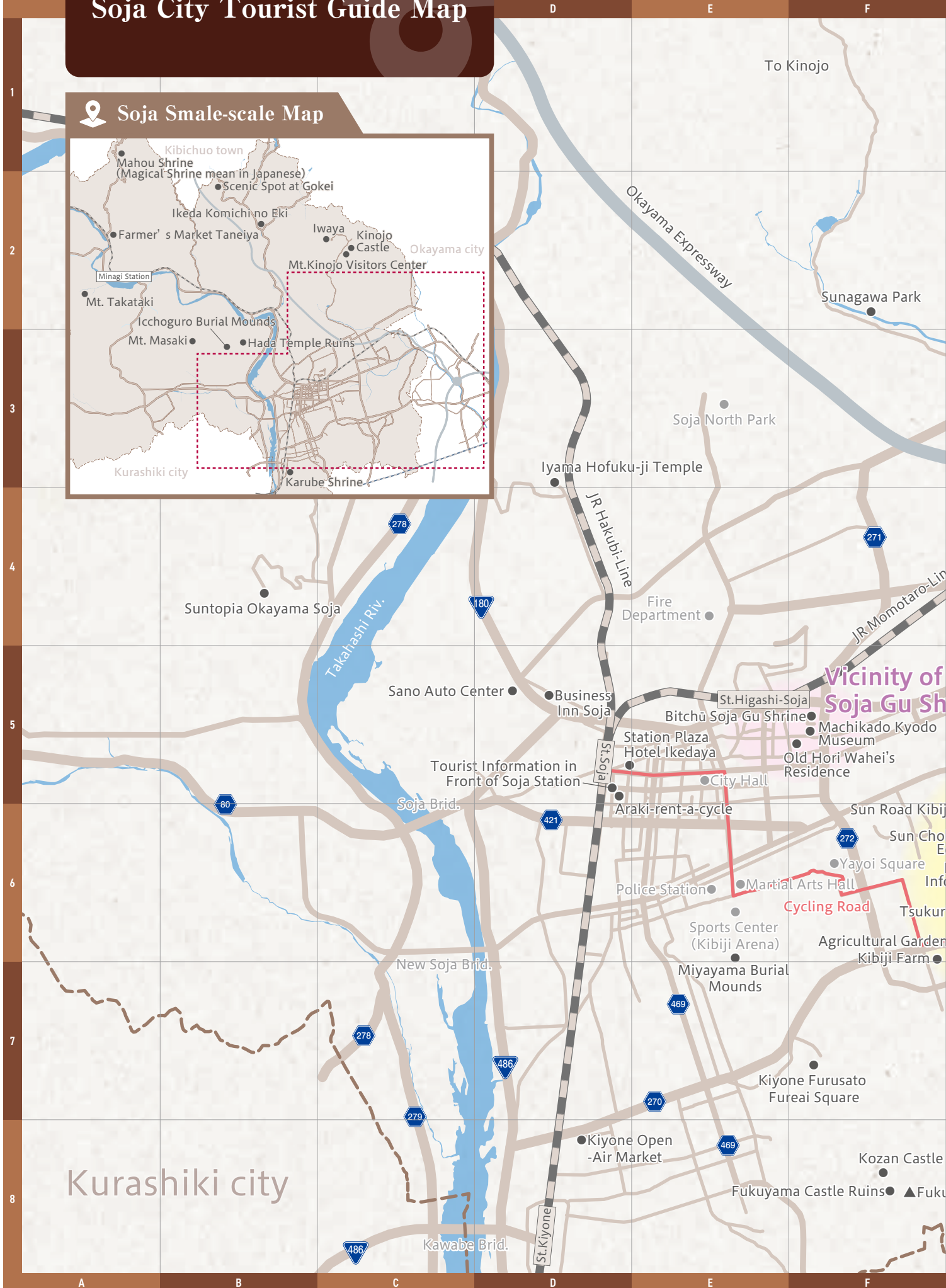
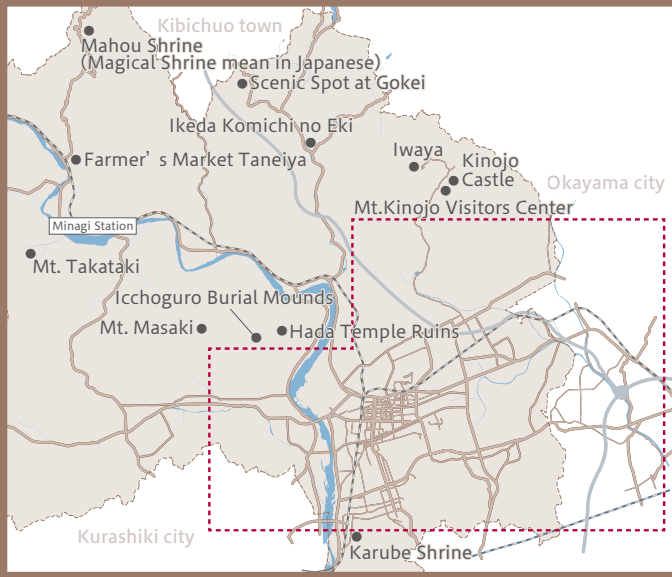


