



\ Have fun all day! /

English

Tourist Guide to Gifu



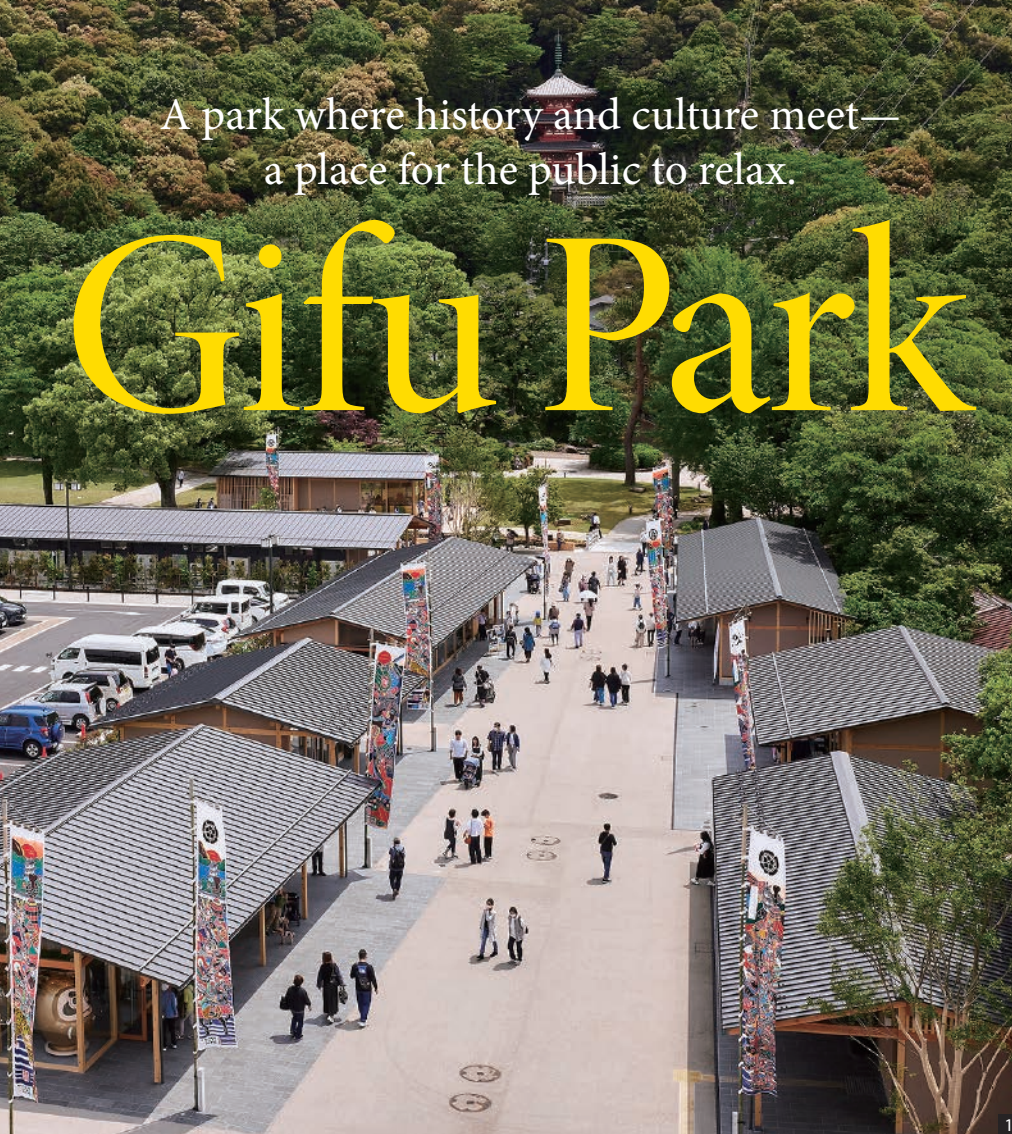
Gifu

A City of Attractions



A park where history and culture meet—
a place for the public to relax.

Gifu Park



Gifu Park is located at the foot of Mt. Kinka in the center of Gifu City. The park is believed to be where the residences of Lord Saito Dosan and Lord Oda Nobunaga, who governed Gifu Castle during the Warring States period, were located. Gifu Park, which is surrounded by the natural beauty of Mt. Kinka, is home to numerous attractions, including the site of Lord Oda Nobunaga's residence, the Gifu City Museum of History, the Eizo and Toichi Kato Memorial Art Museum, Kashoken (ryurei tearoom), and the Nawa Insect Museum. The base station for the Gifu Mt. Kinka Ropeway and the trailhead for the Mt. Kinka hiking trail are also located in the park. Furthermore, a commercial establishment called Gifu Castle Rakuichi Market where visitors can walk around and enjoy street food opened in April 2025, bringing new vitality to Gifu Park.

