

Practical Travel Guide - 409

TAKAYAMA and SHIRAKAWAGO



Japan National
Tourism Organization
日本政府観光局

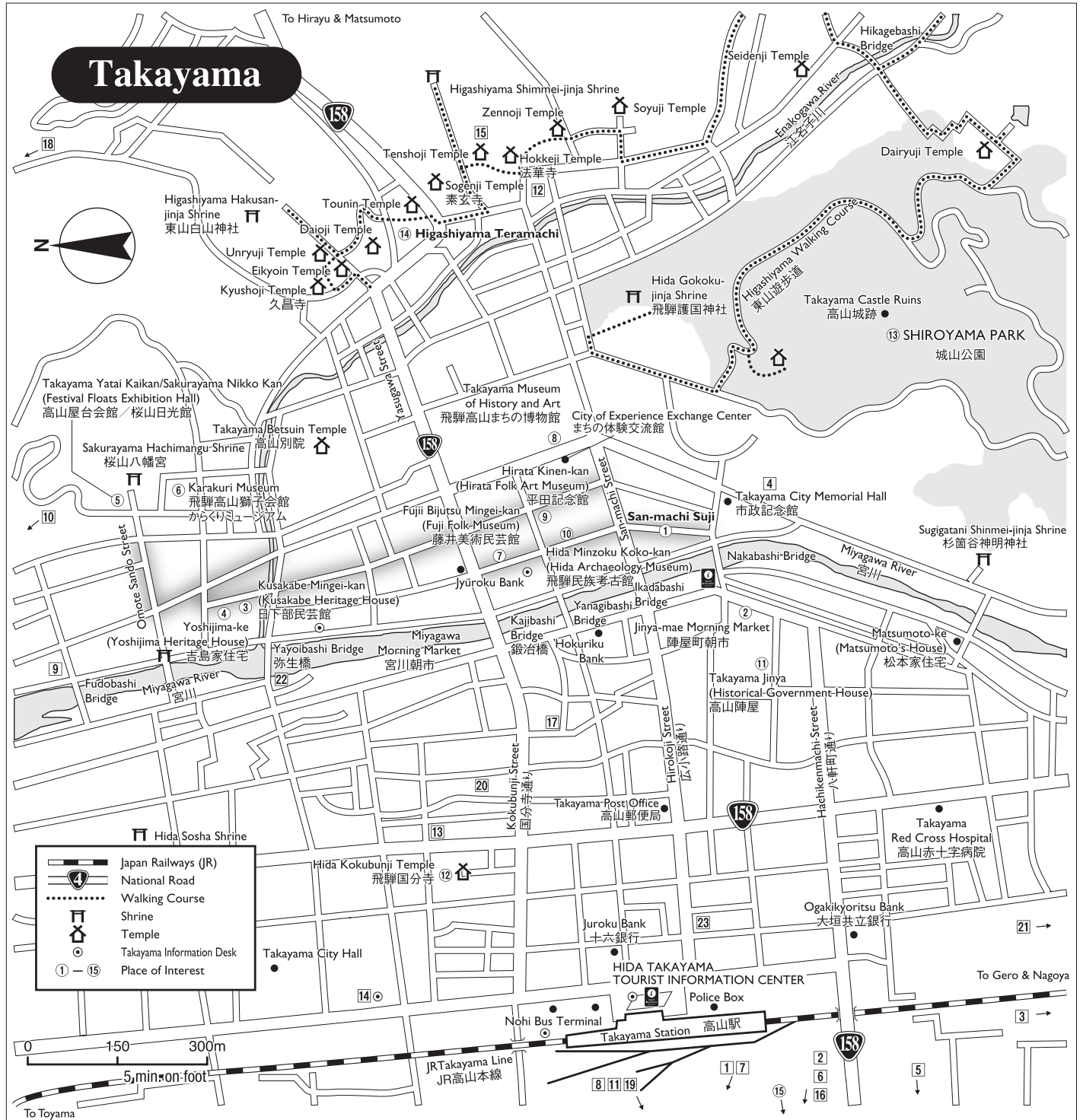


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In collaboration with
Tourist Information Centers in the area



TAKAYAMA



① - ②③ correspond to those in the "Accommodations" list on page 5/6.
① - ⑮ correspond to those in the "Places of Interest" on page 3/6 & 4/6.