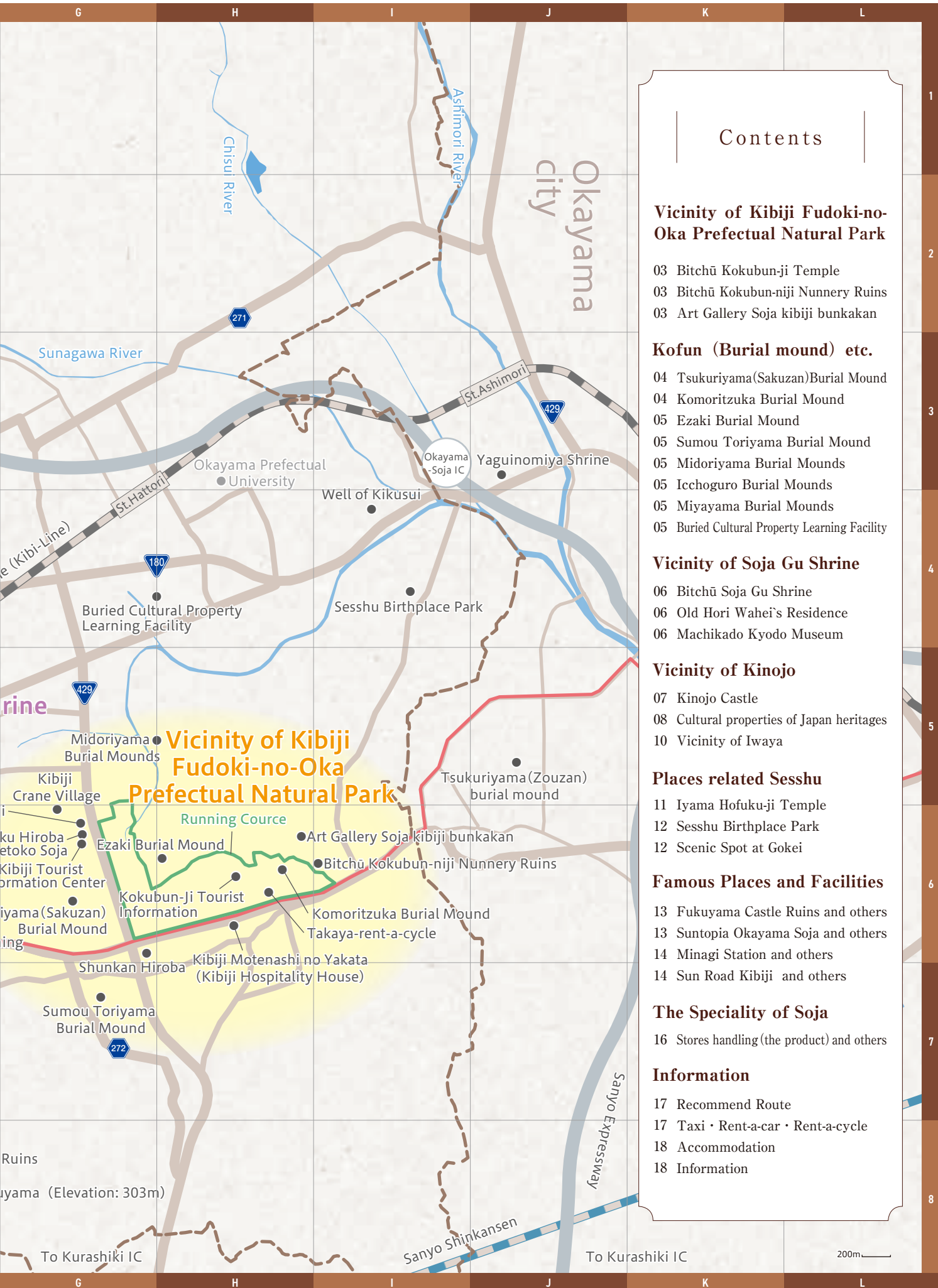
#DISCOVERYKIBIJI



Soja City Tourist Guide Map

Soja Small-scale Map





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200m

Vicinity of Kibiji Fudoki-no-Oka Prefectural Natural Park

The Kibiji region is a treasure house of ancient ruins. There are numerous burials mounds as well as precious and important cultural/historical sites that tells the story of ancient prosperity, such as the remains of Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple and Nunnery ruins.



History walk

Temple Area : Nationally designated historic site.

Building group : Prefecturally registered tangible cultural properties.

Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple | MAP >> H-6 |

Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple is one of the Kokubun-ji temples that Emperor Shōmu ordered to be established in each province of Japan. It is said that the building from that time was destroyed by fire in the Nanboku-chō period, and although the overall perspective is not clear, its grandeur in the time when it was established can be inferred from the many foundation stones remaining. The present building was reconstructed in the Edo period.



Nationally registered tangible cultural properties. | MAP >> H-6 |

Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple Five-story Pagoda

This is the only five-story pagoda in Okayama Prefecture, and it has been designated as a cultural asset of national importance. The present five-story pagoda has an overall height of 34.3 m, and a timber structure with tiled roof and bronze sōrin (the finial at the top of the pagoda).



Nationally designated historic site.

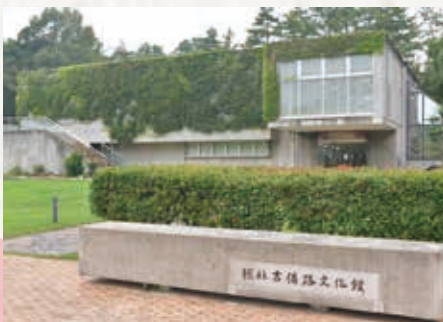
Bitchū Kokubun-niji Nunnery Ruins | MAP >> I-6 |

Bitchū Kokubun-niji Nunnery Ruins are located on the gentle hill about 700 meters east of Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple. Like Kokubun-ji temple, Kokubun-niji nunnery was built at the request of Emperor Shōmu. Currently, only traces of the building's foundation stones and earthen walls remain, but the temple area at that time is estimated to be 108 meters from east to west and 225 meters from south to north. The building has the south gate, central gate, main hall, and lecture hall, all arranged straight on the center line of the temple grounds. Based from remaining cornerstones, the main hall can be assumed to be a fairly large building.



Art Gallery Soja kibiji bunkakan | MAP >> H-6 |

We display works by the late Seikaku Takagi, a kana calligrapher and an Order of Culture recipient, as well as artworks related to Soja city. There are also photographs of historical heritage sites of Kibiji making it a perfect stop for your walk around the area.

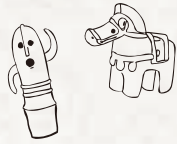


>> INFORMATION

- Opening hours: 9:00-17:00 (Admission until 16:30)
- Closed: Mondays and Year-end and New Year holidays (12/29 ~ 1/3) (may temporarily be closed due to exhibition change)
- Entrance fee: Free (charges may apply for special exhibitions)
- Contact information: Soja Kibiji Cultural Museum Kambayashi 1252, Soja City



Kofun (Burial mound) etc.



Nationally designated historic site.

Japan Heritage Cultural properties.

Tsukuriyama (Sakuzan) Burial Mound | MAP >> G-6 |

Tsukuriyama Burial Mound is located approximately 1 kilometer west of Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple. It is a three-tiered key-hole shaped burial mounds with a total length of 282 meters, and 24 meters in height. It is the second largest burial mounds in the prefecture after the Tsukuriyama(Zouzan) burial mound (4th largest in the country, located in Okayama city) and the 10th largest in the country. Based on its shape, structure, clay figures, and other features, it is thought to be the burial mound of the chieftain of Kibi, which was built around the 5th century after the Tsukuriyama (Zouzan) burial mound.



Romance beyond
time and space



The Love Story of Emperor Nintoku and Kurohime

As her name suggests, Kurohime had long, shiny black hair and was a beauty that heads turned. Rumor spread as far as the capital, and Emperor Nintoku called Kurohime to his side. The two had a strong bond and spent happy days together, but the jealousy from the princess grew so strong so that Kurohime became afraid and fled back to her birthplace, Kibi.

When the Emperor found out that Kurohime had left the imperial courts, he was devastated. Out of longing for her, he visited Kurohime under the pretense that he was going on a trip to Awaji, and they spent some intimate time together.

However, the Emperor still had to return to the capital. Poems about the pain and sadness of their love still remain today in this place.



Ancient
Tomb

Nationally designated historic site.

Japan Heritage Cultural properties.

Komoritzuka Burial Mound | MAP >> H-6 |

Komoritzuka Burial mound is a keyhole shaped burial mound with a total length of 96 meters located between Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple and Bitchū Kokubun-niji Nunnery Ruins. It is about the same scale as the Ishibutai Tumulus in Asuka village, Nara prefecture. Estimated to be built around the latter half of the 6th century, it has a large hole-shaped chamber, and is known as one of the three major stone chambers in Okayama prefecture. A house-shaped sarcophagus carved out of a Namigata stone from Ibara, is enshrined in the stone chamber. This tumulus was also called the "Kurohimezuka Burial Mound" because of the legend that it was the burial mound of "Kibi no Kurohime" who was said to have been in a romantic relationship with Emperor Nintoku.

Kofun (Burial mound) etc.



Prefecturally designated historic site.

Ezaki Burial Mound | MAP >> H-6 |

Ezaki Burial Mound is a keyhole-shaped burial mound with a total length of 45 meters built on a hill to the west of Kokubun-ji. This burial mound is the last keyhole-shaped burial mound in Okayama prefecture, built at the end of the 6th century following the Koumorizuka burial mound. The house-shaped sarcophagus enshrined in the horizontal stone chamber uses the same namigataishi (shell limestone) from Ibara as the Koumorizuka burial mound.



Midoriyama Burial Mounds | MAP >> G-5 |

Midoriyama Burial Mounds is a group of burial mounds built from the mid to the late 6th century located northwest of Kokubun-ji in the Midoriyama area. This burial mounds group consists of 22 tumuli, most of which have horizontal stone chambers. Among them the 6th, 7th, 8th tombs lined up on the ridge of the hill allow you to see the changes in the structure of the horizontal stone chambers.



Prefecturally designated historic site.

