

# "A City with a Castle, a City with Good Fortune" Soon celebrating its 400th anniversary Fukuyama Castle—The City's Landmark

In 2022, Fukuyama Castle will reach a milestone as it marks the 400th year since it was first built. The castle continues to watch over the city and its people, and it remains a very familiar part of life for local residents today. Here are some of the many fascinations of the castle.

The history of Fukuyama entwined with its castle

## Fukuyama Castle

**F** Fukuyama Castle Museum **T** 084-922-2117  
**C** Mondays (or the following day when Monday is a holiday)/Dec. 28 to 31

### Fukuyama Castle tells the tale of the history and culture of this city

The history of Fukuyama Castle overlaps with that of Fukuyama itself. In 1619, Mizuno Katsunari—younger cousin of Tokugawa Ieyasu—became the first lord of the Bingo-Fukuyama Domain. Katsunari proceeded with having a castle built, and in the space of three years it was completed. The resulting structure presented a grand sight, with a five-layer six-floor main tower along with turrets and palace-like residential elements that had been relocated and then reassembled from Kyoto's Fushimi Castle.

Katsunari named this area Fukuyama and took steps to develop the castle town, such as creating a waterworks system and reclaiming land. His encouragement of the cultivation of igusa (Japanese mat rush) and raw cotton is linked to the area being known for such local specialties as Bingo tatami facings and Bingo kasuri (Bingo-gasuri).

Furthermore, the encouragement by later rulers of the domain including the Mizuno, Matsudaira, and Abe families caused music in such genres as kayo and onkyoku to flourish and laid the cornerstones for the culture of Fukuyama.

Fukuyama Castle's main tower was destroyed during an air raid in 1945, but in 1966 it was reconstructed thanks in part to donations from local residents. Today, the area around Fukuyama Castle contains a park, a history museum, an art museum, and other facilities that help to spread the city's history and culture.

### A train station on the grounds of a castle!?

When you disembark from a Tokyo-bound Shinkansen at Fukuyama Station, from the platform you can gaze upon an impressive stone wall and the main tower of the castle. That's because Fukuyama Station was built within the walls of the castle. When planning the construction of the Sanyo Shinkansen line, it was determined that running the tracks through the castle's inner moat would result in the shortest route and so Fukuyama Station was built adjacent to the sannomaru (the castle's third, outermost enclosing wall).

### Fukuyama's beginnings Mizuno Katsunari, first lord of the Fukuyama Domain

Katsunari was so well known as a brave general that people also called him "Oni-Hyuga," or "the demon of Hyuga." At the same time, he also carried out flood control projects and poured his energies into seeing the castle town prosper economically.



Kenchu-ji Temple Storehouse

## See parts of the castle in their original form Two Important Cultural Properties at Fukuyama Castle

### Sujigane-gomon (Sujigane Gate)

Erected on the front side of the central keep (honmaru), this west-facing gate is said to have been moved here from Fushimi Castle in Kyoto along with Fushimi Turret. The many metal reinforcements (sujigane) used in the edges of this gate along with the dozens applied to the door led to its name.



### Fushimi Turret

The white walls of this three-tiered structure are representative of the Momoyama period (1573-1603). An engraving that proves that this turret was relocated from Fushimi Castle in Kyoto was discovered on a beam on the second floor, making it an incredibly valuable structure from long ago.



Celebrating the castle's 400th anniversary in 2022! ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

### Marking the Castle's 400th Anniversary under the Slogan of "A City with a Castle, a City with Good Fortune"

Various preparations are being made for 2022. A logo and catchphrase have been decided upon as part of the "Fukuyama Castle 400th Anniversary Project." Going forward, the project will be working with citizens of the city to plan commemorative events and other activities.

Get a taste of the early Showa period

## Fukuju Kaikan

Designated as National Registered Tangible Cultural Properties, the buildings of Fukuju Kaikan were built at the beginning of the Showa period (1926-1989) by Wasuke Anbe, a businessman known as the "Katsuobushi [dried bonito flake] King" who earned his fortune in the dealing of marine products. The Japanese-style building and tea house are built using traditional Japanese construction, while the Western-style building boasts windows done in a Renaissance style. In the gardens, visitors can enjoy the changes that each season offers. Today, these buildings are used for a variety of cultural events.

**T** 084-923-1516 **C** Mondays (or the following day if Monday is a holiday)/  
New Year's period

Experience real Japanese culture  
in Fukuyama!

