

Yanagawa City

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Updated March, 2021

Jan. 25 / Birthday Celebration of Hakushu/ Shimada Tenman-gu Shrine Grand Festival
Mid Feb. - Late Feb. / Festival Marking the start of Canal Boat Tour Season/ Row of Ume trees
Mid Feb. - Apr. 3 / Sagemon-meguri (Doll's Festival) 1
Hina Doll Water Parade 1
Mid Feb
Memorial festival of eulogy for Yoshimasa Tanaka
Mar. / Rape Blossoms of Yabe River
Late Mar. - Early Apr. / Mihashira Shrine Cherry Blossom Festival
The Ruins of Yanagawa Castle, Row of Cherry Blossom Trees 2



April 3 / Floating Hina Dolls Festival
Mid Apr. - Late Apr. / Nakayama Great Japanese Wisteria Festival 3
May 3-5
Okinohata Suitengu Shrine Festival 4
Late May - Early June / Japanese Iris 5



Late Jul. - Mid Aug. / Yanagawa Sunflower Garden 6
Mid Jul. - Early Sep. / Unagi Kuyo Festival (Requiem Service for Eel)
Jul. 4th Saturday / Nakashima Gion (Gion Festival) 7
Early Aug. Summer / Water Festival SuiSuiSui
Jul. - Aug. / Kyoho Grapes are in season 8
Aug. - December / figs are in season
Aug. - The day of Full moon in Oct. / Punting moon-viewing festival

Seasonal Discovery in Yanagawa

Throughout the year, you will always feel great atmosphere in Yanagawa. We hope you enjoy the beauty of Yanagawa.

Early October / Mihashira Shrine Grand Festival (Onigie, Dorotsukudon) 9
Nov. 1-3 / Hakushu Festival Water Parade 10
Early Nov. / Unryu Sumo meet Sanno Chrysanthemum Shows
Mid Nov. / The Season for Laver
Late Nov. / The Season of Red Leaves
Dec. / Canal Boat Tour with Kotatsu in winter



Eel, a Must-Eat local specialty

“Unagi no Seiro-Mushi” (steamed eel) is a famous local Yanagawa dish. The dish is made up of rice mixed with traditional sauce topped with grilled eel, topped with thinly-sliced egg which is then steamed in its container. There are many eel specialty restaurants in Yanagawa and each maintains their own special.

Wholesale fish market with full of fresh seafood

Yanagawa has a big wholesale fish market which ranks as one of the top three in Kyushu Island. Fish are sold by auction and being full of energy. Local Restaurants offer unique and fresh seafood from Ariake Sea such as Mutsugoro (mud skipper), Mekajya (lingulate brachiopod) or Warasubo (species of eel goby).



Feel the friendly local atmosphere at morning market in Yanagawa

Nakashima's morning market is the place where you can get fresh and unique seafood of Ariake Sea and local cuisine with reasonable price.



Enjoy the unique experience of Yanagawa

Thanks to variety of fields and the blessing of the Ariake Sea, we offer you unique experiences such as making seaweed laver (Nori) and picking seasonal vegetables or fruits with locals.



Blessing of the Ariake Sea with a thousand year history

Ariake Sea is known for the largest tidal range, which is 6 meters. When the tide is low, a vast tideland appears. From medieval times our ancestors have made good use of marshes by building canal. During the Edo period (1603-1867) people got a vast arable land after reclaiming work. The scenery we can see today is the proof of our ancestor's efforts. You can also enjoy breathtaking sunset of Ariake Sea with Nori (seaweed laver) farming from the shore.



Welcome to Yanagawa

The city of water

Yanagawa Travel Guide
English / 英語

Unforgettable memories and hospitality await you in Yanagawa.

“Yanagawa mari”
Yanagawa mari is a traditional Japanese craft and handball wrapped with yarn like beautiful flowers.

