

Stream of Dreams

The Shimanto River

Coming down from the skies,
Shading mountains to green,
Colouring the seasons, fulfilling our lives,
On the river flows.
Reflecting the blue of the sky,
On toward the sea,
Rising toward the skies,
Waters stream, waters flow,
The clear waters of Shimanto River.

Shimanto City Tourism Association
383-15 Uyama, Shimanto City, Kochi 787-0015
TEL:(0880)35-4171
TEL:(0880)34-1144
URL:<http://www.shimanto-kankou.com>
E-mail:info@shimanto-kankou.com

四万十市観光協会 Search

Iwama Chinkabashi (Submersible Bridge): as seen from National Route 441

Shimanto City, Kochi



10 Million Rape Flowers Forest (Nyuta Willow Forest)



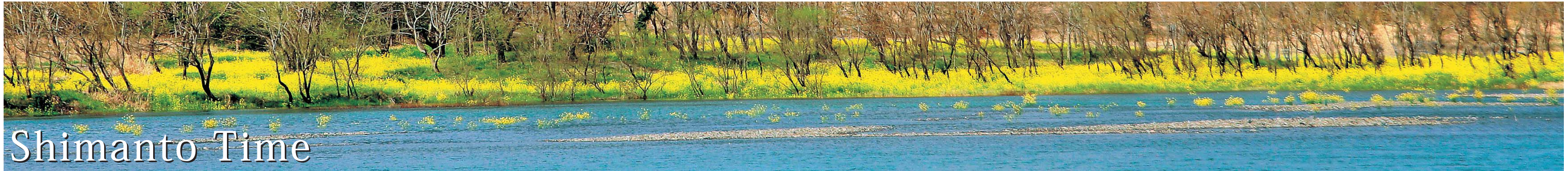
Kuroson Gorge



Sada Chinkabashi



Misato Chinkabashi



Shimantogawa "Hanaemaki" (Flower Festivals)

Flowers of the four seasons blossoming by the clear stream



Rape Flowers

- early March to early April
- Riverbanks in Nyuta

All along the approximately 2km stretch of natural willow tree forest is a trail of blooming bright-yellow rape flowers. In the evening, illumination of these flowers also light up the path.



Japanese Iris

- late May to early June
- Dragonfly Nature Park

Inside this park area, about 10,000 bulbs of Japanese Iris come to bloom in a forest-country background and landscape that used to be more common everywhere in the past.



Cherry Blossoms

- mid-March to early April
- Tamematsu Park

This festival is held at Tamematsu Park, one of the famous spots to enjoy the Japanese cherry blossoms. During the festival period, lanterns are lit after dark to also highlight the cherry blossoms by night.



Hydrangea

- early June
- Yasunami Waterwheels

At Yasunami Suisha no Sato, the famous waterwheels are highlighted by hydrangea of blue, light pink, and violet colors which all add charm to the countryside scenery. Light-up events are also held in the evenings.



Wisteria

- late April
- Kosanji Wisteria Park

At Kosanji Temple which is also familiar to everyone as Shimin no Mori (citizen's forest), wisteria flowers from all over the world are showcased, pleasing and soothing people's hearts.



Red Spider Lilies

- late September
- Riverbanks in Nyuta

Red spider lilies blossoming in vivid red colors along the Shimanto River are truly breathtaking. Also enjoy together the in-season specialties of the region, especially of autumn.



Water Lilies

- early May to mid-October
- Dragonfly Nature Park

Every morning, approximately 3000 colorful water lilies highlight the park. During the season when they are in full bloom, special events such as concessions selling local products and game booths make good attractions.



Shimantogawa Riverside Full Walk

- 1st Saturday and Sunday of April

Take the time to walk slowly along the beautiful riverside of the clear Shimanto River, and enjoy the rich natural setting of springtime. Various types of walking courses and plans are available during the period which have turned into a seasonal tradition of Shimanto River, especially when the rape flowers come to bloom.



One-day Bridge Tour in Kuki (Azalea Festival)

- early April

This is an interactive type of event of the Nishitosa Kuki region to experience various kinds of fun activities such as viewing azaleas and chinkabashi bridges, picking wild vegetables, and "Amego" (red-spotted masu trout)-fishing at various locations around the river basin of Shimanto's branch river, Kurosogawa. Try the special experience and absorb all the best of the natural surroundings around Shimanto.



Tosa Ichijo Family Procession (Wisteria Festival)

- May 3

Period picture scroll portraying the scenes from when the region's former ruler Ichijo Norifusa officially entered Nakamura to take his office. With "gagaku" the ancient Japanese court music played in the background, the procession of the lords dressed in robes of the Muromachi Period down the streets of "Little Kyoto of Tosa" is described in the picture.



"Kawarakko" Village Festival

- mid-May

In the "Shimanto Canoe and Camp no Sato 'Kawarakko'" area, enjoy canoeing and herbal-dyeing experiences, and try the homemade foods as well. This festival is where everyone in the family can enjoy the Shimanto River adventures.



Konpira Festival (Itsushika "Five-deer" dancing)

- 1st Sunday of April and November 23, twice a year

In the Konpira Festival, watch the unique traditional dancing dedicated to the gods, which is passed down to the children of one generation to the next. Nishigaho where Konpira Shrine is located is found in the rich natural surroundings and is one scenic site to visit.



