



Panoramic Nighttime View from Gifu Castle

Gifu



A City of Attractions

Nagara River Cormorant Fishing

Kawaramachi Neighborhood



Gifu Castle National Historical Site



Golden Statue of Oda Nobunaga

Cormorant Fishing

A National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property

Ukai is a traditional fishing method in which cormorant masters use cormorants to catch fish. Nagara River cormorant fishing has an ancient history going back some 1,300 years to its beginning. Bonfires glowing brightly in the inky darkness are reflected on the river's surface, and the appearance of cormorant masters dressed in traditional attire working in unison with the cormorants as they go down the river in pursuit of fish invites viewers to take part in a profound experience. Even small groups of visitors can enjoy riding on a cormorant fishing viewing boat, and chartered boats are available for groups of 15 to 50 passengers.



Cormorant Fishing Viewing Boat Office and Waiting Area

The Cormorant Fishing Viewing Boat Office and waiting area have been renovated to match the historical appearance of the Kawaramachi area. The waiting area includes a teahouse and is available for anyone to use.

Cormorant Fishing Viewing Boat Office
Address: 1-2 Minato-machi, Gifu-shi
Tel: +81-58-262-0104
Cormorant fishing season: May 11 to Oct. 15

A town with a rich history, traditional culture, and natural environment

Gifu Castle

The base from which Oda Nobun unified Japan

The construction of Gifu Castle, which sits at the summit of Mt. Kinka, was begun in the Kamakura period by Nikaido Yukimasa, and lord Saito Dosan occupied the castle during the Warring States period. Oda Nobunaga took possession of the castle in 1567 and renamed it from Inabayama Castle to Gifu Castle. With this castle as his base, Nobunaga proceeded to unify Japan over a period of about ten years. The castle fell during a preliminary skirmish leading up to the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600 and was razed. The present-day castle was rebuilt in 1956; it contains a history exhibit room inside and an observation deck on the uppermost floor. The Gifu Castle site on Mt. Kinka was designated a national historical site in 2011.



Address: 18 Tenshukaku, Kinkazan, Gifu-shi
Tel: +81-58-263-4853
Open: Mar. 16–May 11: 9:30–17:30
May 12–Oct. 16: 8:30–17:30
Oct. 17–Mar. 15: 9:30–16:30
*6:30–16:30 on New Year's Day only
*Sometimes open late for panoramic nighttime viewing



Nagaragawa Ukai Museum

Japan's first museum devoted to cormorant fishing. Learn about Nagara River cormorant fishing through a variety of exhibits and experience the attraction of cormorant fishing even during the off-season.

Address: 51-2 Nagara, Gifu-shi
Tel: +81-58-210-1555
Hours: May 1–Oct. 15: 9:00–19:00
Oct. 16–Dec. 28: 9:00–17:00
Jan. 4–Apr. 30: 9:00–17:00

*Final admittance is 30 minutes before closing time.
Closed: Tuesdays Oct. 16–Apr. 30 (the following weekday if Tuesday is a public holiday and New Year's (Dec. 29–Jan. 3))

Cormorant Fishing Viewing Boat Dockyard

This is the dockyard where traditional wooden boats for viewing the cormorant fishing are built. There are no blueprints for these boats; instead, they are built through the expert skills of craftsmen who make just two a year.



Ukai no Sato

Six cormorant fishing master homes sit along the right bank of the Nagara River. Here, you can find the cormorant masters dressed in straw coats and special fishing caps as well as the cormorants themselves and, in the garden, orderly stacks of firewood for the bonfires.

Gifu Castle Museum

The old armory and food storehouse was reconstructed in the *sumi-yagura* style of castle architecture in 1975. Located just west of the main donjon, it houses historical exhibits from the Warring States period through the Edo period.



Mt. Kinka

Located in the heart of the city, 329 m in height. Thickly wooded with virgin forest and clusters of ferns, this mountain is home to over 60 species of birds, including Japanese tits, varied tits, and Japanese white-eyes.

Mt. Kinka Ropeway

The ropeway takes about four minutes to get from Gifu Park to the summit of Mt. Kinka. Enjoy the view of the Nagara River and the city center below as well as the seasonally changing scenery of Mt. Kinka.

