

# 山の都は ワンダーランド

Yamato-cho is Wonderland

English edition

welcome!  
Yamato-cho, Kumamoto

I hope I can see this scenery  
in 100 years.

I love  
Yamato-cho.



<i>Yamato-cho is Wonderland</i>	04
<i>Wish Upon a Star Seiwa highland</i>	06
<i>Grand Canyon in Kyushu Soyokyo</i>	08
<i>Breathtaking View The world of rime on trees</i>	10
<i>I love Yamato-cho</i>	12
<i>I love mountain</i>	14
<i>I love nature</i>	16
<i>I love organic</i>	18
<i>I love Tsujun-Bridge</i>	20
<i>I love heritage</i>	22
<i>I love camp Campsites in Yamato-cho</i>	24
<i>Let's procure ingredients in Yamato-cho! CampMeal</i>	26
<i>I love sustainable life A sustainable day in the Yamato-cho</i>	28
<i>Recommended Place</i>	30
<i>Yamato-cho MAP</i>	34

*I love the mountains so much  
that my heart trembles*

**Yamato-cho is Wonderland**

*I hope I can see this scenery in 100 years.*







The wild cherry blossoms and wildflowers herald the arrival of spring, and the wild birds sing a pleasant song. In summer, new green leaves rustle in the air. Trees such as the Japanese maple color the mountains in autumn, and in winter, the snow-covered primeval beech forests are graced with beautiful rime. The scenery of Yamato-cho changes beautifully throughout the four seasons. The landscape of Yamato-cho deserves to be called a wonderland. It is our wish to preserve this rich natural landscape for the next 100 years.





Wish Upon a Star  
**Seiwa highland**

In Yamato-cho, you feel that the stars are so close, you can almost reach them.

There is an observatory at Seiwa Highland where you can enjoy stargazing.

At the town's Children's Assembly held in 2019,  
a local junior high school student who loves the stars  
made a proposal to prevent light pollution\*.

And in 2020, the Yamato-cho Starry Sky Environment Preservation Ordinance was enacted.

The beauty of Yamato-cho's starry sky is protected by the wishes of the town's residents.

We hope that you will enjoy the beauty of the night sky when you stay.

YAMATO-CHO  
MAP

Seiwa Highland Observatory  
E-2

The shooting location is Liberal Kamabuta Auto Campsite (Details P25) MAP / E-3

\* Light pollution is the brightening of the night sky due to excessive light, which impairs astronomical observations and disrupts ecosystems.





## The Grand Canyon of Kyushu

# Soyokyo

This U-shaped valley is rare in Japan,  
with steep cliffs of about 200m that continue for more than 10km.  
Looking down on the valley from the Nagasakibana Observatory  
(parking lot on the upper right of the photo),  
a white river runs through the deep green,  
and the magnificent scenery is undeniably the "Grand Canyon of Kyushu".  
In November, it is dyed with autumn leaves  
and becomes even more beautiful.

YAMATO-CHO  
MAP  
Soyokyo  
F-2・3





Breathtaking Views

## The World of Rime on Trees

The days when the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountains shine in silver!  
The rime landscape of the natural beech forest is a breathtaking view.  
You may find yourself surrounded in Prussian blue skies and the world of rime  
when the best conditions are met.

YAMATO-CHO  
MAP  
Kyushu Sekiryo Mountains  
CDEF - 4・5・6 area



Yamato-cho  
is Wonderland

I hope I can see this scenery  
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# I love Yamato-cho

People of Yamato-cho who  
love the mountains, love the nature, and love the food.  
They love the culture, wisdom, and techniques nurtured  
by their predecessors, and are trying to protect them,  
pass them on to the future.

Please flip through the pages and feel their love for Yamato-cho.

The stories of people who live here.

Yamato-cho is the best!





# I love mountain



## Guided by *Yama no miyako*

Kyushu Sekiryo Trail Coordinator

**YOKO ISHII**

When she was 25, she experienced mountain climbing for the first time at Mt. Miyanoura on Yakushima Island. An impressive Yakushika appeared near the top of the mountain and guided her to the top of the highest peak in Kyushu. After this experience on Yakushima Island, Mrs. Ishii became fascinated by the harshness, kindness, and beauty of the mountains. She has been climbing for over 29 years. She has been climbing with her children in the mountains of Kyushu since giving birth. She started trail running at the age of 39 and has been enjoying the fun of running in the mountains. She completed her first 100 mile race at the 2018 UTMF (Ultra Trail Mt. Fuji). She is currently involved in guide support for the Kyushu Sekiryo, planning and managing trail running tours and competitions. She is active in the Kyushu Sekiryo as her home field, maintaining mountain trails and signposts.

Yoko Ishii / Born in Fukuoka Prefecture, she moved to Yamato-cho in 2006. She has been climbing for 29 years. She started trail running at the age of 39 and has participated in various competitions. She completed her first 100 mile race at the 2018 UTMF (Ultra Trail Mount Fuji). She also has experience in overseas races. In addition, she completed 195km across Kyushu, which connects mountains and 100 miles of Kyushu Sekiryo, for which she created her own route. While she is involved in guide support for the Kyushu Sekiryo, planning and management of trail running tours and tournaments, she is working daily to protect the safety of climbers, maintaining mountain trails and signposts. She supervised the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountaineering Map (Revised 4th Edition) published in July, 2021.

- 2018 UTMF (Ultra Trail Mount Fuji) Completed  
Aso Round Trail (Half) Women's, 2nd place
- 2019 Kyushu Spinal Mountain Trail Run in Yamato-cho Champion by Age  
Formosa Trail (Taiwan) 75km Section Women's, 6th place
- 2020 Kojimayama Trail Running, Winner of the Long Women's Championship
- 2021 Tara no Mori Trail Running (Koranomine Course) Women's Championship
- 2023 DEEP JAPAN ULTRA 100(130km section) Completed



For more information on the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountaineering Map supervised by Yoko Ishii, please visit the website here.  
<https://sekiryo-journey.com/map4th/>



You can check the road conditions to the main trailhead in the town from the website "Yamato-cho Tourism Navi Climbing/Footpath" (<https://www.town.kumamoto-yamato.lg.jp/kanko/list00604.html>).

When you will climb a mountain, please be sure to submit a mountain climbing report.  
How to submit a climbing notification to the Kumamoto Prefectural Police Headquarters →



## The blessings of the mountains create everyday life.

"I've come to live in Yamato-cho, and I've become involved with the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountains. When I think about it now, I can only believe that I've been guided," says Mrs. Ishii with a gentle expression. In her twenties, she enjoyed traveling alone. After hiking in Yakushima Island however, she changed her focus from "island travel" to "mountain exploration" and set off for various mountains across Japan. After getting married at the age of 29 and giving birth to her eldest daughter, she didn't give up her passion but instead carried her children on her back, enjoying hiking in the mountains with her family. Mr. and Mrs. Ishii had the desire to raise their children in nature. When they were looking for a place to open her husband's dentistry, she was introduced to Yamato-cho by chance. "The moment I saw the scenery surrounded by the mountains, I immediately decided to live here!" smiles Mrs. Ishii. In 2006, she moved from Fukuoka Prefecture to Yamato-cho before her eldest son turned one. Now, she lives here, surrounded by the Kyushu Sekiryo, and spends her daily life in her favorite mountains. Mrs. Ishii often says that she began to notice the daily conditions of the mountains by feeling the changing seasons on her skin and seeing the Kyushu Sekiryo reflected on her windowsill. "My daughter and son made their debut in the mountains before they even played in parks. We used to go to the mountains and play in nature. I think this rich environment has brought up our children." The turning point for Mrs. Ishii came in 2010. When she heard that her husband would participate in a trail running tournament sponsored by the town, she said, "If it's in the mountains, I'll run too!" She completed the 35km safely. "The distance I used to walk in a few days can be lapped in a day when I run. I feel amazed by the possibility that my own two feet can take me this far." Fascinated by trail running, Mrs. Ishii has since participated in numerous competitions. In recent years, she thought about running a circuit route and completed a 100 mile route of the Kyushu Sekiryo, a mountain trail developed by herself. In October 2021, she planned and implemented the "Kyushu Spinal Trail Journey," which runs 73km, including the route, over two days. She also included the route she pioneered in the "Kyushu Sekiryo Mountaineering Map (Revised 4th Edition)" published in July of the same year, of which she supervised. She has received a lot of encouraging feedback from trail running enthusiasts.