Miyayama Burial Mounds | MAP >> E-6 |

Miyayama Burial Mounds are a group of burial mounds dating from the late Yayoi period to the early Kofun period, located on Mt. Miwa to the south of Kibiji Arena. It consists of mass graves with various types of burials and keyhole shaped burial mounds. Excavated clay ritual vessel stands have patterns similar to those excavated from ancient burial mound in Nara prefecture, including the Hashihaka burial mound.



All area : City designated historic site.

Pine tree : Natural monument.

Sumou Toriyama Burial Mound | MAP >> G-7 |

Sumou Toriyama Burial Mound is the largest rectangular burial mound in the Kibi region, measuring 35.5 meters by 38 meters on one side and approximately 5 meters in height. It was built in the late 5th century as a burial mound for local chieftains. The origin of the name came from a sumo ring as the plateau resembles the ring. The black pine at the top of the burial mound is approximately 450 years old. It withstands rain and snow and shows the importance of history.



Prefecturally designated historic site.

Ichhoguro Burial Mounds | MAP >> Small-scale Map |

This is a group of 38 ancient burial mounds dating from the 4th to the 7th centuries built on a ridge overlooking the Takahashi River. Among them the Ichhoguro no.1 Burial Mound, which is believed to have been built in the first half of the 4th century, possesses a total length of 70 meters and is the second largest Zenpou Kouhou burial mound (square-front/square-back tomb) in Okayama prefecture.



Buried Cultural Property Learning Facility | MAP >> H-4 |

The museum displays valuable materials that shed light on the history of the Kibi region, including models and artifacts excavated from Soja city.

>> INFORMATION

- Opening hours: 9:00 ~ 16:00
- Closed: Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, year-end and New Year holidays (12/28 ~ 1/4)
- Entrance fee: Free
- Contact information: Buried Cultural Property Learning Facility Minamimizote 265-3, Soja City

Vicinity of Soja Gu Shrine



City registered cultural properties.

MAP >>> F-5 |

Bitchū Soja Gu Shrine

Bitchū Soja Gu Shrine, from which the city takes its name, is one of the shrines established close to the provincial capitals, which were constructed throughout Japan. 324 shrines were established in Bitchū Soja Gu Shrine, in the center of the city.



The Origin of the name "SOJA"

Old Hori Wahei's Residence | MAP >>> F-5 |

The Soja shopping street which also is a path approaching the Soja Gu shrine, was once a prosperous street where many wealthy merchants lined their stores. The old residence of Hori Wahei, the birthplace of the pioneer in the Western painting circle in Okayama prefecture, is a quaint historic house turned café where you can enjoy various menus.

>> INFORMATION

● Location: Soja 2-5-20



HP



Instagram



Nationally registered tangible cultural properties.

Machikado Kyodo Museum | MAP >>> F-5 |

This is the building of the former Soja Police Station that was constructed in 1910, and is the only surviving example of Meiji Western-style architecture in the city. On display in the museum are many traditional industry materials, mainly from the Meiji period, relating to Bitchū medicine, Aso castings, soft rushes, etc.

>> INFORMATION

- Location: Soja 2-17-33
- Open: 9:00 to 17:00
- Closed every Monday
(or the following day if it is a public holiday)
- End of the year and New Year (12/29 to 1/3)
- Entrance: Free of charge



The mountain castle where **demons** dwell



© Okayama Prefecture Tourism Federation

The West Gate

Nationally designated historic site.

Japan Heritage Cultural properties.

Kinjojo Castle | [MAP](#) >> [Small-scale Map](#) |

This is an ancient mountain castle at an elevation of about 400 m, and it is famous as the setting for the extermination of the Ura ogre by Kibitsu-hiko-no-mikoto. The castle walls of Kinjojo castle extend for about 2.8 km in the shape of a headband. The castle walls enclose a large area of about 30 ha. Restoration has been carried out of the area around the “Kakurō”, a watchtower on the corner provided to prevent a dead angle between the west gate of the castle and the castle wall.



Mt. Kinjojo Visitors Center

| [MAP](#) >> [Small-scale Map](#) |

>> INFORMATION

- Location: Kuroo 1101-2
- Open: 9:00 to 17:00
- Closed every Monday (or the following day if it is a public holiday)
- End of the year and New Year (12/29 to 1/3)
- Entrance: Free of charge

Japan Heritage



"Okayama, the Birthplace of the legend of Momotaro
- A tale of ogre conquest handed down through ancient Kibi heritage -"



In ancient times, an ogre named Ura lived in Kibi. From his castle at Mt. Kinojo, Ura would attack the villagers and commit evil acts. As a result, the king of Yamato ordered Kibitsuhiiko-no-Mikoto to vanquish Ura. Kibitsuhiiko-no-Mikoto readies a camp in Nakayama in Kibi and builds shields of boulders to consolidate defenses, while Ura attacks with a bow and arrows from his castle. After a fierce battle, the wounded Ura transforms into a carp to escape, but Kibitsuhiiko-no-Mikoto changes into a cormorant and catches and slays Ura. However, in the legend of Momotaro of Okayama, there was a sad continuation to the story.

Cultural
properties of
Japan heritages

Folklore of Momotaro, peach boy who slayed the Ogre

There are many historic sites related to the legend of Ura in the mountain villages of Kibi. Would you like to visit some of these places while imagining the story?



Oni-no-Kama (Ogre's cauldron)

Huge iron cauldron on the side of the mountain trail of Kinojo Castle. It is said that Ura the Ogre used this cauldron to boil the sacrifices.



Chisui River

River flowing from Mt. Kinojo. Legend says that the river turned bright red with blood when Ura was hit by an arrow shot from Kibitsu Hikonomikoto.



Kibitsu Shrine (Kibitsu, Kita ward, Okayama city)

General guardian shrine of Kibi Province where Kibitsuhiiko-no-mikoto is enshrined. "Narukama Shinji (shinto ritual)" is famous for the folklore that the buried Ura's head in the ground would tell fortunes by ringing the pot on the cooking stove.



Kibitsuhiiko Shrine (Ichinomiya Kita ward, Okayama city)

Most important provincial shrine in Bizen Province where great Kibitsuhiiko-no-mikoto is enshrined. Iwakura, sacred rock of deity, is enshrined in Kibi-no-Nakayama behind the shrine.



Yaguinomiya Shrine (Takatsuka, Kita ward, Okayama city)

This shrine is said to be the place where the rock thrown by Ura fell after being hit with the arrow shot by Kibitsuhiiko-no-mikoto.



Koikui Shrine (Yabe, Kurashiki city)

This shrine is where people believe that Kibitsuhiiko-no-mikoto, who turned into a cormorant, caught Ura, who transformed himself into a carp and dived into Chisui River.



Tatetsuki heritage site (Yabe, Kurashiki city)
One of the largest burial mounds in Japan built in the late Yayoi period. According to the legend, Kibitsuhiiko-no-mikoto built stone shields and prepared for battles.



Ryoguzan burial mound (Wada, Hozaki, Akaiwa city)

Third largest keyhole-shaped burial mound in Okayama Prefecture with the length of 206 meters, surrounded by double moats.



Tsukuriyama (Zouzan) burial mound (Shinjoshita, Kita ward, Okayama city)

One of the nation's largest keyhole-shaped burial mounds in the early 5th century. This indicates that a powerful force existed in the Kibi area.

Legend of Ura

During the 11th Emperor Suinin era, a prince named "Ura" arrived to Kibi province from a foreign nation. His hair was messy and his beard was shaggy. His personality was extremely violent. Ura built a castle called "Kinojo (Castle of the Ogre)" in Niiyama Bitchū, and was feared by the people as he plundered tributes and women. Isaserihiko-no-Mikoto (Kibitsuuhiko-no-Mikoto) was sent to defeat Ura from the Yamato Imperial Court. Mikoto led a large army, built a stone shield to the west of Kibi no Nakayama, encamped and attacked by shooting arrows. To counterattack, Ura threw stones from Kinojo castle which was on a mountain. The arrow and the stones collided in the air many times, resulting in a stalemate. Mikoto then used his divine powers to shoot two arrows at once, and one of the arrow hits Ura in his left eye. It is said that blood that gushed from Ura's eyes flowed into the Chisuigawa river (Bloodsucking river), coloring downstream red all the way to Akahama.

