



Settaya Town

- 1 Greeting
- Mountains in east side
- 2 Local shopping area and "Gangi"
Air raid in the end of the World War 2
- Nagaoka Fireworks
- 3 Takashi Akiyama Poster Museum
- 4 Location conditions for Brewing Industry
Folk Beliefs
Koshi-no-Murasaki (Soysauce)
- 5 Jozou (Guardian deity of children and travelors)
- 6 Takemoma Inari shrine
- 7 Mikuni-Kaidoh (old highway in Edo era)
- 8 YoshinoGawa Hisago-Tei (Japanese Sake)
YoshinoGawa Joukura (warehouse)
- 9 Kina-Sffro Liqueur and Kote-E warehouse
- 10 Hoshino-Honten (Soysauce and soybean paste)
- 11 Koufuku-Ji temple and the civil war, about 150 years ago
- 12 Hoshiroku (Soybean paste)
- 13 Hasegawa-Shuzou (Japanese Sake)
- 14 Kawakami Shirou and the Ohta-Gawa River
- 15 Shrine visit, Sake

Greeting –

Hello, thank you very much for joining our guide-tour in Settaya town.

I'm delighted to have you here.
(It's really nice to have you here.)

My name is Kasuga, a member of the Nagaoka Sightseeing Volunteer Guide Association, and dispatched from the Association for guiding you in Settaya area.

It is a very clear day, it is pleasant to walk around.
I hope you enjoy this tour. / I hope you will enjoy this tour.

My favorite things

May I talk to you about my favorite things?

Most favorite thing is art. Picture appreciation in museums, reading books regarding art,etc.

In Nagaoka, there are a lot of art spots, museums, statues, and so on. About half a century, Nagaoka was a top-leading city in Modern art. If you are interested in art,

If you are interested in music,

Nagaoka has also many opportunity to interact with the music. Sisters city Banberger, Germany. Banberger Sinfoniker Affiliation with the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, one of the major orchestras in Japan

The other famous musicians visiting every year

醸造、日本酒の話から始める

First, Japanese Sake is produced by a different product process from those of wine or beer, or whiskey.

Secondly, it has an unique custom that sometimes drink warmed sake. And thirdly, sake has the strongest concentration among fermentation type alcoholic beverage.

Are you interested on such a talk ?

OKの場合、

NOの場合、



Please stand around me, and see those hills in this direction. You can see several folds of mountains ranges over there. Mountains in front are almost lower than 800 meters, and we call them "Higashi-yama". Recently the Higashi-Yama hills area is designated as a (prefectural) natural park; it is abundant with wild grasses and flowers including wild lilies, insects including many kinds of beetles and butterflies, birds and so on. They are about 10 km from here, there is a lot of hiking trails in the hills, where citizens enjoy trails in particular spring and fall.

The most right-hand side of the hills, one mountain you see is a entrance to Yamakoshi area.

Talking later about a main road called as the Mikuni-Kaido, the main road was tying up Nagaoka and Edo.

Yamakoshi root was a short-cut, joining to the Mikuni-Kaidoh approximatey 30 km south (the right direction) from here.



It is characteristic that all storefronts of the shopkeeper-houses are faced to shopping streets of the town, and common roofs "Gangi" are built among Inari Jinja houses. They are devised to live in long winter season with heavy snow fall.

It is about 500 meters from the crossing in front of the station to the next brock crossing near the Settaya-brewing industry zone (district), however width of the road is changed near a concrete building, which is now used as the Poster Museum.

To built Gangi, all the local people must offer a part of their private land for the public passage.

This is the spirit of give and take.



The spirits of
give and take

To build Ganji, all the local people must offer a part of their private lands for the public passage.
This is the spirit of give and take seen in snowy region in Niigata.

There are many implicit manners based on the spirits of give and take.
One of them found in particular in the snow-fall region is "pull shoulder" manner.
Namely in a narrow passage, it is recommended that you should pull shoulder of your counterpart in order to prevent body contact with each other.

This can be seen frequently in particular in narrow passages on the snow town.
They pass each other with the heart of thanks in their minds.

"Slant your umbrella" manner in a narrow passage in order not to wet your counterpart is the manner having the same meaning.



