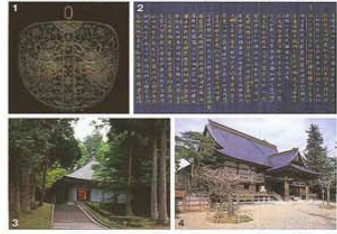


Special Historic Site Chūson-ji Temple [A-1]

Chūson-ji was built by Kiyohira, the first lord of the Fujiwara clan. After the downfall of the Ōshū Fujiwara, many halls and pagodas were burned down. Only the Konjikidō remains in its original form, and the bodies of all four generations of the Fujiwaras still rest inside the hall. It is also famous for Matsuo Bashō's haiku, "Have the summer rains come and gone, sparing the Hall of Light?" in his travelogue, "The Narrow Road to the Deep North". Many works of Buddhist art and craft, designated as National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties, are stored, and some exhibited, in the Sankōzō museum.

- 1. Gilt Bronze Keman (Buddhist Flower Garland) / 2. Gold and Silver Canon on Blue Paper / 3. Konjikidō New Sheath Hall / 4. Main Hall

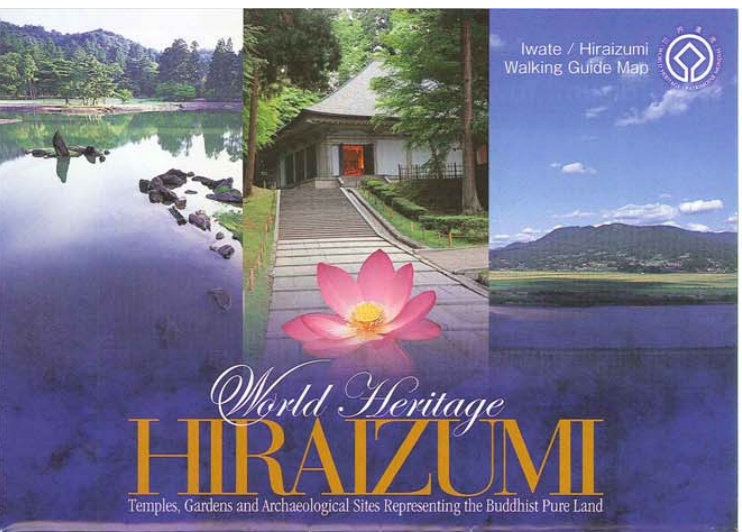


Takadachi [B-3]

The Takadachi memorial is central to Yoshitsune excursions. Located on top of a small hill, the Gikaidō Hall was erected in 1683 by the feudal lord of Sendai, Date Tsunamura, in memory of Yoshitsune. From this place, where Benkei made his last stand, you can see the Koromo River and the Kitakami River flowing gently below.

Special Historic Site and a Special Place of Scenic Beauty Mōtsū-ji Temple [D-4]

Construction of this temple was started by the second Fujiwara lord Motohira, and completed by the third lord Hidehira. Larger than Chūson-ji, it was written that Mōtsū-ji had "no equal in this country". All of the magnificent halls and pagodas from this time were later destroyed by fire, but the foundations of the buildings, and the garden have remained in good condition. The extensive garden pond Ōzumi ga ike has been restored and now conveys the greatness of a Pure Land Garden from the Heian period. The "yarimizu," feeder stream that provides water to the pond remains in its original condition and the Gokusu no En (Floating Poetry Festival) is held beside it every May. The medieval performing arts ceremony "Mōtsū-ji Ennen" is held at the Jōyūdō Hall during the 20th Night Festival on January 20.



World Heritage HIRAZUMI

Temples, Gardens and Archaeological Sites Representing the Buddhist Pure Land



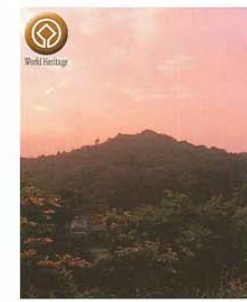
Special Historic Site and Place of Scenic Beauty Kanjizaō-in Ato [D-3]

Kanjizaō-in is a temple built by the wife of Motohira, the second Fujiwara lord. Two Amida halls were built overlooking the pond. The original buildings were lost, but have been restored together with the Matsuzo ga ike Pond in the center of the Pure Land Garden, and all of the grounds have been opened as a historical park.



Special Historic Site Muryōkō-in Ato [C-3]

Muryōkō-in Temple was built by Hidehira, the third Fujiwara lord. There is a pond in the center of the spacious grounds, and the main Amida hall was built on an island. All of the buildings have been lost. Excavations are currently underway, and future renovations are planned with a focus on the pond.



