



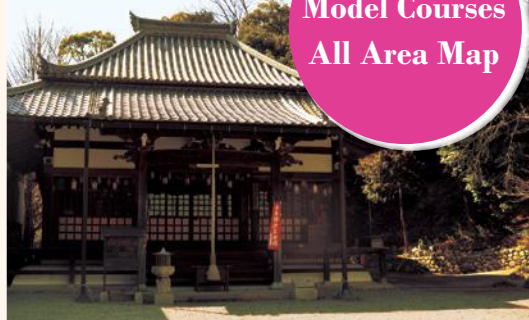
Takarazuka Cultural Heritage



Walking Map



Model Courses
All Area Map



Sakasegawa/ Obayashi/ Nigawa Area

Many historic temples and shrines still remain along the Nishinomiya Trail. Venture a little further up into the foothills of Mt. Rokko, and you will find the remains of highland settlements of the Yayoi Period (300BC–300AD) and settlements from the Kofun Period (250–600), from which to enjoy the view.



① Heirinji Temple

(Principal Image and stonework: Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)

Heirinji Temple is said to have been established by Prince Shotoku. The granite *roban* (dew plate) in the temple grounds was created in the Kamakura Period (1185–1333) and was originally placed on the *hogyo-zukuri* (tented) roof of the temple building. The principle image of worship is a statue of Shaka Nyorai (Shakyamuni) Buddha in a seated position, made from assembled pieces of wood.



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② Iwashizu-jinja Shrine

(Main shrine: Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)



Iwashizu-jinja Shrine is an ancient shrine whose name is recorded in the *Engishiki*, an ancient book on laws and customs compiled in the Heian Period (794–1185). The main shrine is built in the *ikkensha kasuga-zukuri* style and has a *kokerabuki* shingle roof. The shrine used to be located close to the Mukogawa River, but was moved to its current location to avoid damage from major flooding.

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③ Kumano-jinja Shrine



Kumano-jinja Shrine is connected to an old folktale about deer that gave the village of Kashio (literally "deer salt") its name. In the past, an archery-based ritual (*Oyumi-shiriji*) was held on January 3 to drive away evil spirits and predict a good harvest.

④ Takatsukasa Susanoo-jinja Shrine

(Main shrine: Prefectural Tangible Cultural Property)

The main shrine, in which the principal deity is enshrined, was built early in the Edo Period (1603–1868), while the altars to the left and right that enshrine subordinate deities were built in the middle Edo Period. The excellent examples of Edo Period architecture that have been preserved at this shrine are enclosed in an outer building for protection.



P

⑤ Takarazuka-jinja Shrine



Up to and including the Meiji Period (1868–1912), this shrine was worshipped under the name Sanno Gongen, but in 1965, it merged with Susanoo-jinja Shrine and the name was changed to Takarazuka-jinja Shrine. The shrine attracts crowds of people on January 10 for the Takara-no-Ebisu Festival.

⑥ Obayashi Sacred Heart School Main Building

(National Registered Cultural Property/not open to public)



Built in 1927, the design of this reinforced concrete building, the work of Czech architect, Antonin Raymond, features interesting curved lines in various parts of the building.

N-R

⑦ Gokayama Kofungun

(No. 4 Tomb: Municipal Historic Site)

⑧ Nigawa-Asahigaoka Kofungun

Clusters of ancient burial mounds or tombs that were built in the foothills of Mr. Rokko from the end of the 6th century to the beginning of the 7th century.



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↑ No. 4 Tomb has been preserved inside a park and is located within the area of the highland settlements that were established in this region in the Yayoi Period (300BC–300AD).

← Two other tombs, Nos. 1 and 3, have been preserved at the Nigawa-Asahigaoka Cluster.

Venture a little further



⑨ Sakasegawa Check Dam



This check dam was one of the very first such dams built in Japan in the latter half of the Meiji Period (1868–1912). It made a tremendous contribution to the mitigation of flood damage.

⑩ Enpeiji Temple

The legend of this temple's origins is that a statue of Kannon, the Buddhist god of compassion, was carved from a willow tree linked to the source well of the Takarazuka Onsen hot spring and enshrined in this temple.



⑪ Former Matsumoto Residence

(National Registered Cultural Property/
Limited openings)



Built in 1937, this wooden Western-style house is a well-preserved example of the modernist Western style of architecture of the time.

