

Buddhist art that bloomed in seclusion

Murouji Temple 室生寺

Built in the 8th century

A temple in a deep mountain valley. A building from centuries past, surrounded on all sides by unspoiled nature. The temple escaped war damage due to its remote location, and its buildings and statues of Buddha remain unchanged. Many of them are national treasures. On arriving here, the renowned photographer Ken Domon stated that "this is Japan." Walk slowly through the forest, soaking in the forest itself.



The path to Oku-no-In 奥の院への道

Climb the 400 stone steps among the forest's huge trees to reach the Oku-no-In. The path is steep but wondrous, so don't forget to visit here!

Buddha statues at Murouji Temple

There are three national treasures and six important cultural properties located here. Most are from the 8th century. These statues of Buddha were particularly beloved by Ken Domon (1909-1990) during his photography of Buddhist statuary.



Viewing times	April 1 - November 30 8:30 - 17:00    December 1 - March 31 9:00 - 16:00		
Admission fee	Adult ¥600 / Child ¥400 (Elementary school)		
Access	42 minutes from Sakurai Station    Fare ¥770		
	<div><div>Kintetsu Sakurai Station</div><div>Express [Kyukou] bound for Nabari / Isuzugawa 17 minutes</div><div>Muroguchi-Ono Station</div></div>		
	<div><div>Nara Kotsu Bus No.43 bound for Murouji 20 minutes</div><div>Murouji Mae (last stop)</div><div>5 minutes on foot</div><div>Murouji Temple</div></div>		
	*Note that there is only one bus per hour		
Sightseeing duration	1 hour - 3 hours		
Address	78 Murou, Uda City, Nara Prefecture	Tel	0745-93-2003





*Enormous cliff-carved statue*

## Onoji Temple 大野寺

Built in 681

A beautiful temple beside the Udagawa river. The temple features two splendid weeping cherry trees that are approximately 300 years old, and many tourists visit during the cherry blossom season.

## Miroku Magaibutsu 弥勒磨崖仏

Built in the 13th century

The massive Buddha can be seen across the river from the temple.

An alcove was dug into a stone 33m in height, and the Miroku Magaibutsu statue was carved there.

Height 13.8m.

One can see it very clearly when the sunset hits.

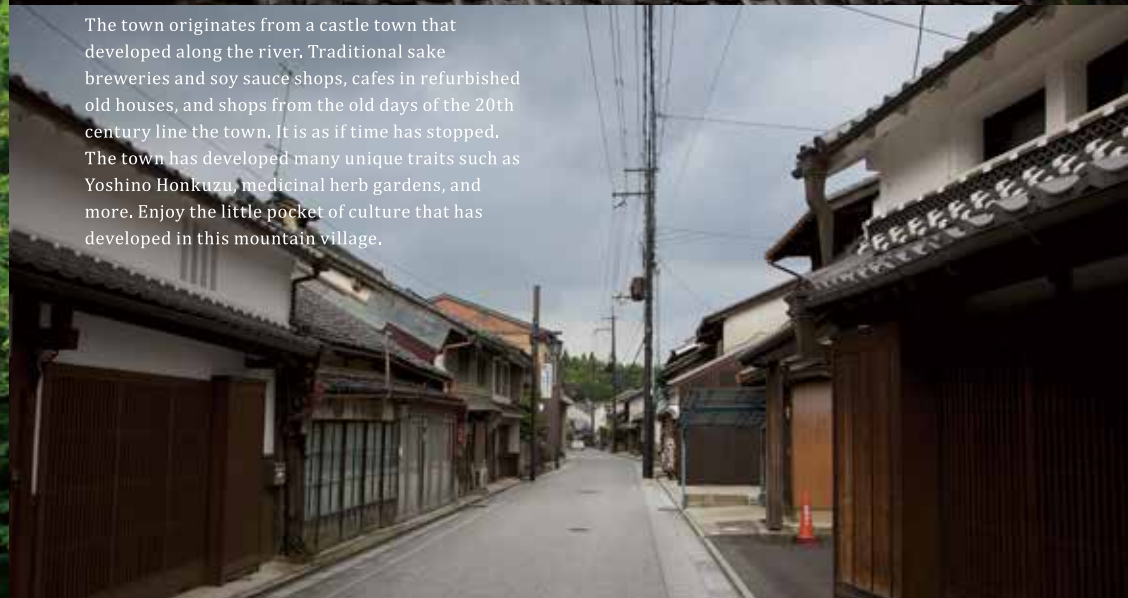


*A small riverside castle town*

## Uda Matsuyama 宇陀松山

Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings

The town originates from a castle town that developed along the river. Traditional sake breweries and soy sauce shops, cafes in refurbished old houses, and shops from the old days of the 20th century line the town. It is as if time has stopped. The town has developed many unique traits such as Yoshino Honkuzu, medicinal herb gardens, and more. Enjoy the little pocket of culture that has developed in this mountain village.