Address: 257 Senjojikishita, Gifu-shi
Tel: +81-58-262-6784
Open: Mar. 16–May 11: 9:00–18:00
May 12–Oct. 16: 8:00–18:00
Oct. 17–Mar. 15: 9:00–17:00
*5:00–17:00 on New Year's Day only
*Sometimes open late for panoramic nighttime viewing

Nagara River

One of the symbols of Gifu City, along with Mt. Kinka and Gifu Castle. Selected as one of Japan's top 100 bodies of water, it is home to numerous fish, including ayu and precious satsukimasu salmon.

Nagara River Promenade

This footpath lets you leisurely stroll along the Nagara River for a distance of 1.3 km upstream from the approach to Nagara-bashi Bridge on the northern side. Visitors can see cormorant fishing take place nearby at night.

Nagaragawa Onsen

Nagaragawa Onsen is an onsen district located near the Nagara River and Mt. Kinka, upon which Gifu Castle sits. The water here has been chosen as one of Japan's top 100 hot springs.

Hot spring type: Simple cool mineral spring containing iron
Effective for: Neuralgia, joint pain, recuperation from fatigue, and more



For a Limited Time: Panoramic Nighttime Viewing from Gifu Castle

Enjoy a magnificent panoramic view of the sparkling city lights, which stretch all the way to distant Nagoya, from Gifu Castle at the summit of Mt. Kinka, at an altitude of 329 m.

Japan Heritage (Site No. 1)

Experience the hospitality of Lord Nobunaga in the Warring States castle town of Gifu



Kawaramachi Area

Kawaramachi is the name of the historical district that extends westward from the south end of Nagara-bashi Bridge, and traces of the era in which it prospered as a river port can still be seen. The name "Kawaramachi" refers collectively to the neighborhoods of Minatomachi, Tamai-cho, and Motohama-cho. This historical district features numerous Japanese-style houses with lattice doors, as well as shops that make Gifu uchiwa fans, longstanding confectioner shops, art galleries, restaurants, and more.

2 Gifu Great Buddha (Shoho-ji Temple)

This giant Buddha statue, 13.63 m in height, was created to protect the public from misfortune. It is Japan's largest dry lacquer Buddha statue and one of Japan's Three Great Buddhas.



3 Jozai-ji Temple

This temple was built by the poet Saito Myochin under the Toki governorship. It famously served as the headquarters of Lord Saito Dosan when he ruled Mino province, and it served as the family temple for Dosan and the two generations that followed him.



4 Myosho-ji Temple

Built on the site of the residence of the samurai Takenaka Hanbei, Myosho-ji Temple is famous as a place where the poet Matsuo Basho stayed. Visitors can see numerous famous haikus and the room in which Basho stayed.



5 Osushi Highway

This road was named for the fact that it was used for delivering ayu sushi to the Tokugawa Shogun family during the Edo period. Old-fashioned houses can be found along the road as well as cafés and Japanese confectioners.



6 Inaba Shrine

This shrine, beloved as the tutelary shrine of Gifu, is over 1,900 years old. It is thought to have been moved to its current location from Mt. Inaba (Mt. Kinka) by Lord Saito Dosan.

Recommended walking routes

- Kawaramachi route
- Park area route
- Old highway route

14 Gifu Park Information Center

Located at the entrance to Gifu Park, this building was modeled after a samurai residence of the Warring States period. It offers a break room, a cafeteria, and a bicycle rental station.



13 Japan-China Friendship Garden

This garden was built to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the friendship city partnership between Gifu and Hangzhou, China formed in 1989. The garden includes a pond modeled after West Lake, a famous spot in Hangzhou.



12 Eizo & Toichi Kato Memorial Art Museum

This museum stores and displays numerous works of art by the brothers Eizo and Toichi Kato, two famous Japanese-style painters from Gifu. Visitors can view famous paintings that depict historical rustic Gifu.



11 Three-storied Pagoda

This pagoda was built in 1916 as a commemorative project to celebrate the enthronement of the Taisho emperor. It is striking for its bright vermillion paint. It was designated a national registered tangible cultural property in 2005. *The pagoda will be undergoing restoration work until March 2017.



