



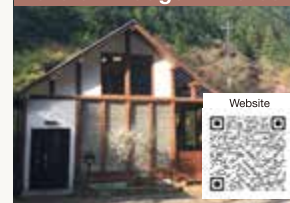
Aki-chan Restaurant & Minshuku Aki-chan



The menu features udon and soba, but rice bowls and other dishes are also offered. Our special sauce-flavored fried udon set meal is popular. The guesthouse can accommodate both individuals and groups, even entire sports teams.

Restaurant • Weekdays 11:30am–2:30pm. Closes Sat., Sun. & nat. hols.
326-3 Dōbara, Kurotaki-mura Tel 0747-62-2712
https://x.com/akichan_2022

Kurotaki Lodge — Forest and River



In a lovely valley, a river flows behind the lodge. After a private sauna, cool off in the clear stream.
• Accommodation: From JPY 20,000 person/night
• Check-in 13:00
• Check-out 13:00 following day.

Nakato, Kurotaki-mura Tel 090-2107-6607
<https://kurotaki-yado.com/glamping/>
Instagram @kurotaki_yado

Kurotaki – Mori Monogatari Village • Mori no Koryu-kanan



Get in touch with nature in this forest resort. Besides lodging, you can also enjoy BBQs on the riverbank and, by reservation only, delicious lunches and banquets.

1 Awai-dani, Kurotaki-mura • Tel 0747-62-2770
<https://morimonogatari.com/>

Kurotaki – Mori-no-Monogatari • Kirara Forest



A cottage cluster where the Aka-iwa Gorge joins the Kurotaki River. The biggest lodge can accommodate up to 10 people.

526 Nakato, Kurotaki-mura Tel 0747-62-2577
<https://morimonogatari.com/kirara/>

Sauna & Glamping Totonoi



A glamping facility with barrel saunas and other luxurious amenities in your private living area. Enjoy ultimate relaxation in a completely private space.

250-1 Dōbara, Kurotaki-mura Tel 080-9609-2281
<https://sauna-glamping-totonoi.com>

