

Practical Travel Guide - 605

# HAGI, TSUWANO and AKIYOSHI-DO CAVE



Japan National Tourism Organization  
日本政府観光局



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In collaboration with  
Tourist Information Centers in the area



**Hagi** (萩) is an good old castle town in Yamaguchi Pref. along the Japan Sea. The town cradled many important figures of the Meiji restoration in the middle of the 19th century, and a number of relics associated with them remain. Many people say the whole town looks like a history museum. Hagi is also famous for the cultivation of “Natsumikan” oranges and a 400-year-old traditional Hagi-yaki pottery.

**Tsuwano** (津和野) is a little smaller old castle town, often called “Little Kyoto.” The Tsuwano river runs through the town, where many multi-colored carps are hatched to the

delight of visitors.

**Akiyoshi-do Cave** (秋芳洞) is one of the largest stalactite caves of its kind in the Orient, developed underground the **Akiyoshi-dai Plateau** (秋吉台), the largest limestone plateau in Japan known for its karst topography.

JR Shin-Yamaguchi Sta. on JR Sanyo Shinkansen is a gateway station in this area. We recommend you to check train/bus connections before your departure to make your trip comfortable.

### Traffic Network



### Access: By Air:

From	To	Operated by	Approx. Travel Time	Access to Downtown
Haneda (Tokyo)	Yamaguchi-Ube	JAL, ANA, SFJ	1 hr. 40 min.	[To Kusae Sta.] - By walk 10min. [To Shin-Yamaguchi Sta.] - By Airport Bus 50 min. ¥910
Haneda (Tokyo)	Iwami	ANA	1 hr. 35 min.	[To Masuda Sta.] - By Bus 15min. ¥340

### By Train (JR):

From	To	By	Approx. Travel Time	Price*
Tokyo	Shin-Yamaguchi	Tokaido & Sanyo Shinkansen “Nozomi”	4 hrs. 40 min.	¥21,640*
Kyoto		Tokaido & Sanyo Shinkansen “Nozomi”	2 hrs. 10 min.	¥14,280*
Shin-Yamaguchi	Yamaguchi	Yamaguchi Line Ltd. Exp. “Super Oki”	12 min.	¥1,330*
		Yamaguchi Line (Local)	21 min.	¥240
	Tsuwano	Yamaguchi Line Ltd. Exp. “Super Oki”	1 hr.	¥2,900*
		Yamaguchi Line (Local)	1 hr. 45 min.	¥1,170
Matsue		Sanin & Yamaguchi Line Ltd. Exp. “Super Oki”	2 hrs. 45 min.	¥6,140*

\*Fare + express charge (with seat reservation, normal season)

\*See p. 5 for admission and opening times.

### By Bus:

From	To	Approx. Travel Time	Price	Ticketing & Operator
Tokyo Sta.	Hagi Bus Center	14 hrs. 35 min.	¥12,000-16,500	"Hagi Express" by Bocho Bus <u>Japan Bus Online</u>
Umeda (Osaka)		11 hrs. 55 min.	¥9,900	"Karst" by Bocho Bus
Shin-Yamaguchi Sta.	Higashi-Hagi Sta.	1 hr. 10 min.	¥1,550*	"Super Hagi" by Bocho Bus & Chugoku JR Bus
Tsuwano Sta.		1 hr. 40 min.	¥2,220	
Shin-Yamaguchi Sta.	Akiyoshi-do	40 min.	¥1,170	Bocho Bus
Higashi-Hagi Sta.		1 hr. 5 min.	¥1,850	
Yamaguchi Sta.		1 hr. 10 min.	¥1,230**	
	Higashi-Hagi Sta.	1 hr. 30 min.	¥1,800**	Chugoku JR Bus

\*Promotion fare until the end of Mar. 2020 (normal fare: ¥2,060).

\*\*Nationwide Japan Rail Pass and regional JR West Passes are accepted..