1 Gifu Castle Rakuichi Market

The market consists of seven single-story wooden buildings that house eleven businesses where visitors can experience the best the region has to offer, including restaurants that serve dishes made with local Gifu ingredients and shops that convey local culture.

5 Gifu Castle Commemorative Stamp

Gifu Castle commemorative stamps are available at the Base Station shop at the Gifu Mt. Kinka Ropeway. Special golden commemorative stamps are also sold, only on the last Friday of every month.



Golden Commemorative Stamp

2 Gifu Castle

The main donjon of Gifu Castle, perched atop Mt. Kinka, offers a panoramic view of the Nagara River and the distant Ibuki mountains. The castle is currently closed for renovations but is scheduled to reopen in November 2027.

6 Gifu Nighttime Viewing (Mt. Kinka Observation Deck)

Enjoy a 270-degree panoramic view of the nighttime landscape from the Mt. Kinka Observation Deck.

Viewing season:

Daily from Fri., Jul. 10–Wed., Sep. 30
Fridays, weekends, and public holidays, Fri., Oct. 2–Sun., Nov. 29
Fridays, weekends, and public holidays, Fri., Mar. 19–Sun., Mar. 28
The observation deck is open until 9:45 pm Jul.–Sep.



Scan here for details!

3 Mt. Kinka

Located in the heart of the city, 329 m in height. Thickly wooded with virgin forest and clusters of ferns, this mountain is home to over 60 species of birds, including Japanese tits, varied tits, and Japanese white-eyes.

4 Gifu Mt. Kinka Ropeway

The ropeway takes about four minutes to get from Gifu Park to the summit of Mt. Kinka. Enjoy the view of the Nagara River and the city center below as well as the seasonally changing scenery of Mt. Kinka. Address: 257 Senjojikishita, Gifu City Tel: +81-58-262-6784

Gifu Mt. Kinka Ropeway closure period

The ropeway is closed during the following periods.

Tue., Dec. 1–Mon., Dec. 28, 2026
Thu., Jan. 7–Tue., Feb. 16, 2027



Shiroppii



7 Nagara River and Nagara River Promenade

The Nagara River is one of the symbols of Gifu City, along with Mt. Kinka and Gifu Castle. There is a footpath (Nagara River Promenade) which lets you leisurely stroll along the Nagara River for a distance of 1.3 km upstream from the north foot of the Nagara Bridge. Visitors can see ukai – cormorant fishing take place nearby at night.

11 Explanation of Ukai – Cormorant Fishing

At 5:45 pm on days that ukai – cormorant fishing is held, there will be an explanation of ukai – cormorant fishing by a cormorant master, near the observation boat dock. You can also get a close-up look at the cormorants actually used in ukai – cormorant fishing.

8 Nagaragawa Onsen

Nagaragawa Onsen is an onsen district located near the Nagara River and Mt. Kinka, upon which Gifu Castle sits. The water here has been chosen as one of Japan's top 100 hot springs. Hot spring type: Simple cool mineral spring containing iron Effective for: Neuralgia, joint pain, recuperation from fatigue, and more

12 Kari-kudari and Tsuke-mise (Descending Viewing and Stationary Viewing)

[Kari-kudari]
The observation boats run alongside a fishing boat so spectators can view ukai – cormorant fishing as the boats descend the river together.

*Depending on river conditions and availability of observation boats, spectators can watch ukai – cormorant fishing either Kari-kudari or Tsuke-mise style, followed by Sou-garami.

9 Ukai – Cormorant Fishing Observation Boat Office and Waiting Area

The Ukai – Cormorant Fishing Observation Boat Office and Waiting Area have been renovated to match the historical appearance of the Kawaramachi area. The Waiting Area includes a teahouse and is available for anyone to use. Ukai – Cormorant Fishing Observation Boat Office Address: 1-2 Minato-machi, Gifu City Tel: +81-58-262-0104

[Tsuke-mise]
Spectators can view ukai – cormorant fishing from a stationary viewing boat while the fishing boats descend the river, one after another.

10 Ukai – Cormorant Fishing Observation Boat Dockyard

This is the dockyard where traditional wooden boats for viewing the ukai – cormorant fishing are built. There are no blueprints for these boats; instead, they are built through the expert skills of craftsmen who make just two a year.

