

Access Guide

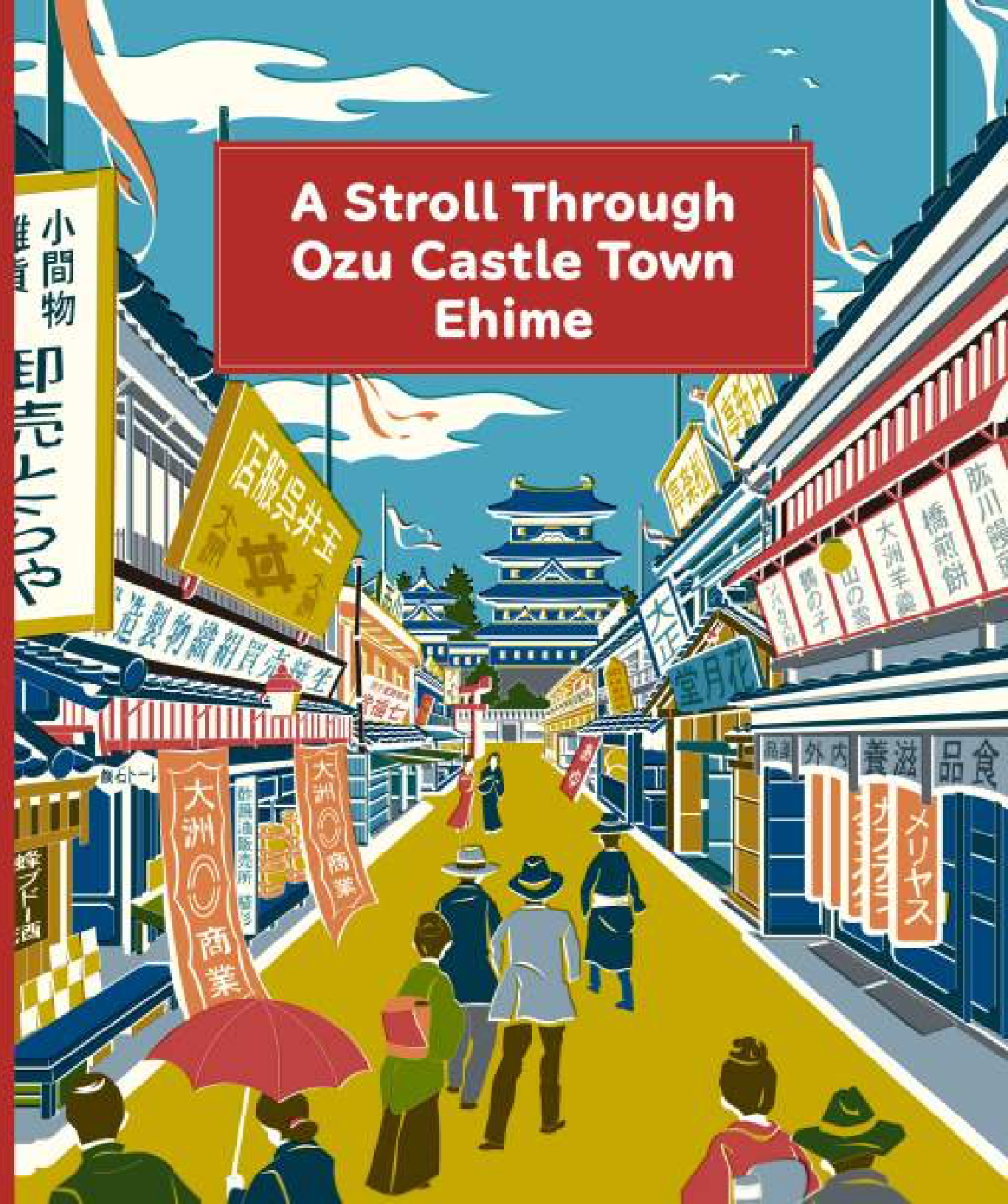


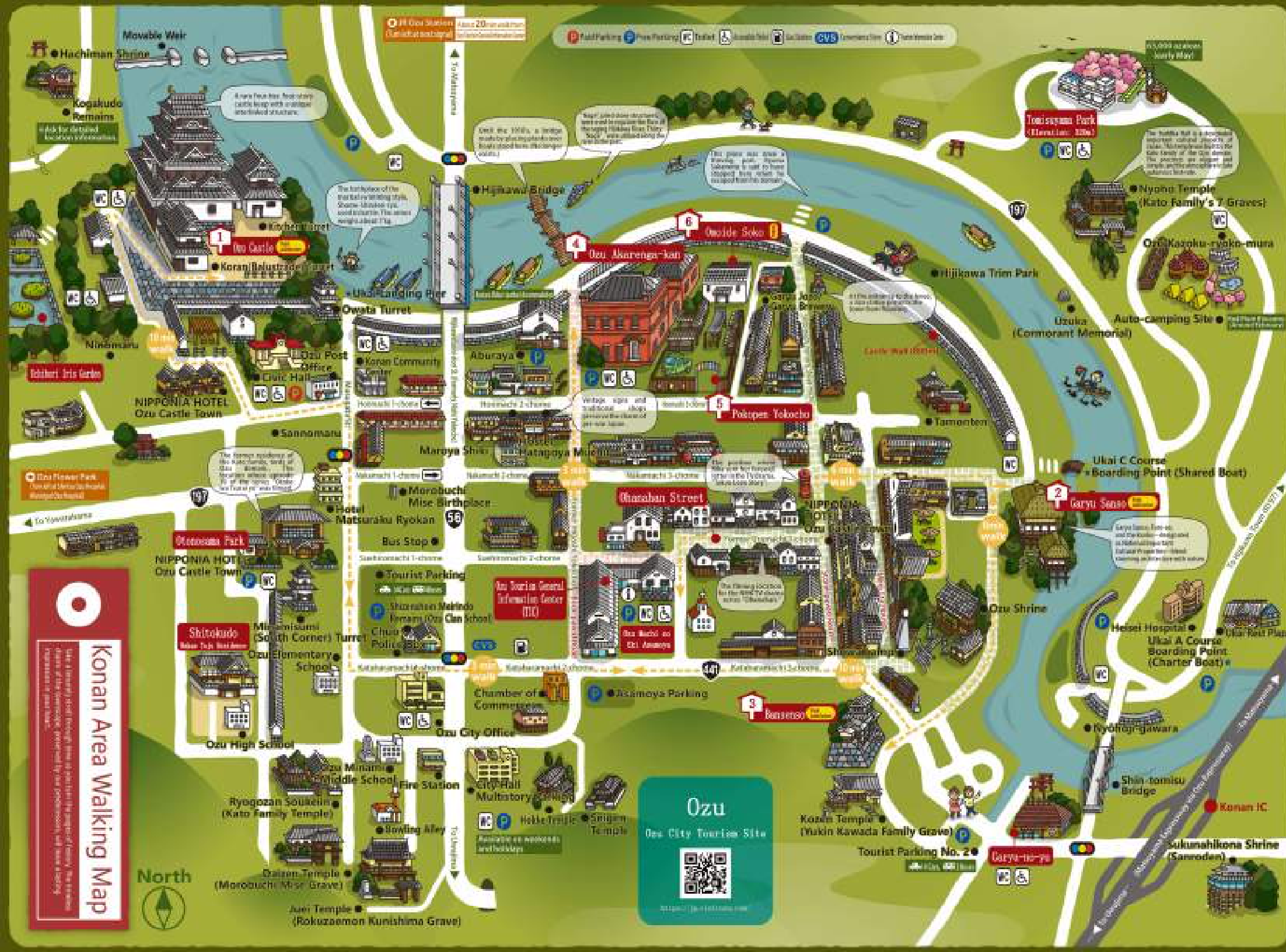
◆For information or inquiries about visiting Ozu, please contact
Ozu Tourism General Information Center
 (Inside Ozu Machi no Eki "Asanoya")
 Address: 649-1 Ozu, Ozu City, Ehime Prefecture 795-0012
 TEL:0893-57-6655 FAX:0893-24-7086

※The information is correct as of December 2024.
 ※It may change without notice, so please contact the information desk in advance.