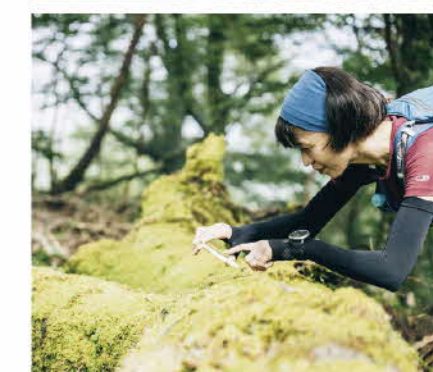
Her love for the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountains is only deepening. She wants to inherit the thoughts of the ancestors who also loved the Kyushu Sekiryo, and focus on mountain maintenance. Mrs. Ishii is sharing the charm of the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountains on SNS too. "The water stored in the Kyushu Sekiryo forest is the source of many rivers that flow through Kyushu. We who live closest benefit greatly from the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountains, as well as the children of this community who will inherit its future. I want to know more and feel proud." Mrs. Ishii seems to be a muse of the Kyushu Sekiryo.



## Yamato-cho is Wonderland

*I hope I can see this scenery  
in 100 years.*

This picture of her hiking in the mountains  
with her children is Mrs. Ishii's treasure.





## An encounter with a treasure map changed my life.

Kyushu Sekiryo Mountain Climbing Guide

**AKIRA TERAZAKI**

Akira Terazaki / Born in Yamato-cho, Kumamoto Prefecture. He joined the Soyo Town Office in 1982 first serving as Director of the Planning and Tourism Section in 2003, and as Director of the Planning and Promotion Section of Yamato-cho in 2005 after the municipal merger. He retired in March 2008 and established ECO Kyushu Tourist LLC in June of the same year. He is the President of the Kyushu Highland Guide Association, Vice-chairman of the Yamato-cho Tourism Association. He is a forest conservation patrol officer and the supervisor and publisher of the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountaineering Map.



A video of Akira Terazaki introducing the Kyushu Sekiryo can be viewed below.

[Official] Yamato-cho Yamanomiyakosozo Channel  
(<https://youtu.be/8-WgILDueY0>)

His tanned skin and gentle smile reflects in the forest. In the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountains, Akira Terazaki is walking through the mountains as if he was in his own garden, nimbly conversing with the trees. Originally, Mr. Terazaki was an employee of the Yamato-cho Town Office. "I quit my job at the town hall when I was 50 years and a week old and started working as a tour guide right away," he recalls. It was a big decision for Mr. Terazaki, who at the time was struggling with community development as the head of the Planning and Promotion Division. What drove him to such a new life was a mysterious piece of map. The map led him to become closely involved with the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountains, and he began to be fascinated by the rich world of plants, animals, and people living together there. Through his work as a guide, Mr. Terazaki is now conveying to us all the essence of the abundant wealth around us.

In an unexplored area,  
he drew his own line and created a new map.

Mr. Terazaki's eyes are glued with excitement to the map. "The Picture of Kyushu Nine Countries" was created 200 years ago in 1813. It is a water transportation map that Nagasaki merchants made, mainly for a foreign audience. There are familiar place names such as "Midorikawa Suido", and while it is written with great detail, the proviso written in the part of the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountains reads, "The mountains around here are too deep to know where the boundaries are". "Even though Mt. Aso and Mt. Kuju could be surveyed accurately, the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountains remained a mystery. This is a treasure map!" thought Mr. Terazaki.

He saw this map in the summer of 2007. The following month, he obtained qualification as a travel agency handling manager and decided to become a guide for these mountains. Immediately, he retired from his work at the town hall in the end of March 2008. After his retirement, Mr. Terazaki hiked in the Kyushu Sekiryo to get in touch with the land, the people, and their lifestyles in the mountainous areas. In the meantime, local residents and mountaineering enthusiasts were increasingly asking for a map of the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountains. Mr. Terazaki hiked deeper and further into the mountains and finally supervised and published the "Kyushu Sekiryo Mountaineering Map" in 2012. The Kyushu Sekiryo, which were so deep and unexplored that the boundaries could not be seen, were documented by Mr. Terazaki and the mountain trails were gradually improved. Today, various mountaineering routes and trail running courses have been set up, and many hikers and trail runners enjoy these mountains freely.

He wants to convey to people, the richness of the mountains with their virgin beech forests.

ECO Kyushu Tourism represented by Mr. Terazaki plans various trekking activities. One of the most indispensable is his tour of the primeval beech forest. "It boasts the largest area of 6038ha in western Japan and is the largest pacific beech forest zone in the world," says Mr. Terazaki. A variety of deciduous trees grow in this primeval forest. In autumn, the leaves are dyed various hues of red, yellow, and orange, and the surroundings put on a vivid display of color.

"Without these beech trees, there would be no water, no rivers, no rice fields. People on the flatlands could not have made a living. So the people here live in gratitude for the mountains, forests, water, and animals. I think it is my mission to pass this on. Life in modern society has been enriched, and we should consider this abundance the wisdom of people and the activities of nature that have been cultivated for thousands of years."

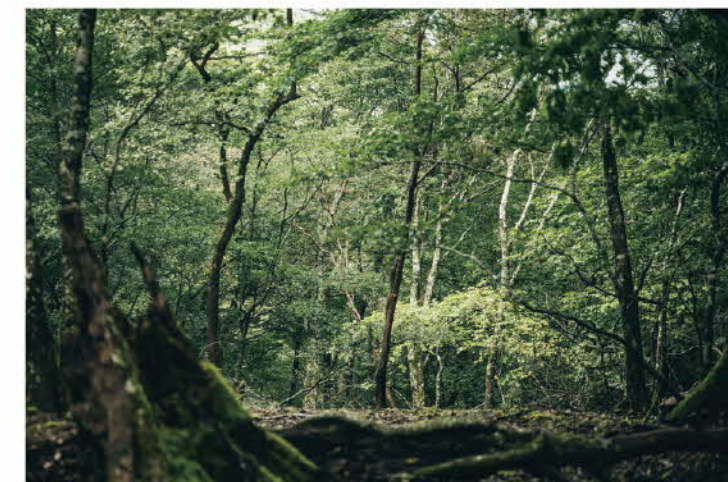
Mr. Terazaki's tour does not simply convey the beauty of nature and the enjoyment of the mountains. People feel the essence of abundance; thousands of years, the mountains, nature, and people nurturing one another.



Information on the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountaineering Tour planned by Akira Terazaki is available on the website. You can view it on the Kyushu Sekiryo Trail Journey (<https://sekiryo-journey.com>).

## Yamato-cho is Wonderland

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(Left) Beech branches have a characteristic appearance of attached, wavy edges. (Right) Mr. Terazaki points his finger to the place where "the mountains were too deep to know where the boundaries were".



Maromi Shimoda grew up on a farm in Yamato-cho, where her family cultivated pesticide-free rice and Japanese green tea. Because of her mother Misuzu's beliefs, the kitchen at home was stocked only with the bare minimum of seasonings such as salt and sugar. When their family prepared dinner, they always went to the field behind their house to gather the ingredients such as vegetables. Inspired by this field to table life, Ms. Shimoda established Maro Corporation in 2020 to bring "true organic crops" produced in Yamato-cho to the world.

From birth, she has always eaten food grown either at home or by farmers in her community. This formative experience is her driving force now.

Protect the forest.  
Protect the rice terraces.  
Sow good seeds  
for the future.

Pesticide-free and chemical-free farmer / food sales company owner

**MAROMI SHIMODA**

Maromi Shimoda / Born in Yamato-cho, Kumamoto Prefecture, raised in Yamato-cho. She is the President of Maro Co., Ltd., working to bring true organic produce to the world. She runs an online store for food produced and processed in Yamato-cho. Every day, she is working vigorously to innovate and support organic farming in the community and across the country.



The organic food grown by Ms. Maromi Shimoda is available online.  
You can purchase it at maro (<https://organicmaro.thebase.in>).



Instagram

For workshop details,  
please visit here (@maro.co.ltd).



Instagram

For reservations of onigiri and  
bento boxes by Maro,  
please visit here (@maro\_\_\_store).

# I love organic

The No. 1 organic farming town in Japan, she conveys the message of true organic food.

Do not put chemicals in your body.

For the health of the family, growing up, Ms. Shimoda's mother handmade their meals as well as all of her childhood snacks. "The strawberry jam I ate was from the local strawberry farmer. The jelly made from perilla was grown by my grandmother. Everything my mother made was delicious," she recalls.

Yamato-cho has been engaged in organic farming for over 40 years, and today has the largest number of certified and registered businesses for organic farming products in all of Japan. Ms. Shimoda's parents are among them, continuing to practice organic farming while confronting various difficulties. "Overseas organic products emit carbon dioxide when transported, and also require high fuel expenses. Despite this, they are sold cheaply in Japan. I wonder if farmers who grow organically abroad are profiting properly. Organic ingredients harvested nationally do not incur high transportation costs or environmental burdens. Products are fresh and delicious, and the farmers are also financially compensated. It's a win-win relationship. I think this is very important. When local organic farmers talk about eating their own produce and how their growing season is progressing, my feelings about buying and consuming their products change". Considering the relationships that form between people and farmers, Ms. Shimoda regards this as "true organic" and is working to convey the importance of this to all of Japan.

Not nostalgia, but the wisdom of old.  
I do what I can.