Historic Site Mt. Kinkeisan [C-2]

The Ōshū Fujiwara made a large sutra mound on the top of this spiritual mountain, so that it is also referred to as an "artificial mountain." At its base is the Senjūdō Hall, where the graves of Yoshitsune's wife and children are enshrined, and the site of the Hanadate defunct temple. It is a mountain with colorful legends of buried treasure and chickens made of gold.



Historic Site Yanagi no Goshō Site [C-4]

This is presumed to be the site of Hirazumi Mansion, the base of government during the time of the Ōshū Fujiwara. Numerous foundations of buildings from the 12th century have been found as well as everyday artifacts, impressive in terms of both type and quantity. Restoration of the site proceeds and it has been opened as a historical park.



Historic Site Takkoku no Iwaya Bishamonōdo Hall [D-1]

The Buddhist deity Bishamonjin is enshrined in this hall inside a cave, in memory of the military victory of Sakurano no Tamuramasa. The Bishamonōdo Hall, built below an overhanging cliff, has been rebuilt many times after being destroyed by fire. The Heian period large Fudo Myōō statue (designated a Cultural Property by the prefecture) and the Ganner Dabutsu (a Buddhist statue carved in the rock face and the northernmost in Japan) are of particular note.



Hirazumi Cultural Heritage Center [C-3]

Yanagi no Goshō Museum [C-4]

This free facility is open to provide an overview of Hirazumi's historical and cultural properties, and is also a visitor center for town walks. Artifacts including Important Cultural Properties and other objects that have been excavated are on display here.

Making use of panels, models and CG, the results of investigations at the Yanagi no Goshō site are explained in an easy-to-understand manner, and various valuable artifacts including Important Cultural Properties excavated there are also on display. Visitors are also recommended to look at Yanagi no Goshō historical park.

The History of Hirazumi

For 100 years beginning in the late eleventh century, three generations of the Ōshū Fujiwara family—Kiyohira, Motohira, and Hidehira—built a flourishing polity in Mutsu Province (modern Fukushima, Miyagi, Iwate, Aomori, and part of Akita). The capital city of the Ōshū Fujiwara domain was Hirazumi. The city of Hirazumi was bordered on three sides by rivers: the Kitakami to the east, the Koromogawa to the north, and the Otawaga to the south. A string of high hills formed the western border. Hirazumi was a strategically important point in northern Japan, and the Great Outback Road (Tōhoku's main north-south road) ran through the center of the city. Kiyohira, the dynasty's founder, moved his base of operations to Hirazumi from the Esashi (Ōshū City) area sometime around 1100. He quickly set out to create a peaceful utopia in northern Japan based on the principles and ideals of Buddhism. Kiyohira's vision was fulfilled in the marvelous golden culture of Hirazumi.

The Three Fujiwara Lords

Kiyohira's first project was Chūson-ji Temple. He constructed halls, pagodas, and priests' residences with affiliated temples at the center point of the Great Outback Road, which stretched from the southern border of Mutsu at Shirakawa no Seki (in present-day Fukushima) to Sotogahama (on the Tsugaru Peninsula in Aomori). Along the road, he commissioned golden umbrellas (reliquaries) to be placed every 100m. Chūson-ji was home to a Shaka Hall enshrining 100 statues of Shakyamuni (the historical Buddha), and a two-storied hall sometimes called Daichū-in Hall that housed nine golden Buddhist statues; the principal image towered nearly 9m high. But Kiyohira's best-known creation is the still extant Konjikidō Golden Hall, completed only four years before his death. This small, gold-covered hall left visitors feeling transported to the Buddha's Western Paradise. But the Konjikidō is far from Kiyohira's only surviving legacy; he also commissioned a copy of 5300 fascicles of the Buddhist canon in alternating lines of gold and silver on deep blue paper (the Gold-and-

Silver Canon) that has come to symbolize the culture of Hirazumi.