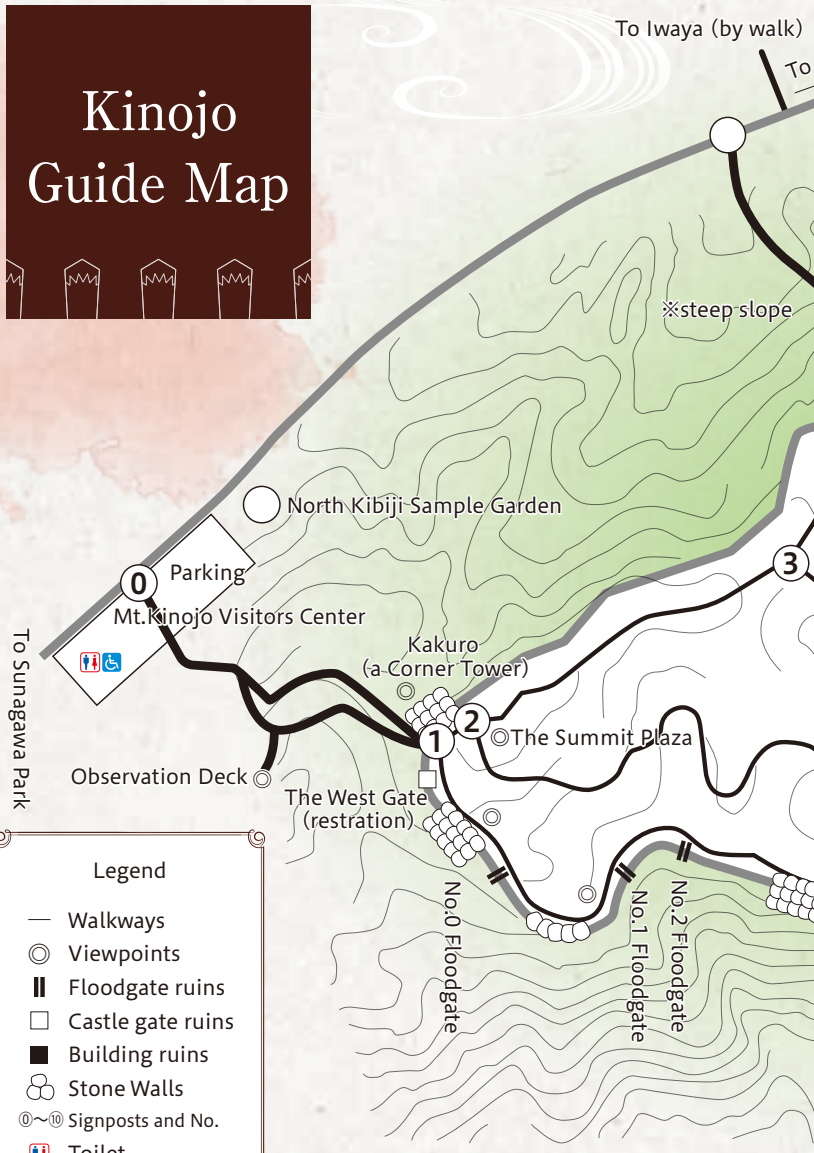
Wounded Ura turns into a pheasant and hides among the mountains, but Mikoto turns into a hawk and chases him. In response, Ura transforms into a carp and escapes into the Chisuigawa river (Bloodsucking river), but before it can escape, Mikoto turns into a cormorant and bites Ura the carp. After being defeated by Kibitsuuhiko-no-Mikoto, Ura's head was buried deep in the soil of the Okamaden (cauldron pavilion) of Kibitsu Shrine, but it continued to grumble for 13 years.

One night, Ura appeared in Mikoto's dream and said, "Let my wife Azohime cook a sacred meal. To atone for my past wrongdoings, I will make the cauldron roar and tell the good and evil of the world." This is said to be the start of "Narukama Shinji (shinto ritual)" ritual at Kibitsu Shrine.



Kakuro (a Corner Tower)

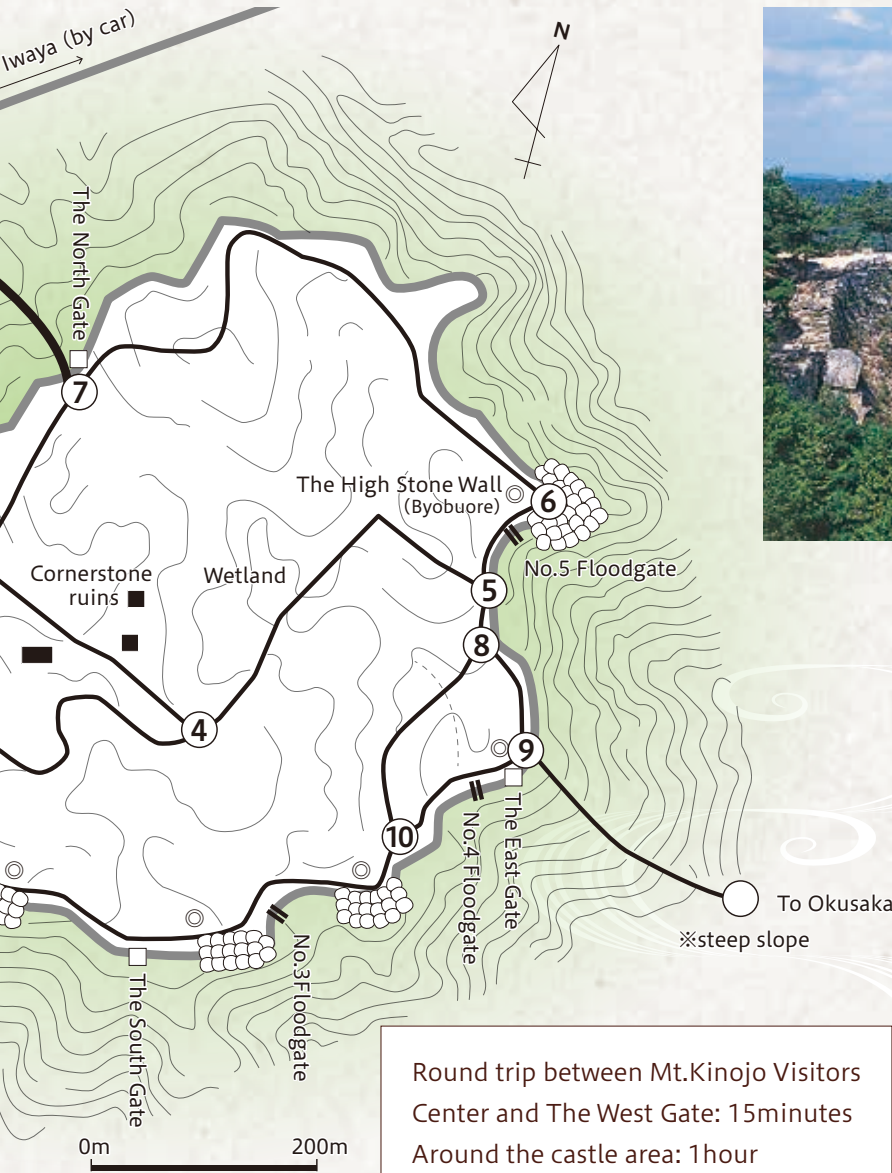
Kinojo Guide Map



Legend

- Walkways
- ⊙ Viewpoints
- || Floodgate ruins
- Castle gate ruins
- Building ruins
- ⊕ Stone Walls
- ①~⑩ Signposts and No.
- ♿ Toilet
- ♿ Accessible toilet





The High Stone Wall (Byobuore)



The floodgate in the valley



Cornerstone ruins in castle area

Round trip between Mt.Kinojo Visitors Center and The West Gate: 15minutes
Around the castle area: 1hour

A little detour

Vicinity of Iwaya

| MAP >>> Small-scale Map |

Oni-no-Sashiage Iwa (Rock lifted by the ogre)

Stone walls and steps of Iwaya-ji temple still remains in the village of the mountain which is located about 3km from Kinojo castle. It is assumed that they were monks' quarters in ancient times. The large exposed granite cave behind it said to be the home of Ura. This huge rock has a handprint-like indentation, also known as Oni no Sashiage Iwa (rock lifted by the ogre). Rocks associated with ogres and parts of the Kannon (Goddess of Mercy) tour course from the Edo period remain in this area

Prefecturally registered tangible cultural properties.