Shimanto River Radio-controlled Seaplane Festival

- late April

Held at Nabeshima in Shimanto City, this is a radio-controlled seaplane-flying event, quite unique in the country. Ranging from seaplanes to motorboats, some expert skills of controlling and operation are demonstrated here. Aviation classes for children are also held alongside, making this event something for the whole family to enjoy.



Dogamori Festival

- May 5

The festival is held annually in the Odomae plaza in Fujinokawa Dogamori located right at the border of Shimanto City and Shimanto Town. Apart from giving prayers wishing for safety of the mountains and other holy rituals, there are rice-cake throwing and "Hono Onna Sumo" ("Tribute Sumo-wrestling by Women") which are the climax events of this festival.



Shimanto Civic Festival (Dancing and lantern float parade)

- 1st Saturday of August

This is a festival to announce the coming of the summer season to Nakamura, the "Little Kyoto of Tosa". Nakamura odori-dancing and a fancy lantern floats parade down the streets, are certainly interesting performances to see.

Glossary of Shimantogawa Regional Events



Memorial Service Event in Gontani

- August 15

This is one of the Buddhist Obon services held to honor the deceased and ancestors, dating back to around 1665 and passed down to today. With the bells and drumbeating, incantation is offered on the riverside lit by torchlight and purifying waters. Prayers for the benefits of both the suffering spirits and those who were deceased within one year are held together.



Shimanto Firework Display

- last Saturday of August

This event takes place in the center of town, with fireworks shot from the Shimantogawa riverbed at the foot of the Red Iron Bridge. The magnificent show of fireworks above everyone also produces reflections on the riverface, and the night skies over "Little Kyoto" are made to shine beautifully in the dark.



Fuba Hachiman Shrine Festival

- the second Saturday and Sunday of October

Here a rare style of wedding ceremony is performed, really like no other. A portable shrine carrying the goddess of Ichigu Shrine (the bride) from one side of the river, crosses the river to exchange betrothal gifts and perform a ceremony. With the clashing of portable shrines against each other congratulations on the holy marriage is indicated according to the old traditions and rituals.



Kokkiriko-dances in Yamachi

- mid-October

This is the folk culture of the Yamachi area in Shimanto City, passed down from the Edo Period. This traditional dancing is designated as an intangible folk cultural property of Shimanto City, and is a unique presentation of dancing using two poles.



Shimantogawa Ultra Marathon

- mid-October

This marathon, where athletes run through the roads in the river valley of Shimanto, is carried out over two courses, one with a distance of 100km and the other, 60km. It is one of the major marathon events of the country.



Tachibana portable shrine river crossing

- October 29

The holy deity is carried across the river from Shiroya Shrine to the Yasaka Shrine of the Tachibana district, brought farther to the Festival along with the parade float, and then returns to Shiroya Shrine after pursuing all the given rituals.



Autumn Festival in Hage (Hanatori-dancing and Ushi-oni)

- November 2

In the autumn festival of Hage Tenmangu Shrine, Ushi-oni (bull-faced demon) figures and portable shrines make a procession down the Chinkabashi bridge with young Hanatori-dancers and children walking along. After the procession Hanatori-dancing is performed on the shrine grounds.



Ichijo Festival

- November 22 to 24

This festival dates back to 1862 when Ichijo Shrine was constructed. Ever since, the festival has been celebrated on the grand scale that it is today. Processions of small children, sumo-wrestling bouts and various other festivities are carried out over the days.



Opening of the sweetfish (Ochi Ayu) season

- December 1

For the protection of spawning and breeding, the fishing of Ochi-Ayu (sweetfish) is generally restricted until this day. On this opening day of the season, many fishermen coming from both in side and outside of Kochi Prefecture gather by Shimanto River.



Autumn Foliage in Kurosogawa Gorge

- from early November to mid-November

"Kurosogawa" river has been selected in Japan's (Heisei) Top 100 of the Shimanto River tributaries. In the upper stream of Kurosogawa, is a forest of Buna (Japanese beech), and a gorge where the autumn leaves reflected over the clear waters produce a breathtaking sight. It is also famous as the habitat of fairy pitta bird and Amego fish.



Harvesting Green Seaweed on the Shimanto River

- early December to late March

Green seaweed is picked near the rivermouth, and the product is said to be the best in Japan in terms of aroma, color and taste. Careful work of picking from Shimanto's riverbed is one impressive scenery to look out for and is another wintertime attraction representing the region.



Glass-eel fishing

- early December to early March

Held at the rivermouth of Shimanto River, enjoy the beautiful symphony of lights on a cold winter night.



Spider Sumo Tournament

- 1st Sunday of August

In the early days, it used to be a game played by women in the imperial court, and today it is enjoyed by children as one of the events for summertime fun. In the tournament there are usually over 100 entries of wrestling spiders. Walk-in participation by tourists is also welcome.



Shimanto River Swimming Marathon

- 1st Sunday of August

It is the one and only swimming marathon event in all of Japan. The participants can choose from the two courses available depending on their condition. How about going for a swim in the Shimanto River with the sweetfish?