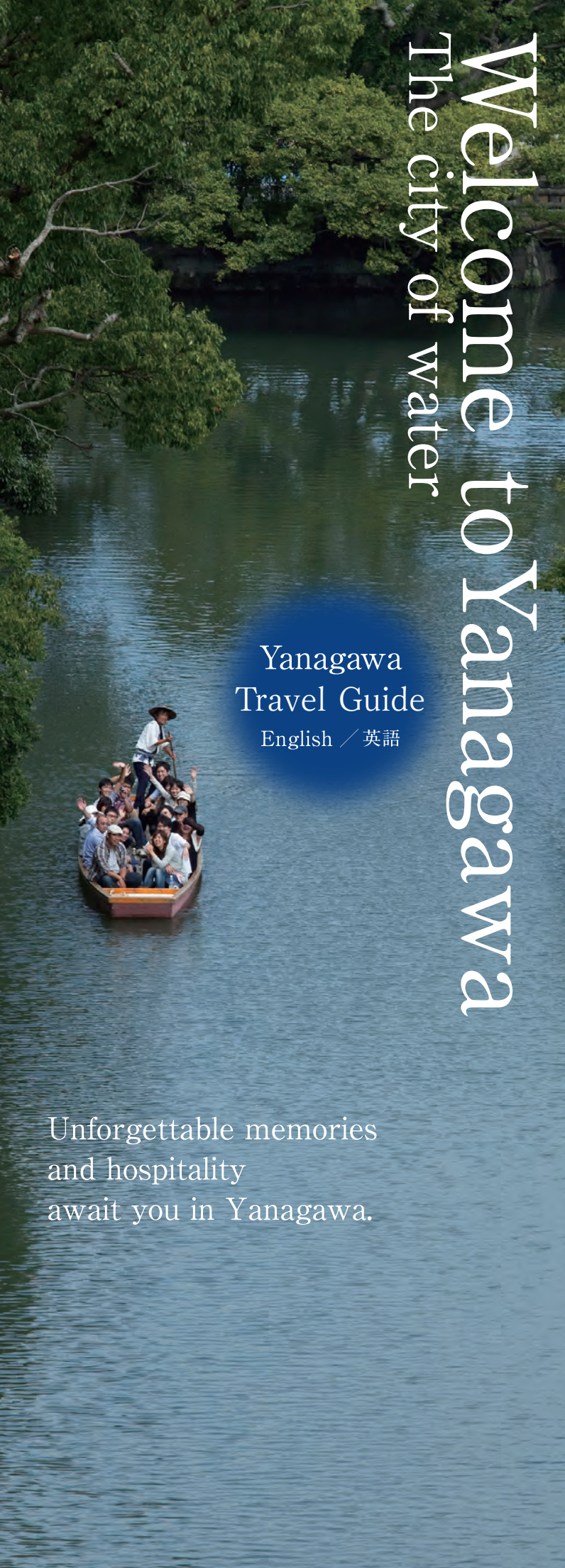
“Yanagawa dako”
Yanagawa dako is a traditional Kite believed it brings us a good luck. It's the face of “Kintoki Sakata” (Kintaro), the hero of old stories.

“Hanagoza”
Hanagoza is comfortable mat made from weaving high quality “Igusa” rush grass.

“Sagemon”
When a girl is born, people in Yanagawa make hanging decoration called “Sagemon” wishing her much happiness. Each “Sagemon” has 51 decorations such as rabbits, cranes and decorated balls for baby's “Hatsuzekku” a child's first celebration of life.

“Nori”
“Nori” (seaweed laver) from Ariake Sea is one of specialty of Yanagawa. Above all high quality “Hatsuzumi-Nori” (picked the first of the year) is soft and melts in your mouth.