10 Site of Lord Oda Nobunaga's Residence

This is the spot where Lord Oda Nobunaga's residence was located. At the entrance is an enormous roofed gate. Paving stones, some building remains, cornerstones, and more can be found at the site, and an excavation is currently underway.



9 Ryurei Tearoom

Visitors to the park can visit this break room for matcha green tea and Japanese confections in a relaxing environment. The entrance hall features a water harp that has a soothing effect on visitors.



8 Nawa Insect Museum

This museum was opened by Yasushi Nawa, discoverer of the Japanese *luehdorfia* butterfly. It is Japan's oldest insect museum, with over 300,000 specimens of some 12,000 species, and visitors can learn about the mysterious world of insects.



7 Gifu City Museum of History

Visitors can learn about the culture and history of Gifu City, from its founding to the modern era, through a variety of activities. The exhibit focused on Lord Oda Nobunaga and the special exhibits are essential viewing.



Gifu Park

Located at the base of Mt. Kinka, this park is popular as a rest stop for residents and tourists. A variety of attractions can be found here, including the site of Lord Oda Nobunaga's residence, the Japanese-style Nobunaga Gardens, the Gifu City Museum of History, the Eizo & Toichi Kato Memorial Art Museum, and the Nawa Insect Museum. The entrance to the hiking trail that leads to the summit of Mt. Kinka and the ropeway boarding station can also be found here.





2 Plum Blossoms at Bairin Park (mid-Feb. to late Mar.)

Gifu Bairin Plum Festival (early Mar.)

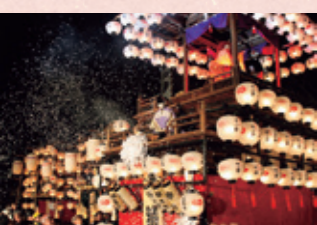
This park is home to over 1,300 trees of some 50 varieties. The Gifu Bairin Plum Festival, which is held during the optimal viewing season, offers a variety of events, including a photography event and a tea ceremony.



3 Cherry Blossom Trees along the Nagara River

(late Mar. to early Apr.)

Many hanami (spring blossom) viewers come in spring to see the yoshino cherry blossoms in full bloom at Obusazutsumi on the right-hand bank of the Nagara River and on the left-hand bank between Nagara-bashi Bridge and the Japan-China Friendship Park.



4 Gifu Festival (Festival Eve) (1st Sat. of Apr.)

Dosan Festival (1st Sat. of Apr. and the following day)

Gifu Festival is an annual festival that involves Inaba Shrine and other shrines within the city. Dosan Festival is held to honor the achievements of Lord Saito Dosan. Viewers are treated to the sight of impressive floats and portable shrines.



5 Tejikara Fire Festival (2nd Sat. of Apr.)

This stirring festival of fire and sound has been held annually at Tejikarao Shrine for over 300 years. Vigorously dancing naked men carry portable shrines mounted with fireworks.



7 Tejikara Summer Fire Festival (2nd Sun. of Aug.)

The Fire Festival held at Tejikarao Shrine in April is given a repeat performance by the shore of the Nagara River. Its "earth-shattering fireworks" that explode on the ground can be seen only at the summer event.



8 Nagara River Takigi Noh (late Aug.)

Noh and Kyogen performances take place on a stage erected by the shore of the Nagara River with pitch-black Mt. Kinka in the background. The performances are given a fairytale quality as fire from the cormorant fishing boat bonfires is used to kindle the firewood.

1 Ganjo-ji Temple — Princess Chujo's Vow Cherry Tree (early to mid-Apr.)

This cherry tree is said to have been planted by Princess Chujo during the Nara period. It is a tree of the yamazakura variety, distinctive for its large number of petals — 20 to 30 per blossom. It has been designated a national natural monument.



6 Fireworks on Nagara River (last Sat. of July, 1st Sat. of Aug.)

The Nagara River fireworks displays are some of the biggest in Japan. Fireworks specialists from all over the country assemble to launch some 30,000 large fireworks, filling the night sky above Gifu with color.

9 Enkianthus perulatus at Dairyu-ji Temple (Spring/Fall)

This temple is famous for having some 1,200 Enkianthus perulatus shrubs planted in the garden and on the hill within the temple's precincts. They have white flowers in spring and bright red leaves in fall for visitors to enjoy.