Ms. Shimoda, like many, left the town after high school to go to university. After graduating from university, when she was in her second year working for another company, she achieved excellent results in her sales position, but the quality of her eating habits was diminishing and the pressure and stress caused by her sense of responsibility was making her increasingly sick.

She decided to go back to her family home in Yamato-cho until she was feeling well again. When she returned home, she felt better surprisingly soon thereafter. As her health improved, she found herself reading compelling books, and her goals of "starting a business by the age of 30" and "helping Yamato-cho" began to take shape.

Since childhood, she has been cultivating vegetables and making miso and pickled plums. She was taught by her mother how to make miso, and by her grandmother, how to make seasonal handicrafts. She feels that her mother and grandmother are inspiring and beautiful in their daily life with their ritual production of seasonal goods. Deciding to make use of what she had been taught, she began to sell these goods that use Yamato-cho's agricultural products.

Technology and culture combine with experience  
I want to inherit and connect them to the future.

Ms. Shimoda now holds regular miso making workshops. She conveys her feelings of "true organic" directly to the participants. "These days, parents with small children are said to be inexperienced. If they don't know how to grow rice or make miso, they can't teach these skills to their children." She also fosters the "50-year forest-building" project that her mother, Misuzu, started. She is working to protect the terraced rice paddies by restoring unused land and poorly managed forests to their natural state in over a 50 year period.

"The countryside is a place where new things can be created because there are endless opportunities. As I was taught by my grandmother and mother, I want to pass organic and cultural skills on to the next generation by creating a place to learn about food and fostering an environment where it is healthy to raise children. I hope I can do that."

Yamato-cho  
is Wonderland

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A The fields of Shimoda Tea Garden are named after the family's children. This is "Maromi" tea garden. The tree in the background is a ginkgo tree, the symbol of this Inukai district.

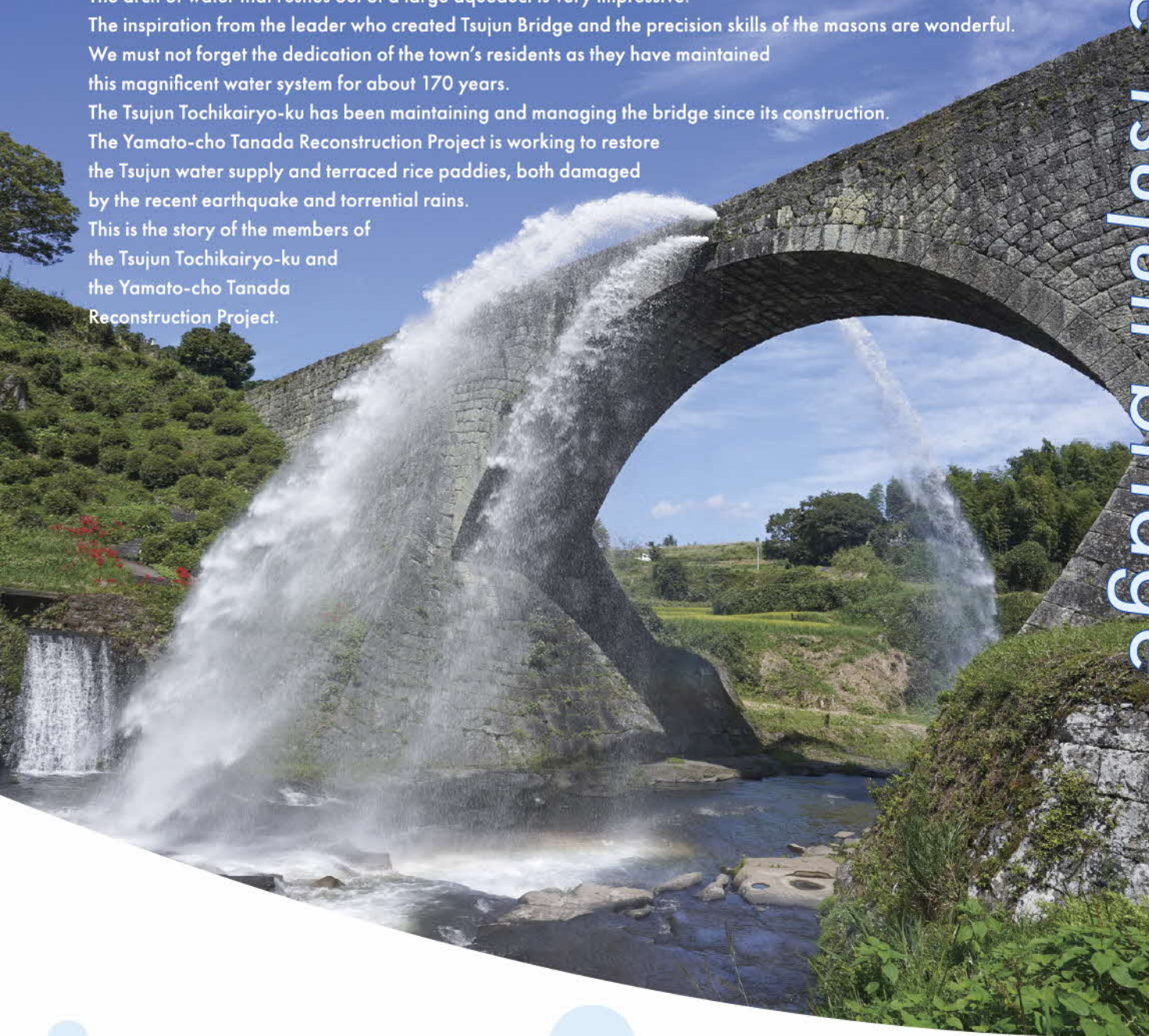
B While working as an organic farmer, she also operates an organic food sales company, MARO Co., Ltd.



# The Tsujun Bridge connects people's thoughts to the future.

Tsujun Bridge is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Yamato-cho and was designated as a National Treasure on September 25, 2023. The arch of water that rushes out of a large aqueduct is very impressive. The inspiration from the leader who created Tsujun Bridge and the precision skills of the masons are wonderful. We must not forget the dedication of the town's residents as they have maintained this magnificent water system for about 170 years. The Tsujun Tochikairyo-ku has been maintaining and managing the bridge since its construction. The Yamato-cho Tanada Reconstruction Project is working to restore the Tsujun water supply and terraced rice paddies, both damaged by the recent earthquake and torrential rains. This is the story of the members of the Tsujun Tochikairyo-ku and the Yamato-cho Tanada Reconstruction Project.

I love Tsujun bridge



## At the Tsujun Bridge Historical Museum, you can experience the power of water discharging on a large 200 inch screen!

The Tsujun Bridge Historical Museum is a facility that introduces the Tsujun Bridge and provides a place for visitors to interact with cultural assets while deepening their understanding and appreciation of stone bridge culture. Visitors can learn more about Yasunosuke Futa and his masons as the process of building Tsujun Bridge is represented in actual stone pipes and dioramas.

**Tsujun Bridge Historical Museum** 182-2 Shimoichi, Yamato-cho phone +81-967-72-3360 MAP / B-6  
[Open] 10:00-16:00 [Admission until 15:30] [Holiday] Tuesdays (except national holidays), New Year holidays

## About water discharge of Tsujun Bridge



Water will be discharged once a day for about 15 minutes on the scheduled water discharge day, spring to autumn. Please check the water discharge schedule from the Tsujun Bridge special website (<https://tsujunbridge.jp>). For inquiries regarding the water discharge calendar, please contact the Yamato-cho Tourism Association phone +81-967-72-3855

Tsujun Bridge is bringing happiness and pride to the people by sharing and redirecting water.

The Shiraito Plateau in Yamato-cho is a beautiful landscape of terraced rice fields. In the past, this plateau, surrounded by deep valleys on all sides, was unable to draw water from the rivers and farmers had to rely solely on spring water for agriculture. Yasunosuke Futa, the mayor at the time, understood the importance of bringing sufficient water to this area. Mr. Futa was always developing the area, building many roads, irrigation canals, and stone bridges. When he planned Tsujun Bridge, he tested wooden water pipes and consulted with masons and local residents, working together to build it. "I think that the construction of Tsujun Bridge was the culmination of many developments for him," said Mr. Honda of the Tsujun Tochikairyo-ku. The Tsujun Water Supply System takes in water from the water intake located about 6 km upstream from Tsujun Bridge via a circular diversion, and flows into the Shiraito Plateau through the water pipes in the Tsujun Bridge to deliver water to the terraced rice fields. Tsujun Bridge was completed in 1854.