A Stroll Through Ozu Castle Town Ehime





- ### Tourist Attractions
- #### Ozu Castle

Open: 9 AM to 5 PM (Ticket office closes at 4:30 PM)
 Closed: No holidays
 Admission: Adult 500 yen,
 Children (Middle school and younger) 250 yen
 TEL: 0893-24-1146
 - #### Garyu Sanso

Open: 9 AM to 5 PM (Ticket office closes at 4:30 PM)
 Closed: No holidays
 Admission: Adult 500 yen,
 Children (Middle school and younger) 250 yen
 TEL: 0893-24-3758
 - #### Bansenso

Open: 9 AM to 5 PM (Ticket office closes at 4:30 PM)
 Closed: No holidays
 Admission: Adult 500 yen,
 Children (Middle school and younger) 250 yen
 TEL: 0893-23-9556
 - #### Ozu Akarenga-kan

Open: 9 AM to 5 PM
 Closed: December 29th to 31st
 Admission: Free (No Access Admission Charge)
 TEL: 0893-24-1281
 - #### Pokopen Yokocho

Open: Every Sunday (except 2nd Sunday),
 beginning on 3rd Sunday to November
 Only on 3rd Sunday, December to February
 Time: 10 AM to 3:30 PM
 Charge: Free
 - #### Omoide Soko

Open: 9 AM to 5 PM (Ticket office closes at 4:30 PM)
 Closed: December 29th to 31st
 Admission: Adult 200 yen,
 Children (Middle school and younger) 100 yen
 TEL: 0893-02-6858



Hijikawa Kaido Trip - Historical Town Walk -



Ozu Castle

The Castle features a distinctively designed tenshu (main keep) with chidori-bato and kure-bato gables, giving it a graceful appearance rivaling larger five-story castles. Throughout the post-Sengoku period, the castle was governed by lords such as Katamatsu Tada, Tokimasa Ioka, Kashiwa Nakasaka, and Saito Uda Kato. While it avoided destruction during the castle abolition orders of the Meiji Restoration, significant deterioration led to its demolition in 1888. However, several structures, including the Kitchen Tower, Kurese Tower, Oshu Tower, and Minamimori Tower, were preserved and designated as National Important Cultural Properties.

The current tenshu was reconstructed in 2004 using historical photographs and architectural records, fulfilling the citizens' desire to restore the castle to its original glory. In 2020, Ozu Castle introduced Japan's first castle stay program, "Ozu Castle Stay," where guests can enjoy ceremonial rifle salutes by the Ozu Clan Gun Squad, traditional performances, and a luxurious experience befitting a castle lord.



Otonosama Park

Otonosama Park encompasses the former Kato Family Residence (a nationally registered tangible cultural property) and the Minamimori Tower (a nationally designated Important Cultural Property). The two-story wooden Kato residence, built in 1825, served as the home of the descendants of the Ito-Bancho lords. Today, visitors can stay in the former residence, which operates as part of SIPPONJA HOTEL, offering a unique and immersive historical lodging experience.



Shitokudo

Located on the former residence site of Toji Nakano, the father of Japanese Neo-Confucianism, Shitokudo is a study hall constructed to resemble a samurai residence with a 100-koan stipend. Within, statues of Confucius and Toji are enshrined, and the preserved ancient well, "Nakano no Ima," evokes memories of the past. The hall is situated on the grounds of Ozu High School.



Garyu-in



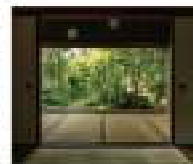
Furo-an

Garyu Sanso (Garyu Mountain Villa)

Garyu Sanso derives its name from Iasutane Kato, the third lord of Ozu Domain, who was inspired by the resemblance of nearby Mt. Hozai to a reclining dragon ("garyu"). During the feudal period, the area was said to be a retreat for successive domain lords.

