



# [YORO]: THE ESSENTIALS 養老

## GETTING HERE

🚗 Ogaki Station → [Yoro Railway • 25 min • ¥410] → Yoro Station

## MAIN FEATURE

### Yoro Waterfall, the Spring of Legend 📍

Deep in Yoro Park, roughly 50 minutes from Yoro Station on foot is the resting place of a waterfall which has been honored as one of Japan's finest. Over 30 meters tall and 4 meters wide, the area is stunningly beautiful throughout the four seasons. Particularly exquisite from the middle of November to the beginning of December, the park's autumn leaves bring in tourists from near and far. There exists a legend that tells of Yoro Waterfall's discovery in which long, long ago there was a man who, after stumbling upon a spring that smelled of sake deep in the mountains, had his elderly father drink from it and was amazed to see his almost immediate rejuvenation. The empress at the time, having heard this story, traveled to Yoro to test the water's healing properties for herself and, declaring "My skin has become smooth and what ails me has been cured. This, truly, is the fountain of youth," she dubbed the era of her rule "Yoro" in its honor.



### 1 Kikusui Spring



Situated on the grounds of Yoro Shrine, it is said to be the spring of beauty in which Empress Gen-sho bathed. Kikusui Spring was designated by the Ministry of the Environment as one of Japan's 100 finest bodies of water in 1985.

#### Peak Viewing Season

- 🌸 Late March ~ early April
- 🍁 Mid-November ~ early December

250 m  
4 min

<http://www.kanko-yoro.jp/docs/2015091100711/files/2.pdf> (JPN)



### 2 Yoro Park

A location of massive scale, Yoro Park encompasses everything from Yoro Waterfall and the Site of Reversible Destiny to Kikusui Spring and "Children's Country," an exciting playground that makes full use of the area's geographical features. One with nature, this park is unlike any other and is a popular location that sees upwards of a million visitors a year.

📍 1298-2 Takabayashi, Yoro-cho, Yoro-gun 🕒 9 am ~ 5 pm  
🅖 Free (Parking : Free) 📅 Monday (Or the following business day instead when Monday is a holiday), December 29 ~ January 3 📍 Yoro Station → [10-minute walk] ☎ 0584-32-0501 (Yoro Park Office) 🌐 [http://www.yoro-park.com/\(JPN\)](http://www.yoro-park.com/(JPN))



### 3 Site of Reversible Destiny - Yoro Park

The brainchild of famed artist and architect Shusaku Arakawa and poet Madeline Gins, the Site of Reversible Destiny is truly a park like no other. It is a conceptual art project revolving around the theme of "encountering the unexpected." Through its various installations that cause one to lose all sense of perspective and balance, the park invites visitors to rethink their spiritual and physical orientation to the world. This boundary-defying art/architecture features wildly undulating terrain, so it is best to wear comfortable clothes and shoes so that you can move about easily. Located at the mouth of Yoro Park, the Site of Reversible Destiny should be added to any itinerary that includes a trip to the Yoro Waterfall!

🕒 9 am ~ 5 pm (Last entry: 4:30 pm) 🅖 ¥750 (High school students: ¥500, Middle and elementary school students: ¥300) 🌐 [http://www.yoro-park.com/facility-map/hantenchi/\(JPN\)](http://www.yoro-park.com/facility-map/hantenchi/(JPN))



# [YORO] 養老



養老公園の桜と紅葉

## 1 The Cherry Blossoms and Autumn Leaves of Yoro



Boasting an approximately two-kilometer stretch of beautiful cherry blossoms from the end of March to the beginning of April and stunning autumn leaves from the middle of November to early December, this area is a sight to behold regardless of season. The changing colors can also be seen around Yoro Waterfall, and many come in autumn to bask in the beauty of the changing leaves while enjoying a nice stroll.



## 2 Yoro Railway 養老鉄道



Running for 57.5 kilometers between Kuwana and Ibi Stations, the Yoro Railway is another of the old-fashioned trains that travels through the marvelous Gifu countryside. The railroad company proactively innovates ways to make the ride unique for customers, such as by offering a "Chinese food therapy train" in which you can enjoy a lunch featuring cuisine that adheres to the principles of Chinese medicine. To make the most of your journey, consider purchasing the Yoro Tetsudo Free Kippu ("Yoro Railway Free Ticket"), a one-day pass which lets the holder ride the Yoro Railway as much as they like for ¥1,500 (Children: ¥750). ☎0584-78-3400 🌐http://www.yororailway.co.jp/ (JPN)

### LOCAL SPECIALTY

## Hyoutan and Sake Made from Yoro's Waters

### Hyoutan

According to the legend of Yoro Waterfall, wherein a filial son retrieves water from a spring and takes it home to his father, he is said to have collected the water in a gourd, called *hyoutan* in Japanese. As a result, the *hyoutan* has become Yoro's signature souvenir. While sake is said to become even more delicious if drunk from a *hyoutan*, they are nowadays sold primarily as interior decorations. Many souvenir shops along the road from Yoro Station to Yoro Waterfall sell *hyoutan*, but Yoshida and Yasuda Hyoutan in particular specialize in the sale of *hyoutan* created from locally grown gourds.