Viewing times	8:00 to 17:00 (March 1 to November 30) 8:00 to 16:00 (December 1 to February 28)
Admission fee	Adults ¥300 (free admission for persons below high school age)
Access	22 minutes from Sakurai Station Fare ¥350 <div> <div>Kintetsu Sakurai Station</div> <div>Express [Kyukou] bound for Nabari / Isuzugawa 17 minutes</div> <div>Muroguchi-Ono Station</div> <div>5 minutes on foot</div> <div>Onoji Temple</div> </div>
Sightseeing duration	30 minutes - 1 hour
Address	1680 Muroouono, Uda City, Nara Prefecture
Tel	0745-92-2220

Access	25 minutes from Sakurai Station Fare ¥730 <div> <div>Kintetsu Sakurai Station</div> <div>Express [Kyukou] bound for Nabari / Isuzugawa 10 minutes</div> <div>Haibara Station</div> </div>
Sightseeing duration	1 hour - 2 hours <div> <div>Bus Stop Haibara Station platform 1</div> <div>Nara Kotsu Bus No.1 or 2 bound for Ouda 15 minutes</div> <div>Immediately after getting off at Ouda</div> </div>



A beautiful Japanese village

## Soni Village 曾爾村

A beautiful village in the back yard of the Yamato Kogen (highlands). Visit here to enjoy rare natural scenery that can only be seen here, and camping grounds to immerse yourself.



Village of Myths

## Mitsue Village 御杖村

Tucked away in the Yamato Highland, this village is surrounded by the grandeur of the natural world. We recommend a stroll through the old town, situated amidst the nature along the old pilgrim's road to Ise, or going out to savor the forests and mountains.



### Soni-kogen (highlands) 曾爾高原

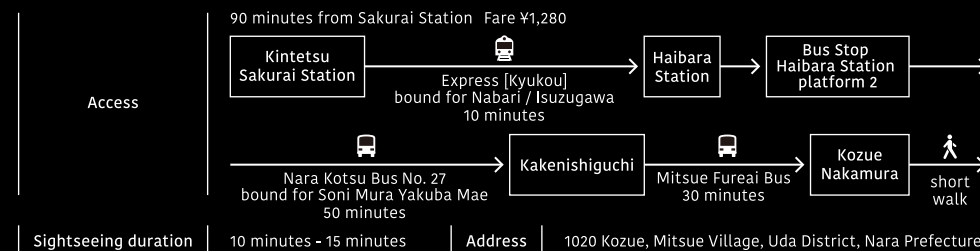
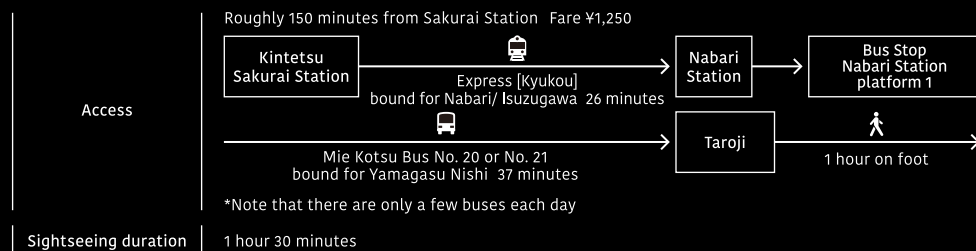
The pampas grassland spreads across the valley to the mountains. There is a walking trail in the grassland, and it is possible to take a casual stroll without carrying heavy equipment. There is a hot spring nearby, an ideal location to heal your weary body after the stroll. Visitors can see the starry sky clearly at night.



### Mitsue Jinja Shrine 御杖神社

Date of construction unknown

The shrine pavilion is flanked by two massive trees. It's said that Yamatohime no Mikoto, the daughter of the 11th Emperor of Japan, Suinin, left a cane here during her travels. The town gets its name from this event: "mi" means "honorable" and "tsue" means cane.



### Byobu Iwa (sheer perpendicular cliff) 屏風岩

Natural national monument

A strange rock that looks like a folding screen. It is a perpendicular cliff with a height of 200m and a width of 2km. It is especially beautiful during the cherry blossom season in the spring and the foliage season in the fall, but it is less popular during other seasons and one can monopolize its natural beauty then.



### Mount Miune 三峰山

Elevation: 1235m. One of the 300 great mountains of Japan. Capped with silver frost in the winter. Its ridgeline is covered by beautiful rhododendrons in the spring.