Access

By car

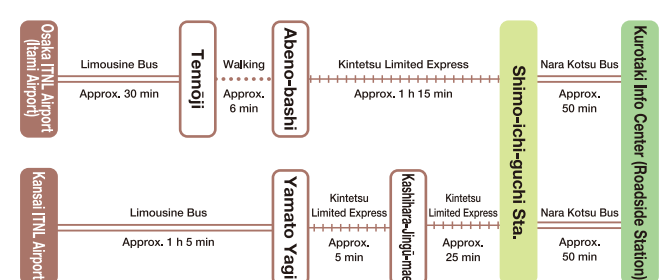
• From Osaka



• From Nagoya

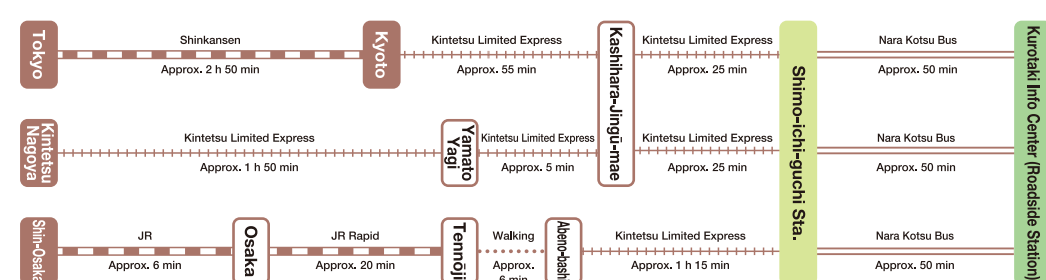


By air

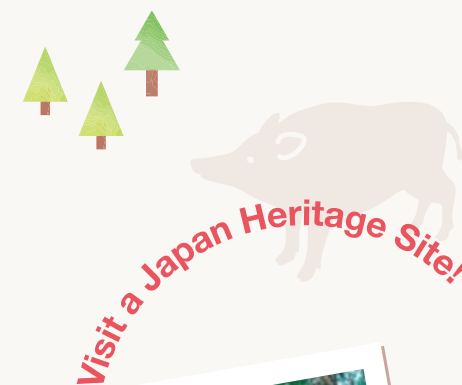
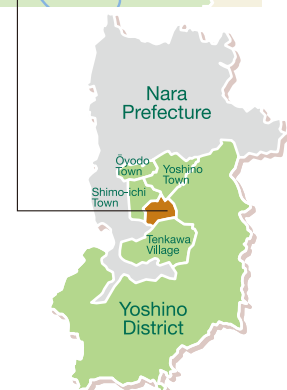
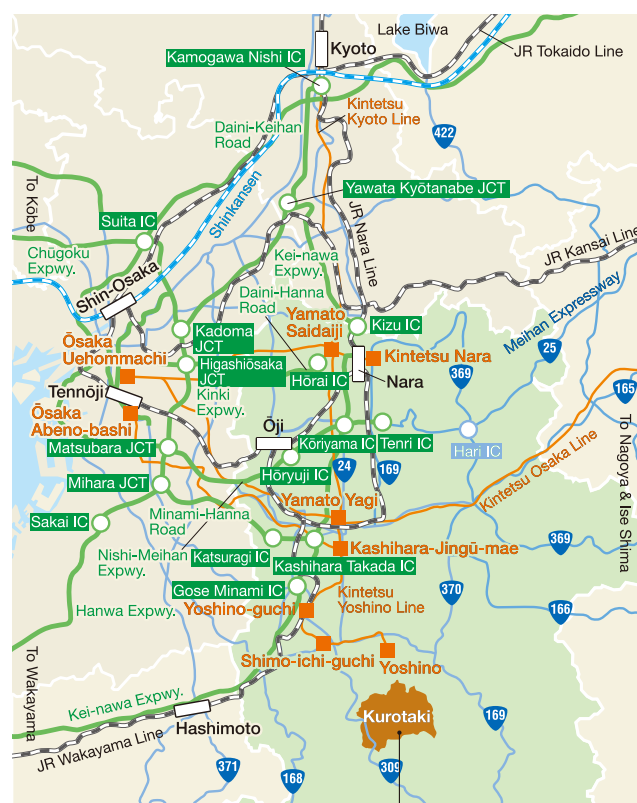


The Kurotaki Fureai Bus (free community bus) runs between Kurotaki Information Center and the village.

By Train & Bus



The Kurotaki Fureai Bus (free community bus) runs between Kurotaki Information Center and the village.



Visit a Japan Heritage Site!



This temple is dedicated to a high priest closely connected with Mount Yoshino's vibrant cherry blossoms.

The Navel of Nara

Kurotaki

K U R O T A K I V I L L A G E

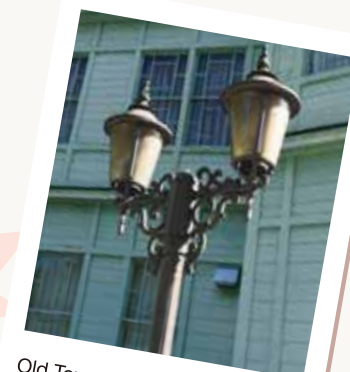
Area Guide

Roadside Station popular items:
yam cake skewers,

Yamato vegetables

Kurotaki white cucumbers

Feel forest blessings!
Invigorate your senses
and recharge your soul!



Old Townhall
-impressive western-style
architecture



Local wood-carving skill gleams with excellence.



Kurotaki Village Office, 77 Terado, Kurotaki-mura, Yoshino-gun, Nara Prefecture, 638-0292, Japan.
Tel 0747-62-2031 email: kuro_ks@vill.kurotaki.lg.jp
<https://www.vill.kurotaki.nara.jp>



Website

Welcome to The Forest Village of Kurotaki

Surrounded by lush forests, Kurotaki Village is an authentic Forest Village. People have lived here among the trees, caring for the forest, since before written history. You can feel the forest blessing every aspect of life in the village.

View of World Heritage
Omine–Okugake Pilgrim Trail and
Mt. Otenjo (center, 1,388 m)

Heart
Healing Kurotaki
Village

F O R E S T A N D N A T U R E

Inspire deep within the breath of nature.

In Kurotaki, on the northern edge of the Kii Mountains, forest occupy 97% of village land. Producing valuable hinoki and sugi timber, the woodland is ranked among the three most beautiful plantation forests in Japan. The valleys feed the headwaters of Kurotaki River and Nyū River, sources of the Yoshino River and Kino River.



Stunning locations you'll want to look back on with a snap #kurotakiphoto



Kurotaki Suspension Bridge [Map 2](#)

Gently swaying 35 m above the ground, enjoy a thrilling walk on this 115 m span. The suspended cut-log deck is one of Japan's longest. From Kurotaki Mori Monogatari Village, you can use the bridge to get to local hiking trails.



Kurotaki Old Townhall [Map 1](#)

A Prefectural Important Cultural Property, and a Japan Heritage Constituent Cultural Property, this Western-style wooden structure was built in 1910. The second floor houses the village folk museum. For opening hours and other information, inquire at Kurotaki Mori Monogatari Village.



