



**A GUIDE TO  
WAKAYAMA  
CITY  
JAPAN**





# WAKAYAMA CITY

## WAKAYAMA PREFECTURE

### ACCESS

#### TRAIN

- « From Central Osaka »
  - JR Hanwa Line  
Shin-Osaka Stn. → Wakayama Stn.  
(approx. 1 hr. by limited express)
  - Nankai Main Line  
Namba Stn. → Wakayamashi Stn.  
(approx. 1 hr. by limited express)

#### AIRPLANE

- « From Kansai International Airport »
  - JR Kansai Airport Line → Hineno Stn., transfer to JR Hanwa Line → Wakayama Stn.  
(approx. 45 mins.)
  - Nankai Airport Line → Izumisano Stn., transfer to Nankai Main Line → Wakayamashi Stn.  
(approx. 40 mins.)
  - Limousine bus from Kansai International Airport → Wakayama Stn. (approx. 40 mins.)

#### CAR

- « From Osaka »
  - Suita JCT → Wakayama IC  
(approx. 1 hr.)
- « From Kyoto »
  - Kyotominami IC → Wakayama IC  
(approx. 1.5 hrs.)
- « From Kobe »
  - Kyobashi IC → Wakayama IC  
(approx. 1.5 hrs.)

Emblem of Wakayama City  
(established in 1909)



Enclosed by mountains on three sides and straddling the Kii Channel to the west, Wakayama City, overlooking Awaji Island and Shikoku, features picturesque views and a warm climate. The emblem symbolizes Wakayama City's strong development.

Slogan of Wakayama City  
(established in 2015)



“Wakayama City, Cheerful and Shining Bright”

Valuing the local industry, city scape, culture, and nature that we have nurtured until today; blooming forth vitality and charm through increased innovation and wisdom; actualizing a city rich with individuality, where people both seek to live and are happy to live—this slogan signifies our resolve to develop a cheerful city that shines bright.

### Sister Cities



Bakersfield City  
(USA)



Richmond City  
(Canada)



Jeju City  
(South Korea)



Jinan City  
(China)

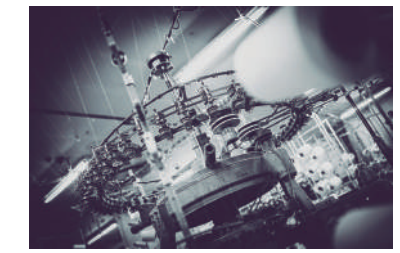
### Contents



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# Tourism

## Wakayama Castle

和歌山城

Home to one of the great three Tokugawa families, the castle is a rich symbol of Wakayama City's history, and boasts an interconnected-style tower, similar to those in Himeji Castle and Matsuyama Castle. The adjoining Nishinomaru-Teien Garden (Momijidani-Teien Garden) is a designated National Scenic Beauty.



Find Wakanoura's story and tourism information here!



## Wakanoura 和歌の浦

Wakanoura (recognized as a Japan Heritage site in 2017) has been loved by poets across history, appearing in their works as a deeply sought-after scenic spot. With many historic landmarks, including the Kishu-Toshogu Shrine and Furobashi Bridge, the area offers a taste of history.

## Saikazaki 雑賀崎

With houses tightly crowded on a steep hill and a fishing harbor, Saikazaki has a unique landscape. Narrow stairways and alleyways from the past draw a labyrinthine path through the town. Visitors can experience the nostalgic life and culture of a fishing village.



## Tomogashima Islands

友ヶ島

Uninhabited islands northwest of Wakayama City, where visitors can enjoy beautiful nature hikes. Retired military facilities stand engulfed in nature, making for a unique atmosphere.

From themed trains to hot springs, Wakayama City is filled with fun, cute, and pleasant adventures.



Stationmaster Tama's Train  
Designed by Eiji Mitooka+Don Design Associates



Medetai (happy) Train



Outdoor hot spring

## my secret Wakayama

Find tourism information for Wakayama City here!





# Cuisine

## Wakayama Ramen

和歌山ラーメン

A comfort food locally referred to as "chukasoba," Wakayama Ramen finds its origins in Wakayama City's street stalls from the mid-Showa period (mid-1940s). While the traditional pork and soy sauce infused broth remains popular, stores have recently been developing their own unique recipes. Try enjoying your ramen alongside hayazushi (salted mackerel nigiri) and hard-boiled eggs, a local tradition.



## Shirasu (whitebait) Donburi

しらす丼

Fresh seafood is a specialty of Wakayama City, with shirasu, sea bream and prawns available in the surrounding waters. Wakame and nori seaweed are also popular.