Daimonji Okuribi (Great Bonfire Event)

- July 16 (by the ancient calendar)

On this night, Judaijiyama (in Masaki) is lit with a red bonfire, creating a fantastic scenery symbolizing the end of summer to "Little Kyoto" Nakamura. It is a famous seasonal attraction of this region.

Like home where the sceneries stay unchanged,
let the warmth of the nature embrace you and give you comfort.

Boat Tours on Shimanto River

Enjoy your time viewing the local sceneries of Shimanto River filled with pleasant air and flavor of the pastoral river valleys. Boat tours are operated on a regular timetable or by charters. Also try some tours that will bring you to see interesting sights such as watching the traditional fishing methods of Shimanto River. Boat tours with meal and tours on Senba-boats with the white sails can also be arranged with reservations.

Regular Tours: Departs every other hour.

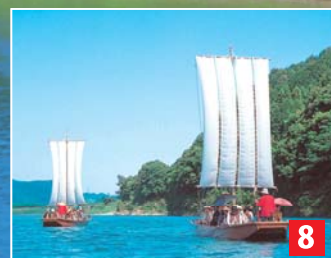
On demand tours: Boats can depart any time on request.

Boat tours with meal are also available. For details, please make direct inquiries to each operator.

Fares: Adults 2,000 yen (Senba 2,500 yen) Children (Elem. School children) 1,000 yen (Senba 1,250 yen)

* Due to conditions of the river, boat cruising may occasionally be subject to cancellation. Please call to confirm.

1 Canoe Kan	☎ 0880-52-2121	Shimanto City, Nishitosa Mochii	On-demand operation (Reservations required during the off-season period)
2 Okawa Yuransen	☎ 0880-38-2255	Shimanto City, Unoe Hiramoto	On-demand operation (Shuttle service available with reservation)
3 Nattoku	☎ 0880-38-2918	Shimanto City, Tadenokawa	Routine boat tours from 8:00AM (April to September) or from 9:00AM (October to March)
4 Shimanto no Ao	☎ 0880-38-2000	Shimanto City, Misato	On-demand operation from 9:00AM (One-way shuttle service available with reservation)
5 Ebisu Taishi	☎ 0880-38-2321	Shimanto City, Misato	On-demand operation available
6 Shinkawa	☎ 0880-35-2668	Shimanto City, Sada	Routine boat tour from 8:30AM
7 Sakoya	☎ 090-5147-4023	Shimanto City, Sada	On-demand operation available
8 Senba	☎ 0880-36-2227	Shimanto City, Nyuta Heimoto	From 9:00AM In operation in the period of March 20 - November 30
9 Matsuihiroya	☎ 0880-35-0022	Shimanto City, Sada	On-demand operation (Shuttle service available with reservation)
10 Funatatsu	☎ 0880-35-2312	Shimanto City, Nakamura Domeki	Chartered boats only (Reservations required)
11 Shimantogawa Kanko Kaihatsu	☎ 0880-36-2227	Shimanto City, Yamaji	Routine boat tours from 9:30AM
12 Kawaryoshi Club	☎ 0880-36-2676	Shimanto City, Yamaji	Fishing experience, on demand (Reservations required)



For the location of each of the boat cruises and docks, refer to the Shimanto River Enjoy Map on pages 15 and 16.



Kosanji Wisteria Park

The entire area of Kosanji Temple has been arranged to serve as a citizen's park, the best place for hiking and enjoying forest nature. In the park find Kosanji Temple associated with Kobo-Daishi (a famous monk in Japanese history), and from the observatory lookout, get a panoramic view of the Shimanto River and the townscape of Nakamura. In the spring, approximately 400 stems of wisteria flowers (of 52 species) from around the world bloom and make a beautiful sight.
Address ■ 974-1 Sakamoto, Shimanto City
Park hours ■ March 16 to September 30 9:00-19:00, October 1 to March 15 9:00-16:30



Kavarakko (canoeing and camping)

Shimanto Canoeing and Camp no Sato (camping grounds), situated beside the Shimanto River, is blessed in a rich natural setting. Beginners can also feel free to come by and experience canoeing. There are 27 camp-units (each with a kitchen sink, water utilities), canoes for rental, float rafts, Shimantogawa Rin-Rin Cycle bike rentals, shower facilities, locker rooms, laundromats, restrooms (charged) / Overnight lodging is open from 3:00PM up to 1:00PM (of the next day), and for limited-hours stay (between 10:00AM and 4:00PM). Please call in advance and make reservations.
Address ■ 24 Tadenokawa, Shimanto City
TEL 0880-31-8400 FAX 0880-31-8401
Closed ■ October 1 to June 30, every Monday (if a national holiday, then Tuesday) / Open every day from July 1 to September 30
<http://www.kavarakko.com/>
E-mail: kavarakko@40010.com



Hirano, Furami Surfing Beaches

These popular surfing spots, located 5 minutes by car from the entrance of the Tosa Seinan Great Park. Many surfers from around Shikoku and all over Japan gather here to catch waves.



