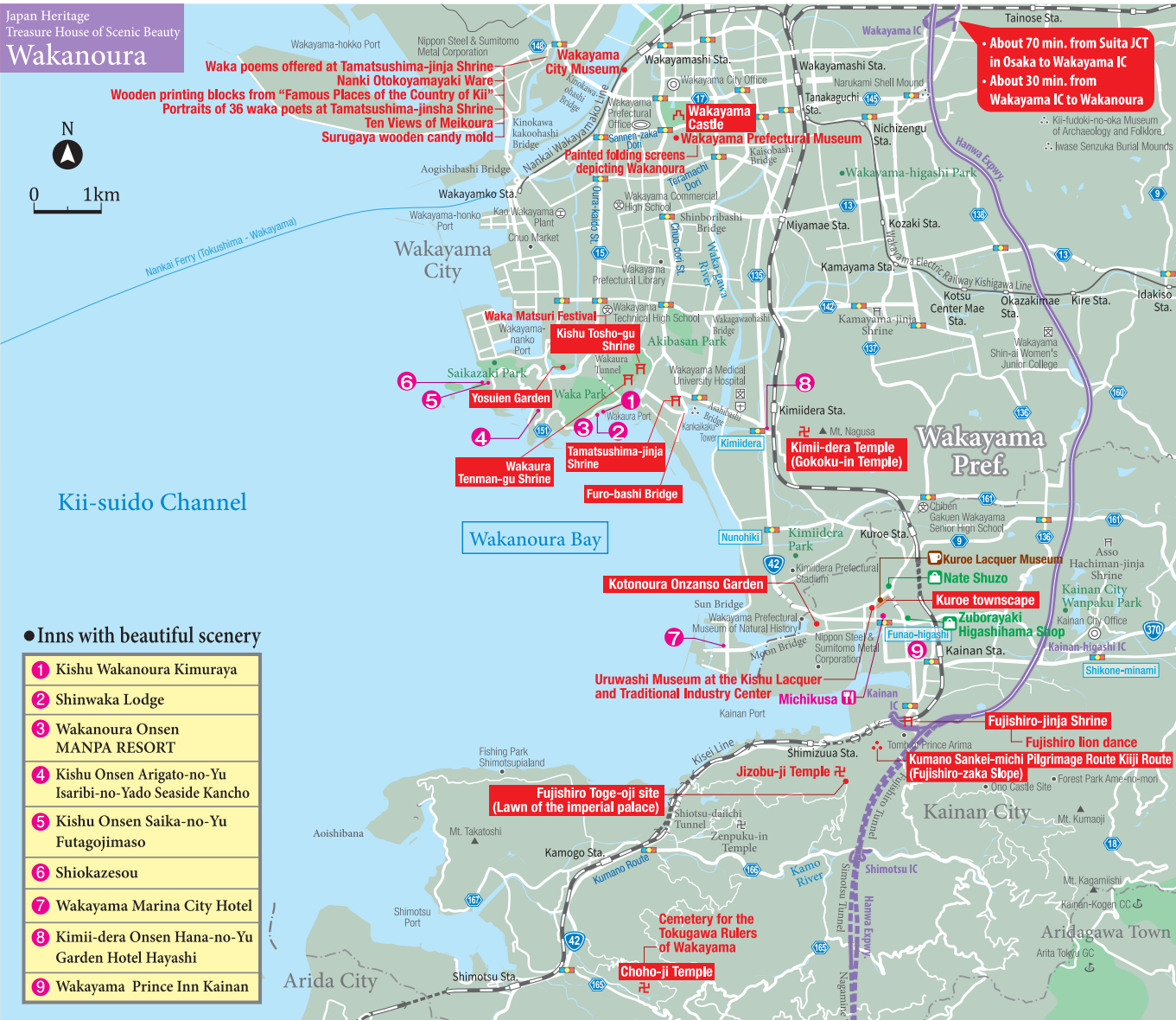


◎Japan Heritage Treasure House of Scenic Beauty: Wakanoura Regional map

Wakanoura is an area lying on the Wakaura Bay to the south of the city of Wakayama. This history-rich and scenic region stretches from Cape Saikazaki in the west to Fujishiro-zaka Slope on the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage route in the south.