Oh-no-Haka (Emperor's grave)

Total height of the seamless pagoda is 1.19 meters. It is said to be the tomb of the son of Emperor Monmu, Zentsu Daishi also known as the founder of Iwayaji temple. There is also a legend that the torso of Ura was buried there.



Places related Sesshu



A drawing of a mouse with tears by Sesshu

Sesshu, a young monk at Hofuku-ji Temple, did nothing but draw pictures instead of ascetic training. The Buddhist priest could not stand and watch any longer so he tied Sesshu to a pillar as a punishment. After a while, the Buddhist priest went to untie the rope and found that a mouse was about to bite Sesshu's toes. The Buddhist priest was startled and tried to chase away the mouse but the mouse wouldn't move. Wondering why, the Buddhist priest approached and realized that it was a mouse Sesshu had drawn with his toes using his tears.

The Buddhist priest was impressed and from this point on, gave permission for Sesshu to keep drawing.



Prefecturally designated historic site.

Nationally registered tangible cultural properties.

Iyama Hofuku-ji Temple | MAP >> D-3 |

This is a local head temple of the Tofuku-Ji Sect of the Rinzai School of Buddhism, which is known for the story of the artist Sesshū, who drew a picture of a mouse with his tears. Inside the temple grounds, there are huts and a Buddhist sanctum, etc., which have a unique Zen aesthetic.

Nationally registered tangible cultural properties.





Sesshū, the Sage of Painting

Important Cultural Property: Sesshu self-portrait (copy)
(Fujita Art Museum Collection, Osaka)

Sesshu (1420 ~ 1506)

Sesshu, who became a master of Japanese ink wash painting, was born in 27th year of Oei era (1420) in Bitchū Akahama (present day- Akahama, Soja city), and was trained at Hofukuji temple as a child. He then moved to Kyoto and studied Zen at Shokokuji temple, while also devoting to training as a painter under the ink wash painter Shubun. Under the patronage of the largest clan in Western Japan's shugo daimyo (feudal lord) Ouchi, he worked as a creative artist at Unkokuan in Yamaguchi. He then travelled to China (Ming Dynasty) and earnestly studied ink wash painting. After returning to Japan, he used Yamaguchi as his base again, and travelled around the country. He left many masterpieces behind. He passed away 3rd year of Eisho era (1506) at the age of 87. Six of Sesshu's works have been designated as national treasures: "Autumn and Winter Landscape View", "Landscape View", "Long Landscape Scroll", "Broken Ink Landscape", "Huike offering His Arm to Bodhidharma", and "View of Amanohashidate".

Sesshu



Sesshu Birthplace Park

MAP >>> I-4

Sesshu who left behind wonderful ink paintings is praised as a master of painting. The park includes area for picnics, exhibits and facilities where you can learn about Sesshu's life and achievements, and houses that feel the Muromachi period. Visit this park to get acquainted with Sesshu, who is the pride of our hometown.

>> INFORMATION

- Location: Akahama 2025
- Open: 9:00 to 17:00
- Closed: End of the year and New Year (12/29 to 1/3)
- Entrance: Free of charge



Iwayama wa ten no hashira no moji aru mo

noki mo nureyuku murame fureba

Yosano Akiko



a national scenic spot.

Scenic Spot at Gokei

MAP >>> Small-scale Map

The ravine in the upstream part of Makidani River, a tributary of the Takahashi River, has a charm that is unique in the Soja district with its genial climate. The harmony of the rocky beauty, the stream, and the changing of colors in the autumn produces magnificent natural beauty, so this place has been designated as a national scenic spot.



Nationally designated historic site.

Fukuyama Castle Ruins | MAP >> F-8 |

This castle is famous for being the main stage for the "Battle of Fukuyama", as recorded in "Taiheiki (Chronicle of Medieval Japan)". This battle was a preliminary skirmish to the "Battle of Minatogawa" where Kusunoki Masashige was killed. 3rd year of Kenmu (1336), Ashikaga Takauji rebelled against Emperor Godaigo's "Kenmu no Shinsei (Kenmu Restoration)". Even though Ashikaga Takauji lost his battle in Kyoto, his army regained strength and returned to Kyoto from land and sea. On the Emperor's side, Oida Ujitsune, a military commander under the flag of Nitta Yoshisada barricaded in Fukuyama-jo castle. Ashikaga Tadayoshi (brother to Takauji) was leading a large army consisting tens of thousands of soldiers through the Sanyodo road. Oida Ujitsune met this enemy force with merely 1,500 soldiers. Fierce battle lasted for three days and three nights. The battle ended when Oida Ujitsune was defeated at the Bizenmitsuishijo castle. At altitude of 302m on the summit of Mt. Fukuyama, there was a temple named Fukuyama Temple, a mountain esoteric Buddhist temple built in the Heian period. Judging from the remains of the gate, earth mound, well, temple foundation stone and Kawara roof tile, we can presume this temple was abruptly converted into Fukuyama castle.

Taiheiki

This is a military chronicle depicting the 50 years of turmoil between the Northern and Southern Dynasties starting from end of Kamakura period to the beginning of Muromachi period. It is said that this chronicle was written around 1370. Familiar historical figures such as Emperor Godaigo, Kusunoki Masashige, Ashikaga Takauji and Nitta Yoshisada appear in this chronicle, however, there are many exaggerations and it is uncertain whether the historical facts are recorded or not.



City designated historic site.



Kozan Castle Ruins | MAP >> F-8 |

This is a mountain castle of the Sengoku period located on the mountain ridge jutting north from Fukuyama, overlooking the Soja plain and old Sanyo road. This castle was attacked by the Mori army during the Bitchu war in 1575 and caused the fall of the castle lord, Ishikawa. Later, Shimizu Muneharu, who later became the castle lord of Bichu Takamatsu castle moved in.

Karube Shrine | MAP >> Small-scale Map |

Built in 1678, this shrine had a magnificent weeping cherry tree called "Tarachine Sakura." Tarachine means mother but it also has the character for breasts which is why the shrine became associated with breasts and because of this cherry tree, people worshiped this shrine as the Chichigamisama (Goddess of Breasts). Wishing for safe delivery and abundant production of breast milk, there are countless ema (votive tablets) representing female breasts. Ema package for offering is sold at Kibiji Motenashi no Yakata.

Kiyone Furusato Fureai Square | MAP >> F-7 |

This is a multi-purpose sports park surrounded by water and greenery. There are areas where visitors can enjoy sports and where children can play with playground equipment and have fun in the water. This is a park where not only friends but also the whole family can have a great time the whole day. Facilities: tennis courts, ground golf fields, mini golf courses, petanque courts, outdoor cooking area, multi-purpose area.

