

*A trip you'll want to share with someone*



# Trip Ibara

Ibara City,  
Okayama Prefecture  
Tourist Guide



# Welcome to the trip you'll definitely want to tell everyone about.

In Ibara City, a place where the people, the towns, the nature and even the air itself is peaceful, there are many beautiful, natural landscapes and gourmet local eateries yet to be discovered. It's also full of fun activities that you can't experience anywhere else! So set out on a small journey of adventure to see sights you've never seen before!

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## Trip Ibara

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# Map

## Ibara City Area Map

Ibara City is located in the southwestern part of Okayama Prefecture, next to Hiroshima Prefecture. From the bustling Ibara area along the Ibara Railway line, to the towns of Yoshii and Bisei, each region of Ibara shows a different side to the city.

### Yoshii Area

Yoshii is where "Meiji Burdock Root" is skillfully farmed. With the ever-changing seasonal foliage of Tenjin Gorge, and a traditional sake brewery, enjoy the picturesque scenery, the delicious food, and the abundance of culture that Yoshii offers.

### Ibara Area

The Ibara area, known for being the "birthplace of domestic denim", is packed full of places such as famous cherry blossom spots, cultural building with historical significance and sites with connected to notable figures.

### Bisei Area

This area is known throughout Japan for its beautiful starry skies. It was one of the first in the country to implement ordinances to prevent light pollution in order to protect the night sky. Many star-related spots and events can be found here, including those related to meteor legends and astronomy.

### Public Transport in Ibara City

In Ibara, there is the Ibara Railway, route buses, and city loop buses. Please refer to our city's website for more information on public transportation.



You can find a detailed map of each area on page 21

Nakayamatenjin Shrine

Itosakihachiman Shrine

Narutaki Ravine

Bisei Farmer's Market

Hoshio Shrine

Medieval Yumegahara Kagura Museum

Shiraito Fall

Hoshizora Park

Bisei Astronomical Observatory

Hoshizora Farm

Burdock Market

Kinoyama Park

Tenjin Gorge

Chogen-ji Temple

Yoshii Folk History Hall

Yoshii Farmer's Market

Douso Gorge

Budo Roman Kan (Grapes Plaza)

Hosen-ji Temple

Ibara Embankment

Takakoshi Castle

Hirakushi Denchū Art Museum

Kyogamaru Green Park  
Kyogamaru Auto Camp Ground

Ibara City Cultural Assets Center "Mahoroba-kan"

Sounnosato Ebara Sta.

Izue Sta.  
Komoriutanosato  
Takaya Sta.

Ibara Sta.

Hanatori Otsuka  
Art Museum

Yomeirazu Kannonin  
Temple

嫁いりずめ観音堂



# History Under the Stars: Ibara's Bisei Area

The mountainous Bisei district is about twenty minutes by car from central Ibara. In addition to recreating part of Ibara's samurai-era history, it also preserves a local theater tradition and views of the night sky.



## Messages to the Stars

The name Bisei means "beautiful stars." Aside from the clean mountain air, dark sky initiatives to install special streetlights have ensured low light pollution. It makes for such excellent stargazing conditions that there is both a public observatory and a JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) space debris monitoring station. In 2021, Bisei was named Asia's first Dark Sky Community. However, this focus on stars is nothing new.

A local legend says that farmers saw a shooting star above Bisei split into three parts and fall to earth. People tracked where the pieces landed and built simple shrines, called hokora, dedicated to the fallen stars at those sites. In 1324, one of these three was moved and rebuilt into a full-size shrine: Hoshio Jinja.

This shrine, often silent by day, has used its stellar connections in a popular variation on the annual star-related Tanabata Festival. For Tanabata, people across the country write wishes on strips of colorful paper, called tanzaku, then hang them on bamboo branches. In 1989, the head priest of Hoshio Shrine held a public event to convey those wishes to the heavens through prayer and the ritual burning of local tanzaku in a sacred fire. The August 7 ritual now draws both tanzaku and visitors from around the country in the hope that Hoshio Shrine's starry connections will help make their dreams come true.



### Bisei Astronomical Observatory

One of the leading public observatories in Japan, equipped with a 101cm reflecting telescope. Opening hours include evenings (Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon) and let you experience the wonder of stargazing, complete with guided commentary from the staff.  
Address : 1723-70 Biseicho Okura, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-87-4222  
Mail : info@bao.city.ibara.okayama.jp



Hoshio Shrine

An authentic historical park,  
recreated from a real medieval village!



## Medieval Yumegahara (Chūsei Yumegahara)

Chūsei Yumegahara is a history and culture park built to recreate a medieval village. The buildings and layout were based as closely as possible on archaeological evidence and painted scrolls depicting this time period. The village was constructed with period-appropriate materials and techniques. For example, a close look at exposed wooden beams and pillars reveals a herringbone pattern left by shaping them with a hand-held adze blade. This authenticity has attracted film production companies who use the village as a location for period dramas, as well as hobby photographers and cosplayers.