◎Getting to Wakanoura

Rail	
●From Osaka	●From Nara
Shin Osaka Station	Nara Station
↓ About 1 hr. via limited express service on the JR Hanwa Line	↓ About 1 hr. 30 min. via limited express service on the JR Yamatoji Line and Hanwa Line
Wakayama Station	Wakayama Station
↓ About 10 min. via limited express service on the JR Kisei Line	●From major sightseeing destinations in Wakayama Prefecture
Kainan Station	Shingu Station
	↓ About 1 hr. 50 min. via limited express service on the JR Kisei Line
Namba Station	Shirahama Station
↓ About 1 hr. via limited express service on the Nankai Line	↓ About 1 hr. 20 min. via limited express service on the JR Kisei Line
Wakayamashi Station	Kainan Station
	↓ About 10 min. via limited express service on the JR Kisei Line
Kansai International Airport	Wakayama Station
↓ About 45 min. via the JR Kansai-airport Line and Hanwa Line (change trains at Hineno Station)	
↓ About 40 min. via shuttle bus	
Wakayama Station	
Kansai International Airport	
↓ About 40 min. via the Nankai Airport Line and Nankai Line (change trains at Izumisano Station)	
Wakayamashi Station	

By car
●From Kyoto
Kyoto-minami IC
↓ About 30 km. (about 20 min.) via the Meishin Expressway
Suita JCT
↓ About 28 km. (about 30 min.) via the Kinki Expressway
Matsubara JCT
↓ About 60 km. (about 40 min.) via the Hanwa Expressway
Wakayama IC
↓ About 13 km. (about 10 min.) via the Hanwa Expressway
Kainan IC
↓ About 2 km. (about 5 min.) via the Hanwa Expressway
Shimotsu IC

Overnight long-distance bus		
Route	Operator	Travel time
Tokyo (Shinjuku/Tokyo Station) to Wakayama (JR Wakayama Station/Nankai Wakayamashi Station)	Nankai Bus, Gobo Nankai Bus, etc.	9 hr. 30 min. to 10 hr.
Kaihinmakuhari/Yokohama to Wakayama	Wakayama Bus, etc.	9 hr. 25 min. to 11 hr. 20 min.

Ferry		
Route	Operator	Travel time
Tokushima Port to Wakayama Port	Nankai Ferry	2 hr. to 2 hr. 15 min.



Japan Heritage
Treasure House of Scenic Beauty: Wakanoura
Official website
<http://wakanoura-nihonisan.jp/en/>



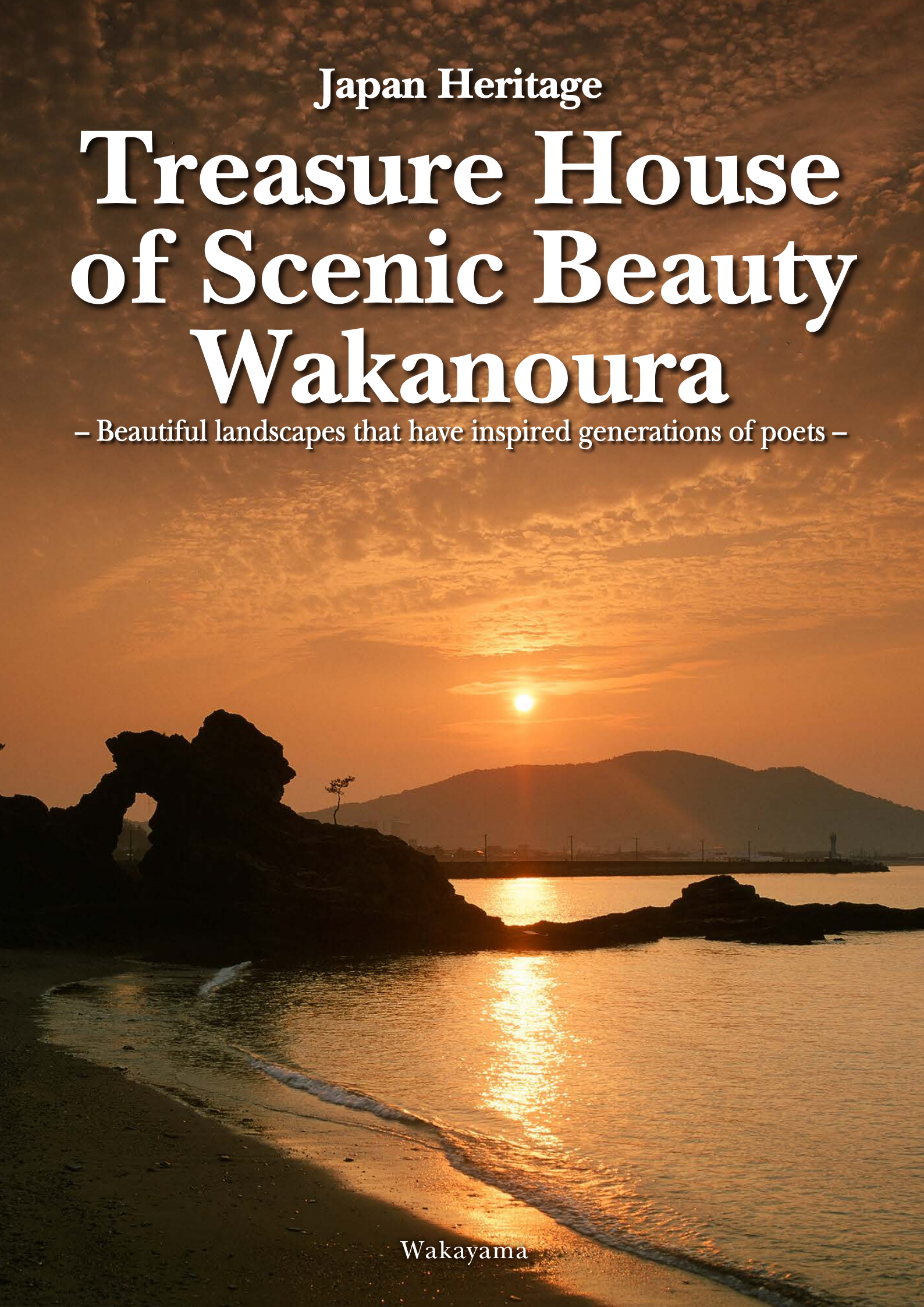
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- Conference on Promoting Use of Wakanoura Japan Heritage (part of the Wakayama Prefecture Tourism Promotion Section)
- ☎073-441-2424
- Wakayama City Tourist Association ☎073-433-8118
- Kainan City Sightseeing Association ☎073-483-8461