Goodwill of the individual regarding widespread use of snow melt system

Red discolored "pedestrian crossing sign"

Goodwill of the individual regarding widespread use of snow melt system

And one more thing, a president of a company in Nagaoka devised snow melt system to overcome severe life in snow land.

He devised the snow melt system using pomp-uped warm underground water, however abandon the technology patent rights and allow all the cities to use the system.

It was about fifty years, and now the snow melt systems using pomp-uped warm underground are found around snow fall area in Japan.

You find red-colored roads in Nagaoka.

This is a trace of iron ferric underground water, pump-uped from shallow layer.



Nagaoka City Hanabi – HP

As I will explain later, Nagaoka city had been devastated one more time about 150 years ago, although it was the civil war.

The Nagaoka Festival held in every year August is a festival famous for its fireworks display that spans two evenings.

It was started in 1946 to memorize reconstruction from the tragedy brought in World War 2.

To the Nagaoka fireworks, wholehearted three wishes/desires are loaded. Namely, first the memorial service to the people who died by the war, secondly thanks to the foregoing people who made efforts for revival of the city from the two wars and several desearsters including the large earthquake in 2004, and thirdly a wish for lasting peaces all over the world, are loaded with.

If you have a chance to enjoy the Nagaoka fireworks, we hope you remember such a background the fireworks has.



These area was burnt out by the air raid in night of 1st, August 1945.
It was the final stage of the World War 2.

Fire was spreading from the north and reached at the point of concrete building.

The fire was stoped and the southern part of Settaya, today I am going to guide, was remained.

The concrete building had built as a countermeasure of the Kanto-Daishisai, attacking Tokyo area occurred 1923.one of the largest earthquakes in Japanese history

It was the previous year of planning new branch office of a local bank in Nagaoka.

Takashi Akiyama Poster Museum Nagaoka



Akiyama Takashi, Professor of the Tama Art University Scenes of Miyauchi and Settaya

Professor Akiyama was born near here, and Takashi, Professor remembers the nostalgia in the old-days
His posters are abundant in love.

A lot of posters, produced by the professor Akiyama and students in his research room in the university, show not only current Settaya but also the surrounding in the old-days Settaya.

Posters described the surrounding in the old-days Settaya includes "Winter scenes of Ohta-Gawa river", "Autumn scenes of rice-paddies", et cetera.

Japanese Folk Beliefs

I want to explain Japanese folk religion, however, it seems very difficult to make a strict discussion. Then I think it is suitable to limit the subject with current state of the folk religion.

Even if I do, but it should be noted the following.

Namely it is unavoidable that the explanation is simplified partially.

It can be concluded that the Japanese Buddhism was extremely influenced by several rulers, however religious mind of Japanese has not been changed.

Briefly speaking, it is said that Japanese Buddhism consists of three elements,

first original India Buddhism to demand relief of individual heart, second the Chinese Taoism to demand benefits gained in this world, and third Japanese Buddhism to take great importance to ancestors memorial service which is unrelated to Indian Buddhism.

It is difficult to explain exactly.

First, folk religion can be said to cover on Japanese religious mind deeply. The folk religion existed in Japan Islands before peoples had a characters. And one more important thing exists.

In modern society, separation of politics and religion is natural, however in the past both were influenced each other deeply.

In the old days, the Japanese Buddhism was extremely influenced by policies of the Tokugawa Shogunate and the Meiji government, however a part of the old-dated Japanese of the religious mind has not been changed, or still alive.

As a result, we can see various objects (targets) of religious prayer here and there of towns and villages even now.

Three reasons that brewing industry has been accumulated in Settaya area.

First, fundamental conditions for the Japanese Sake brewing are considered to be three elements: water, rice, chief brewers.

Among them, water is thought to be the most essential one.

Because the others are able to be provided from out of Settaya.

Settaya is located approximately 1.5k from the Higashi-Yama Hills and 2 km from the Shinano-Gawa River, so Settaya is blessed with high quality water.

Secondly, Settaya area was ruled as a territory of the Zao-Shrine, under the authority of the Edo-Kan-ei-Ji Temple supported by the Shogunate.