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Designated National Cultural Property

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Designated Prefectural Cultural Property

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Designated Municipal Cultural Property

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Registered National Cultural Property

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Registered Prefectural Cultural Property

Kiyoshikojin/ Mefu/ Nakayama Area

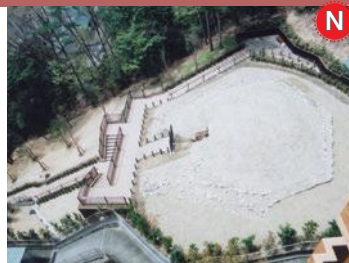
This area, with its famous ancient temples and shrines, attracts many visitors, locals and tourists alike. Residential development also flourished in this area, creating a blend of historic sites and modern streetscapes.



12 Nakayama Soen Kofun

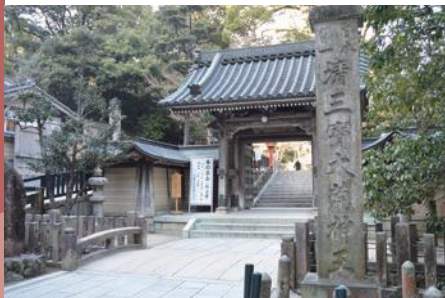
(National Historic Site)

This ancient burial mound, with its extremely rare octagonal shape, is believed to have been built in the mid-7th century. Octagonal burial mounds are also found in the tombs of Japanese emperors, mainly in the Asuka region of Nara Prefecture, and it is unknown why a tomb of this shape was built in Nakayama. It is believed to be of great significance in the study of the region's history.



13 Kiyoshikojin Seichoji Temple

(Principal image: National Important Cultural Property; Native forest: Municipal Natural Monument; other)

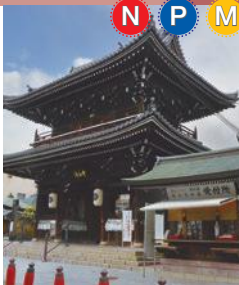


Bestowed the title "Japan's No. 1 Kiyoshikojin Temple" by Emperor Uda (867-931), this temple attracted worshippers as "the god of the hearth." The principal image of worship is a statue of the Dainichi Myorai (Mahāvairocana) in a seated position.

14 Nakayamadera Temple

(Principal image: National Important Cultural Property; Main hall: Prefectural Tangible Cultural Property; Hoshikudari Festival: Municipal Intangible Folk Cultural Property; other)

Believed to have been founded by Prince Shotoku, Nakayamadera Temple is famous as a place to pray for the safe birth of a healthy child and as the 24th temple of the 33 temples on the Saikoku Kannon Pilgrimage. It has numerous cultural properties, including the statue of the standing 11-headed Juichimen Kannon bodhisattva.



Venture a little further . . . 

16 Nakayamadera Temple Oku-no-in



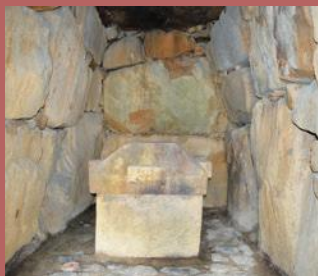
It is believed that a temple once stood on this site about 2 kilometers from Nakayamadera Temple. Broken tiles are scattered around the surrounding area, and there are legends connected to this site about the son of Emperor Chuai, including the legends of the Daihisui (Well of Great Sadness) and Hakucho no Iwaya (Swan's Rock). The Daihisui well attracts worshippers who believe in the power of its waters to protect against misfortune.

15 Hakuchozuka Kofun

(Prefectural Historic Site)

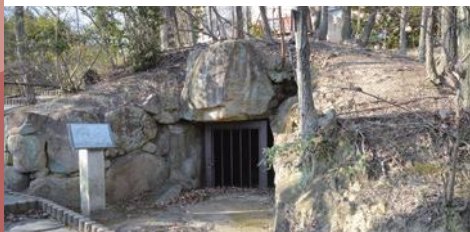
An ancient burial mound in the grounds of Nakayamadera Temple, featuring a corridor-style burial chamber.

It is believed to be the tomb of a powerful family, built around the early 7th century. A house-shaped stone coffin remains inside the stone burial chamber.



