



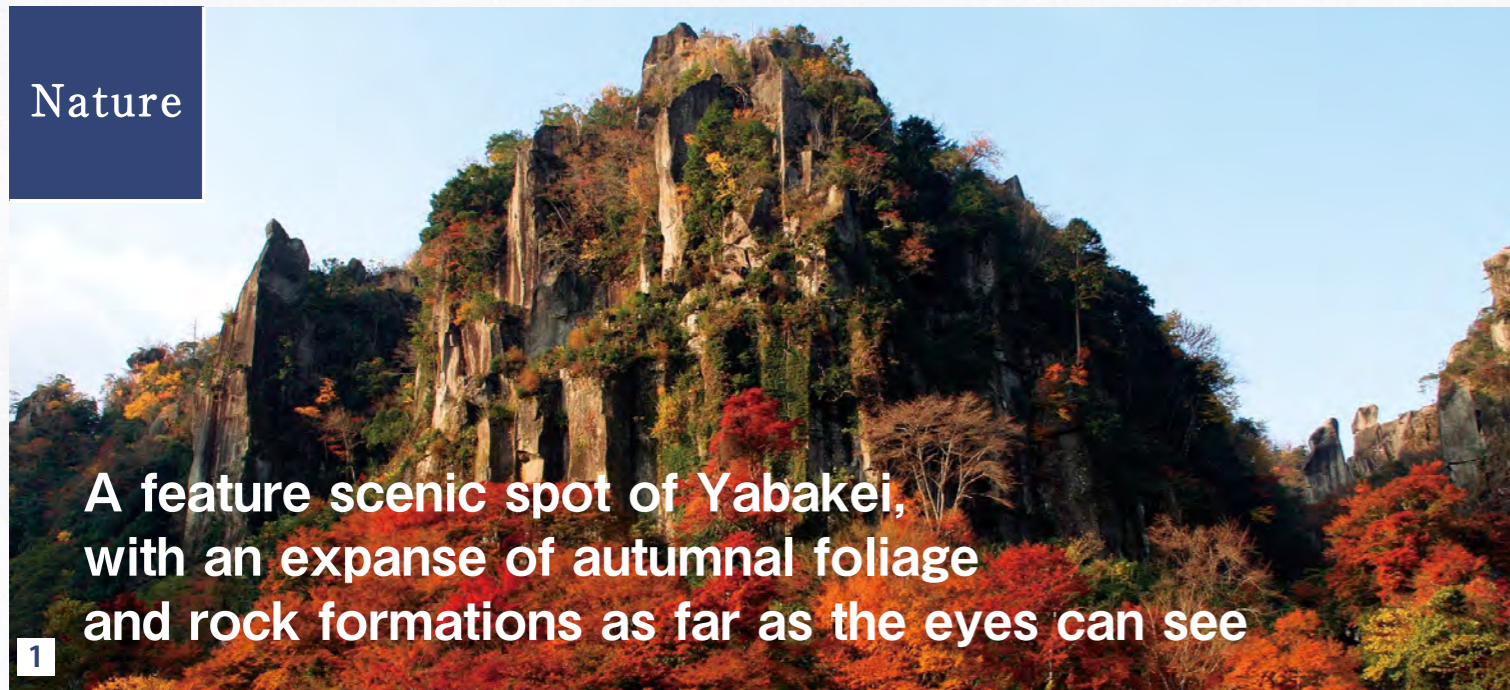
NAKATSU YABAKEI

Sightseeing Guide



Learn about
Nakatsu
Nature & History

Nakatsu



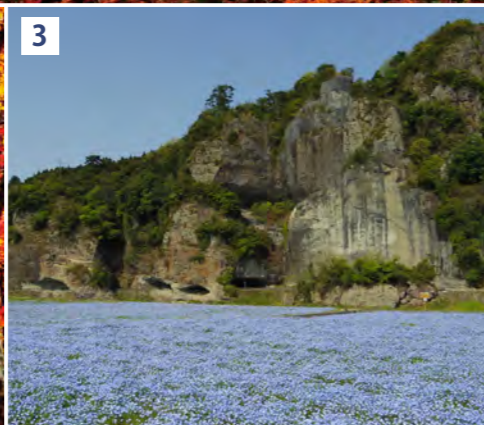
1 A feature scenic spot of Yabakei, with an expanse of autumnal foliage and rock formations as far as the eyes can see



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Learn about Nakatsu Nature & History



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1 Shin-yabakei (Hitome Hakkei)

A scenic spot which represents Yabakei, earned its name for the panoramic view of eight odd rock formations which can be viewed at once. The observation deck affords a superb 360-degree view, from which one can enjoy various vistas throughout the year, from fresh greenery to autumnal foliage and snow.

2 Goryo Maples

A fine autumnal foliage spot along the approach to Goryo Shrine. After passing through a tunnel of maple and ginkgo trees, one can stroll down the path carpeted with colorful fallen leaves.

3 Kyoshuho

The approximately 1km high monolithic rocky mountain was named for it consists of a series of eight crests which tower as if competing with each other. From mid-April to early May, nemophila flowers bloom, turning the area blue.

