

So much charm!

G Y O D A

Trip Guide



Saitama
Prefecture

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Gyoda City received the Japan Heritage designation as "Gyoda, Town of Tabigura-storehouses" that continues to support Japanese Kimono Culture from the feet, in April 2017 first in Saitama Prefecture.

All sorts of history and nature!

Why not make a visit to Gyoda?



Recommendation!

Sightseeing Spots in Historical Gyoda

Oshi Castle Site,
Sakitama Kofun Cluster,
Ancient Lotus Park
Gyoda Hachiman Shrine, Sakitama Shrine

Recommendation!

Walk around and try the local food!

Furai, Zeri furai

Historical Gyoda Sightseeing Spots

Explore the history and ancient stories that fill the streets in Gyoda!!



Gyoda City Museum: 17-23 Honmaru, Gyoda City Phone: 048-554-5911 Admission: Adults 200 yen, college and high-school students 100 yen, middle and elementary school students 50 yen Parking: 61cars Open hours: 9:00-16:30 (last entry 16:00) Closed: Mondays, day following national holidays, fourth Friday of each month, year-end and New Year holidays Not closed on national holidays except New Year's Day, Saturday and Sunday following national holidays, for special events

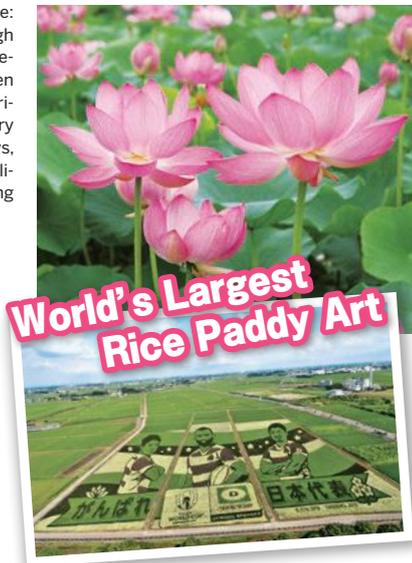
A famous lotus blossom site



Ancient Lotus Park

Ancient Lotus Museum: 2375-1 Kobari, Gyoda City Phone: 048-559-0770 Admission: Adults including college and high school students 400 yen, children including middle and elementary school students 200 yen Parking: 490 cars Open hours: 9:00-16:30 (last entry 16:00), lotus-flowering period (from late June to early August) 7:00-16:30 (last entry 16:00) Closed: Mondays, day following national holidays, year-end and New Year holidays Not closed on national holidays except New Year's Day, Saturday and Sunday following national holidays, during the lotus-flowering period

Here in Gyoda, you can enjoy the mysterious beauty of "Gyoda-hasu", ancient lotus flowers, which have awoken from a long slumber of 2,000 years. In this park, you can see some 120,000 lotus plants of 42 types blooming all over the ponds from late June to early August. If you go up the observation tower of the Ancient Lotus Museum on the premises between mid-July and mid-October, you can appreciate a magnificent work of "rice-paddy art" spreading over the fields. It's a huge picture painted on the canvas of rice paddies depicting people, patterns, letters, and so on, using different kinds of rice plants.



The largest cluster of ancient tombs in eastern Japan



Sakitama Kofun Park

Sakitama Prefectural Museum of the Sakitama Ancient Burial Mounds: 4834 Sakitama, Gyoda City Phone: 048-559-1111 Admission: Adults 200 yen, college and high school students 100 yen, free for elementary and middle school students Parking: 303 cars Open hours: 9:00-16:30 (last entry 16:00), July and August: 9:00-17:00 (last entry 16:30) Closed: Mondays, year-end and New Year holidays Not closed on national holidays except New Year's Day, substitute holidays, from April 29 to May 5, November 14th



This park is located in the Sakitama area in Gyoda City, which is the origin of the name of Saitama Prefecture. It consists of a group of nine large burial mounds built between the 5th and 7th century and was designated as a National Special Historic Site in 2019. Saitama Prefectural Museum of the Sakitama Ancient Burial Mounds is also in the park, and you can see some national treasures, including the "Kinsakumei Tekken", a gold-inlaid iron sword. You can experience making "haniwa" clay figures at the House of Gyoda Haniwa.

A castle that symbolizes the glorious history of the fertile region



Oshi Castle Site

Oshi Castle, which is considered one of the seven main strongholds of the Kanto region, was first built by the Narita clan in the second half of the 15th century in the Muromachi Period. Toward the end of the Warring States Period in the late 16th century, when Toyotomi Hideyoshi was nearing consolidation of power over the Kanto Region, this castle bravely withstood the "flooding attack" by Ishida Mitsunari, one of Hideyoshi's retainers. This episode is depicted in the novel "Nobo-no-shiro", and its screen version attracted a lot of viewers. Today, the three-story turret of the castle, "Gosankai Yagura", houses exhibition rooms of the Gyoda City Museum, and you can enjoy a great view of the city from the top of the tower.

