

Tourist Spot Much scene Nisihinomiya



● Horaikyo Gorge

Horaikyo Gorge, located in Funasaka, Yamaguchi-cho, is a giant granite sculpture carved by nature over tens of thousands of years. There are numerous large and small cliffs called "Big Sword", "Little Sword" and "Screen Rock" and when the sun rises, the contrast of sun and shadow makes for a dazzling sight. It is a part of the Seto Inland Sea National Park.



● Maruyama Reservoir

This man-made lake was formed by damming the Funasaka River that runs between Maruyama and Hatayama mountains in the north. It has the capacity of 2.4 million cubic meters. Around the reservoir are many benches and cherry trees. Spring cherry blossoms and fall colors are beautifully reflected in the reservoir.



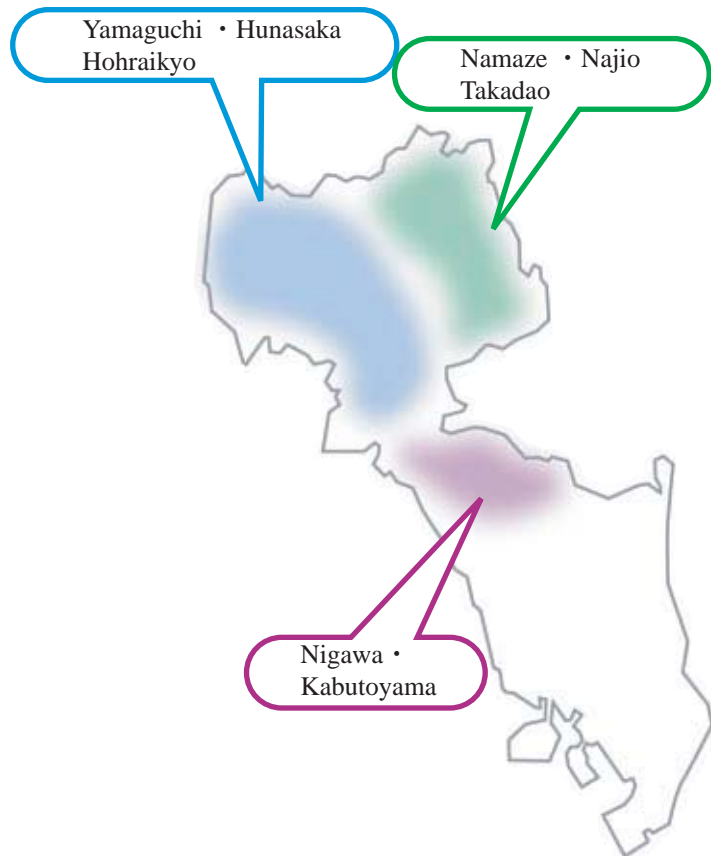
● Jokyoji Temple

This temple, located at Shiose-cho Namaze, is a very important temple which is said to have been founded in the Kamakura period. There are many precious treasures including the statue of the Amida Buddha, the Ryowaki Statutes, temple bell and documents. It is said that Namaze Bridge on the upper part of Mukogawa River was built under the direction of the founder of the temple.



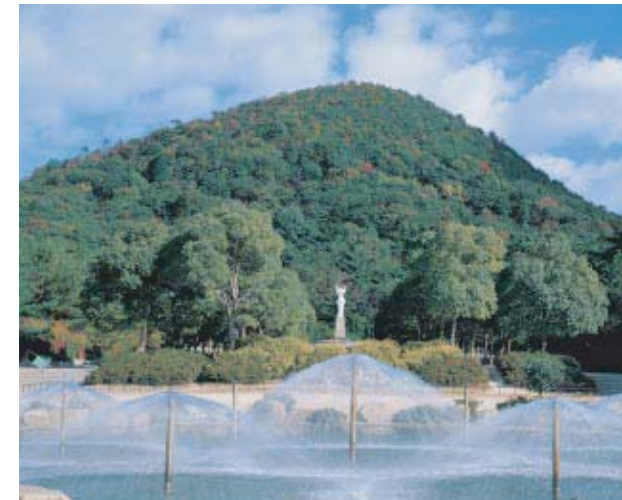
● Takedao Spa

Takedao Spa sits quietly next to the clear stream of the Mukogawa River, just upstream from Takedao station of JR Fukuchiyama line. It is said to have been discovered by Naozo Takedao more than three hundred years ago. Nature's changes with the four seasons make this rural setting a fitting place for visitors to relax as their inner sanctum.



● Kochi Jinja Shrine

Kukunochinokami, the god of tree, is enshrined and large pasania trees and oaks with white-backed leaves growing on the premises are designated as municipal natural treasures. Mikoshiden, a building where a portable shrine was once stored, is renowned for its Buddhist architecture that shows traces of the time when Shinto and Buddhism were united. It is designated as an important municipal cultural asset.



● Kabutoyama Forest Preserve

This is a 83-hectare park spread around the base of Mt. Kabutoyama. It opened in 1970 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the prefectural government. With many wild birds and the fresh air, it is a perfect place to experience the sights and sounds of a forest.