13 Sou-garami

The ukai – cormorant fishing finale. Six fishing boats will form a line spanning the width of the river and all move simultaneously to drive the sweetfish into the shallows.

A National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property

Ukai – Cormorant Fishing



Ukai – Cormorant Fishing Season

May 11–October 15



Japan Heritage Cultural Property

Utan

Gifu Castle & Ukai – Cormorant Fishing Sample Itinerary

- 10:00 am JR Gifu Station
- 10:25 am The Great Buddha of Gifu
- 10:48 am Gifu Park
- 11:45 am Ascend by ropeway
- 11:53 am Observation Deck and Restaurant with a View
- 1:30 pm Gifu Castle
- 2:18 pm Squirrel Village
- 2:45 pm Descend by ropeway
- 3:05 pm Nagaragawa Ukai Museum
- 4:25 pm Kawara-machi Historic Street
- 5:35 pm Ukai – Cormorant Fishing on the Nagara River

START!

01 JR Gifu Station

Approx. 20 min by bus + approx. 5 min on foot



The Golden Statue of Lord Oda Nobunaga at the north gate of the station is gallant and sure to impress!



JR Gifu Station

Gifu Bus is a convenient way to get around to tourist spots in Gifu City!



02 The Great Buddha of Gifu

Time: approx. 20 min

Approx. 3 min on foot

Designated as a Gifu Prefectural Designated Important Cultural Property in 1974, you are sure to be impressed by the overwhelming power of this Buddha, which is one of the largest Buddhas in Japan made using the kanshitsu (dry lacquer) technique.
8 Daibutsu-cho, Gifu City
Tel: +81-58-264-2760



Japan Heritage Cultural Property

03 Gifu Park

Time: approx. 50 min



1 Omiya-cho, Gifu City
Tel: +81-58-264-4865
(Gifu Park General Information Center)



Gifu-Jo Rakuichi
A facility where you can enjoy food, drinks, souvenirs and eat-while-you-walk experience.

Scan for more information!



Gifu Mt. Kinka Ropeway Base Station Shop
Tel: +81-58-262-6784



Kasyoken (Ryurei Tearoom)

Open: Every Tuesday–Sunday
Hours: 10:00 am–4:00 pm
*During ukai – cormorant fishing season (May 11–Oct. 15) 10:00 am–4:30 pm
Closed: Mondays and New Year's (Dec. 29–Jan. 3)
*Closed the following day if Monday is a public holiday, except during New Year's



Lunch Time!

Hida Beef Yakiniku Rice Bowl



Local gourmet dishes taste their best when eaten while viewing amazing scenery!

Approx. 4 min on foot

04 Depart at 11:45 am

Get on the ropeway

*The ropeway operates every 15 min.

Approx. 4 min by ropeway + approx. 4 min on foot



Tel: +81-58-262-6784
(Gifu Mt. Kinka Ropeway)

Enjoy the seasonally changing scenery as you take a leisurely stroll through the air!

05 Observation Deck and Restaurant with a View

Time: approx. 1 hr 30 min



An amazing location at the summit of Mt. Kinka from which a magnificent view of the Nobi Plain can be seen. Enjoy a lovely lunch time and panoramic scenery at the Restaurant with a View.

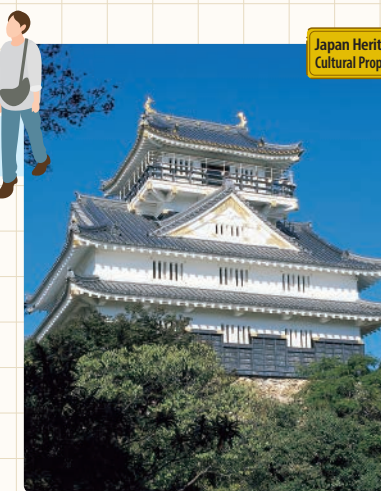


Restaurant with a View "Le Pont de Ciel"
Tel: +81-58-262-6784

06 Gifu Castle

Time: approx. 40 min

Gifu Castle, renowned as the place where Lord Oda Nobunaga began his efforts to unify Japan. Feel the romance of history in the imposing presence of the castle as it looms atop the rocky mountain.
Tel: +81-58-263-4853



Japan Heritage Cultural Property

Approx. 8 min on foot

07 Squirrel Village

Time: approx. 25 min

I was amazed to see squirrels so close up!



