

A heartbeat away from the old capital

遠州の小京都

森町

Mori-machi, the Little Kyoto of Enshu

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Mori-machi is surrounded by nature-rich mountains on three sides, with the pure Ota River flowing gently through it. The old-fashioned townscape is marked by storehouse and many venerable shrines and temples. Song, dance, and festivals passed down through the ages are alive and well here. Moriyama-yaki pottery, delicious Japanese and confections, and Mori tea: Hospitality in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere where you can enjoy the bountiful fruits of nature and farms.
This is the essence of Mori-machi, the Little Kyoto of Enshu.

依 隔 一 峯 森
稀 水 帶 巒 町
風 絃 夾 三 之
物 歌 河 鏡 賦
小 聲 分 接
京 斷 巷 平
都 統 衢 蕪

Shizuoka Prefecture, Mori Town Sightseeing Information



On the banks of the clear Yoshikawa River experience Mori-machi in full Acty Mori

Enjoy ceramics, making Japanese paper, plant dyeing interactive experiences, as well as restaurants, putter golf, tennis, canoes, and rental mountain bikes. Try local ingredients at the forest restaurant "Kawasemi", or buy Enshu regional specialties and handmade ice cream at "Yonna Ichi", both of which are on site.

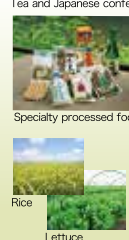
- TEL:0538-85-0115
- Hours: 9 AM - 5:30 PM (until 5 PM from December to February)
- Closed: Wednesday (open on holidays), except during spring and summer vacation periods
- New Year's holiday (Dec 27th - Jan 1st)



Master of flame Pottery village tour Shizuoka Prefecture local craft Mori-yaki

Mori-yaki was started in 1911 by Hideyoshi Nakamura. It is the largest pottery production center in Shizuoka with 4 factories. It incorporates Shitoto-yaki, one of the seven kilns of Kobori Enshu, create unique works worthy of the title "Art of the Flame".

Seizan Tobo
TEL:0538-85-2382
Seison Tobo
TEL:0538-85-3536
Nakamura Tobo
TEL:0538-85-4611
Tame Tobo (Mimoro-yaki)
TEL:0538-89-6031



The products of Mori-machi's nature and its skilled artisans Specialties

Tea and Japanese confections from Enshu-Mori

- **Enshu-Mori Tea**
Tea from Mori, cultivated with the blessings of nature. There are many long-established shops and direct outlets for tea in Mori-machi, a refined tea production region.
- **Japanese Confections**
Many long-established Japanese confection shops are open in Mori-machi, selling umekoromo, jiro persimmon jelly, miso manju, and chestnut jelly.



- **Jiro persimmons**
Jiro persimmons, native to Mori-machi, were said to have started when Jiro Matsumoto found young persimmon trees on the Ota River and planted these at his house 170 years ago.
- **Specialty processed foods**
Using local ingredients and techniques cultivated over many years, Mori-machi produces characteristics sweet sake, side dishes, homemade ham, and wine.
- **Agricultural products**
Different agricultural products are harvested in each season, including fresh vegetables such as lettuce, as well as rice, mushrooms, sweet corn, melon, wild yams, and the like.



Flower viewing in Mori-machi through the four seasons

- **Cherry Blossom**
Blooms: Late March to early April
Okuni Shrine/TEL0538-89-7302
- **Japanese Wisteria**
Blooms: Late April to early May
- **Japanese Iris**
Bloom/Opening (Late May to late June)
Okuni Shrine/TEL0538-89-7302
- **Hydrangea**
Bloom/Opening (Early June to late July)
Gokurakuji Temple/TEL0538-89-7407
- **Bellflower**
Bloom/Opening (Mid June to late July and late August to mid September)
Koshoji Temple/TEL0538-85-3630
- **Sasanqua Camellia**
Blooms: November to February
Sakura: Ota River Dike
- **Lily**
Blooms: June to September
Rengeji Temple/TEL0538-85-5374
- **Rhododendron**
Blooms: From spring to early summer
Okuni Shrine/TEL0538-89-7302
Amenomiya Shrine/TEL0538-85-5544
- **Plum**
Blooms: Mid February to mid March
Okuni Shrine/TEL0538-89-7302
- **Maple**
Blooms: Mid November to early December