Experience  
FUKUYAMA



You can experience Japanese culture at Fukuju Kaikan. There are 9 different types of experiences available (listed below). You can also take photos in the Japanese garden with Fukuyama Castle serving as a backdrop. Enjoy beauty unlike that seen anywhere else!

<Programs> Kimono, Calligraphy, Tea Ceremony, Koto (Japanese harp), Noh Theatre, Uzumi (local dish of Fukuyama), Fukuyama Castle Tour, Origami & Matcha, and Samurai Cosplay

\*Reservations are required

**T** 080-8230-1081 9:00am - 12:00pm (English-speaking assistance available)

**E** [experiencefukuyama@city.fukuyama.hiroshima.jp](mailto:experiencefukuyama@city.fukuyama.hiroshima.jp)

**U** <https://experiencefukuyama.com/> **F** <https://www.facebook.com/experiencefukuyama/>

## Who was Abe Masahiro, supporter of the shogunate government as it came to an end?

Abe Masahiro was the seventh lord of the Abe family of the Fukuyama Domain. He was made a senior councilor of the shogunate government at age 25, and at 27 he was appointed head of that body of councilors. He was resolute in implementing the Ansei Reforms attempted in the final years of shogunate rule. Masahiro also pushed forward on developing talent such as through setting up a domain school, encouraging western learning, and westernizing his military arms. Furthermore, he also made a point of employing people regardless of their status or customs. In 1854, the shogunate government signed the Convention of Kanagawa with Commodore Matthew Perry. This brought an end to the shogunate's policies of national seclusion and pushed Japan toward becoming a modern nation.



From the Fukuyama Seishikan Alumni Association Storehouse

## Naohito Fujiki, who portrays Abe Masahiro in a famous historical TV drama

Naohito Fujiki plays the part of Abe Masahiro in *Segodon*, the 2018 edition of NHK's long-running "Taiga Drama" series of historical dramatizations. "I think Japan was able to steer the course that took it from being a closed country to being an open one because we had someone with a superb sense of balance like Abe around," says Fujiki. "However, I'm sure he probably also felt great resentment about how those heavy responsibilities led to his own early death. As for my own connections with Fukuyama, the producer of my first recordings, Yohito Teraoka, is from here. Also, Hotta Masayoshi, the daimyo who succeeded Abe as head of the body of senior councilors who advised the Tokugawa shogunate, was from my own hometown of Sakura in Chiba Prefecture. The ties might be a bit vague (laughs), but I do feel them."



Naohito Fujiki—Native of Chiba Prefecture. Debuted as an actor in 1995. Released his first CD in 1999. Main recent appearances include the variety show *Oshareism* (NTV), the television drama *FINAL CUT* (Fuji TV), and the radio program *TOYOTA Athlete Beat* (Tokyo FM).



◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆  
Comprising of a refined Western-style building and an elegant Japanese-style building.

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆  
The famed grove and pond-style strolling garden with its commanding view of Fukuyama Castle took 10 years to complete.



# Fukuyama Manufacturing That Supports the World

Striving to produce the best Japanese denim

**KAIHARA Co., Ltd.**

Chairman  
Yoshiharu Kaihara

Native of Shinichi-cho in northern Fukuyama. He joined Kaihara Textile Mills Ltd. (currently, Kaihara Corporation) in 1970, became president in 1990, and entered his current position in 2003. He has a deep love for Shinichi and for denim.



## Using traditional Bingo kasuri (Bingo-gasuri) techniques to produce high quality denim

One of the world's top-class manufacturers of denim fabric is in Fukuyama: Kaihara Corporation, which is located in Shinichi-cho, Fukuyama City. After starting as a private indigo kasuri (splashed pattern fabric) weaving manufacturing business, the company switched to denim manufacturing in 1970. Looking back on that time, Chairman Yoshiharu Kaihara comments, "Using the dyeing techniques we cultivated for making Bingo kasuri cloth, we developed Japan's first rope-dyeing machine. As a result, the center cores of the yarn don't get dyed, and we can make a high-quality denim that fades

and softens." After switching to denim manufacturing, the number of orders from major apparel makers rapidly increased. Eventually, the company established a fully integrated production line, from spinning and dyeing to weaving and finishing. "By doing the spinning in-house, we were able to make a product of even higher quality. We come out with between seven hundred to a thousand new products each year. In terms of technology and development, we can't be beat." Currently, Kaihara denim accounts for the share of more than 50% of the domestic market. The company is also Japan's leading exporter. "When you're the leader of the pack, it's your duty to keep running," says Chairman Kaihara, with a twinkle in his eyes. "From Fukuyama, I want to show the world how great Japanese products can be."

