

Sugihara Survivors Remembrance Route

in JAPAN

The Japanese diplomat who made a decision individually
and saved the lives of thousands of people



Japan. Endless Discovery.

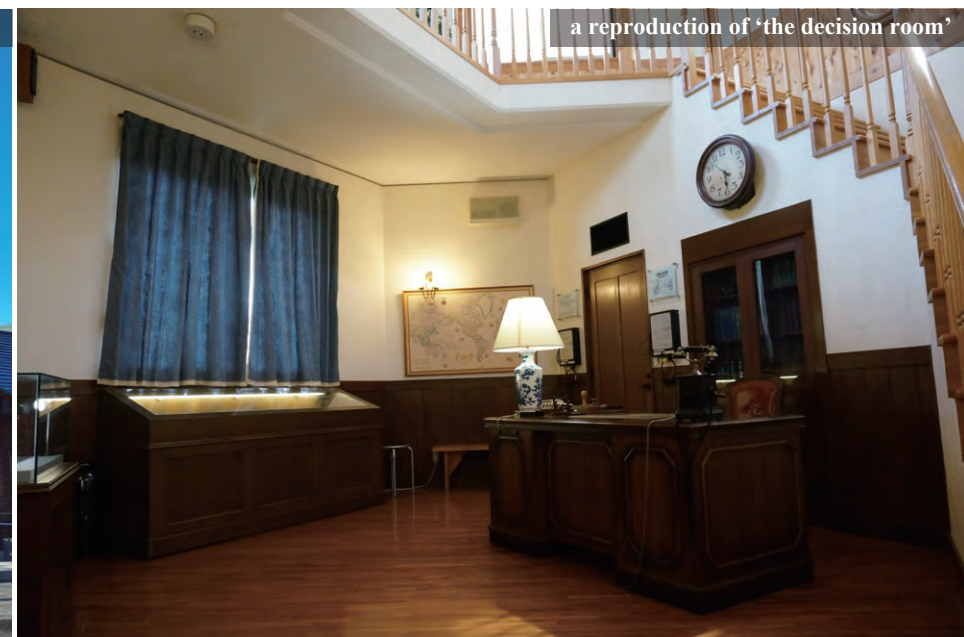


Yaotsu is a town located in Gifu Prefecture. It was historically said that this town was the transit point between road and river transportations, accommodating several river ports on the Kiso River flowing from east to west through the town. The town is filled with affluent green and water brought from 80% of its land covered by forestry.

As Yaotsu is the hometown of Chiune Sugihara, the Hill of Humanity Park and the Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall were built to commemorate his achievements. His deed filled with humanitarian spirit gave a glimmer of hope to humankind in the period of tragedy and misery on a global scale and this legacy should be shared with the world and passed on to future generations.



Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall



a reproduction of 'the decision room'



The Story of Chiune Sugihara

In 1940, a large number of Jewish refugees who fled Poland trying to escape the Nazi persecution, rushed to the Japanese consulate in Lithuania in an attempt to get transit visas to Japan. After struggling between his obligation to comply with professional rules as a diplomat and obeying his conscience, the Japanese diplomat decided that human lives are above all and issued the visas. That diplomat's name was Chiune Sugihara. Over the course of one month, he issued 2,139 visas. It was an action he took on his own after finding a way to help those who needed his help. After getting the visas, the refugees took the Trans-Siberian train to Vladivostok where they boarded the ships that took them to Tsuruga in Japan. They crossed the country to Kobe and Yokohama, from where they later traveled to other countries around the world. The lives of thousands of people were saved thanks to those visas issued by Sugihara.

