

Old Post Town on Nakasen-do Road
Tsumago-juku
Guide Map



Historic Preservation Area with Important Traditional Buildings
Tsumago-juku

Old Post Town with Historic Memories

The Nakasen-do linked Edo and Kyoto, and it was also called the Kiso-kaido or Kiso Road as it goes through the mountainous Kiso region. Tsumago was the 42nd post town, counted from Edo, of the 69 posts town on the Nakasen-do Road and was a prosperous town because of its important location at the crossroad of the Nakasen-do and the Ina-do.

Start of Efforts to Preserve the Town

Tsumago began to decline because it no longer functioned as a post town where now railroads and other roads were constructed in the new Meiji era. However during the period of economic growth in the Showa era, the town was re-evaluated due to its historic value as a post town of the Edo era. It was one of the earliest movements to preserve historic towns. People of Tsumago made the three basic rules, "Do not sell, lend, or demolish houses" and they try to preserve the precious historic town of the Edo era while leading their daily lives.

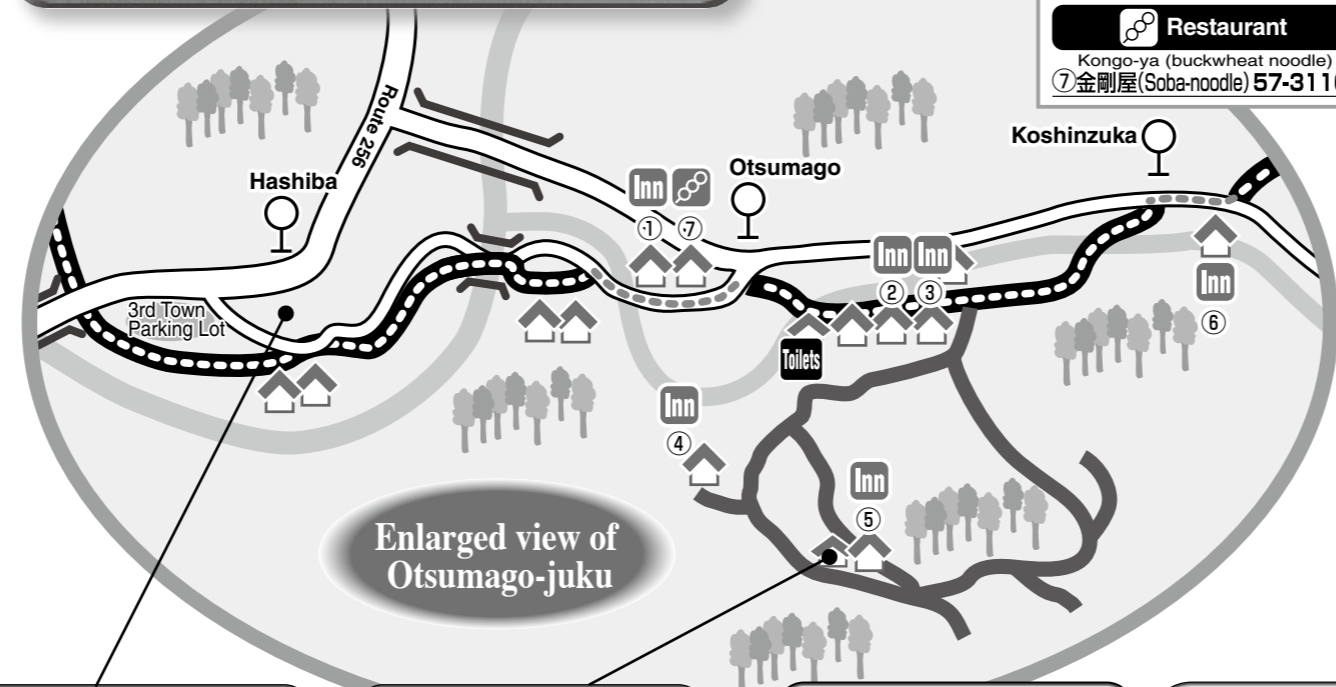
For more information

The Nagiso Tourism Association
The Commerce and Tourism Section of Nagiso-machi
Nagiso Town Office, Nagiso-machi, Kiso-gun, Nagano-ken, Japan
zip code 399-5301
Tel: (0264) 57-2727 Fax: (0264) 57-2270
Website: www.nagiso-town.ne.jp/
Email: info@town.nagiso.nagano.jp

Tsumago Tourist Information Center
Tsumago, Nagiso-machi, Kiso-gun, Nagano-ken, Japan
zip code 399-5302
Tel: (0264) 57-3123 Fax: (0264) 57-4036
Website: http://www.tumago.jp/
Email: info@tumago.jp

Let's Walk Historic Nakasen-do Road
Kiso-ji is completely surrounded by mountains.