## How Denim is Made

How do you make world-class quality denim?  
Take a look into Kaihara's factory and its cutting-edge facilities!



Bingo kasuri (Bingo-gasuri), a type of splashed pattern fabric made in Shinichi-cho, Fukuyama City, is one of the three big names in Japanese kasuri, along with Iyo kasuri and Kurume kasuri. Bingo kasuri production peaked around 1955, at about 3 million tan (one tan is the amount of fabric used in making one kimono) per year, more than any other cloth in Japan.

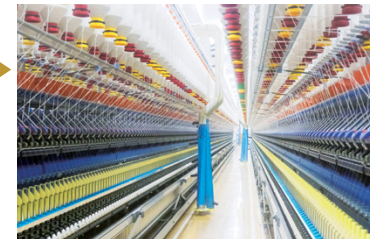
### 1 Raw Cotton



Raw cotton, the raw material of denim, is imported from leading producers worldwide and stored in Kaihara's storehouses. One bale weighs about 230 kilograms. After the bales are opened, the surfaces are cleaned.

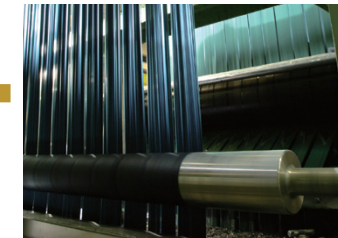
2

### Spinning



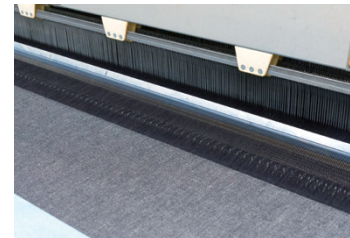
The spinning process begins with Kaihara's own unique techniques of selecting and blending the raw cotton. Coarse threads from the roving machines are then stretched and twisted so that they are spun to a uniform thickness.

### 3 Dyeing



Techniques cultivated from making Bingo kasuri are utilized in the rope-dyeing process. As the yarns are passed through the tanks of indigo dye, they gradually change color from green to indigo.

### 4 Weaving



The denim is woven by ramming vertical threads (warp) down into starched horizontal threads (weft). Various weaving machines are used to produce denim with different styles and characteristics.

### 5 Fabric inspection

Staff carefully inspect the fabric to make sure it's been made in accordance with standards. All of the raw fabric is inspected.



### 6 Finishing

Finishing includes singeing to eliminate the fuzz on the surface, treatment that limits later shrinkage, and other modifications made in preparing the final product. Only denim that passes the final inspection is shipped!



### Check out the Bitchu Bingo Japan Denim Project!

Fukuyama, Ibara, and other cities in the Bitchu and Bingo regions are places that produce high quality Japanese denim. Companies dealing in related businesses, such as sewing, washing, and dyeing, have also gathered here. To make more people aware of the industry here, local governments and companies have joined together and started the Japan Denim Project to promote Japan's denim-producing area. The PR project has created an animation with light and dark shades of denim, videos about the manufacturing process, and other fun ideas for introducing people to the charms of denim.



<https://denim-project.jp/>

## ONLY ONE NUMBER ONE

## —World-Leading Fukuyama Companies—

### Aoyama Trading Co., Ltd.

#### The leading men's clothing and suit retailer

Aoyama Trading operates men's clothing retail chain stores throughout Japan, such as Yofuku-no-Aoyama and The Suit Company. Yofuku-no-Aoyama has also expanded into the global market, and it was recognized by the Guinness World Records in 1998 for being the world's leader in suit sales. The company has been expanding its business by strengthening its offerings for women.



### FP Corporation

#### The world's first food container circular recycling

FP Corporation is the number one maker and marketer of food tray containers. The company continually invents new trays that are made using materials, designs, and functions that meet the changing needs of the times. The company's pioneering efforts in the circular recycling of food trays has developed into a national model. In addition to its contributions to Japan's food culture, the company is also contributing on the environmental front.



### CASTEM Co., Ltd.

#### Supporting advanced medical care and the space industry

CASTEM is a manufacturing company that makes precision metal parts for medical and industrial equipment, planes, and various industries. They have a reputation for having the technological capability to provide complete solutions, including everything from materials to manufacturing methods. In order to train future engineers, the company also organizes playful events in which participants compete to come up with the best technical solutions.