Shimantogawa Wild Bird Nature Park

This is a true paradise for the wild birds living near the rivermouth of Shimantogawa. Every season by the riverside look out for wild birds approaching the water, particularly in the winter season which is the most recommended time to try spotting some rare species.
Address ■ 1001-1 Masaki, Shimanto City



Motor campsite "Tomarotto" Tosa Seinan Great Park

This is a Motor campsite overlooking the clear stream of Shimanto's rivermouth and the Pacific Ocean. As this campsite is fully equipped, even beginners in camping are welcome! You will find it easy to manage outdoor recreation. 15 cabin sites, 12 "Tengalow" units, 47 tent sites, Management Building (with a snack shop, coffee shop, laundromat, shower facilities), a multipurpose building complex, 3 cooking areas, barbecue sites, toilets, showers, event square, and playground
Address ■ 3535 Shimoda, Shimanto City
Gates open ■ from 8:00 to 21:45
TEL 0880-33-0101 FAX 0880-33-0202
■ Open everyday
<http://www.tomarotto.com/>
E-mail: camp@tomarotto.com



Shimantogawa Camping Grounds

This is a campsite located upstream from the Shimantogawa Bridge (Red Iron Bridge), over to the side of Gudo. It is provided free-of-charge, with full installations of water supply and mobile lavatory units.
Give requests to ■ Shimanto City Park Management Office
TEL 0880-37-0608



Yasunami Waterwheels

Canals (channeling four villages) were developed by Nonaka Kenzan to irrigate the fields and fetch water to the rice paddies. Waterwheels of various sizes form a row and whirl in the center of the rice paddy, creating a homely, nostalgic scene.
Address ■ Yasunami, Shimanto City



Canoe Kan (canoeing and camping)

Canoeing classes are open to beginners. Instructors offer a basic lesson course of either a half day or a full day (1 day). Inside the Canoe Kan, see canoes from around the world on exhibition. It also serves as the River Station, where inside, Shimantogawa Rin-Rin Cycle offers bicycle rentals as well.
Address ■ 1111-11 Nishitosa Mochii, Shimanto City
TEL 0880-52-2121 FAX 0880-52-2424
Hours of operation ■ 8:30-17:30
Bike rentals 8:30-17:00
Closed ■ January 1 - 3
<http://www.canoeekan.com/>
E-mail: info@canoeekan.com



Shimanto Gakusya

This is an accommodation facility remodelled from an old school building, where you can participate in interactive training workshops such as rafting, canoeing, and snorkeling. Now, further options of farming and fishing experiences are being planned for. Shimanto Gakusya should also be useful for group retreats, school trips, outdoor recreational activities and many other purposes.
Address ■ 408-1 Nishitosa Nakahage, Shimanto City
TEL 0880-54-1230 FAX 0880-31-9788
Closed ■ As a general rule, every Wednesday, and from December 28 to January 4 (Open every day in July, August and September)
<http://www.gakusya.info/>
E-mail: shimantogakusya@gmail.com

Nakamura Little Kyoto in Tosa

About 550 years ago, Lord Ichijo moved from Kyoto to avoid the Onin War. The townscape which was modeled on Kyoto was spread in a gridlike manner, and was also given famous street names such as Gion, Kyomachi, Kamogowa, and Higashiyama; therefore, this area came to be called the "Little Kyoto of Tosa". In the early Edo Period, Yasutoyo the brother of Yamauchi Kazutoyo, ruled the area which later led to the birth of a Sanmangoku Nakamura Clan. Even down to this day, everywhere around Shimanto one will find traces of history left from the days of the Ichijo Family and the feudal government. Enjoy a relaxing walk through the streets and visit the many historical sites as you trace back the times.

History of the Ichijo Family

The history of the Tosa Ichijo Family starts when Norifusa Ichijo moved from Kyoto to his territory Hata Manor (the present Shimanto City) in 1468. Ichijo Fusaie, the second son, never returned to Kyoto and eventually became the lord of the place and built the town to a style following that of Kyoto. For the next 106 years, Fusaie, Fusaie, Fusaie, and Kanesada ruled this area as the court nobles.

Hikitsuchi Funato

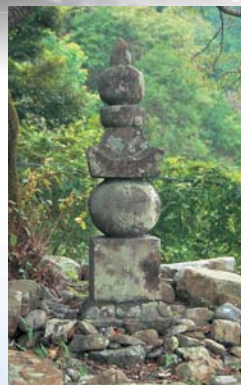
Located to the north of town, Hikitsuchi Funato docks served as a port for riverboats which used to be the key means of transport at the time. The word "Hikitsuchi" means 'claimed grounds' upon which shipyards and people's homes were built. During the Chosokabe era, Kuwana Yajirobei the noble lord used to live nearby.

Sakuramachi

Called Minami-Sakuramachi, Kita-Sakuramachi, here there was a row of residences of the senior statesmen until the Yamauchi Family Clan ceased.

Ruins of Konyamachi

During the most prosperous, Sanmangoku days of the Nakamura Yamauchi Family, many "Konya" (dyer's business) came gathering about and eventually turned this area into a major merchants' town representing Nakamura.



Grave of Yamauchi Masatoyo (Yoshitoyo)

Grave of Yamauchi Masatoyo (Yoshitoyo)

The second son of the 1st generation lord of the clan Yasutoyo, Yamauchi Masatoyo died in 1629 after serving the 2nd generation Head of the Nakamura-Yamauchi Family. Myoinji Temple where Masatoyo was buried used to be at the piedmonts of where today Kamikoshomachi is, but the temple was dilapidated in 1871. Now the grave of Masatoyo is mounted on the stone steps.