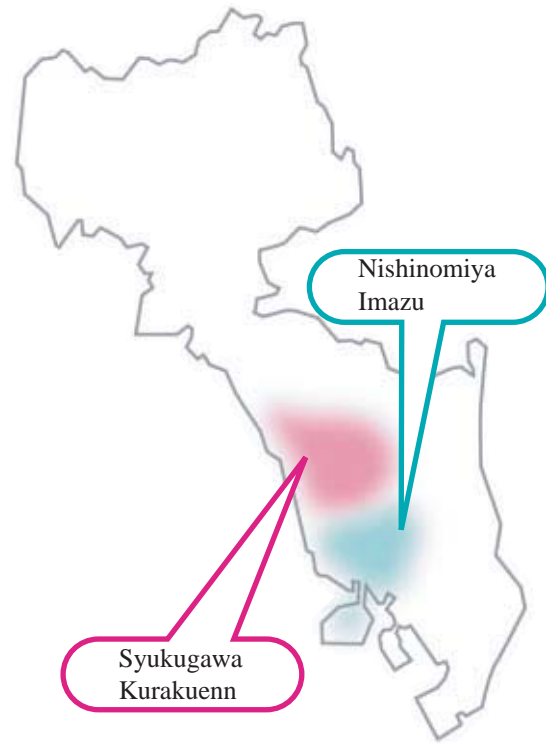
● Kannoji Temple

This temple is located at the base of Mt. Kabutoyama and offers a beautiful view of the city. The area is well known for its hiking trail. The seated figure of Nyoirin Kannon, one of the three in Japan, was designated as an important national cultural asset. It is put on display only on May 18 each year.



● **Shukugawa Park**

Lined with pine and cherry trees, Shukugawa Park is a popular site for recreation for the citizens. It is well-known in the Osaka-Kobe area as the site where spring cherry blossoms and autumn leaves are very beautiful. The views of Mt. Kabutoyama through the trees add a special flavor to the area. In 1990, the park was chosen as one of the 100 best cherry-blossom areas in Japan.



● **Nishinomiya Otani Memorial Art Museum**

This museum is popular in the area for its unique art program. It is opened in 1972 with the late Mr. Takejiro Otani's donation of his land, a building and collection to the city. The museum, with its beautiful garden and relaxed atmosphere, is regarded among citizens as a calming sanctuary.



● **Sake Museum**

In addition to the memorial hall that exhibits the late Mr. Shintaro Sasabe's collection of artworks under the cherry blossom theme, Sake Museum opened in 1998 to introduce traditional process of sake making in a sake brewery actually used in the Meiji period.



● **Koshikiwa Jinja Shrine**

This temple sits on the highest point in Kurakuenn and the same god that is enshrined in Nishinomiya Jinja Shrine, Ebisu, is enshrined here. Himeyuzuriha flowering trees within its compound are recognized as prefectural natural treasures and Okage odorizu ema, a large votive painting depicting a dancing procession of people, is a city cultural asset. The 10-meter high large rock called Koshikiwa in the compound is renowned as a protector of women.



● **Nishinomiya Battery**

Located at Koroen Beach, this cylinder-shaped stone battery was constructed in 1866 by the Edo Government at the suggestion of Katsu Kaishu in preparation of the coming of Black Ships from Europe and America. Since the Meiji period started soon after the construction, the cannon was never used. It is designated as a historic site by the national government.



● **Nishinomiya-ohashi Bridge and Yacht Harbor**

This is one of the famous harbors in Kansai area as a place from which Mr. Kenichi Horie departed to sail across the Pacific Ocean alone in 1962. The bridge, with a length of 590 meters, joins the urban district with Nishinomiya-hama, a reclaimed land in the bay. The yacht harbor was newly constructed in 1995 at the south end of this reclaimed land and became a new tourist destination.



● **Koroehama Beach**

This is one of the remaining sand beaches in the Osaka-Kobe region. On holidays and weekends, the beach is frequented by joggers and people enjoying water sports. The area is a natural treasure inhabited by shellfish, crabs, fish and seaweed and wild birds resting their wings in the shallows.



● Hirota Jinja Shrine

The Shrine catches the eye of the visitors in a stunning fashion due to its "Essence of Diety" architectural style and its richly historic background. Azaleas, kobanomitsuba tsutsuji, growing wildly in the compound bloom gloriously in spring and are designated as a prefectural natural treasure.



● Mondoyakujin-Tokoji Temple

This temple houses one of the three Japanese Gods of Misfortune, and on January 18 and 19 many people come to climb the shrine steps (42 for men and 33 for women) to make supplication to the god to ward off evil in the coming year. A Buddha who is a physician of souls is enshrined in this temple.



● Koto Plum Garden

Located in the garden of the Koto Community Center, this is one of the few well-known plum gardens in the Osaka-Kobe area. There are about 200 plum trees of 39 different varieties. Each year from mid-February to early March many people experience the "Opening of the Plum Blossoms".