### JFE Steel Corporation, West Japan Works

#### A world-class ironworks that is leading the industry

JFE Steel Corporation's West Japan Works is one of the world's largest ironworks and proudly produces the largest amount of crude steel in Japan. The company supports the wide range of industries needed to make buildings, automobiles, steel cans, and other items essential to global lifestyles. The symbol of the ironworks is the blast furnace, which extracts iron. In Japan, there are only two ironworks that manufacture railroad rails, one of them being in Fukuyama.



### Tsuneishi Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.

#### Active on the world's seas with Tsuneishi quality

Tsuneishi Shipbuilding handles everything from the planning, development, design, building, and repair of a wide variety of ships, including tankers, container ships, cargo ships, and 80-thousand-ton-class bulk carriers that boast the top share of the global market. Through its cutting-edge technology, the company offers eco-shipping that is both economical and environmentally friendly.



### Fukuyama Transporting Co., Ltd.

#### Supporting the global distribution of goods from Fukuyama

With 411 locations throughout Japan and the world, Fukuyama Transporting offers solutions for distributing goods between companies, and it provides multi-module logistics for global distribution and domestic delivery. In order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, the company is going through a modal shift of switching the freight of about 240 trucks each day to rail.







# Fukuyama: The Perfect Place for Raising Children

5  
Messages from  
FUKUYAMA

## Naoko Sakamoto

Born in Nishinomiya, Hyogo Prefecture, she represented Japan at the Summer Olympics in Athens, where she finished seventh in the women's marathon. After retiring, she married and moved to Fukuyama. Currently, she works as a coach for the marathon running school Sokenjuku (Run for Two) and as a supporter for the Mexican Olympic Team Fukuyama Camp.



### Enjoying life as a parent and playing with her child at various parks on her days off

"Fukuyama is a nice place to live," says Naoko Sakamoto. "It isn't too urban, and it isn't too rural. And it has a natural environment with mountains, ocean, and islands."

Sakamoto, who participated in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, now lives in Fukuyama. Since her first child was born in 2015, she's been keeping busy every day with work and child rearing.

"I think it's a great place to raise kids because there are lots of parks. There are big and small ones all over the city, so we have a lot of fun deciding which one to visit each day." She also loves the Fukuyama Zoo. Since she first went there with her infant, she's been visiting every season. "There's a big park nearby, so we can enjoy the whole day there. Whenever we go, my husband always ends up with sore muscles (laughs)."

Sakamoto has also actively participated in a child-rearing group, taken a course about baby food, read aloud to children at the library, and joined in other activities. Looking back, she says, "Not only were those activities fun and informative, but they also gave me a good opportunity to get advice about my child-rearing concerns from teachers and to talk with other mothers with children of the same age."

With the Tokyo Olympics coming in 2020, Sakamoto is now working as a supporter for the Mexican Olympic Team Fukuyama Camp. "This is a great opportunity for us to see world-class athletes training up close. I'll be happy if this encourages children to get involved in sports."

## Fukuyama Neuvola

Worried about pregnancy,  
childbirth, or childcare?  
Here's where you can drop by for advice

In Finnish, the word "neuvola" means "a place for advice." Inspired by the Finnish model, Fukuyama Neuvola is a comprehensive support system that offers families advice about pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare. Fukuyama has set up twelve neuvola centers named "Ano Ne" throughout the city that offer consultations on a wide range of topics. The system provides seamless support through all stages of childcare, all in one location. The centers have a homey atmosphere, and new mothers using the service have commented, "They listen closely, which makes me feel comfortable," and, "Since it's in the neighborhood, I can drop by whenever I like."



Neuvola counselors are friendly and responsive. Facilities have been set up in Nishi-machi, Isegaoka, Kannabe, Shinichi, Matsunaga, and other locations throughout the city.

### A Wide Variety of Child-rearing Support Activities!

#### NPO Mamanohibi



Striving to increase the smiles that connect parents and children living in the local community

Led by a childcare therapist, meetings are held for mothers to chat about and share their joys and anxieties concerning parenting. Twice a week, an old Japanese-style house is opened up to participants and used as an exchange area, so that parents and children can have fun.

#### Tanpopo Gohan no Kai



Talking about the importance of food through a recipe book and cooking classes

With the philosophy that "eating well is living well," this group holds cooking classes and produces a recipe book that introduces the recipes for the lunches served at Tanpopo Nursery School. The group's aim is to "enrich people's lives by improving how they eat."