18 Ikenoue Purification Ceremony Festival (2nd Sat. of Dec.)

During this festival, which takes place in the middle of winter, naked men wearing headbands and loincloths cleanse themselves in the Nagara River and pray for success.

10 Gifu Nobunaga Festival

(1st Sat. of Oct. and the following day)

This festival, held to honor the achievements of Lord Oda Nobunaga, involves a variety of events at different locations around the city, including the Nobunaga Horseback Warriors Parade and the Musical Band Parade.

11 Chrysanthemum Doll and Flower Exhibition

(late Oct. to late Nov.)

Some 3,000 chrysanthemum plants and showy chrysanthemum dolls are assembled for this exhibit. The flowers, cultivated with great effort by chrysanthemum enthusiasts, include minogiku, yamagiku, oogiku, and other varieties that originated in Gifu.

12 Fall Leaves at Matsuo Pond

(late Nov. to early Dec.)

This water reservoir was maintained for irrigation purposes in the Meiji period. When the mountains are draped in the colors of autumn, the beautiful fall leaves can be seen reflected in the pond's surface.

14 Gyokusho-in Setsubun Tsurikomi Festival (Feb. 3)

Yaku-otoko (men of certain unlucky ages) dress up as red ogres and ride on portable shrines, while yaku-onna (women of certain unlucky ages) dress up as ofuku (model women) and ride in carriages. After parading through the streets, they are carried to the temple's main hall where they undergo purification rites and pray for good health.

15 Koyomi no Yobune (Winter Solstice)

This is an art performance overseen by Katsuhiko Hibino. Enormous numbers made from washi paper and bamboo and zodiacal lanterns are placed on covered boats and float down the Nagara River on the evening of the winter solstice.

16 Luxury Pleasure Boats (During Cormorant Fishing Off-Season)

Visitors can enjoy banquets aboard elegant pleasure boats that float along the Nagara River against the backdrop of Mt. Kinka. Enjoy sukiyaki and nabe dishes made from native Okumino chickens from the warmth of the boat cabin.



Events in Gifu City for experiencing nature and culture throughout the four seasons

- Mid-Jan. Dairyu-ji Daruma Memorial Service (Dairyu-ji Temple)
Feb. 3 Gyokusho-in Setsubun Tsurikomi Festival (Gyokusho-in Temple)
Early Mar. Gifu Bairin Plum Festival (Bairin Park)
1st Sat. of Apr. and the following day Gifu Festival / Dosan Festival (City Center)
2nd Sat. of Apr. Tejikara Fire Festival (Tejikarao Shrine)
May 11 Start of Nagara River Cormorant Fishing (Nagara Riverside)
Golden Week, July-Oct. Panoramic Nighttime Viewing from Gifu Castle (Gifu Castle)
Last Sat. of July Chunichi Newspaper Nagara River All-Japan Fireworks Festival (Nagara Riverside)
1st Sat. of Aug. Nagara River National Display (Nagara Riverside)
2nd Sun. of Aug. Tejikara Summer Fire Festival (Nagaragawa Park)

- Late Aug. Nagara River Takigi Noh (Nagara Riverside)
1st Sat. of Oct. and the following day Gifu Nobunaga Festival (City Center)
Late Oct. to late Nov. Chrysanthemum Doll and Flower Exhibition (Gifu Park)
Nov. Cormorant fishing off-season Luxury Pleasure Boat Tours
2nd Sat. of Dec. Ikenoue Purification Ceremony Festival (Katsuragake Shrine)



Gifu is proud of its home-style cooking and its craftsmanship.

Home-Style Cooking



Ayu (Sweetfish) Cuisine

Nagara River is famous for Nagara River cormorant fishing, which has a history going back some 1,300 years. Enjoy the exquisite taste of ayu from the crystal clear river in dishes the city's restaurants are proud to serve.



Herbal Cuisine

The city of Gifu is known as a treasury of medicinal herbs provided by the surrounding natural environment. Herbal cuisine prepared using lavish amounts of these herbs can be enjoyed at inns in Nagaragawa Onsen. (Reservation required.)



Ayu Confections

These signature Gifu confections are shaped like the ayu caught in the Nagara River. A variety of types are available, including Turkish delight wrapped in sponge cake dough, roasted rice cakes, and rice biscuits.