Mori-machi Flower Viewing Calendar

Flower/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sasanqua Camellia												
Camellia												
Plum												
Sakura												
Japanese Wisteria												
Fringed Iris												
Rhododendron												
Japanese Iris												
Clover												
Hydrangea												
Bellflower												
Lily												
Maple												



Amenomiya Shrine 12 Stage Bugaku (song and dance)
This bugaku performed at the Amenomiya Reitaisai is believed to have been handed down from Kyoto between 697 and 707, with 12 stages including "Taiheiraku" being handed down. It has been celebrated since ancient times as a prayer for the peace and security of the nation and the whole Enshu area.
Nationally Designated Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property
● Dates: First Sat and Sun of April



Okuni Shrine 12 Stage Bugaku (song and dance)
Bugaku performed at the Okuni Reitaisai is believed to have been handed down from Kyoto between 697 and 707, with 12 stages including "Taiheiraku" being handed down. It has been celebrated since ancient times as a prayer for the peace and security of the nation and the whole Enshu area.
Nationally Designated Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property
● Dates: Sat and Sun close to April 18th



Okuni Shrine Ta'asobi (Rice Harvest Prayer)
Said to have been founded during the mid Kamakura Period, this ritual prays for "gokokuhojo" (bumper crop) and conducts a "yoshuku" (blessing made in advance) for all rituals to be performed until rice-planting in a 12 stage configuration. Currently the festival is held in worship hall, and the ritual is held in the dance hall of the shrine.
● Dates: January 3rd (in Okuni Shrine)



Yamana Shrine Entertainment of the Gion Festival
It is written that this festival was handed down from Settsu-no-kuni Shitennoji Temple. All eight stages of dance, including the Tsurumai, are certainly worth seeing, and visitors can enjoy the lively atmosphere that follows the festival floats towed to the event.
Nationally Designated Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property
● Dates: Sat and Sun close to July 15th



Festivals and Traditional Events

Find bugaku handed down from Kyoto and local traditional events on your journey

Enshu Mori-no Festival
This autumn festival has continued since the Edo Period, and as traditional festival music plays, splendidly carved festival floats are towed around the streets. An intense "neri" competition is held between two-wheeled floats at night. The Mori-no Festival reaches its climax on its final night with the ritual of "Maikogaeshi", sending maiko (dancers) who attended the shrine back to their homes.
● Dates: 1st Fri, Sat, Sun of November
● Maikogaeshi: 6 PM on the final day (in Mishima Shrine)



Zosenji Temple Dai-hannya-kyo (Great Perfection of Wisdom Sutra)
A 600 volume Great Perfection of Wisdom Sutra hand-copied between 1384 and 1387 was left behind, and is now designated as a cultural asset of the prefecture. The Great Perfection of Wisdom Sutra is believed to ward away evil and bring the so-called "Tenka Taihei", and "tendoku" of the Sutra is performed every winter and summer, and people pray for "Ekiyoto Taisan" to ward away disease.
● Dates: January 15th, August 1st



Mori-no-Buka Dako
In time with the Children's Day Celebration in May, "wakashu" (young people overseeing festivals and such) make kites and cheerfully fly them in the sky accompanied by drum and flute music, as a birthday celebration for children in the town.
● Date: May 5th (in the vicinity of Ota River Morikawa-bashi (Morikawa Bridge) and Mori-ohashi (Mori Bridge))