Sakitama Shrine



5450 Sakitama, Gyoda City Phone: 048-559-0464 Parking: 20 cars Reception open: 9:30-16:00 *Open all day for just visiting and praying.

Sakitama Shrine, which has a history of one thousand and some hundreds of years, is filled with an atmosphere of solemn magnificence and calmness. The name of Saitama prefecture is derived from this shrine. The main building is located on top of a small burial mound which is 8.7 meters high and 92 meters in circumference. This shrine worships two deities, Sakita-



ma-hime-no-mikoto and Sakitama-hiko-no-mikoto, who are believed to protect and bring good luck to people as well as help match making. These days, the special red-ink stamp "goshuin" of this shrine, which features the four cats living on the precinct, are especially popular. You can get the stamp during several days including the 22nd of each month.

Always packed with things to see!

Gyoda City Event, Flower Calendar

January

February

March

April

May

June

■ First sunrise of the new year (Observation Tower)

Ume (Japanese apricot) blossoms
mid-February to late March

Ancient Lotus Park

Robai (winter sweet) blossoms
mid-January to late February

Ancient Lotus Park



Cherry blossoms
late March to early April

Sakitama Kofun Park
Ancient Lotus Park
Oshi Castle Site
Suijo Park etc.



■ Tekken (iron sword) Marathon (Ancient Lotus Park)

■ Gyoda Spring Festival (Suijo Park)

■ Sakitama Fire Festival (Sakitama Kofun Park)



Ancient Lotus

late June to early July



Walk around and try the local food!

Furai looks like Okonomiyaki and Zeri furai is a croquett made of potatoes and soy pulp. We are proud of those traditional tastes. They are often featured on TV and magazines.

Why called "Furai (fried)" though not deep fried?

We call the stuff furai that is made of flour with green onions, pork, chicken and eggs fried up into a thin pizza-like piece on the iron pan. They are good seasoned with soy sauce or okonomiyaki sauce.

Gyoda city is located in the north part of Saitama prefecture that has been famous for wheat since a long time ago. Farmers have had "Furai" between meals as a snack. In the first half of the 20th century in the Showa Period, Tabi factories in Gyoda were at their height in business. Among the female workers there, "Furai" became a big hit for they were very busy and they were able to eat "Furai" easily and quickly. More furai stands have opened since then and now there are more than 30 stands and restaurants in the city.

Okonomiyaki sauce flavored "Zeri furai".

Zeri furai looks like a croquett without frying coat. Originally it was said to be a kind of vegetable buns or Yasai Manju that came from China during the Russo-Japanese war. It contains potatoes, green onions, carrots and a lot of soy pulp. It's very healthy, and high in fiber. Both adults and children in Gyoda love the chewy texture with okonomiyaki sauce flavor.



Kozeni chan and Furabei are Gyoda mascots.

Kozeni chan



Furabei

Kozeni chan is named after zeri furai because zeri came from Zeni, which means small coins. Furabei is named after furai. Both two mascots are trying hard to have two soul foods of Gyoda famous all through Japan.



Gyoda Hachiman Shrine



16-23 Gyoda, Gyoda city Phone: 048-554-5926
Parking: 106 cars Reception open: 10:00-12:00, 13:00-16:00
*Open all day for just visiting and praying.

Gyoda Hachiman Shrine is called "Sealing off shrine", which is good at sealing off crying of babies at night, short temperedness of children, cancers, bad diseases, dementia of the old. The praying skills of sealing off these problems have been inherited as their secret treasures. In the yard, they have other shrines such as one for bad eyes; and Kasamoriinari sha, which is good for turning eczema into beautiful skins; Ookuninushi shrine that worships Ookuninushi, one of the 7 lucky gods of Oshi Castle's. Furthermore these days Nademomo or a stroking peach golden statue, has appeared. It is known as a power spot. They also have a god famous for avoiding diseases and bad accidents.



Gyoda Specialty Products Tabi socks

Tabi socks, the principal product of Gyoda city which gains the top market share in Japan.

In Gyoda area, cotton and indigo-dyed textile were produced, and they were used to manufacture tabi socks. In the first half of the 19th century in the Edo Period, Tabi were well known as the principal products of Gyoda.