Chūsei Yumegahara's village square has a market with a variety of recreated shops, including one shop with actual items for sale and a swordsmith workshop where forging demonstrations are given once a week, April through November. Throughout the park, the different floor plans of the farmhouses show how people arranged their living and working spaces. For example, a house modeled on that of a higher-ranked warrior farmer is a large home with an

attached stable for horses and a place to store weapons to help defend the village in times of conflict.

A mountain castle watchtower has been recreated atop the hill. Defenders climbed up the steep ladder-like stairs to watch for approaching bandits or rival armies, while below, a fortified building with storage for food, water, and arms served as a base for warriors to prepare for attacks.



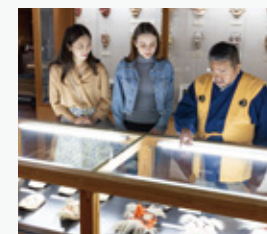
Address : 5007 Biseicho Miyama, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-87-3914  
Mail : ts-yume@ibara.ne.jp



## Bitchū Kagura Dance

The Bisei Kibikōgen Kagura Folk Art Preservation Hall stands outside Chūsei Yumegahara's main entrance and stages live performances of Bitchū Kagura. This is a local style of kagura: sacred rituals, dances, and plays that may be used for entertaining deities or offering prayers. Kagura can range from austere to extravagant, with many styles using vibrant costumes and masks to portray myths of deities and monsters. The Bitchū style belongs to the latter category, with many of its dances depicting heroic battles against larger-than-life foes. The colorful snake statues in front of the hall are based on the costumes for one such monster: Yamata no Orochi, a legendary eight-headed serpent that is portrayed on stage by multiple actors. Nonetheless, Bitchū Kagura is considered a somewhat restrained style, for those who uphold Bitchū Kagura choose to retain local traditions instead of pushing for more dramatic flair.

The hall contains a museum of costumes, masks, and props used in the local Bitchū Kagura tradition, as well as a theater space. The stage, considered a sacred space, is a small dais with tatami mats festooned with a twisted-straw shimenawa and an ornate paper decoration hanging overhead with auspicious cut-out shapes. Floor seating starts at the edge of the stage, placing audience members up close to the masked dance and sword-swinging action.



### Kagura Museum

Address : 5007 Biseicho Miyama, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-87-3914  
Mail : ts-yume@ibara.ne.jp







An incredible 2km promenade lined with sakura!



Enjoy the sight of the red Momiji bridge against a backdrop of autumn leaves.

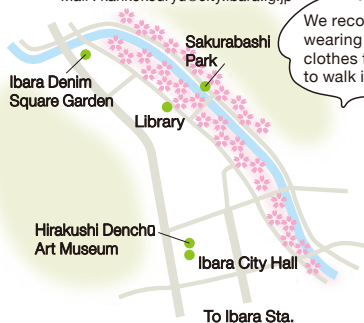
## Ibara Embankment MAP B-2

This is Ibara's most famous place for sakura, and has become a favorite relaxation spot for city residents. Running alongside the Oda River, this sakura tunnel stretches over 2 kilometers. While of course the sakura in full bloom is breathtaking, the swirling sakura "snow" when it starts to fall is also a sight to see! So relax and enjoy the beauty of the sakura along with the calm flow of the nearby river.

Address : Ibaracho, Ibara City

Tel : 0866-62-8850

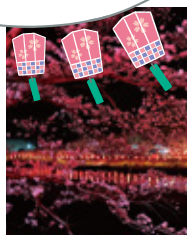
Mail : kankokouryu@city.ibara.lg.jp



We recommend wearing comfy clothes that are easy to walk in!



### Ibara Sakura Festival



Ibara Embankment and Aibara Park is lit up with lanterns, so you can even enjoy magical views of the sakura at night!  
\*The lanterns are illuminated between 18:30-22:00.



## Tenjin Gorge MAP H-2

The gorge is a place of scenic beauty, a mountain stream of the Oda River about 1km long, in which you can find maples and all sorts of towering, ancient trees, reflected in the clear waters of its stream. Whilst known as the best place to admire the red leaves in the autumn, in the summer, adults and children alike come to play in the river, go for a stroll along the promenade, birdwatch and enjoy watching the local aquatic wildlife.

Address : Yoshiicho Yoshii, Ibara City

Tel : 0866-72-0112

Mail : y-shinkou@city.ibara.lg.jp



### Tenjin Shrine MAP H-2

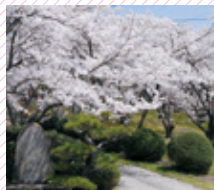
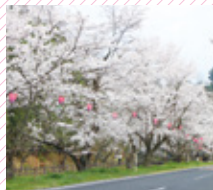
A local shrine near to the Tenjin Gorge and the red Momiji bridge. It is also a place linked to the work of Muromachi Era master painter, Sesshū. Every year, on the 4th Sunday of October, you can enjoy the big festival that is held here while admiring the views of the autumn leaves.