The current villa was built by Totsujiro Kawachi (d. 1853), a successful Meiji-era trader, who wished to spend his later years in his hometown. He entrusted local master carpenter Tetsuo Nakano and skilled artisans, including members of the prestigious Senke Jisaku (the ten craftsmen of the Senke tea ceremony schools), to bring his vision to life. The landscaping began in 1895, followed by the construction of Furo-an in September 1900 and Garyu-in in 1903, with the villa completed in 1907.

A testament to exceptional craftsmanship, the villa showcases unique features, such as the bamboo-wicker ceiling of Furo-an, which reflects the moonlight from the surface of Garyu Pond during the Mid-Autumn Festival. Garyu Sanso was designated a National Important Cultural Property in 2016, and in 2021, its gardens were designated a National Place of Scenic Beauty.



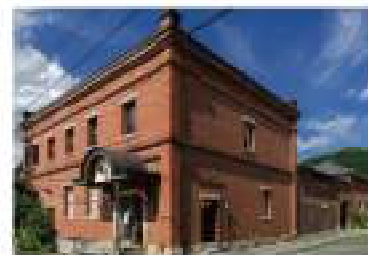
Chanahan Street

This 1.2-meter-wide street has preserved its appearance from the Edo period, featuring merchant houses on the north side and samurai residences on the south. The street retains the historical atmosphere of daimyo's heyday as a center of tea production and trade.



Meiji Era Houses

These charming streets feature bamboo-walled storehouses from the Meiji and Taisho periods. In 1928, the "Shono Lane" was erected on a brick chimney foundation to commemorate Emperor Shown's accession.



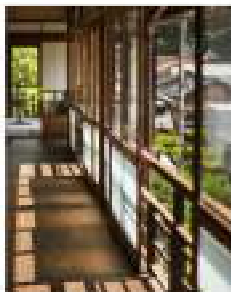
Ozu Akarenga-kan

Built in 1901, this red brick building blends Western and Japanese styles, with British-style brickwork and a roof of traditional Japanese tiles. It now serves as a gallery and rest area.



Bansenso

Bansenso was constructed in 1826 by Bunsuro Matsui, a successful trader who made his fortune managing a trading company in Manila, Philippines. This three-story wooden villa is perched dramatically on a steep hillside, offering stunning views of the Hiji River and other picturesque natural landscapes, including Mt. Tomisu. Reflecting the Southeast Asian influences of its builder, the structure incorporates premium hardwoods handpicked from the region. The villa was named "Bansenso" by Osaka hotelier Ito Hiroshi, inspired by the freshwater spring drawn directly from the surrounding bedrock.



Southeast Asian Wooden Corridor



Spacious Guest Room



Nyoho Temple

Nyoho Temple was founded by the second lord of the Ota Domain, Yasuki Noto, who invited Zen master Dōkoku Tōkoku to rebuild it. Alongside Kōmei Temple in Barba (Barji) and Kōmei Temple in Gō (Gōkō), it is considered one of Barba's "Three Great Temples," embodying the spirit of Zen traditions.



Sukunahikona Shrine

Sukunahikona Shrine is venerated as the deity of grain, sake brewing, medicine, and hot springs. The shrine has a rich heritage, with its Sennoden (pilgrimage hall) recognized in the 2014 "Cultural Heritage Walk" for its historical significance.



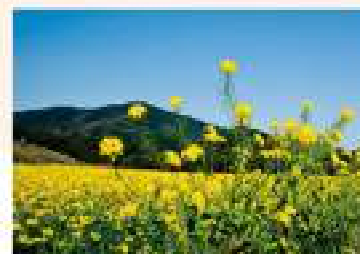
Mt. Tomisu Park

Located at the heart of the Ota Basin, Mt. Tomisu Park was named for its resemblance to the iconic Mt. Fuji. From its 100-meter summit, visitors can enjoy sweeping views of the basin and the winding Hiji River.