Otsumago to Magome Pass



- Inn & Hatago or Historic Inn**
- Hana-ya
① 波奈屋(Ryokan) 57-3106
 - Maru-ya
② まるや(Minshuku) 57-3117
 - Tsutamura-ya
③ つたむら屋(Minshuku) 57-3235
 - Kameyama
④ かめやま(Minshuku) 57-3187
 - Shimomura
⑤ 下村(Minshuku) 57-3158
 - Koshinzuka
⑥ こしんづか(Minshuku) 57-3029
- Restaurant**
- Kongo-ya (buckwheat noodle)
 - ⑦ 金剛屋(Soba-noodle) 57-3116

Enlarged view of Otsumago-juku

Stone Signpost

Tsumago was a prosperous town at the crossroad of the Nakasen-do and the Iida-kaido. This signpost was built by merchants from Iida, Omi, and local towns in 1881.

Fujiwara Family House
(prefecture treasure/open to public)

Research found that the layout, structure and finish date is back to the mid-1600s, although some major remodeling has been conducted.

Kurashina Memorial Shrine

This is a memorial for the retainer Kurashina and 30 servants, who were all killed by local warriors in 1586. Kurashina was a major retainer of Lord Ogasawara of Matsumoto Castle. The festival is held on April 3rd every year.

Odaki & Medaki

Famous as a scene of a well-known novel "Miyamoto Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa. There was a legend about a golden rooster flying into the fall. It is also associated with the retainer Kurashina.

Odaki Medaki

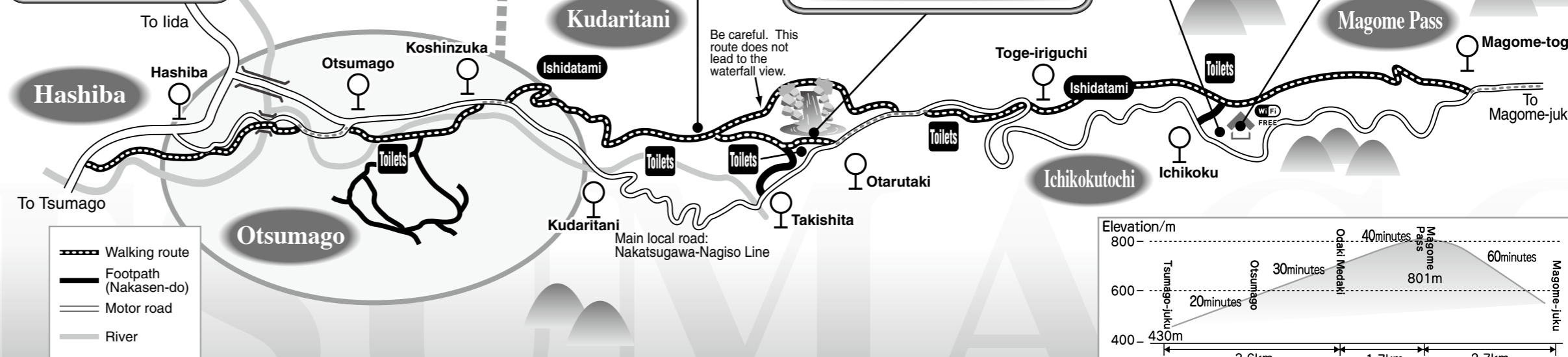
Waterfall view point

Koyasu Kannon

It is said that villages around here have never had difficult births thanks to this deity of mercy. Many people visit here to pray for easy births.

Tateba Tea House
(Shiraki Aratame-bansho)

This was an inspection station to prevent the prohibited transportation of the five most important trees of this region including hinoki or Japanese cypress and other trees. The inspection station was originally in a different place and transferred here in 1749, in operation until 1869. There was also a rest house between post towns.