Address : 1145 Yoshiicho Yoshii, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-72-9010



### Aibara Park MAP B-3

Situated next to Yomeirazu Kannon Temple is Aibara Park, with around 300 blooming cherry trees. There are plenty of benches for you to sit and leisurely enjoy the sakura.  
Address : 1096 Oecho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-62-8850

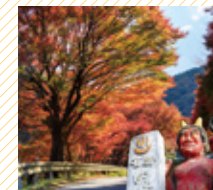


### Kinoyama Park MAP D-3

A famous sakura spot in Bisei Town, featuring beautiful hanging branches of blossoms. Located adjacent to a campground, partake in camping and the great outdoors completely surrounded by idyllic nature.  
Address : 3205-8 Biseicho Hoshida, Ibara City

### Ibara Rose Garden MAP B-3

In one corner of Aibara Park, you'll find a rose garden where over 500 rose bushes from more than 100 varieties are lovingly grown. From late May, the garden comes alive with a vibrant display of blooms in every color, filling the air with a sweet fragrance that gently soothes and delights all who visit.  
Address : Aibara Park, Oe-cho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-62-8850 (Ibara City Tourist Association)



### Onigatake MAP F-1

A beautiful gorge with trees along its waters edge, carved out from the power of nature itself. According to the legends, the ancient demon, Ura healed his wounds here. In the autumn season, the riverside is enveloped in vivid red leaves.  
Address : Biseicho Utou, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-62-9541



# The Sengoku Train



## The Sengoku Train: A Tribute to Ibara History

A trip into the samurai past of Ibara typically begins with a ride on the Ibara Railway. It operates only one line, the Ibara Line, which stretches from Kannabe in Hiroshima Prefecture to Sōja in Okayama Prefecture. Although paper tickets are available at staffed stations, passengers usually must pay in cash as they exit the “one-man car” trains. Several of these one- and two-car trains have unusual decorations and designs that make this line a popular one for train enthusiasts. One of the more striking designs is the history-themed Sengoku Train.

The Sengoku Train is a single-car train decked out in a Sengoku period (1467–1568) theme. Decorations include silhouettes of bows and arrows and the family crests of warriors who governed or invaded this area during a time of fierce rivalries among local warlords. There are also hanging straps adorned with models of samurai helmets emblazoned

with the crests of cities and towns along the railway. Riding this route is like having a guided tour, because there are signs in both Japanese and English with historical facts about the area’s important figures, famous battlegrounds, and mountain castles.

The Sengoku Train runs several times a day on an irregular schedule, which can be checked on the Ibara Railway website (Japanese only).

Check out the running times for this train on the official website!



Take a selfie with Sōun!

## Power in the Sengoku Period

The Sengoku (Warring States) period earned its name from the series of bloody upheavals that resulted when the central government was no longer able to control local warlords, whose familial disputes and attempts to expand their holdings quickly turned violent. It was also a period of popular uprisings, and of both technological development and high-culture accomplishments.

In this period, both military power and regional trade were highly dependent on roads. Primary among these were the shichidō, or seven highways, that connected the many provinces of Japan. As one of the shichidō, the Old Sanyō Road (a precursor to and slightly different route from the modern Sanyō Expressway) along the Seto Inland Sea area was a major route connecting western Honshu with the capital city of Kyoto. A portion of this road ran through Ibara along the Oda River. The looming mountains made this an advantageous place for warlords to exert influence over use of the road and river. The ability to project power here led to regular conflict, and many different armies invaded this territory even before the Sengoku period.

The desire to monitor and control traffic along the road led to building strategic fortifications called yamajiro, or mountain castles. Rather than towering, thick-walled castles with ornate structures, these yamajiro were simple wooden watchtowers and barracks that held supplies and armaments. The routes to these structures were often blocked with earthen mounds and moats built amongst

steep terrain. Because the surrounding mountain terrain provided the primary defense, in a sense it was the mountains themselves that were the “castles.” Warlords used these bases to project power over the road and river and to set up defenses when under siege.

Takakoshi Castle was one of the more prominent yamajiro in Ibara. It once stood atop the mountain of the same name to the north of the Old Sanyō Road, and although the wooden structures are gone, a commemorative park with a view of the city remains in its place.