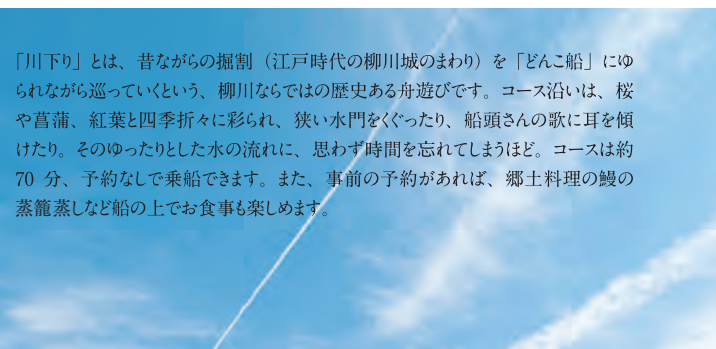
“Pottery Kamachi Kiln”
A kiln used by the former Yanagawa Domain (柳河藩, Yanagawa-han), which was cut off in the Meiji era, but was restored in 1987.





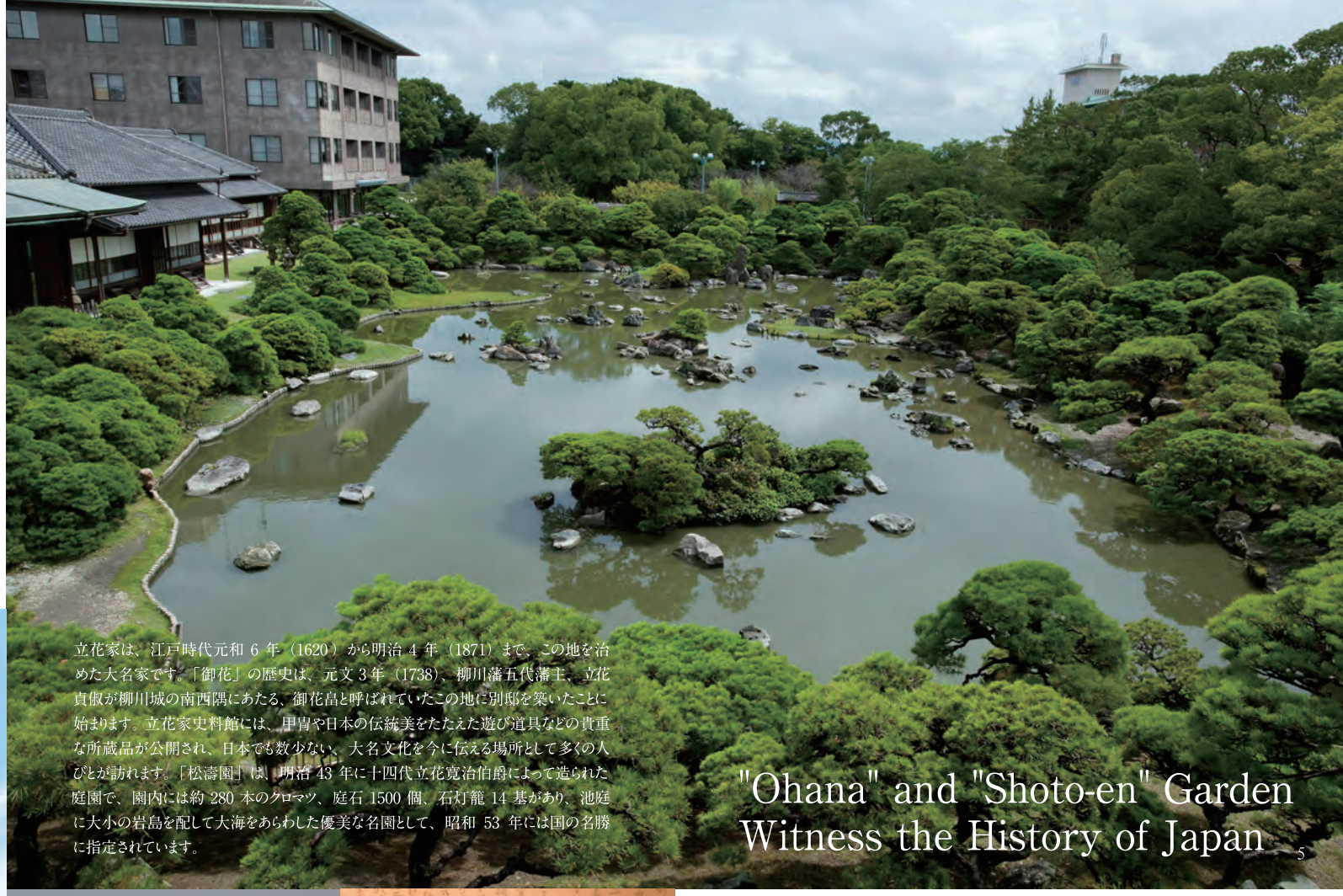
Boat Tour(Ohori-meguri) Feel the nostargic atmosphere of the city