Tel: +81-58-262-6784
(Gifu Mt. Kinka Ropeway)

In front of the Ropeway Summit Station you'll find Japan's first ever Squirrel Village, established in 1965. A popular spot where you can interact with cute squirrels.

08 Depart at 2:45 pm

Get on the ropeway

+bus +walking approx. 20 min

Tel: +81-58-262-6784
(Gifu Mt. Kinka Ropeway)

*The ropeway operates every 15 min.

09 Nagaragawa Ukai Museum

Time: approx. 1 hr

3:30 pm Nagaragawa Ukai Museum Theater
Time: approx. 10 min *Showings every 15 min



Before enjoying ukai – cormorant fishing, stop by the Nagaragawa Ukai Museum, which showcases the charms of Gifu Nagara River Ukai – Cormorant Fishing. The museum introduces ukai – cormorant fishing in an easy-to-understand manner through a guided theater program and hands-on exhibits.
51-2 Nagara, Gifu City Tel: +81-58-210-1555
Open: May 1–Oct. 15 9:00 am–7:00 pm / Oct. 16–Dec. 28 and Jan. 4–Apr. 30 9:00 am–5:00 pm
*Final admittance is 30 minutes before closing time.
Closed: Tuesdays Oct. 16–Apr. 30 (the following weekday if Tuesday is a public holiday) and New Year's (Dec. 29–Jan. 3)

Approx. 20 min on foot or bus + walking approx. 10 min



There are also special limited time exhibits and events, so be sure to check them out!

10 Kawara-machi Historic Street

Time: approx. 1 hr 10 min



Japan Heritage Cultural Property



Kawaramachiya
Tel: +81-58-266-5144

The street that runs from the south end of Nagara Bridge to the west is called "Kawara-machi" and still retains traces of its former glory as a river port. The quaint streets are lined with stores that make "Gifu Uchiwa" (Japanese fans), long-established Japanese confectionery shops, galleries, and restaurants.

11 Ukai – Cormorant Fishing Observation on the Nagara River

5:35 pm Ukai – cormorant fishing reception
(Ukai – Cormorant Fishing Observation Boat Office)

5:45 pm Explanation of Ukai – Cormorant Fishing

6:15 pm–7:15 pm Boarding

7:45 pm Ukai – Cormorant fishing starts
Time: approx. 45 min

8:30 pm Deboarding



Ukai – Cormorant Fishing Observation Boat Office
1-2 Minato-machi, Gifu City
Tel: +81-58-262-0104

Food and drinks can be brought on board.



Meisankan
Tel: +81-58-262-2814



Japan Heritage Cultural Property



Under the light of the bonfires, the skillful way the cormorant masters handle the ropes to control their cormorants is a dynamic and whimsical sight. Enjoy the traditional fishing method beloved by people of culture up close.

More Fun in Gifu City



Tamamiya Area
Located near the north gate of JR Gifu Station, the Tamamiya area is lined with distinctive restaurants and bars in a unique atmosphere. Here you can enjoy Gifu regional cuisine, local gourmet dishes and locally brewed sake.



Panoramic Nighttime View from Gifu Castle
Gifu Castle is open at night and you can enjoy a 360° nighttime view from the observation deck.
*Extended hours are for a limited time only.
Scan this QR code for details!





Experience the hospitality of Lord Nobunaga in the Warring States castle town of Gifu



02 Sofuku-ji Temple

A temple with a long and distinguished history, where Kaisen Joki, renowned for the aphorism "If the mind is clear of all mundane thoughts, even the fire will feel cool," was once head priest. It is also the family temple of the Oda clan, and the mausoleum of Lord Nobunaga and his son Nobutada can be found here.

Mt. Kinka Mountain Trails

There is a ropeway on Mt. Kinka, making it easy to ascend to the summit. There are also well-maintained mountain trails, all of which take from 30 minutes to an hour to reach the summit. Perfect for visitors of all ages. *Photo depicts Nanamagari Mountain Trail.

01 Nanamagari Mountain Trail

Distance: 1.9 km / Time: approx. 1 hr / Level: ★☆☆☆

This course is recommended for casual tourists as well as families with children. Although called a "mountain trail", it is a relatively gentle 1.9 km route along a well-maintained road. There are also benches in several spots along the way so anyone can readily enjoy hiking this trail.



03 Jozai-ji Temple

This temple was built by the poet Saito Myochin under the Toki governorship. It famously served as the headquarters of Lord Saito Dosan when he ruled Mino province, and it served as the family temple for Lord Dosan and the three generations that followed him.