17 Nakasuji-Yamate Kofungun

(No. 1 Tomb: Municipal Historic Site)



Part of the cluster of tombs built in the Mt. Nagao Hills, located at the western edge of the cluster. No. 1 Tomb is a circular tomb of about 15 meters in diameter, containing a corridor-style burial chamber. It is believed to have been constructed in the late 6th century. This tomb has been preserved in a park.

18 Motokiyoshi Ruins

(Municipal Historic Site)

Archeological site of what is believed to be the original location of the Kiyoshikojin Seichoji Temple. The old temple was built late in the Heian Period (794-1185), but was destroyed by fire in a subsequent war-torn era. It is believed to have been relocated to its present site in the beginning of the Edo Period (1603-1868).



19 Mefu-jinja Shrine

(Stone pillar inscribed with shrine name: Municipal Tangible Cultural Property; Shrine forest: Municipal Natural Monument)

Mentioned in the *Engishiki* (an ancient book on laws and customs compiled in the 10th century), this shrine is dedicated to the god of food and clothing. In the Edo Period (1603-1868) it was known as Kifune Daimyojin.



20 Nakasuji-Yamate Higashi Kofungun

(No. 2 Tomb: Municipal Historic Site)

A cluster of tumuli (ancient burial mounds) constructed in the second half of the 6th century and into the first half of the 7th century. The tombs numbered 1 to 3 have been preserved.

The construction of No. 2 Tomb is quite rare, consisting of multiple chambers divided by a partition in the middle. Eight earrings have been excavated from the tomb.



21 Hachioji-jinja Shrine

(Stone plaque: Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)

This shrine was damaged in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, but was rebuilt in 2002. A stone plaque inscribed with the year "Shoo Sannen" (1290) located in the shrine grounds is the oldest of its kind in Takarazuka.



22 Nakasuji Hachiman-jinja Shrine

(Main hall: National Important Cultural Property)



The main hall, with its *hiwadabuki* (Japanese cypress *hinoki* bark shingles) roof, was built in the Muromachi Period (1336-1573). It collapsed in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 but timber was salvaged and used to repair the building the following year.

Hibarigaoka/ Yamamoto Area

A residential suburb of Takarazuka, known for its quiet streets of houses. In particular, the districts of Hibarigaoka and Hanayashiki have extensive streetscapes featuring a modernist, Western style.



23 Nagaoyama Kofun (Municipal Historic Site)

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Scientific surveys conducted from 2007 have found that this ancient burial mound is a 42-meter long keyhole tomb that was constructed in the early 4th century. A massive *nendokaku* (a burial facility consisting of a wooden coffin encased in clay), measuring 6.7 m long, 2.7 m wide and 1 m high, was discovered inside the tomb.

24 Kirihata Gunshufun No. 1 Tomb (Municipal Historic Site)

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One of the tombs found among the many tombs clustered in a small area of the Mt. Nagao hills between Hibarigaoka and Nakayamadera Temple, which were built in the 6th–7th century. It is located on the easternmost ridge at an altitude of 120 meters. The circular tomb, with a diameter of about 15 meters and corridor-style burial chamber, is believed to be the burial site of an influential person of the area.



25 Banraisan Kofun (Municipal Historic Site/ not open to the public)

M

A keyhole tomb from around the 4th century, built on a ridge about 200 meters high in the hills of Mt. Nagao, overlooking the Osaka Plain. The full length of the tomb is about 64 meters, and the circular part of the keyhole shape contains a 6.8-meter long shaft-style stone burial chamber. A U-shape mark left on the floor of the burial chamber suggests that a wooden coffin had been placed there.



26 Manganji Temple

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(Temple forest: Municipal Natural Monument)



A typical example of the *shiibayashi* (beech forests) that grow along the coasts of the Seto Inland Sea, with varieties such as Japanese Chinquapin, Hinoki cypress, and Japanese blue oak. Although physically located in Takarazuka, the temple site is an enclave of the city of Kawanishi, due to its connections to Minamoto no Mitsunaka (912?-997) of Tada (modern-day Kawanishi), whose devotion to this temple helped it to prosper.