**Takakoshi Castle** MAP C-2  
Address : Kojirocho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-62-8850  
Mail : kankokouryu@city.ibara.lg.jp



Portrait of Hōjō Sōun

## Hōjō Sōun: The First Sengoku Daimyo

Takakoshi Castle is known for its links to Ise Shinkurō Moritoki (1432–1519), who was posthumously known as Hōjō Sōun. He was born into the Bitchū Ise family, and although his birthplace is unknown, the fact that his family controlled Takakoshi Castle makes Ibara a possible location. Sōun later became a pivotal daimyo lord of the Sengoku period when he conquered Izū Province. His descendants continued his conquest by taking control of many parts of the Kantō region, but the family was eventually defeated in 1590 during Toyotomi Hideyoshi’s (1537–1598) campaign to unite the country under his control.

Sōun’s conquest of Izū is sometimes considered the true beginning of the Sengoku period, as his aggressive acquisition of new domains inspired the ambitions of other daimyo of his time. Although he did not control territory in Ibara later in his life, Sōun’s outsized mark on history makes him a favorite local figure. The Sōun no Sato Ebara Station is named after him, and he has a central position in the Sengoku Train livery: it is Sōun’s face that is depicted in the center of the badge at the front of the car.



**Hosen-ji Temple** MAP C-2  
The founder of the Ise family, Ise Shinzaemon Morisada, built the Ise family’s temple at Takakoshi Castle. It is said that when Sōun was young, he was taught the basics of martial arts of that era by the temple’s head monk, Kokanninzen.  
Address : 4841 Nishiebaracho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-62-1660  
Mail : kankokouryu@city.ibara.lg.jp





# Yoichi Commemorative Kyūdōjō



Portrait of Nasu no Yoichi

Yoichi's archery feat still inspires people in Ibara, especially those who practice kyūdō, a martial art based on ancient military archery. Throughout the city of roughly 37,000 residents, there are several archery ranges, or kyūdōjō. Ibara is also home to one of the largest kyūdō competitions in western Japan, the Nasu no Yoichi Memorial West Japan Kyūdō Tournament, which held its fiftieth annual meet in 2024 and uses fan-shaped targets in some events. That competition is held at a center dedicated both to kyūdō and to Yoichi himself: the Ibara City Yoichi Commemorative Kyūdōjō.

## The Feat That Inspired an Archery Culture

Nasu no Yoichi (1169–1232) earned his place in history with a single arrow at the Battle of Yashima (1185). Yoichi and the rest of the Minamoto army had pursued the enemy Taira across the strait between Honshu and Shikoku. However, the Taira were confident in their navy and the distance they could maintain on the water. The Minamoto were still on the beach when a woman among the Taira taunted their pursuers by hoisting a small folding fan and challenging the Minamoto to shoot it down. Yoichi rode his horse into the waves, took aim, let fly, and made history by toppling the fan with a single arrow. He was rewarded for his bravery with an appointment as military governor of five provinces, including land in part of the present city of Ibara.

Several historical sites in Ibara are connected to Nasu no Yoichi, such as geographical names that include references to archery, and a commemorative gravestone for Yoichi prepared by one of his descendants. Eishōji Temple was originally a Nasu family temple, and the Sodegami Inari shrine on the temple premises enshrines the sleeve which Yoichi ripped off when making his legendary shot.



## Eishōji Temple

Within the city, there is an Inari shrine which contains the piece of Nasu no Yoichi's sleeve that was torn off when he drew a bow during the legendary battle on Yajima Island. The shrine is often visited by people praying for academic success or job opportunities. The graves of Nasu no Yoichi and the Nasu clan are also situated within the city.  
Address : 5512 Nishiebaracho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-96-0916  
Mail : kankokouryu@city.ibara.lg.jp



It is also known by another name, "Ippatsu Inari" - which means success on the first try.



# Carrying on the Kyūdō Tradition

For the archery lovers in Ibara, Yoichi has become an important symbol. The main hall and range of the Yoichi Commemorative Kyūdōjō opened in March 1989, and it represents Ibara's dedication to maintaining its connection to Yoichi and to promoting the practice of kyūdō.

The main hall stands at the top of a wooded hill inside the Ibara Sports Park, where there are three archery ranges ascending the hillside. The first one is a 28-meter range with space for six archers to shoot at once, and it was the first public kyūdōjō built in Ibara, completed in 1972. The second is a long-range course of 60 meters. The third and topmost—attached directly to the main commemorative hall—is a 28-meter range with space for 12 archers to shoot simultaneously.

The Yoichi Commemorative Kyūdōjō has prominent references to its namesake, with many plaques and posters depicting Yoichi's famous shot. It also has ties to the local denim industry, with an Ibara denim curtain hanging above the range and staff wearing kyūdōgi (kyūdō uniforms) made from Ibara denim.

The Kyūdōjō hosts competitions almost every month, practice sessions several days a week, and regular seasonal events. It is also notable for providing experiential workshops for first-time archers, which kyūdō practitioners conduct as a way to promote their passion for this art.