## Japanese Sake

日本酒

Thanks to its mild climate, Wakayama has an abundance of fruit. Try our popular fruit wine, produced with sake and fruit from Wakayama Prefecture.



## Matcha Ice Cream

抹茶アイス

The world's first matcha-flavored ice cream was created in Wakayama City. Known locally as "Green Soft," it is a long-loved product.

Wakayama City bursts at the seams with local ramen, Japanese food, and long-established Western-style restaurants!



## my secret Wakayama

Find more information about Wakayama cuisine here!





# Sports



## Wakayama Jazz Marathon 和歌山ジャズマラソン

Wakayama Jazz Marathon, the largest sporting event of Wakayama City, is Japan's first music marathon that fuses running with jazz. Runners make their way through the picturesque city, experiencing firsthand the history and culture of Wakanoura: a Japanese Heritage site and a "treasure house of scenic beauty."



## Cycling サイクリング

Wakayama City is the gateway to Wakayama Prefecture, located near Kansai International Airport and the Nankai Ferry to Tokushima (Shikoku). It also marks the end point of the Pacific Cycling Road and the starting point of several other routes, making it an ideal location for cycling.

## Surfing サーフィン

Isonoura Beach, visited by about 400,000 people annually, is one of the best surfing spots in western Japan, attracting a range of surfers from beginners to experts.



## Sailing セーリング

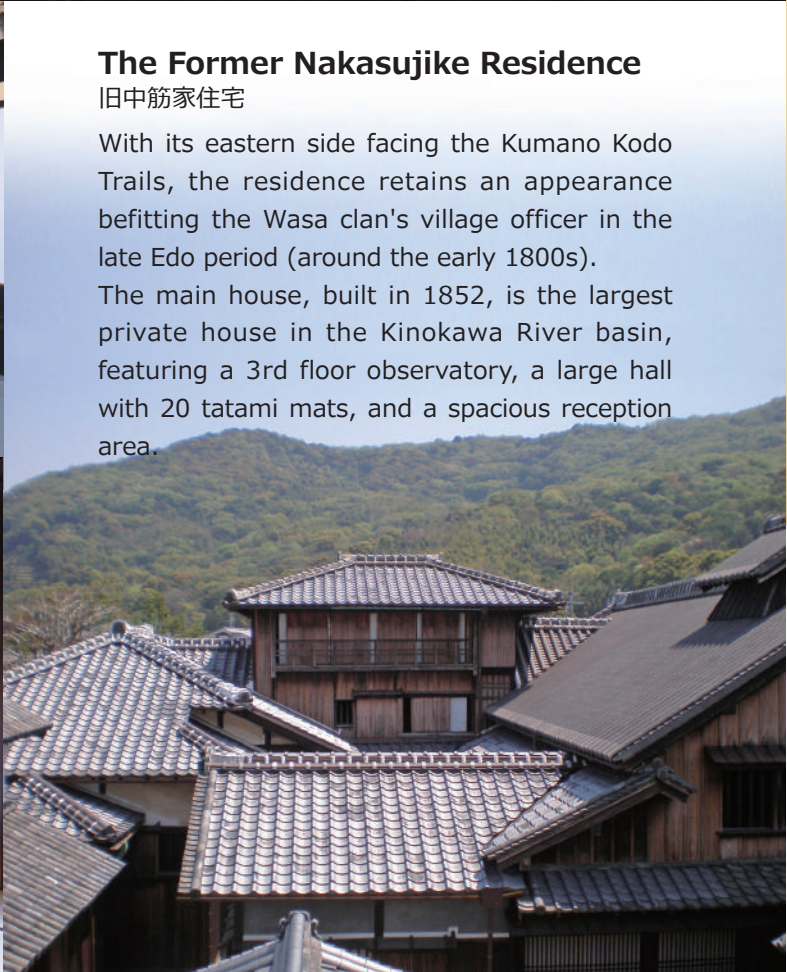
Sailing depends on your ability to actively predict the wind and waves. Wakayama Marina City is home to the Wakayama Sailing Center, a training location for Olympic sailors and a venue for the All Japan High School Athletic Federation.

Affectionately called "Isoko" by the locals, Isonoura Beach has distinctive beach break waves that appeal to surfers.





# Culture



## The Former Nakasujike Residence

旧中筋家住宅

With its eastern side facing the Kumano Kodo Trails, the residence retains an appearance befitting the Wasa clan's village officer in the late Edo period (around the early 1800s). The main house, built in 1852, is the largest private house in the Kinokawa River basin, featuring a 3rd floor observatory, a large hall with 20 tatami mats, and a spacious reception area.