As seen in  
"Kemono Friends!"  
Let's go  
see a serval!

Serval

Wow! There are a lot of animals here that also show up in "Kemono Friends." There's a caracal here, too! This looks like fun!



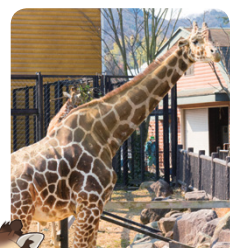
Gentoo penguin



Some of the animals at Fukuyama Zoo



Scarlet ibis



Reticulated giraffe



Caracal

Many "Friends" here that you've heard about

## Fukuyama Zoo

T 084-958-3200  
G Tue. (or the following day if Tue. is a holiday)/New Year's period  
\*Open every day from Mar. through May and Sep. through Nov.

The zoo has 420 animals from around 65 species. The zoo places importance on being able to see these active animals up close. Animals at this zoo include Fuku-chan, the only Borneo elephant in Japan, and Mari-chan, a white-handed gibbon with so many offspring that she holds a Guinness World Record. Also, very popular recently are the many animals

here who have appeared in the "Kemono Friends" series. Here's your chance to meet a serval, which is the main character of the series, and there are caracals and other animals here too.



What is "Kemono Friends"?  
"Kemono Friends" is a story that is set in an enormous zoo called Japari Park. It tells of the adventures experienced by a group of "Friends" who—under the influence of a mysterious substance known as "Sandstar"—have been transformed from animals into humans. The "Kemono Friends" project has become quite popular in Japan and has been developed into various forms that include a game, an anime program, comics, a stage performance, and collaborations with other zoos.

©Kemono Friends Project

See the animals  
up close!

This is what makes Fukuyama Zoo special!

Feeding Time



Provides visitors with the opportunity to watch from up close as tigers, penguins, and other animals are fed.

"Pakkun" Time



A chance to watch and listen to the zookeepers' explanations as they feed the penguins and the squirrel monkeys. Smile as you watch the animals munch (pakupaku) away.

Guided Tour



The zoo offers a Backyard and Kitchen Tour to introduce visitors to what happens behind the scenes at a zoo as well as a Guided Grounds Tour that provides opportunities for taking photos close to the animals.

Petting Time



A chance to touch reptiles and guinea pigs. Here visitors can gently stroke these animals, experience the stiffness and sensation of their fur, and feel the warmth of another living creature.



# Fukuyama Gourmet

Wonderful for eating and photographing!

Plentiful delights from the calm waters of the Seto Inland Sea and the fertile lands and hillsides of the area!



Full of unexpected delights!  
Enjoy the search for hidden treasures!

## Uzumi

Frugality measures during the Edo period (1603-1868) are thought to be the origin of the local custom of "burying" ("uzumi" in the local dialect) ingredients under a serving of rice. Today, the secret is to work your way through the rice like you're digging for buried treasure, wondering all the while what you will find. Dashi stock is the deciding factor when it comes to this dish's flavor. The prime example of this cuisine is Fukuyama tai-uzumi, which uses red sea bream (tai) caught in Tomonoura.

This is what it looks like inside!



## A crispy take on the Seto Inland Sea's little fish!

The small fish known locally as "nebuto" are typical of the small fish that live in the Seto Inland Sea. Its most striking feature is the large, stone-like bone that forms its head. The most common way to prepare it is with the head removed. Karaage (deep-fried) nebuto are highly recommended! Many people enjoy this tasty snack on its own or with alcoholic beverages.



## Nebuto Karaage

This is a standard item on the menus of izakaya pubs around Fukuyama, and it is popular among men and women of all ages. It is highly addictive, and once you start you won't want to stop. The best season for eating it is from May to September!

## Gasuten



A staple snack highly loved around Tomonoura

This snack is a Tomonoura specialty, made by deboning small fish like "nebuto," crushing them into a paste, and then deep-frying the paste in oil. The resulting crunchiness is described in local dialect as "gasugasu," so people have dubbed them "gasuten." They can be eaten as is or quickly toasted over an open flame.

## Rose Soft-serve Ice Cream

### Rose-pink ice cream

Take a bite of this cute pink ice cream and enjoy the flavor of roses.



## Tai-somen

Because its name in Japanese (tai) reminds people of the word for "congratulations" (medetai), dining on a whole red sea bream is essential for celebrations. One way to enjoy it in Fukuyama is to have tai-somen. Sometimes this dish is prepared with the fish's head and tail left on.