So Settaya town was out of control of Nagaoka feudal Han.

I guess the Settaya's commerce regulations such as tax system, the stock acquisition were weak, and the town was easy to do business.

Thirdly, regarding raw materials transportation of liquor and soy sauce, shipment and route by land distribution route were important.

Thinking from this point of view, here was a geographical convenience with "Mikuni-Kaidou" and the Ohta-Gawa river. Mikuni-Kaidou was one of the main country-routes to Edo, The Ohta-Gawa river flows to the Japan Sea, and was functioned as an inside-channel of the Shinano-Gawa River, therefore the Settaya area was blessed with transportations not only on land but also on water.

They said that "Mid-winter season is suitable for the Sake-production".

From winter to early spring, the Ohta-Gawa river has much quantity of water by melting snow, so this area should have been suitable for the shipment of new Sake in early spring.

Actually, flow quantity of the Ohta-Gawa river in this area is considered to be the best condition, not too high speed, not too slow speed.



Koshi-no-Murasaki

Say sause brewing company
Many say sauce products are sold.

Established in 1831
Typical merchant store building style found in heavy-snow area
from long ago is shown.

When such several stores make a street, gangi was sometimes
constructed.



a) Jizo-Bosatsu

This is a guardian deity of children (in Japanese, Jizo-Bosatsu). Initially it is said generally to take form of self-disciplined practices monks. But before long it became an image of a child, as you can see here.

Then it finally becomes the guardian deity of children that has been loved as not only children but also all the peoples bothered with various suffering. They usually stand on waysides or branch points of village entrances or mountain paths.

Jizo-Bosatsu in Settaya is also such a guardian.

Initially it was stood to pray a daughter gone missing in the Edo period., 200 years ago in Nagaoka town area.

Several characters are found in the base stones, saying
'Right to Edo' and 'Left to mountains'

Main road was called as the Mikuni-Kaido, the main road was tying up Nagaoka and Edo.

Mountains root (Yamakoshi root) was a short-cut, joining to the Mikuni-Kaidoh approximatey 30 km south (the right direction) from here.



b) Inari Jinja

Inari Jinja is said to be a tutelary shrine guarding the local people. It is dedicated to the gods of the harvest and industry. A pair of foxes, messengers of the gods, stand at the gate of the shrine. The god is also called "Daimyojin" and is well-known as "Oinari-sama" and "Oinari-san."

There are several roots in Inari Jinjas.

The most famous Inari Jinja is that of the Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine in Kyoto and widely worshiped as an Inari-shin (Oinari-san – god of harvests, wealth, fertility, etc.)

Transferring the separated spirit of existing shrine to a new shrine (religious ceremony for appeasing the gods) is called kanjo.

This Inari Jinja was "Kanjo"ed (transferring) from Takekoma Shrine in Miyagi prefecture to here, the Settaya town in the Meiji era in order to pray successes in brewing business and in village harvest.

By the way, fox pertains to Inari Jinjas.

The fox is only a messenger of Inari Jinja, and it is not God itself. For Inari Jinja, the fox is called a messenger of Inari Jinjas, followers for Inari Jinjas, and it is thought as holy animal, the same as Shrine dog.



Main road was called as the Mikuni-Kaido, the main road was tying up Nagaoka and Edo.

Its root is almost same as the National road No 17, which links now directly to Tokyo.



A sake maker with history and tradition.

Yoshinogawa has a tradition dating back 460 years of producing the best Sake in the rice-growing heartland of Niigata province. Founded in 1548. Yoshinogawa is the oldest brewery in the famed Sake producing region of Niigata Japan.

DAIGINJO YOSHINOGAWA

Yoshinogawa's flagship sake, this Daiginjo is incredibly complex with hints of white flower, strawberry, fresh mint and green herbs on the nose.

On the palate this sake shows hints of strawberry, musk, ginger and herbs, and has strong 'ginjo-ka' character. It has a clean and elegant mouth feel, whilst still having power and with a 'sweetness' on the finish.

This sake is kept in tank at minus 5 degrees for 3 years prior to bottling and this enhances the delicate fragrant character of the sake.

San-jaku-Dama is a symbol of Nagaoka Fireworks since old days.

