



The flow of Shimanto

Welcomed by the breeze of Kochi, my heart gently unwinds amid the emerald mountains.

Breathing in the crisp air, surrendering to the murmuring river, yesterday's world feels far away.

A spontaneous stop, a quiet breath of relief. With its local flavors and the warmth of its people, Shimanto becomes a part of me.

"I'll come again to this place that fills my soul."

Dip in and feel the connection.



Take the plunge and indulge all five senses.



Immerse yourself and become captivated by Shimanto.



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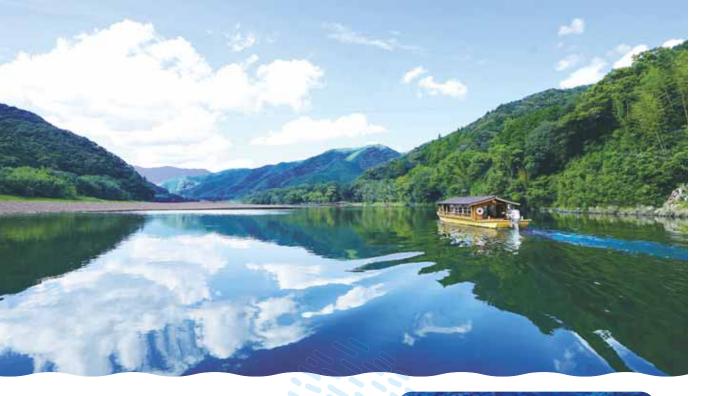
P.17~ Hot Springs & Camping

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Relax and take it in

Immerse Yourself in the Stunning Scenery



Shimanto Stroll

The Shimanto River is Japan's last naturally flowing river. Discover the best scenic spots to enjoy the river's breathtaking views. Relax and unwind while embracing nature.









There are several tour

each offering different

boarding locations and

operators,

meal options.



Sightseeing Boat Tours

Experience the charm of the Shimanto River while enjoying its scenic beauty. Private boat tours and meal-inclusive cruises are available with reservations. Group bookings are also available. Enjoy the feeling of being close enough to touch the water.



Enjoy a special "bento"

while admiring the Shimanto River!



Iwama Submersible Bridge



na Submersible Bridge – Misato Submersible Bridge





the prefectural bird of Kochi!

A hidden gem of Shimanto, wrapped in serenity

Kuroson Gorge

A tributary of the Shimanto River, the Kuroson River has been selected as one of Japan's 100 best waterways and is said to be the clearest in the Shimanto River system. The area around Shinden Bridge in Kuroson Gorge is a prime spot for viewing autumn foliage.

You can also step down to the riverbank and admire the stunning autumn leaves from the water's edge.



A bridge without railings, blending into the scenery

Submersible Bridge

The submersible bridges of the Shimanto River are a must-see attraction and offer unique scenery dusing each season.

The majestic river and its bridges create a perfect setting for stunning photographs. Let yourself be carried away by the murmuring river and the whispering wind, and feel at one with nature.

map e-2 e-4 e-5 f-6





There are 48 submersible bridges in total, spanning both the main and tributary streams of the river.



The Shimanto River has 22 submersible bridges on its main stream and 26 on its tributaries, seamlessly blending in with the landscape while serving as essential pathways for local communities.







Play Freely, Play to Your Heart's Content

A perfect spot for hiking and forest enjoyment

Kosanji Temple Wisteria Park

A public park developed around the Kosanji Temple mountain area.

The park features playground equipment for children and historic sites, including Kosanji Temple, associated with the Buddhist monk Kobo Daishi. Around 20 varieties of wisteria are in peak bloom from mid to late April.



974-1 Sakamoto, Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture Opening Hours:

[March 16 - September 30] 9:00 - 19:00 [October 1 - March 15] 9:00 - 16:30





Tosa Seinan Great Park Gymnasium

Nakamura

Surrounded by vast nature, this park is a popular destination for families.