### Steam Locomotive Train "Yamaguchi-go"

2 steam locomotives, the class C57 and the class D51, are in operation, and pull newly reproduced nostalgic passenger carriages along scenic JR Yamaguchi Line between Shin-Yamaguchi and Tsuwano on generally Sat., Sun. and holidays from late Mar. through Nov.

Since all seats are reserved, reservations should be made in advance at major JR ticket offices or at major travel agencies.

[Shin-Yamaguchi - Tsuwano] ¥1,700 (fare with reservation charge for a normal seat).

\*Nationwide Japan Rail Pass and regional JR West passes can be used if you have the seat reservation ticket as above.

## HAGI

### How to get around:

Higashi-Hagi Sta. on the Sanin line is the main entrance to the town. Most of buses bound for the station stop at Hagi bus center in the heart of the town.

Hagi is a pleasant town to be explored on foot or by bicycle. Two circular Hop-on bus routes for visitors, called "Ma-ru Bus" (まーるバス), are operated every 30 min. in the city center (¥100 per ride, ¥500 for one-day pass). And some rental cycle shops are available in the town (from ¥200 per hour, from ¥1,000 per day).

### Major Places of Interest:

**Hagi Uragami Museum** (山口県立萩美術館・浦上記念館) is a 15-min. walk from Hagi bus center and holds an excellent collection of Ukiyoe works and oriental ceramic ware. The building was designed by Kenzo Tange. Hours: 9:00–17:00 Closed: Mon. (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. falls on a national holiday). Admission: ¥300 (exclude special exhibitions).

**Kumaya Art Museum** (熊谷美術館), a 20-min. walk from Higashi-Hagi Sta., is an interesting museum containing a variety of art objects and antiques. Admission: ¥700. Open daily: 9:00–16:00. Closed: Mon, Wed and Fri.

**Hagi Meirin Gakusha Visitor Center** (萩・明倫学舎), about 5 min. walk from Hagi bus center, is Hagi's tourism hub which has a tourist information center. An introduction of five World Heritage sites in the city, forming part of the industrial revolution sites during the Meiji restoration, and its background with some 600 original pieces relating to the science of the day

are exhibited in the Building No. 2. [The Building No. 2] Open: 9:00-17:00. Admission: ¥300.

**Horiuchi** (堀内) once was the residential section for upper class Samurai like the **Kuchiba Residence** (口羽家), and **Hagi Castle Town** (萩城下町) located east of Horiuchi was for rich merchants like **the Kikuya Residence** (菊屋家), doctors belonging to feudal domain and lower class Samurai. Each section preserves the old castle town atmosphere best.