*See p. 6 for admission and opening times.

Annual Festivals & Events

Spring

Apr. -* Garakuta Market: Antique market in Sanmachi Street featuring old folk crafts as well as antiques.

Apr. 14-15 Spring Takayama Festival with splendid procession from Hie-jinja Shrine of twelve floats; three floats display the antics of Takayama's marionette.

Late Apr. - Early May.

Season of Sakura (Cherry Blossom) blooming.

May 4-5 Sosha Festival: Hida Sosha Shrine.

May 5 Higashiyama Sansha Festival: Hakusan, Shimmei and Nishikiyama-jinja Shrines.

May 15 Opening of Norikura Skyline road.

**Held on 1st Sun. of every month from Apr. through Oct.*

Summer

Mid Jul. - Early Sep.

Bon-Odori dances: Local people and visitors join in the traditional folk dances of the All Souls Festival. The sound of drums fills the evening air.

Aug. 1-15 Ema-ichi at Yamazakura Shrine: Charming paintings of horses, originating in the practice of dedicating real horses or wooden horses to temples and shrines, are on sale at this traditional fair.

Early Aug. Tanabata (Star) Festival: Matsunoki Tanabataiwa park.

Aug. 9 Tezutsu Hanabi (Hand-held fireworks): Fireworks contained in bamboo, sending flames and sparks fifteen feet into the air, are demonstrated near the Yayoi-bashi Bridge on the Miyagawa River.

Aug. 11-13 Evening Market in front of Takayama Jinya with demonstrations of local crafts and various performances on an outdoor stage.

Aug. 24 Shoro-Okuri: Floating of commemorative lanterns on Miyagawa River.

Autumn

Oct. Many cultural events are held in the city center.

Oct. 9-10 Takayama Autumn Festival: Similar to the Spring Festival on a slightly smaller scale. A very colorful and impressive event, drawing large crowds.

Oct. - Mid Nov.

Season of spectacular autumn foliage.

Winter

Dec. Opening of local ski resorts.

Mid Jan. - Early Mar.

Saké-tasting and promotional events at Takayama's six saké breweries.

Jan. 24 Nijuyokka-ichi: A fair devoted to the work of local craftsmen, especially items made of wood and bamboo, held in and around Yasugawa-dori.

Feb. 3 Setsubun: Bean-throwing ceremonies celebrating spring at Hida Kokubunji Temple and Dajioji Temple.

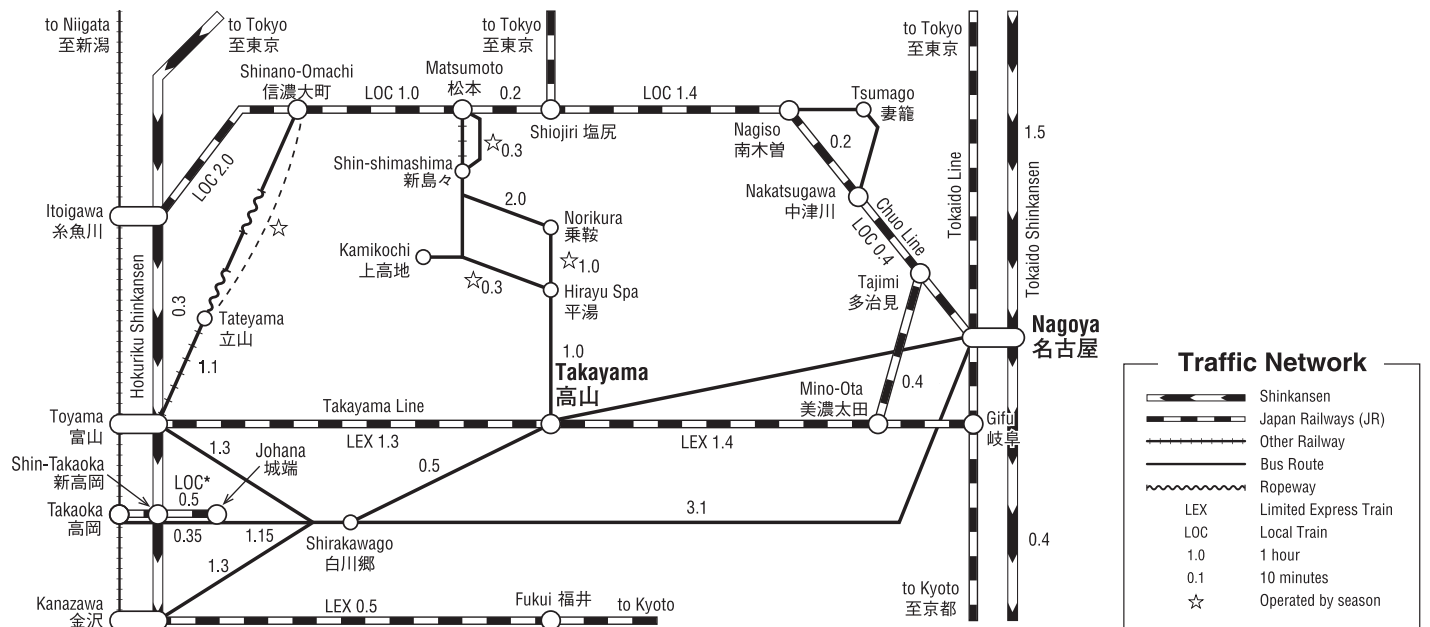
For inquiries: Hida Takayama Tourist Information office Tel. (0577)32-5328

