Water and Yanagawa

History shows that Yanagawa has developed with water. Around 2,000 years ago, a vast tideland of the Sea of Ariake turned into land, and people dug ditches in the wetland to store domestic and agricultural water. In the 7th and the 8th centuries, a waterway and a grid of paths between rice fields were developed, and a modern castle town emerged. Even today, this waterway, approximately 930 km long, spreads around in Yanagawa City, and is known as a Cultural Heritage because of its traditional, cultural, and unique landscape.

Yanagawa City

From each airport
- Tokyo: Subway 10 min., Subway Tenjin Sta. 3 min., Walk 4 min., Nishitetsu (Tenjin) Sta. 10 min., Walk 3 min., By car 30 min.
- Fukuoka Airport: Subway 3 min., Walk 3 min., Subway Tenjin Sta. 4 min., Walk 3 min., By car 30 min.
- Nagoya: Urban Expressway 1 h., Walk 7 min., Subway Tenjin Sta. 3 min., Walk 3 min., By car 30 min.
- Osaka: Subway 20 min., Walk 3 min., Subway Tenjin Sta. 5 min., Walk 3 min., By car 30 min.
- Tokyo, Osaka: By car 30 min.

Saga Bus Center: 60 min.

Yanagawa, where small boats (called donko-bune) with tourists on board come and go on the rippling waterway. Awaiting you is a lovely time in an area with an atmosphere reminiscent of a castle town. The flow of water and gentle tones of poems soothe your mind. Yanagawa offers travelers abundant and genuine pleasure.

Yanagawa City

[Yanagawa City] (URL) http://www.city.yanagawa.fukuoka.jp
Tourism Section, Yanagawa City Hall
87-1 Hori-machi, Yanagawa City, Fukuoka, 832-8601
TEL: 0944-73-8601 FAX: 0944-73-8601

Yanagawa City Tourist Association (inside Yanagawa City Tourist Information Center)
35 Okinohata-machi, Yanagawa City, Fukuoka, 832-0065
TEL: 0944-73-2145 FAX: 0944-73-0065

2008.3.
Kawakudari

Enjoy the seasonal landscape from the canal.

History

Looking for vestiges of the castle town boasting a long history

Yanagawa was established as a castle town governed by the lord of a castle since 700 years ago in the Muromachi Period (1333-1568). Then it was ruled by the Tachibana family during the Edo Period (1600-1868). Shoto Park (Ohana) that was a villa of the Tachibana family, the former residence of the Toshima family, and many temples and shrines are reminiscent of the history of Yanagawa.

Food & Specialties

Gifts from the fertile sea and traditional skills

Unagi no Seiro-mushi

Cuisine made of fish and shellfish from the Sea of Ariake

Yanagawa Nabe

The canal

Cherry blossoms and the canal

Kawakudari in autumn

Kotetsu-bune down the canal

Kawakudari

A boat ride down the canal called Kawakudari is most popular among tourists visiting Yanagawa. Getting on a boat at one of the six boat stations in the city, visitors can enjoy an approximately one-hour boat trip. The introduction of Kotetsu-bune, a boat equipped with a Kotetsu (a Japanese style fireplace with a coverlet) in 1965 enabled tourists to enjoy the boat trip all year round. Now there are six boat operators with about 100 boatmen, who also offer emotional and humorous anecdotes as they guide tourists through the beauty of the seasons.

Hakushu

A footstep of the great poet the town of water produced

Hakushu Kitahara, a representative poet of Japan in Taisho-Showa Period, produced numerous fine pieces of poems and lyrics of children’s songs. He was born to a family running a seafood wholesale store and a sake brewery, a purveyor to the Yanagawa Domain. Although their house was burned down when he was 16, it was rebuilt in 1969 and now serves as a museum displaying his writings and articles. Also Kitahara Hakushu Memorial Park, located behind the house, introduces historical and folklore data as well as the life of Hakushu.

Hot Spring

Healing effect of hot spring water

Kyushu is renowned as a hot spring paradise. Yanagawa is not an exception. A hot spring found in 1965 contains sodium bicarbonate and salt in its colorless and transparent water, which beautifies your skin and is effective for skin diseases and neuralgia.

Festivals

Seasonal events that gives various colors to Yanagawa

January: Birthday Celebration of Hakushu Kitahara (Jan. 3)
February: Setsubun (Bean Throwing) Festival of Hyogo Prefecture (Feb. - Mar.)
March: Dol’i Festival / Sagenom-meguri (mid-Feb. - April)
April: Yabakei Great Waters Festival of Kyushu
May: Okinohata Suitengu Shrine Festival (May 3-5)
June: Nakashima Gion Festival (4th Saturday)
July: Unagi Kuyo Festival (Requiem Service for Eel) (mid-Jul. - early Aug.)
July: Sunflower Festival (late Jul. - early Aug.)
August: Ariake Sea Firework Festival (late Aug.)
September: Dan Kazuo Literature Festival (Sep. 23)
October: Watarase Shrine O-mushi (early Oct.)
November: Hakushu Festival (November 1-3)
December: Tofu Memorial Service for Hase Ken (1st Sun.)