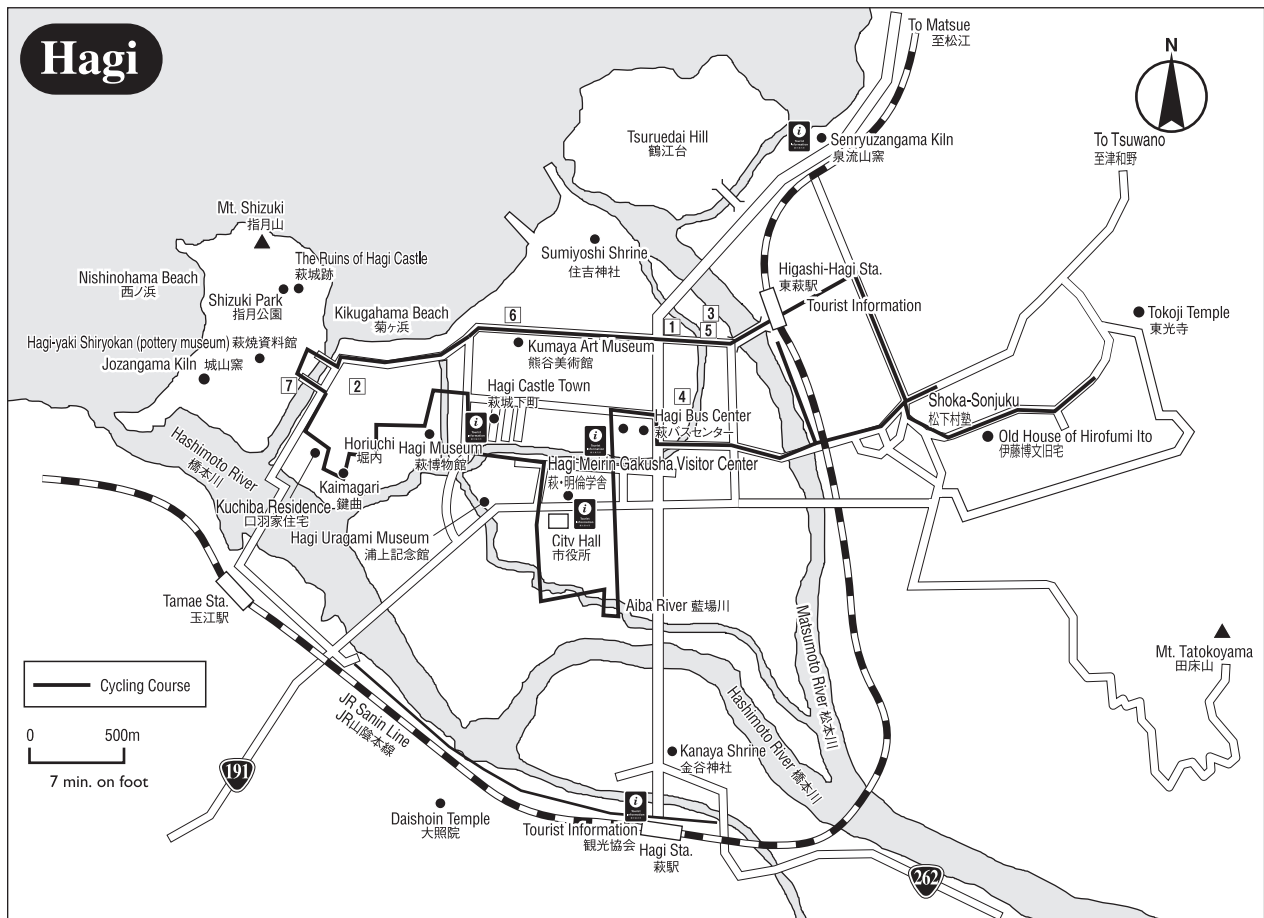
**Tokoji Temple** (東光寺), dedicated to the Mouri Clan who governed Hagi during 260 years of the Edo Period has Soumon Gate, Sanmon Gate, Bell Tower and Daiohoden designated as Important Cultural Properties.

**Shizuki Park** (指月公園), 8 min. by the Ma-ru bus (westerly course) from Hagi bus center, is a castle-site park at the foot of the 145m-high Mt. Shizuki. Only stone walls and the inner moat remain from the original castle. The hilltop is reached in 20 min. on foot from the park. Admission: ¥220. Open: Daily. 8:00–18:30 (Apr.–Oct.), 16:30 (Nov.–Feb.) and 18:00 (Mar.).

**Shoin Shrine** (松陰神社), 22 min. by the Ma-ru bus (easterly course) from Hagi bus center, is dedicated to Shoin Yoshida (1830–1859), a famous Hagi-born thinker who influenced many revolutionaries who played important roles in the Meiji Restoration. **Shoka-Sonjuku** (松下村塾), a private school which he directed, is in the shrine precincts.

**Aiba River** (藍場川), a small canal-like river, is a peaceful haven for multi-colored carp. The placid neighborhood, reminiscent of olden times, offers a restful promenade for a stroll.

\*See p. 5 for admission and opening times.



Numbers 1 - 8 correspond to those in the "Accommodations" list on page 3/4.

**Cycling Tour of Hagi: (4 hours required)**

Higashi-Hagi Sta. ..... Kumaya Art Museum ..... Kikugahama Beach ..... Shizuki Park ..... Horiuchi area (Kuchiba Residence / Kaimagari) ..... Hagi Castle Town (Kikuya Residence) / Hagi Museum ..... Hagi Meirin Gakusha Visitor Center ..... Aiba River ..... Tamachi ..... Shoin Shrine / Shoka-Sonjuku ..... Tokoji Temple ..... Higashi-Hagi Sta.