## Yoichi Kinen Kyudojo

Address : 1770 Kamiizuecho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-62-8850  
Mail : kankokouryu@city.ibara.lg.jp

MAP B-3

## Understanding Kyūdō

The martial art of kyūdō differs greatly from the sport or hunting technique of archery. It is a rigorous practice regimenting every movement taken while in the kyūdōjō. The goal is not simply to accurately shoot an arrow and hit the target, but rather it is to smoothly follow a prescribed pattern of movements: stance, breath, aim, and release.

The Yoichi Commemorative Kyūdōjō offers a class for beginners to try their hand at kyūdō. After a demonstration of kyūdōjō etiquette and shooting manner, participants receive individual instruction as they learn to hold the bow and shoot at targets. Most kyūdōjō require thorough training in the basics before allowing students to shoot arrows, but here, beginners have a rare chance to do so without any

previous experience. Reservations and a small fee are required, and the instruction is in Japanese, but physical demonstrations and guidance are usually sufficient for participants who do not speak the language. The workshop is open to everyone from single archers to large groups.



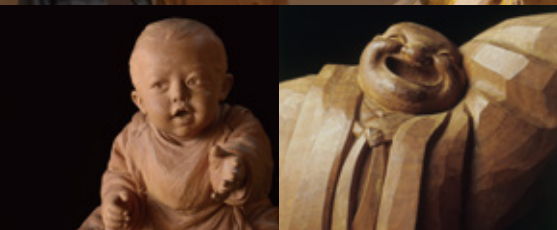
Scan this QR code and register now!

Under the careful guidance of the instructors, even complete beginners can join!





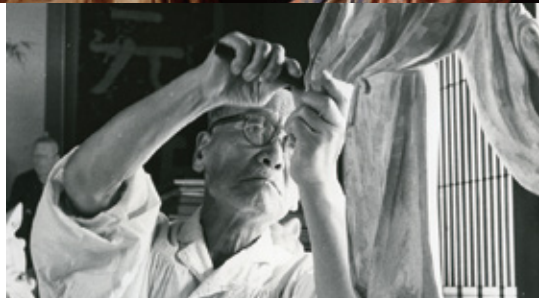
The soul of a master artisan - the masterpiece "Kagamijishi" is available to view for a limited time only!



## Hirakushi Denchū Art Museum

Sculptor Hirakushi Denchū (1872–1979) created emotionally compelling works in a wide range of styles. Born in Ibara but adopted at the age of 10 into a family in nearby Fukuyama, Hiroshima Prefecture, he moved to Tokyo in 1897 where he struggled for years to find success. Acclaim from Okakura Tenshin (1863–1913) and other influential art instructors proved crucial to bringing attention to his work. Denchū felt great admiration for Okakura, and even decades after Okakura's death, Denchū created many masterpieces modeled on Okakura's likeness. In 1944, Denchū was appointed an Imperial Household Artist, and in 1970, the city of Ibara built this museum to display his achievements. It is in the heart of town not far from Ibara Station, and when he visited, Denchū planted the camphor tree that stands in front of the building.

The museum's collection showcases a wide range of Denchū's artistic themes. Some pieces appear to depict figures from Buddhism, such as a demon spitting out a human in the fearsome work Tenshō, while others focus on more intimate themes. His work Ane Musume shows



Hirakushi Denchū

Denchū's daughter kneeling, hands cupped to her ears, listening to a neighbor's distant radio because her family was too poor to own one.

One of Denchū's masterpieces is Kagamijishi, an imposing statue of Kabuki actor Onoe Kikugorō VI (1885–1949) in costume for the play of the same name as the statue. The statue itself usually stands in the lobby of the National Theatre of Japan in Tokyo, but prototypes and unfinished models of Kagamijishi are kept on display here.



### Hirakushi Denchū Art Museum

MAP  
B-2

Address : 315 Ibaracho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-62-8787  
Mail : dencyu@city.ibara.lg.jp



### A showcase of modern Japanese paintings.

### Hanatori Otsuka Art Museum

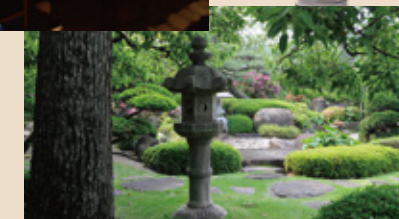
MAP  
A-3

This museum primarily features the works of Keika Kanashima, a Japanese painter from Kannabe, a town in the neighbouring city of Fukuyama. It also has paintings from Taikan Yokoyama, Kansetsu Hashimoto and many other modern Japanese-style painters, in addition to around 600 works by leading western painters.

Address : 3-11-5 Takayacho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-67-2225  
Mail : hanatori@fib.takaya.co.jp



The view of the gardens is like a painting in itself!



Keika Kanashima paints the natural world with a graceful drifting quality, maintaining proper forms using solid sketches from nature.



# Ibara Station and the Ibara Denim Store

## A Denim Destination: Ibara Station

Ibara Station brings travelers into immediate contact with Ibara's cultural icons of archery and denim.