Locally known as "Shimoda Park," its spacious grassy areas are perfect for picnics and sports. Seasonal flowers add vibrant colors to the park, offering new discoveries on every visit. Walking trails are also well maintained.



ion 3548 Shimoda, Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture





The World's First Dragonfly Sanctuary! Dragonfly Nature Park

As the world's first dragonfly protected area, this park is home to around 81 species of dragonflies including the rare Neakayoshi dragonfly (Neaka yoshiyanma), the most diverse in Japan.

The walking trails allow visitors to enjoy over 700 species of seasonal plants in this lush, green nature park. The park also features the Shimantogawa Gakuyukan (nicknamed "Akitsui-o"), an interactive museum where visitors can enjoy games and quizzes using global insect specimens and fish exhibits.

map g-7

20880-37-4110

location 8055-5 Gudō, Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture









Enjoy nature to the fullest

Experience the Great Outdoors!

Activities

Discover activities that let you fully immerse yourself in

From canoeing and SUP to BBQs, enjoy a variety of outdoor activities while taking in the beauty of the changing seasons and refreshing both your mind and body.

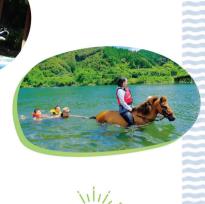














Explore at your own pace

Rental Bicycles





Cycling along the Shimanto River on a rental bike is a great way to enjoy the breeze.

Surrounded by the sounds of nature, a leisurely ride along the river brings you closer to the local way of life.

You might even spot shrimp traps submerged in the river or local fishermen at work.

It's also a convenient way to reach the submersible bridges and various sightseeing spots in the city, please feel free to ask about this.

In addition to mountain bikes, electric bikes and tandem bicycles are available.





Feel the majesty of the Shimanto River on the water

Canoeing Experience

Canoeing is the signature activity of the Shimanto River!

Let yourself drift along the gentle currents of the pristine river, leaving behind the hustle and bustle of daily life.

The reflection of the changing seasons on the water and the soothing sound of the river bring peace to your soul. Guided tours are available for beginners to enjoy with confidence. Perfect for families, friends, or even solo adventurers!





A graceful glide on the Shimanto River

SUP Experience

One of the most popular river activities, stand-up paddleboarding(SUP).

Glide down the river as if taking a walk on water!

Try tandem or group SUP boards for a fun experience with friends and family.



might taste even better than

(See page 18 for more info)

usual!



Shimanto River BBQ Project

At Michi-no-Eki (roadside rest area) Yotte Nishitosa and Hotel Seira Shimanto, enjoy an authentic BBQ with fresh local ingredients while gazing at the Shimanto River.

(Reservation required.)

No need to bring anything or be an expert just relax and savor the natural bounty of Nishitosa, Shimanto City.

map d-3



Splash





In Shimanto City, people say, "Everything here is delicious!" Blessed with mountains, rivers, and the sea, Shimanto offers an abundance of fresh local ingredients, from river and sea fish to vegetables and edible wild plants.

The city center is home to many restaurants, where chefs carefully craft unique dishes using seasonal ingredients.

Both locals and visitors gather here, creating a lively atmosphere. Feel free to ask the friendly chef, "What's today's special?"

Through a deep respect for seasonal flavors, you'll discover the character of Shimanto and the warmth of its people.













Shimanto Bushukan Citrus

Bushukan is a citrus fruit deeply rooted in Shimanto's food culture, known as the "king

Its distinctive aroma and refreshing acidity make it an essential ingredient in Shimanto cuisine.



Freshly caught young bonito in summer and autumn squeeze bushukan over it for a burst of flavor.

This is a true taste of Shimanto's food heritage.





A popular local Chu-Hi made with fresh bushukan juice. Its crisp acidity and refreshing citrus aroma make it a favorite.





Cheers with a Buchu-Hi!
Say "cheers" with a Buchu-Hii





There's even more! Shimanto Ingredients (Made)





Black-haired Wagyu cattle are raised in the Nishitosa area. Only about 100 cows are shipped annually—this rare beef has a succulent, melt-in-your-mouth texture.



Bei Nasu (American Eggplant)

American eggplant, beloved locally, is commonly grown in Nishitosa's fields. It's recommended to enjoy it as dengaku (grilled with miso) or fried.