Guide to Enshu-Mori-machi

Access

- **By Shinkansen (Kodama)**
Shin Osaka (2h 30m) → Kakegawa Station → Enshu-Mori Station
Tokyo (1h 50m) → Tenryu Hamanako RaiRoad (25 min)
- **By Akiha Bus**
<To Enshu-Mori-machi/to Kita>
Fukuroi Station (28 min) → Enshu-Mori-machi
- **By Car**
SHIN-TOMEI EXPWY Enshu-Mori-machi start IC (Appx. 3 km)
SHIN-TOMEI EXPWY Mori Kakegawa IC (Appx. 3 km) → Mori-machi
TOMEI Fukuroi IC (Appx. 10 km)

Lodgings in Mori-machi

- Cottage Acty Hottori TEL (0538) 85-9800
- Mori-machi Tsumesho 879-5 (in front of Acty Mori)
- Shinya Ryokan TEL (0538) 85-2046
- Mori-machi Amenomiya 619
- Mikura-no-Sanso TEL (0538) 86-0225
- Mori-machi Mikura 1099-3

Mori-machi Volunteer Guides
Volunteers guide visitors around Mori-machi's sites while enjoying conversation. Contact the Mori Town Tourism Association for inquiries and reservations. TEL (0538) 85-6319

Calendar of Mori-machi Annual Events

- **April**
Amenomiya Reitaisai: 1st Sat & Sun
Miyuki Anagata Sakura Festival: Early April
Okuni Shrine Sakura Festival: Early April
Okuni Reitaisai: Sat & Sun near the 18th
- **May**
Baku Ito Festival (Ota River dry riverbed): 5th
Ota River Ayu Festival (start of fishing season): 1st
Yoshikawa-Mikura Ayu Festival (start of fishing season): 25th
Koshiji Temple Bellflower: Mid June to late July
Gokurakuji Hydrangea Festival: Early June to early July
- **July**
Yamana Shrine Tenno Festival: Sat & Sun near the 15th
Cucumber Ritual (Danichisan Kongoin Temple): Midsummer days of the ox and tiger
- **September**
Cover Festival (Rengeji Temple): 3rd Sunday
Sato Goma Ritual (Danichisan Kongoin Temple): 27th
- **November**
Mori Festival: 1st Fri to Sun
Honryuji Oneko (Temple Service): 12th
Morimori 20,000 Man Festival & Ag Co-Op Festival: Mid November
Daiton Temple Autumn Leaves Festival: Late November
Okuni Shrine Autumn Leaves Festival: Later November
- **December**
New Year's Eve Bell (Daiton Temple)
- **January**
Hatsunode (First Shinto shrine visit of the New Year, held at each shrine)
Daiton Temple Mochi Baking: 1st to 3rd
Ta'asobi (Rice Harvest Prayer at Okuni Shrine): 3rd
Star Festival (Rengeji Temple): 3rd Sunday
- **February**
Setsubun (Okuni Shrine): 3rd
- **March**
Shimatsu Festival (Once every 3 years) and Ishimatsu Memorial Service: Last Sunday of the month

Mori-machi Town Hall Industry Division, Mori-machi Tourism Association
2101-1 Mori, Mori-machi, Shuchi-gun, Shizuoka Prefecture 437-0293
TEL 0538-85-6319
http://www.town.mori-machi.shizuoka.jp/
Facebook: 森町観光協会 (Mori-machi Tourism Association)



Suzuki Tozaburo Memorial
Suzuki Tozaburo was born in Mori-machi in 1883, and became famous for inventing a rock sugar production process at age 28. His rock sugar manufacturing plant is partially preserved here.



Museum of History and Folklore
This museum was opened by relocating and reconstructing the former Shuchi-gun County Office built in 1885. The appearance at that time has been restored, and visitors can understand the history and changes in living culture of Mori-machi at a glance from the farming tools, household goods, and old documents on display.
●TEL:0538-85-0108
Closed: Mondays, Tuesdays, New Year's Holiday
Admission: Free of charge



Ruins of Iida Castle
These are the ruins of the castle where the third generation lord Yamauchi Michiyasu once lived, and it is composed of a Honmaru and Ninomaru (main and secondary keeps). It is known that with Soushinji Temple to the north as their old castle, for three generations Yamauchi Doubi, Yamauchi Hisamichi, and Yamauchi Michiyasu held sovereign rule over the Iida district.