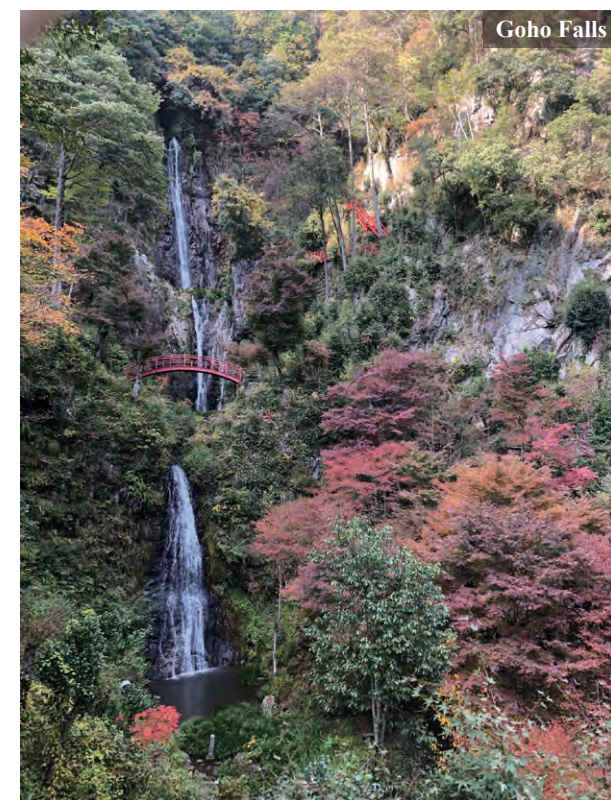


Gifu Bungy

The highest bridge bungy jump in Japan! Shintabisoko-bashi is one of the largest bridges in Japan with a total length of 462 meters. From this bridge surrounded on all sides by the scenic mountains, you can experience a big thrilling jump towards Tabisoko River flowing far below your eyes. Face your fears, test your will and then realize your own potential. If you are brave enough to take a leap of faith, an unforgettable, rewarding experience can be guaranteed.

Nature

Goho falls look different in each season. Breathe deeply in these beautiful surroundings to refresh your body and soul.



Goho Falls



The Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall

The Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall introduces the work of Chiune Sugihara and the story of the visas he issued, as well as the history of the Holocaust and the situation in Europe during WW2.

Listen to an explanation

Organized groups and individual visitors are welcome to listen to an explanation about the man and his deed in the lecture room. Please contact us for more information.



The refugees who received visas from Chiune Sugihara in Kaunas made it through Japan to America, Canada, Australia and other countries.

ies.



Yaotsu Sembei



Kurikinton

Gourmet

Dishes that make use of seasonal ingredients like Matsutake mushrooms and wild boar, chestnuts treats 'Kurikinton' that taste like autumn, many different kinds of local sake made from the pure water of Yaotsu and 'Yaotsu Sembei' cookies with its simple but nostalgic taste...

敦賀 Tsuruga

<https://tsuruga-kanko.jp/lang/?lg=en>



Located in Fukui Prefecture, Tsuruga is surrounded by mountains, untouched greenery and the deep blue sea. A taste of Tsuruga's long history can be experienced through long -preserved traditions and crafts, old temples and shrines that portray important episodes in Japan's past as well as the port which provided means for outside contacts between Japan and its neighbors for hundreds of years.

The Port of Humanity

In the 1920s Japan took in groups of Polish orphans who arrived at Tsuruga, where they were accepted warmly and were taken good care of. 20 years later, thousands of Jewish people with so-called "visas for life" also arrived at Tsuruga port. Because Tsuruga was their first safe place after a long difficult journey from the continent, they called the city "heaven".

Traditions

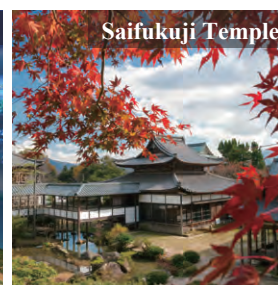
In Tsuruga, the gateway to the continent from the ancient times, there are many historical heritage that makes you feel the time that flourished by the harbor and the railroad.



Red Brick Warehouse



Red Brick Warehouse



Saifukuji Temple



Kehi Jingu Shrine

PORT OF HUMANITY TSURUGA MUSEUM

Port of Humanity Tsuruga Museum portrays unique and compassionate stories. Its exhibition tells you the story of Sugihara's brave decision to grant visas, and the locals' reactions and attempts to help the refugees are shown through witnesses' descriptions.

<https://tsuruga-museum.jp/en/>



Cherry Blossom Exchanging Festival



Cherry Blossom Exchanging Festival



Fireworks and Lantern Festival



Fireworks and Lantern Festival



Tsuruga Festival



Oboro-Kombu

Gourmet

Tsuruga is one of the leading production areas of kelp processing in Japan. Kombu like thin silk shows the richness of Japanese food culture.