Aka-iwa Gorge [Map 7](#)

Reddish chert rocks form the bed of the Kurotaki River and ruggedly rise above either side of the gorge. Some of the rocks bear patterns reminiscent of samurai armor.



Japanese style BBQ

Kirara Forest has a dedicated space for BBQs. The kitchen and washing area ensures that even outdoor novices will have a great time.



Enjoy BBQ!



In the great outdoors,
feel nature on your skin

Heart
Energizing Kurotaki
Village

PLAY AND ACTIVITY

In the midst of the forest, by the clear stream of Kurotaki River, time flows relaxingly. A BBQ here, remote from the hustling and bustling city, will form an oasis of peace in your memory.



Kurotaki – Mori Monogatari Village

A restful place where you can come into contact with nature. As well as lodging, you can also enjoy reservation-only lunches, banquets, and BBQs on the riverbank. (Contact information on back cover.)



Kurotaki – Mori Monogatari Village · Kirara no Mori

This cluster of cottages is along the Kurotaki River at the Aka-iwa Gorge. The large building can accommodate as many as 10 people. (Contact information on back cover.)



Miyoshino AutoCamp

Beside the Kurotaki River, this relaxing site has a Scandinavian sauna. Whether you are a novice camper or seasoned veteran, you will find what you need from our complete lineup of rental items. 193 Miyoshino, Kurotaki Village Tel 0747-62-2340



Sauna & Glamping Totonoi

Enjoy complete privacy in a walled living area equipped with barrel saunas and other luxurious amenities. With a full range of excellent facilities, you can relax in private. (Contact information on back cover.)

To recall your time in Kurotaki, create your own souvenir.

Natural Dyeing Workshop

Use Yoshino sugi to impart a pale pink cherry-blossom color. Here, from local plant materials, you can craft nature's colorful magic.
• Fee: 1,000 yen + materials (reservation required)

Natural Dyeing Workshop: Sugi-no-Sato Kobō
658-9 Terado, Kurotaki-mura Tel 090-4764-7809



Green-wood Workshop

Try your hand at working fresh-cut wood. Workshops are held, by arrangement, on an irregular basis. Workshops held by arrangement only (inquire for reservation).

Woodworking Workshop: Sugi-iro
385 Doubara, Kurotaki-mura email: sugi.iro2021@gmail.com



Kurotaki Village Forests



About 400 years ago, people began actively planting sugi and hinoki trees in the Yoshino area. Buyers used the wood to build castles, temples, and shrines, and to make sake barrels. Dense planting, multiple thinning, and other distinctive local forestry methods evolved. Even today, our high-quality, highly valued timber is shipped all over Japan.



◀ Kawa-wake Jinja Shrine Map 3

At the heart of Kurotaki Village, where the Kurotaki and Kawai Rivers meet, this shrine is dedicated to water and trees. The mountain behind is a holy precinct. Oral tradition holds that the spirit of Nara Kasuga Taisha Shrine was transferred here about 1,000 years ago.

▼ Rigen Daishi Grave Monument Map 5

A listed National Important Cultural Property, at an elevation of 806 m, this exquisitely shaped and carved monument in the form of a two-storey pagoda is about 1 km up Hyakkai-dake mountain from Hōkaku-ji Temple. On the pedestal, from which project the front feet and head of a turtle, an inscription bears the date Shōhei 24 (1369).



Heart Enriching Kurotaki Village History and Tradition

Feel the Forest Prayer. Receive Forest Power.

Since back into the mists of time, people have revered mountains and forests as places where gods and Buddha spirit reside. They are still protected and cared for as places of veneration. Peaks, mountain features, crystal streams, and other blessed manifestations are spots radiating the power of divine spirits and the Buddha.

On walks and strolls feel power from the mountain.



Ryū-ō no Iwaya Grotto



Horse Chestnut Tree at Torisumi Kasuga Shrine

▲ Hōkaku-ji Temple Map 4

As a place to pray for national peace and prosperity, founder of Shugendō (mountain asceticism) En no Gyōja set up a meditation hall here in 678. Shōbō Rigen Daishi, who was leading a revival of Shugendō, later built a temple here in 895.

◀ Kōsandō Hall Map 6

This is believed to be the resting place of Kozatsu Shonin (1014–1098), who they say started the Hanaku-senpo-e* rites at Kinpusen-ji Temple on Mt. Yoshino.

*Held annually in mid-April, during Hanaku-senpo-e, the blooming of cherry trees, held sacred by Kinpusen-ji, is reported to the principal deity and people pray for forgiveness of their sins.