Festivals of Tsumago

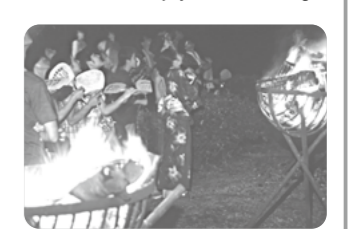
The Parade of Bunka-Bunsei Times of Edo Period
Held on November 23rd
The parade starts at 10:30 from Watashima and proceeds from the northern area through the post town at noon to Otsumago, reproducing people walking along the Nakasen-do Road in the Edo era. The parade includes samurai warriors, palanquin bearers, monks, bird-chasing women, wedding processions, and so on.



Wachino Shrine Festivals
Held on July 23rd and 24th
Wachino Shrine is the Tsumago area's village shrine. Young people carry a small portable shrine on their shoulders and walk through the post town.



Taimatsu Torch Festivals
Held on the fourth Saturday of August
People gather at Tsumago-juku Friendship Hall to hold a fire festival and enjoy kiso dancing.



Tsumago-juku

Kumagai Family House
Part of a row-house built in the early 19th century. Other parts were demolished and remodeled. (Town's designated treasure)

Trace of Kuchidome Inspection Station
Here was an inspection station from the late 15th century to the mid-17th century, and it was integrated into a bigger one in Kiso Fukushima.

Kosatsu-ba
This was an "official bulletin board," refurbished to reproduce the way it looked in the Edo era. The Bakufu government announced laws and rules here. Kosatsu or high-rise tablets are posted high as if looking down on common people.

Tsumago-juku Honjin (Nagiso-machi museum)
This building was reproduced in April, 1995. Shimazaki Family was designated as Honjin when the post town system was established, and had been serving as Honjin and the village headman until the Meiji Restoration. Toson Shimazaki's mother was born in this family. Toson Shimazaki was a famous novelist in the Meiji era. His brother was adopted to head this family.

Ginmokusei or Osmanthus Fragens
This tree has been kept by the Yazaki Family, the oracle, for generations. It blooms from mid-September to early October (prefectural natural monument).

Kotoku-ji Temple
This temple is believed to be built in 1500. As if looking down on the town, this graceful temple is surrounded by white walls on a hill.

Enmei-ji (sweating ji)
Life-lengthening stone statue. The head monk, Chugai-oshou of Kotoku-ji Temple found, along the Araragi River, a stone on which an image of a deity emerged, and carried it here and enshrined it in 1813.

Street of Terashita
The preservation of Tsumago-juku is unique as people preserve the town while they lead normal daily lives. Terashita is the place where historic preservation movement began first, and the street preserves the old townscape very well, which deserves the name "the origin of preservation movement."

Koi Iwa or Carp Stone
This was one of the three famous rocks of the Nakasen-do Road and looked like a carp. However, the rock was deformed when the part that looked like a head was destroyed in a big earthquake in 1891. (Town's scenic spot)

Wachino Shrine
Former Tsumago Elementary School
Lockers
Water-mill
Tsumago-juku Friendship Hall (a free rest house)
Tourist Information Center
Lockers
Uma-ya
Hana-no-ki
Nakasen-do
Tsumago Bashi
Araragi-river
Central Parking Lot TEL57-2581
Omata Bashi
Omata Bridge
Tajima Bridge
Water Power Plant
3rd Town Parking Lot TEL57-4032
Nakasen-do Otsumago
To Nagiso Station
To Route 19
1st Town Parking Lot (buses and minibuses only) TEL57-3883
2nd Town Parking Lot TEL57-3885
Museum entrance
Tsumago Post Office
Wachino Shrine
Former Tsumago Elementary School
Lockers
Water-mill
Tsumago-juku Friendship Hall (a free rest house)
Tourist Information Center
Lockers
Uma-ya
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Tsumago Bashi
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Nakasen-do Otsumago

Nagiso-machi Museum

Waki Honjin Okuya National Important Cultural Property
This house served as Waki Honjin and a wholesaler for generations. The present building was rebuilt in 1877 with elaborate, advanced techniques of that time using a lot of hinoki or Japanese cypress lumber, which was prohibited for many years. Toson Shimazaki's first love Yufu-san married into this family. Designated as a national important cultural property in June, 2001.

Historical Museum
The easy-to-understand exhibition includes various documents, models and films related to the history of Nagiso and Kiso-ji, historic town preservation movements, and various towns nationwide.