Rice

Shimanto City is a major rice-producing area n the western part of Kochi Prefecture. There are various regional rice brands, such

as "Shimanto Farming Rice" and "Mountain Rice," grown in different areas.



Kawarakko Market, Mrs. Nishio

Country-style Sushi

Succulent flavor and juicy texture

Local country style sushi uses grilled fish mixed with the vinegared rice.

Sushi rolled with tamagoyaki (Japanese omelette) and rolled sushi with kelp are traditional rural flavors.



Chestnuts

The Shimanto River basin has long been known for chestnut production, with large, sweet chestnuts being a hallmark.

Edible wild Plants

Edible wild plants like itadori

(Japanese knotweed) and

warabi (bracken), which

sprout in spring, are essential

in traditional local dishes.

Yuzu

Yuzu grown with fresh air and clean water—there are many products made from yuzu.



Local Shimanto Sake

mountain-grown rice and spring

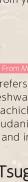
water from the Shimanto River

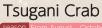
The local sake made from

is exceptional.

Gori

Gori refers to juvenile species of freshwater gobies, such as "numachichibu". It's famous as "tsukudani" (a preserved side dish) and in dishes like gori on





The rich taste of the crab's miso (innards) is exquisite. Tsugani crab soup and "gane miso," a local dish, are cherished autumn delicacies.



of Japan's top sources of

natural Suji aonori (green

Dried aonori is sold as a

popular souvenir.







All Japan Spider Sumo Tournament



The Spider Sumo Tournament is held every first Saturday of August at Ichijo Shrine, creating lasting summer memories for children.

This traditional event is held only in Nakamura, Shimanto City, and Kajiki Town, Kagoshima

Date The first Saturday of August

Location Ichijo Shrine





The Yosakoi Festival in Shimanto City



Dancers dressed in dazzling costumes perform throughout the city. The finale at Tenjinbashi Arcade features all the teams joining in a lively dance, unique to Yosakoi Shimanto.

Date Mid-September

Location Nakamura Station.

Fuba Hachiman Shrine, Higashishitamachi Shopping Street Tenjinbashi Arcade, and more



Delicious Street Food



Enjoy delicious dishes and local crafts made with the rich blessings of the mountains and rivers in Nishitosa. Explore the shopping street and taste all the local specialties.

Date Late October

Location Naro Shopping Street (For more details, please inquire)

☎0880-52-1113 Shimanto City Office Industrial and Construction Division



Autumn Festival in Hage



The ritual begins with a bull deity (ushioni) leading the procession, purifying the road, followed by residents in traditional attire crossing the Hage Submersible Bridge, and offering a dance.

At Hage Tenmangu Shrine, local residents and elementary school children perform the Itsushika Dance and Hana-Tori Dance, wishing for a good harvest.











Held in Kuroson Gorge during the autumn foliage season, this festival celebrates the beauty of nature. Surrounded by stunning landscapes,

fun events and autumn delicacies, experiencing the gifts of nature with all your senses.





Inraveling the depths of histor

The Story of

The Town of Ichijo, Nakamura

In Shimanto City (formerly Nakamura), Norifusa Ichijo, the former regent, moved here in 1468 after the Onin War devastated Kyoto, bringing Kyoto's

The Tosa Ichijo family flourished for over 100 years, until they were driven out to Bungo by Motochika Chosokabe in 1574.

During the feudal era, Kazutoyo Yamauchi's brother, Yasutoyo, governed, and later owned a territory of 30,000 Koku(a medium sized domain).

More than 550 years later, the people of Nakamura continue to honor their heritage, preserving the town's culture and traditions as "the Town of Ichijo." Shimanto City (formerly Nakamura) with its rich history is known as "the Little Kyoto of Tosa."

Although the city's appearance has changed due to floods, fires, and earthquakes, the grid-like streets and place names such as Gion, Kyo-machi, Kamogawa, and Higashiyama reflect the town's deep historical connection to Kyoto.









Fusaie Ichijo



Ichijo Shrine, built in the Edo period in memory of Norifusa Ichijo, is a symbol of "Little Kyoto of Tosa." Norifusa Ichijo founded the Tosa Ichijo family here, leaving a lasting impact on the region's history. Located in the town center, it is easily accessible from the local shopping streets.

