

⑤Yakyu Inari Shinto Shrine



Origin and History:

The first shrine is believed to have been completed in 712. Taira no Tadatsune rebelled against the Imperial Court approx. 1,000 years ago. The court ordered Minamoto Yorinobu to destroy Tadatsune. Yorinobu encamped at Yakyu Field to pray for victory and then there appeared an arrow-shaped white cloud in the sky and flew for the direction of Tadatsune's camp. Yorinobu believed this must be good news to destroy the enemy and finally overcame Tadatsune.

He had given many thanks to God and ordered to rebuild the shrine and commanded village people to change the shrine name from Yakyu (野久: Field Long) to Yakyu (箭弓: Arrow and Bow).

Response from God:

- Huge Harvest
- Prosperous Business
- Wish Fulfillment

The architecture of Yakyu Inari Shrine:

The hall has been constructed with the main hall and the worship hall. In addition, these are connected with the intermediate passageway. The main hall was reconstructed in 1804 and the intermediate passageway was rebuilt in 1811 and then the worship hall was reconstructed in 1835 by a skilled craftsman.

You'll be admired to see a lot of carved sculptures in the shrine.

Wooden plaque of designated culture property:

Nine votive works were created to paint in middle of 19th century.

Access:

5 minutes on foot from West Exit of Higashi-Matsuyama Station

②Peony Garden in Yakyu Inari Shrine



Nezu Kaichiro (the founder of Tobu Private Railways) dedicated peony, pine tree and wisteria for Yakyu Inari Shrine to celebrate the opening of the train in 1923. 1,300 shares of peony are planted in the park (approx. 3,500 m²). Many visitors admire the beautiful blooming of peony, azalia and wisteria from middle of April every year.

With Higashi-Matsuyama Peony Park, the peony festival is to be held every year.

⑩Kami-Numa Park and Shimo-Numa Park



Lots of cherry trees are planted around each swamp located in center of both Kami-Numa and Shimo-Numa Parks. Each park is well known as attractive viewing spot for greeting cherry blossom.

Glossy Sakura (cherry blossom) in Kami-Numa is designated as one of attractive 50 cherry viewing spots selected in Kanto area. You can also enjoy illuminated fantastic cherry blossom at night.

At that season, it's fantastic to take a walk along an old historical path being lined up with thousands of pretty lanterns at time of "Yume Touro (Dream Lantern)" festival being held from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm in early spring every year. Many food stands will be available at 3:00 pm and you can also enjoy music live there.



Access:

Kami-Numa Park---

5 minutes on foot from East Exit of Higashi-Matsuyama Station

Shimo-Numa Park---

15 minutes on foot from East Exit of Higashi-Matsuyama Station

①Higashi-Matsuyama Peony Park



Higashi-Matsuyama Peony Park had been established in 1990 since the peony park located at Yakyu Inari Shrine became small for the increase of peony flowers. The peony park is getting the most distinguished peony park in Kanto area after expanding maintenance in 1998. You can enjoy approx. 10,000 peonies in approx. 30,000 m². Depending on each of the four seasons, anyone comes to love Hydrangea, Chinese peony, Winter sweet, Narcissus, Adonis and etc. Peony festival will be opened from in late April to in early May.

Access:

• 4.5km from East Exit of Higashi-Matsuyama Station

• Extra bus facility at Higashi-Matsuyama Station will be available in Peony season at 20 minutes intervals from 9:00 am through 5:00 pm. (Fare: Yen100/one way)

• 20 minutes by car from Higashi-Matsuyama IC of Kanetsu Highway

⑮ Iwadono Kannon (Shoboji Temple)



Iwadono Kannon is one of Bando Fudasho (temples where amulets are collected) has been becoming the focus of people's worship and constituted Temple town.

A famous samurai Takeda Shingen in the age of civil war established his camp to storm Matsuyama castle.

You'll be in touch with old temple town and see the Deva gate.

Going up the stone steps, you can see Kannon Hall and an old big Ginkgo Tree in the precinct and there stands a bell tower.

In late autumn season, ginkgo leaves are falling to spread in the entire precinct of the temple.



Access:

- 20 minutes by a car from Higashi-Matsuyama IC of Kanetsu Highway for Takasaka district
- Getting on a bus for Hatoyama New Town district from Tobu Tojo Line Takasaka Station and get off at Daito Bunka University. It'll take 10 minutes on foot.

④ Nourin Park

You can enjoy watching thousands of poppy at Nourin Park.

Viewing poppy field covering a hill from a bench of arbor, it looks like a flower sea. Flower in full bloom time will be from middle to end of May.



Access:

10minutes from Shinkouyatsu (神光谷) bus stop for Kumagaya district.

③ Monomiyama Park



Monomiyama Mountain (135m above sea levels) located in the southern part of Higashi-Matsuyama. Nearby, there are Iwadono Kannon (Shoboji Temple), Saitama Peace Museum and Children's Animal Natural Park. It's good for hiking.

