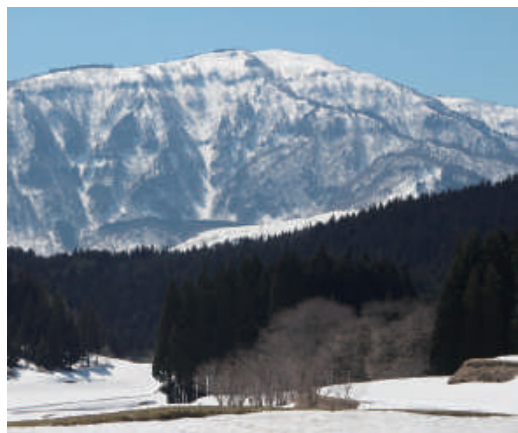




# YABU

OFFICIAL TRAVEL GUIDE





## A Scenic Nature Town

Yabu is located in the Tajima region in northern Hyogo Prefecture. It is a beautiful mountainous countryside town flowing with rivers that is known for outdoor activities, sacred cultural festivals and stunning nature spots. It is recommended that you visit by rental car to have the ultimate *inaka* experience and to enjoy the scenic views. Located around 2 hours away from Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe, come travel back in time, and enjoy the traditional Japanese landscape with us!



## Rich History

### Nagusa-jinja Shrine Three-storied Pagoda

The three-storied pagoda was gifted by Izumo Taisha during the great renovation when Nagusa-jinja gave them a Myokensugi Tree in 1665. The pagoda is established as Nationally Designated Important Cultural Property.

🕒 45 minutes from Yoka Station by car.



### Akenobe Mine

Established as Japanese Heritage, Akenobe was once the number one tin mine in Japan. Between the months of April and November visitors can explore a section of the tunnel as part of a guided tour (reservations are required except on Sundays), and also ride the adorable 1 Yen Train which was used to transport workers and passengers for a cost of 1 yen.

🕒 40 minutes from Yoka Station by car.



### Silkworm Farmhouse Landscape

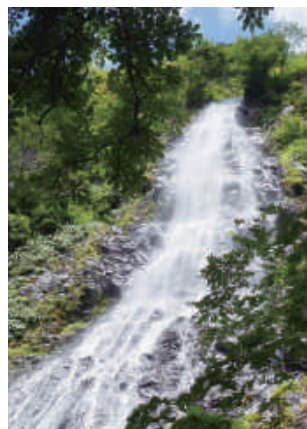
Oya is a cultural art area in Yabu known for having a history of sericulture. The area is filled with three-storied silkworm farmhouses that were used to raise silkworms. Although these farms are not active today, many of the homes still remain and are representative of the Oya landscape.

🕒 25 minutes from Yoka Station by car.





## Beautiful Nature



### Tendaki Falls

With a 98-meter drop, Tendaki Falls is ranked as one of the top 100 waterfalls in Japan, and is named after the heavens (*ten* meaning heavens). The hike is friendly for all levels, and visitors can enjoy the smaller waterfalls along the hiking trail.

 40-minute hike one-way.





## Yabu-jinja Shrine /

Established in 737, the shrine represents the God of Agriculture. The spot is known as one of the most popular destinations to view the autumn foliage in Hyogo. Many photographers visit the area during this time to catch sight of the Japanese *momiji* leaves.

🕒 10 minutes from Yoka Station by car.

## Tarumi no Ozakura /

Estimated to be over 1000 years old Tarumi no Ozakura is the largest Edo-higan cherry blossom tree in Hyogo Prefecture, and is established as a natural monument of Japan. The princess of the Izushi Feudal clan is said to have famously visited the spot for *hanami*.

🕒 20-minute hike one-way.



## Mt. Hyonosen /

Mt. Hyonosen is one of the finest mountains in the Kansai region. Scaling 1510 meters, it offers climbing routes with varying lengths and levels of difficulties. The area has some of the rarest species of subarctic plants that can be observed while climbing. During the warmer season visitors can have fun hiking or camping, and in the winter, skiing and snowboarding can be enjoyed!

🕒 1.5 to 6 hours depending on course.

## Seasonal Activities



### Wakasu Highlands Oya Campsite /



The ultimate destination for camping with multiple options including glamping, log and trailer houses and BBQ grills available for rental. The area is surrounded by stunning mountain views, and is perfect for stargazing.

 40 minutes from Yoka Station by car.







## Ski Resorts /

Yabu is the ultimate destination in the Kansai region to come ski during the winter season. With four ski resorts including: Hachi Highlands, Hyonosen Kokusai, Hyperbowl Tohachi and Wakasu Highlands Oya it is the perfect area for enjoying skiing and snowboarding!

🕒 40-60 minutes from Yoka Station by car depending on the ski resort.



## Ayu Park /

Experience capturing fresh fish with your bare hands, and enjoying them grilled with salt or by BBQ with family and friends. Open between April and September.

🕒 25 minutes from Yoka Station by car.



## Fireflies in Okumeiji /

The Okumeiji area in Yabu is a protected site for genji-botaru a species of firefly native to Japan. During the month of June, you can come see the boisterous dance of the shining fireflies. It is a magical sight you won't want to miss.

🕒 15 minutes from Yoka Station by car.