中津川 Nakatsugawa

<https://www.city.nakatsugawa.lg.jp/kanko/english/index.html>



Nakatsugawa city is located in the east part of Gifu prefecture and has rich nature with the Kiso River flowing in the middle of the city. It used to flourish as the key transportation hub where people, supplies and traditions come and go.

Chiune Sugihara in Nakatsugawa

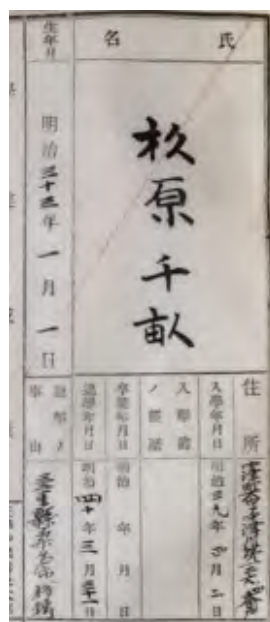
Nakatsugawa-juku, where Sugihara's house stood, is the 45th post town on the Nakasendo Road. There are a lot of old buildings still remained since the Edo period and newly opened cafes. Sugihara lived in Nakatsugawa from 5 to 7 years old. He entered Nakatsu Jinjo Elementary School (present Nakatsugawa City Minami Elementary School).



A Site Where Chiune Sugihara Lived

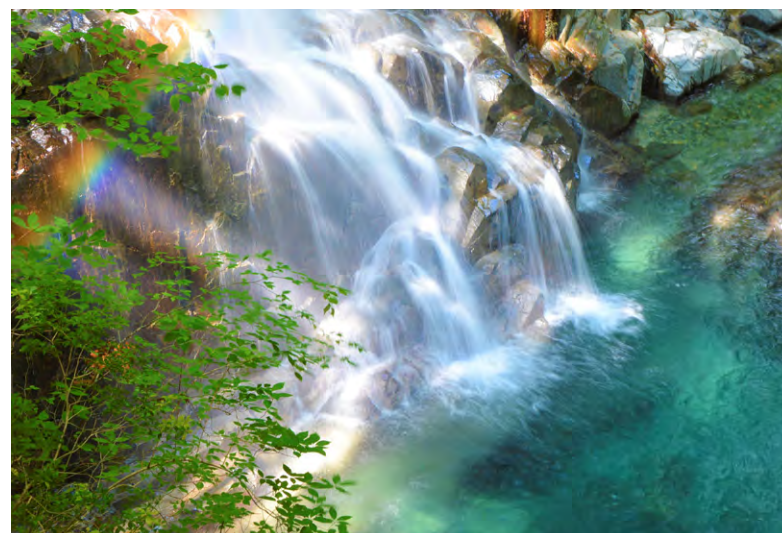
It is very close to the Nakasendo Road. The Sugihara's house was demolished and the house of Takahiro Mizukami, a Japanese oil painter living in France, currently stands in the same place.

School Register



Site of Nakatsu Jinjo Elementary School

A city library and community center stand at the place where Nakatsu Jinjo Elementary School used to stand. Roof tiles used for the school are still remained.

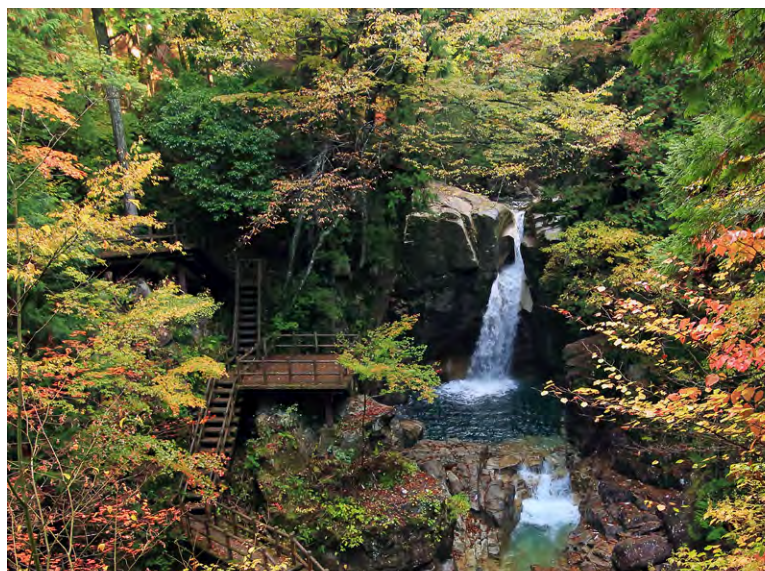


Yumori Valley

Amazing view spot located at about 700 meters above sea level. In autumn, you can see the brilliantly colored leaves.