● Cherry Blossoms of Manchidani

In spring, near the Manchidani cemetery, about 600 cherry trees create a special atmosphere for flower-viewing parties. Cherry trees at nearby Koshimizu Water Purification Plant are no less than those at the Osaka Mint Bureau which is also famous for cherry blossoms. The place is open to the public for walking tours during this season.



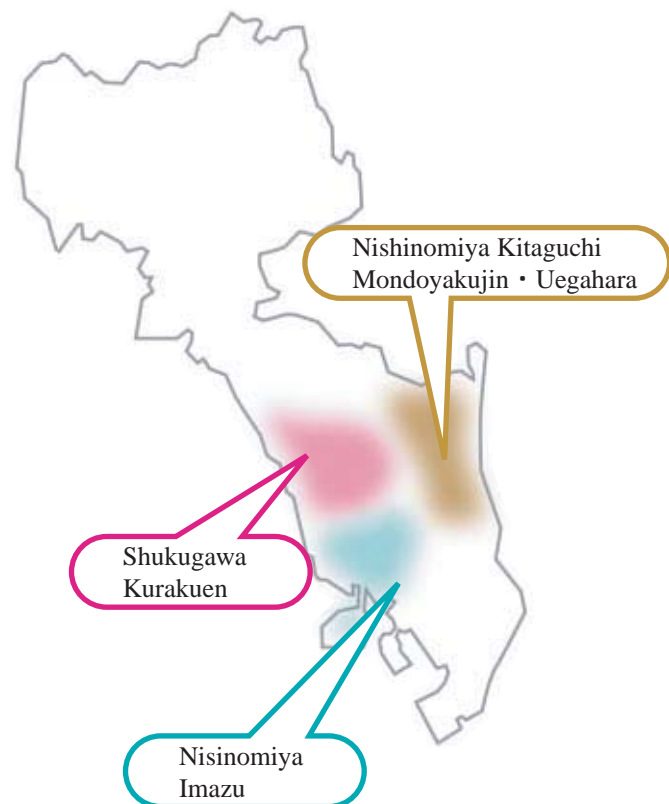
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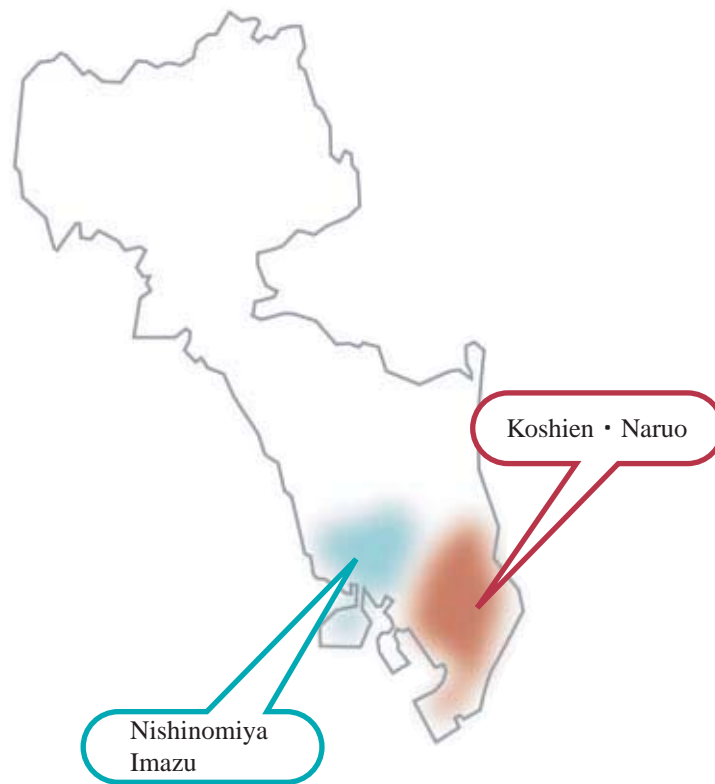
The shrine is the head temple of "Ebessan", the god of business and good fortune. During Toka-ebisu festival held between Jan. 9 and 11 each year, over a million people throng into the shrine. The earthen wall around the shrine compound, the main front gate and other features are important municipal, prefectural and national assets.



● Mukogawa Cycling Road

This is a cycling road that runs 7.1 kilometers between Ichiriyama-cho and Higashinaruo-cho along the pine tree-lined bank of the Mukogawa River. This "road where all the traffic lights are green" is popular for families on a holiday outing. There is also a jogging trail.





● Imazu Lighthouse

This wooden lighthouse was built in 1810, a latter part of the Edo period, in the shape of a garden lantern. As the oldest lighthouse in Japan that still functions, it is known as a symbol of Imazu Bay. It is designated as a city^S cultural asset.



● Koshien Baseball Stadium

The stadium was built in 1924 and the home field for the professional baseball team, Hanshin Tigers, as well as being the site for the high school baseball tournament. As it was constructed in the year of the mouse (koshi or kinone in the Chinese calendar), it was given the name Koshien. In every fall, all municipal elementary schools and junior high schools hold a joint athletic meet respectively, so the stadium is very close to the hearts of the children of Nishinomiya.