04 Myosho-ji Temple

Built on the site of the residence of the strategist Takenaka Hanbei, Myosho-ji Temple is famous as a place where the poet Matsuo Basho stayed. Visitors can see numerous famous haikus and the room in which Basho stayed.



05 Japan-China Friendship Garden

This garden was built to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the friendship city partnership between Gifu and Hangzhou, China. The garden includes a pond modeled after West Lake, a famous spot in Hangzhou.



06 Osushi Highway

This road was named for the fact that it was used for delivering *oyu* (sweetfish) sushi to the Tokugawa Shogun family during the Edo period. Old-fashioned houses can be found along the road as well as cafés and Japanese confectioners.



07 Inaba-jinja Shrine

This shrine, beloved as the tutelary shrine of Gifu, is over 1,900 years old. It is thought to have been moved to its current location from Mt. Inaba (Mt. Kinka) by Lord Saito Dosan.



08 Gifu City Museum of History

Visitors can learn about the culture and history of Gifu City, from its founding to the modern era, through a variety of exhibits and activities.

Scheduled to reopen in November
Closed until the end of October



09 Nawa Insect Museum

This museum was opened by Yasushi Nawa, discoverer of the Japanese *Ishikawa* butterfly. It is Japan's oldest insect museum, with over 300,000 specimens of some 12,000 species, and visitors can learn about the mysterious world of insects.



10 Site of Lord Oda Nobunaga's Residence

This is the spot where Lord Oda Nobunaga's residence was located. At the entrance is an enormous roofed gate. Paving stones, some building remains, cornerstones, and more can be found at the site, and excavation is currently underway.



11 Three-storied Pagoda

This pagoda was built in 1916 as a commemorative project to celebrate the enthronement of the Taisho emperor. It is striking for its bright vermillion paint. It was designated a national registered tangible cultural property in 2005.



12 Eizo and Toichi Kato Memorial Art Museum

This museum stores and displays numerous works of art by the brothers Eizo and Toichi Kato, two famous Japanese-style painters from Gifu. Visitors can view famous paintings that depict rustic Gifu.



13 Gifu Park General Information Office

Located at the entrance to Gifu Park, this building was modeled after a samurai residence of the Warring States period. It offers a break room and a cafeteria.

14 Kinkazan Driveway

A scenic route linking Gifu Park at the western base of the mountain with Iwado Park at the southern base. The observation deck located along the route offers a panoramic view of Gifu's cityscape, and is popular with tourists for its nighttime view.



Recommended sightseeing routes

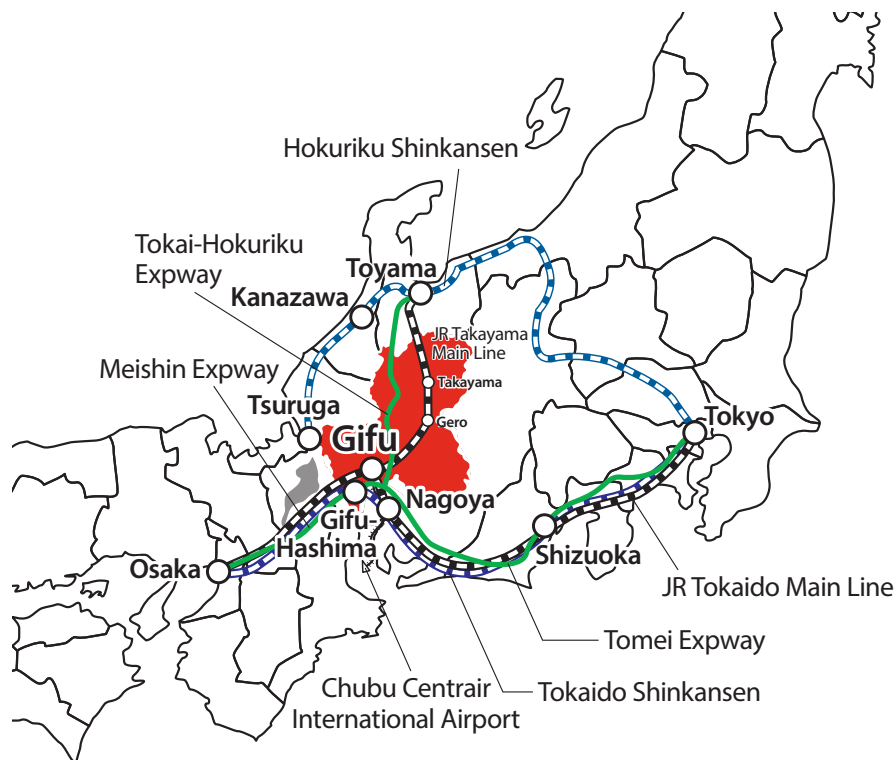
Gifu Castle & Ukai - Cormorant Fishing
Sample Itinerary