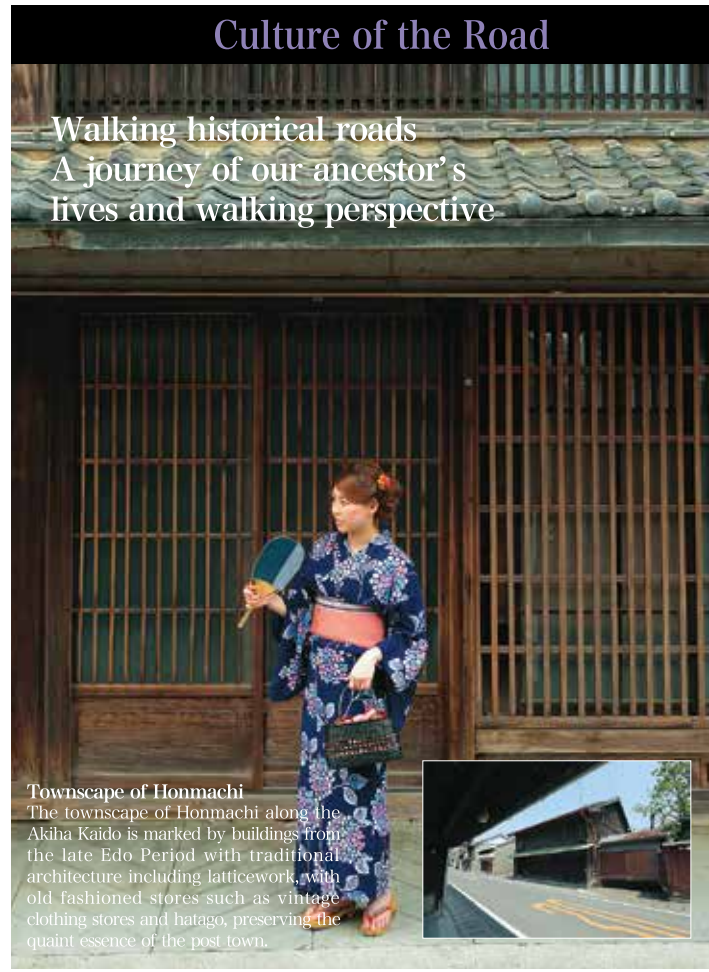
Mt. Akiha Joyato (Night Lanterns)
In the late Edo Period, Isemai (pilgrimage to Ise Jingu Shrine) grew in popularity, and capitalizing on this, Mori-machi, a post town on the Akiha pilgrimage route. Each village within the town would build one night lantern, which is still lit in the evenings now, as thanks for fire and prayer for fire safety.



Emake Dozo (storehouse)
As a "bunke" of the Nakamura family which included the head of Amenomiya Shrine, his family engaged in tea sales and silk-making, but the 10th generation daughter Toyoko married Ema Tamotsu (a soldier), carrying on the Ema family name. Dozo was built in 1892, and currently the first floor is opened during special exhibitions as an exhibit room.
●TEL:0538-85-1112



Ruins of Amagata Castle
This castle was the site of pitched battles between Takeda and Tokugawa during the Warring States Period, and the castle ruins have been developed as a park. From the observation platform on the mountaintop, visitors can overlook the Pacific Ocean, the Southern Japan Alps, and the whole Enshu Region.



Townscape of Honmachi
The townscape of Honmachi along the Akiha Kaido is marked by buildings from the late Edo Period with traditional architecture including latticework, with old-fashioned stores such as vintage clothing stores and hatago, preserving the quaint essence of the post town.



Old Shiroshita School
Constructed in 1884, it is one of only a few remaining wooden school buildings, and the third oldest academic structure in the Prefecture. Presently it is used as "Joka Rojin Ikoi no Ie".