Hijikawa Kaido Travelogue

- Scenic Journey -



Goro Riverside

In mid-March, the Goro Riverside transforms into a vibrant yellow carpet of camellia blossoms, creating a picturesque landscape. Known as a popular film location, it has become a favorite spot for photography enthusiasts.



Inariyama Park

Nestled on the northern slope of Kusanagi Mountain, Inariyama Park boasts about 3,000 maple trees, some over 200 years old. While it serves as a tranquil spot year-round, it becomes a bustling attraction during autumn. The park, historically famed for its fall colors, is said to have been planted with maples brought from Tokyo, Kyoto, by a feudal lord during his "alternate attendance" journey.

The maple trees turn a fiery red from mid to late November, offering a breathtaking natural spectacle. The annual Momiji Festival in November features food stalls and festive activities, drawing both locals and tourists to admire the stunning foliage.



Flower Park Ozu

Flower Park Ozu offers a delightful display of seasonal flowers throughout the year. In early April, the tulips are particularly stunning, making the park a cherished relaxation spot for locals.



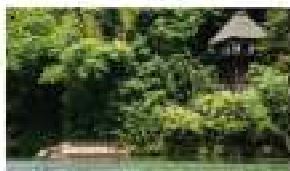
Kushu Iris Garden

Home to approximately 10,000 irises, the Kushu Iris Garden is at its best from late May to mid-June. The annual "Kushu Iris Festival," held in early June, is a popular event featuring fresh seafood and grilled tarbuck shells.



Shirataki Park

Shirataki Park is steeped in legend, named after Prince Shōtoku, who is said to have begun the waterfall's flow during the Kōmei Shrine period while fleeing enemies. The park hosts the "Shirataki Festival" every November 23, during peak autumn foliage. Visitors can enjoy the park's natural beauty year-round.



New Premium Boat "Goryu ichi-go"



Ozu Ukai - One of Japan's Top Cormorant Fishing Experiences -

Under the glow of firelights, cormorant fishing boats glide along the river, accompanied by five skilled birds. This enchanting spectacle showcases the expert handling of the birds by fishermen, offering guests a magical evening. Visitors can enjoy traditional Ozu cuisine, made with fresh ingredients from the Hiji River, while taking in this unique cultural experience. Since 2017, the "Goryu No. 1" premium houseboat has provided an upgraded experience. Event period: June 1 to September 20.



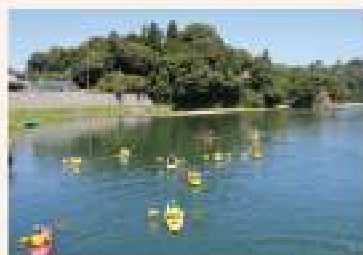
Hiji River Cruise

Enjoy a leisurely daytime cruise along the Hiji River, where the gentle breeze and splashes of water create a serene atmosphere. Guests can savor meals while taking in the scenic riverside views.



Riverboat Tour

Before the advent of roads and railways, ferries were the main form of transportation along the Hiji River. Today, regular sightseeing boat services recreate this nostalgic scene. From spring to autumn, visitors can enjoy a refreshing river breeze while touring Ozu's landmarks by boat.



Canoeing

From spring to autumn, activities on the Hiji River are popular. You can apply for the "Holiday Inn Canoe & SUP" course, which comes with an instructor and is suitable for beginners, at the Ozu Tourism General Information Center.



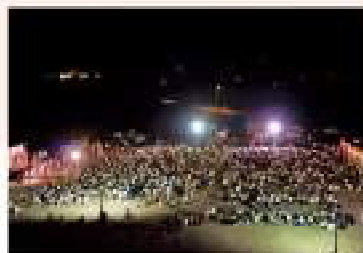
Pokopen Yokochi (Alley)

Step back in time to the Showa Era (1926-45) at Pokopen Alley, where visitors can enjoy games like spinning tops, darts, and ball hoops. The Oozie Soko (Memory Warehouse) recreates nostalgic Showa-era street scenes, offering a charming trip down memory lane.