Remains of Masu-shape
Post towns were not only accommodation but also fortresses for the Bakufu government. In order to preclude enemies, roads were bent perpendicularly, looking like a masu or a square. (Town's historic site)

Shimo Saga-ya
One of a three-part row house was demolished and remodeled in 1968. This building truly shows a typical commoners' house. You will see a longitudinal earthen floor with two rooms alongside it. (Town's cultural property)

- Inn & Hatago or Historic Inn
- Restaurant
- Souvenir/Woodcraft
- Café
- BUS stop

(Area Code: 0264)

Nagiso-machi Museum

Tsumago-juku Honjin 57-3322
Admission: Adults: 300 yen; Children: 150 yen

Waki Honjin Okuya/ Historical Museum 57-3322
Admission: Adults: 600 yen; Children: 300 yen

Common Ticket
Adults: 700 yen; Children: 350 yen
Group discount available for 20 people or more
Open: 9:00-17:00 (last entry: 16:45)
Closed: Dec.29-Jan.1

- Inn & Hatago or Historic Inn**
- 1 Fujioto 藤乙 (Ryokan) 57-3009
 - 2 Matsushiro-ya 松代屋 (Ryokan) 57-3022
 - 3 Daikichi 大吉 (Minshuku) 57-2595
 - 4 Sakamoto-ya 阪本屋 (Minshuku) 57-3111
 - 5 Shimosaga-ya 下嵯峨屋 (Minshuku) 57-3124

- Restaurant**
- 6 Yamagiri やまぎり (gohei-mochi) 57-3134
 - 7 Yoshimura-ya 吉村屋 (soba-noodle) 57-3265
 - 8 Tawara-ya Rikyu 俵屋里久 (soba-noodle) 57-2522
 - 9 Enoki-zaka えのき坂 (soba-noodle) 57-3138
 - 10 Ebi-ya えびや (sweets) 57-3054
 - 11 Manju-an 満寿庵 (sweets) 57-4111
 - 12 Suzu-ya 鈴屋 (sweets) 57-3891
 - 13 Tawara-ya 俵屋 (gohei-mochi) 57-2257
 - 14 Wachino-ya わちのや (oyaki) 57-2487

- Shiroki-ya**
- 15 白木屋 (pub) 57-3183
 - 16 Shin-ya しんや (gohei-mochi) 57-3221
 - 17 Otokichi 音吉 (local food) 57-3600
 - 18 Omote おもて (gohei-mochi) 57-2682

- Sashimono-ya**
- 19 さしものや 57-2865
 - 20 Tamaru-ya 田丸屋 57-3275
 - 21 Tsuchi-ya 槌屋 57-3175
 - 22 Isaba-ya いさばや 57-3064
 - 23 Azuma-ya あづま屋 57-3890
 - 24 Konohana-ya 木ノ花屋 57-3228
 - 25 Iwai-ya 岩井屋 57-3008
 - 26 Nokyō 農協 57-3007
 - 27 Ise-ya 伊勢屋 57-3112

- Souvenir / Woodcraft**
- 28 Korai-ya 高麗屋 57-3113
 - 29 Shin-iwai-ya 新岩井屋 57-3538
 - 30 Maruta-ya 丸田屋 57-3434
 - 31 Terashita-chojiya 寺下丁子屋 57-2327
 - 32 Owari-ya 尾張屋
 - 33 Mihara-ya みはらや 57-4053
 - 34 Chokane (Sawada-ya) 丁兼 (澤田屋) 57-3268

- Abura-ya**
- 35 あぶらや 57-3178
 - 36 ささき 57-3137
 - 37 Fujihara folk craft shop 57-3120
 - 38 Shin-izutsu-ya 新井筒屋 57-3109
 - 39 Shin-makino 新まさきの 57-3020
 - 40 Inkyo いんきよ 57-2131

- Kinomichi**
- 41 木の道 57-4660
 - 42 Eitoku-ya 永徳屋 57-3010

- Others**
- Gobara Liquor Shop 郷原酒店 57-3021
 - 43 Aoki 青木 (pub) 57-3288
 - 44 Matsushita shoten 松下商店 (grocery) 57-3041
 - 45 Sabo Art Gallery Ko 茶房 画廊 康 57-2024

- Bus & Taxi**
- Ontake Kotsu おんたけ交通 57-2346
 - Nagiso Kanko Taxi 南木曾観光タクシー 57-3133