## A "legacy" that has been preserved for generations and is still in use.

The water users' association, the Tsujun Tochikairyo-ku, formed after the completion of Tsujun Bridge, and has been managing and maintaining the entire Tsujun waterway on a daily basis ever since. In the spring, they clear the wells, and in the summer, they cut the weeds in the canals. In the off-season, they investigate leaks in the water pipes and replace the plaster used at the joints. When the bridge was designated as a National Important Cultural Property in 1960, the water discharge came to be seen as a tourist attraction. Originally, water was released once a year in September, after the irrigation season was over, to remove sediment from the canals. Nowadays, the water is released regularly, about 100 times a year. In addition to its role as an agricultural aqueduct, the bridge is also highly regarded for its scenic beauty, which can be enjoyed from all directions, above, below, and from the side. Even when the water is not being discharged, the curving beauty of the stone walls and the majestic appearance of the bridge standing tall are enough to fill your heart with awe.

For the people of this area, Tsujun Bridge is a source of comfort. "I am proud of the fact that people's thoughts and feelings have been connected to the protection of the bridge for a long time," said Mr. Honda. The local residents were shocked when the bridge was severely damaged by the Kumamoto earthquake in 2016 and the torrential rains in 2006. "If there are less people managing the bridge due to the aging population and lack of successors, I am concerned whether the bridge will still be standing 100 years from now."

In the midst of this growing concern, a ray of light is in the activities of the Yamato-cho Tanada Restoration Project, which works with volunteers from outside the town to help manage the irrigation channels. "If it weren't for the volunteers, we wouldn't have been able to restore the terraced rice paddies and irrigation canals, and some people might have had to have left the farming industry," said Mr. Shimoda, the representative of the project, and Mr. Fujimoto, the secretariat. Recently, more young people and supporters from outside the town are involved in the restoration of Tsujun Bridge in various ways. Mr. Abe, the chairman of the Tsujun Tochikairyo-ku, expressed his belief in the future saying, "I hope many people will recognize the value of Tsujun Bridge and pass it on."



**The Shiraito Dai-ichi Jichi Shinko Kai, which is engaged in community development around Tsujun Bridge, received the Emperor's Cup in the Village Development Category of the 2021 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Festival.**

In the photo, with the terraced rice fields of the Shiraito Plateau in the background, Chikara Abe, President of the Tsujun Tochikairyo-ku is second from the left in the back row, Junichi Honda, a member of the secretariat is on the far left, Misuzu Shimoda, the representative of the Yamato-cho Tanada Restoration Project is second from the left in the front row, Atsumi Fujimoto, a member of the secretariat, is on the far right, and other members of the Shiraito Dai-ichi Jichi Shinko Kai are pictured.

## Yamato-cho is Wonderland

*I hope I can see this scenery in 100 years.*



A Shiraito Plateau with beautiful terraced rice fields.

B Local residents and volunteers maintaining the irrigation canals. Students from the local Yabe High School volunteering together. Through the rice terrace restoration work, we are deepening exchanges between volunteers and farmers.

C The first volunteer activity members of the Yamato-cho Tanada Reconstruction Project.

Course maps for walking through the beautiful terraced rice field scenery of Yamato-cho are available for sale!

You can purchase them at three roadside stations in Yamato-cho (Tsujun Bridge, Seiwa Bunraku Mura, and Soyokaze Park). Price: 1,500 yen per set





### Seiwa Bunraku

Seiwa Bunraku originated approximately 170 years ago when a villager who loved joruri (traditional Japanese puppet theater) received a puppet from a puppet theater in Awaji. Ningyo joruri consists of three parts: the tayu, the shamisen, and the puppeteer. The Seiwa Bunraku Kan, the only place in Kyushu where you can enjoy ningyo joruri, holds about 200 performances every year. The Seiwa Bunrakunosato Festival is held in September every year, and local agricultural products are sold at the festival.

#### Seiwa Bunraku kan

phone +81-967-82-3001 MAP / E-3  
Road Station Seiwa Bunrakumura 152 Ohira, Yamato-cho  
Open: 8:30-16:30  
Holiday: Tuesdays (open on national holidays), New Year holidays



**Kagura** Kagura is one of the traditional performing arts that is carefully preserved and handed down in this region. At the Kyushu Mountains Kagura Festival held in late January every year, you can enjoy Kagura from neighboring towns and villages in addition to Nisemoto Shrine Kagura, Takahata Aso Shrine Kagura, and Shiraishi Kagura.

Yamato-cho Town Hall Soyo Branch MAP / F-3  
phone +81-967-83-1111



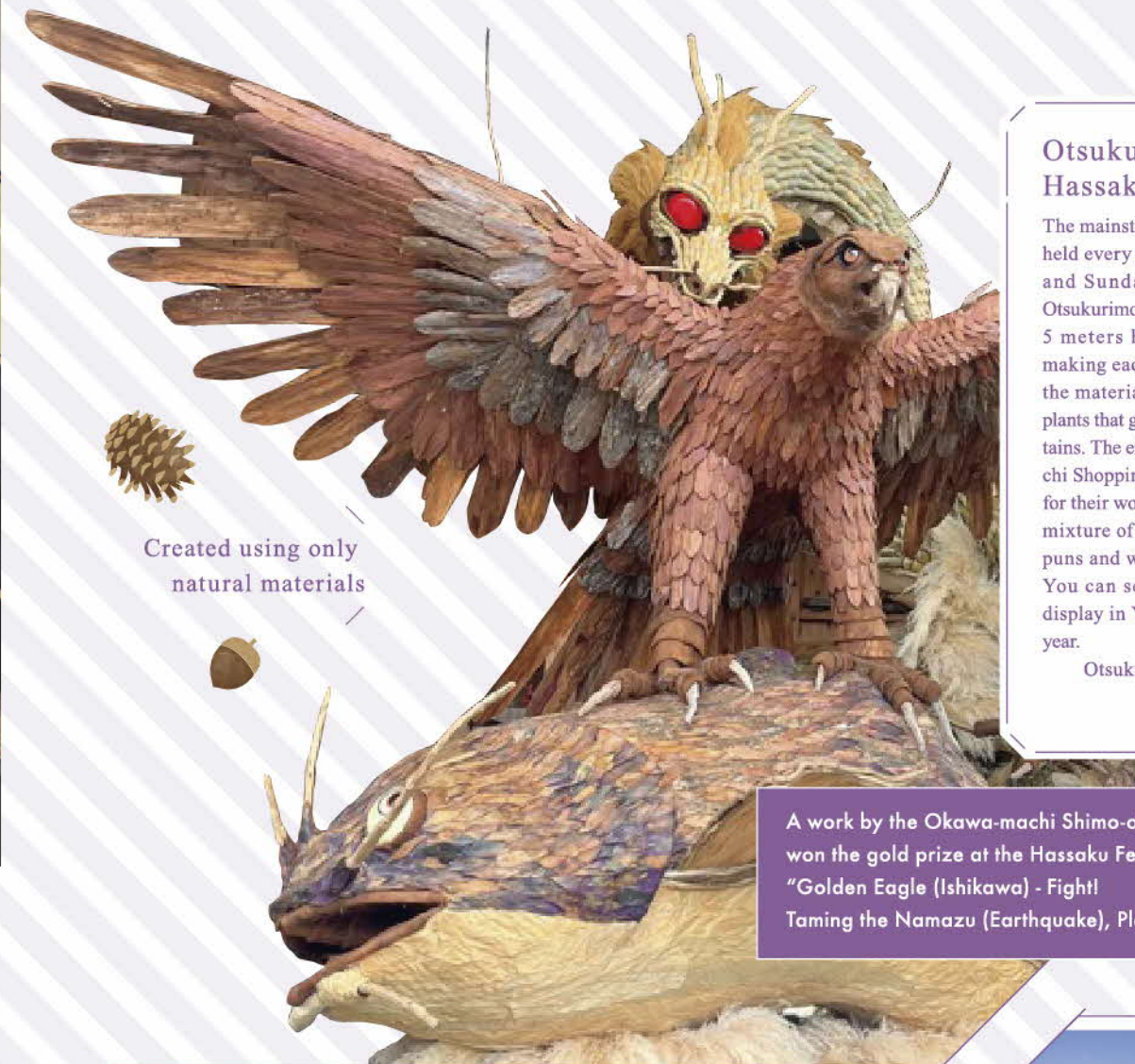
### Hyuga Oukan

This is an ancient road that crosses Yamato-cho from east to west. As the main pathway connecting Higo (starting point: Fudanotsuji, Kumamoto City) and Hyuga (ending point: Nobeoka City, Miyazaki Prefecture), it has supported the lives of many people since ancient times. This walking path has been selected as one of the 100 Best Historical Roads by the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Every year in March, the Hyuga Oukan History Walk in Yamato is held, and visitors can walk along the historical old road once again while enjoying the rich natural scenery.

Yamato Town Tourist Association phone +81-967-72-9450



# I love heritage



Created using only natural materials

### Otsukurimono Hassaku Festival

The mainstay of the Hassaku Festival, held every year on the first Saturday and Sunday of September, is the Otsukurimono. The largest stands about 5 meters high and 7 meters long, making each an impressive sight. All the materials used are sourced from plants that grow wild in the local mountains. The eight groups of the Hamamachi Shopping Street decide on a theme for their work, which can range from a mixture of cultural satires to elegant puns and wishes of the local people. You can see the Otsukurimono on display in Yabe Town throughout the year.