Ayu Seaweed Rolls

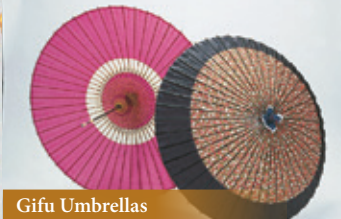
This flavorful food consists of tenderly stewed ayu wrapped in seaweed.

Craftsmanship Handcrafts



Gifu Lanterns

Gifu is where some of Japan's best traditional lanterns are produced. The washi paper is illustrated with beautiful illustrations of flowers, birds, and more, and the lantern's soft, elegant light creates wonderful ambience.



Gifu Umbrellas

Gifu's traditional Japanese umbrellas are produced by hand by fewer than 20 artisans, taking several months to complete using a process with over 100 steps. Their beauty, like a flower in bloom, is matched by their elegance.



Gifu Shibu-uchiwa

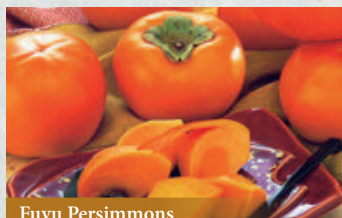
These traditional fans are made using Mino washi paper and high-quality bamboo, with the entire process carried out by hand. Shibu-uchiwa are coated with persimmon tannins, and their color deepens with the passage of time, producing a particular charm that really stands out.

Special Products



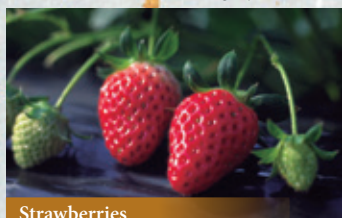
Edamame

These are edamame with a high sugar content, cultivated in areas fed by the Nagara River water system. They boast some of the nation's highest production volumes.



Fuyu Persimmons

Gifu is the birthplace of fuyu persimmons. They are notable for their thick flesh and refined sweetness, which have earned them the nickname "king of persimmons".



Strawberries

Strawberries are grown within the city—particularly the Nohime and Minomusume varieties.



Getting to Gifu

From Tokyo:

Train	Tokyo	Shinkansen (Nozomi)	Nagoya	JR Ltd. Exp. 18 min	Gifu
				Meitetsu Ltd. Exp. 29 min	
Bus	Tokyo (Shinjuku)	Highway Bus via Chuo Expwy			Gifu
		6 hr			
Car	Tokyo	Tomei / Meishin / Chuo / Tokai-Hokuriku Expwys	Ichinomiya-Kisogawa IC	25 min	Gifu
			Gifu-Kakamigahara IC	20 min	

From Chubu Centrair Int'l Airport:

Train	Airport	Meitetsu Ltd. Exp. 14-SKY			Gifu
		56 min			
Car	Airport	Chitaodan Rd / Chitahanto Rd / Nagoya Expwy / Higashi-Meihan Expwy / Meishin Expwy	Ichinomiya-Kisogawa IC	25 min	Gifu
			Gifu-Kakamigahara IC	20 min	

From Osaka:

Train	Osaka	Shinkansen (Nozomi)	Nagoya	JR Ltd. Exp. 18 min	Gifu
				Meitetsu Ltd. Exp. 29 min	
Car	Osaka (Toyonaka)	Meishin / Tokai-Hokuriku Expwys	Ichinomiya-Kisogawa IC	25 min	Gifu
			Gifu-Kakamigahara IC	20 min	

From Toyama:

Train	Toyama	JR Takayama Line - Ltd. Exp. 3 hr 30 min			Gifu
		JR Hokuriku / Tokaido Main Line - Ltd. Exp. 3 hr 10 min			
Car	Toyama IC	Hokuriku / Tokai-Hokuriku Expwys	Seki IC	25 min	Gifu
				2 hr 40 min	

Gifu Convention and Visitors Bureau

Tel: +81-58-266-5588 <http://www.gifucvb.or.jp/en/>

Gifu Convention and Visitors Section

1-11 Kanda-machi, Gifu-shi Tel: +81-58-265-3984 <http://www.city.gifu.lg.jp>

Gifu City Tourist Information Office

2nd floor, JR Gifu Station Tel: +81-58-262-4415