**Hagi-yaki Pottery Kilns for Visitors:**

A number of pottery kilns are located around Shizuki Park, most are open to visitors.

- o Jozangama Kiln (城山窯) at Shizuki Park (0838)25-1666
- o Hagi-yaki Shiriyokan or the museum (萩焼資料館) at Shizuki Park Admission: ¥500. Open: 9:00-17:00 (0838)25-8981
- o Senryuzangama Kiln (泉流山窯) at Maeobata (0838)22-0541 Open: 8:30-17:00 Closed: Wed. (except holiday Wednesdays)

**Accommodations:**

Name of Facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)	Name of Facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)
1 Hagi Grand Hotel TENKU (H)	(0838)25-1211	¥¥	4 Minshuku Abugawa (M)	(0838)22-2739	¥
2 Ryokan Hokumonyashiki (R)	(0838)22-7521	¥¥¥	5 Hagi Youth Hostel (Y)	(0838)22-0733	¥
3 Ryokan Tomoe (R)	(0838)22-0150	¥¥¥			

**Remarks:**

Numbers 1 - 8 correspond to those on the map on page 2/5. Rate per person.

- H = Hotel ¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen
- R = Ryokan ¥¥ = 8,001 yen - 15,000 yen
- Y = Youth Hostel ¥ = 8,000 yen or less
- M = Minshuku (family-run inn)
- BH = Business Hotel

\*Standard basis rate (no meals, taxes included)

\*See p. 5 for admission and opening times.

**TSUWANO**

**How to get around:**

Tsuwano is ideally sized to be explored on foot or by bicycle. A walking tour (5–6 hrs.) or a bike tour (4 hrs.) can cover the major town sights and places of interest. Rental bike costs about ¥500 for 2 hrs., ¥800 for a full day.

**Major Places of Interest:**

**Yorokan** (藩校養老館), 15min. walk from the station, is a feudal domain school which produced scholars with nationwide fame including Ogai Mori and Amane Nishi. The school buildings were first relocated in 1855 to the main street of Tsuwano by lord Kamei to teach medicine, mathematics, military science etc., then after the Meiji restoration they were used as town hall and then public library. Though the majority of the school ground was altered throughout the history, the remaining buildings have now been restored to its original style.

**Tsuwano Kyodokan Museum** (津和野町郷土館), 20 min. on foot from the station, is a history museum which contains a rich collection of materials and articles associated with the regional history and native-born figures such as Ogai Mori and Amane Nishi. Admission: ¥400. Open: 8:30–17:00. Closed: Tue. & New Year Holidays.

**Yasaka-jinja shrine** (弥栄神社), 20 min. walk from Tsuwano Sta., is the home of the traditional annual festival “Sagimai” (Egret Dance), held on Jul. 20, 24 and 27.