Yoshino-Gawa has been provide them as one of the honored sponsors.



Inside Hisago-Tei

Yoshino-Gawa HP

Sometomes Japanese sake tasting is avaiilable.

Water

Japanese sake is 80 per cent water.

Underground water from Japan's largest river, the Shinano, and melted snow water from the Nagaoka Eastern Mountain range mingle together deep below the surface of the earth and gush forth from a well in the brewery grounds.

This is the water used to prepare Yoshinogawa sake.

This underground spring, known as the "TENKA-KANROSEN," produces a small volume of soft water with a perfect balance of minerals.

The vital ingredient in Yoshinogawa's sake, with its reputation as "clean sake, smooth to the taste," is water.

Rice

Insistence on rice grown in Niigata Prefecture and cultivated by the brewers themselves. Niigata Prefecture is famous throughout Japan as a rice-growing heartland. It is here that the sake rice we use at Yoshinogawa is cultivated.

The brewers who make the sake are farmers who grow rice in the summer.

With their thorough knowledge of the role of rice in sake-brewing, they brew sake using rice known as kurabito saibaimai or brewer's rice which they themselves have worked to grow.

At a short distance to the south, the other Japan sake brewery factory exist. Then three Japanese sake breweriy factories exist in such a small region. This industrial accumulation shows the Settaya area is suitable for Japanrse sake brewering.



Yoshino-Gawa HP

Skill

Those who make sake are called “kurabito” or “men of the brewery”.

The person with ultimate responsibility is the toji or master brewer.

The outskirts of the city of Nagaoka in Niigata Prefecture, with sophisticated sake-brewing technology are also known as the home of master brewers.

The sake brewers of Yoshinogawa, inheriting traditional skills going back over 460 years, continue to search for the ideal sake.

Even during the war, and other periods when rice was in short supply, we at Yoshinogawa have made the brewing of Ginjo the basis of our sake production, and preserved technology and tradition handed down from generation to generation.

Climate and Natural Features

Niigata Prefecture, home to Yoshinokawa’s brewery, is also renowned for its snowfall. The heavy snow, which contains a lot of moisture, piles up to transform the brewery into a natural refrigerator.

The fermentation which takes place during the brewing process is closely connected with microbes which wash out dirt and dust in the atmosphere. Snow has a very important role to play in the brewing of sake which dislikes microorganisms and requires low temperature control.

Yeast fungus business of Yoshinogawa began in a countermeasure for deficiency of food

中越酵母工業の設立の事情と、酵母業界の現状 170616
以下の英文では、吉乃川、中越酵母工業 の社名は日本語のまま。

中越酵母工業 is a group enterprise of 吉乃川.

中越酵母工業 is a specialized company of yeast fungus(菌) production such as yeast fungus for bread and beer.

After the war, a lot of yeast production companies had been made for spread promotion of bread-centered diet (as opposed to rice) by the GHQ policy to let Japanese eat bread. Yoshino-Gawa,

Because 吉乃川 used yeast for sake brewing, Yeast factory we had been recommended from around to produce yeast.

The company was established in 1947 to make the yeast production.

There were a lot of same business companies, many of them had closed the business by merger / non-mainstream section.

And now only four companies continued the yeast production in the whole country.

Whole country share of 中越酵母工業 (株) is 10%.

Many brewing companies of the whole country, they are also competitors of 吉乃川, ask for new yeast development production. Under strict confidentiality obligation of information management, we collaborate in new sake development activities of the competitors.

Now we produce yeast from raw material, sugarcane, imported from Indonesia.

We have a chemical processing facility satisfying a COD standard of waste-fluid generated by a production process, and facility of aeration tanks (concrete tanks) for the smell removal.

In being a group company of a brewing company 吉乃川 now, 中越酵母工業 can operate continuously and add to presence in a strength.

The company is very useful for sake brewing of 吉乃川 because making yeast in a specialty in a group, and to be able to make yeast of a fresh state.



Yoshino-Gawa, Jou-Kura
covered with Japanese Ivy

Yoshino-Gawa, Jou-Kura

Jou-Kura means in Japanese, "Always using for warehouse".