Welcome to Yanagawa boat tour in a row boat (Donko-bune) going around a historic canal surrounding Yanagawa Castle Ruin. The wide and narrow waterways network forming a unique landscape of the water district called "Suigo" is passing through the old castle's water gate. Sometimes the boatman (Sendo) sings songs, and you can enjoy the relaxing ride and beautiful surroundings. You will forget the passing of time because of the atmospheric beauty and calmly winding downstream. The boat ride lasts for about 70 minutes and it is not necessary to make reservations prior to boarding. However, by reserving ahead of time, passengers can enjoy a meal of the local cuisine such as steamed eel on the boat.



1 View from the sky above Yanagawa
2 Boat tour, the main attraction of Yanagawa / 3 Historic warehouse for miso (bean paste) called "Namikura" lines the canal / 4 Boat outfitted with traditional kotatsu (table with comforter to keep warm) in winter

1 空から見た川下りの風景「新柳川明証図会」撮影 橋本文夫 / 2 外国人の観光客にも人気の川下り。 / 3 「並食」と呼ばれる、川下り名所の味噌蔵。 / 4 冬のこたつ舟。



立花家は、江戸時代元和 6 年 (1620) から明治 4 年 (1871) まで、この地を治めた大名家です。「御花」の歴史は、元文 3 年 (1738)、柳川藩五代藩主、立花貞矩が柳川城の南西隅にあたる、御花島と呼ばれていたこの地に別邸を築いたことに始まります。立花家史料館には、旧邸や日本の伝統美をたたえた遊び道具などの貴重な所蔵品が公開され、日本でも数少ない、大名文化を今に伝える場所として多くの人びとが訪れます。「松濤園」は、明治 43 年に十四代立花寛治伯爵によって造られた庭園で、園内には約 280 本のクロマツ、庭石 1500 個、石灯籠 14 基があり、池庭に大小の岩島を配して大海をあらわした優美な名園として、昭和 53 年には国の名勝に指定されています。



"Ohana" and "Shoto-en" Garden Witness the History of Japan

Ohana is the former residence of the Tachibana family, the feudal lords that once ruled over Yanagawa from 1620 to 1871 and was designated as the national site of scenic beauty. The 5th feudal lord, Sadayoshi Tachibana ordered construction of a villa on southwest corner of Yanagawa Castel known as "Ohanabatake (flower field)". After that locals started to call the residence as "Ohana" in a friendly way.

During the Meiji period, The 14th Earl, Tomoharu Tachibana made extensive new constructions of the Western-style house (Seiyokan) and garden (Shoto-en). The garden has rocks formed islands are placed in the pond expressing an ocean. The Tachibana Museum was located within the Ohana and has 5000 fascinating collections including a national treasure and is open to the public to know the culture of Japanese feudal lord.