The station building opened in November 1999, and its design pays homage to Nasu no Yoichi's famous twelfth-century archery feat of shooting a fan that was hoisted from a boat. When viewed from the stone plaza in front of the station, the building's sweeping curve of steel resembles the asymmetric curve of a Japanese bow, and a towering glass cone stands just off-center like an arrow poised against the string. On the opposite end of the plaza there is a seemingly unrelated statue: a tall pedestal topped by a fan-shaped stone with a large round hole. This evokes the fan of legend shot by Yoichi, and when standing on the



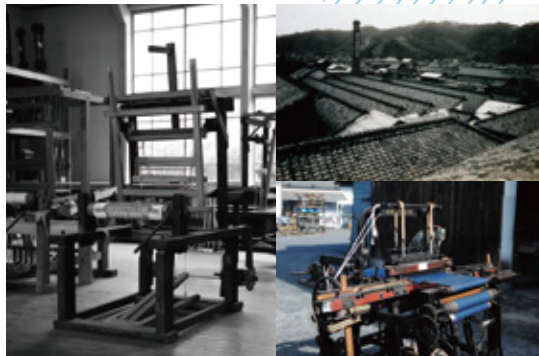
far side of the statue and looking back toward the station, the opening in the fan frames the tip of the glass tower, emphasizing the arrow-like shape as it seems to fly into the distance.

Inside the station there is a cafe, a tourist services desk with souvenirs and bicycle rentals, and perhaps most striking, the Ibara Denim Store.

## Denim Before It Was Denim

The Ibara area became a thriving center for cotton cultivation, weaving, and indigo dyeing during the Edo period (1603–1867). In the rapid industrialization that took place in the Meiji period (1868–1912), handlooms were increasingly replaced by large-scale mechanized looms. Many different types of cloth were made by the factories in Ibara, but a thickly woven textile called Bitchū-kokura was particularly well known for its use in school uniforms and work clothes.

One style of Bitchū-kokura, called urajiro, had white backing and a dyed surface. It was often dyed with indigo and was made using the same 3 × 1 twill weave as denim cloth from the West. There are records of at least one textile company in Ibara selling a product labeled "blue denim" by 1930, but when American denim was reintroduced to Japan after World War II, many Ibara weavers were already skilled in the basic techniques to produce this fabric. By around 1970, about 75 percent of Japan's domestic denim jeans were made in Ibara.



## Ibara Denim Today

In Ibara today, there are roughly 20 companies involved in producing denim fabric, and many more local workshops, handmade goods stores, and tailors turning that fabric into jeans, bags, shirts, and more. There are decorations and signs around town that attest to denim's importance in the local economy, but the Ibara Denim Store is the first stop for many visitors to the city. It offers services beyond off-the-rack sales such as personalization, made-to-order denim suits, and size alterations.

In addition to the prominent space the Ibara Denim Store occupies within the station building, there is also a small Denim Museum on the second floor detailing the history of denim in Ibara, and a workshop on the first floor called the "Garage" where visitors can try out part of the process of making products out of denim.



Find your favorite denim item in Ibara, the holy place of denim!



### Ibara Denim Store

Address : 944-5 Nanukaichicho, Ibara City  
Tel : 070-5057-6070  
Mail : info@ibara-denim.com







## Yamanari Sake Brewery (Yamanari Shuzō)

Yamanari Shuzō is Ibara's sole sake brewery still in operation. Its nineteenth-century buildings are positioned directly between rice fields and cherry trees along the Oda River. With advance reservation and a small fee, it is possible to tour the premises and see how they retain traditional methods of brewing sake.

At Yamanari, brewing and bottling tasks are still done by hand using vintage equipment. For instance, the old-fashioned, pot-style boiler for steaming rice is becoming increasingly rare. The brewery also utilizes its natural surroundings to reduce both energy use and waste in brewing. For example, the finished sake matures in an unrefrigerated space with doors left open to the nighttime mountain breeze. Yamanari also works with local farmers to ensure that as much of its brewing rice as possible is grown in Ibara. In 2021, the brewery began cooperating directly with a local farmer to grow tall stalks of Omachi, a popular

variety of Okayama brewing rice, and one of the three varieties (in addition to Akebono and Yamada Nishiki) that Yamanari prefers.

The Yamanari family has run this brewery since its founding in 1804, and the family lives onsite. The Meiji-era residence built next to the brewery in 1882 has hosted many noteworthy guests and can be toured upon request.

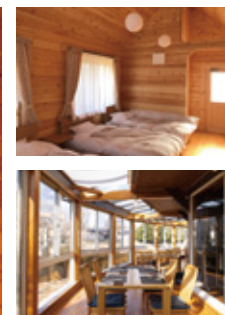
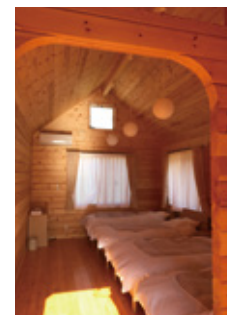


Address : 23 Yoshiicho Yanase, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-72-0001  
Mail : info@yamanari.jp

MAP  
H-3



## Stay



Rest your mind and body in the warmth of this boutique wood cabin hotel.