- Open: 9:00 to 21:00
- Days closed: December 29th-January 3rd
- Fee: Varies by facility
- Location: Kiyone-Miyori1017-4

South



Suntopia Okayama Soja | MAP >> B-4 |

This is a resort & amusement park surrounded by nature. The park offers lodging, restaurant, wedding venue, glamping sites, and water park during the summer season.

- Check in / 15:00 ● Check out / 10:00
- Capacity / 185 people
- Accommodation fee (tax included) / 1 night without meals 8,690 yen ~ , 1 night with breakfast 10,560yen ~ , 1 night with 2 meals 13,860 yen ~
- Number of guest rooms / 17 western style rooms, 30 Japanese style rooms, 6 Western-Japanese style rooms
- Ancillary facilities / glamping area, conference room, banquet room, wedding hall, restaurant, large communal bath, futsal court, gymnasium, swimming pool (summer season only) , camping ground and tennis court
- Access / 10 minutes by car from Soja station
- Parking space / 10 bus spaces, 500 car spaces
- Contact information/ Tel 0866-95-8811 Fax 0866-95-8381 Address: Hada 1215, Soja city



West



Prefecturally designated historic site.

Hada Temple Ruins

It is known as the oldest temple in the Chugoku region, built in the first half of the Asuka period (7th century) and the core cornerstone of the tower remains. From the patterns on the excavated tiles, it is believed that an immigrant clan, the Hata clan was involved in the construction of the temple.

| MAP >> Small-scale Map |



Mt. Masaki | MAP >> Small-scale Map |

There is a famous viewing point which has a magnificent view overlooking from the west of Soja plain and Takahashi river. At the altitude of 380 meters, Masaki Shrine, a shikinaisha (a grand shrine which is enlisted in Englishiki laws), is enshrined at the summit. Mt Masaki and the surrounding areas have various hiking courses and while hiking you can enjoy Ohno's cherry blossoms and the rich nature and spectacular scenery.



Mahou Shrine | MAP >> Small-scale Map |

This shrine name means "Magical Shrine" in Japanese. This unique shrine has no torii nor the guardian dogs, komainu. As a guardian of cows and horses, it is said that people visited this shrine all the way from livestock markets located outside the city.



Nationally registered tangible cultural properties.

Minagi Station | MAP >> Small-scale Map |

The building of Minagi station on JR Hakubi Line remains in the same classic condition as when it was built in 1925, and in 2007, it was nationally registered as tangible cultural properties.

North



Mt. Takataki | MAP >> Small-scale Map |

This scenic mountain with the elevation of 506 meters is located between Shitakura, Soja city and Yakage town. It is chosen as one of the 100 famous mountains in Okayama and has long been a land for mountain worship. Thus, many strangely shaped rocks and stone Buddha remain. There are currently 6 hike routes and numerous hikers visit this area to enjoy the beautiful scenery of each season.



Sun Road Kibiji Public Inn | MAP >> G-6 |

This accommodation takes pride in its cuisine and the natural hot springs. You can enjoy dishes made with plenty of seasonal ingredients and local vegetables, as well as one-day bathing.



- Check in / 15:00 ● Check out / 10:00 ● Capacity / 113 people
- Accommodation fee (tax included) / 1 night with 2 meals 15,500 yen ~
- Number of guest rooms / 22 western style rooms, 16 Japanese style rooms, 1 Western-Japanese style rooms ● Adjoining facilities: Conference room, Banquet hall, Convention hall, Restaurant, Bakery, Large public bath, Open-air bath, Shop, Karaoke room
- Access: 10 minutes by car from Okayama Soja or Kurashiki highway exit
- Parking space / 280 car spaces
- Contact information / Tel 0866-90-0550 Fax 0866-90-0711
- Address: Misu 825-1, Soja city

East



Kibiji Crane Village | MAP >> G-6 |

The purpose of this facility is to preserve and breed red-crowned crane. Visitors are able to watch the beautiful crane. In the 3ha site, there is an artificial lake and breeding cages. In the learning center in the site, there are panels and photos where visitors may learn about the crane.

- Open: every day 8:30 to 17:00
- Entrance: Free of charge
- Location: Misu 825-1



Well of Kikusui | MAP >> I-4 |

There are famous spring waters in Soja city called "Three Great Wells" for its clear water. They are namely "Well of Matsui," "Well of Usui" and "Well of Kikusui." Only the remains stand for "Well of Matsui" and "Well of Usui" however we can still draw water from "Well of Kikusui" and people travel from far to visit this well.



Sunagawa Park | MAP >> F-2 |

This is a riverside park built to take advantage of the nature along the Suna River that flows from Mt. Kinojo. There are water parks with waterslides and campsites and crowded with families during the season. *The waterslides use agricultural water, so the water flow may be low at times.

- Campsite fee: 1 night stay 2,000 yen per block / day use only 1,000 yen per block
- Days closed: December 29th-January 3rd
- Location: Kuroo 792

The Speciality of Soja

Gourmet

The Taste and Aroma of Home

Peaches

Shimizu white peaches, known as the "Queen of Peaches" represent Okayama. Peaches are considered a summer fruit but each variety has a different ripening period. Please enjoy the most delicious peaches in season.

Grapes

Symbolic of Okayama prefecture "Muscat of Alexandria" grapes are characterized by its elegant sweetness, strong aroma, and the bright emerald green color. "New Pione" grapes are promoted by the prefecture and Okayama produced New Pione is widely known because of its production volume.



Sweet corn

Okayama produces the best full cobs of corn named Gold Rush, a variety which has a strong sweet taste. Sweetness accumulates during the night, so we harvest them first thing in the morning and ship them out the same day to preserve their fresh sweetness.



Strawberries

Soja's strawberries are very sweet and the balance with tartness is perfect. It has an excellent aroma and is juicy and moderately soft. Strawberries grown in the greenhouses are shipped from December to May. Strawberries are said to have more vitamin C than lemons.



Celery

Celery cultivation started in 1952 in the Yamate area of Soja. The unique flavor is subtle and it is characterized for its softness and freshness.



Soja Fire Department Curry

The night shift fire fighters have been enjoyed this curry by for about 40 years. Beef tendon meat in the curry increases stamina and guarantees satisfaction!



Soja Elementary school curry

Curry has always been a very popular menu item in school lunches. This curry will take you down memory lane.



Soja red rice porridge

This porridge is made with non-glutinous rice and red rice grown in Soja, which was planted by Tourism Ambassador and Singer Nanase Aikawa in front of Bitchū Kokubun-ji temple, the symbol of Soja.



Minestrone Soup with Soja celery

We made this soup to bring out the best of soft and fresh Soja celery.



Bread World Soja
Officially Recognized by Soja City
Image Character Sakku



So-Ja!pan (Bread World Soja)

Soja city ranks No.1 in Okayama prefecture for bread production and shipments. There are many local original breads in Soja city. They come in a wide variety of shapes and flavors, including Soja dogs, Soja rolls, and Soja donuts, and are sold at bakeries, pastry shops, and tourist attractions throughout the city. Enjoy Soja with a Soja original bread in hand.

Bread World Soja Website





Agricultural Gardening Kibiji Farm | MAP >> F-6 |

As one of the largest comprehensive tourist farms in Chugoku and Shikoku region, this farm is full of excitement and fun throughout all four seasons. Not only you can purchase Okayama produced agricultural products, but also enjoy different activities such as strawberry picking, mud volleyball, rice paddy field experience, mochi pounding and somen nagashi (catch Japanese noodle flowing down a bamboo chute) . Pot gardening workshops and rose pruning workshops are also held. Agricultural Gardening's original delicious cakes, sweets and bento boxes are also sold to make your day more exciting and fun.

- Location: Nishigoori 411-1
- Open: 9:00 to 18:00 (January, February is to 17:00)
- Closed : End of the year and New Year
- Inquiries: +81-866-94-6755



Kibiji Tourist Information Center | MAP >> G-6 |

Located on the premises of Sun Road Kibiji. In addition to tourist information a variety of souvenirs are available.

