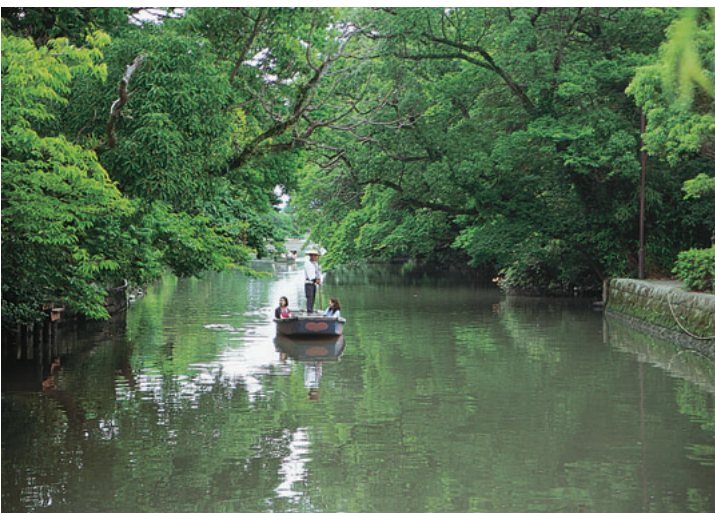


Water and Yanagawa

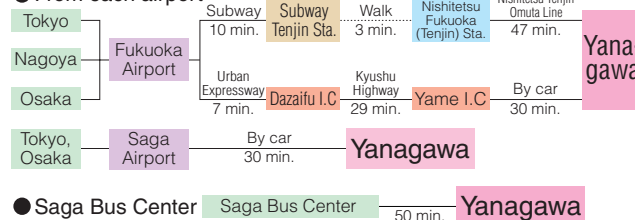


History shows that Yanagawa has developed with water. Around 2,000 years ago, a vast tideland of the Sea of Ariake turned into land, and people dug ditches in the wetland to store domestic and agricultural water. In the 7th and the 8th centuries, a waterway and a grid of paths between rice fields were 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.

Access



● From each airport



Yanagawa City

[Yanagawa City] (URL) <http://www.city.yanagawa.fukuoka.jp>

Tourism Section, Yanagawa City Hall
87-1 Hon-machi, Yanagawa City, Fukuoka, 832-8601
TEL: 0944-73-8111 FAX: 0944-74-1374

Yanagawa City Tourist Association (inside Yanagawa City Tourist Information Center)
35 Okinohata-machi, Yanagawa City, Fukuoka, 832-0065
TEL: 0944-73-2145 FAX: 0944-72-9013

The birthplace of great poet Hakushu Kitahara The City of Water

Yanagawa



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.



Kawakudari

Canal boat sailing

Enjoy the seasonal landscape from the canal.



Cherry blossoms and the canal



Kawakudari in autumn



Kotatsu-bune down the canal



Tono-no-kura



Nami-kura

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 *Kotatsu-bune*, a boat equipped with 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.

Hot Spring

Healing effect of hot spring water



Mizu no Sato "Haenkaze"

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.



History

Looking for vestiges of the castle town boasting a long history



Ohana Seiyokan (Western-style building)



Former Residence of the Toshima family

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.



Hakushu

A footprint of the great poet the town of water produced



Yanagawa Municipal Folk Museum

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.



Food & Specialties

Gifts from the fertile sea and traditional skills



Unagi no Seiro-mushi



Yanagawa Nabe



Cuisine made of fish and shellfish from the Sea of Ariake



Yanagawa Mari

"Unagi no Seiro-mushi" (eel steamed in a basket), a specialty of Yanagawa. Try this delicious cuisine at one of over 20 unagi restaurants. Yanagawa has much more to offer special foods of fish and shellfish caught in the Sea of Ariake, such as "Yanagawa Nabe", a hot pot of loaches. Folk art and handicrafts including Yanagawa Mari (handball), Yanagawa Kamidana (Buddhist altar) are the product of skills passed down from generation to generation.



Festivals

Seasonal events that gives various colors to Yanagawa



Water Parade at Hakushu Festival

January: Birthday Celebration of Hakushu Kitahara (Jan. 16)
February: Setsubun (Bean Throwing) Festival of Hiyo
March: Doll's Festival / Sagemon-meguri (mid-Feb. - early Mar.)
April: Nakayama Great Wisteria Festival
May: Okinohata Suitengu Shrine Festival (May 3-5)
July: Nakashima Gion Festival (4th Saturday)
July: Unagi Kuyo Festival (Requiem Service for Eel)
July: Sunflower Festival (late Jul. - early Aug.)
August: Ariake Sea Firework Festival (late Aug.)
September: Dan Kazuo Literature Festival (Sep. 23)
October: Mihashira Shrine Onigie (early Oct.)
November: Hakushu Festival (November 1-3)
December: Tofu Memorial Service for Hase Ken (1st Sun.)