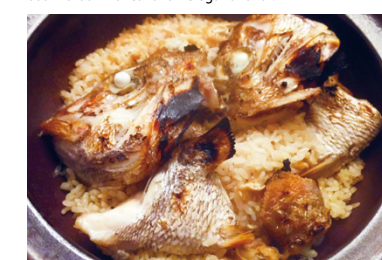
## Tai-chikuwa

Tai-chikuwa is made using a traditional but still popular style of preparation with the fish meat wrapped around a bamboo stick. Great to snack on while walking around, and great as a gift to take home, too!



## Tai-meshi

Tai-meshi, or red sea bream with rice, is what fishermen used to eat on their boats. The combination of rice steamed together with sea bream and the robust dashi broth makes for an elegant flavor.



This is the dish that people think of when they hear "Tomonoura!"  
Loaded with flavor!

## Red Sea Bream Dishes

Tomonoura is best known for its red sea bream-based dishes. People here have enjoyed eating these fish since ancient times, and their methods for preparing it are diverse. Aside from staple Japanese approaches like sashimi and grilled with a dusting of salt, red sea bream is also enjoyed as tai-meshi (sea bream with rice), tai-somen (with somen noodles), and tai-chikuwa (turned into fish cakes), among other ways.

## Chiichii Ika no Tempura



Perfect as a side dish as well as a snack for beer!

These small squid (in the local dialect, "chiichii ika") that have been scooped up with a strainer are flavored and then fried to crispy perfection.

## Kuwai no Suage



They make for great snacks when deep-fried.



Also delicious when simmered with sugar and soy sauce.

Sample deep-fried kuwai in the city where they're produced the most!

Fukuyama City is the country's top producer of kuwai, or arrowhead bulbs. They are an essential item for traditional New Year's cuisine as a symbol of something emerging anew. Generally, when eaten they are simmered in a sugared soy sauce mixture, but they also taste great when smaller ones are deep-fried whole into bite-sized morsels and larger ones sliced into chips and deep-fried. Savor their slightly bitter and flavorful taste.



## Agricultural & Sea Products

—Laying the foundations for Fukuyama's cuisine

## Bingo Fish

Dine on some of the delicious fresh seafood from the Seto Inland Sea!

Fishers speak highly of Bingo fish, the fresh sea products from four of the coastal cities of the Seto Inland Sea—Fukuyama, Mihara, and Onomichi in Hiroshima Prefecture, and Kasaoka City in Okayama Prefecture. Twenty-five varieties of fish including red sea bream are recognized as "Bingo fish."



Some of the fresh fish available in each season.

## Grapes

Top producer of grapes in Hiroshima Prefecture

Fukuyama is the leading producer of grapes in Hiroshima Prefecture, with annual production amounting to around 1,000 metric tons. The New Berry A variety in particular is known for its solid, rich, and sweet flavor. Other noted varieties grown here include the Pione and the Shine Muscat.




They were served at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit.



# Activities in Fukuyama

Experience Fukuyama to the fullest!

From fishing tours to popular amusement parks to even making local specialties yourself, there are plenty of leisure activities to delight and excite!

 Recommended for people who like to get out and be active!

Enjoy Fukuyama's lush natural environment to the fullest!

## Yokoshima Island Seine Fishing Tour

Set out with fishermen for whom the sea is everything and try traditional fishing

Watch from up close as fishermen use enormous nets that are draped down dozens of meters to the seabed to pick up their catch as the boat moves along. Enjoy yourself with freshly caught seafood. You can combine this with a line-fishing trip.

 Yokoshima Island Fishing Cooperative  084-986-2008  
 Mid-Apr. to late Oct.

## Tashima Island Fixed Net Fishing Tour

Watch the entire process up close from netting the fish to selecting the catch

Using a fishing method of pulling up all the fish caught in the main net, you can try drawing up the nets yourself and see how fish are selected from the catch. For lunch, you will also enjoy the special cuisine prepared by the boat's crew.

 Tashima Island Fishing Cooperative  
 084-986-2304  Mid-Apr. to late May



## Crescent Beach

Take a dip in the beautiful waters of the Seto Inland Sea!

A beautiful 600-meter long beach whose pure white sands spread out in a crescent shape. With its gentle waves and clean waters, those with children can also have a fun time here.


 Tashima Island Fishing Cooperative  084-986-2304



## Yamano-kyo Campground

Play in the waters and enjoy mountain stream fishing

These campgrounds located at the Yamano-kyo Prefectural Natural Park have a maximum capacity of 500 people. You can enjoy the varied sights from spring through fall.