Kuroson Shrine

A "Little Kyoto" that is closely associated with the Ichijo Family



First Generation of the Noble Lords, Tosa Ichijo Ichijo Fusaie (Portrait)

Ruins of Nakamura-Yamauchi Family, Hata County Magistrate's Office

As the Nakamura-Yamauchi Family came to an end with 2nd generation Masatoyo (Yoshitoyo), in 1630 the successor Tadanao Yamauchi was given a Sanmangoku grant and entered the Nakamura Doi property. In 1656, the family was officially approved by the Bakufu government at the time as the Nakamura Clan. In 1689, the clan was incorporated into the Kochi main clan, Nakamura Doi came to serve as the Hata County Magistrate's Office, and from there on magistrates began to station here on this site.



Ruins of Nakamura Castle

Ruins of Nakamura Castle

The name Ruins of Nakamura Castle represents (in one) the four castles that stand on the mountain peak of Tamematsuyama. The fortress was built into a concatenation style. The stone walls that still remain here were discovered in 1965 and are presumed to have been rebuilt for the Nakamura Castle in 1613, the time when Lord of the Yamauchi Nimangoku Clan, Yamauchi Masatoyo (also known as Yoshitoyo) used to rule the region.

Taiheiji Temple

Taiheiji Temple was established during the years 1352 to 1356 by the noble Kaiho Shoko priestess with the help of Sengaku Kakuun of the Shikoku Pilgrimage. The seated statues of these two figures are considered to be masterpieces from the Muromachi Period, and are designated as important cultural properties of the country.



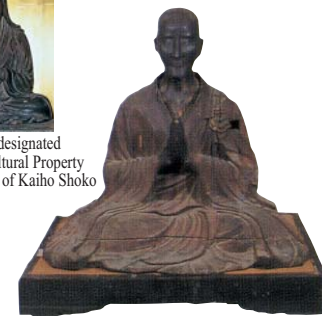
Taiheiji Temple



Government-designated Important Cultural Property Seated Statue of Sengaku Kakuun



Government-designated Important Cultural Property Seated Statue of Kaiho Shoko



Seated Statue of Nanbutsu Shonin



Fuba Hachiman Shrine

Fuba Hachiman Shrine

In the time period around 1469-1487, with many efforts dedicated by Lord Ichijo, a guardian shrine branching off from the Iwashimizu Hachimangu Shrine of Kyoto was built for the benefit of the Hata region. Its main hall is built to a triple-shrine structure and with shingle-roofing based on the architectural style that was common during the Muromachi Period, today the Fuba Hachimangu Shrine is designated as the country's important cultural property. Here get a feel of and a glimpse into the medieval days of Japan.



Ichijo Shrine

Ichijo Shrine

This is a shrine built in 1862 within the premises of Nakamura Goshu Remains by the people of this county to show their respect for Tosa Ichijo, who devoted many efforts to establish the culture and economy of the Nakamura district, and also to honor Tosa Ichijo's will. Inside the grounds of this shrine are the Kesho no Ido (well) and other historic remains kept in remembrance of Lord Ichijo.



Grave of Yamauchi Tadanao

Grave of Yamauchi Tadanao

Tadanao was the second son of Tadayoshi, the 2nd Generation Lord of the Tosa Clan who later became the Manor Lord owning Nakamura's Sanmangoku property. The huge Gorinto (Five-ring pagoda) built as his grave is unusually large-sized, even among those of Kochi Prefecture.

Grave of Princess Tamahime

Princess Tamahime was the daughter of the Imperial Prince Fushimi-no-miya Kunitaka, and was married to the 2nd generation Fusaie of the Tosa-Ichijo Family. In 1521, Tamahime came down to Tosa for the marriage.



Grave of Princess Tamahime

Shimanto City Historical Museum

A historical museum shaped like a castle is located in one section within the premises of the Ruins of Nakamura Castle. From the castle tower-like building, gain a sweeping view of the Shimanto River and the town area. Inside the museum are many precious holdings such as the Seven Star Sword associated with Lord Ichijo and Kotoku Shusui, the heroic icons and figures of this region. Tamematsu Park is also a famous site to view the beautiful cherry blossoms. Charge for admission / 8:30-17:00 (Last admission 16:30) TEL:0880-35-4096



Shimanto City Historical Museum

Kuroson Shrine

Steep hills on the side lead to the shrine grounds, and near the shrine stand the giant natural Japanese cedar and cypress trees that are more than 500 years old. People used to say that a giant serpent is the God and will grant people's wishes.



Kotoku Shusui
1871 - 1911

The real name of Kotoku Shusui is Denjiro. He was born to a wealthy merchant's family of Nakamura, the Tawaraya. From childhood he was known to be a bright student and in 1887 moved to Tokyo to study under Hayashi Yuzo, then on farther to study under Nakae Chomin and worked as a newspaper correspondent for Yorozu Chohosha publications. He continued to be active in the socialist movement, during which time many of his works such as the "Shakai Shugi Shinzui" were published. In 1911, he was executed on suspicion of the "High Treason Incident". In recent years, Kotoku's socialist ideologies have drawn high recognition once again, and in December of 2000, the city council officially selected the "Decision to praise Kotoku Shusui", which restored his honor 90 some years after the execution. Every year a memorial service is held before his grave on the anniversary of his death.