27 Saimyoji Waterfall

Hojo Tokiyori (1227-1263), the 5th regent to the Kamakura Shogunate, who entered the Buddhist priesthood and became known as Saimyoji Nyudo, is believed to have built himself a hermitage on this site, which gave the waterfall its name.



28 Mannenzaka Jizo Stone Buddha

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(Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)



A statue of the Jizo bodhisattva in standing position, carved from a natural granite boulder on a slope commonly known as Mannenzaka on the route from Hibarigaoka to Manganji Temple.

29 Yasaka-jinja Shrine

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(Main hall: Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)

The origins of this shrine are believed to lie in the enshrinement of the syncretic deity, Gozu Tenno, of Yasaka, Kyoto, by Fujiwara no Yasumasa (958-1036), the chief vassal of the military leader, Minamoto no Yoritomo (948-1021), who lived in this area. The main hall is estimated to have been built in the mid-16th century (late in the Muromachi Period).



30 Taihoji Temple

M

(Stonework, etc.: Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)



A temple of the Soto school of Zen Buddhism. The details of its establishment, including when it was founded, are unknown. The statue of the Acala in seated position in the Fudo-do Hall is estimated to have been created around the end of the Muromachi Period (1336-1573). The Hokyoin Pagoda in the temple grounds is from the late Kamakura Period (1185-1333). The bijaksara (seed syllables, or mantras condensed into a single character) of the four Buddhas of the Womb Realm are carved into the pagoda's moon-wheel.

31 Senryuji Temple

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(Principal image: Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)

A temple of the Soto sect of Zen Buddhism. Legend has it that the principal image of worship, a wooden statue of the 11-headed Juichimen Kannon bodhisattva, was unable to be part of the 33-temple Saikoku Kannon Pilgrimage because it had dozed off. For this reason, it is said to offer particularly good fortune for people who have failed at something because they fell asleep. Locally, it is known affectionately as "the dozing Kannon."



32 Matsuo-jinja Shrine

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(Main shrine: Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)



Said to have been established to enshrine Sakanoue no Tamuramaro in the Anna Era (968-970). It was also known as Matsumaru Shrine, after Tamuramaro's childhood name. The current main shrine was built toward the end of the Edo Period (1603-1868).

33 Tenma-jinja Shrine

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(Main shrine: Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)

Shrine dedicated to Sugawara no Michizane along the Pilgrimage Trail. Its date of establishment is unknown, but the current main shrine was built in the early Edo Period (1603-1868). It is built in the *kasuga-zukuri* style with a *kokerabuki* shingled roof, with lions with the traditional open and closed mouth carved into the pent roof atop the shrine stairs.



34 Gyoki no Nageishi



This boulder can be seen near the *hokora*, or small wayside shrine to the deity, Kuromits Inari Daimyoin, east of Tenma-jinja Shrine. There are various stories surrounding the stone, such as that Gyoki (668-749), the famous Buddhist priest of the Nara Period, threw it away when it was hindering his path, or that a Tengu ("celestial dog," a legendary creature found in Japanese folk religion) threw it from Mt. Rokko, but it may have been the ceiling stone of one of the ancient burial mounds nearby.

35 Takasaki Memorial House

(Municipal Structure of Landscape Importance)

Designed by William Merrell Vories in 1923. The two-story wooden building, with its mansard roof, is typical of the Colonial style. (Reservations required for tours)



36 Kitsugi Dayu Monument

Around 400 years ago, Sakaue Yoriyasu developed a method of plant strain improvement known as *Tsugiki*, a form of plant grafting at Yamamoto. In honor of his achievements, the great general of the Sengoku period, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, bestowed on him the title Kitsugi Dayu, or "Master Grafter." Today, a stone monument stands in his honor just to the west of Hankyu Yamamoto Station.



Kohama/ Maitani/ Akura Area

The Kohama area retains traces of its origins as a semi-fortified town that grew and flourished around a temple in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period. Enjoy the atmospheric streetscape of the town. The Akura area is where the expressway interchange is located and is the gateway to Takarazuka.



37 Goshoji Temple

A temple of the Honganji School of the Jodo-Shinshu sect of Buddhism, also known as Kohama Gobo. Details of its establishment, including when it was founded, are unknown, but it was a highly fortified temple with a town inside its walls, which had as its aim the propagation of Shinshu Buddhism. In this respect, it is believed to have been very similar to other Shinshu temples in the Kinki region.



