



The Japanese Cinderella

Hometown of Princess Miyako C-2

Princess Miyako was known as a great beauty and helped play a major role in the building of Dojo-ji Temple. In her day, she was known as "the long-haired princess" for her long, beautiful, black locks. Today she is known as the Japanese Cinderella, for the tale of how she went from being the daughter of an Ama diver to imperial consort. Miyako's birthplace was the village of Kuama, which is said today to be around Yahatayama in Gobo City. Sharing in her luck, it is known as "the town of beauties."



The start of a legend

Yahatayama Park D-2

The site of this park is connected to the great beauty Princess Miyako. On its slopes, you can see a landscape told of in the Tale of Anchin and Kiyo-hime.



A major discovery that redefined history

Katada Archeological Site B-3

A 1999 survey discovered a vast settlement, from which was unearthed Japan's oldest die for a bronze woodworking tool (called a yariganna). It was a major discovery that overturned the accepted theory that the making of bronze ware had begun in Kitakyushu and spread eastward. The yariganna die and other objects from the Katada Archeological Site are displayed at the Gobo City Museum of History and Folklore.



Wakayama mikan

Pick-Your-Own Mikan Orchard D-1

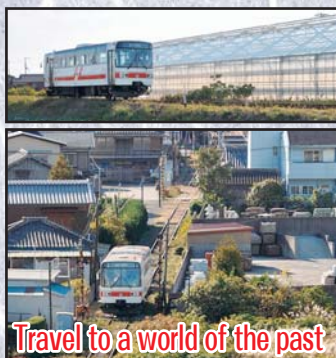
The orchard is open from mid-October to late November. Savor fresh, sweet mandarin oranges (mikan) in an orchard enveloped by nature.



For prayers relating to money

Takara Shrine C-3

As its name hints, this shrine is the tutelary for treasures (takara) and luck with money. Perhaps a visit during lottery season could bring fortune?



Travel to a world of the past

Kishu Railway Line B-3

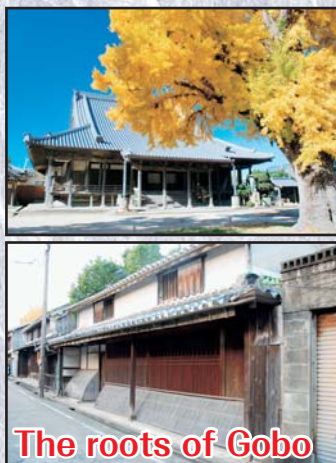
Western Japan's shortest railway, with an operational length of 2.7 km. The Kishu Railway Line is the only train service in Japan to operate bus-type cars, which uniquely feature a two-axle railbus (four wheels). Used for tourism, the line is also beloved by locals as a railway serving their daily needs. Step off at Nishi-Gobo Station to visit the Jinai-machi district for a dose of early 20th century nostalgia.



Hidaka's largest festival

Shinohachiman Shrine B-4

Hidaka's largest festival is the Gobo Festival. This votive festival is held every October 4-5 at Shinohachiman Shrine; as offerings participants perform such dances as the Shitagumi no suzume-odori (Prefectural Intangible Folk Cultural Property) and the Kehon-odori (Prefectural Intangible Folk Cultural Property No.1, Nationally Designated Intangible Folk Cultural Property).



The roots of Gobo

Hidaka Betsuin Temple & Jinai-machi C-4

Gobo gets its name from the famed Hidaka Betsuin Temple, a branch temple of Kyoto's Nishi-Hongan-ji Temple. Known also as "Gobosho" and "Gobo-sama," the branch is well-loved by locals. The great ginkgo tree on the grounds is more than 400 years old and is a prefecturally designated Natural Monument. The tree's leaves turn gold in the autumn.

The Jinai-machi neighborhood around Hidaka Betsuin prospered greatly in the early modern period with its streets lined with wholesalers dealing in specialty products from around the country. Townhouses presenting vestiges of those days remain today, as does a fine set of streets displaying features showing the course of Japan's modernization from the late 19th to 20th centuries.



Does the tragic prince rest here?

Iwauchi Tomb No. 1 D-4

A horizontal stone chamber tomb built in the mid-7th century. Burial goods on par with those found in burial mounds for imperial or local ruling family members were found in its rooms. From this, it is believed that a person of very great social status was buried here, possibly the tragic 7th-century Prince Arima no Miko who was arrested and executed on charges of treason against Imperial Prince Naka no Oe.



Some of the best in Japan

Yellow Hibiscus and the Hidaka River Mouth C-5

Fields of yellow hibiscus—the official flower of Gobo City—are a designated Natural Monument and can be found on the south shores of the mouth of the Hidaka River and northern reaches of the Oji River. The lovely hibiscus that grow here are among the five largest in the country, and when they start blooming in mid-July turn the fields into a riot of yellow. Also, more than 100 species of birds can be found along the Hidaka River, Japan's longest Class 2 river. Its tidal flats have been designated one of Japan's 500 most important wetlands, and are the habitat to such rare organisms as the fiddler crab.



A third way to visit Gobo City

Hidaka Port and EE Park/Sio Tope C-5

Both the EE Park, where visitors can experience and learn about new energy technologies, and Sio Tope, home to statues from the popular comic book GeGeGe no Kitaro, can be found at the Hidaka Port. At EE Park, you can have a spin for free in a solar-powered car, and see new energy technologies up-close. Sio Tope has a pond of seawater where you can observe fish from coastal waters. The port itself welcomes large passenger vessels and in autumn hosts the Princess Miyako Port Festival.