Onari Procession

The Onari Procession reenacts the ancient local (folklore) "atsumori" journey of the Edo period. This parade winds through the city, showcasing the perfectly synchronized steps of participants, which are said to have impressed Edo townsfolk. Held annually in November 2.



Imotaki Party

Imotaki is a hearty traditional dish made by simmering locally grown turk, chicken, dried tofu, and konjaku in a hot pot. As an autumn tradition, it is enjoyed along the bank of the Hiji River from early September to mid-October, offering a comforting taste of the season.

Area Information

Nagahama



Hiji River Arashi and Nagahama Bridge (Red Bridge)

On crisp winter mornings, you can witness a rare natural phenomenon known as the "Hiji River Arashi (bore)". This occurs when mist, formed by radiational cooling in the Ozu Basin, rushes down the Hiji River and pours into the Seto Inland Sea with incredible force. Near the river mouth at Nagahama Bridge (commonly called the Red Bridge), wind speeds can exceed 10 meters per second. In the past, sailing ships used these strong river winds to navigate the river. Nagahama Bridge, the oldest operable road lift bridge in Japan, was designed to allow ships to pass without their sails hitting the bridge. It is designated as a National Important Cultural Property.



Tomiya Kinbe Residence

From Edamats, once stayed at the Tomiya Kinbe Residence near Edo Port after traveling down the Hiji River by boat, before continuing on to Osaka. Today, a stone monument marks the site, and visitors can virtually stay at this historic residence.



Kinzan Shusseki Temple

One of the 20 sacred temples of the Shikoku Buddhist pilgrimage, Kinzan Shusseki Temple is said to have been a training site for Kobo Daishi (Kukai). Located at an elevation of about 820 meters within the Seto Inland Sea National Park, it offers stunning panoramic views of the Shikoku mountain range.



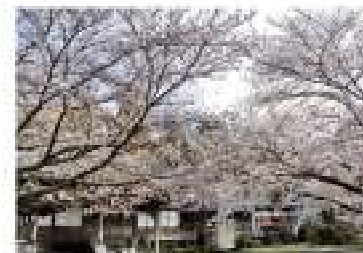
Suenaga Family Residence

This historic residence belonged to the Suenaga family, wealthy merchants who prospered in the coastal shipping industry during the mid-Edo period. The main house, with its lattice windows and unique plastered walls, reflects a merchant's lifestyle, while the 100-tatami mat room used for entertaining features Edo-period decorative elements. It is a registered Tangible Cultural Property.



Nagako Aquarium

Located inside the Nagahama Health Center in Ozu City, this student-run aquarium is a unique attraction. It features over 100 species and 2,000 fish, including ongoing research into species like clownfish. Open on the third Saturday of every month from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM (reservations required).



Zuiyo Temple (Okiura Kannon)

This temple houses the artistically designed Important Cultural Property, the wooden standing statue of the Eleven-faced Kannon. It is open to the public on specific days each year. The temple is also a famous cherry blossom viewing spot, with the grounds bursting into bloom each spring.

Area Information

Hijikawa



Kanogawa Onsen/ Kanogawa-so

This hot spring facility is situated on the shores of Lake Kanogawa, surrounded by abundant natural beauty. The glass-walled bathing areas offer stunning views of the changing seasons. In October 2018, an open-air bath was added, featuring three types of soaking pools with varying depths for ultimate relaxation.



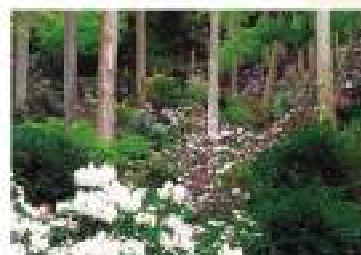
Oyabu Onsen

Oyabu Onsen is a therapeutic hot spring located along the Oyabu River, a tributary of the Hiji River. The inn, built around 1922, is a three-story wooden structure in the Irimazukuri style, resembling a pagoda. It remains a functioning inn and is a registered Tangible Cultural Property of Japan.