Access:

- 20 minutes from Higashi-Matsuyama IC of Kanetsu Highway for Takasaka district
- Getting on a bus for Hatoyama New Town district from Tobu Tojo Line Takasaka Station and get off at Daito Bunka University. It'll take 10 minutes on foot

⑨ Tennou Sama / Yakumo Shrine

Yakumo Shrine (located toward the south-east of Kami-Numa Park



along Route 407) is the subsidiary shrine of Hikawa Shinto Shrine (renamed to Matsuyama Shrine after) and enshrined as the local shrine deity of old Matsuyama post town. The summer festival is held as a regular festival for Tennou-Sama God in the fourth Saturday and Sunday in July every year.

You'll appreciate beautiful carvings in the main hall. Carvings of flowers, birds, dragons, Chinese lions are displayed in the front of the building. At the side and the back of the building, there are carvings related to Japanese mythology, Ama no Iwato (cave of heaven) and Yama no Orochi (a big snake with eight heads).

The religious faith of this shrine is driving out evil spirits and forgetting the summer heat.

Summer festival (Tennou-Sama festival)

People shoulder the portable shrine and parade around the town in daytime. From the evening, there exist many stalls for fast food and etc.

Access:

15 minutes on foot from Higashi-Matsuyama station
Walk along Peony Street and turn right on the Higashi-Matsuyama city hall to Kami-Numa direction

⑪ Pear Picking



Higashi-Daira, Ohtani and Nomoto districts are well known as production regions of pears. You can enjoy harvesting pears from the beginning of September till the middle of October at 10 tourist farms especially in Higashi-Daira district.

In the pear season, many tourists are coming to enjoy the pear picking.

⑩Higashi-Matsuyama Fireworks Festival



Higashi-Matsuyama Fireworks Festival will be held in end of August as a Japanese summer tradition. The festival grants a lot of children's dream and hope and also prays for the further development of the city. In addition, the citizen sends the ale to the disaster area reconstruction.

Access:

15 minutes on foot from Takasaka Station to Toki-Gawa Riverside Park

⑭Votive Plaque Market at Bato Kannon



Kamioka Bato Kannon stands in the grounds of Myoanji Temple. The Bato Kannon, a house-headed deity, is said as premier of the hallowed ground in Kanto district.

People's faith for the Bato has been originated in protection of the house.

At time of the festival, there stand the votive plaque market and the bronze statue of horse reminding image of those days since the number of people keeping houses are decreasing lately in the district. Many street vendors stand in the ground and a lot of people are gathering there. The votive plaque market is specified in the national intangible folk cultural assets.

Access:

Use a bus for Kumagaya direction and then get off at Kamioka Bus Stop from Higashi-Matsuyama Station

⑫Pounding rice cake in Kanaya



Pounding rice cake festival is held for good harvest on November 23rd every year at Hikawa Shrine.

According to legend, in appreciation of Sakanoue Tamuramaro who exterminated the evil dragon in the ancient time, people in the village

were pleased to entertain Tamuramaro with pounding rice cake while dancing.

During 300 years, the traditional dance has been refined to stylize and rice cake is pounded to hand out to visitors while dancing to Kiyari song.

Note: Kiyari song is originated in fireman's song.

Access:

Get off at Higashi-Matsuyama Station West Exit and walk in Matsuyama Girls High School district. Turn left at the intersection where both a convenience store and pharmacy.

⑬Otori Sama (Tori no Ichi)



"Otori Sama" festival

"Tori no Ichi" festival is held on December 15th at Ohtori Shrine every year. In general, the "Tori no Ichi" market is called as "Otori Sama" in polite way. "Otori Sama" is booming with many people and they pray for prosperous business and safety of each family besides merchant worship. "Otori Sama" is crowded by 20,000 to 30,000 people in recent years.

Origin and History:

Ohtori Shrine was rebuilt in 1801 as a branch shrine of Matsuyama Shrine.

As for the origin of "Tori no Ichi", there are different point of views. They say that Samurai religious faith was transferred to common people and on the other hand the said shrine was God for farmers to thank God and pray for full harvest.

"Ebisu" God is also famous God for praying prosperous business. You can get lucky charms such as Bamboo rake, Mask of God of good fortune and Gold coin so far at the fair.

⑰Bronze Sculpture Street



Takasaka Station is known as a white building of characteristic appearance having the clock on top of the triangle roof.

32 bronze sculptures are displayed to exhibit on the sidewalk over 1km from Takasaka Station West Exit. The sculpture street was admitted to construct as a landmark of Takasaka based on the urban development projects. This display was originated in the occasion of the sculpture exhibition and the lecture held by Hiroatsu Takada, a sculptor, in 1982. These 32 sculptures are matching to bring about artistic quality with the street lined with trees and green area around.