Otsukurimono web site



A work by the Okawa-machi Shimo-okawa Rengo group that won the gold prize at the Hassaku Festival in 2024  
"Golden Eagle (Ishikawa) - Fight!  
Taming the Namazu (Earthquake), Please, Divine Dragon"



### Hibuse Jizo Festival

Held on a Saturday and Sunday in late August, this is a historical festival that has continued for more than 400 years as a district event. Enjoy historic Mamihara Town and the brave "naked mikoshi" event.

Mamihara Shopping Street  
MAP / F-4



### Ayunose Bridge

This is a rare composite type bridge, a Y-shaped pier and a cable-stayed construction with a height of 140m and a length of 390m. You can see the epic valley of the Midori River from the top of the bridge.

488-1 Yamato-cho Suge  
MAP / D-4



### Yamato bunkano mori

Yamato-cho Tourism and Culture Exchange Center  
Special exhibitions with diverse themes are held on a regular basis. One of the Hassaku Festival displays is located outside the building, and the large structures are exhibited nearby throughout the year.

16 Shimoichi, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-967-72-9400  
Open: 9:00-17:00

Holiday: Mon  
(the next day if it is a national holiday),  
New Year holidays,  
when cultural properties are replaced



MAP / A-6



# I love camp

There are 9 campgrounds and lodges in Yamato-cho. Mr. Kimiharu Korogi, who runs a campground in Yamato-cho, introduces the features and best ways to enjoy each campground in the town.

If you want to camp in Yamato-cho, we recommend not only spring and summer but also winter!



All of the camping equipment featured is owned by Mr. Korogi and is easily used and maintained. Mr. Korogi encourages beginners to buy a comfortable chair first. Also if you are interested in camping in Yamato-cho, he recommends not only the spring to summer season, but also winter! "The air is particularly clear in winter, so the starry night sky is very beautiful. If you prepare warm camping gear for the outdoors, the cold will hardly bother you at all! Camping is an activity that you can enjoy in all seasons. Please visit the campgrounds in Yamato-cho, which are surrounded by the rich nature of the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountains."

Utase Campground Owner

興梠 公治

KIMIHARU KOROGI

Kimiharu Korogi/ Born in Yamato-cho, Kumamoto Prefecture, raised in Yamato-cho. Representative Director of Utase Outdoor Life Co., Ltd. In addition to running Utase Campground, he also runs Fukkakematsu Campground as a designated manager. His hobbies include mountain climbing, fishing, camping, cooking, and camera photography.



YouTube  
「UtaseOutdoorLifeUtase Camp」



Utase Camp website  
<https://www.utaseoutdoorlife.com>

## Fukkakematsu Camp

The spacious sites here allow for a variety of camp styles, from solo to larger group camping. Look for the stunning observation sites where you can camp with magnificent views of Mt. Aso! You can also enjoy a variety of cabins from the country-log or traditional irori and goemon bath, to the Grand Terrace Lodges with wide wooden decks. Feel free enjoying the open space.

361 Nagasaki, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-967-83-0249 MAP / F-3



## Sarugajo Camp Village

This campground is located deep in the valley of the Midorikawa River. The architectural Ayunose Bridge (see page 22 for details) is nearby. You can camp while viewing the Midorikawa River, so campers can enjoy "bushcraft style" of camping such as sleeping in a hammock. Please enjoy a wild camp experience!

403-1 Shirofuj, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-967-72-1222 MAP / D-4



## Aobanose

The charm of Aobanose is the clear stream of the Midorikawa! A beautiful river flows through this campground and you can enjoy fishing for yamame trout and playing in the water. It is a smaller campground with 7 country-style lodges featuring irori and 9 camp sites, and you can enjoy a calm atmosphere. At the restaurant in the administration building, enjoy a grilled yamame lunch! You can also enjoy dishes made with seasonal vegetables.

3715-1 Midorikawa, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-967-82-3511 MAP / E-4



## Utase Camp

The grass is beautiful. There are 120 well-maintained campsites where cars and camping cars can be parked with you on your site. Rental goods are also available. Beginners to advanced campers can enjoy this campground. Depending on the season, blueberry picking, a kids pool, and a stone oven pizza experience are also popular. Check in at the administration building where you can buy your favorite outdoor goods! We also sell T-bone steaks and lamb chops for barbecuing family fun.

1344-1 Sugeo, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-967-83-0554 MAP / F-3



## Tobise Camp Village

Located along the Mifune River at an altitude of about 300 meters on the border with Mifune-machi, it is a place where there is little snow even in winter. Locally, it is called "Tobise", and there is a coexistence of shallow water where you can cross the stone pavement with your shoes on and a small basin where you can dive. The surrounding sheer cliffs are power spots with cool air. Camping after work is also possible. Whether you are a family or solo, you can enjoy camping in nature.

6448 Shimaki, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-90-8914-8652 MAP / B-3



## Ryokusenkyo Fishing Park

The attraction here is yamame fishing! There is a fishing pond in the campground, so even beginners can easily enjoy the day. The main stream of the Midorikawa River runs beside it, so you can try fishing in a natural river too. Grilling freshly caught yamame with salt is so delicious. It is popular as a summer getaway but the scenery during the first green budding of early spring and the leaves of autumn are also wonderful.

2012-11 Midorikawa, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-967-82-3224 MAP / E-5



## Imuta Kogen Camp

This campground has field sites and lakeside sites, both of which are very attractive. The fee is inexpensive and thusly popular with bikers and solo campers. A pretty pond spreads out in front of you, and you can enjoy fishing and canoeing. Be sure to say hello to the caretaker's aunt as she is a very friendly person who will make your day even brighter! Since the Seiwa Kogen Observatory is near, why not enjoy your own astronomical observation at night?

1382 Imuta, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-967-82-3210 MAP / E-3



## Liberal Kamabuta Auto Camp

There are spacious free sites and a fun forest sites where you can enjoy hammock camping at night. There is no water so prepare to experience "survival camp style" that is popular with advanced campers. Firewood is sold, but branches from the trees that fall in the campground can be freely used. There are sites where you can see the sunrise beautifully, and in the southern sites you can see the Kyushu Sekiryo Mountains. Reception is the cafe "Gallery Londe".

1296-1 Imuta, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-90-3075-8266 MAP / E-3



## Seiwa Kogen no Yado Seiwa Kogen Observatory

On a plateau at an altitude of 700m, this is an excellent environment for starry sky observation, and you can enjoy a panoramic, 360 degree view of the sky. Guided astronomical observations are also held on a regular basis. The lodge is fully equipped and you can also indulge in a hearty yakiniku dinner at the restaurant.

1238-14 Imuta, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-967-82-3300 MAP / E-2





＼ Camping in Yamato-cho is wonderful ! ／  
Let's get our ingredients from Yamato-cho!



# Camp MEAL

Yamato-cho is "the No.1 town in Japan for organic farming".

If you camp in Yamato-cho, you can pick up fresh and delicious vegetables locally.

Let's enjoy a trendy and sustainable camping meal that is above and beyond!

Recipes produced by Kimiharu Korogi [Utase Campground]



## Roast Chicken

### Tools to use

Dutch oven

### Ingredients (for 3 to 4 people)

1 whole chicken (1.5-1.8kg)  
Utase BBQ Spice 15-25g  
vegetables of your choice  
(carrots, onions, potatoes,  
garlic, etc.)

A key point is to put the chicken in first, browning it before adding the vegetables. ♪

If you opt to add frozen stuffing into your chicken, use less spice.

Rice absorbs salt and will become salty.

### How to make

- ① Sprinkle Utase BBQ spice on the whole chicken using about 3 times the normal amount. Please season the inside of the chicken well and let it marinate.
- ② Preheat an empty Dutch oven.
- ③ Add your round roasting rack and set only the chicken in first. Bake using medium heat for about 40 minutes. When brown, add the vegetables. Bake for a further 30 minutes, cooking the vegetables soft.

## Must try local food

Ingredients to be found in Yamato-cho



chicken /Miyabe meat MAP/F-4

Utase BBQ Spice /Utase Camp MAP/F-3

Vegetables /Organic store Hatarukan MAP/B-5



## Minestrone

### Tools to use

casserole or stew pot

### Ingredients (for 3 to 4 people)

bacon  
vegetables (lettuce, lotus root, onions, etc.)  
250 ml of tomato juice  
a little honey, a little butter  
a pinch of Utase BBQ Spice

### How to make

- ① Finely chop the vegetables and bacon.
- ② Fry the bacon and vegetables in butter.
- ③ Add lettuce and tomato juice, simmering for about 15 minutes.
- ④ Add a little honey and a pinch Utase BBQ Spice to taste.