Tsukechi Gorge

Located in the hidden area of deep mountains, all nature stays untouched. Stream water is clear enough to see the bottom of the river and trees changing their color are beautiful with each passing season.



Historical Road, Nakasendo

One of the five main routes constructed during Edo period. There are three post towns, Magome-juku, Ochiai-juku and Nakatsugawa-juku in Nakatsugawa city. Strolling through each post town, you will be immersed in the nostalgic atmosphere of the Edo period. Hiking on Ochiai Cobblestone Path is popular for visitors since scenes of the Edo period are still remained.



Nakatsugawa-juku



Ochiai-juku



Ochiai Cobblestone Path



Magome-juku



Naegi Castle Ruins

The site is on the steep hill on the right bank of the Kiso River flowing from east to west in the city. The natural huge rocks are used to construct the stone wall

of the castle. One of the remarkable stone walls in the nation.



Kurikinton - Chestnuts sweet

Kurikinton is a Japanese sweet with very simple savor of chestnut itself. It is said that it originated in Nakatsugawa.



Local Sake

There are various kinds of local sake in Nakatsugawa since the climate is suitable for sake brewing. Taste a little bit of them and feel the differences.

白川郷 Shirakawa-go

<https://shirakawa-go.gr.jp/>

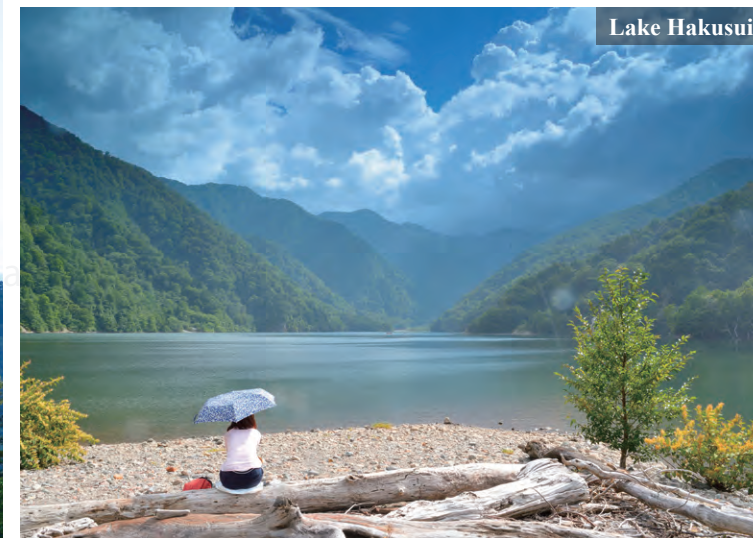


Shirakawa-go is a place where traditional rural living is still thriving. Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Shirakawa village is where you can see one of the most traditional and unique areas in Japan.

Shirakawa-go was registered as a World Heritage Cultural site in 1995 because it is "an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates significant stage in human history." The main attraction is the Gassho-style houses, which are located in Ogimachi. (Ogimachi is located slightly north of the village center.) There are facilities where visitors can experience traditional cultural activities and a historical museum, and they can see how local people have been living since the old days.



Shirakawa-go in Winter



Lake Hakusui



Rice Planting Festival



Shirakawa-go Hida Beef
"Suttate-nabe"

Village declared a
UNESCO World Heritage
Shirakawa-go

Gourmet

Suttate is Shirakawa-go's hometown dish of choice, prepared to celebrate special occasions. It is made from dashi stock with a grated soy beans, miso, and soy sauce base. A local volunteer group, the "Shirakawa-go Nabe-Eaters' Squad" arranges the cooking so that as many people can try the dish as possible.