[Cover photograph] The morning sun glows behind Horai-iwa Rock.

Japan Heritage Treasure House of Scenic Beauty Wakanoura

– Beautiful landscapes that have inspired generations of poets –



Wakayama

Treasure House of Scenic Beauty

Wakanoura

Japan
Heritage

Famous for their beautiful scenery since the Man'yo era, the landscapes of Wakanoura have been praised in poetry and earned the area status as a sacred site for *waka* poetry. The appearance of the place, which changes from moment to moment as the tide ebbs and flows, is beautiful enough to make you forget the very passage of time itself.

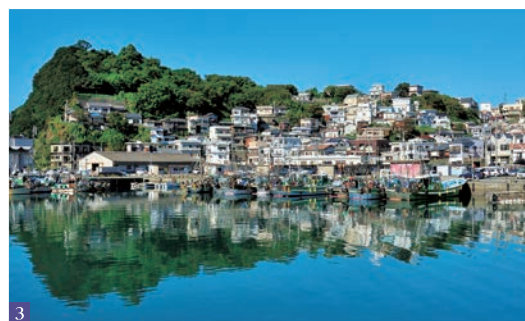
Sunrise over Wakanoura as seen from Mt. Nagusa. The beauty of the scene is enough to pull at your heartstrings.



1



2



3

- 1 Kankaikaku Tower, located on Mt. Imose, was built by Tokugawa Yorinobu as a tower on the water from which he could worship Kimii-dera Temple from afar.
- 2 The unique scenery of Cape Saikazaki, whose steep hills are packed with buildings
- 3 The view of Bandoko Teien Garden from Cape Saikazaki. The scene has a big-sky, dynamic feel.

Wakanoura is a place of scenic landscapes centered around the tidal flats of the Waka-gawa River estuary to the south of the city of Wakayama, extending to Cape Saikazaki, the Kumano Sankei-michi Pilgrimage Route Kii Route and Fujishiro-zaka Slope. Its beauty has been beloved of writers and artists like Man'yo poets Yamabe no Akahito and Kakinomoto no Hitomaro. Its moving, lyrical scenery has enchanted people of all eras and given rise to a wide variety of art.

The scenery around six rocky mountains known as Mt. Tamatsushima is particularly elegant. At the base of Mt. Tengu, whose majestic scenery was loved by Emperor Shomu, lies Tamatsushima-jinja Shrine, which enshrines the gods of *waka* poetry. Along with a two-storied pagoda, Kankaikaku Tower floats above the ocean against the backdrop of Mt. Imose, and the area is dotted with structures related to the ruling household of Kishu Tokugawa, including Furo-bashi Bridge, which forms a beautiful arch over the water's surface, and Kishu Tosho-gu Shrine, a site located halfway up Mt. Gongen that includes a magnificent shrine building.