Access:

By JR Train

From	By	Approx. Travel Time	Price*
Tokyo Sta. (Transfer at Nagoya)	[Tokyo to Nagoya] Tokaido Shinkansen "Nozomi" or "Hikari" [Nagoya to Takayama] Limited Express "Hida"	4 hrs. 20 min.	¥15,190 (Nozomi)
Tokyo Sta. (Transfer at Toyama)	[Tokyo to Toyama] Hokuriku Shinkansen "Kagayaki" or "Hakutaka" [Toyama to Takayama] Limited Express "Hida"	4 hrs. 45 min.	¥16,120
Shin-Osaka Sta. (Transfer at Nagoya)	[Shin-Osaka to Nagoya] Tokaido Shinkansen "Nozomi" or "Hikari" [Nagoya to Takayama] Limited Express "Hida"	3 hrs. 40 min.	¥11,010 (Nozomi)
	[Shin-Osaka to Takayama] Limited Express "Hida" (one service per day)	4 hrs. 30 min.	¥8,450
Osaka Sta.	Limited Express "Hida" (one service per day)	4 hrs. 25 min.	¥8,450
Kyoto Sta. (Transfer at Nagoya)	[Kyoto to Nagoya] Tokaido Shinkansen "Nozomi" or "Hikari" [Nagoya to Takayama] Limited Express "Hida"	3 hrs. 25 min.	¥10,350 (Nozomi)
	[Kyoto to Takayama] Limited Express "Hida" (one service per day)	3 hrs. 55 min.	¥7,790
Nagoya Sta.	Limited Express "Hida"	2 hrs. 30 min.	¥6,140
Kanazawa Sta. (Transfer at Toyama)	[Kanazawa to Toyama] Hokuriku Shinkansen "Kagayaki", "Hakutaka" or "Tsurugi" [Toyama to Takayama] Limited Express "Hida"	2 hrs. 50 min.	¥6,770

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



*= By Local train on JR Johana Line between Shin-Takaoka and Johana.

By bus

From	To	Approx. Travel Time	Price	Ticketing & Operator*
Tokyo (Shinjuku Sta.)	Takayama	5 hrs. 30 min	¥6,500–¥7,500	Highwaybus.com (Keio bus & Nohi bus)
Osaka (Kintetsu Namba Sta.)		5 hrs. 40 min	¥5,000	Japan Bus Lines (Kintetsu bus, Nohi bus)
Nagoya (Meitetsu Bus center)		2 hrs. 45 min	¥3,100	By phone (Nohi bus, Meitetsu Bus & JR bus)
Takayama (Nohi Bus center)	Shirakawago	50 min	¥2,600	Japan Bus Online (Nohi bus)
Nagoya (Meitetsu Bus center)		3 hrs.	¥4,000	Highwaybus.com (Gifu bus)

*Reservation required.

Places of Interest:

① **San-machi Suji**: (三町筋) 10 min. walk from Takayama Sta. The center of the old town of Takayama and is still a living part of the city. The three main streets of San-machi Suji are narrow, and lined with stores selling traditional wares, craftsmen’s workshops, inns and breweries (indicated by a ball made of cedar leaves hanging outside). You will also find restaurants serving local delicacies such as soba noodles, and a number of antique shops specialising in old folk crafts. Scattered around the district are also a remarkable number of small museums, where the buildings are every bit as interesting as the items on display. You may also notice some storehouses in which are kept the tall festival floats that are brought out at Takayama’s famous Spring and Autumn festivals.