 Fukuyama City Tourism Division  
 084-928-1042



## Sea Kayaking

Set out by kayak on the calm waters of the Seto Inland Sea

Take in the view of important historical sites such as Tomonoura, Sensuijima Island, and Abuto Kannon (Bandai-ji Temple) while riding a sea kayak. For beginners, a half-day sea kayak course using a secure boat is recommended.

 Murakami Suigun Shokai  090-8718-4141  No fixed holiday

 Fun for the whole family!

Try out these exciting activities too!




## Miroku no Sato

Hiroshima Prefecture's only amusement park



The swing ride is a popular attraction.

Other popular stops here besides the amusement park with its 23 attractions include the "Itsuka Kita Michi" that recreates a street scene from the 1960s and a Dinosaur Park featuring several dozen of the prehistoric creatures!

 Miroku no Sato  
 084-988-0001  
 Open year-round

Another way to have fun!

## Setouchi Seaplanes

Sightsee from the skies above the Seto Inland Sea


Take a sightseeing flight by seaplane over the islands of the Seto Inland Sea. See both the connected strings of islands large and small across the sea and the towns that will seem like miniature gardens.

 Setouchi Seaplanes  
 0848-70-0388





## Shinshoji Zen Museum and Gardens Zen Experience and Zazen





 Follow the monk's example and stretch your back muscles.

Release yourself from the tumult of everyday life and condition your body and spirit

In the world of Zen, you can rid yourself of idle thoughts and condition your body and spirit. Here you can take part in a half-day Zen Experience that includes zazen (seated meditation), a meal, and sutra copying, or you can also take part in a zazen-only course.

 Shinshoji Zen Museum and Gardens  084-988-1111

 The garden gives expression to the Zen world view in which everything before your eyes is beautiful.  
 The KOHTEI art pavilion makes practical use of traditional shingling.






## Make Sea Bream Chikuwa (fish paste stick) and Furikake (rice seasoning)

An experience unique to a fishing town



Here you can learn the art of molding ground fish around a skewer under the careful guidance of an artisan, so even small children can safely give it a try. The result—piping-hot, freshly grilled chikuwa—is exceptional! (Reservations required.) You can also try making your own unique furikake by choosing from 12 different ingredients to add to a small fish-filled furikake base.

 Amochinmi/Taisho no Sato  
 084-982-3333  
 Tuesdays (closed December and January for the winter/hands-on experience available only on weekends and public holidays)

## Setouchi Cruising

Take a "walk on the water" aboard a cruiser through the beautiful Seto Inland Sea

The boat sets off from the Abuto Honkan building near Abuto Kannon and cruises around Tomonoura, the Utsumi Ohashi Bridge, and Tashima Island (40 to 60 minutes). You can eat and fish from aboard the ship as well (reservations required).

 Abuto Honkan  084-987-0416



Get your fill of magnificent views of the Seto Inland Sea.



## Renjuku and Kannabe Honjin

### Places frequented by many people

Renjuku, a private academy founded by the Confucian scholar Kan Chazan (1748-1827) who was praised as the greatest poet of his time, is designated as a National Special Historic Site. Nearby is Kannabe Honjin, which during the Edo period was an inn where daimyo (feudal lords) would stop while making their mandatory trips to the capital.

**I** Kannabe-cho Tourism Association  
**T** 084-963-2230 **S** Obon (mid-Aug. holiday period)/New Year's period



Kannabe Honjin's earthen walls painted in black tell of the elegance of its time.



Designated as a National Special Historic Site, this private academy served as a place for higher education for the youth of the past.

## Kibitsu-jinja Shrine

### This shrine is known to many as "Ikkyu-san"

This shrine is said to have been founded in 806 as a branch of Bitchu Kibitsu-jinja Shrine. After the shrine burned down many times, Mizuno Katsunari rebuilt the main hall as it is today. The deity worshiped here is regarded by many as the deity of the development of the Bingo Province (the ancient name for the region). Two of the shrine's events are quite famous—the Ichidate Taisai Festival and the Setsubun Festival, which celebrates the coming spring, including a "braggart rite" in which participants share tall tales around a large bonfire.

**T** 0847-51-3395



The main hall with its brilliant vermilion hues is a National Important Cultural Property.

The Dodo-gawa River No. 6 Check Dam, Japan's largest.



## Northern area

Here there are places where you can see streets where relics from the Edo period (1603-1868) remain, sites of lush natural beauty, and even locations that will bring to mind what it must have been like to live in ancient times!