The Ichijo Grand Festival, held every autumn, is affectionately called "Ichijoko-san" and attracts many

map g-7 ☎0880-35-2436

Location 1-11 Nakamura Honmachi, Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture

Fuba Hachimangu Shrine



Built in the Bunmei Period (1469-1487), Fuba Hachimangu Shrine was founded by the Ichijo family after bringing the deity from Kyoto's Iwashimizu Hachimangu Shrine to protect the Hata region. Its architecture, including the main hall with a gabled roof covered in cedar bark, is reminiscent of the Muromachi period.

It is the oldest surviving shrine architecture in the prefecture.

map g-7 20880-35-2839

Location 1374-1 Fuba, Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture



The main hall is an Important National Cultural Property

Tosa Ichijo Court Procession, Wisteria Festival

The Tosa Ichijo Court Procession reenacts the arrival of Norifusa Ichijo in 1468, when he left Kyoto and moved to the Hata district in Nakamura.

Modeled after the Aoi Festival's court procession in Kyoto, about 100 participants dressed in Muromachi-period costumes march through the city.







Experience the tradition and charm of "Little Kyoto" Nakamura



Evening Festival Lantern Parade



Children's Procession

Ichijo Grand Festival



The Ichijo Grand Festival, which began in the late Edo period in 1862, commemorates the founding of the shrine's main hall.

Starting with the "Goshin Fire Reception Ceremony" where a sacred flame from Kamo Mioya Shrine (Shimogamo Shrine) in Kyoto is brought to Ichijo Shrine, the festival is filled with elegant events like lantern parades, children's processions, and "kagura" (sacred dances), attracting many visitors.

The sacred flame continues to burn as a bonfire at Ichijo Shrine for three days and nights.





Fuba Hachimangu Shrine Grand Festival

The Fuba Hachiman Shrine Grand Festival is famous for the "Divine Wedding Ceremony" involving the palanquins of the male and female deities. After the male deity's palanquin parades through the streets, it meets the female deity's palanguin at the shrine for a "palanguin uniting" ceremony. The divine wedding ceremony, introduced by Norifusa Ichijo to discourage practices like abduction marriage, is a rare and unique ritual in Japan.

Date Mid-September Location Fuba Hachimangu Shrine



Daimonji Okuribi (Great Bonfire)

The Daimonji Okuribi, held in the Masaki district of the lower Shimanto River, is a traditional bonfire event. The large "Dai" (big) character, 25 m², floats in the darkness, marking the end of summer in "Little Kyoto". Nakamura.







"Little Kyoto"



Shimanto City Folk Museum

The museum, shaped like a castle, is

located in a corner of the Nakamura

From the top floor, designed like a

keep, you can look out over the

Shimanto River, Higashiyama, and

the entire town.Inside, the museum presents the town's life, history, and

culture, emphasizing its relationship with the Shimanto River, "A Town

The museum displays various local

historical documents and artworks,

Tamematsu Park is also known as a

famous cherry blossom viewing

showcasing the region's heritage.

Castle ruins (Tamematsu Park).

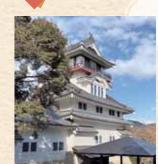
(Nickname: Shirotto)

Living with the River."



Ichijo Shrine





☎0880-35-4096

Location 2356 Nakamura, Tamematsu Park, 🦪 Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture



Hotel Seira Shimanto

The women's bath features black marble, while the men's bath is made of regular marble. The women's bath includes a mist sauna that helps promote sweating by efficiently transferring heat to your body. The men's bath features a dry sauna that improves circulation and boosts metabolism for a refreshing experience. At night, you can enjoy a stargazing experience at the adjacent Shimanto Celestial Observatory (details on P.6).

map e-3 20880-52-2225

Location

1100 Mochii, Nishitosa, Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture









Relax in the soft, natural hot springs, surrounded by Shimanto's beauty, and enjoy a peaceful soak that will soothe both your body and mind.







Enjoy the breathtaking us you unwing us

as you unwings

Shimanto Iyashi no Sato

At "Shimanto Iyashi no Yu,"You can enjoy a variety of healing treatments, including natural hot springs, medicinal baths, saunas, and outdoor sea-water baths.