金沢 Kanazawa

<https://visitkanazawa.jp/en/>



Kanazawa took its place in Nippon history when it became the capital city of the Kaga province, the biggest in Japan during the 16th century. Around the Maeda clan's imposing castle, soon stood majestic samurai houses, rich warehouses, craftsmen's ateliers and numerous temples. During the Edo period (1603-1868), the city saw the development of a particularly refined culture. It was so thriving that it became Japan's fourth town after Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto. Time went by, sparing Kanazawa from natural disasters and wars. That is why Kanazawa appears today as an amazing conservatory for ancient Japanese traditions and artistic refinement. The intact old market, geisha districts, samurai or craftsmen quarters make it one of Japan's most enjoyable historic centres, without forgetting its most exquisite culinary traditions. Registered in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network in the field of Crafts and Folk Arts, Kanazawa has also known how to anchor itself in our time with remarkable architectural realisations such as its station or the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art.



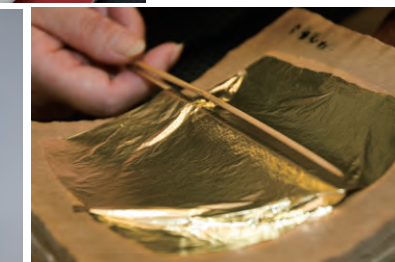
History

Higashi Chaya and Geisha ↑
Oyama Shrine ←
Kanazawa Castle →
Kenrokuen Garden ✓
Nomura Samurai Family Residence ↓



Cuisine

Omicho Market and its seafood selection ↖
Kaga Cuisine ↑
delicious and visually appealing
exquisite Kanazawa's famed sake →
Wagashi, Japan's confectionery ←



Crafts

The subtle art of lacquerware ←
Gold leaf work ↑
Kaga Yuzen silk dyeing →

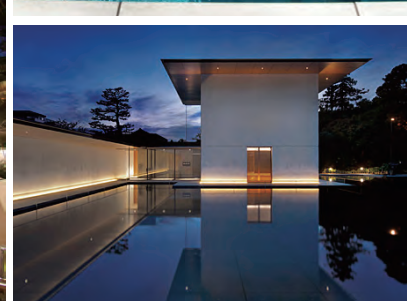


21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art ↑→

D.T. Suzuki Museum ↘

Kanazawa Station ↓

Modernity



Hyakumangoku Festival (1st weekend of June)

Samurai Prades re-enacted in the streets →
No theatre performed outside in Kanazawa Castle ↓



高山 Takayama

<https://www.hida.jp/english/>



Surrounded by the mountains of Gifu Prefecture, positioned roughly in the center of Japan, Hida Takayama is known as "Little Kyoto". It is a friendly city with beautiful seasonal scenery and has a long and rich history. Old town, developed as a merchant town built around the former castle town of the Edo period, is still prosperous today. In spring and autumn, the city hosts the famous "Takayama Festival", one of the three most beautiful festivals in Japan. Gorgeous parade floats pass by spectators and remind them of the classic landscapes of long ago. Hida Takayama is listed as a three star must-visit tourist site in Michelin's "Michelin Voyager Pratique Japon" and "Michelin Guide Vert Japon".



Festivals

Takayama Festival, one of the three most beautiful festivals in Japan, is held in spring and autumn.



Traditions

Private houses in Hida Folk Village, with steep rafter roofs to protect villagers from heavy snowfalls.

Onsen

Oku Hida Hot Springs Village with a view of the 3,000m high mountains. This village has the most outdoor baths in Japan.



Nature

"Norikura Skyline" has the highest elevation point in Japan. Enjoy its magnificent natural beauty.

Takayama, your spiritual hometown



History

Takayama Jinya, the only remaining local government office of the Edo period.

Hida beef

Organic beef-top quality both in texture and taste.