4 Sarutobi Sentsubo Gorge

The gorge was named after wild monkeys which were seen hopping from rock to rock. The upper stream is a listed natural monument of Japan. There is a footpath about 1.5km along the river, where one can take a stroll to enjoy the sound of the babbling stream and fresh greenery or autumnal foliage.

5 Yukichi Fukuzawa's former residence

The childhood home of Yukichi Fukuzawa, whose portrait can be found on Japanese banknotes. He was a leading educator of Japan and had influenced many great figures.

6 Goganji Temple

The temple also goes by the nickname of Akakabe Dera. Legend has it that when a local ruling family's chief retainer, who was hostile against Kamei Kuroda, was murdered in a set-up, his blood had splattered on to the white walls in front of the gate, and the walls had to be painted red for the stains would always come back no matter how many times the walls were painted over.

7 Nakatsu Castle (Okudaira Family Museum of History)

The castle was built in 1588 on the estuary of Nakatsu River by Kamei Kuroda, who supported Hideyoshi Toyotomi's unification of Japan. Today, the castle keep is open to the public as the Okudaira Family Museum of History, and artefacts and documents associated with the successive lords of Okudaira family are exhibited. The castle on the river has floodgates and the levels of water change according to the tides.

8 Ao-no-domon

A 342-meter tunnel at the foot of the mountain. It was built by a monk named Zenkai in the Edo period, who had spent about 30 years to build the tunnel with a chisel and hammer to make the road safer to travel through.

9 Rakanji Temple

A historic temple built on the top of the mountain in 645. The temple gate and main temple hall are at the halfway point, where over 3,000 stone Buddha statues are enshrined, including the Gohyaku Rakan and Sentai Jizo inside a cave. One can walk up to the main hall at the top of the mountain but it is recommended to take the lift as it affords the view of autumnal foliage.

Highlights of Yabakei

Fresh greenery season from early May Autumnal foliage season Early to late Nov.





Local cuisine



Feel Nakatsu

Things You Can Enjoy!



Experience & Events



Souvenirs of Nakatsu



Nakatsu Wagasa umbrellas

Umbrella-making in Nakatsu used to be the side job of samurais. Besides the traditional wagasa umbrellas, there are ones in contemporary designs and lamps made of wagasa umbrellas.



Hamaguri Shiruko

Shiruko (sweet red bean soup) with a clam-shaped monaka (sweet bean jam in wafer). Red and white plovers emerge from the monaka when hot water is added.



Yaba Bijin

A shochu produced by hand at a shochu distillery in Nakatsu City. Yaba Bijin comes in two flavors: wheat and rice. The shochu called Rice Brandy is made from rice and is very popular.

1 Nakatsu Kara-age

There are so many chicken kara-age stores in Nakatsu that it is referred to as the Mecca of Kara-age. Freshly fried chicken can be ordered and enjoyed in stores. It is great to compare the flavors of different stores as small orders are taken.

2 Conger Pike Cuisine

Like the eel, a conger pike is a long and slender fish, and it is prepared by skillful chefs using a technique called Honekiri (bone dicing) to prevent bones from getting stuck in the throat. Sashimi and shabu-shabu are the most popular ways of enjoying conger pike, and its skin and bones are popular amongst women for their beauty effect as they are rich in collagen and calcium.

3 Yabakei Soba

Soba has been made in the Yabakei district of Nakatsu for decades and there is a series of soba restaurants in the area. At Michi-no-eki Yapa Topia, you can try your hands at making and eating your very own handmade soba.

4 Domon Burger

A special burger made with ingredients sourced in Yabakei, including black buns, which are created in the image of the rocks of Kyoshuho, burger made of 100% Yabakei Black Berkshire, lettuce and tomato. They are sold at Rest House Domon, located opposite the river from Ao-no-domon.

5 Hachimenzan Kanairo Onsen

There is a unique open-air hot spring spa in the garden on the slope of Nakatsu's Mt. Hachimen, where you can enjoy the changing seasonal landscapes from the great open-air baths, reclining baths, hot spring falls and steam caves. There is also a restaurant which serves local cuisine and an inn.

6 Nishitani Onsen

A natural hot spring spa with free flowing hot spring water, which offers a panoramic view of the green mountains from the large picture windows of its baths. It also offers lodgings in its chalet-style log cabin and old Japanese-style cottage.

7 Maple Yaba Cycling Road

Cycling route built on the site of the old Yabakei Railroad. You can cycle safely while enjoying the views of autumnal foliage, as the road has a gradual incline and a cyclist lane. Bicycles are available for hire at the Yabakei Cycling Terminal.

8 Yabakei Aqua Park

Water-ski area which uses the lake created by Yabakei Dam. The surface of the water is smooth as the lake is surrounded by mountains, and many events are held there. You can try water-skiing, wakeboarding, lake cruising and banana boating.

9 Nakatsu Gion

The festival held every July with a history dating back over 580 years is held to pray for protection from plagues and good health. A splendid float called Gionguruma and a portable shrine are carried in a procession through the castle town of Nakatsu. A fireworks festival is held in conjunction with Nakatsu Gion.

10 Sanko Cosmos Festival

Japan's largest cosmos festival is held in a 16ha garden at the foot of Mt. Hachimen, where about 30 million cosmos flowers bloom riotously. You can also make art using cosmos in a variety of colors such as pink, white and yellow.



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