In the 1890s in the Meiji Period, sewing machines were introduced and the production of Tabi increased. Some banks were established and thanks to the funds, tabi companies became financially stable. More electric sewing machines were introduced and Gyoda became No.1 in Japan both in name and reality. The productivity of Tabi in 1938 saw 840,000 pairs of socks, which occupied 80 % of the domestic production.

"Gyoda Tabi" was designated as one of the Traditional Crafts by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry in 2019. "Tabi producing machines and the related documents" were designated as one of the Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties in 2020.

Tabi and Lifestyle Museum

This museum recreates the appearance of a Gyoda tabi factory in its heyday. Experience tabi making demonstrations on your visit.

1-2 Gyoda, Gyoda City Phone: 048-552-1010 Admission: 200 yen (100 yen for elementary school students)
Open hours: 10:00 - 15:00 Days open: Only Saturdays and Sundays

July

August

September

October

November

December

Lotus Festival (Ancient lotus park)

Summer evening festival with floating lanterns on the water (Near Shoei Bridge of Oshikawa River on the north bank of Gyodashi Station of the Chichibu Railway)

Floating Castle Festival (Prefectural route 128<ex-National route 125>at the pedestrian mall)

A Chrysanthemum Show (Near the entrance of Gyoda City Museum)

Tori no Ichi (Atago Shrine)

Salmon run up to the Tone River (Late October to Mid-December) (The fishway window near Tone Diversion Weir)

Chambers of Commerce and Industry Festival, Oshi Castle Historical Festival (Near Gyoda City Hall, Gyoda Industry Cultural Center, Gyoda City Museum)



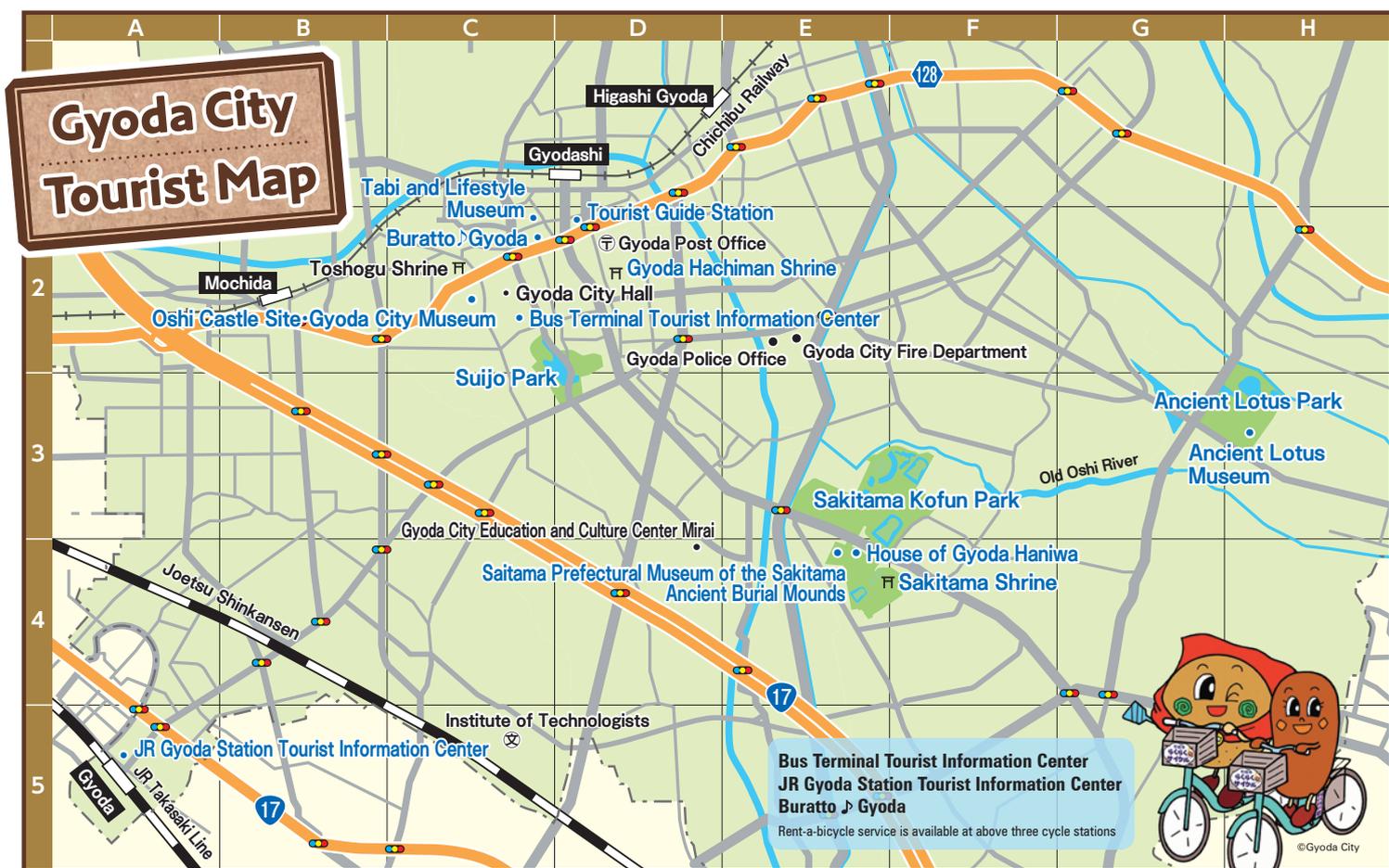
Common Water Hyacinth in full bloom (Mid-August to Mid-October)