### Yasuda Hyoutan

☎723-1 Kashiwao, Yoro-cho, Yoro-gun ☎9 am ~ 6 pm 📍Yoro Station → [5-min walk] ☎0584-32-2310 🌐http://yasudahyoutanten.web.fc2.com/ (JPN)  
Gourd cultivation can be observed from June to September.

### Yoshida

☎1283 Yoro Koen, Yoro-cho, Yoro-gun ☎9:30 am ~ 4:30 pm 📍Yoro Station → [20-min walk] ☎0584-32-0404 🌐http://hyoutangallery.sakura.ne.jp/ (JPN)



### Reisen

Reisen is a local brand of sake created with great care by the Gyokusendo brewery in Yoro. Prepared using subsoil water from the Yoro mountain range, this sake can be purchased in the town of Yoro at stores like Sake no Saito.

### Sake no Saito - Yoro

☎382-6 Myotoku, Yoro-cho, Yoro-gun ☎9 am ~ 6:00 pm 📍Tuesday 📍Yoro Station → [20-min walk] ☎0584-32-1230 🌐http://www.osakeosake.com/ (JPN)



## 3 Yusen no Sato Hotel Nadeshiko ゆせんの里 ホテルなでしこ



This inn's pride and joy are its natural hot springs, with water drawn directly from the spring's source. Enjoy a relaxing stay in a comfortable space designed to reproduce the style and atmosphere of a southern European villa. There are multiple types of rooms to choose from, including Japanese and Western style rooms as well as specialty suites.

☎1522-1 Oshikoshi, Yoro-cho, Yoro-gun 📍1 night + 2 meals: from ¥12,900 📍JR Ogaki Station → [Free shuttle bus]

☎0584-34-1313 🌐http://www.natural-co.com/ (JPN)



Free one-time use of stone sauna (Valid until March 31, 2021)



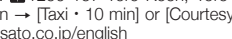
## 4 Takimotokan Yuki no Sato 滝元館 遊季の里



Located right near the Yoro Waterfall, this *ryokan* inn abounds in traditional Japanese charm. There are only 11 guest rooms here, which means that the staff at Takimotokan Yuki no Sato are able to pay that much more attention to their guests' every wish and need. This hospitality is the pride of the inn, and the open-air *onsen* baths as well as the Kyoto-style *kaiseki* banquets served here allow guests to enjoy the "luxury of doing nothing" aside from relaxing and treasuring time with friends and family. Only accepts guests 12 years of age and older. ☎1290-167 Yoro Koen, Yoro-cho, Yoro-gun 📍1 night + 2 meals: from ¥28,600 📍Yoro Station → [Taxi • 10 min] or [Courtesy car • reservation required] ☎0584-32-3111 🌐http://www.yukinosato.co.jp/english



Commemorative photograph (No expiration date)



## 5 Senzairo 千蔵楼



A historical establishment founded back in 1764. Experience the beauty of the four seasons in this deeply traditional tea ceremony-styled inn. This place of rest is remarkable for its sincere, heartfelt seasonal cooking and deep cultural significance.

☎1079 Yoro Koen, Yoro-cho, Yoro-gun 📍1 night + 2 meals: from ¥16,800 (¥16,300 in the case of reservations made by phone) 📍Yoro Station → [Taxi • 5 min] ☎0584-32-1118 🌐http://www.senzairou.com/english.html



Single serving of Yoro's local "Taki Beer" (No expiration date)



## 6 Seifuro 清風楼



A small inn nestled in the beauty of the Yoro Mountain Range. Cooking with only the most carefully selected ingredients, the dishes served here soothe the hearts of those who visit. Enjoy a relaxing stay, and bask in the gradual shifting of the seasons.

☎1285 Yoro Koen, Yoro-cho, Yoro-gun 📍1 night + 2 meals: from ¥17,000 📍Yoro Station → [Taxi • 5 min]

☎0584-32-0509 🌐http://www.yoro-seifuro.jp (JPN)



Family bath service & gift of green tea and sweets upon arrival (No expiration date)



## Yakiniku Highway



Receiving its name from the sheer number of *yakiniku* barbecue establishments in the area, Yakiniku Highway refers to a string of shops that run alongside Prefectural Road 56 in Yoro. Having originally been home to an incredible amount of butcher shops, it has become a place where delicious *yakiniku* can be had for reasonable prices, and it is not unusual to see large lineups at popular restaurants for multiple days in a row.





