

•Please take your litter home. •The cityscape is for public use. Please help us keep it clean.  
 •Please refrain from driving into Narai-juku Preservation District.

**Shiojiri City Tourist Association**  
 Narai-juku Tourist Information Center  
 Tel : 0264-34-3160 FAX : 0264-24-0024

Shiojiri City Tourist Association Tel: 0263-54-2001; <http://www.tokimeguri.jp/>  
 Narai-juku Tourist Association <http://www.naraijuku.com/>

**Access to Narai-juku**

**By car**  
 Chuo Expressway (approx. 2 hrs 10 min) Chuo Expressway (approx. 20 min) Gonbei tunnel (approx. 40 min)

Takaido IC (Tokyo) — Okaya JCT — Ina IC — Narai  
 Total time required: approx. 3 hrs

Nagano Expressway (approx. 20 min) Route 19 (approx. 40 min) Shiojiri IC — Narai

Kanetsu Expressway (approx. 1 hr 30 min) Joshinetsu Expressway (approx. 1 hr 30 min) Nagano Expressway (approx. 1 hr)

Nerima IC (Tokyo) — Fujioka JCT — Koshoku JCT — Narai  
 Total time required: approx. 4 hrs 30 min

Chuo Expressway (approx. 40 min) Route 19 (approx. 1 hr 30 min) Komaki IC (Nagoya) — Nakatsugawa IC — Narai

Total time required: approx. 2 hrs 10 min

**By train**  
 JR Chuo Main Line (approx. 2 hrs 40 min by limited express) JR Chuo Main Line (approx. 20 min) Shiojiri station — Narai

Total time required: approx. 3 hrs

JR Chuo Main Line (approx. 1 hr 25 min by limited express) JR Chuo Main Line (approx. 20 min) Nagoya station — Kiso-fukushima — Narai

Total time required: approx. 1 hr 45 min

**Sightseeing spots of the area**



Ontake Ropeway (Kiso Town)



Akazawa natural recreation forest (Agematsu Town)



Atera Valley (Ookuwa Village)



Matsumoto Castle (Matsumoto City)



Daiou Wasabi Farm (Azumino City)



Takayama Festival (Takayama city, Gifu Prefecture)

Shiojiri City Industrial Promotion Division Brand and Tourism Section Tel: 0263-52-0886; <http://www.city.shiojiri.lg.jp/>  
 Shiojiri-Kiso Film Commission Tel: 0264-34-1122; <http://www.filmcommission.jp/>



Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings  
**Naraijuku on NAKASENDO**  
 Kiso Valley

Travel Guide

Narai-juku Tourist Association: <http://www.naraijuku.com/>





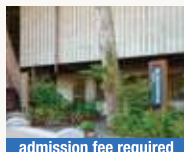




# Narai-juku Strolling Map

## 1 Narakawa Museum of History and Folk Customs

The museum displays various materials and articles related to folk customs that make you feel Narai-juku as it was, such as a lacquered comb – the original form of the flower comb that poet Toson Shimazaki wrote in his poem “Hatsukoi (First Love),” or a tag that was being circulated as money in the post town.



admission fee required

## 2 Shizume Shrine

Narai-juku’s village shrine. It was originally built on the Torii pass but burnt down due to a war and it is said to have been relocated to the current site by Yoshitaka Narai. An annual grand-scale festival is held on August 12, where young people in the town get together and march along to festival music with Japanese flutes, drums and shamisen throughout the town. (The festival is designated as the city’s intangible folklore cultural asset and the shrine’s main hall the city’s tangible folklore cultural asset.)