Now it is used as a product shipment field with

Built in 1923, as a brewing factory.

It was built by an advanced steel frame truss structure as those days.

Japanese Ivy、Boston Ivy

Not only fresh green also autumn colored leaves are beautiful.

Because it is fallen leaves nature, the winter season becomes
only a vine, though it is tasteful in itself.



Kina-saffron brewering

(from Settaya Newsletter)

Here is a historic site of a wealthy merchant, a bewering company producing saffron-liqueur.

Saffron is the same kind of plant species as crocus.

He sold the liqueur as a medicated liqueur for health promotion. In the first half of the 20th century, sales channel was around the country, and greatly prospered.



Kina-saffron brewering
(from Settaya Webpage)

This building with its beautifully decorated architecture was built in 1920's. It is made by proficient "Kote-E" skill, like plaster-technique developed in Western Europe.

It has been passed about one hundred years, however it is said that their colors were hardly deteriorated.

Formerly it had been used as an office and now it is shown to the public in a few days a week.

It is registered as a National Cultural Property.

Keynote of the Kote-E on the east face of the building
God-kings of ancient China, guarding east, west, south and respectively, and the other god-kings. Several kings had been come from western countries, including central Asia and Egypt. For example, blue animals seen there are drawn as phoenix. Pigment used for blue color is said King of Blue, a flower color of "Tropic water-lily".

Keynote of the north and south faces
Japanese twelve animals bringing good fortune, namely prosperous business and prosperous descendants
For example, boar (original species of pig) is a God of rice field and crop. Silver grass means autumn, harvesting season.

Keynote inside the building
Several figures praying prosperous are made.
They have been thought as marks of auspiciousness.



Kina-saffron brewering

(from Settaya Home Page)

- Luxury annex house (used for guesthouse)
Lavish rooms, corridors, decorated with a lot of Japanese-style woodwork and furniture were installed inside the house.
Ceiling of the rooms are elaborately-crafted with Japanese-style or Western-style suitable for each room respectively.
- Wide Japanese garden with various valuable natural stones and large garden lanterns
Almost all the lanterns had been fallen over during the large earthquake attacking Nagaoka area in 2004, they have been restored in these years

A lot of volunteers including the Settaya neighborhood association, university students and citizens are weeding the garden three or fourtimes a year.



Hoshino-Honten

Soy sauce

Hoshino-Honten

Established 1846

Three-layer Godown

Built initially with two-layer in 1883 as a costume warehouse, and about 100 years ago, it was extended with three-layer.

Its walls are made of structuring materials of nine-layer .

Many commercial products of soysauce and saybeans paste are continuously received bravery awards in domestic contests.

We find several characters "Kanji" on the surface of inside door of the Kabuki-Mon, made of massive and gorgeous stone.

These characters compose a Chinese phrase.

This phrase means some household articles for merchant, saying get along with parents and brothers, get rid of waste, and keep frugality and so on.

This door was installed in 1883, the early Meiji Era.

Such a habitual practice of merchants has remained in these days.

This phrase is actually found in the famous large collection of books edited by an emperor of the Qing dynasty in the early 18th century.

中国・清朝の乾隆帝の勅命により編纂された、中国最大の漢籍叢書

We guess the phrase was one of the phrases, popular in merchants who liked to read books regarding art of managing in society.

About one hundred years ago, such a culture had remained in Japan. Indeed during the several hundred years including these periods, Chinese culture has been honored as norms of the East civilized countries.

處世術～ 英辞郎に従って、Art of managing in society

商業 commerce, commercial pursuits, trade

(以下は、ガイドでは不要と思いますが、これは四庫全書のこと、

The name of the collection is known as "the Complete

Collection of Illustrations and Writings from the Earliest

to Current Times in the entire Chinese history",)

Old-fashioned reception office

Enlargement office for business meeting with customers, built about one hundred years ago.

Typical taisho-era style is seen on ceiling and furniture.

At that time, the factory prepared two reception offices,

one for Japanese style and the other for this western style.

