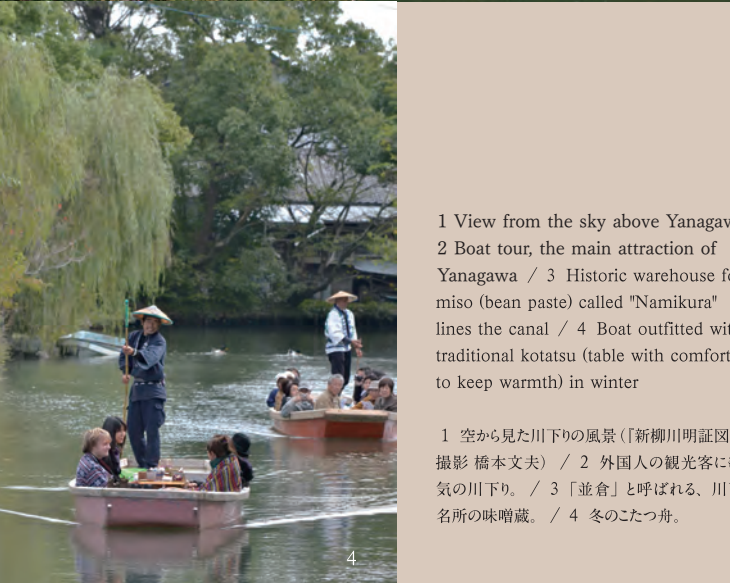




Boat Tour(Ohori-meguri) Feel the nostalgic atmosphere of the city

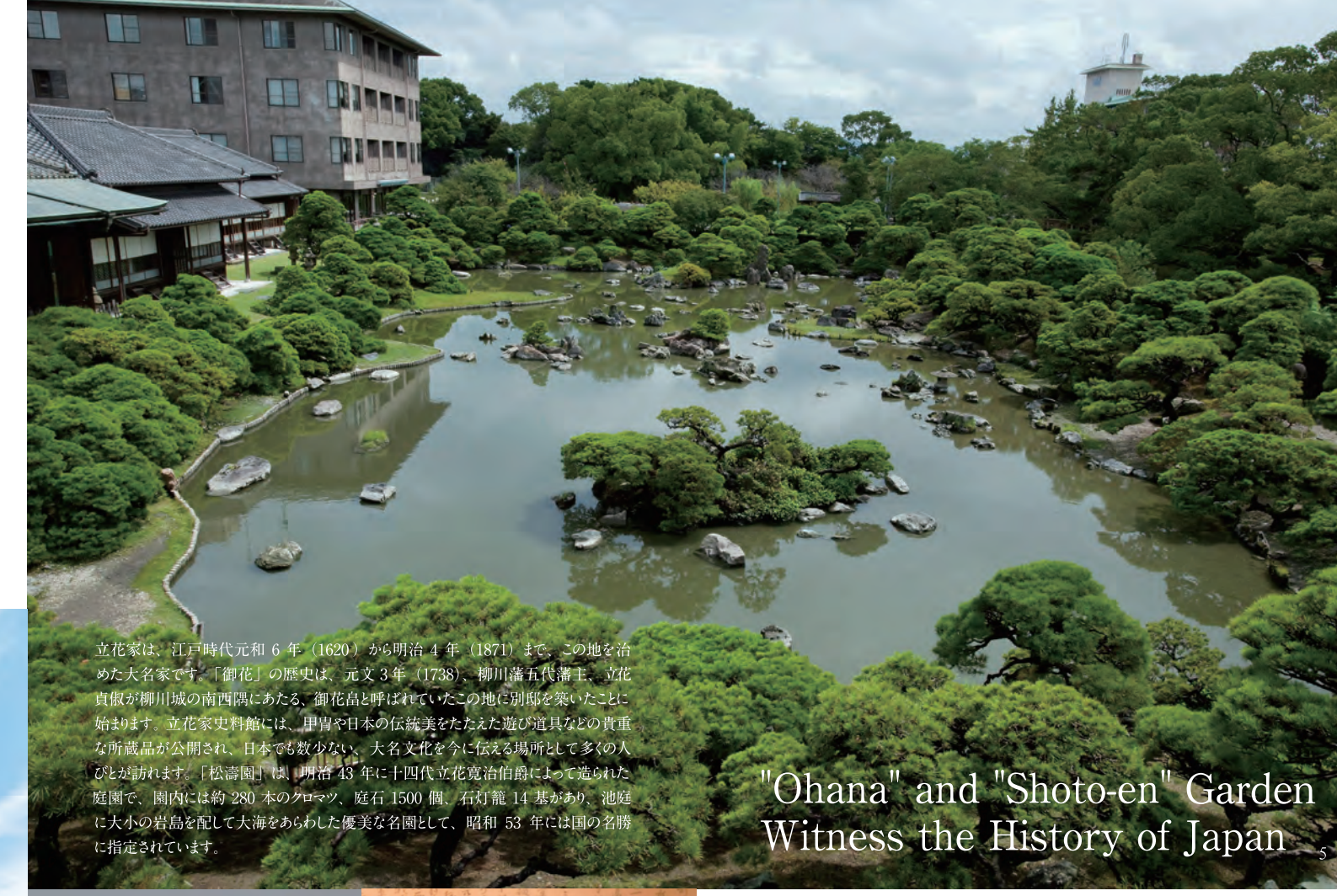
Welcome to Yanagawa boat tour in a row boat (Donko-bune) going around a historic canal surrounding Yanagawa Castle Ruin. The wide and narrow waterways network forming a unique landscape of the water district called "Suigo" is passing through the old castle's water gate. Sometimes the boatman (Sendo) 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.

「川下り」とは、昔ながらの掘割（江戸時代の柳川城のまわり）を「どんこ船」にゆられながら巡っていく。柳川ならではの歴史ある舟遊びです。コース沿いは、桜や菖蒲、紅葉と四季折々に彩られ、狭い水門をくぐったり、船頭さんの歌に耳を傾けたり、そのゆったりとした水の流れに、思わず時間を忘れてしまうほど。コースは約70分、予約なしで乗船できます。また、事前の予約があれば、郷土料理の焼の蒸籠蒸しなど船の上で食事も楽しめます。



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 warmth) 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 「並倉」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、立花貞飯が柳川城の南西隅にあたる、御花園と呼ばれていたこの地に別邸を築いたこと始まります。立花家史料館には、旧唐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年に十四代立花宗茂伯母によって築かれた庭園で、園内には約280本のクマツ、庭石1500個、石灯笼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年にもわたって連続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



柳川には天然温泉が湧出し、泉質は、ナトリウム-炭酸水素塩・塩化物泉で、神経痛、筋肉痛、疲労回復などに効果があります。

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.
http://www.yanagawa-net.com/
35 Okinohata-machi, Yanagawa City
TEL (0944)74-0891
FAX (0944)72-9013



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、旧柳川藩士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で知られています。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、多くの人びとが訪れる場所となっています。