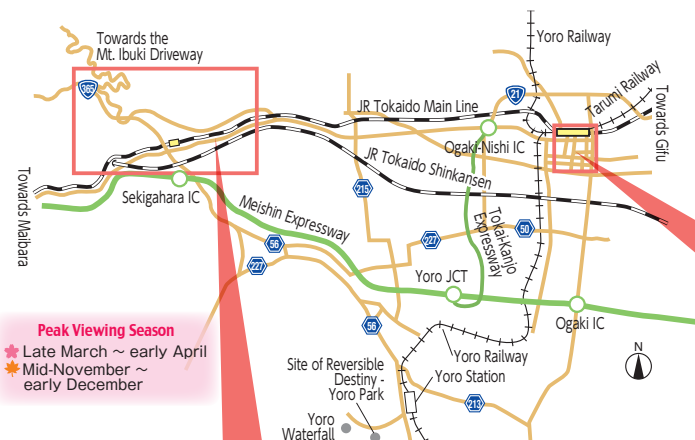
# [OGAKI・SEKIGAHARA]: THE ESSENTIALS

## GETTING HERE

- Ogaki:** JR Gifu Station → [JR Tokaido Main Line • 10 min • ¥240] → Ogaki Station
- Sekigahara:** Ogaki Station → [JR Tokaido Main Line • 15 min • ¥240] → Sekigahara Station

## MAIN FEATURE Ogaki, the Water Capital

With bountiful spring water and many rivers flowing within the city limits, Ogaki has long been known as the "water capital" of the region. The scenic views of this former river port town almost always feature water in some shape or form, such as those that you can enjoy during the river cruises along the Suimon River that are available during festivals in the spring and autumn. Visitors are also free to make use of the dozen or so natural springs that well up from the ground around the city and taste the purity of Ogaki's water for themselves! Without this water, none of the local specialties that make use of it - from *mizu manju* jelly cakes to tofu to lemonade - would be possible!



### Peak Viewing Season

- ★ Late March ~ early April  
★ Mid-November ~ early December

<http://www.kanko-yoro.jp/> (JPN)



**[Ogaki]** The central hub of Gifu's Seino region, the city of Ogaki is famous as a "water capital," a place with pristine water to rival that of Gujo Hachiman. It once flourished as the castle town that sprang up around Ogaki Castle, and today there are various festivals and events each season that make it a worthwhile visit. There are must-see destinations scattered throughout the city, so it is a great place to enjoy a walk or a ride on a rental bicycle getting to and from all of these places.

**[Sekigahara]** This town is the site of the most famous and most important battle in all of Japanese history, the Battle of Sekigahara. Those interested in samurai and in the history of Japan will not want to pass up a visit here. A variety of samurai-themed paraphernalia are available, as are rental bicycles that can be used for exploring the beautiful area.



## Historic Sekigahara Battlegrounds

Pitting Tokugawa Ieyasu - the victor who would later be recognized as one of Japan's three great uni-

fiers - against Ishida Mitsunari, the Battle of Sekigahara saw 158,000 samurai fighting it out for control of the realm. Far removed from the commotion of that fateful day in 1600, the battlegrounds today are a tranquil place offering beautiful views of the Japanese countryside. Flags and stone monuments remain to indicate where the military encampments of the Eastern and Western Armies stood. A bicycle ride is surely a great way to enjoy this vast area.



## Oku no Hosomichi Musubi no Chi Memorial Hall

Here at this museum celebrating the tradition of the great poet Matsuo Basho and his connection to Ogaki City, you can watch a 3-D film tracing the

path of his journeys. There is also an area that acts as a tribute to the many greats who contributed to the history, culture, and art of the city as well as a section where you can get information on the tourist sights of Ogaki. **●** 2-26-1 Funa-machi, Ogaki City **●** 9 am ~ 5 pm **●** ¥300 (18 years old and younger: free admission) **●** New Year's holiday season **●** Ogaki Station → [16-minute walk] **●** 0584-84-8430



## 1 Sekigahara Town History & Folklore Museum

This museum's permanent display boasts an impressive collection, from a breathtaking folding screen that depicts the Battle of Sekigahara to a variety of items such as armor, cannons, matchlock guns, and more. Another must-see is the large-scale diorama that utilizes lights and recorded commentary to show the positions of both armies during the battle, as well as how the battle unfolded. A host of items found only here can be obtained at the gift shop, including t-shirts, mugs, and miniature battle standards. After learning about the area, delve even deeper into the experience by visiting the old battleground for yourself! **●** 894-28 Oaza Sekigahara, Sekigahara-city **●** 9 am ~ 4:30 pm (November ~ March: until 4 pm) **●** ¥350 (Middle and elementary school students: ¥200) **●** Monday, December 29 ~ January 3 **●** Sekigahara Station → (8-minute walk) **●** 0584-43-2665 **●** <http://rekimin-sekigahara.jp/english/index.html>



## LOCAL SPECIALTY

### 3 Mizu Manju

A Japanese *wagashi* confection representative of Ogaki City, *mizu manju* are jelly cakes filled with adzuki bean paste and served in ice-cold Ogaki water. Perfect for combating hot weather, these sweets are available only in spring and summer.

**Get some at the Kinchoen Sohonke confectionery**

**●** 2-10 Kuruwa-machi, Ogaki City **●** 8 am ~ 8 pm **●** None **●** 0584-78-2022 **●** <http://www.kinchoen-sohonke.co.jp/index.html> (JPN)