Ingredients to be found in Yamato-cho



Vegetables /Organic store Hatarukan

Tomato juice

/Road Station Tsujun Bridge MAP/B-5

Utase BBQ Spice



## Butter hot sandwich with Mikawa Yokan and Strawberry

### Tools to use

hot sandwich maker

### Ingredients (for 1 to 2 people)

Mikawa Yokan red bean sweets  
2 strawberries  
2 pieces of bread  
a little butter

### How to make

- ① Cut the Mikawa yokan and strawberries into thin slices of about 5 mm.
  - ② Spread butter on the bread and sandwich the yokan and strawberries.
- Enjoy when toasted in a hot sandwich maker.

Ingredients to be found in Yamato-cho



Mikawa Yokan /Kai store MAP/F-4

Strawberries /Nakahata Farm MAP/C-4

Bread /Bread Studio YAMA GEN MAP/F-3



## Carpaccio

### Tools to use

cutting board and knife

### Ingredients (for 2 to 3 people)

White sashimi such as Thai flounder  
carpaccio sauce  
2 Tablespoons of olive oil  
1 yuzu  
a pinch of Utase BBQ Spice

### How to make

- ① First make the carpaccio sauce:  
Squeeze the yuzu juice into the olive oil and add a pinch of Utase BBQ Spice.
- ② Shave the surface of the yuzu peel thinly and cut it julienne.
- ③ Drizzle the sauce of ① on the sashimi and sprinkle with fresh baby greens and yuzu peel to complete.

Ingredients to be found in Yamato-cho



Sashimi /Toriki fish store MAP/F-4

Utase BBQ Spice

Vegetables /Organic store Hatarukan



## Seasoned Rice

### Tools to use

mestin and a blue solid fuel tablet

### Ingredients (for 2 to 3 people)

180ml of white rice  
Yamazatono Meshidane, half a bag  
200 ml of water  
1 teaspoon shirodashi (similar to broth)

### How to make

- ① Wash the rice and put it in the mestin.  
Add 200 ml of water and let it absorb the water for 30 minutes.
- ② Add Yamazatono Meshidane and shirodashi, cover.
- ③ Place mestin on the stove frame and ignite the solid fuel tablet.
- ④ When the fuel tablet extinguishes, wrap mestin with a towel, steam for 15 minutes.

Ingredients to be found in Yamato-cho



Yamazatono Meshidane

/Road station Seiya Bunrakamura MAP/F-3

Rice /Road station in Yamato-cho, etc.



# I love sustainable life

Since 1965, Yamato-cho has been working on developing organic farming methods that are not only kind to the earth, the people, and the life sustaining around us, but methods that make the best use of the natural world that we live in. In 2021, Yamato-cho was selected as an "SDGs Future City" and "Local Government SDGs Model Project".

Rina Fujikawa, who is active as a "sustainable life creator" in the town, introduces how to spend a sustainable day in Yamato-cho!

## A sustainable day in Yamato-cho

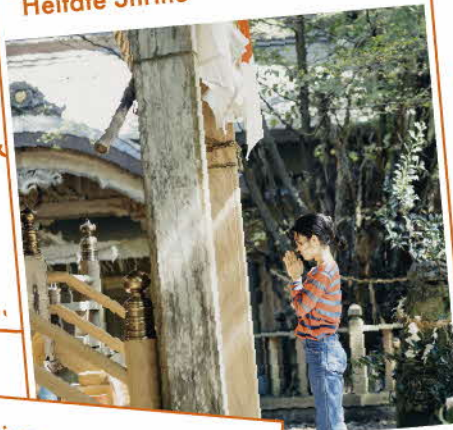
morning

### Visit Heitate Shrine

When you visit a shrine, your wish to the Kami-sama is best given during the refreshing and pure hours of the morning. The morning is a quiet time when you might feel like reflecting on life with inner peace. In the clear air, your message may be heard and your luck will increase!

Heitate Shrine  
712 Ono, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-967-83-0159  
MAP / F-3

#### Heitate Shrine



#### Heitate Shrine



Fill up your own bottle with Goshinsui (sacred water) and carry it around with you as drinking water. Not only will it bring you luck, but it will also save you from having to buy bottled drinks. Enjoy a low-waste, no-plastic trip!

Walking through the forest full of mysterious air, there is a powerful spot, Higashi Mitaraiasha. Here, the spring water Goshinsui flows out from two bamboo tubes, each from a different water source.

noon

### Lunch at Restaurant Maam

The restaurant at the Road Station Soyokaze Park is where you can enjoy Yamasai Viking. You can eat a buffet style menu, abundant in healthy seasonal vegetables as this restaurant supports farm to table initiatives in Yamato-cho.

When you're in Yamato-cho, where the vegetables are so good, be sure to enjoy a healthy lunch! Local production for local consumption supports the community's farmers. Please take part in the sustainable future of Yamato-cho.

Road Station Soyokaze Park  
297 Ima, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-967-83-0880  
open 11:30-14:30  
holiday: Wed MAP / F-3

barrier-free toilet



#### Soyokaze Park



### Blueberry or Strawberry Picking

#### Blueberry picking



#### Strawberry picking



Blueberry picking is recommended from early summer to early autumn, and strawberry picking is recommended for the winter to early summer season! There are several blueberry gardens and strawberry gardens in the town. Search for "Yamato-cho", "blueberry u pick" or "strawberry u pick" to find your favorite garden.

Sustainable Life Creator

藤川 里奈

RINA FUJIKAWA

Rina Fujikawa/ Born in Yamato-cho, Kumamoto Prefecture, raised in Yamato-cho. She runs Bandha Bandha, a business which embroiders unwanted cloth products, reusing and upcycling them, and Serendipity, a community shop that shares things that are both kind to the earth and ourselves. She launched ARBOL, a dairy, white sugar, and gluten-free ice cream brand that are made using ingredients from Yamato Town. And through the ice cream, she is disseminating the blessings of Yamato Town to the whole country. Her activities to convey the joy of creating and practicing a sustainable life are attracting attention.



Bandha Bandha  
@bandha\_bandha



serendipity  
(https://serendipity066.stores.jp)



ARBOL  
@arbol\_icecream\_sandwich

afternoon

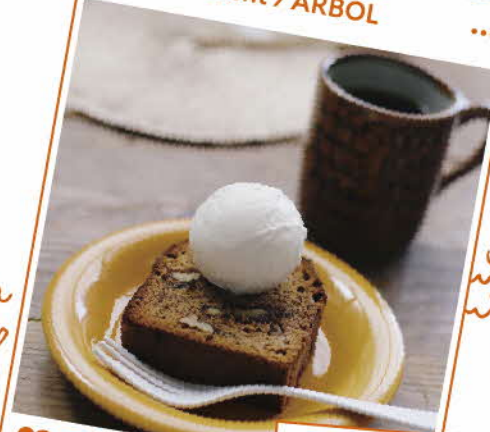
### Snack at "Appartement"

You can enjoy home-roasted specialty coffee, vegan ice cream sandwiches of ARBOL and handmade baked goods.

Appartement  
ARBOL  
57 Shimoichi, Yamato-cho  
MAP / A-6



#### Appartement / ARBOL



### How about buying organic vegetables at Organic store Hotarukan?

In addition to organic vegetables from Yamato-cho, you can also buy cooking oil and firewood for camping.

Organic store Hotarukan  
470 Hata, Yamato-cho phone +81-80-9978-0704  
April-December: 9:30-17:30 January-March: 10:00-17:00 holiday Tue MAP / B-5

#### Organic store Hotarukan



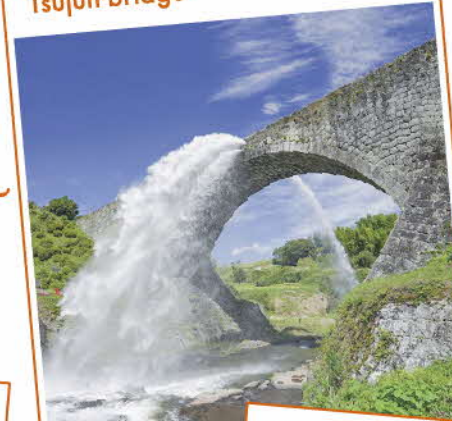
### Tour Tsujun Bridge

In the Edo period, Yasunosuke Futa embodied the concept of the modern SDGs principle, leave no one behind, by building Tsujun Bridge. Please learn more with a leisurely afternoon at Tsujun Bridge.

Nagahara, Yamato-cho Free to visit, free of charge MAP / B-6  
phone +81-967-72-3855 Yamato-cho Tourism Association



#### Tsujun bridge



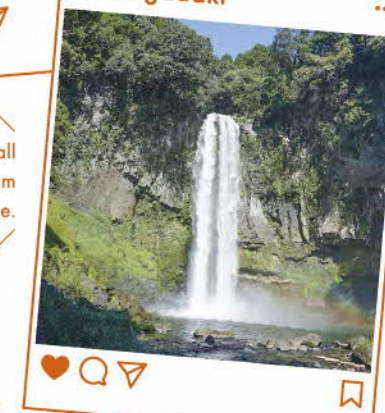
Gorogadaki waterfall rushes downstream from Tsujun Bridge.

