



Hidakagawa Waterside Park

E-3

Enjoy golfing, camping, and other outdoor activities at this riverfront park bounded by a natural setting. In summertime, canoeing is also possible on the clear waters of the Hidaka River.



Perfect for leisure



Iya Shrine

E-4

Twelve deities including Izanagi no Mikoto are venerated at this shrine. The 8th Tokugawa shogun Yoshimune came here to pray for recovery from a bout of smallpox. He recovered, and the shrine is now famous as that of smallpox.



The shrine of smallpox



Shioya-ji Shrine

C-5

It is said to be one of the oldest of the Kujukuri Shrines along the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Route and one that is particularly prestigious. The shrine's grounds include the former site of a temporary palace where Emperor Go-Toba is said to have once lived. The stone monument at the foot of the stone stairs to the shrine was inscribed by noted 19th century scholar Niida Koko. Since it venerates a statue of the goddess Amaterasu as a beautiful woman (bijin), the shrine is also known as "Bijin-ji." Countless people come to pray for safe childbirths, since it is said that offering a prayer will result in having a beautiful child. The shrine forest is a municipally designated Natural Monument. The enormous and ancient trees there include Asian and Japanese bayberries, and in the spring its cherry blossoms come into bloom.



Bijin-ji



Susa Shrine

E-5

Susano-o no Mikoto is the principal deity venerated at this village shrine. The Oto Festival held on March 10 is a rite that has been held for more than 200 years and is a herald of spring in the Hidaka area. The rite's origins go back to the legend of how a great snake called Orochi that lived in the mountains terrorized the people. Responding to prayers that he come from Izumo to drive Orochi out, the deity Susano-o no Mikoto did just that and routed the snake. In the festival, children who are chosen and referred to as oto wave two-meter long ritual wands before the shrine to pray for good harvests and protection from evil.



The legend of subjugating Orochi



Massive 24-meter long playground structure



GoboGeneral Sports Park

D-6

GoboGeneral Sports Park is a 17.2 hectare municipal space comprising athletic grounds and a rest and recreation area for visitors. The R&R area includes athletic equipment and a 24-meter long playground structure themed in the shape of a rhinoceros beetle. The spot is always busy with families and people on outings.



Tsumegaki-taishi-do Hall

C-6

Behind the hall is a stone upon which the Buddhist saint Kobo-daishi drew 13 buddhas. The stone has weathered and the images are hard to make out, but it is said the deeply faithful can see them well.

Can you see them?



Reconstruction of ancient dwellings

Onosaki Archaeological Site

C-6

One pit dwelling and 11 square-shaped, moated burial grounds of the sort common from the Yayoi to early Kofun periods have been reconstructed here. Diggings have turned up multiple pieces of earthenware used to make salt, and it is thought that salt had been produced in great quantities here since ancient times.



Gobo City Museum of History and Folklore

D-6

The museum's holdings include an object called the Karurao-sonzo, popularly known as the mummy of the raven tengu (goblin). Practitioners of mountain asceticism are thought to have carried the figure around the country in the mid-19th century to extol its venerableness and the benefits in this world it conferred.

Other exhibits include objects of archaeological and folkloric interest from the Katada Archeological Site and Iwauchi Tombs Nos. 1 and 3 (including the history-redefining yari ganna die and a filigreed hirumakisword).

A creature of legend: the raven tengu

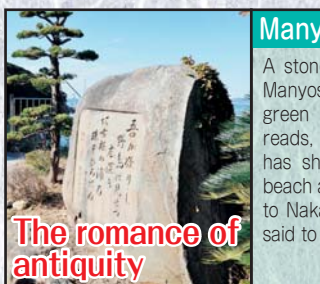


The Chinese Juniper of Kosen-ji Temple

C-6

Also known in Japanese as ibuki, the Chinese juniper (byakushin) is a tall evergreen. Selected as one of Japan's 100 eminent trees and a prefecturally designated Natural Monument, this is the largest example in the prefecture and is estimated to be more than 600 years old.

Largest Chinese juniper in Wakayama



The romance of antiquity

Manyo Poetry Monument

D-7

A stone inscribed with a poem in the famed Manyo collection has been placed in this green setting overlooking the sea. The poem reads, "I wanted to see Nojima and the island has shown itself, but the deep jewel of the beach at Agone remains unplucked." Attributed to Nakatsu Sumeragi no Mikoto, the author is said to have in fact been Empress Saimei.



Eighty-Eight Stone Buddhas

D-6

On Mt. Kannon, 88 statues of the Buddha made of stone transported from each stop on Shikoku's famous pilgrimage route have been installed. It is said that paying respects to them is effective for palsy and headaches.

Working miracles