Wind Museum/ Utamaro-kan

Located in Berryhill Park, the "Kaze no Utamaro-kan", Wind Museum and "Utamaro-kan" offer a unique opportunity to learn about the wonders of wind. Utamaro-kan preserves two original windlocks by the renowned Edo-era ukiyo-artist, Kiyomasa Utamaro.



Maruyama Park

Known as "Shokunaga Valley" because approximately 3,000 rhododendron plants fill the area with their sweet fragrance. Visitors can also enjoy vibrant blooms of double-flowered cherry blossoms, azaleas, and koronias, making it a peaceful and scenic destination.



Seiryu no Sato Hijikawa

This roadside station along the Hiji River offers fresh local produce, fruits, prepared dishes, and bento boxes at its farmers' market. It also features a shop selling souvenirs and specialty products, making it a convenient stop for travelers.

Area Information

Kawabe



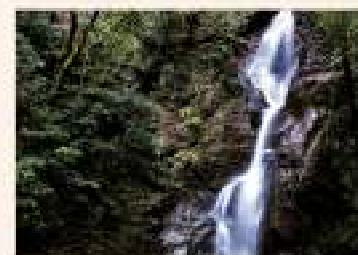
Walk in Waraji (Straw Sandals): Ryoma Dappan Path

The "Ryoma Dappan (waraji-route) Path" is a 15 km route to Izumi-ga-toge (Kendal) that Ryoma Sakamoto is believed to have traversed while fleeing Tosa. Every September, participants are invited to walk this mountain path, retracing Ryoma's steps in the spirit of adventure and historical reflection. Hikers enjoy the natural beauty of the forest while immersing themselves in Ryoma's journey.



Miyuki Bridge

Built in 1885, this roofed bridge features a cedar shingle roof and is constructed without nails. Its timeless charm attracts photographers and history enthusiasts alike. The bridge is one of eight roofed bridges in the area known as the "Romon Hakkyo," and it is the oldest among them.



Sanbaidani Waterfall

A picturesque spot along the Ryoma Dappan Path, this waterfall is best viewed from Kyūjin Bridge, which offers a stunning view. The area is especially captivating in spring and summer with lush greenery, and in autumn when it is surrounded by brilliant fall colors.



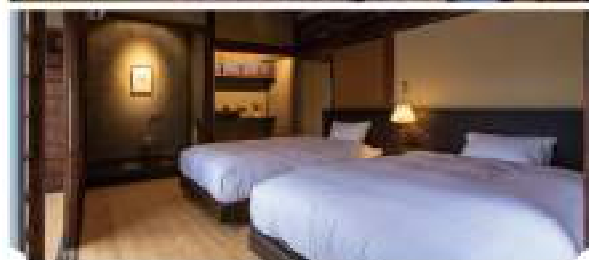
Izumi-ga-toge (Izumi Mountain Pass)

This mountain pass is where Ryoma Sakamoto is said to have spent the night while fleeing Tosa. From here, he continued to the Hiji River (Kawabe) in Sōdama and then on to Nagakura, where he departed for Chōshū from Ego Fort. The location is steeped in historical significance and offers a glimpse into Ryoma's journey.

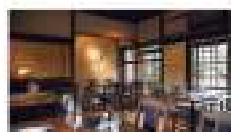


Yo no Yama Sakura

Known locally as "Goshōkaku," this ancient shōkōan (cherry) tree, a type of wild cherry tree, stands about 10 meters tall with a trunk circumference of approximately 1.4 meters. Estimated to be 400 years old, the tree continues to bloom each spring, producing delicate light pink flowers.



Restaurant "Le Un"



At "Le Un, NIPPONIA Hotel" a restaurant, guests enjoy fusion cuisine crafted from the bounty of Ehime and Ozu. Ingredients include seafood from the Seto Inland Sea, produce from the lush mountains, and fish from the pristine Hiji River. French culinary techniques elevate these local treasures into dishes that transcend both Japanese and Western styles. To showcase the best flavors of each season, the dinner menu is refreshed every three months.

