, Takizo Iwasaki. Here, you can purchase some wonderful, realistic replicas, watch the skilled workers making the replicas, and even try creating some yourself! From deep-fried vegetable tempura to lettuce, each type requires different techniques, so be sure to try a variety of them (at a cost • reservation required)! ⑨250 Jonancho, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City ☎10 am ~ 4 pm (replica creation is until 3pm)

☒Tuesday, October: 1st Thursday, February: 1st Saturday, New Year's holiday season ③Gujo-Hachiman Station → [5-minute walk] ☎0575-65-3378 🌐http://www.iwasakimokei.com (JPN)

🎁 One food replica keyholder for those signed up for the food replica workshop (Valid until March 31, 2021)





7 **Daihachi** 大八



This restaurant is housed in an old *gassho-zukuri* thatched roof building and allows guests to savor the various flavors of Gujo City. From Hida beef and river *ayu* to edible wild plants and wild boar meat, you can experience the variety that comes with being in the middle of a bountiful natural environment. 📍883-1 Sakanamachi, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City ☎11 am ~ 2 pm, 4:30 pm ~ 10 pm (Summer: 11 am ~ 2 pm, 5 pm ~ 10 pm) ❌Irregular closing days during the week (Open on all weekends and holidays) 📍Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza → [2-minute walk] ☎0575-65-3709 🌐https://ja-jp.facebook.com/gujo.daihachi (JPN)



One complimentary item off the menu (No expiration date)



8 **Izumizaka** 泉坂



This restaurant, set in a 100-year-old house, serves local cuisine such as Hida beef, *hoba* miso (miso paste and vegetables grilled over a magnolia leaf), and savory pancakes made with locally grown onions. Enjoy *teppanyaki*-style cuisine cooked on an iron griddle before your eyes! 📍177 Tonomachi, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City ☎11 am ~ 2 pm, 4 pm ~ 9:30 pm ☎Tuesdays 📍Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza → [2-minute walk] ☎0575-67-0474 🌐http://izumisaka.com (JPN)



One soft drink or glass of wine (No expiration date)



9 **Sample Kobo Kitamachikan** さんぶる工房北町館



An extension of Sample Kobo's main shop, the Kitamachikan is a food replica-themed café whose soft-serve ice cream made with extremely rich milk is incredibly popular. You can also buy replica goods here in addition to at the main store. 📍7-9 Tonomachi, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City ☎10 am ~ 5 pm ❌Wednesdays 📍Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza → [1-minute walk] 🌐http://www.samplekobo.com (JPN)



One Chocolate replica keyholder with the purchase of ¥1,000 or more in food replica merchandise (No expiration date)



10 **Shinbashitei** 新橋亭



A tasteful restaurant along the Yoshida River, Shinbashitei features seasonal cuisine, from wild sweetfish in the summer to *shishi-nabe* wild boar hot pot in the winter. 📍268-3 Sakuramachi, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City ☎11 am ~ 2:30 pm, 5 pm ~ 8 pm ❌Irregular closing days 📍Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza → [5-minute walk] ☎0575-65-2729 🌐http://sinbasitei.com (JPN)



¥50 off for independent travelers (Valid until March 31, 2021)



11 **Sougian** 宗祇庵



Sougian is located just above Sogi Spring, one of the very first water sources chosen for Japan's "100 Remarkable Waters" list. Our Sougian Parfait is very popular and features the image of a Gujo Odori dancer. Please relax and enjoy our tea, the beautiful scenery, and sounds of the running water from the neighboring river. 📍862-10 Honmachi, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City, Gifu ☎11 am ~ 5 pm (last order at 4:30 pm) ❌Wednesdays 📍5-minute walk from Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza ☎0575-67-9201



One green tea or roasted green tea with an order of dessert (Valid until March 31, 2021)



12 **Takara Gallery Workroom** タカラギャラリーワークルーム



It's said that Gujo Hachiman is the birthplace of silkscreen printing, and even now the tradition is continued and passed down as one of the local industries. We are a studio that was established in order to spread the word about this printing technique to as many people as possible, and provide a place where one can experience silkscreen printing firsthand. We offer printing workshops where you can create a *tenugui* hand towel (a must-have accessory for the Gujo Odori) or tote bag by combining your favorite patterns and colors! Our workshop includes a small gift shop, where you can purchase an assortment of goods ranging from screen-printing items to hand towels and wrapping cloths that were created with a variety of dyeing methods. Reservations are required for printing workshops. 📍470-28 Shimadani Hachiman-cho, Gujo City, Gifu ☎10 am ~ 5 pm ¥1,000 ❌Wednesdays and the 4th Tuesday of the month 📍10-minute walk from Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza 📧info@takara-garo.com 🌐http://www.takara-garo.com/



13 **Bizenya** 備前屋



The oldest Japanese *ryokan* inn in Gujo Hachiman, Bizenya boasts a beautiful garden where guests can enjoy the changing colors of the seasons. 📍264 Yanagimachi, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City ¥1 night + 2 meals: from ¥13,000 (Not including tax and other charges) 📍Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza → [5-minute walk] ☎0575-65-2068 🌐http://gujo-y-bizenya.jp (JPN)



10% discount on the ¥13,000 lodging plan (Not including tax) (Valid until March 31, 2021)



14 **City Hotel Yoshidaya** シティホテル吉田屋



Located in the center of Gujo Hachiman, City Hotel Yoshidaya offers Western-style hotel rooms that are bright, clean, and comfortable, with three-quarter beds, baths, and wireless internet connections available. 📍160 Tonomachi, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City ¥1 night + 2 meals: from ¥15,000 (Not including tax) 📍Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza → [1-minute walk] ☎0575-67-0001 🌐http://www.yoshidayaryokan.com/index_e.php



Complimentary morning coffee (Valid until March 31, 2021)



15 **Hotel Gujo Hachiman** ホテル郡上八幡



Located right alongside the flowing Nagara River, Hotel Gujo Hachiman is one of the largest Japanese-style hotels in the area. Here, guests can enjoy free demonstrations of the Gujo *Odori* Dance and *taishu engeki* "theater for the masses." 📍208 Yoshino, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City ¥1 night + 2 meals: from ¥12,000 (Not including tax) 📍Gujo-Hachiman Station → [Taxi · 5 min] Pick up from Gujo Hachiman Station is available (reservation required) ☎0575-63-2311 🌐http://www.japanican.com/en/hotel/detail/5490004/



500 ml bottle of natural mineral water from Gujo (Valid until March 31, 2021)



16 **Kikumiyu** 菊美屋



At this Japanese-style *ryokan*, seasonal ingredients are used as part of the "macrobiotic" approach to dining which emphasizes grains supplemented with local vegetables. You can also enjoy sitting around a traditional *irori* sunken hearth. 📍1082 Shimadani, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City ¥1 night + 2 meals: from ¥9,000 (Not including tax) 📍Gujo-Hachiman Station → [15-minute walk] ☎0575-65-3367 🌐http://gujo.com/yado/kikumiyu



Hot sake served in bamboo for groups of two or more (No expiration date)