The on-site restaurant offers delicious Shimanto cuisine, featuring delicacies from the mountain, river, and sea.

map h-8

Location 3363 Shimoda, Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture



Charming accommodation with warm hospitality



From comfortable hotels to traditional inns and cozy guesthouses, Shimanto offers a variety of accommodation suited to your travel needs and style. Enjoy a heartwarming stay with exceptional hospitality.





There are various campsites in stunning locations along the Shimanto River and near the sea! You can experience activities like canoeing, SUP,



Stay in the Great Outdoors



Shimanto Gakusha





Shimanto River "Station" Canoe House





Solo camping or family BBQs under the starry sky are also popular!

A river-view automobile campsite overlooking the Shimanto River is complete with kitchen sites with sinks and hot water.

At night, enjoy the breathtaking starlit sky, designated as a "Starry Town" by the former Environment Agency. Families, friends, and solo campers

are all welcome.

(map e-3) ☎0880-52-2121

location 1111-11 Mochii, Nishitosa, Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture

Activities

Facilities & Services Hot Showers Wifi/AC *1

*1 AC power available only on Campsite with parking.



Chinkabashi

Stay in a former school building!

This accommodation is a former school. You can stay in classrooms, the infirmary, the broadcasting room, or the principal's

In addition to activities like canoeing, creek walking (waterfall climbing), and wooden rafting, you can also enjoy fishing while relaxing by the Shimanto



☎0880-54-1230

Location 408-1 Nakaba, Nishitosa, Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture

Facility Director: Mr. Aratama Accommodation School Building Stay Activities Canoeing River Fishing Creek Walking Facilities & Services Bath Wifi/AC *1 Cafeteria *2

*1 AC power availability confirmed at booking.

*2 Available with accommodation plan.

Campsite with parking Tomarotto



40010

Director: Mr. Tanabe

Shimanto Canoe and Camping Village Kawarakko





Relax at a campsite by the Shimanto River, surrounded by the great outdoors.

This is an outdoor facility surrounded by rich nature along the Shimanto River. There are 26 campsites and cabins, with restrooms, showers, a laundromat, and an array of camping gear rental available.

Location 24 Tadenokawa, Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture

*1 AC power available only on A sites.



Canoeing Tandem SUP Facilities & Services Hot Showers Wifi/AC *1

Cabins,etc.





This is a large campsite surrounded by the

and the Pacific Ocean

Location



☎0880-33-0101

3548 Shimoda, Shimanto

Director: Ms. Iwagami Deep Dive





*1 AC power availability confirmed at booking.

City, Kochi Prefecture

*2 BBQ set Reservation required.



17



River Bounty

Natural gifts from the Shimanto River, such as wild ayu (sweetfish), tsugani crab, and aromatic seaweed, make perfect souvenirs.

> Come and visit There's plenty of delicious food Something to bring back for that special someone!

A Taste of Shimanto

Gifts from Shimanto, blessed with abundant nature. perfect for souvenirs.







Ayu Market - Micchan

Tennen ayu no shioy

Shimantogawa tennen ayu no confit (Shimanto sweetfish confit)



Tsugani (Japanese Mitten Crab)



Aosa nori soup (seaweed soup)





Enjoy sweets that reflect the flavors of Shimanto, with simple, gentle sweetness from traditional Japanese confectioners and local specialty





Taisaku san



Ayu (sweetfish shaped snack)



Aonori rusks (seaweed rusks)

*Please note that availability may vary by store.



Shimanto monogatari

strawberry sweet bean jelly)

ichigo yokan

Karinto (sweet fried dough)

Oishi Japanese sweet shop





European Pastry Shop Amande

Pastry Shop Fleurette













12:00 Boat Tour and Sada Chinkabashi

Have lunch on a boat while cruising along the river.

As you peacefully drift along the Shimanto River, it's time to satisfy both your heart and your hunger!



14:30 Shimanto City Museum

Explore the lifestyle, history, and culture of the Shimanto River region in this castle-style museum located at the Nakamura Castle ruins! Imagine the feeling of being a castle lord while taking in the panoramic view of the city from (Nickname: Shirotto) the keep's observation deck!