Higuchi Shinkichi
1815 - 1870

Shinkichi Higuchi was born in Hata of Nakamura (present Shimanto City, Nakamura Koshomachi) to the local family of a common soldier. At the age of 19, he decided to study under Tochika Kakumet, and later moved from place to place mastering the skills of Japanese fencing, archery, and gunnery. When he was 23, he enrolled in the Oishi Shinkage-ryu and gained a license permit to open a school in Nakamura after his return to his home region. The number of students and apprentices who studied at this school counts 1000. Later Shinkichi served as a subordinate official of the Hata Kagami County and then as the Kochi castletown noble. Also known as the leader of the Kinnoto Confederation which was an active group in the west of Tosa, he accompanied the noble lord to Tokyo. After Takechi Zuizan was imprisoned, he stressed on his own policy of refraining from the remedial measures. After joining the Boshin War frontline and returning victorious, he was promoted to the position of Rusui-gumi. In 1870, he took the post of a public official of the chief councillor the Tokukudaiji family but on June 14 of that same year, he passed away due to illness in Tokyo, at the age of 56.



The Seven Star Sword of Ikku Shrine

This is a priceless sword inherited from the early ages and held by Itsuku Shrine (of Masaki, Shimanto City), but its place of origin is unknown. The designed silver-pattern is said to represent the Big Dipper stars. This ancient sword is undoubtedly highly-valued, just as those precious, rare holdings kept at the Shitenno Temple and the Horyuji Temple. While most swords are single-edged, the Seven Star Sword of Itsuku Shrine is a double-edged type, which is extremely rare.



Daimonji Okuribi (Great Bonfire Event)

On the night of July 16, the former Obon memorial day according to the old calendar, the mountain side of Judaijiyama (in Masaki) gets lit up in red with a bonfire, bringing on quite a phantasmic scene, a definite must-see of the season.



Grave of Ichijo Norifusa

Grave of Ichijo Norifusa

Former chief advisor to the Emperor, Ichijo Norifusa (whose father was Ichijo Kaneyoshi who served as the Regent, Emperor's chief advisor, Government chief minister) moved from Kyoto down to Nakamura avoiding the Onin no Ran (war of 1467-). Norifusa is known for his great deed of dedicating his last 13 years serving in the manorial position to rebuild and guide the inactive Nakamura area to revive and become the commercial center of the region, until he passed away in 1480 at the age of 58. Myokeji Temple, the family temple of Norifusa, is assumed to have been located close to where Nakamura High School stands today.



Dragonfly Kingdom (Tombo Okoku)

Shimanto City Dragonfly Nature Park The four seasons (of the Dragonfly Kingdom)

Dragonflies are a symbol of water purity

All along the clean Shimanto River basin is blessed with a whole range of beautiful waters and environment, which is why it is also known to be the bonanza of dragonflies. Shimanto Dragonfly Kindgom (Shimanto Dragonfly Nature Park) where an abundant number of species are collected and showcased, boasts 76 different species, a record-making number found within any one area of these dimensions. From early spring to late autumn, enjoy watching various types of dragonflies fly about right before your eyes.

The world's first dragonfly sanctuary

In 1985, Ikedatani just outside of Shimanto City became the stage for a group of local citizens to get together and start construction of this dragonfly sanctuary, the first one ever in the world. Even today, efforts to expand this site are continued by the National Trust for further protection.

In one section of the protection zone stands the "Shimantogawa Gakuyukan 'Akitsuio'", an exhibition pavilion holding a collection of numerous dragonfly species from around the world as well as fresh-water and brackish-water fish species of the Shimanto River.



Dragonfly Pond under construction



Dragonfly Pond on completion

Dragonfly Pavilion

Here see the world's largest collection of dragonfly samples of over 1,000 species, totaling 3,000 dragonfly specimens. Alongside, there are movie presentations studying the life of dragonflies and samples of other unique insects from around the world.



The world's largest dragonfly and the largest in Japan (Mecistogaster lucretia ♂ and Anotogaster sieboldi ♀)

Fish Pavilion

200 fresh and brackish water fish species from all over the world, including 120 local to Shimanto, make this the most extensive breeding collection of such fish in Japan. Try feeding the giant fish pirarucus for a truly 'big' experience!"



Japanese lates

Shimantogawa Gakuyukan (Akitsuio)

"Akitsu" is the old Japanese name for dragonflies, and "-io" (the dialect of this region,) is for "-uo" which means 'fish' in Japanese. Here enjoy the exhibits of the dragonflies and fishes. All the staff of the Dragonfly Kingdom, out of love and appreciation for both the dragonflies and the fish, united their efforts to collect an overwhelming number species and produce this great nature museum. Please feel the hearts of the people who brought this collection together, along with their sincere message to encourage nature preservation. Feel free to come by "Akitsuio" also after your riverside outing and stroll by the stream, to add further enjoyment to your day at Shimanto.

Address■ 8055-5 Gudo, Shimanto City
TEL 0880-37-4111 FAX 0880-37-4113
Hours■ 9:00 - 17:00

Closed■ Mondays (If Monday is a public holiday, it will open that day and close on Tuesday instead,)Open every day during spring holidays, Golden Week, summer and winter holidays.