### Gorogadaki

Gorogadaki is one of the many dramatic waterfalls in Yamato-cho. The powerful scenery of water flowing down from a 50m high cliff is amazing! If you are lucky, a rainbow may appear and brighten your day.

MAP / D-3

#### Gorogadaki



Yamato-cho is Wonderland  
I hope I can see this scenery in 100 years.



## Kansei Warehouse



Founded in 1792 (Kansei 4) by Seikuro Bizenya, the founder of Tuzyun Brewery, this is the oldest existing sake brewery building in Kumamoto. Although it was severely damaged by the Kumamoto earthquake, it was reconstructed and reopened in the spring of 2019 as a tasting room. In addition to rare sake that can only be found here and Kikizake sets, you can also enjoy a café style menu including lunch and sweets. We also welcome tours of our sake brewery, available any time.



**Tuzyun Brewery, Kansei Warehouse**  
54 Hamamachi, Yamato-cho phone +81-967-72-1177  
<https://tuzyun.com> MAP / A-6



barrier-free  
toilet



Symbol of Hamamachi

## Nationally Registered Tangible Cultural Property Tuzyun Brewery

Tuzyun Brewery was founded in 1770 in the latter half of the Edo Period. This brewery received the Kumamoto Landscape Award in 1996 and the Kumamoto Landscape 30th Anniversary Award in 2018. It was registered in 2021 as a National Tangible Cultural Property (Photo ABC) for being evaluated as contributing to the creation of landscape while retaining the historical accuracy of appearance. During the Seinan War of 1887, it became the headquarters of Saigo Takamori, and it is reported that a military congress was once held in the Onari no Ma room. It was also the residence where the successive Higo feudal lords Hosokawa came to hunt. The garden (Photo D) facing the Onari no Ma where Mr. Takamori and Mr. Hosokawa would have sat, is preserved, retaining the original appearance of that historic time.



B/Onari no Ma

C

D

## HOTEL WINDY



HOTEL WINDY is a recognizable symbol of the Roadside Station Soyokaze Park. Entering the hotel from the lobby (Photo B), you are immediately swept up in a panoramic view of the Aso Godaku to Kuju Mountain Range (Photo A). Surrounded, you feel the power of Mt. Aso. The cottages (Photo C) renovated in 2021, have become popular with tourists.



297 Ima, Yamato-cho phone +81-967-83-0880  
<https://soyokaze-park.jp> MAP / F-3



barrier-free  
toilet



## Tsujun Sanso



Located just a 5-minute walk from Tsujun Bridge (detailed on pages 20-21), this accommodation is nestled in a rich natural environment with views of the Kyushu Mountains. It was renovated and reopened in April 2024.



192-1 Nagahara, Yamato-cho phone +81-967-72-9999  
<https://tsujun.jp> MAP / B-6



バリアフリー  
トイレあり





## CAFE 218



A popular stop for bikers, this café is easily accessed along Highway 218. We recommend the hearty Armageddon lunch (pictured)! There are terrace seats as well so you can enjoy a relaxing break.

270 Ohira, Yamato-cho **MAP** / E-3  
phone +81-967-72-9176



## Traditional Japanese House Garden Cafe Nancy's



We take pride in our curry made with homegrown organic rice, vegetables, and spices. Enjoy this special dish in a 200-year-old traditional Japanese house, beautifully renovated with care and attention to detail.

1540 Omine, Yamato-cho **MAP** / E-4  
phone +81-90-3042-9898



## Yuzunoki Nemunoki Mizutamanoki [By appointment only]



Featuring all outdoor seating, you can enjoy lunch and tea time in the natural scenery while listening to the songs of wild birds. Reserve your table on the cafe's homepage.

819-2 Onojiri, Yamato-cho **MAP** / E-4  
phone +81-967-82-2685



HP  
We are working on local production for local consumption.



# Very popular in Yamato-cho / Special Souvenirs

## Yamato Roll



This roll cake is big! Its length is 24cm. We use plenty of fresh eggs from Soyo Farm. Sold in limited quantities, please make a reservation the day before to ensure your purchase.

Inoue Confectionery  
180 Hamamachi, Yamato-cho **MAP** / A-6  
phone +81-967-72-0145

## Yabeno Kenchiki



Our shop was founded over 60 years ago. We use high quality, fresh herb raised chicken from Kagoshima Prefecture. We carefully roast our popular "Kenchiki Yabe" daily and accept in shop purchase or local shipping.

Marushige Meat  
Head office 111-1 Hamamachi, Yamato-cho **MAP** / B-6  
phone +81-967-72-0447



## Sakura Croquette



The first horse meat croquette created in Kyushu, it has been sold locally as well as in department stores from Tokyo to Osaka. It is popular as a croquette that represents Kumamoto. In store or online, please enjoy one today.

Meat Miyabe  
61-3 Mamihara, Yamato-cho **MAP** / F-4  
phone +81-967-83-0032



## Bread studio YAMA GEN



We bake additive-free bread using our homemade raisin yeast. Local wheat and local ingredients make our bread exceptionally healthy and delicious.

332-1 Ono, Yamato-cho **MAP** / F-3  
phone +81-967-83-1021



## Cafe BunSuiRei



Our cafe open on weekends and holidays, uses home-sourced milk, dairy, and meat from our farm. Experience making cheese on weekdays. (reservations required, more than 4 people).

242 Sugao, Yamato-cho **MAP** / F-3  
phone +81-967-83-1077



## JUGAAD BROS DOUGHNUTS



We are a JUGAAD doughnut shop, not too serious, not too loose, with an emphasis on ingredient selection and a playful spirit. We also offer vegan doughnuts to fit various lifestyles.

102-1 Mamihara, Yamato-cho **MAP** / F-4



Instagram



## Road Station Tsujun Bridge

Relocated and opened in January 2024. From the local product store "Ooruri", we bring you the best of seasonal produce in Yamato-cho.

660 Johira, Yamato-cho **MAP** / B-5  
phone +81-967-72-9900



LUNCH

## Restaurant Arch

"Eat deliciously and be happy" Restaurant Arch is a bridge between you and the "food" of Yamato-cho. Please enjoy.

## Road Station Seiwa Bunrakumura

Popular items include Kuriwarai and Chagrian using local chestnuts, tomato juice using local tomatoes, and Yamazato no Meshidane.

152 Ohira, Yamato-cho **MAP** / E-3  
phone +81-967-82-2727



LUNCH

## Shiki no Furusato

"Onishime", "Dagajiru", "Kannari of Yamame", etc. You can enjoy the nostalgic taste of Japan.

## Road Station Soyokaze park

We sell handmade jam using local blueberries, soft serve ice cream, fresh local vegetables, and dried shiitake mushrooms. Fresh blueberries fill our store in summer!

29 Ima, Yamato-cho **MAP** / F-3  
phone +81-967-83-1665



LUNCH

## Restaurant Maam

We serve buffet dishes using local vegetables. It is popular with a wide range of age groups.

## BLANCO ICE CREAM



A handmade ice cream shop in Yamato-cho. Based on milk ice cream produced in Aso, we carefully make each ice cream using organic ingredients that can be harvested in the area centered on Yamato-cho as much as possible.

13-1 Johira, Yamato-cho **MAP** / A-5  
Email blancoicecream@gmail.com



## Bread&Cake Cipollino



Baked daily, we sell more than 50 different kinds of bread. Baguettes and sour dough, easy lunch or snack bread using organic vegetables, bread risen with natural yeast, and bread made from local wheat are just some of our everyday selection.

81-1 Irisa, Yamato-cho **MAP** / B-5  
phone +81-967-72-0150



## give me a little RYU



Enjoy authentic hamburgers and sandwiches made by Mike, a former U.S. Marine and American owner. With a focus on cooking methods and spices, every dish is crafted with care. Open only on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays — stop by and give it a try!

1115-2 Kitanakashima, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-90-4580-9969 **MAP** / B-2



Phone inquiries are available only on business days.



## Kappo Motosatsumaya [Reservation required]



A long-established restaurant that has been in business for over 150 years, we serve Japanese cuisine using local ingredients and organic agricultural products.

132 Hamamachi, Yamato-cho **MAP** / A-6  
phone +81-967-72-0006



## Gibier and natural river fish raised in the great nature of Yamato-cho



You can purchase meat at Jibie Kobo Yamato.



The yamame trout caught in clear streams are delicious.