Mōtsū-ji Temple was built at the order of Kiyohira's son, Motohira, Hirazumi's second ruler. The temple complex included the Main Hall (Enryū-ji), Lecture Hall, Circumambulation Hall, and a two-storied southern gate. The Main Hall was decorated to the utmost, employing gold and silver over Southeast Asian rosewood and Bishopwood. Its principal images were a Yakushi triad and statues of the Twelve Heavenly Generals who protect the Healing Buddha and his followers. Motohira commissioned Unkei, a master sculptor working in Kyoto, to create the statuary for Enryū-ji. As payment, he sent the artist several kilograms of gold, 50 swifl horses, 100 eagle feathers, more than 60 seal pellets, silk, and local delicacies. Finally, Motohira sent Unkei three loads of silk cloth. When Unkei jokingly remarked that he would like refined silk, Motohira shipped three boatloads of refined silk. Needless to say, this display of wealth surprised the people of Kyōto more than a little. Kanjizaō-in Temple, which abuts Mōtsū-ji to the east, was commissioned by Motohira's wife, Hidehira. Motohira's son, built Muryōkō-in Temple on the model of the Phoenix Hall of Byōdō-in Temple at Uji, outside of Kyōto. The four inner walls were painted to depict the meaning of the Meditation Sutra, and it is said that Hidehira himself took brush in hand for the hunting scenes. Sadly, Muryōkō-in was completely lost to fire and only the site remains. Like his grandfather, Hidehira sponsored a transcription of the complete Buddhist canon, though this was in gold lettering on deep blue paper. He based the Blue-and-Gold Canon on the Song Canon, a printed version purchased from China for an extraordinary sum of gold. He also commissioned a number of outstanding mandalas. Only 2724 of the Blue-and-Gold Canon's original 5000 fascicles have been preserved: 210 sections of the Song Canon remain in 13 lacquered boxes. The unique value of Hidehira's sutra transcription project has recently been recognized with recognition as a National Treasure: the Golden Light Sutra is written on deep blue paper in gold ink so that the characters of the holy text form pagodas. Illustrations around the pagodas explain the sutra's meaning. 10 sheets of this Pagoda Sutra have been preserved.

Fee Guide

Entrance fee	Adults		High School/Student/Children		Elderly/Students/Groups of 30 (Seniors at 100 or more)	
	¥1000	¥500	¥300	¥200	10% discount	20% discount
Chūson-ji Temple 202 Koromonosaki, Hirazumi, Hirazumi-cho ☎ 0191-46-2211 (main) ☎ 0191-46-2331 (main)	¥830	¥1700	¥830	¥1700	10% discount	20% discount
Mōtsū-ji Temple 58 Aza Osawa, Hirazumi, Hirazumi-cho ☎ 0191-46-2331	¥500	¥300	¥100	¥100	10% discount	20% discount
Takadachi Gikaidō Hall 14 Aza Yanagi no Goshō, Hirazumi, Hirazumi-cho ☎ 0191-46-3300	¥200	¥50	¥100	¥50	10% discount	20% discount
Takoku no Iwaya Bishamonōdo Hall (Takkoku Seikō-ji Temple) 16 Aza Kitazawa, Hirazumi, Hirazumi-cho ☎ 0191-46-4931	¥300	¥200	¥100	¥100	10% discount	
Hirazumi Cultural Heritage Center 44 Aza Hananote, Hirazumi, Hirazumi-cho ☎ 0191-46-4012	No charge					
Yanagi no Goshō Museum 108-1 Aza Karaku, Hirazumi, Hirazumi-cho ☎ 0191-46-2011	No charge					
Hirazumi Cultural History Museum 10-7 Aza Sakashita, Hirazumi, Hirazumi-cho ☎ 0191-46-2011	No charge					

Guide Fees

Regular	1 to 10 people		11 to 20 people		31 to 40 people		41 to 50 people	
	¥3,150	¥4,200	¥4,725	¥5,250	¥5,250	¥5,775	¥5,775	
Chūson-ji Sankōzō Museum Audio Guide 208 Aza Hananote, Hirazumi, Hirazumi-cho ☎ 0191-46-5710 ☎ 0191-46-3518 (9:00 to 16:00)	Basic fee per guide ¥3,500							
Koto Hirazumi Guide Group Hirazumi Interpreters and Guides Association 208 Aza Hananote, Hirazumi, Hirazumi-cho ☎ 0191-46-5710 ☎ 0191-46-3518 (9:00 to 16:00)	Basic fee per bus ¥3,500							

Transportation Guide

Car and Bicycle Rental	Hirazumi Rent-a-Car		5-person		10-person	
	¥2,000/day	¥4,000/3hrs.	¥2,000/3hrs.	¥4,000/3hrs.	¥4,000/3hrs.	¥4,000/3hrs.
Swallow Tours ☎ 0191-46-5086	Bicycle ¥600/2hrs, 1,000yen/day. Electric bicycle ¥600/2hrs, 1,300yen/day (+¥200/additional hr.)					
Gold-Rent Hirazumi ☎ 0191-46-4031	Rent-a-car ¥2,000/3hrs. ≤30km. ¥3,500/3hrs. ≤30km.					
Taxi	Ichinoseki Taxi ☎ 0191-46-2101		Nanohana Karko Taxi ☎ 0191-23-1111		Kennen Taxi ☎ 0191-46-2336	
Route Bus	Iwateken Kotsu ☎ 0191-23-4250		Ichinoseki Chuo Taxi ☎ 0191-31-3333		Ai Taxi ☎ 0191-25-6666	