Admission■ Adults (over 18) 840 yen, Groups 670 yen
Jr. high and high school students 420 yen, Groups 330 yen
Children (over age 4 and elem. school students) 310 yen
Groups 250 yen
(* A group must be a party of 20 persons or more)

Parking lots■ Available
<http://www.gakuyukan.com/dragonfly>
Email: shimanto@gakuyukan.com



For dragonfly watching, sunny weather and the morning hours are the best!



Trigomphus citimus tabei
late March to late May



Anax parthenope julius
late April to late October



Sympetrum kunkeli
mid-June to mid-December



Kingfisher
Throughout the year

Also enjoy a wide variety of flowers of the four seasons! Dragonfly Kingdom is also known to be the place to view flowers.



Iris
late April to mid-May



Nuphar subintegerrimum
late April to mid-September



Japanese Iris
late May to mid-June



Water lily
late April to mid-October



Polygonum thunbergii
mid-October to early November



Shimanto Iyashi no Sato



Restaurant



Hot springs*medicinal bath Open-air, seawater bath

Shimanto Iyashi no Sato

Located inside the property of Tosa Seinan Great Park, "Shimanto Iyashi no Sato" is on a hill giving a view of the clear streams of Shimanto River flowing out into the Pacific Ocean. Inside the village is a bath area called "Shimanto Iyashi no Yu" and "Restaurant Sanzenkai", adjacent to lodging facilities. Environment-friendly and people-friendly, the space here also provides "vital" energy for wellness.

Address■ 3363 Shimoda, Shimanto City
TEL 0880-31-5111
FAX 0880-31-5112
<http://www.shimanto-iyashinosato.com>

Restaurant Sanzenkai

In addition to those blessings from Japan's last clear stream the Shimanto River, this restaurant serves dishes carefully prepared with all the best products from the mountains, from the Pacific Kuroshio oceanwaters, and of the four seasons. Moreover, the restaurant also insists on serving organically-grown, quality ingredients not only pleasing to the tastebuds but also healthful and nutritious.

TEL/FAX 0880-31-5811
Hours■ Lunch 11:30-14:00,
Dinner 17:00-21:00
(Last orders 20:30)

* Restaurant business hours are subject to change.

Shimanto Iyashi no Yu

In addition to the hot springs bath, you can also choose to bathe in the herbal medicine bath, infra-red heated sauna, and also open-air bath using seawater pumped up from the Pacific Ocean. Unwind as you feel the breeze from the surrounding nature and enjoy yourself to the fullest!

Hours■ Weekdays 6:00-9:00, 12:00-22:00 Sat, Sun, & public holidays 6:00-9:00, 11:00-22:00

From November to March, open to admission from 6:30.
(Last admission 21:30)

Admission■ Adults (from high school students) : 630 yen, Children (under jr. high school): 310 yen
* For a group with more than 20 persons, a group discount rate will apply.

After the hot baths, spend a relaxing time in the "Iyashi no Ma", a healing room where the chirping of birds and the sound of the sea waves can be heard. Underneath the floor is a layer of charcoal laid to softly heat the space above. Also try the "Shin no Ma" where guests can check their physical conditions, and the "Taikyoku no Ma", "Ki no Ma", and "Manabi no Ma" to learn the Asian Tai Chi skills and Qigong breathing techniques for effective cures and methods to heal your fatigue.



Hotel Seira Shimanto

Hotel Seira Shimanto

Located on a hill overlooking the Shimanto River, this hotel is enveloped by its natural surroundings. Specialities served in the restaurant are sweetfish and river shrimp from the Shimanto River, grilled Shimanto beef, and plenty of all the natural ingredients mothered by the nature of this region.

Address■ 1100 Nishitosa Mochii, Shimanto City
TEL 0880-52-2225 FAX 0880-52-2004

Hours■ 7:00-10:00, 16:00-22:00

On Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays, hotel's bathing area is also open between 11:00 and 14:00.

Restaurant■ 8:00-21:00 (Last orders 20:15)

<http://www.seirashiamnto.com/>
E-mail: mail@seirashimanto.com



Restaurant



Hot springs

Sanson Health Center

This center is located on a hill with views of the Shimanto River. Located near the Canoe Kan, it is a perfect base for outdoor activities.

Enjoy dishes prepared with local products such as wild vegetables and freshwater fishes. Mochii hot springs bath will also soothe and caress your skin, and is available for both day-trip visitors and guests staying overnight.

Address■ 1100-3 Nishitosa Mochii, Shimanto City
TEL 0880-52-1362

Hours■ April to September 13:00-21:00,
October to March 15:00-21:00

Admission■ Adults: 350 yen,
Children or Guests above age 65: 200 yen



Sanson Health Center



Celestial Observatory

The old Nishitosa area has always been a famous place to see beautiful, star-studded skies. In fact it used to be designated by the Ministry of Environment as the Town of Starlit Sky. Inside the 5-meter dome is a Schmidt-Cassegrain reflecting telescope, through which craters on the moon and the ring over Saturn can be observed clearly. (Reservations required)

Address
■ 1126-1 Nishitosa Mochii, Shimanto City
TEL 0880-52-1110

Hours
■ Summertime from 20:00, Wintertime from 19:00
(40-45 min. required for observing)

Basic Guide Fees

■ Basic fee: 2000 yen + 500 yen x Number of guests



Country Life Experience Center House of Minehage, etc.