### Hoshizora Pension Comet

MAP  
E-2

A B&B situated 400m above sea level that values good food and nature. In a cozy dining space featuring a real wood fireplace, get to know the community's heartfelt thoughts on the stars, and how they work as one in their goals to preserve them. Or alternatively, just have a fun chat with this hotel's friendly owner. Relax and spend some time beneath a sky full of twinkling stars.

Address : 2-60 Hoshida, Bisei Town, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-87-2926  
Mail : comet.bisei@gmail.com



MAP  
B-2

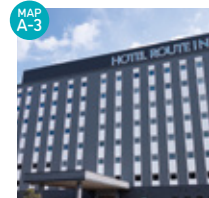


### Ibara Denim Hotels Maizururō

A traditional Japanese restaurant and ryokan hotel that has recently been renovated, and which incorporates denim and French cuisine.

Address : 3924 Ibaracho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-84-1026

MAP  
A-3



### Hotel Route Inn Okayama Ibara

Equipped with a large kōmei stone bathhouse and featuring original denim fittings, this hotel is worth visiting!

Address : 2-22-1 Shimozuecho, Ibara City  
Tel : 050-5576-8012

MAP  
A-3



### Family Lodge Hatagoya

A very popular roadside hotel, which boasts large 25m² rooms featuring 2 queen-size beds.

Address : 1-13-3 Sasakacho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-67-9858

MAP  
B-2



### Business Hotel Rekijōsō

Situated very close to the Ibara Bus Centre, this hotel has all the best access links to central Ibara!

Address : 717 Ibaracho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-62-0236

MAP  
B-2



### Business Hotel Daishō

Located in Central Ibara, close to City Hall, the Hirakushi Denchu Art Museum and adjacent Denchu Gardens. It also has a large car park.

Address : 272-2 Ibaracho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-62-0970

MAP  
B-2



### Guesthouse Matsuri

The first guesthouse in Japan to have a Kagura Dance Theatre stage in their lobby. They even put on regular shows of the regional variant: Bitchū Kagura.

Address : 148 Nanukaichicho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-65-0007



# Example Trips



Day trip

## Relax with Nature and Art Road Trip

Start!!



Tenjin Gorge

Take a photo on the red bridge



Hirakushi Denchū Art Museum

Be amazed by exquisite works of art



Eat something tasty at a local restaurant

Goal!!



Hanatori Otsuka Art Museum

Admire Japanese paintings and gardens



Ibara Rose Garden

Enjoy the sweet scent of flowers



Day trip

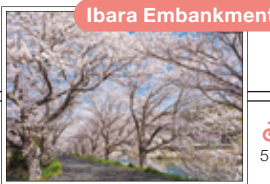
## Travel Around by Rental Bicycle Bike Ride

Start!!



Ibara Station

Rent a bicycle



Ibara Embankment

Go for a relaxing bike ride along the Oda River



Ibara Denim Square Garden

Pick your favorite item at a denim store

Goal!!



Ibara Denim Store

Return your rental bicycle and shop some more!



Ibara city cultural assets center

Take a peek at Ibara's history



Enjoy a meal at a local restaurant

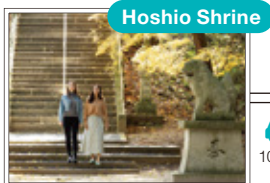


## Enjoy the History and Stars of Bisei Road trip

Overnight



Start!!



Hoshio Shrine

Visit the legendary falling star shrine



Bisei Farmer's Market

After lunch, eat a sweet treat



Day 1



Shiraito Waterfall

Relax to the sounds of a waterfall



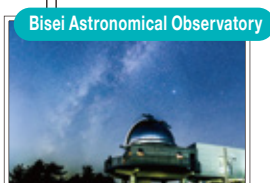
Hoshizora Pension Comet

Stay at the stylish Pension Comet



Hoshizora Park

Gaze out to the Seto Inland Islands on a sunny day



Bisei Astronomical Observatory

Look up and gaze into a sky full of stars



Day 2



Hoshizora Pension Comet

Eat breakfast in a cozy place



Kagura Museum

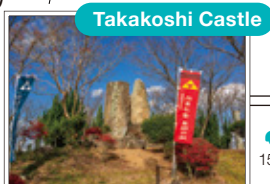
Learn all about Bitchū Kagura

Try some of the local cuisine for lunch



Medieval Yumegahara

Go back in time to the Medieval Ages



Takakoshi Castle

The view from the mountaintop is the best!