38 Historical Museum Old Wada House

(Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)

One of the oldest private houses remaining in Takarazuka. Built around the middle of the Edo Period (1603-1868), it has many of the features of the era, including a Tsunoya-style *zashiki* reception room.



Its former owners, the Wada clan, served as village headmen for the Iino Domain in Maitani Village for many generations. Many historical records from their service have been preserved. Some of these old documents are on display in the house.

(Free admission, closed Mondays and year-end/New-Year holidays)

39 Kubijizo Statues



These head-only Jizo statues are said to cure head and neck-related diseases. There are various theories about these statues, such as that they came floating down from the upper reaches of the Mukogawa River in a flood and that they were dedicated by a feudal lord of Itami.

40 Kohamajuku Museum

The Kohama region developed as a semi-fortified town around Goshoji Temple at the end of the 15th century. In the Edo Period (1603-1868), it thrived as a post-station town at the junction of the Osaka, Kyoto, Arima, and Nishinomiya Trails. It is also known as a town of sake breweries and carpenters. The museum features a model of the Obama townscape, as well as displays of carpenters' tools. The special exhibition space next door also holds exhibits related to Takarazuka. (Free admission, closed Mondays and year-end/New-Year holidays)



41

Akura Takatsuka Kofun

(Municipal Historic Site)

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A circular tomb constructed around the end of the 4th century. A bronze mirror, inscribed with the date "Sekiu Nananen" (244AD, Wu, China) and other artifacts have been excavated from the shaft-style burial chamber, which was constructed made by piling stones.



42

Akura Sumiyoshi-jinja Shrine

Said to have been built in 825, this shrine was also known as Hondawake Akura Sumiyoshi-jinja in the Edo Period (1603-1868). Hondawake is a reference to Emperor Ojin, who is said to have rested his horses here while hunting.



43

Kanbun Hachinen Guidepost

(Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)

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Guidepost located at the Itami-Amagasaki junction on the Arima Trail. Commonly known as Bangachaya. The inscription "Kanbun Hachinen" (1668) is one of the oldest such guideposts remaining in Hyogo Prefecture.

44

Kohama Kotai-jinja Shrine

(Main shrine: Registered Prefectural Cultural Property; Roadside prohibition-edict board: Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)

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This shrine is dedicated to the deities Amaterasu-sume-okami and Amenokoyane-no-mikoto. The Kohama Ebisu Shrine is also found in the shrine precinct.



45

Isoshi no Watashi

From the Edo Period (1603-1868) until the Taisho Period (1912-1926), there were no bridges to cross the Mukogawa River on the Nishinomiya Trail. Travelers had to cross the river on ferryboats known as Isoshi no Watashi.



Oharano/ Hazu Area

An area in the north of Takarazuka, brimming with green, rural landscapes. It also has an abundance of ancient stone structures and cultural properties, making it an excellent location for walks and nature experiences.



Dahlias at the Takarazuka
Dahlia Garden
(Kamisasori)

46 Hazu Hachiman-jinja Shrine

(Main shrine: National Tangible Cultural Property; Stone torii gate: Prefectural Tangible Cultural Property)



Shrine dedicated to Hondawake-no-Mikoto (Emperor Ojin), believed to have been established by Minamoto no Mitsumasa (dates of birth and death unknown), younger brother of Mitsuoka (912?-997). The current main shrine was built in 1403, and the stone torii gate, which faces the reservoir, dates back to 1425.

N P

47 Hazu Stone Art

(Some Prefectural and Municipal Tangible Cultural Properties)

A group of works of stone art located at the western edge of the Hazu Hachiman-jinja Shrine precinct. They were originally located at Konpukuji Temple, which stood on a slope on the precinct's eastern side, but that area was submerged when the reservoir was constructed, so they were moved to their current location.



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48 Fumyoji Temple

(Stone structures: Prefectural Tangible Cultural Property; Illustrated maps, etc.: Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)



Site of the legend of Ryubashin no Amagoi (Ryubashin's Prayer for Rain), which is associated with Minamoto no Mitsuoka (912?-997). Features stone structures such as a Hokyoin pagoda, as well as the wooden frontispieces of a miniature shrine, adorned with paintings of the Four Heavenly Kings.