Attractions

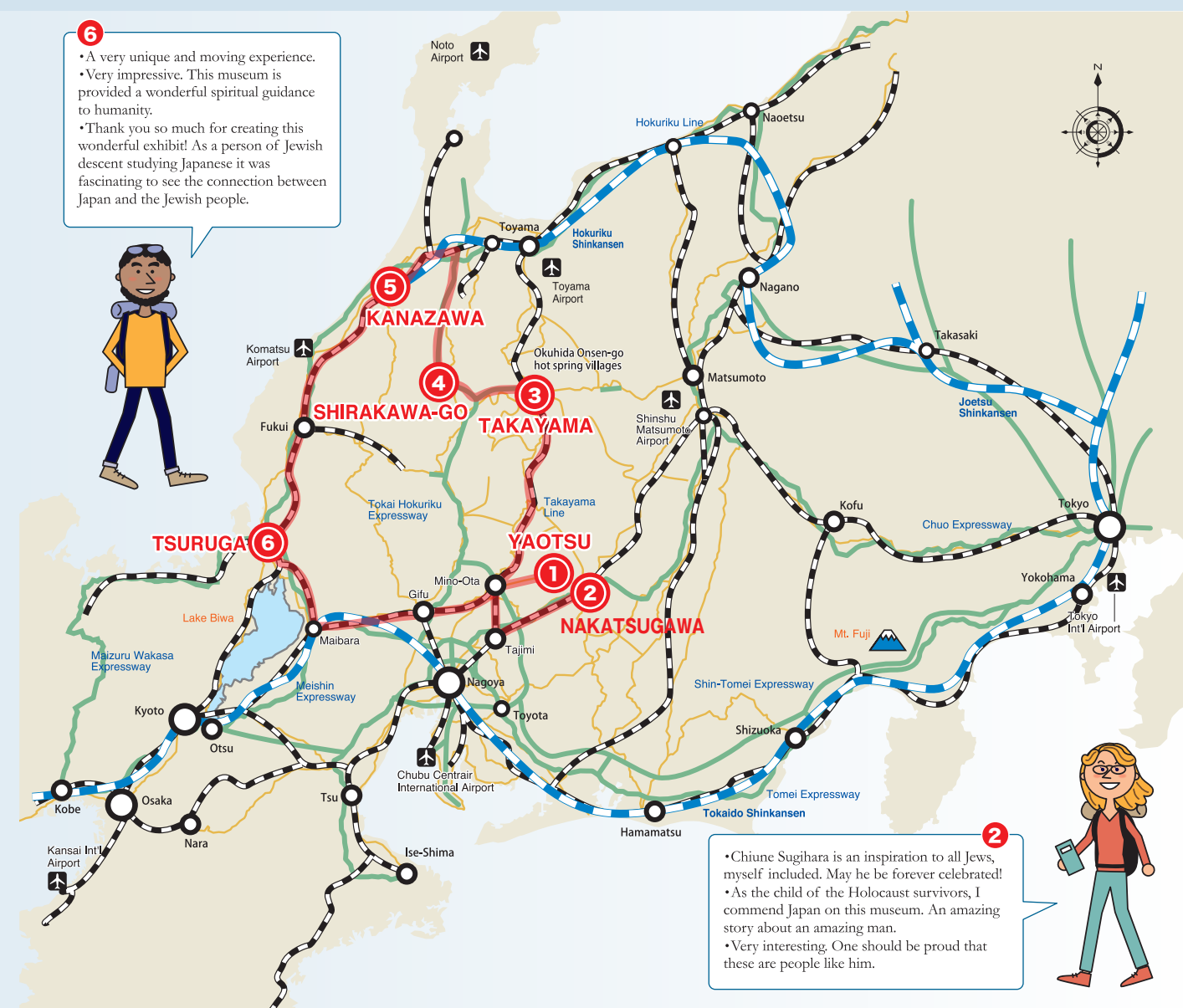
Natural beauty in all seasons, delicious food, and great artwork.





Model Course

Typical route (3 nights, 4 days)



① Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall Yaotsu Town

Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall was built to honor the man's humanitarian spirit and deeds.
An exhibit recreates the appearance of the consulate in Kaunas at the time when Chiune Sugihara was busily issuing visas to help save Jews from the Nazis.
Experience Chiune's love for humanity and awake the spirit that dwells within you.
Hill of Humanity Park was landscaped as a memorial site to honor Chiune Sugihara's deeds and commemorate them for future generations.
The signature monument also plays music expressing a wish for peace.

1071, Yaotsu, Yaotsu-cho, Kamo-gun, Gifu-Prefecture, 505-0301
Hours 9:30 - 17:00
Closed Mondays / New Year's Day

• If a national holiday occurs on a Monday, the Memorial Hall will be closed on the following Tuesday.
Car From Kani-Minake IC on Tokai-Kanjo Expressway, 15 min. via Prefectural R83 through Yaotsu Tunnel.
Bus Toetsu Bus from JR Mino Ota Sta. to Yaotsu-cho Family Center Mae, then change to Yaomaru and get off in front of the Memorial Hall at Jindo no Oka Kita.
• On Saturday, Sunday, and public holidays, the community bus does not run.
Please travel by other means, such as taxi Shin Ota Taxi Tel 0574-25-2145
On Sat., Sun., and public holidays, you can use the free sightseeing shuttle taxi from Yaotsu-cho Family Center Mae.
For more information about the shuttle taxi, please check the Yaotsu-cho Tourist Association website at <http://kankou.yaotsu.jp/>