## 3 Nakamura’s Residence

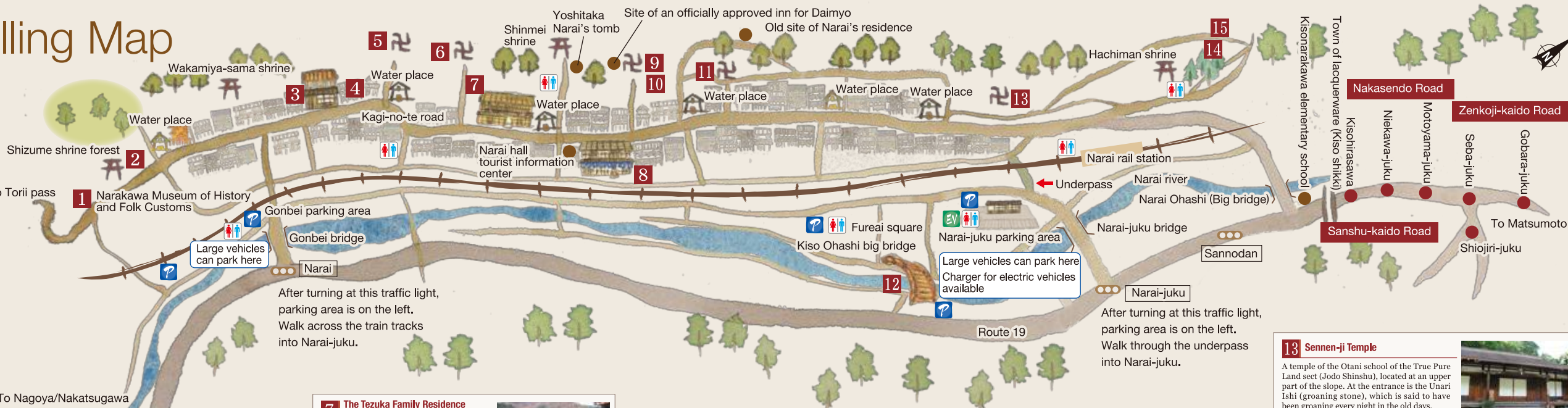
The residence of the Nakamura Family, which used to be a wholesale merchant of lacquered combs, was built in the Tempo era (1830 to 1843). Featuring an extended beam on the second floor (armor eaves) it retains the typical town house style in Narai-juku (city-designated tangible cultural asset).



admission fee required

## 4 Location for NHK drama “Ohisama”

Narai-juku was chosen as a shooting location for NHK’s TV drama “Ohisama” in 2011. A large-scale set was built, stretching about 200 meters from Kagi-no-te road to Shizume Shrine in the post town, faithfully reproducing the streetscape in the early Showa period (early 1900s).



To Nagoya/Nakatsugawa

To Torii pass

## 5 Jyoryu-ji Temple

The southernmost temple of the Otani school of the True Pure Land sect (Jodo Shinshu), which is one of the five Narai temples. Sculptor Kakuzo Ishii produced the wooden sculpture of Toson Shimazaki at this temple. The garden has also been well groomed.



## 6 Chosen-ji Temple

A temple of the Soto Zen sect. It was used as a lodge for the Ochatsubo (tea leaf jar) journey to transport Uji’s green tea to Edo, promoted by Shogun Iemitsu Tokugawa, every year.



## 7 The Tezuka Family Residence (Kamidonya Museum)

The residence of the Tezuka Family, which served as a wholesale merchant in Narai-juku from 1602 to the Meiji period (late 1800s). Valuable materials, such as old documents and tools, are on display at this museum. The residence features the style peculiar to wholesalers (designated as an important cultural property of Japan).



admission fee required

## 8 Tokuriya (The Hara Family Residence)

The building had been used as a tavern until the early Showa period. Currently, it is a restaurant with a museum on the same premises (city-designated tangible cultural asset).



## 9 Taiho-ji Temple

A temple of the Myoshin-ji Temple school of the Rinzaï sect. It is said to have been opened by Yoshitaka Narai as his own family temple in 1582. There is a garden behind the main hall.



## 10 Maria Jizo

Maria Jizo (stone statue) was found in a nearby bush by a local resident at the beginning of the Showa Period. It is believed to have been made for clandestine Christians to give a prayer in secret.



admission fee required

## 11 Honen-ji Temple

A temple of Pure the Land sect (Jodoshu). According to historical records, Shogun Hidetada Tokugawa stayed here for a while on the way to Sekigahara to wage a battle and used the temple as an encampment.



## 12 Kiso Ohashi (Big Bridge)

Made of Kiso hinoki cypress over 300 years old. The Kiso Ohashi (big bridge) boasts of being one of the largest-scale arched pier-less bridges. You can get a glimpse of mastery of skills from the timberwork at the underside of the bridge.



## 13 Sennen-ji Temple

A temple of the Otani school of the True Pure Land sect (Jodo Shinshu), located at an upper part of the slope. At the entrance is the Unari Ishi (groaning stone), which is said to have been groaning every night in the old days.