Townscape of Shiroshita
The landscape of remaining private homes looks like the teeth of a saw when seen from above, and is said to have been built so that residents could hide from incoming enemies, but in fact because it was built on top of a curved natural dike, it was necessary to build houses a little out of line.



Culture of the Road
Walking historical roads
A journey of our ancestor's lives and walking perspective



Sengoku Yume Kaido Hiking Trails
During the Sengoku (Warring States) Period, Tokugawa Ieyasu and the Takeda forces engaged in fierce battles, leaving many legends behind to this day. At one time the "Akiha Kaido" and "Shio-no-Michi" roads crossed here, and it was crowded with many travelers. Get closer to nature throughout the year while enjoying history on these walking trails.
●Hanmei Course: 4.1 km (2.5 miles)
●Sanmaru Course: 5.5 km (3.4 miles)
●Shio-no-Michi Course: 8.5 km (5.3 miles)



Yoshikawa Campground Kawasemi-no-Sato
Campers at this campground can use rental tents or one of five bungalows on the banks of the Yoshikawa River. Of course campers are also welcome to bring their own tents. Here you can play in the water and enjoy nature watching.
●Kawasemi-no-Sato TEL:0538-85-9800



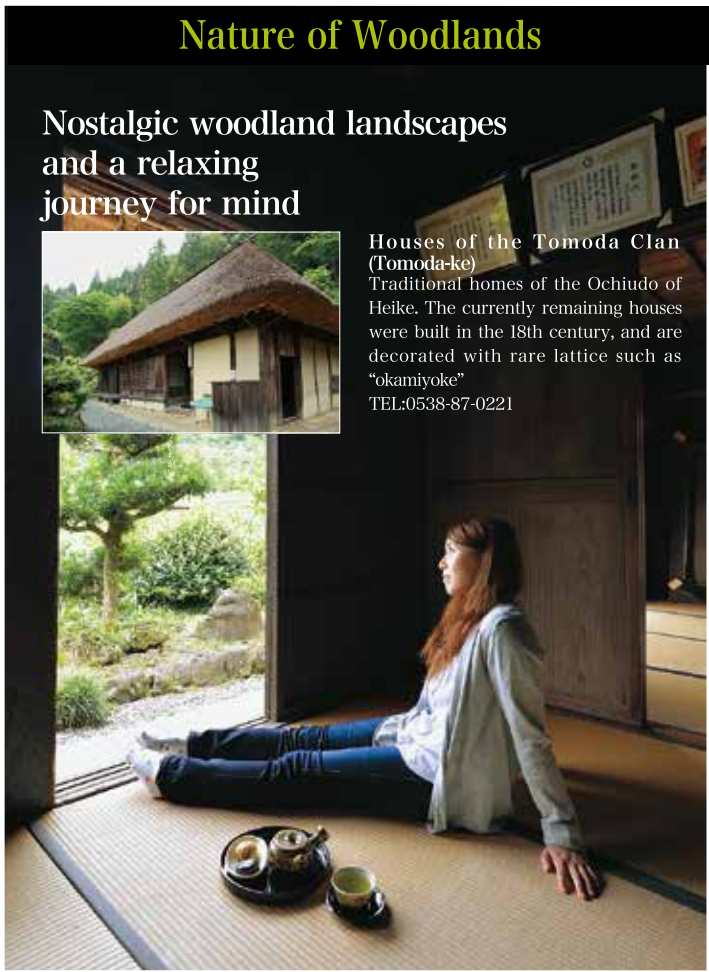
Town Bird: Kawasemi (Kingfisher)



Chomin-no-Mori
Chomin-no-Mori was built as an oasis for resting the body and mind. Visitors can enjoy viewing the mountain wildflowers and bird watching in every season on the extensive grounds.