Suijo Park



Lotus Festival August

S Park



Access to Gyoda City

By Car

Tohoku Expressway

- ➔ Hanyu Interchange: 14km, 30min. via National Route 125 (ex-National Route 125 bypass)
- ➔ Kazo Interchange: 17km, 35min. through Kazo City via Prefectural Route 128 (ex-National Route 125)

Kan-Etsu Expressway

- ➔ Hanazono Interchange: 22km, 40min. via National Route 140
- ➔ Higashi-Matsuyama: 22km, 40min. via Prefectural Route 173

Ken-O Expressway (Metropolitan Inter-City Expressway)

- ➔ Okegawa-Kitamoto Interchange: 20km, 40min. National Route 17

By Train or Bus

Joetsu Shinkansen

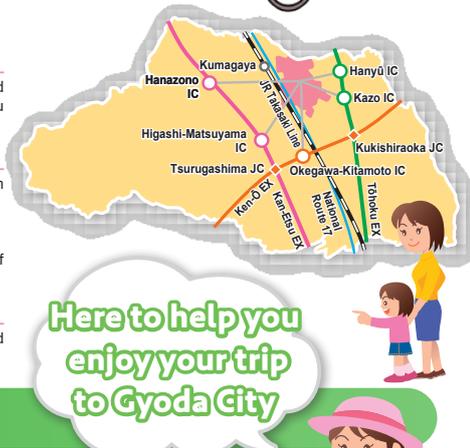
- ➔ Get off at Kumagaya Station, board the JR Takasaki Line, and then get off at Gyoda Station (4min.), or transfer to the Chichibu Railway and get off at Gyodashi Station (9min.)

JR Takasaki Line

- ➔ Kita-Konosu Station: 80min walk from the Sakitama Green Path (a sculpture path)
- ➔ Fukiage Station: Asahi Bus is available to sightseeing spots
- ➔ Gyoda Station: City bus is available to sightseeing spots
- ➔ Kumagaya Station: Transfer to the Chichibu Railway and get off at Gyodashi Station

Tobu Iseaki Line

- ➔ Get off at Hanyu Station, transfer to the Chichibu Railway and get off at Gyodashi Station



Tourist Guide Centers



Bus Terminal Tourist Information Center

The information center is located right next to the Gyoda City Bus Terminal in the heart of the city. From there you can make a sightseeing plan using tourist pamphlets and a laptop. Please feel free to use the center's rest space.

3-5 Honmaru, Gyoda City Phone: 048-554-8820
Open hours: 9:00-16:00
Days open: Every day (closed between December 29th and January 3rd)



JR Gyoda Station Tourist Information Center

Going down the stairs of the east entrance, you can find the information center nearby. There is a waiting room for city bus. Please feel free to use it.

12-1 Ichiryama, Gyoda City
Phone: 048-550-1611
Open hours: 9:00-16:00
Days open: Every day (closed between December 29th and January 3rd)



Buratto Gyoda

This is a gift shop which sells the city's special products with local materials and distinctive goods from shops in town keeping traditional taste. This also provides visitors with rent-a-bicycle service and variety of tourist information.

2-1-8 Oshi, Gyoda City Phone: 048-554-1036
Open hours: 9:00-17:00
Days open: Every day (closed between December 29th and January 3rd)



Tourist Guide Station

This is the nearest information center from Gyodashi Station, Chichibu Railway. The staff can also show you where and how to get special products of Gyoda. (operated by the Gyoda Tabi Warehouse Network NPO)

5-15 Gyoda, Gyoda City
Phone: 048-552-1010
Open hours: 10:00-16:00
Days open: Every day (closed 8/13-8/16 and 12/29-1/3)