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49 Oharano Susanoo no Mikoto-jinja Shrine

(Shrine forest: Municipal Natural Monument)

A shrine surrounded by a sacred forest that comprises three stands, including hinoki cypress and fir stands. There are two Japanese cedar trees that are more than 400 years old, with trunks measuring 7 meters in circumference.



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50 Hosanji Temple

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(Ketoron Festival: Municipal Intangible Folk Cultural Property)

This shrine is dedicated to the 11-headed Juichimen Kannon. Ketoron, a folk festival to ward off disease that has been passed down since the Middle Ages, is held here on the night of August 14 each year.



51 Nagatani Susanoo-jinja Shrine

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(Main shrine: Prefectural Tangible Cultural Property)



The *sando* or shrine approach to this shrine is unusual in that worshippers must pass under the floor of the *nagatoko* stage in front of the main shrine. The main shrine is of the *sangensha kiritsuma* style and was built in the beginning of the Edo Period.

Inside Takarazuka Shizen-no-le Grounds

56 Matsuo Marshland

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(Municipal Natural Monument)

A valley marshland that developed on an impermeable layer of alluvial deposits, Matsuo Marshland is home to many plant species, including *Sphagnum palustre* (blunt-leaved bogmoss), *Eupatorium lindleyanum*, *Lobelia sessilifolia*, and *Epipactis thunbergii*.



52 Hazu Jizo Sekigan

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(Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)

A stone tower located at the foot of the bridge over the Hatsuka River. It is inscribed with the date Oei 24-nen (1417) and is believed to have been erected in the Muromachi Period (1336-1573).



53 Amida Sekigan

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(Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)

A stone tower from the late Kamakura Period (1185-1333). Carved in the image of the Amida Nyorai (Amitabha Buddha) and a man and woman in seated position with their hands joined in prayer.



57 Former Higashi Residence

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(Prefectural Tangible Folk Property)



54 Dainichido

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(Principal image: Municipal Tangible Cultural Property)

The principal image of worship is a joined block construction statue of the Dainichi Nyorai (Mahavairocana) in a seated position, which is covered in gold leaf on Japanese lacquer.



55 Maruyama Marshland

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(Prefectural Natural Monument)

Consisting of five marshes of various sizes, the Maruyama Marshland has the largest number of plant species (45 species) and one of the largest land areas of all marshlands in the prefecture.

A typical example of the farmhouses built in the Nishitani region in the Edo Period (1603-1868). The house has been relocated to its current site, where it is now on display as a museum of history and folklore. Tours are available only on days that the Takarazuka Shizen-no-le is open.

58 Takedao Onsen

In Takarazuka, there is an area surrounded by mountains known as Takedao. It is famous for the hot spring, Takedao Onsen, which is said to have been discovered by Takedao Naozo, a deserter from Toyotomi's army in the Edo Period (1603-1868). It is an excellent place to enjoy a hike while admiring the beauty of the Mukogawa River gorge and the mountains that change color with the seasons.



Takarazuka Guide

Origins of the city's name, Takarazuka

One theory is that the name, Takarazuka is derived from an ancient burial mound.

According to this theory, there was an ancient burial mound in the area which, legend had it, brought good fortune to anyone who picked up an article nearby, and that this mound came to be known as "Takarazuka" or "Treasure Hill."



Takarazuka and Buddhist Culture

Buddhist culture was brought to Takarazuka very early in its history. It is the site of many ancient temples, such as Nakayamadera Temple, which is believed to have been founded by Prince Shotoku, who was responsible for the spread of Buddhism throughout Japan, and Kiyoshikojin Seichoji Temple. Numerous stone art works influenced by Buddhist culture were created around Takarazuka, many of which have been preserved in the Nishitani area in the city's north.

Takarazuka Revue and Onsen

In 1911, Ichizo Kobayashi, the founder of the Hankyu Railway, opened the Takarazuka Shin-onsen, and in 1914, the Takarazuka Girls Revue, the predecessor of the Takarazuka Revue, was formed to provide entertainment for visitors to the hot springs resort. This all-female revue proved extremely popular, and Takarazuka later prospered as the town of music and hot springs.

Takarazuka Revue commemorated its centenary in 2014.

The Takarazuka Grand Theater and the area around it near Takarazuka Station are bright, lively spaces.