Cottage Acty Handmade soba Hottori
There are accommodations consisting of four buildings with eight rooms in total, complete with cooking utensils. At Hottori, visitors can also eat soba they make themselves in a soba-making lesson.
●Amagata Co. TEL:0538-85-9800



Nature of Woodlands
Nostalgic woodland landscapes and a relaxing journey for mind



Houses of the Tomoda Clan (Tomoda-ke)
Traditional homes of the Ochiudo of Heike. The currently remaining houses were built in the 18th century, and are decorated with rare lattice such as "okamiyoke"
TEL:0538-87-0221



Ayu Fishing
The Ota River and its tributaries, the Yoshikawa River and the Mikura River, are known as fishing spots for ayu. During the fishing season from June to September, many fishermen pay these rivers a visit.
Ota River Fishermen's Cooperative
●TEL:0538-85-3080
Ota River Ayu Fishing Season Start: June 1st
Yoshikawa River / Mikura River Ayu Fishing Season Start: June 25th



Lake Kawasemi
Created as a multipurpose dam lake, there are many rest areas and casual walking trails set up in the area. Come to see the observation platform "Irodori-Misaki", and "Katabuki-no-Sato", home to the local god Oamaru-sama.



Hakkeizan Rengeji Temple
Built in the year 704, it is known as the oldest temple in Mori-machi. "Koyasu Jizo" (Jizo statues said to grant easy childbirth) and other precious cultural assets have been passed on here, and it is also known as the "Hagi-no-tera" (Clover Temple) for the gregarious Japanese clover growing on its grounds.
●TEL:0538-85-5374



Rokuonzan Koshoji Temple
Founded in 1545, it is worshipped for its honzon "Hakuryuzu Kannon". It is also known as "Kikyodera" (Bellflower Temple), because it is the largest bellflower garden in Japan. 40,000 plants of 15 different species decorate the grounds with over 1 million flowers.
●TEL:0538-85-3630



Takahirasen Henshoji Temple
Henshoji Temple atop Mount Takahira. A statue praised as the largest Buddha in the Tokai Region sits inside. This giant Buddha is known commonly as "Kobo-sama" in the area. It was crafted by Yamada Shichiro zaemon, the founder of Mori.
●TEL:0538-48-6758



Amenomiya Shrine
Climb the long stone steps to see the spacious main hall and worship hall surrounded by a forest of Japanese cedar and cypress. Its sacred tree "Nagi-no-Ok" is thought to be the oldest nagi tree in the Tokai Region.
●TEL:0538-85-5544



Shoganzan Zo-un-in Temple
As the "bodaiji" of the Lord of Amagata Castle, Yamauchi Yamajomori, this temple has the graves of three generations of the lords of Amagata Castle. The Kokuzo Bosatsu and Happo-nirami no Tora-ga are worth seeing. Former chief priest of this temple Suzuki Shunryu Roshi spread Zen to America, influencing famous IT companies.
●TEL:0538-85-2236



Jikkokusan Gokurakuji Temple
This temple is known as "Ajisaidera" (Hydrangea Temple) for the nearly 13,000 hydrangea plants that bloom here. It was founded by Gyoki Bosatsu in 712. The honzon, Amida Nyorai, is said to be crafted by Gyoki Bosatsu himself. This temple is thronged with many worshippers year round.
●TEL:0538-89-7407



Ancient Temples and Shrines
A journey of self-discovery visiting ancient shrines and temples in an eternal time



Okuni Shrine
Okuni Shrine has a history of 1,450 years, and fills with visitors from many regions on New Year's. It is a famous shrine with sights to see in every season, including irises and autumn leaves.
●TEL:0538-89-7302



Kikkokusan Daitoin Temple
This is a "Meisatsu" (particularly famous temple) of Tokai Soto Zen, known for the grave of Mori-no-Ishimatsu. It is also called "Densetsu-no-Tera" (the temple of legends) for a number of legends including "Kiezu no Tomyo" (eternal votive candles), and is famous as a spot for viewing autumn leaves.
●TEL:0538-85-2009



Dainichisan Kongoin Temple
It is said that this temple was established with a Nyorai Buddha crafted by Gyoki Bodhisattva as its "Honzon". The temple gate built in 1837 escaped fire and the traces of many techniques can be seen in the parts composing the shed.
●TEL:0547-53-2083