There are houses around Nishitosa area that can be used for the lodging of families, group of friends, and for training camps. Japanese traditional houses equipped with kitchen facilities have been renovated so visitors can stay comfortably. Rent a whole house and get an experience living in a countryside home.

Contact: Canoe Kan
TEL 0880-52-2121 FAX 0880-52-2424

Blessings from mountain, river and sea.



Shimanto Chestnuts

Chestnuts nourished with the clear waters of Shimanto River and under the best auspices are indeed exceptionally sweet, rich and warm.



Yuzu (Japanese citrus fruit)

When speaking of Yuzu, everyone thinks of Kochi Prefecture and Shimanto is indeed one major region in Kochi producing Yuzu. Soaking up all the freshest air and water, they are organically grown at the farms. Yuzu miso pastes and jams are some favorite local food products best representing the region.



Inaka-zushi

In the mountainous regions there is sushi called the "Sansai-zushi", made from rape flowers, myoga-ginger, bamboo shoots, yam-cake and other blessings from the mountain valley. It roots back to a traditional recipe served upon occasions in the early days of this region, and is a homely, simple-tasting sushi.

Rice

From the tributaries that merge pouring into the big Shimanto River, fresh water is fed to the rice paddies, and the delicious taste of Japanese "Mountain Valley Rice" is due to the blessings from the fresh clear riverwater. Tenderly sweet, full and firm, and with its true aroma, the rice speaks for the richness of the Shimanto countryside and mountain valley regions.



■ Shimanto Sankan-mai (Local rice grown in Shimanto mountain valleys)

Wild Vegetables

Plants that grow wildly in the mountain plains of Shimanto have always pleased everyone in the region, and since mountain vegetables are known to be filled with rich nutrients, they have been introduced in local people's everyday cooking and many healthful recipes.



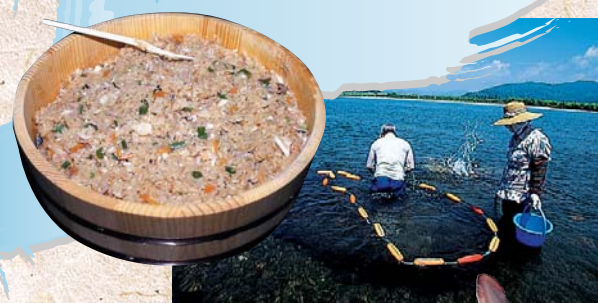
Sake (Japanese rice wine)

Delicious sake (wine) made from rice from the mountainous region, clear water, and with the utmost care.



Cuisines of Shimanto River, made with fresh local ingredients coming from the rich natural surroundings of the region and served with warm hospitality

■ Rice steamed with sweetfish



Wild eel

Eels are caught with the traditional Shimantogawa methods of Korobashi fishing (using a rectangular box) and Ishiguro fishing (using stones), and when cooked these special catches are certainly the best delicacies and tastes best representing the Shimanto River.



Green seaweed (suji aonori)

Natural green seaweed only available from the brackish water section of the river is a true delicacy. Shimantogawa products actually dominate a 90% share of the domestic market, and are also valued for their high quality. They only grow in the coldest months of December to March.



Green seaweed (Hitoegusa)

The Green seaweed of Shimanto River, more formally known as "Hitoegusa", has a rich aroma and is very tender. It is hand-picked at the river mouth of Shimanto where freshwater and brackish water merge. Its fluffy-soft, fresh taste will please the appetite.

■ Condiments cooked in soy sauce



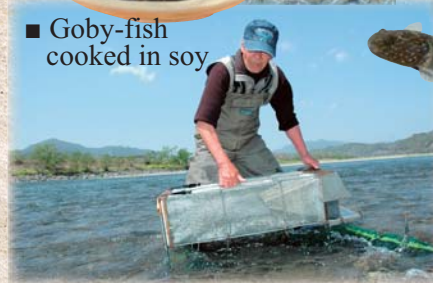
■ Green seaweed Tempura (Hitoegusa)



Goby



■ Goby-fish cooked in soy



From March when the cold water begins to ease, is when goby-fishing enters its season. It is a valued, seasonal speciality that announces the arrival of spring around the Shimanto River.

Wild sweetfish

The taste of sweetfish can vary according to the water from which they originate, which is said to be because of the different kinds of moss that the fish eat.

Wild sweetfish from Shimanto River, the last clear river in Japan, is also called the "aroma fish" because it is said that from a fresh catch the scent of a watermelon can be sensed, and once in the mouth, also a scent of the clear stream.



River shrimp

River shrimp of Shimanto River is also known as the Yamato Tenaga Shrimp. About 9cm in total length and having big-sized claws, this shrimp boasts a firm texture and aroma that is the blessing of the kind Shimantogawa waters.



Japanese mitten crab

The taste of mitten crab from the Shimanto River is rich and dense, especially the crab paste (innards). Local people call it the Tsugani and enjoy it in soup. It belongs to the same family as the famous Shanghai crab, famous for being an expensive ingredient.



■ Crab paste