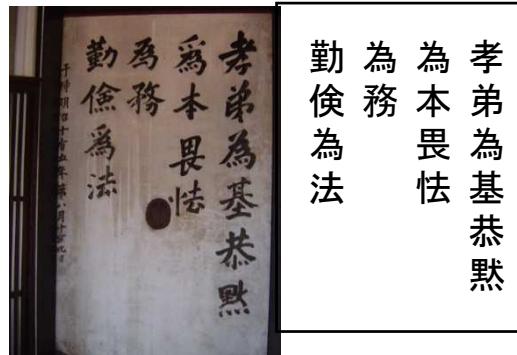
They had been used separately depending on a demand of customers,

石造りの冠木門から入る構造の蔵の入り口の、重い部屋扉の左隅に、明治十五年の文字が見え、当初の二階建土蔵の新築当時の揮毫と思われます。中国の古い文書からの引用句で、明治の初期、このように、中国の古典から語句を引用し、家訓とする文化が残っていたことを、説明できたらと、思います。

孝弟為基
恭默為本
畏怯為務
勤儉為法

左スミに明治十五年の
文字が見える

蔵の一階の
部屋扉の文字



語句の出典調査

[https://www.kanripo.org/
text/KR3k0055/299](https://www.kanripo.org/text/KR3k0055/299)

欽定四庫全書

欽定淵鑑類 函卷二百九十四

欽定四庫全書

御製淵鑑類の函序に、皇帝の
記載する序があり、康熙四十九年
(1710年) 十月二十五日作成の
欽定四庫全書、哲学書の
集大成のなかにあるとされる。

Guest room, sometimes you are able to taste Shirodashi,
or other products



Old-fashioned reception office

Enlargement office for business meeting with customers,
built about one hundred years ago.

Typical taisho-era style is seen on ceiling and furniture.

At that time, the factory prepared two reception offices,
one for Japanese style and the other for this western style.
They had been used separately depending on a demand
of customers,

Shop adjacent to the factory

Soy sauce

Shirodashi (white soy sauce with soup stock)

Guest room, sometimes you are able to taste Shirodashi,
or other products



Koufuku-Ji temple

- 1) Old temple, first established in 15th century at the foot of the Higashi-Yama hills.

We are now standing in front of the historical spot where in 1868, the Nagaoka-Han decided to outbreak the battle. It was one of the largest battles in the civil war (the Boshin-no-Eki).

Unfortunately after half-year, the Nagaoka-Han was defeated in the war.

In the first half of the nineteenth-Century, Japan worried about the events occurred in China and India. (Opium war, Indian Rebellion)

From more than 200 years ago, Japan had been keeping long-year-isolation policy .

At that time, the Europeans were overwhelmingly stronger than Japanese. Various countremasures against invasion of the foreign countries group, were boiled in whole country in Japan. And the increasing conflict had moved into the large- scale civil war.

Around this time the feudal lord of the Nagaoka-Han for three successive generations were appointed the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense in the Tokugawa shogunate.

A lot of information about invasions of foreign countries including Russia, Europe and the US is flown into the Nagaoka-Han.

Therefore the Nagaoka-Han had thought that japan should prepare against these invasions. And thought that Nagaoka-Han shouldn't go to civil war inside the country.

Instead, he had insisted armed with war avoidance inside the country.

武装中立 armed neutrality <---> unarmed neutrality

On the other hand, new-government group insisted first on defeat of the Tokugawa Shogunate system and second on preparation against invasion of foreign countries.

The Nagaoka-Han had tried to persuade negotiations with the new-government group, however at last he failed in pacification with the opponents.

And here, Koufuku-Ji Temple, the Nagaoka-Han had declare war. After half-year, the Nagaoka-Han was defeated in the war.



Hoshiroku

Soy beans paste

Established in the middle of the Meiji Era, as a collateral family of Hoshino-Honten.

He received bravery awards in domestic contests in soy beans paste.

One more topics here is a calligraphy seen in the shop shutter and a lot of logo on the commodities.

Calligraphy by Japanese western artist, NAKAGAWA Kazumasa, presented with the Cultural Medal in 1975.



Hasegawa Syuzou

Established 1842

Structure of main house shows an appearance of typical long-established Japanese sake brewery.

At a distance of 1km to the south, the other Japan sake brewery factory exist.