18:00 Japanese pub crawl

Taste Shimanto's cuisine by hopping between "izakayas" for a delightful pub crawl!Savor local specialties and delicious drinks to lift your spirits!



21:00 Hotel Stay

Relax and unwind at a hotel in the city center.



Day 2

12:00 Explore Tenjinbashi Shopping Street

A nostalgic, friendly shopping

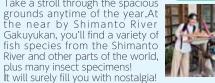
Warm interaction with shop owners is one of the joys of

Dropping in at a local store will warm your heart!

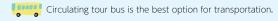


17:00 Dragonfly Nature Park

(Shimanto River Gakuvukan) Take a stroll through the spacious grounds anytime of the year.At the near by Shimanto River









Activity Plan



Day 1

11:00 Authentic BBQ by the riverside

Unwind with a pre-prepared BBQ at Michi-no-Eki Yotte Nishitosa!

After experiencing an authentic BBQ with a cooking guide, head to the Canoe House by rental bike!



12:50 Canoe House

Kayaking and SUP for everyone,

even beginners! Let the current of the Shimanto River carry you along as you soak up its natural beauty. With experienced river guides leading the way, you can kick back and relax!



17:00 Stay at Hotel Seira Shimanto

After savoring delicious dishes made from seasonal ingredients, relax in the hot

Be amazed by the starry sky at the adjacent Shimanto Celestial Observatory!



Day 2

9:00 Cycling For more de

Rent a bike and explore Nishitosa to your heart's Explore the vast wilderness at your own pace!



11:00 Yotte Nishitosa Michi-no-Eki (roadside station)

Experience fresh local produce and specialties on the terrace! SANKANYA next door is known for its sweets made from local ingredients.

At Ayu Market, you can try the salt-grilled wild sweetfish from the Shimanto River, in addition to many other products!





The Shimanto River bus is the best option for transportation.

Manage

Sightseeing loop bus

It is convenient to use the sightseeing loop bus that takes you around the city, Sada Chinkabashi, and other places of interest.

For just 500 yen, you can hop on and off four buses in one day and check out the local hot spots.

[Days of service] Saturdays · Sundays · Public Holidays (excluding New Year) · Golden Week, and the whole of August (including Japanese summer vacation). [Fee] ¥500/Day (half price for elementary school

students, free for infants) [Inquiries] Kochi Seinan Transportation 2 0880-34-6221



Shimanto River Route

Shimanto River Round Trip Bus

A sightseeing bus that makes one round trip daily between the Nakamura and Nishitosa areas, with great scenery to enjoy along the serene Shimanto River. You can also stop at the submersible bridges, and combine the trip with activities like boat tours and canoeing (additional fees and reservations required).

[Days of service] Saturdays · Sundays · Public Holidays (excluding New Year) · Golden Week, and the whole of August (including Japanese summer vacation). [Fee] ¥1,000~/Day (prices vary depending on the course; half price for elementary school

students, free for infants) [Inquiries] Kochi Seinan Transportation **☎** 0880-34-1266



Shimanto City

Railway!

Shimanto & Ashizuri Route

The Shimanto and Ashizuri areas are rich in nature, and preserve the traditional lifestyles and landscapes that reflect timeless Japan.

Explore the Shimanto River by boat, take a guided tour of Cape Ashizuri, visit the stunning Kashiwajima Island, and wander around the cultural town of Sukumo: some of the highlights of western Kochi.

[Days of service] Saturdays · Sundays · Public Holidays (March-November) · Japanese Spring Vacation (the second half of March) · Golden Week · Japanese Summer Vacation (end of June-August).

[Fee] $\pm 1,500$ ~ for a half-day tour (prices vary depending on the course; half price for elementary school students,

[Inquiries] Kochi Seinan Transportation **☎** 0880-34-6221

Tourist Information

Located just outside Nakamura Station on the Tosa Kuroshio

Feel free to ask about brochures, bike rentals, and any travel or sightseeing questions you may

Location 8-3 Ekimae Town, Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture ☎0880-35-4171 [Open] 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Tourism Association





Yotte Nishitosa Michi no Eki

(Roadside station)

A variety of Shimanto souvenirs and local specialties are available! Fresh seasonal vegetables are also on sale, and you can enjoy a meal at the eat-in area.