## 14 Nakasendo Cedar Tree Avenue

Dozens of huge cedar trees are lined along the ancient avenue. This road has remained as is since it was called the Nakasendo Road; you can vividly imagine travelers of early days coming and going on the road.



## 15 Two Hundred Jizo

Stone Buddhist statues found nearby, such as the Kannon and the Jizo, are enshrined together. Their faces show a variety of expressions, creating a unique aura.



Large vehicles can park here

Gonbei parking area

Gonbei bridge

Narai

After turning at this traffic light, parking area is on the left. Walk across the train tracks into Narai-juku.

Large vehicles can park here  
Charger for electric vehicles available

Narai-juku parking area

Narai-juku

After turning at this traffic light, parking area is on the left. Walk through the underpass into Narai-juku.

Route 19

Narai river

Narai Ohashi (Big bridge)

Narai-juku bridge

Sannodan

Narai rail station

Underpass

Fureai square

Kiso Ohashi big bridge

Narai hall tourist information center

Water place

Water place

Water place

Water place

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奈良井宿

## Food in Narai-juku

Simple yet pleasant gourmet meals prepared with local produce



### Soba

Kiso has traditionally been one of the best-known production centers of soba noodle in the Shinshu district. Soba made of buckwheat grown in a cool climate and thanks to clear fresh water has body and umami on top of a rich flavor.



### Goheimochi

Goheimochi is a baked rice cake with sauce made from sesame or walnut on top. With light sweetness combined with a savory flavor, Goheimochi is a local specialty, which certainly stimulates your appetite. It varies in shape from area to area.



### Oyaki

Oyaki is a traditional local specialty made by flattening kneaded dough nicely and browning both sides. Stuffed with locally-grown vegetables or red bean paste, Oyaki delights with its good old taste.



奈良井宿

## Souvenirs found in Narai-juku

Fine articles created through mastery of skills handed down by local predecessors from generation to generation



### Kiso shikki (Lacquerware)

The origin of Kiso lacquerware is said to date back to more than 600 years ago. In the Edo period, lacquerware using Kiso hinoki cypress garnered popularity as souvenirs from travelers. The Kiso shikki industry thrived rapidly in the Meiji period. Since then, Kiso has been known as one of the major production centers of lacquerware. Kiso shikki is an officially recognized traditional craft in Japan.



### Magemono

Magemono, which is known as a local specialty of Narai-juku, is made by bending a thin board made of Kiso or Sawara cypress to form round- and oval-shaped strips to assemble them into a container. It has a history of over 400 years in Kiso's Narai-juku. Magemono containers are popular as they help prevent rice from going bad and rice tastes good even when eaten cold.

## Narai-juku Official Goods

Japanese washcloth, postcards and clear folders designed by Kyoko Yanagisawa, paper cutting artist. These items are available in the Tourist Association's member shops in Narai-juku.



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# You may completely feel like a traveler in the Edo period Let's go walking along the Torii pass



### Column

In ancient times, Narai-juku was the post town where travelers heading for Kyoto from north on the Kiso road took a rest right before the Torii pass, known as the hardest route. Many years have passed since then, and in 1991 a great runner was born in Narai, who seems to be able to cross the pass with ease. He is Akinobu Murasawa. He began running when he was a pupil of Narakawa Elementary School as his two big brothers did; thanks in part to the help of good coaches, his time kept improving. A boy, who had practiced running steadily in and around the post town, has grown to become one of the ace young long-distance runners of Japan. He has his roots here in Narai.



An approximately 6-kilometer mountain track connects Yabuhara-juku and Narai-juku along the Kiso Kaido route. For travelers wearing straw sandals in the Edo period, it was known as one of Nakasendo Road's hardest routes. Today, it is popular as a trekking course filled with rich verdure. You can view the Ontake mountain to the west and the Kiso-komadake mountain to the east from atop and there are a number of stone tablets inscribed with haiku poems by numerous poets, such as Basho Matsuo, or stone Buddhist images along the ancient road. The Torii pass is a historical site, which was the battlefield for the Kiso and Takeda clans during the age of provincial wars, and the Imperial Princess Kazunomiya travelled through the pass when she got married at the end of the Edo period.



The route is designated as Nakasendo Route as part of Nagano Prefecture's Shinanoji Hiking Course.

### Kiso-Torii pass natural hiking route