## Tsujun Bridge is right in front of you! Tsujun Bridge MIERU TERRACE

Yabe green tea, processed yuzu products, local sake, and Yakigome are popular! From Spring to Autumn, you can observe the water discharge of the Tsujun Bridge from our store. (details posted on P21)

184-1 Shimoichi, Yamato-cho  
phone +81-967-72-4844



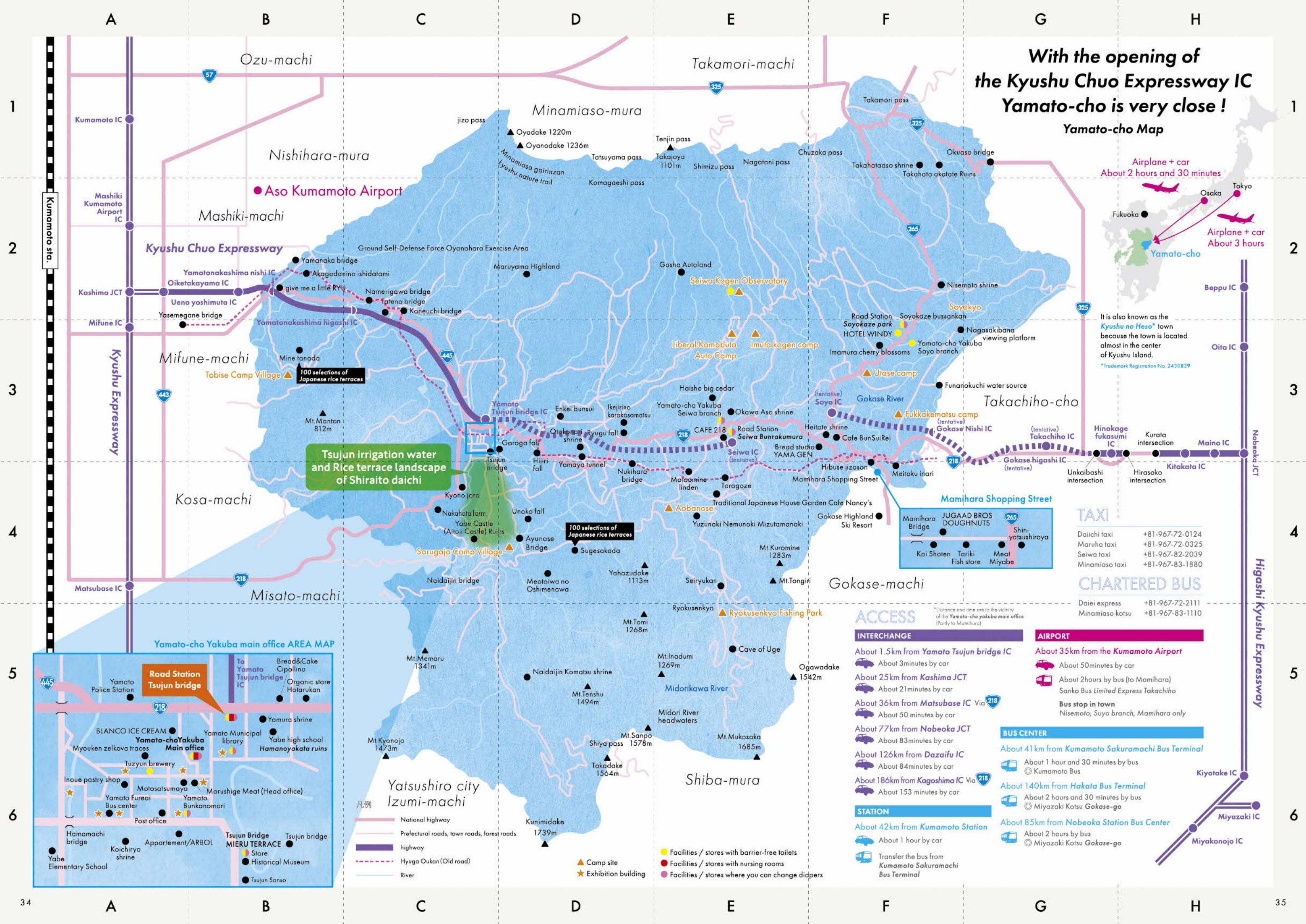
LUNCH

## Restaurant Ishibashi

The chef's special menu and Tsujun Bridge curry using local ingredients are popular.







With the opening of  
the Kyushu Chuo Expressway IC  
Yamato-cho is very close !  
Yamato-cho Map



It is also known as the  
*Kyushu no Heso*\* town  
because the town is located  
almost in the center  
of Kyushu Island.  
\*Trademark Registration No. 2430829

#### TAXI

Daiichi taxi	+81-967-72-0124
Maruha taxi	+81-967-72-0325
Seiwa taxi	+81-967-82-2039
Minamiaso taxi	+81-967-83-1880

#### CHARTERED BUS

Daiei express	+81-967-72-2111
Minamiaso kotsu	+81-967-83-1110

#### ACCESS

##### INTERCHANGE

- About 1.5km from Yamato Tsujun bridge IC
- About 3minutes by car
- About 25km from Kashima JCT
- About 21minutes by car
- About 36km from Matsubase IC Via 218
- About 50 minutes by car
- About 77km from Nobeoka JCT
- About 83minutes by car
- About 126km from Dazaifu IC
- About 84minutes by car
- About 186km from Kagoshima IC Via 218
- About 153 minutes by car

##### STATION

- About 42km from Kumamoto Station
- About 1 hour by car
- Transfer the bus from Kumamoto Sakuramachi Bus Terminal

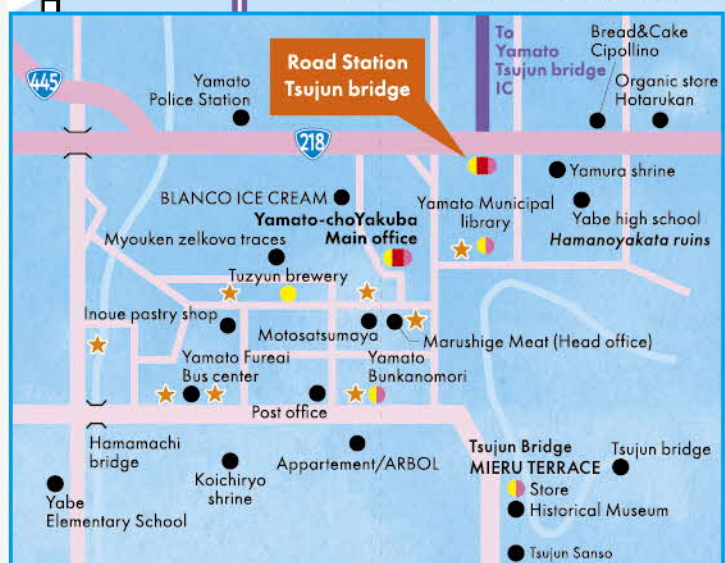
##### AIRPORT

- About 35km from the Kumamoto Airport
- About 50minutes by car
- About 2hours by bus (to Mamihara)
- Sanko Bus Limited Express Takachiho
- Bus stop in town
- Nisemoto, Sujo branch, Mamihara only

##### BUS CENTER

- About 41 km from Kumamoto Sakuramachi Bus Terminal
- About 1 hour and 30 minutes by bus
- Kumamoto Bus
- About 140km from Hakata Bus Terminal
- About 2 hours and 30 minutes by bus
- Miyazaki Kotsu Gokase-go
- About 85km from Nobeoka Station Bus Center
- About 2 hours by bus
- Miyazaki Kotsu Gokase-go

#### Yamato-cho Yakuba main office AREA MAP



#### Yatsushiro city Izumi-machi

- National highway
- Prefectural roads, town roads, forest roads
- highway
- Hyuga Oukan (Old road)
- River

- Camp site
- Exhibition building
- Facilities / stores with barrier-free toilets
- Facilities / stores with nursing rooms
- Facilities / stores where you can change diapers



leave no one behind

## The National Treasure "Tsujun Bridge" was built with the concept of leave no one behind.

The world is now making various efforts to achieve goals for sustainable development. The common theme of SDGs is leave no one behind. It was Yasunosuke Futa, the mayor at the time, who embodied this concept in the latter half of the Edo Period and created Japan's largest aqueduct, Tsujun Bridge. Tsujun Bridge was built to direct water towards the Shiraito Plateau, which suffered continuously from water shortages. After the completion of the construction, rice cultivation became possible in the Shiraito Plateau, and the lives of the residents became enriched. Tsujun Bridge was built by the residents of this town. This fact has brought pride to the people's hearts and Tsujun Bridge continues to be preserved to this day. Yamato-cho is a town where everyone can live with nature's abundance now and in the future as Yasunosuke Futa envisioned. Tsujun Bridge standing tall among the mountains and the rice paddies; we can feel the true meaning of SDGs.

Yamato-cho, Kumamoto has been selected as an "SDGs Future City"  
and "Local Government SDGs Model Project", 2021.



Online store for game meat Jibiekobo Yamato



With your support, we can make our hometown Yamato-cho more vibrant!  
Consider donating to our hometown through Furusato Nozei.



**YouTube** [Official]  
Yamato-cho Channel



山都町観光ナビ



**Yamato-cho Office**

Yamato-cho Tourism and Culture Exchange Center Yamatobunkanomori  
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## Information

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