## Gourmet Food



### Asakura Sansho /

With a history of over 400 years, Asakura Sansho is a Japanese pepper from Yabu that was enjoyed by the legendary feudal lords, Ieyasu Tokugawa and Hideyoshi Toyotomi. It has fresh citrusy notes and is known for its high limonene and polyphenol content when compared to other *sansho*. It can be enjoyed at a wide range of restaurants in Yabu and in sweets including soft serve and roll cake as well as a variety of gifts including miso, tapenade and soy sauce.



Sansho Miso Pizza

Cafe de Manma  
259-1 Yoka-cho Takayanagi,  
Yabu City



Homemade Sansho Sausage

Tanigaki  
1645-1 Yoka-cho Yoka, Yabu City



Sansho Tempura Udon

Michi no Eki Yoka  
241-1 Yoka-cho Takayanagi,  
Yabu City



Roast Beef with Sansho Paste

Gohanya  
594-10 Yoka-cho Kunugi, Yabu City



Sansho Daifuku

Deai no Sato  
249 Deai, Yabu City



Sansho Roll Cake

Michi no Eki Yoka  
241-1 Yoka-cho Takayanagi,  
Yabu City





## Tajima Beef /

Kobe and Matsuzaka Beef which are known as high-class ranking meats worldwide originate from Tajima cattle. The beef has beautiful marbling throughout and is known for its soft melt in your mouth texture. Make sure to try this luxurious delicacy when visiting Yabu!

## Yoka Pork /

Raised in a stress-free environment deep in the mountains of Yokacho Mitani, Yoka Pork is known for its elegant, aromatic fat, and succulent texture. It can be enjoyed in various dishes such as *tonkatsu* or pork buns.



## Recommendations

Available at Michi no Eki Yoka



Asakura  
Sansho  
White Miso

Asakura  
Sansho  
Genovese

Asakura  
Sansho  
Miso



Jamongan Mai Rice



Asakura  
Sansho  
Paste



Asakura  
Sansho  
Dressing



Nouza  
Homare  
Sake



Yuzu Sansho



Asakura Sansho  
Peperoncino Oil



Ayu no Sasayaki



Sansho Soft Serve



Vert



Rouge

Asakura Sansho  
Tapenade

## Traditional Festivals



### Maisou Matsuri /

Held on January 14th every year, the festival is a traditional practice that is dedicated to Mii-jinja Shrine. Participants hit *oni* (Japanese devils) with wooden torches to wish for a healthy year.



### Ohashiri Matsuri /

A traditional practice established as Intangible Cultural Property held in mid-April with a history of over 1800 years. The festival revolves around carrying a 150kg *mikoshi* (sacred palanquin) from Yabu-jinja Shrine to Itsuki-jinja Shrine, but to spectators it appears as if the participants are running, giving it the name *Ohashiri Matsuri* (running festival).

### Nettei Sumo /

A court ritual that has been said to ward off evil spirits, *Nettei Sumo* is known to be the original form of sumo wrestling. The practice is designated as Japanese Cultural Property and is held on Sports Day.



### Osugi Zanzako Odori /

A traditional performance held on August 16th sometimes called *Oni Odori* (devils dance) because it appears to look like a gathering of devils. The dance was started to cure *kagami*, an illness that spread during the start of the Edo Period.

## Surrounding Areas



Photo Credit: Toshihisa Yoshida

### Takeda Castle Ruins

The castle ruins located on a mountain 353 meters high are a must-see sight! It is known as the "Castle in the Sky" due to the fog that can be seen surrounding it during the early mornings of autumn. The hike takes around 1 hour from Takeda Station.

🕒 30 minutes from Yoka Station by train.

### Kinosaki Onsen

Kinosaki is a beautiful tattoo-friendly hot spring town. You can relax by going *onsen* hopping in the 7 public hot spring bathhouses while wearing *yukata* and enjoy the retro Japanese townscape.

🕒 25 minutes from Yoka Station by train.



### Izushi Castle Town

Known as Little Kyoto, Izushi prospered as a castle town during the Edo period. Famous sights include the clocktower, the impressive *torii* gates lined up by the castle ruins and Eirakukan - the oldest kabuki theater in the Kansai region. Also, don't forget to try the *Izushi Sara Soba*.

🕒 25 minutes from Yoka Station by bus.



# ACCESS

Tajima Airport

YABU CITY

Itami Airport

Kansai International Airport



Train

Osaka

JR limited express train 2h 10min

Kyoto

JR limited express train 2h

Kobe

JR limited express train 2h

Himeji

JR limited express train 1h 15min

Yoka Station



Car

Osaka /Kobe

Chugoku Expressway

Yoshikawa JCT

Maizuru Wakasa Expressway

Kasuga JCT

Kitakinki-Toyooka Expressway

Yabu IC or Yoka-Hyonosen IC

2h

Chugoku Expressway

Fukusaki IC

Bantan Renraku Road

Wadayama JCT

Kitakinki-Toyooka Expressway

Yabu IC or Yoka-Hyonosen IC

Kyoto

2h 30min

Japan National Route 9

Kyoto Jukan Expressway

Japan National Route 9

Himeji

1h 30min

Tohori IC

Bantan Renraku Road

Wadayama JCT

Kitakinki-Toyooka Expressway

Yoka-Hyonosen IC



Airplane

Itami Airport

35min

Tajima Airport

Bus 15min

Toyooka Station

Train 20min

Bus 40min

Yoka Station

## Information

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<https://visityabu.jp>

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