② **Morning Markets**: (朝市) 10 min. walk from Takayama Sta. The Takayama Jinya and Miyagawa morning markets are among Takayama’s best-known sights. Every morning, from 7:00 (Apr.–Dec.), 8:00 (Jan.–Mar.) to noon, farmers’ wives from nearby villages bring fresh produce - vegetables and flowers - to these markets. The varieties of produce mark the changing seasons in the mountains around the town.

③ **Kusakabe Mingei-kan (Kusakabe Heritage House)**: (日下部民芸館) 15 min. walk from Takayama Sta. Standing close to the Miyagawa River, this museum is a superb example of tradi-

tional Takayama architecture. Open: 9:00–16:30 (Mar.–Nov.), 9:00–16:00 (Dec.–Feb.). Closed: Tue.(Dec.–Feb.), Jan.4–6. Admission: ¥500.

④ **Yoshijima-ke (Yoshijima Heritage House)**: (吉島家住宅) Located next to the Kusakabe Mingei-kan, this is another fine traditional house but in a different, more intimate style. Rebuilt in 1907 with absolute fidelity to the older structure. It represents the best of local craftsmanship as applied to merchant houses. Open: 9:00–16:30 (Dec.–Feb.); 9:00–17:00 (Mar.–Nov.). Closed: Tue. (Dec.–Feb. except national holidays) and from Dec. 29–Jan. 1. Admission: ¥500.

⑤ **Takayama Yatai Kaikan (Festival Floats Exhibition Hall)** (高山祭屋台会館) **Sakurayama Nikko Kan**: (桜山日光館) 20 min. walk from Takayama Sta. Visitors who cannot be in Takayama at the time of the Spring and Autumn festivals will find here a colorful display of four of the eleven floats used in the Autumn festival procession. The floats are designated as important cultural properties. Open: 9:00–17:00 (Mar.–Nov.), 9:00–16:30 (Dec.–Feb.). Admission: ¥900.

⑥ **Karakuri Museum**: (飛騨高山獅子会館からくりミュージアム) 20 min. walk from Takayama Sta. Shishi (mythical lion) dances are featured in many Japanese festivals, especially those of central and northern Japan. Those of the Hida region around

*See p. 6 for admission and opening times.

Takayama are considered particularly fine examples. In this museum, located in the Sakura-machi district, over 300 lion masks are on display alongside drums and other items related to festivals. Open: 9:05–16:25. Closed: Dec. 1–Mar. 31 and irregularly. Admission: ¥600.

⑦ **Fujii Folk Museum** (藤井美術民芸館) 10 min. walk from Takayama Sta. It contains a private collection of folk art from China, Korea as well as Japan. The entrance gate was modeled after the outer entrance gate of Takayama Castle. Open: 9:00–17:00. Closed: Dec. 31–Jan. 1 and Winter season (irregularly). Admission: ¥700.

⑧ **Takayama Museum of History and Art:** (飛騨高山まちの博物館) 15 min. walk from Takayama Sta. The exhibits in this museum focus on Takayama's history, its culture, and its traditional arts. This museum incorporates a historical building known as "dozou" (a storehouse with thick earthen walls), so you can enjoy the structure along with the exhibitions. Also, you may have a chance to make local crafts at Takayama traditional culture and crafts square (まちの体験交流館), in front of the museum. [Museum] Open: 9:00–19:00 (Garden: 7:00–21:00). Admission: Free.

⑨ **Hirata Kinen-kan (Hirata Folk Art Museum):** (平田記念館) 10 min. walk from Takayama Sta. Interesting both for its displays of objects related to the lifestyle of Takayama merchants and for the building itself - a fine merchant house constructed in 1897. **Note:** Closed on May, 2019.

⑩ **Hida Minzoku Koko-kan (Hida Archaeology Museum):** (飛騨民族考古館) 12 min. walk from Takayama Sta. Another museum of special architectural interest in the oldest part of San-machi Suji and once owned by a retainer of Lord Kanamori. Contains unusual structural details that suggest associations with ninja. Open: 10:00–16:00. Closed: Irregularly. Admission: ¥500.