- Location: Misu 825-1
- Open: 9:00 to 18:00 (October to March is to 17:00)
- Closed : End of the year and New Year
- Inquiries: +81-866-92-1211



Sun Choku Hiroba Eetoko Soja | MAP >> G-6 |

Located on the premises of Sun Road Kibiji. This center sells not only peaches and grapes but other fruits, vegetables and flowers.

- Location: Misu 825-1
- Open: 9:00 to 16:00
- Closed : End of the year and New Year



Kibiji Motenashi no Yakata (Kibiji Hospitality House) | MAP >> H-6 |

Enjoy dining with the view of the five-storied pagoda and shopping local specialties and carefully selected souvenirs.

- Location: Shuku 418
- Open: 9:00 to 16:30
- Closed every Tuesday, End of the year and New Year



JA Harenokuni Okayama Shunkan Hiroba | MAP >> G-6 |

This is a large facility with JA farmer's market on the 1st floor and a restaurant on the 2nd floor. At the farmer's market, "Hare nochi Hare", seasonal items such as vegetables, fruits, rice, meat, processed products, and cut flowers are offered for sale.

- Location: Okadani 23
- Open: 9:00 to 17:00
- Closed: End of the year and New Year (a restaurant closed every Tuesday, End of the year and New Year)



Kiyone Open-Air Market | MAP >> D-8 |

You can purchase fresh locally produced seasonal vegetables. Outdoor grown fruits and vegetables are exceptional.

- Location: Kiyone-karube 785-2
- Open: Every Wednesday and Saturday 6:00 to 11:00



Farmer's Market Taneiya | MAP >> Small-scale Map |

Buffet offering delicious dishes made with abundant fresh ingredients is very popular. Variety of products including fresh local products and rare game meat (boar meat, venison) are sold at the farmer's market.

- Location: Tanei 441-1
- Open: 7:00 to 19:00 (a restaurant open 11:00 to 14:00)
- Closed: 1/1 (a restaurant closed 12/30 to 1/3)



Ikeda Komichi no Eki | MAP >> Small-scale Map |

This roadside station sells various agricultural products brought by local farmers, handmade miscellaneous goods, woodwork, etc.

- Location: Makidani 3333-2
- Closed every Tuesday, End of the year and New Year



Souvenir



Red Rice Bun URADON

Simple manju (sweet bun) with homemade smashed red bean paste. The red rice flour and Tsugune yam is kneaded together and made into a thin crust to wrap the filling.



Kufun (Burial Mound) Cookie

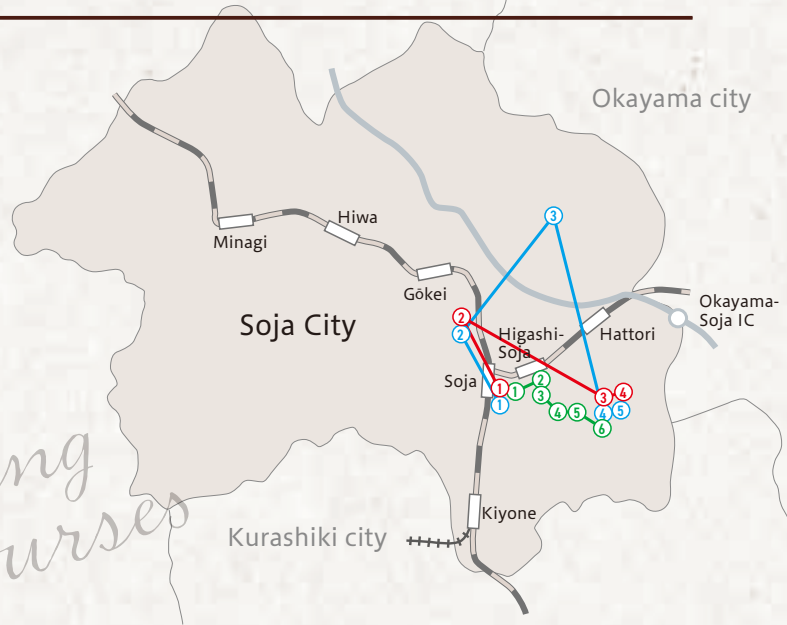
Cookie made to look like the key-hole shaped tumulus. Each cookie is handmade and baked using Okayama grown flour called "Dei rei ko" .



Sessyu Monaka

A cute, mouse shaped Monaka (bean-paste filled wafers) using Hokkaido grown red adzuki beans.

Recommend Route



Sightseeing Courses

Driving Route

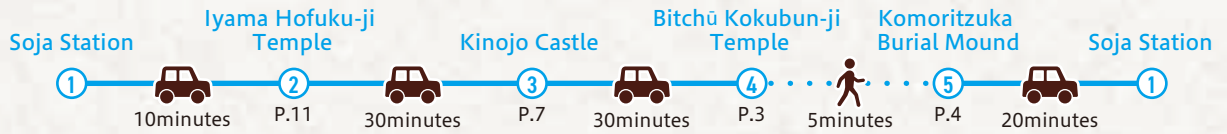
A Easy Route

I'd like to take you some top locations in Kibiji.



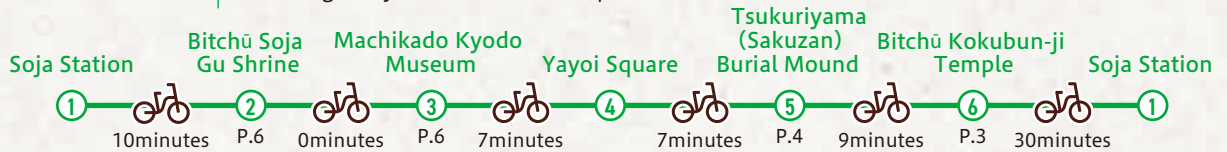
B Enjoy Route

I have some top locations and Kinojo related Momotaro



Cycling Route

Along a gentle and largely flat road, this route links historical spots in the Kibiji area, including many, burial mounds, temples and shrines.



Enjoy this relaxing journey as you putter down the road surrounded with history and the beauty of the seasons.



Information

Taxi

Bihoku Taxi	TEL 0866-92-0185	Chūō4-14-101
Hinomaru Taxi	TEL 0866-98-1288	Kurashiki-shi, Mabi-chō, Arii192-1
Goukei Taxi	TEL 0866-92-5959	Ekimae2-13-110
Minagi Taxi	TEL 0866-92-1234	Monden1219

rent-a-car

Sano Auto Center
 ●opening hours 9:00-19:00 ●TEL:0866-93-5688
 ●https://www.yy-rentacar.jp



rent-a-cycle



Kibiji-rent-a-cycle

- ◆Araki-rent-a-cycle : It is located in the side of bus area, in front of JR Soja station.
- ◆Uedo-rent-a-cycle : It is located in next to the ticket gate of JR Bizen-Ichinomiya station.
- ◆Takaya-rent-a-cycle : It is located in near Bitchū Kokubun-ji temple.
Business hours : 9:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m. ※Lending desk closes at 3:30 p.m.

Rental fares

- City bike : 1,500yen (Under 12 years old 500yen)
 - Flat-bar-sports bike : 2,200yen • Electric assist bike : 2,800yen
 - Special large bike : 2,800yen • Tandem bike : 6,500yen
- ※Advance reservations are recommended for bicycle except city bikes

Additional fees

- Return to a different shop : + 500yen
 - Guide tour : It depends on the number of participants
- ※We only accept cash

Accommodation

*Please refer to Suntopia Okayama Soja (page 13) and Sun Road Kibiji (page 14).