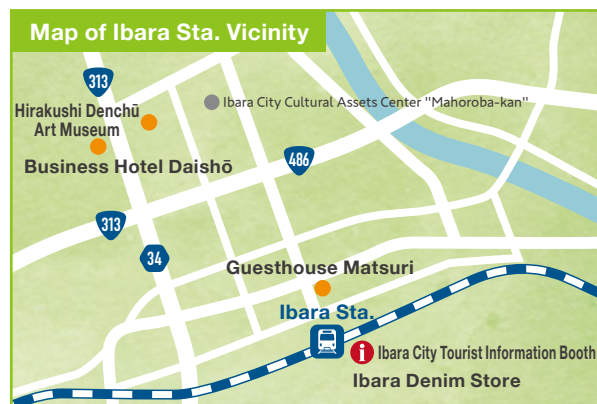
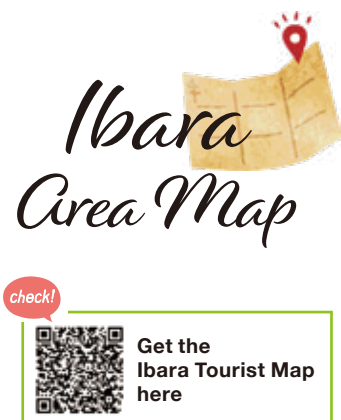


Hosen-ji Temple

Have a peek at precious historical materials

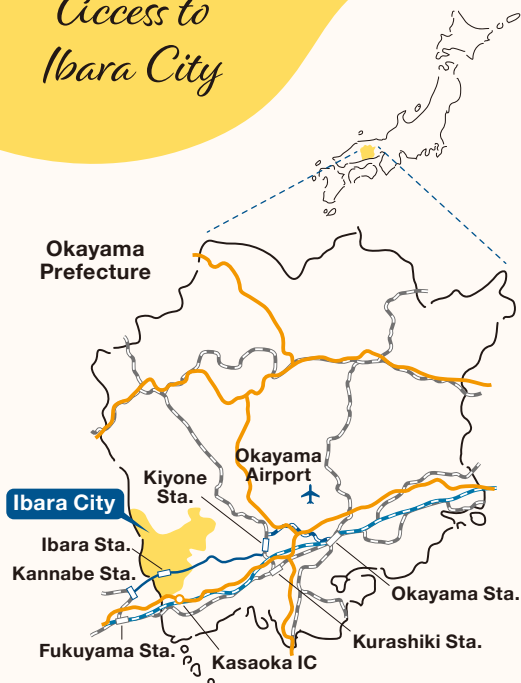








# Access to Ibara City



Come and visit Ibara!



## Ibara City's mascot character, Denchu-kun

**Gender**

Male

**Birthday**

June 1st

The mascot character for Ibara City is modeled on the "Kagamijishi" (Mirror Lion), the stunning masterpiece of master sculptor, Hirakushi Denchu - who was originally from Ibara. Denchu-kun, with his soft and fluffy head of hair, is often super active in events both in and outside the city.  
If you visit Ibara, you might even meet him!!

## Car

**Osaka**

Chugoku Expressway  
Sanyo Expressway  
2 hr 40 min

**Okayama**

Sanyo Expressway  
40 min

**Kasaoka IC**

20 min **Ibara City**

**Hiroshima**

Sanyo Expressway  
1 hr 40 min

## Airplane

**Okayama Airport**

Sanyo Expressway  
50 min

**Kasaoka IC**

20 min **Ibara City**

**Hiroshima Airport**

Sanyo Expressway  
50 min

## Train

**Tokyo**

Shinkansen  
3 hr 20 min

**Shin-Osaka**

Shinkansen  
45 min

**Kurashiki**

JR Hakubi  
7 min

**Hiroshima**

Shinkansen  
25 min

**Okayama**

JR Hakubi  
25 min

**Fukuyama**

JR Fukuen  
13 min

**Kiyone**

Ibara line  
30 min

**Kannabe**

Ibara line  
20 min

**Ibara**

If you're planning to visit Ibara, start your journey here!



## Ibara City Tourist Information Booth

MAP B-2

Get all sorts of recommendations for Ibara's tourist spots and local eateries. There's even a souvenir corner!

Address : 944-5 Nanukaichicho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-65-0505  
Mail : ibara\_kanko@ibara.ne.jp

You can rent an electric bicycle (all day for just 500 yen!)



**Publisher** Ibara Tourist Association

Address : 10 Nanukaichicho, Ibara City  
Tel : 0866-62-8850  
FAX : 0866-62-8853  
E-Mail : kankokouryu@city.ibara.lg.jp

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Get tourist information and guidance here

<https://www.ibarakankou.jp>

Ibara Sightseeing



Website



Instagram



観光庁  
Japan Tourism Agency

This English-language text was created by the Japan Tourism Agency.