TEL +81-574-43-2460 (Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall)
<https://www.town.yaotsu.lg.jp/sugihara-museum/en/>



② Nakasendo Nakatsugawa-juku Nakatsugawa City

Nakatsugawa-juku, where Chiune Sugihara's house stood, is the 45th post town on the Nakasendo road. Charming old buildings line the streets of this vibrant town. Many of the houses have Udatsu (fireproof decorations on the roofs of Japanese houses), which were a symbol of wealthy families. In recent years, there are more and more places where you can stop by, such as cafes and shops that make use of the exteriors of the historical houses.

Honmachi, Nakatsugawa City, Gifu Prefecture, 508-0041
Access: 10 min. from Nakatsugawa Station by foot

TEL +81-573-62-2277
(Nakatsugawa Tourist Information Center)



⑥ Port of Humanity Tsuruga Museum Tsuruga City

Port of Humanity Tsuruga Museum presents the history behind disembarkations in Tsuruga of Polish orphans in the 1920s, and Jewish refugees escaping from Nazi Europe in 1940s.
Through testimonies left by the people of Tsuruga and exhibits such as a watch left by a refugee, you will learn how warmly the locals accepted first, forlorn children and, then, Jewish refugees who managed to land at Tsuruga with "Visas for Life" issued by Chiune Sugihara.