## Minato-goten Palace 湊御殿

Located in the Minato district on Wakayama Castle's west side, Minato-goten was a palace for the Kishu feudal lords. It was constructed during the reign of Tokugawa Mitsusada, Kishu's 2nd feudal lord. Although it burned down several times, the palace was rebuilt in 1834 by Tokugawa Nariyuki, the 11th Kishu feudal lord. It is said to have been a spacious and luxurious building modeled after the Honmaru Palace of Edo Castle and the Kishu domain's Edo residence. Currently, a part of the palace has been relocated for preservation.

## Ariyoshi Sawako Memorial Museum

有吉佐和子記念館

Wakayama-born and best-selling author, Ariyoshi Sawako, produced a wide variety of novels on themes such as Japanese history and society. Located in her restored residence, the museum exhibits materials related to Ariyoshi, offering visitors a glimpse into her personality and the atmosphere surrounding her writing.



Permanent Exhibition Hall

Illustrated by Tokugawa Narikatsu  
Willow tree and heron

## Wakayama City Museum

和歌山市立博物館

The museum houses numerous materials that narrate Wakayama's history. Permanent exhibits include materials related to the Kishu Tokugawa family, introducing the area's history and culture. In addition, the museum holds special exhibitions with different themes each year.

Wakayama-Jo Hall opened in October 2021. A cultural center where citizens can create and share their work, the hall is a symbol of Wakayama City's art, promoting international exchange and transmitting a lively scene to the world.



Wakayama-Jo Hall's roof is the perfect photo spot for Wakayama Castle!





# Craftsmanship

## Wakayama Knit

和歌山ニット

The history of Wakayama knitting production spans over 100 years, since the Meiji period.

Thread to thread, person to person, connecting and supporting each other, Wakayama Knit continues evolving each day, knitting tradition with the future.



To differentiate themselves from other producers, the Wakayama Knit Industry Association and Wakayama Knit Industrial Cooperative have established an original brand logo. They are also developing new sales channels while disseminating information at home and abroad.



## Wakayama Knit

和歌山ニット

The Wakayama Knit Industry Association boasts over 50 member companies in a variety of industries and fields of expertise, including knitters who knit raw fabric prior to dyeing and finishing, experts in dyeing and sewing, as well as companies that handle textiles and finished products.

## Kishu Tansu (traditional chests)

紀州箆笥

Kishu Tansu have been designated as a traditional craft by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry. It is supposed that the chests were being produced in Wakayama City in the late Edo period (1850s). The Kishu Paulownia Tansu Cooperative is pioneering a new path for traditional Japanese furniture by passing on techniques to successors, and designing and manufacturing innovative products.



Symbol of Tradition  
RS-003

※ Kishu Tansu that have passed inspection by local associations etc., are affixed with a seal of authenticity bearing this symbol.



## Leather 皮革

Along with Hyogo and Tokyo, Wakayama is one of the three major centers of Japan's leather industry. Although few in number, each company features unique leather products. The Wakayama Leather Industry Cooperative is central to promoting the industry, actively distributing information and participating in domestic and international exhibitions.

Wakayama City is home to Japan's last wooden tambourine production plant, dominating the industry's educational market share for kindergartens and elementary schools.



## The Story of Wakayama City Craftsmanship

Read the story from the city website!

Only in Japanese





# Agriculture and Fishing Industry



## Shikinosato Park · Food Hunter Park 「道の駅 四季の郷公園」 FOOD HUNTER PARK

Wakayama's roadside station, Shikinosato Park · Food Hunter Park, has a market and cafeteria where you can enjoy Wakayama cuisine, barbecue facilities, and a playground.



Find more information here!  
Only in Japanese



## Young Ginger and Wakayama Nunohiki Radishes

新しょうが・わかやま布引だいこん

Wakayama City is one of Japan's largest producers of young ginger. Grown in sandy soil, young ginger is juicy, has a smooth texture, a fresh aroma, and beautiful contrasting colors of white and pink.

Wakayama Nunohiki Radishes (GI reg, 2021.5) grow straight and are white with a fine-texture. They are characterized by their juiciness and softness.

## Red Sea Bream

真鯛

Caught around the Tomogashima Islands, Kada's red sea bream are nurtured by the fast currents of the Kitan Strait, making their flesh firm, and giving them the highest reputed texture among natural red sea bream.



## Ashiaka Ebi (Red Foot Prawns)

アシアカエビ

This prawn gets its name from the reddish-brown color of its antennae and legs. Sweet and delicious in flavor, its tender meat is a favorite among professional chefs.

The Wakayama City Central Wholesale Market offers fresh fish and produce, as well as food, beverages, and retail!





