



Gyoda Tabi



Access [train/bus]

- Transfer to the Chichibu Railway at Kumagaya Station on the Joetsu Shinkansen and JR Takasaki Line and get off at Gyoda Station.
- Get off at Gyoda Station on the JR Takasaki Line and take the City Circular Bus.
- Get off at Fukiage Station on the JR Takasaki Line and take the Asahi Bus

Locations where rental bicycles for travelers can be hired

Oshi Castle Bus Terminal Tourist Information Center / JR Gyoda Station Tourist Information Center / Tourist Product Center "Buratto Gyoda" / Gyoda City Haniwa no Yakata

Tabi Vendors

ISAMI Co., Ltd.
GAKUYA Co., Ltd.
Kineya Tabi Co., Ltd.
Goto Tabi Limited Company
Creative Tabi Chiyonomatsu
Musashino Uniform Co., Ltd.

JAPAN HERITAGE



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On April 28, 2017, the narrative of Gyoda City as "A City of Tabi Storehouses Supporting the Kimono Culture from the Feet" was designated as the first ever example of "Japan Heritage" in Saitama Prefecture. Visitors to Gyoda can see a variety of tabi warehouses, which include earthen-walled storehouses, stone warehouses, and mortar warehouses.

Published by: Gyoda Tabi Association

Contact: Gyoda Tabi Association Secretariat (Commercial and Tourism Division, Environment and Economy Department, Gyoda City Hall)
2-20 Honmaru, Gyoda City

TEL.048-556-1111



【 Related Information 】

Museum of Tabi and Daily Life



The Museum of Tabi and Daily Life was once a tabi factory owned by Makino Honten. In 2005, the building was transformed into a museum that retains much of the factory's original appearance. In addition to holding exhibits and live performances by tabi craftworkers, the museum also sells tabi and offers visitors the opportunity to make their own original tabi.

- Address/1-2 Gyoda, Gyoda City
- Opening hours/10:00-15:00 (Saturdays and Sundays only)
- Opening days/Saturdays and Sundays (closed during the summer holidays, and from mid-December to early January in winter)
- Fee /200 yen (100 yen for elementary school students)

VERT CAFÉ (the former Oshi Town Credit Union Bank)



This Western-style wooden building was built in 1922. It was originally the founding branch of a local financial institution that was established by a group of tabi shopkeepers and supported the development of the tabi industry. The building was later relocated and is now used as a cafe.

- Address/2305 Suijokoen, Gyoda City
- Opening hours/Daytime 10:00-17:00 (last orders 16:20) ※Normal business hours
Evenings 18:00-21:00 ※Reservations required
- Closing days/Tuesdays ※Open on public holidays (closed December 29-January 3)

Tourist Product Center "Buratto Gyoda"

At this center, you will find a wide variety of local specialties such as Gyoda tabi, Minamikawara slippers, Jumangoku manju (steamed buns), Narazuke pickles, and Wataboku milk. Visitors can also choose and wear their favorite Gyoda tabi and leather-soled sandals and actually walk around the tabi warehouses to experience Japanese clothing culture in a casual manner.

- Address/
2-1-8 Oshi, Gyoda City
(1st Floor, Gyoda City Commerce and Industry Center)
- Opening hours/
9:30-17:00
- Closing days/
No holidays



• String Tabi •

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String Tabi



White Tabi

• Pattern Tabi Socks (Creative Tabi) •

In the modern era, in addition to plain tabi in colors such as white, black, and navy blue, colorfully designed patterned tabi, known as creative tabi, have been created that can be worn not only with traditional kimono, but also with everyday modern clothing.



Pattern Tabi Socks (Creative Tabi)



Han-tabi Socks
Without Kohaze Fasteners



Running Tabi (Athletic Tabi Socks)

The History of Gyoda Tabi

Gyoda tabi are specialty products manufactured in Gyoda City, Saitama Prefecture. The area immediately surrounding the city, located between two major rivers, the Tone River and the Arakawa River, has abundant water and sedimentary sandy soil. The high temperatures during the summer months allowed cotton cloth production to flourish, and the Nakasendo trail, which runs close to the city, helped Gyoda to become a famous tabi production center.

According to a local oral tradition, a certain vendor called Kameya specialized in the tabi business during the Jokyo era (1684–1688), and three tabi shops are mentioned in the Gyoda Town Illustration during the Kyoho era (1716–1735).



By the time of the Tenpo era (1830–1844), the number of tabi shops had increased to 27.



In the modern era, the demand for tabi exploded, and the Gyoda tabi industry expanded its sales channels to the Tohoku region and Hokkaido. Special sewing machines were introduced for each step of the tabi production process, and the economic expansion fueled by the Russo-Japanese War led to a boom in the construction of tabi factories.



Then, in the early Showa era (1926–1989), when over 200 tabi shops coexisted in the city, the industry in Gyoda reached its peak and the city flourished as the leading tabi production area in the country.

Even today, when modern socks are mainstream foot coverings, tabi continue to be produced in Gyoda, and many people consider Gyoda to be synonymous with tabi. In 2019, Gyoda tabi were designated as one of the Traditional Crafts by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.



1 Hikinoshi

Layer the cloth and arrange it.



2 Saidan

Cut the cloth with a mold on a cutting machine.



3 Kakedoshi

Pull the thread for attaching the kohaze fastener.



4 Osae

Secure the thread so that it does not move.



9 Shiridome

Round off the heel and staystitch in place.



8 Kounui

Sew the part that covers the top of the foot.



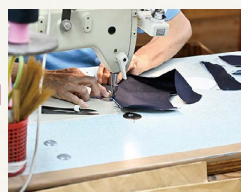
7 Hanui

Sew the outer cloth and inner lining together.



6 Kohazetsuke

Attach the kohaze fastener.



5 Hagimachi

Sew a patch to the back of the area where the kohaze fastener is to be attached.



10 Tsumanui

Sew the toe area.



11 Mawashi

Sew the rest of the tabi, except for the toes.



12 Chidori

Use zig-zag stitches to sew the outer side of the outer cloth.



13 Shiage

Shape and iron the tabi.