The Warring States castle town of Gifu where "the hospitality of Lord Nobunaga" lives on was among the first sites to be designated a Japan Heritage Cultural Property. Lord Oda Nobunaga pursued his goal of unifying Japan from his base at Gifu Castle. The castle, the town and the river culture shaped by Lord Nobunaga are still alive today in the town of Gifu, along with the spirit of Lord Nobunaga's hospitality.

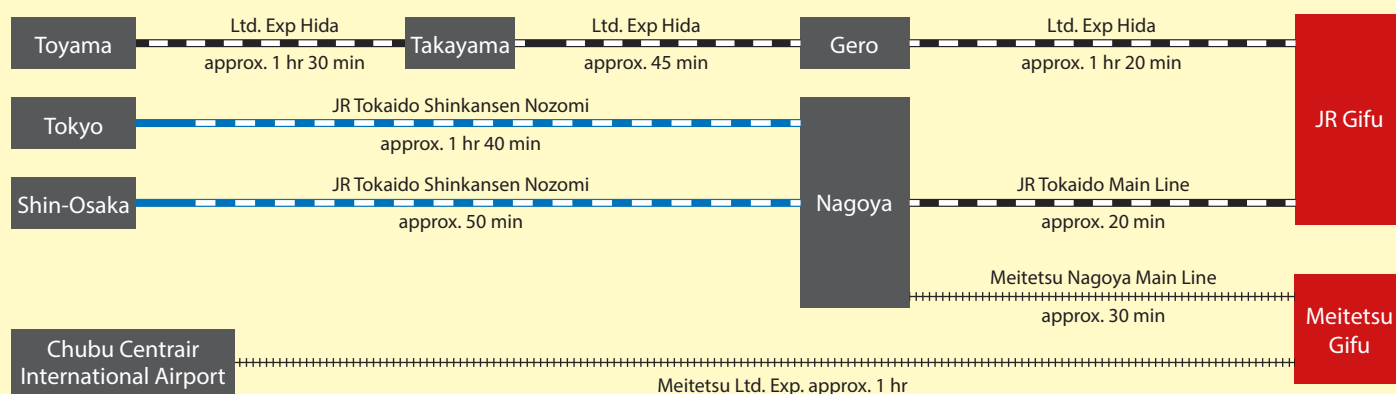
Scan this QR code for the story of Lord Nobunaga's Hospitality



Getting to Gifu



By Train



By Car

Toyama	Hokuriku / Tokai-Hokuriku Expways	approx. 2 hr 50 min	Gifu-Kakamigahara IC	National Route 21	approx. 20 min	Gifu
	Hokuriku / Tokai-Hokuriku / Tokai-Kanjo Expways	approx. 2 hr 50 min	Gifu IC		approx. 20 min	
Tokyo	Tomei/Meishin / Tokai-Hokuriku Expways	approx. 5 hr	Gifu-Kakamigahara IC	National Route 21	approx. 20 min	
	Chuo / Tokai-Kanjo Expways	approx. 5 hr	Gifu IC		approx. 20 min	
Osaka	Meishin / Tokai-Hokuriku Expways	approx. 2 hr 20 min	Gifu-Kakamigahara IC	National Route 21	approx. 20 min	
	Meishin / Tokai-Kanjo Expways	approx. 2 hr	Gifu IC		approx. 20 min	

*Travel times may change depending on train schedules, road conditions, etc. *Typical routes are listed.

Have fun all day! /



Gifu

A City of Attractions

Gifu Convention and Visitors Bureau

1-8-5 Kanda-machi, Gifu City Tel: +81-58-266-5588

<https://www.gifucvb.or.jp>



Gifu City Tourism and Convention Division

Tel: +81-58-265-3984 <https://www.city.gifu.lg.jp/>

Gifu City Tourist Information Office

2nd Floor JR Gifu Station Tel: +81-58-262-4415

Photo credits: Cover, p.1 ① "Full Moon Rising over Gifu Castle" / p.1 ②, p.4 Panoramic Nighttime View from Gifu Castle "Nighttime view from Gifu Castle" Atsushi Kobayashi
Cover, p.2 ③ "Bonfires Running Down Nagara River" Hiroki Mizuno

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