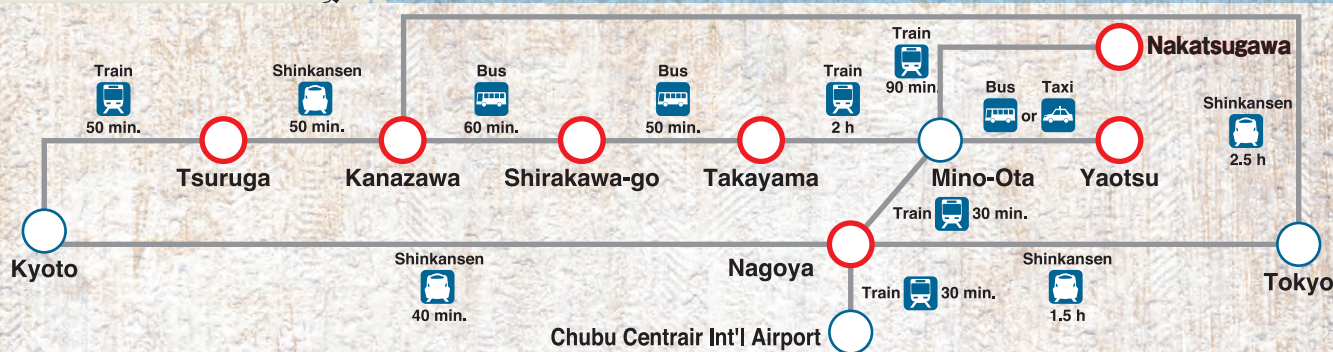
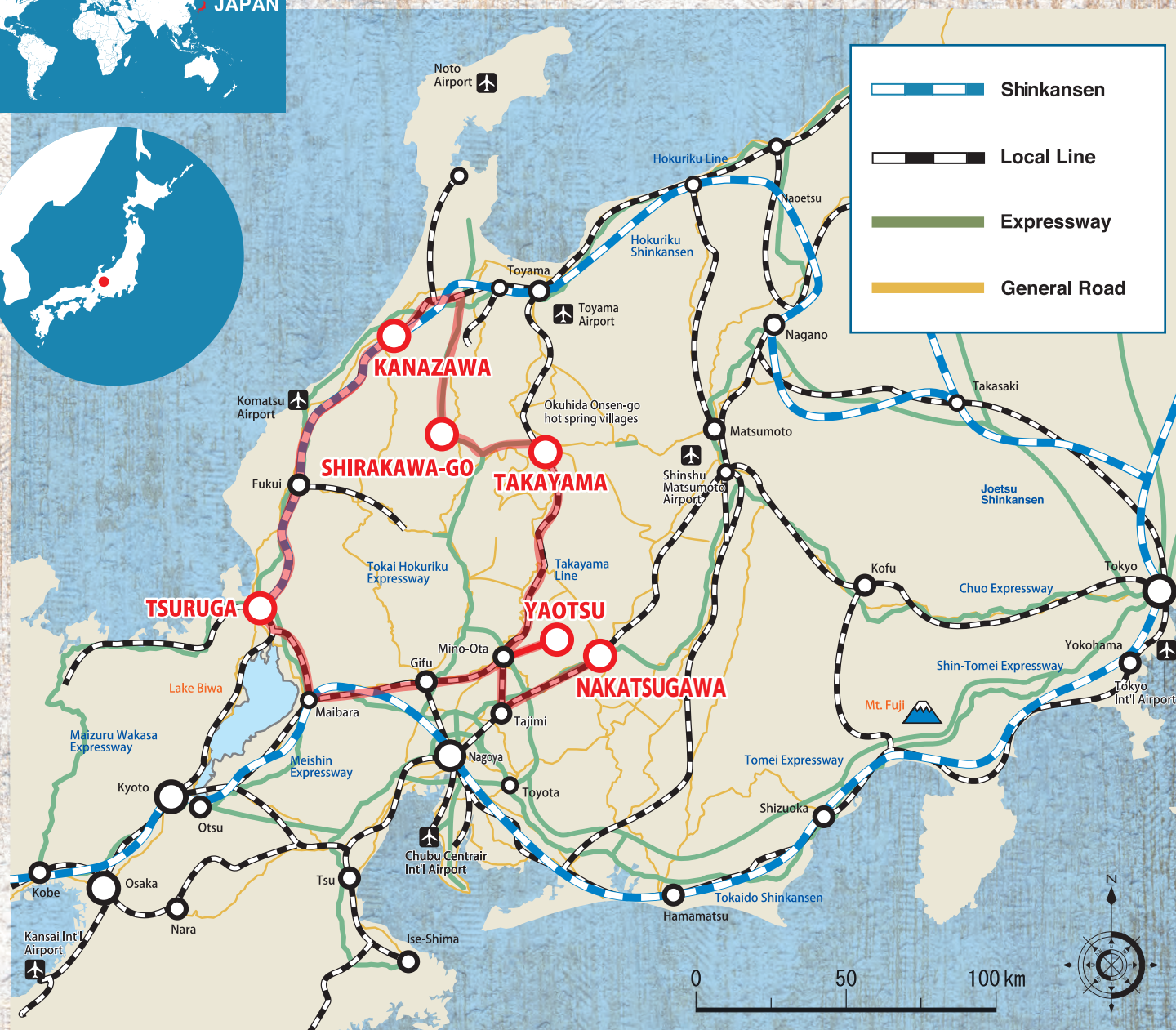
23-1, Kanegasaki-cho, Tsuruga City, Fukui Prefecture, 914-0072
Hours 9:00 - 17:00 (Last Admission 16:30)
Closed Wednesdays (or the following day if Wednesday is a national holiday), New Year holidays
Bus
• Take the Grutto Tsuruga Loop Bus "Sightseeing Route" or the Community Bus "Higashiura Line" from Tsuruga station and get off at Kanegasaki Ryokuchi (Tsuruga Museum) stop.
※ The Community Bus "Higashiura Line" does not run on weekdays.
• Take the Community Bus "Matsubara Line" from Tsuruga station and alight at "Kirameki minato hall" stop
Taxi Approx. 10 min. from Tsuruga Station.
Car Approx. 10 min. from Hokuriku Expressway Tsuruga I.C.

TEL +81-770-37-1035
<https://tsuruga-museum.jp/en/>





Sugihara Survivors Remembrance Route



Get to know Chiune Sugihara

Explore the sites deeply associated with Chiune Sugihara: Yaotsu-town - the hometown of Chiune Sugihara, Nakatsugawa City- where he spent his childhood, and Tsuruga City- the port town where the refugees arrived with their hands clenching the "Visas for Life" issued by him. Extending your journey to Takayama City, Shirakawa-go and Kanazawa City, it is highly recommended as these are areas reminiscent of an Old-Japan filled with untouched landscapes and its traditional culture.

<<CONTACT>>

Chiune Sugihara Route Promotion Council

Mail: osd@city.takayama.lg.jp

<https://www.chiune-route.com>