## Ancient Erosion Controls and Tombs

### See the achievements of those who protected this land and the way they lived

These dams built during the Edo period by piling up stones to control erosion still do their duty today to prevent debris flow in the area. Of the 16 dams that remain on the Dodo-gawa River, eight of them are registered as National Tangible Cultural Properties as the Dodo-gawa River Check Dams. The 36 dams along the mountain streams of the Ashida-cho area make up the Bessho Check Dams. There are also numerous ancient tombs known as kofun in this northern area, including western Japan's largest cluster of these tombs associated with the imperial family in the Kannabe area. The check dams and tomb cluster are a short distance from a park and hiking trails, making them must-sees.

Dodo-gawa River Check Dams and Goryo Kofungun (Tomb Cluster) **I** Dodo-gawa River Hotaru Club **T** 090-2865-3486  
 Bessho Check Dams **I** Fukuda Public Hall **T** 084-958-3850



**I** The impressive Ryuzu no Taki Waterfall.  
**S** A view of Yama-no-kyo Gorge with fall leaves.

## Yama-no-kyo Gorge/Ryuzu no Taki Waterfall

### Feel the healing power of the lush and tranquil natural surroundings

The Yama-no-kyo Gorge located in the area's northernmost reaches contains a verdant natural park. Here you can watch the seasons unfold with cherry blossoms in the spring, fresh green leaves in the summer, and brilliantly colored foliage in the fall. The most noted location in the park is the Ryuzu no Taki Waterfall with its 60-meter drop.

**I** Fukuyama City Tourism Division  
**T** 084-928-1042

# Other Fukuyama highlights!

## Highlights from different areas around the region!

From fun spots among nature to ancient sites to modern art, discover these popular and photogenic locations around the city.

## Central area

The unique museums around Fukuyama Station make it a popular spot! There are also two national treasures in the area!

## Myoo-in Temple

### The main hall and five-story pagoda are designated as National Treasures

This temple is said to have been founded in 807 by the famed priest Kukai (Kobo-Daishi). Rebuilt during the Kamakura period (1185-1333), the main hall is among Japan's oldest structures built in the setchuyo (eclectic) style. In addition, the five-story pagoda is said to be the fifth oldest in Japan. It also has the unusual history of having been constructed during the Nanboku-cho period (1336-1392) with private funds invested by residents of the area.

**T** 084-951-1732



**I** The temple is the site of a fire-walking rite held every March. **S** The vermilion five-story pagoda and main hall stand out against the blue skies and green leaves.



## Fukuyama Culture Zone

### Works of art and cultural properties for perusing history are all gathered here in one spot

There are several cultural facilities that surround Fukuyama Castle. In addition to the Fukuyama Museum of Art with its impressive collection of works, the area is also home to the Fukuyama Museum of Literature, the Fukuyama Museum of Calligraphy, the Human Rights and Peace Museum, and the Hiroshima Prefectural Museum of History.

The red installation known as Ai no Arch ("The Arch of Love") is the symbol of the Fukuyama Museum of Art.



## Southern area

Coastal areas with many refreshing and beautiful locations along the Seto Inland Sea. Wander around and visit the many spots here!

## Heike-dani Valley

### A valley that tells of the legends of the Heike

The Yokokura district of Numakuma in southern Fukuyama is known in many legends as the place where the 12th century warlord Taira no Michimori fled from his pursuers from the Minamoto clan to live in hiding. The battle flag of the Taira clan (also known as the Heike) was red, and so locals protect its memory by using red paper even for the sacred ropes at shrines.

**I** Numakuma-cho Tourism Association  
**T** 084-987-0677



Michimori Shrine venerates the spirit of its namesake.



**I** "Oppai ema," wooden plaques for written prayers in the shape of breasts.  
**S** The vermilion Kannon-do Hall harmonizes with the sparkling clear seas and ragged rocks.



## Abuto Kannon (Bandai-ji Temple Kannon-do Hall)

### The Kannon-do Hall sits at the tip of the cape

The vermilion Kannon-do Hall is located at the tip of Cape Abuto at the southern edge of the Numakuma Peninsula, offering a view of the entire Seto Inland Sea. The structure makes for a beautiful presence atop the wall of rocks, and it even became the subject of a woodblock print by the famed painter Utagawa Hiroshige. People come here to pray for safe childbirth. This structure is a National Important Cultural Property.

**T** 084-987-3862