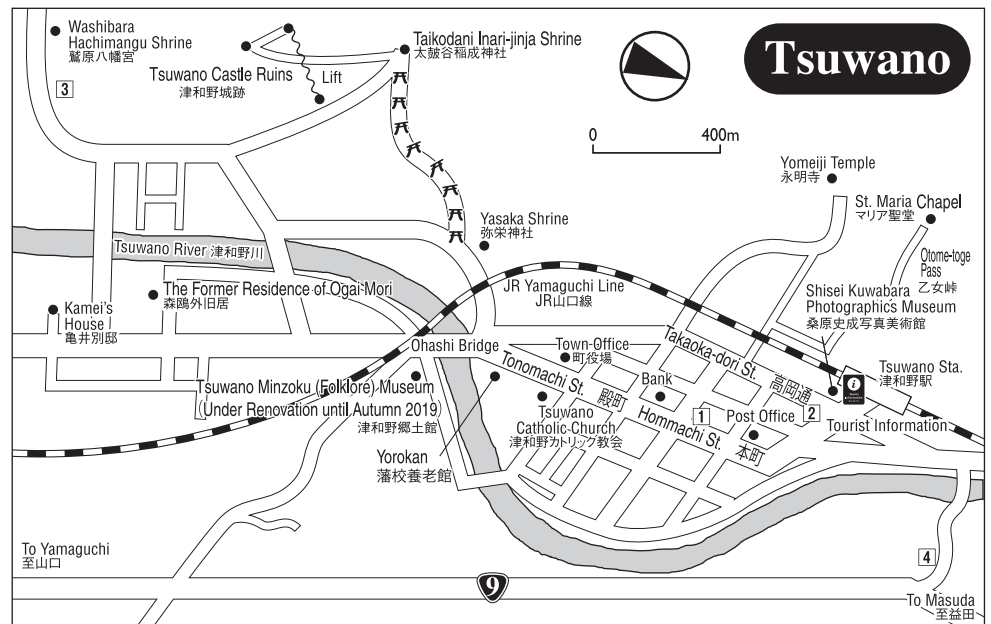
**Taikodani Inari-jinja Shrine** (太鼓谷稲成神社), 40 min. on foot from the station, has a long tunnel-like approach with a large number of red torii gates. Thronged by visitors from far and wide, the approach is lined with souvenir shops and tea houses.

**Tsuwano Castle Ruins** (津和野城跡), an exceptionally large-scale mountain-top castle, is now left with

stone walls and stone bases. About 30 min. walk on one of the few nature trails of the mountain leads to the castle-site, from where a panoramic view of the town can be enjoyed. Or you may take a chair lift from the base (5 min., ¥700 for round trip), then the summit is a 15-min. walk.

**Mori Ogai Memorial Museum** (森鷗外記念館), 45 min. on foot from Tsuwano Sta., is where Ogai, one of the most prominent figures in the history of Japanese literature, lived until he was 11 years old. Open: 9:00–17:00 (enter by 16:45). Closed: Mon. Admission: ¥600.

**Yomeiji Temple** (永明寺), a 15-min. walk from Tsuwano Sta., is a quiet Zen temple revered for a long time by the provincial lords in the feudal period. Ogai’s tomb is here. Admission: ¥300.



Numbers 1 – 4 correspond to those in the “Accommodations” list on page 4/4.

**Walking or Cycling Route of Tsuwano: ( ) time by bicycle.**

Tsuwano Sta. .... 5 (3) min. ....	Tsuwano-cho Japan Heritage Center .... 5 (2) min. ....	Tonomachi St. & Yorokan ..... 2 (1) min.
Tsuwano Kyodokan Museum ..... 10 (5) min. ....	The Former Residence of Ogai Mori ..... 10 (5) min. ....	Kamei’s House ..... 15 (7) min.
Washibara Hachimangu Shrine ..... 30 (25) min. ....	Tsuwano Castle Ruins ..... 10 (10) min. ....	Taikodani Inari-jinja Shrine ..... 15 (7) min.
Yasaka-jinja Shrine ..... 20 (10) min. ....	Yomeiji Temple ..... 10 (5) min. ....	St. Maria Chapel ..... 15 (7) min.
		Shisei Kuwabara Photographics Museum, Tsuwano Sta.

**Accommodations:**

Name of Facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)
1 Noren-yado Meigetsu (R)	(0856)78-1289	¥¥
2 Hoshi Ryokan (M)	(0856)72-0136	¥
3 Tsuwano Hotel (H)	(0856)72-3232	¥
4 Minshuku Wakasagi-no-Yado(M)	(0856)72-1146	¥¥

**Remarks:**

Numbers 1 – 5 correspond to those on the map on page 3/4.

Rate per person.

- H = Hotel
  - R = Ryokan
  - Y = Youth Hostel
  - M = Minshuku (family-run inn)
  - P = Pension
- ¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen  
 ¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen  
 ¥ = 8,000 yen or less