⑪ **Takayama Jinya (Historical Government House):** (高山陣屋) 11 min. walk from Takayama Sta. Once the seat of local government when Takayama was under the administration of the Kanamori clan, this is the only building of its kind in Japan. It was originally built in 1615 and managed by the feudal authorities until the late 19th century, when it was taken over by the local government. The existing buildings are the result of reconstruction in 1816. Resembling a palace on a small scale, the buildings are set within strong walls and approached by an imposing gateway. Open: 8:45–16:30 (Nov.–Feb.), 8:45–17:00 (Mar.–Jul., Sep.–Oct.), 8:45–18:00 (Aug.). Closed: Dec. 29, Dec. 31, Jan. 1. Admission: ¥440.

For more information: <http://www.pref.gifu.lg.jp/foreign-languages/English/tourism/takayama/>

⑫ **Hida Kokubunji Temple:** (飛騨国分寺) Situated just 5 min. walk from the Sta., this is the oldest temple in Takayama. It was originally built in 746 by Emperor Shomu as one of several provincial temples dedicated to the peace of the nation but the original temple was burnt down. The oldest surviving building, the wooden Main Hall, dates from the 16th century. Among the temple's treasures are a precious sword said to have belonged to the Heike family and Heian-period wooden statues of Yakushi Nyorai and Kannon. Open: 9:00–16:00. Closed: Dec.1–Jan.1. Admission: ¥300.

⑬ **Shiroyama Park:** (城山公園) Once the site of Takayama Castle. A castle was first raised here by Lord Kanamori in 1590 although it was not fully completed until sixteen years later. Traces of the original donjon foundations and walls can still be seen, and the park is famous for its lush greenery. In spring, the cherry blossoms are particularly beautiful. There are also fine views of the Japan Alps. Open year-round.

⑭ **Higashiyama Teramachi:** (東山寺町) Running north to south along an esplanade lined with tree, there are thirteen temples and five shrines here. Every temple or shrine has interesting buildings and many have fine statues and other treasured art objects. By visiting Higashiyama Teramachi you will fully understand why Takayama is called "little Kyoto".

⑮ **Hida-no-Sato (Hida Folk Village):** (飛騨の里) This village is a remarkable example of conservation of buildings, crafts and traditions brought together and placed in a beautiful mountain setting - yet only 20 min. walk or 10 min. by bus from central Takayama. Covering an area of 99,000 square meters, the village includes more than 30 traditional farmhouses and buildings, many of which were transported from other parts of the region. Each has been preserved in its original state, including artifacts related to the life and work of the owners, and visitors can wander from house to house at leisure. Also certain houses have been set aside for use as craft workshops. Here, you can watch demonstrations of local crafts such as woodcarving, lacquerwork, and the making of straw baskets, hats and sandals. There are souvenir shops near the Village, selling pottery and other crafts items, as well as traditional restaurants. Open: 8:30–17:00. Admission: ¥700.

One-day Travel pass for Nohi bus

Allows unlimited travel for one day on the Nohi buses operating in the city center. Admission discount is also available at major sightseeing facilities with this pass. Admission: ¥630 for adult, ¥320 for child.

[Good to know] Admission and opening times at tourist attractions:

- Last entry to the most of attractions is 30 min. before the closing time.
- In general, if their weekly closing day (most are on Mon.) falls on a national holiday, they are open on the day and are closed on the following day after the holiday(s).
- Most are closed throughout / a part of New Year holiday period (especially Dec. 29–Jan. 3).
- Please visit the official website of each place / your nearest tourist information center for the updates.



SHIRAKAWAGO

Shirakawago (白川郷), a secluded snowy mountain village inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1995, retains the historic landscape with some 100 traditional vernacular farmhouse-style houses called **Gassho-zukuri** (合掌造り). The Gassho-zukuri style house is 18-m. long and 10-m. wide. There are four stories inside the huge building so that a large number of family members can live together. To withstand the weight of heavy snow, the angle of the roof is sharp. The shape of such a roof is like that of two hands in prayer to God or Buddha and the act is called Gassho in Japanese. The Gassho-zukuri-style roofs are re-thatched once in 30–40 years and even today three or four roofs are re-thatched each year with the cooperation of the whole village. Several Gassho-zukuri houses

have been designated as important cultural properties and are open to the public. The observatory at the Ogimachi Castle ruins is the best point from which to view the whole village.