Business Inn Soja

| MAP >> D-5 |

- Check in / 15:00 ● Check out/ 10:00 ● Capacity / 45 people
- Accommodation fee: 1 night with 2 meals single 7,000 yen, twin 6,500 yen per person (tax included)
- Accommodation fee: 1 night without meals single 5,500 yen, twin 5,000 yen per person (tax included)
- Number of guest rooms: 25 Tatami Japanese style rooms (Internet available in all rooms)
- Meal price: Breakfast 700 yen, Dinner 800 yen
- Adjoining facilities: Banquet Hall (Training and Training camp possible), washing machine and dryer
- Access: 8-minute walk from Soja station. Ordering from adjacent restaurant, "Egachi" is also acceptable.

TEL 0866-92-8990 FAX 0866-92-8991 Home Mizoguchi60-2



Station Plaza Hotel Ikedaya

| MAP >> D-5 |

- Check in / 16:00 ● Check out/ 10:00 ● Capacity / 45 people
- Accommodation fee (tax included) : 6,600 yen ~ (Week end 7,480 yen ~)
- Number of guest rooms / 24 western style single rooms, 16 western style twin rooms, 3 Japanese style rooms
- Meal price: Free breakfast
- Adjoining facilities: Internet available in all rooms (Training camp possible)
- Access: 1-minute walk from Soja station.
- Parking space / 30 car spaces

TEL 0866-90-0100 FAX 0866-90-0101 Home Ekimae1-2-2



Information

- **Kibiji Tourist Information Center and Applications for Volunteer Guides**
Misu 825-1 TEL: +81-866-92-1211
9:00 to 18:00 (17:00 from October to March)
- **Tourist Information in Front of Soja Station**
Ekimae 1-1-1 TEL: +81-866-93-1470
9:00 to 18:00 (17:00 from October to March)
- **Kokubun-Ji Tourist Information**
Kanbayashi 1046 TEL: +81-866-94-3155
10:00 to 16:00

Inquiries in regards to traveling by trains

- (1) **Inquiries in regards to train schedule, fares, charges, and etc.**
【 JR West Customer Service Center 】
0570-00-2486 (Operating hours: 6:00 - 23:00)
078-382-8686 (Operating hours: 6:00 - 23:00)
- (2) **Inquiry for lost items**
086-221-1901 (Operating hours: 8:00 - 20:00)

For your Kibiji sightseeing,
please leave it to us, the volunteer tour guides!

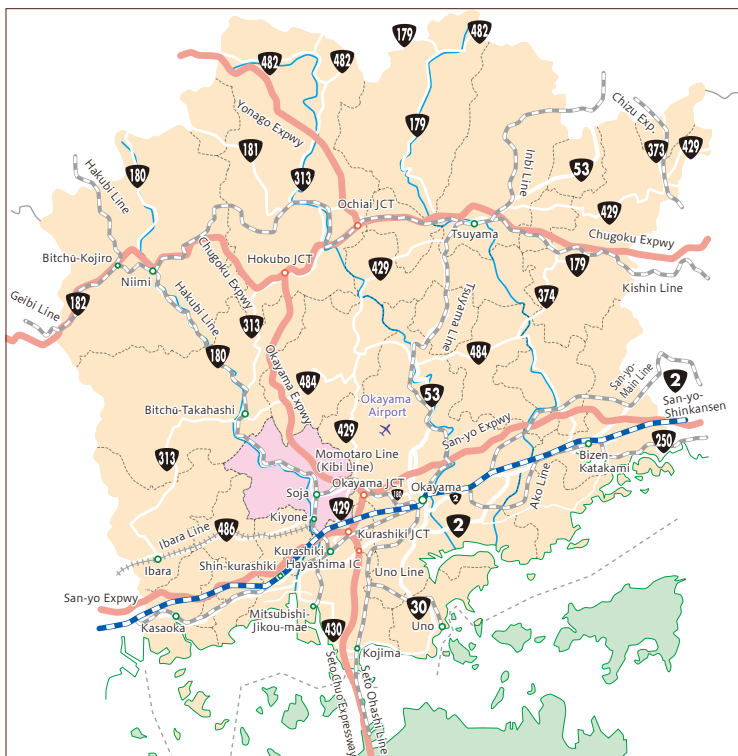


Kibiji Volunteer Tour Guide

Take advantage of our enthusiastic tour guide who will show you Kibiji Fudoki-no-Oka district including Bitchū Kokubun-ji temple with the only five-storied pagoda in Okayama and Koumorizuka Burial Mound.

- Areas: Kibiji-Fudoki-no-Oka district, Kinojo Castle, Iyama Houfuku-ji Temple
- Fee: free of charge (some requires a fee)
- How to reserve a tour: please call in a week in advance
- Tour contact: Soja Station Tourist Information Center
0866-93-1470

Access Map



🕒 Travel time to Soja City

🚗 By car

Okayama Expressway: Immediately after getting off at Okayama Soja I.C.

Sanyo Expressway: Approximately 10 minutes from Kurashiki I.C. on National Route 429



By JR trains

About 29 minutes on Hakubi line

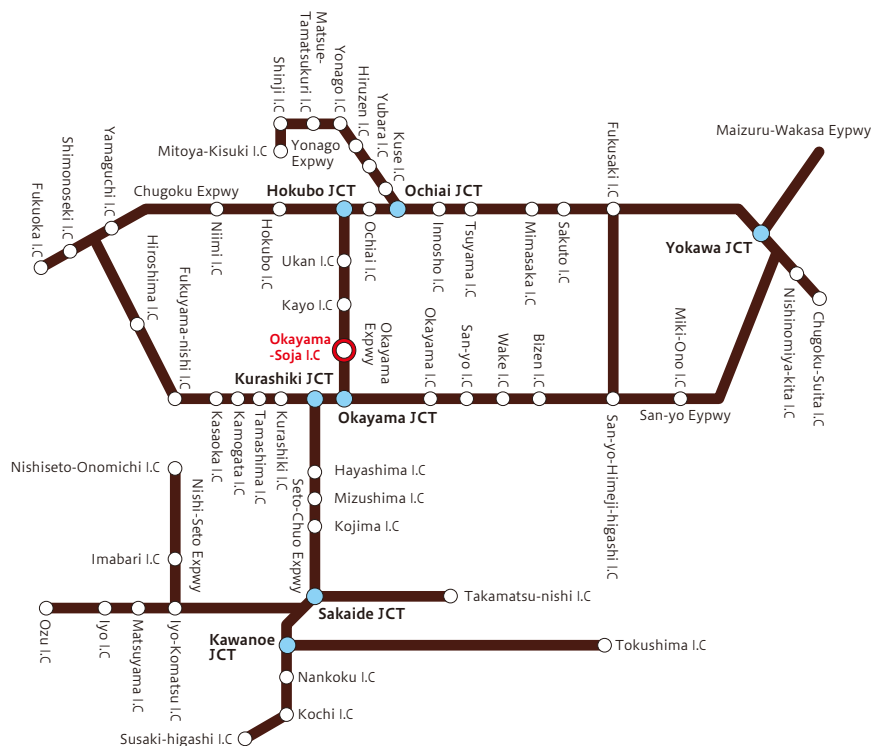


About 38 minutes on Momotaro Line (Kibi Line)



By plane

Approximately 30 minutes by Taxi from Okayama airport



Soja City Tourist Guide #DISCOVERYKIBIJI

Tourism Project Division Soja City

〒719-1192 Chuo 1-1-1, Soja City, Okayama Pref.
 T E L / 0866-92-8277 F A X / 0866-93-9457
 U R L / <https://www.city.soja.okayama.jp/>
 E-mail / kankou@city.soja.okayama.jp

Cover photo : Koumorizuka Burial Mound
 Enjoy a journey of special discoveries in Kibiji.
 Printed in Sanko Printing Co., Ltd.