Then three Japanese sake brewery factories exist in such a small region.

This industrial accumulation shows the Settaya area is suitable for Japanese sake brewing.



Nagaoka High-School

KAWAKAMI Shirou
(1889–1983)

"Settaya Scene"

Settaya Scene in his birthplace.
Ohta=Gawa=River in close-up view and Kanakura^Yama in Yamakoshi in distant view.



The left is his typical drawing of "fairy pictures".

This is a possession of the Adachi Museum, Shimane. one of the best known in Japanese Art collection..

He had established a new picture world, fairy pictures.

Fairy pictures versus normal pictures,
equivalent to novels versus fairy stories.

The right shows his another field of specialty, animal and plant art.
He studied under FUJISHIMA Takeji.

Johmyou Town and the Oota-Gawa River

1. The Ohta-Gawa River

(1) Here is a middle basin of a river, called the Ohta-Gawa River. The river joins to the Shinano-Gawa River about five kilometers to the north.

A channel flows under the Ohta-Gawa River bed with the principle of siphon like 3D intersection. The channel was developed about four hundred years ago, and even now, it has been utilizing for main part of rice fields in the eastern Nagaoka area.

(2) Birds found in riverside of the Ohta-Gawa River

A couple of pheasant has settled in the riverside.

A male of pheasant has beautiful colored body, in particular red in the face and bluish-purple to green in the neck to breast.

Sometimes large heron is found flying on surface of the river. White body and black wings of wagtail is popular near the river.

(3) Scenery of the Higashi-Yama Hills and hiking trails

A central portion of the Higashi-Yama Hills can be seen from the causeway of the Ohta-Gawa River.

The rightmost mountain is called the Kanakura-Yama.

Several folded mountains left neighbor the Kanakura-Yama is called the Nanban-Yama.

Origin, source of the the Ohta-Gawa River is in Takenokouchi village, the back left of that lower than the ambient V-pattern area between the Kanakura-Yama and the Nanban-Yama.

There are several comfortable hiking trails in those area.

One of them, I recommend, is a route starting from near here to the Takenokouchi via the Nanban-Yama. It take about four or five hours trails at a slow speed, not so steep way.

The other hiking trail in the Kanakura-Yama is excellent too. Yomogihira Hot springs are available after a day hiking trail.

Very large rocks are found in the upper stream area. The height of them sometimes overtakes two meters. This is usually a small river, however after destructive storm, it can wash away such large rocks. As you will find today, in the season of snow melting away, its flow also changes intense. (intense versus intensive)

(4) KAWAKAMI Shirou

This painting is a work of KAWAKAMI Shirou, whose birthplace was near here. He drew this painting from the causeway around here in his highschool days.

I think you can easily identify this mountain in the painting. He is known as one of the pioneers establishing new category for children drawing. The category of the children drawing to that of ordinary drawing is thought similar to the relationship between children song (nursery rhyme) and popular song.

This painting is displayed in the museum of the Nagaoka High school, where he went to.

2. Hachiman Jinja (Shrine)

This type of shrine can be also said one of the folk religions, along with Inari and Jizou. Hachiman Jinja (Shrine) is one of shrines prayed as the typical guardian deity for person living in villages or towns.

One more type of these shrines is called Suwa Jinja.

Some of these injas have been brought in current locations in a few hundred yeas ago by separation from the original village jinjas, together with people moving from the original villages.

Usual method of praying in Jinja

① Passing through the sacred arch at the shrine. [seikred]

② Wash our hands to purify ourselves before making a prayer at the shrine
Before making a prayer (

First of all, Wash both of your hands with a ladleful of water, and wash out your mouth too. But please do not put your mouth to a ladle.

Lastly, wash the handle with remaining water and then put the ladle back.

③ Give a small offering (Optional)

④ Ring the bell

⑤ First bow lightly, and

bow twice, Clap your hands twice, and then put your hands together quietly and pray in silence sincere heart, and bow lightly again before you leave.

A basic manner of prayer is 'Twice bowing, twice clapping and one-time bowing.'

They are generally supposed to follow the same steps of bowing twice, clapping hands twice, and bowing once, but following the instructions of the Shinto priest is more important.