Open-air Museum of Gassho-zukuri houses (野外博物館合掌造り民家園): 25 Gassho-zukuri houses were transferred mainly from the Kazura district in Shirakawa Village and opened as an open-air museum in 1972. In some houses, weaving. You can also experience them at first hand upon reservation. Open: 8:40–17:00 (Mar.–Nov.) and 9:00–16:00 (Dec.–Feb.). (Enter by 20 min. before the closing time.) Closed: Thu. in Dec.–Mar. (or the following day after the holiday when Thu. falls on a national holiday) Admission: ¥600.

Access:**Bus service:**

Takayama — Shirakawago (Runs all year)
(高山) (白川郷)

Lv. Takayama (高山)	※7:50	※8:20	8:50	9:50	10:50	※11:20	11:50	※12:20	※12:50	13:50	※14:30	14:50	※15:50	※16:30	17:50
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Ar. Shirakawago (白川郷)	※8:40	※9:10	9:40	10:40	11:40	※12:10	12:57	※13:10	※13:40	14:57	※15:20	15:57	※16:40	※17:20	18:47
Lv. Shirakawago (白川郷)	6:43	※9:35	※10:20	10:45	11:15	※12:05	※12:35	13:15	※13:30	※14:35	15:15	16:15	※17:20	17:30	
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Ar. Takayama (高山)	7:50	※10:25	※11:10	11:52	12:05	※12:55	※13:25	14:05	※14:20	※15:25	16:05	17:20	※18:10	18:35	

Fare: ¥2,600 for one-way, ¥4,600 for round trip.

※: Reservation required.

Further information: Nohi Bus

Tel. (0577)32-1688

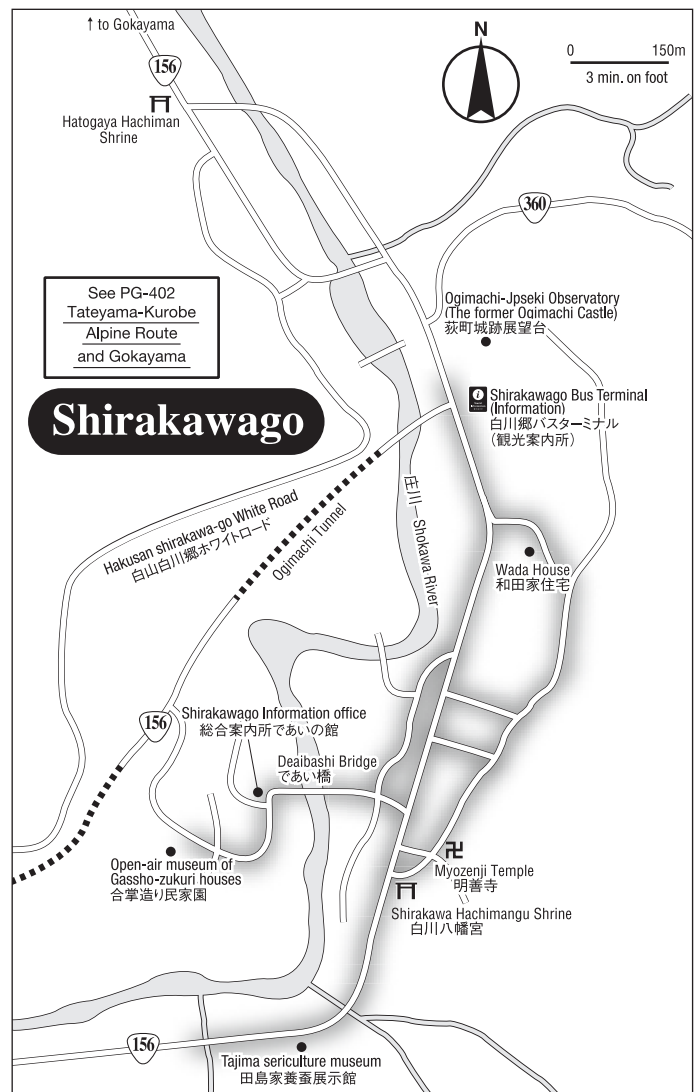
<https://www.nouhibus.co.jp/english/>

Accommodations in Shirakawago:

Over 20 accommodations in Gassho-zukuri-style house.