5 Panoramic view of Shoto-en / 6 Valuable collections of Tachibana Family (Tachibana Museum) / 7 Portrait of Muneshige Tachibana / 8 Western-style house built as Tachibana Family's reception hall in 1910 / 9 Armor helmet / 10 Tachibana Museum houses collections handed down within the family through the last 400 years

5 松濤園の全景 / 6 立花家の貴重な伝来品 (立花家史料館) / 7 立花宗茂肖像 / 8 明治 43 年 (1910) に立花家の迎賓館として建てられた西洋館 / 9 立花宗茂着用の兜 / 10 400 年になつて連綿と受け継がれた伝来品が公開されている立花家史料館



Sagemon Festival

In Japan, Hina dolls are displayed by the families with girls to pray for safe growth of their children. In Yanagawa, in addition to Hina dolls, colorful hanging decoration "Sagemon" are displayed. "Sagemon Meguri" (from February 11 to April 3 of every year) was started in order to showcase beautiful "Sagemon" to the visitors. Each display of "Sagemon" represents parents' wishes for their girls to grow into beautiful, strong and proud women.

柳川では、ひな壇のまわりに、色とりどりの「さげもん」を飾る慣わしがありますが、それを訪れた人びとも見て楽しんでもらおうというのが「さげもんめぐり」の始まりです。女性としての美しさ、強さ、誇りなどを身に付けて欲しいという親心が、その飾りひとつひとつに込められています。毎年、2 月 11 日～4 月 3 日、まちは「さげもん」で彩られます。



Yanagawa Hot Springs

Yanagawa is known for its natural hot springs containing sodium, hydrogen carbonate and chloride - effective in relieving various pains in nerves, muscles and joints as well as recovery from fatigue



Yanagawa City Tourist Information Center

"Yanagawa City tourist information center" provides everything you need to know about sightseeing in Yanagawa. Located in Okinohata area with a panoramic view of the old castle town.

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Old Toshima Villa and Garden

This thatched roof building, located at the west end of the old castle town in Ondo-machi area, was built in the style of tea ceremony arbor during Kansei era (1789 ~ 1800) as a retirement house for samurais in Yanagawa. Its garden, designated as a National Scenic Sight, provides quaint atmosphere with a pond which draws water from the canal. The interior displays fashion of the Edo period and literary taste including a door with a carving of Li Bai's poem "Dokushaku."

城内地区の西の端、鬼童町の一角に、旧柳川藩土の隠居後の住宅として建てられた数寄屋風の意匠を持つ茅葺屋根の建物で、寛政年間 (1789 ~ 1800) 築と伝えられています。掘割から水を引き入れた池を持つ国の名勝庭園とともに、趣のある空間を形成しています。内部には、江戸時代の流行が随所にとり入れられ、李白の漢詩「獨酌」が彫られた戸など、文人趣味の意匠が多くみられます。



Birthplace of Hakushu Kitahara and memorial museum

Hakushu Kitahara(1885-1942) was a poet and a writer of children's songs. He left behind many amazing works even his life has ups and downs. His songs such as "Karatachi no hana" or "Machibouke" has been sung by a great many people over generations. He is also known as first translator of "Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes". The townscape of the old castle town of Yanagawa was well loved by him and he wrote "Yanagawa is the origin of my works" in his posthumous writings. His house has been open to public as "The birthplace of Hakushu Kitahara" and memorial museum, which is also located at the site, exhibits materials related to Hakushu.

北原白秋 (1885-1942) は日本人であれば、誰もが知る詩人であり、童謡作家であり、歌人です。波乱に富んだ生涯でありながら、「からたちの花」、「待ちぼうけ」など、今でも歌い継がれている童謡など、世代を超えて愛される名作を数多く残し、日本で初めて「マザー・グース」を翻訳して紹介したことも知られています。白秋は、遺稿の中で、「この私の詩の母體柳川」と記しています。今は、保存運動によって奇跡的に守られた生家が残され、記念館には直筆の原稿や所持品など貴重な品が数多く展示され、多くの人が訪れる場所となっています。