"Treasure House of Scenic Beauty: Wakanoura," a narrative built from the tangible and intangible properties of Wakanoura, was approved as Japan Heritage by the Agency for Cultural Affairs in April 2017. The narrative conveys to us the wonderful nature of not only Wakanoura's scenic landscapes, but also the area's traditional culture and legacy. Why not consider visiting this beautiful place in search of an exciting ambience that frees you from the concerns of everyday life?

What is Japan Heritage?

Japan Heritage is a program of the Agency for Cultural Affairs that certifies narratives about Japan's culture and traditions through the historic appeal and unique characteristics of different regions of the country. Established in 2015, the program seeks to revitalize regional communities through the comprehensive use of a variety of appealing tangible and intangible cultural assets that are essential in the telling of associated narratives. To date, a total of 54 Japan Heritage sites, including "Treasure House of Scenic Beauty: Wakanoura," have been approved (as of August 31, 2017).



JAPAN HERITAGE
日本遺産



Japan Heritage cultural properties

1 Tamatsushima-jinja Shrine

Tamatsushima-jinja Shrine enshrines Sotoorihime no Mikoto, the god of waka poetry. Mt. Tengu behind the shrine affords a panoramic view of the waters of Wakanoura, and it is said that Emperor Shomu was moved by the sight.

2 Wakanoura Tenman-gu shrine

This shrine enshrines Sugawara no Michizane, whom legend holds visited Wakanoura on his way to Dazaifu. The main hall and two-story gate are the work of Heinouchi Masanobu, a master builder and official carpenter of the Edo shogunate.

3 Gokoku-in Temple (Kimii-dera Temple)

Gokoku-in Temple is the second stop on the Saigoku Kannon Pilgrimage's 33 temples. Located halfway up Mt. Nagusa to the east of the Waka-gawa River's tidal flats, it is famous for its panoramic views of the surrounding scenery.

4 Kuroe townscape

This community built on the shores of an inlet that was known in ancient times as the "tidal flats of black cattle" prospered by producing lacquerware during the Edo period. Today rows of latticed houses make up a distinctive townscape.

5 Kotonoura Onzanso Garden

Encompassing almost 60,000 square meters, this expansive garden was built during the Taisho period by Osaka businessman Chojiro Nitta. The circuit-style garden and seawater-fed pond are open to visitors, along with the inside of main house.

6/7 Fujishiro-jinja Shrine and Kumano Sankei-michi Pilgrimage Route Kii Route

Fujishiro-jinja Shrine stands at the site of a subsidiary shrine where retired emperors and nobles held poetry parties and offered up sacred music and dance to the gods. The lawn of the imperial palace located at the top of the mountain, which is accessed by climbing Fujishiro-zaka Slope on the Kumano Sankei-michi Pilgrimage Route, is an excellent vantage point from which to enjoy the scenic beauty of Wakanoura.

8 Kishu Tosho-gu Shrine

This shrine was built by Yorinobu of the Kishu Tokugawa family, the first ruler of the Kishu domain, to enshrine his father Iyasu. It is known as the "Nikko of the Kansai region" for its gorgeously decorated main building, which dates to the Momoyama period.

9 Waka Matsuri Festival

The Waka Matsuri Festival, a regular celebration that has been passed down since the time Kishu Tosho-gu Shrine was founded, is held on the second Sunday of May most years (sometimes the day is changed). During the event, a portable shrine is carried down the 108 stone steps of the pilgrimage route as part of a procession that snakes its way through the town.

10 Yosuien Garden

This magnificent garden is laid out so that it is complemented by the landscape of Mt. Takatsushi and a number of other nearby mountains. As a daimyo garden, it is extremely rare in its use of the shiiori design, in which the pond is fed with seawater.

11 Furo-bashi Bridge

This bridge was constructed at the order of Harutomi, the 10th lord of the Kishu domain, in 1851. The balusters feature beautiful engravings with a cloud pattern.

12 Choho-ji Temple

The main hall, two-storied pagoda, and gate of this temple, which was built by the order of Emperor Ichijo, have been designated National Treasures. It serves as the family temple of the Kishu Tokugawa, and its grounds include a mausoleum holding the remains of generations of rulers from the family.

13 Wakayama Castle

Built at the order of Toyotomi Hideyoshi by his younger brother Hidenaga, Wakayama Castle was occupied by the Kishu Tokugawa family. Its keep atop Mt. Torafusu provides sweeping views of the city of Wakayama below.