Regular Tourist Bus

Information	Yoshitsune Course		Matsuo Bashō Course	
	Adult ¥3,400	Child ¥2,800	Adult ¥5,400	Child ¥4,800
Loop Bus	Basic fee per person ¥700			
Municipal Parking Lots	Overstayed (30+ seat)	Micro-bus (10-29 seat)	Car (≤9 seat)	Motorcycle
Chūson-ji P1	¥950	¥800	¥400	¥50
Chūson-ji P2	¥950	¥800	¥400	¥50
Mōtsū-ji P3	¥750	¥600	¥300	¥50

Hiraizumi Town Map



Food & Souvenirs

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Asada-ya
☎0191-46-2316
Various souvenirs | 2 Izumi Soba-ya
☎0191-46-2038
Soba noodles | 3 Iseki-ya
☎0191-46-2733
Japanese meals etc.
Various souvenirs |
| 4 Iwai-ya
☎0191-46-2436
Various souvenirs | 5 Ekimae Bashō-kan
☎0191-46-5555
Soba noodles | 6 Ōchi-ya
☎0191-46-2306
Various souvenirs |
| 8 Oshokujī-dokoro Hanamizuki
☎0191-45-2348
Chinese noodles etc. | 9 Café & Bar Kohaku
☎0191-46-2721
Light meals | 10 Café Restaurant Tomato
☎0191-48-4701
Light meals |
| 12 Kyūkei-dokoro Minka
☎0191-46-3186
Japanese meals etc. | 13 Korean
☎0191-46-4059
Korean-style barbecue | 14 Kogane-ya Kashi-ten
☎0191-46-2458
Various souvenirs |
| 16 Komatsu-Sushi
☎0191-46-2732
Sushi | 17 Sakura
☎0191-46-5651
Light meals | 18 Sakuragawa
☎0191-46-3355
Japanese meals etc. |
| 20 Shokujī-dokoro Mutsumi
☎0191-46-5085
Japanese meals etc. | 21 Seki no Aji
☎0191-46-2515
Chinese noodles etc. | 22 Sekimiya
☎0191-46-2070
Various souvenirs |
| 24 Sōhonten Senkyō-an
☎0191-46-5068
Japanese meals etc. | 25 Seoul-Shokudō
☎0191-46-5199
Korean-style barbecue | 26 Takamatsu-an
☎0191-46-5855
Various meals |
| 28 Nōka-Chaya
☎0191-46-5524
Various meals
Various souvenirs | 29 Bashō-kan
☎0191-46-5155
Soba noodles
Various souvenirs | 30 Hiraizumi Kaniko Rest Centre
☎0191-46-2011
Japanese meals etc.
Various souvenirs |
| 32 Mōtsū-ji Muzen Chūbai Ayane
☎0191-48-3135
Various souvenirs | 33 Yatsubana
☎0191-46-4074
Barbecue | 34 Yoshiie
☎0191-46-4369
Soba noodles |
| 36 Ryōei-Sushi
☎0191-46-2551
Sushi | 37 Rara Iwate Hiraizumi-ten
☎0191-48-3637
Various souvenirs | 35 Yoshino-ya
☎0191-46-2410
Various souvenirs |



Where to stay

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Ōsawa Onsen Ryokan
☎0191-46-2059
Inn with hot spring | 2 Shirayama Ryokan
☎0191-46-2883
Inn | 3 Soba-an Shizuka-tei
☎0191-34-2211
Inn with hot spring |
| 4 Hiraizumi Hotel Musashi-bō
☎0191-46-2241
Hotel with hot spring | 5 Maizuru-sō
☎0191-46-3375
Inn | 6 Yūkyū no Yu Hiraizumi-Onsen
☎0191-34-1300
Hot spring (no accommodation) |
| | | 7 Daimonji Camp-jō
☎0191-46-5564
Camping ground |

Tourism inquiries

● Hiraizumi Town Hall TEL0191-46-2111 (0)・46-5572 FAX0191-46-3080
URL : <http://www.town.hiraizumi.iwate.jp/>

● Hiraizumi Tourism Association TEL0191-46-2110 FAX0191-46-2117
URL : <http://hiraizumi.or.jp/>

- Legend
- Souvenir
 - Restaurant
 - Bank
 - Clinic
 - Restroom
 - Steep Slope
 - Public Telephone
 - Temple
 - Shrine
 - Monument
 - Tourist Information Center
- ☎ Run Run Loop-line bus course
☎ Run Run Loop-line bus stop
- ① Hiraizumi Station
② Mōtsū-ji
③ Yūkyū no Yu Hiraizumi Hot Spring
④ Hiraizumi Cultural Heritage Center
⑤ Chūson-ji
⑥ Takadachi Gikeidō Hall
⑦ Muryōkō-in Ato
⑧ Yanagi no Goshō