In recent years, the historic streets of Ozu Castle Town have seen increasing demolition and vacant lots. The preservation of local historical resources faces significant challenges nationwide, threatening the loss of irreplaceable Japanese heritage.

However, these historical resources are gaining renewed recognition, particularly among international travelers, who see them as iconic representations of regional culture. In Ozu, efforts are underway to preserve and utilize these landmarks and traditions as part of its "Historic Senses" initiative.

Preserving privately owned historic buildings requires a sustainable revenue model to fund their maintenance over time. To achieve this, local residents, government agencies, financial institutions, and businesses have come together to create a regional management system centered on heritage tourism development.

This collaborative effort gave rise to NIPPONIA HOTEL Ozu Castle Town, which breathes new life into Ozu's historic buildings by transforming them into a hotel. The renovations prioritize retaining as much of the original historical character as possible. The cultural heritage experience includes staying in the former Iino family residence, a city-registered tangible cultural property, and dining in the Sotomatsu South Corner Tower, a nationally designated Important Cultural Property.

This initiative has earned international accolades, including selection as one of the "Top 100 Sustainable Tourism Destinations" by Green Destinations in 2022 and 2023 and first place in the Green Destinations Story Awards at ITO Berlin for Culture and Tradition Preservation. In 2023, the focus on "tourism-based town development leveraging historical resources" was further recognized with the prestigious Silver Award in the Global Sustainable Tourism Awards.



- Hotel Front Desk 370 Ozu, Ozu City, Ehime Prefecture, 795-0012
- Restaurant Le Un 888 Ozu, Ozu City, Ehime Prefecture, 795-0012

TEL: 0120-210-289 / NMG General Office (11 AM to 6 PM)
URL: <http://www.ozucastle.com>

Come stay in Ozu!

(Please contact individually for accommodation rates, etc.)

Ryoen Tarui



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Ozu Kazoku-ryoko-mura



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Umetako Yama no Yado



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Wataroku Ryokan



TEL 0893-26-0305
Address: 101 Bataki-ko, Ozu

Shoraku Ryokan



TEL 0893-24-4143
Address: 727-2 Ozu, Ozu

Hotel Ota



TEL 0893-24-3533
Address: 26-1 Tanshichi-ko, Ozu

SUPER HOTEL Ehime Ozu Inter



TEL 0893-37-9000
Address: 182 Higashi-cho, Ozu

Business Hotel Yakata



TEL 0893-23-0567
Address: 229-30 Yakamura, Ozu

Ozu Plaza Hotel



TEL 0893-25-1100
Address: 1241 Higashi-cho, Ozu

Hotel Nishikawa



TEL 0893-24-4048
Address: 20-4 Tanshichi-ko, Ozu

Tokiwa Ryokan



TEL 0893-24-3634
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Furusato Ryokan



TEL 0893-25-0628
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Hatagoya Muchu



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Maroya Shiki



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Minshuku Ryotei



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Tomiya Kinbe-tei



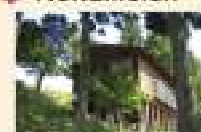
TEL 0893-52-1051
Address: 241 Nagahama-ko, Ozu

Oyabu Onsen



TEL 0893-34-2007
Address: 303-1 Nagasu, Ozu, Ozu City, Ozu

Rokumeien



TEL 0893-34-2333
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Kanogawaso



TEL 0893-34-2000
Address: 28-1 Nagasu, Ozu, Ozu City, Ozu

Amagonosato



TEL 0893-39-2915
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Kwabe Furusato-no-yado



TEL 0893-39-2211
Address: 124 Akabira, Ozu, Ozu City, Ozu

Saitaniya



TEL 0893-39-2211
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Iwanaso



TEL 0893-39-2254
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Joka-no-yado Tomoshibi



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