Reservations can be made through the tourist information center near Shirakawago bus terminal.

Tel. (05769)6-1013 Open: 9:00–17:00



Accommodations in Takayama

	Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
1	Pension Cocotte (P)	(0577)34-5510	(0577)34-5542	¥¥
2	Auberge Hida No Mori (P)	(0577)34-6575	(0577)34-6586	¥
3	Minshuku Mizunoso (M)	(0577)53-2707	(0577)53-2707	¥
4	Takayama Park City (H)	(0577)33-5020	(0577)33-9288	¥
5	Ryokan Murayama (R)	(0577)32-5856	(0577)32-5857	¥
6	Minshuku Sosuke (M)	(0577)32-0818	(0577)33-5570	¥
7	Yasuda Pension (P)	(0577)34-5550	(0577)34-1321	¥
8	Oyado Hachibee (M)	(0577)35-2111	(0577)57-8835	¥
9	Oyado Iguchi (M)	(0577)34-0345	(0577)32-4575	¥
10	Minshuku Iwatakan (M)	(0577)33-4917	(0577)34-8708	¥
11	Oyado Morimoto (M)	(0577)33-4689	(0577)33-4639	¥
12	Oyado Yamakyu (M)	(0577)32-3756	(0577)35-2350	¥
13	Minshuku Kuwataniya (M)	(0577)32-5021	(0577)36-3835	¥
14	Hida Hotel Plaza (H)	(0577)33-4600	(0577)33-4602	¥¥
15	Hida Takayama Tenshoji (Y)	(0577)32-6345	(0577)32-6392	¥
16	Takayama Green Hotel (H)	(0577)33-5500	(0577)32-4434	¥¥
17	Ryokan Seiryu (R)	(0577)32-0448	(0577)35-2345	¥¥
18	Ryokan Muhyoukan (R)	(0577)33-8616	(0577)34-1910	¥
19	Oyado Yumenoya (M)	(0577)36-5511	(0577)35-2505	¥
20	Rickshaw Inn (R)	(0577)32-2890	(0577)32-2469	¥
21	Sumireso (M)	(0577)53-2054	(0577)53-2271	¥
22	Sumiyoshi Ryokan (R)	(0577)32-0228	(0577)33-8916	¥¥
23	Super Hotel Hida-Takayama (BH)	(0577)32-9000	(0577)32-9090	¥

Remarks:

1 - 23 correspond to those on the maps on page 1/6. Rate per person.

H = Hotel
 R = Ryokan
 M = Minshuku (family-run inn)
 Y = Youth Hostel
 P = Pension

¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen
 ¥¥ = 8,001 yen - 15,000 yen
 ¥ = 8,000 yen or less

JNTO TIC (Tourist Information Center)

TIC of Japan National Tourism Organization is your helping hand while in Japan. Its main services are providing travel information and free literature on Japan such as tourist spots, transportation, and suggesting tour itineraries, etc.

1F, Shin-Tokyo Bldg., 3-3-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
 100-0005 Tel. 03-3201-3331 (in Japan)
 Open daily from 9:00 to 18:00 (Closed on Jan. 1)
<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/tic/>



Goodwill Guide Groups offer tourists from overseas local tours guided in English or other languages. The guides are registered with JNTO and display the badge shown. As they are volunteers, there is no charge for their service. You are only expected to pay for their transportation, admission to tourist facilities if you visit any and their meals if you eat with them.

JNTO Website
<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/list-of-volunteer-guides/>

JNTO Website: <https://www.jnto.go.jp>

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of October 2019, and is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, regrettably errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, you should check with organizations concerned for updated and accurate information on your chosen destination. JNTO shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature that may arise as a result, directly or indirectly, from the use of any of the information or material contained in this leaflet.

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TOURIST INFORMATION in the area

Hida Takayama Tourist Information Office:

51-5 Hanasatomachi, Takayama city, Gifu
 Hours: 8:30-19:00 (Apr. - Oct.), -17:00 (Nov. - Mar.)

Tel.: 0577-32-5328

Shirakawa-go Tourist Association:

1086 Ogimachi, Shirakawa-mura, Ohno-gun, Gifu
 Hours: 9:00-17:00

Tel.: 05769-6-1013

To find
 other Tourist Information Centers,
 visit <https://tic.jnto.go.jp/>