Location 2410-3 Egawasaki, Nishitosa, Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture ☎0880-52-1398

[Open] 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM [Closed] December - February Tuesdays (except public holidays)



Shimanto River Hometown Information Center

Located inside JR Egawasaki Station, this information center is convenient for people using trains or buses.

Location 2232-3 Egawasaki, Nishitosa, Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture (inside JR Egawasaki Station) ☎0880-52-1984

[Open] 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM osed] Wednesdays (except Golden Week & Summer Vacation). January 1-3







Splash

22





Enjoy Sightseeing in Comfort Omotenashi Taxi

Walking Tour Guide

LOILOI Shimanto

The drivers for this option have completed the "Omotenashi Taxi" training course, certified by the Kochi Prefecture Tourist Guide Taxi Program. Recommended sightseeing routes include submersible bridge hopping, the charming Ichijo Shrine, and the local history Museum, among other



LOILOI Information

Take a wander through the historic town of "Little Kyoto" and discover its deeper charms with the LOILOI Shimanto walking

tour guide. "Loilŏi" is a dialect from the Hata region meaning "to wander around."

Would you like to wander around Shimanto City with a guide?

Guides who hold Shimanto City dear, will warmly show you around...

interesting options.

Shimanto City Tourism Association ☎0880-35-4171











- ▶1 GityPronotion-movie

Japan's Last Naturally Flowing River: The Shimanto River

The Shimanto River is the longest river in western Japan, stretching for about 196 kilometers. It winds and meanders through the mountains, eventually reaching the Pacific Ocean (Tosa Bay). This beautiful river is home to a plethora of wildlife, and the deep connection between the river and the people reinforces its status as Japan's last naturally flowing river.

People have waded, swum, boated and fished in this river for centuries. The river has historically been a place for recreation, fishing, and transportation, supporting the livelihoods of those living alongside it.

The town has developed with the people regarding the river as a moat to protect the castle like in Kyoto, and as a sacred place where gods and spirits could gather during festivals.

The river has always played a central role in the town's history and culture. Shimanto City is truly a city that lives in harmony with the river.



A scene from the early Showa period, where people and goods were regularly transported by riverboats on the Shimanto River.



On the opening day of the ayu (sweetfish) fishing season in-December, many anglers arrive at dawn. Visitors gather at the Akatekkyo Bridge (Red Iron Bridge) to observe their traditional fishing techniques, including the use of cast nets and rods.



Since the Meiji era, the "schoolchildren ferry" provided a vital transportation link across the river for students, operating in the morning and evening until the service ceased in 2002.



Cast Net Fishing



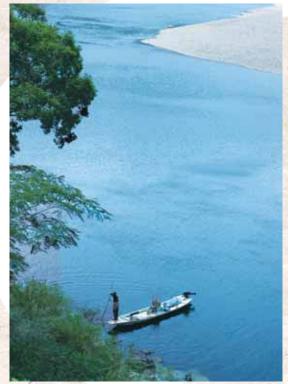
Torch Fishing



Aosanori (Green laver)



Pine Tran Fishing





The Sada Chinkabashi, submerged during floods

The wisdom and ingenuity of our ancestors

Chinkabashi
(Submersible bridges)

A Chinkabashi is a bridge designed to be underwater when the water level is high, such as during typhoons. They have long been essential for the people of the area



The ongoing relationship between the community and the river

The great Shimanto River is an integral part of daily life for local people.

While the river provides for the people, they have learned to accept occasional floods as part of the cycle of nature.

The Shimanto River has long been part of an ongoing relationship between the people and the river.

This history and culture, like the eternal flow of the river, will continue to be passed down from generation to generation.



Fuba Hachimangu Shrine Annual Festival: "Mikoshi Washing" Ceremony



Iwama Tenmangu Summer Festival: wama Boat Parade



10 Million Canola flowers



The river is an ideal playground for children