Yoshino Forestry Development

During the Edo period (1603–1867), sake makers wanted more and more fragrant Yoshino sugi wood for their barrels. Production of tarumaru barrel wood flourished and was shipped to breweries in Nada (Hyogo Prf.), Fushimi (Kyoto Prf.), and other areas. Yoshino foresters developed their own way of doing things, including forestry methods and yamamori labor customs.



Heart Soothing Kurotaki Village Specialties and Gourmet

Authentic, comforting food... soothing scents of sugi and hinoki woodcrafts: Kurotaki Village holds the life knowledge and skills of people who live with wisdom from the forest.

▼ Yam cake

Yam cake is processed from locally gathered yams. Chunks are stewed in a broth based on sweet, spicy soy sauce. Served hot on skewers, this treat is a village specialty.



Be blessed by forest, by seasons, by Kurotaki culture

▶ Crafted Wood

Fragrant woodcraft items are made from carefully tended and nurtured local Yoshino sugi and hinoki trees that yield unrivalled wood. You will treasure its gentle feel and captivating aroma.



Kurotaki Wooden Crafts



Check out Kurotaki openwork and intricate mizugumi dovetailing. (Photo: Mizugumi)

In the mid-20th century Kurotaki became a major production center for tarumaru staves for sake barrels. Even so, the heritage of local skills for working fine sugi and hinoki wood thrived.

◀ Kaki-no-ha Sushi

Kaki-no-ha sushi, a Yoshino area delicacy, is a Japan Heritage national cultural asset. Topped with salted mackerel or salmon, each bite-sized piece of vinegared sushi rice is wrapped in a persimmon leaf. In early summer, local households substitute magnolia leaves to make hōba-zushi.

Eating



Kurotaki Chaya

Kaki-no-ha sushi and udon are most popular, but our spicy fried chicken set meal is a special treat. Open 10:00am–5:00pm. • Closed Wed. 129 Kasagi, Kurotaki-mura Tel 0747-62-2144



Farm Cafe • Tsuchiya Nature Farm

Chill in summer with kurumitsu shaved ice and Yoshino kuzumochi jelly. Warm in fall and winter with crock-roast sweet potatoes. Fresh, farm-direct vegetables are on sale. Open weekends and nat. hols. • Times depend on season. 306-1 Waki-gawa, Kurotaki-mura Tel 090-8447-9192



Roadside Station Yoshino-ji Kurotaki

Stop by the village information center. You can also shop for fine products from Kurotaki's hills and valleys. Open 7 days a week • 9:00am–5:00pm 22 Nagase, Kurotaki-mura Tel 0747-62-2456



Kaki-no-ha Sushi • Tanimoto

As well as kaki-no-ha sushi, guests love our Sanuki udon noodles and mehari rice balls wrapped in takana leaves. Open 10:00am–4:00pm. (until 5:00pm on Sat., Sun. & nat hols.) Closed: Tue and 2nd & 4th Wed. 61 Nagase, Kurotaki-mura Tel 0747-62-2595



Yamazaki Y Shop

At the road station, find anything you want at Kurotaki's only convenience store. Handmade boxed lunches are popular. Open 7 days a week • 7:00am–7:00pm Tel 0747-62-2771



Soba Restaurant • Wabisuke

At our Michelin Bib Gourmand restaurant, we stone-grind buckwheat to make 100% pure buckwheat flour for our delicious soba noodles. Open daily 11:30am until sold out Irregular closing 573 Terado, Kurotaki-mura Tel 0747-62-9030 (reservation advised)

Shopping



Local Specialty Shop • Nakatsuji Meiboku

Discover local woodcrafts at this store in the roadside station. Besides handsome boards, tabletops, and other wooden items, you will find a range of handmade pottery and bags. Open 10:00am–3:00pm • Closed Tue. Tel 0747-62-2358



Local Specialty Shop • Rinplus

In the roadside station, run by a forestry family, this store sells quality Kurotaki products. As well as interior items made from Yoshino wood and household goods, you can find natural local foods. Open 10:00am–3:00pm • Closed Tue. email info@houseforestry.com



Natural Wood Store

See Tokuda Meiboku debarked trunks with branches in the gallery and shop. If you drop by, you can also check out our mill ends and scrap wood. Open 8:00am–5:00pm Closed Sun, 2nd & 4th Sat. 12 Miyoshino, Kurotaki-mura Tel 0747-62-2004



Kurotaki Konnyaku • Yomogi no Sato

At the roadside station enjoy our specialties: delicious yam cake skewers and tasty, green yomogi ochi mugwort rice cakes made with freshly pounded rice. Open 8:00am–3:00pm • Closed: Tue. Tel 0747-62-2188



Fresh Nakatani

More than a simple convenience store, as well as daily necessities, Fresh Nakatani sells fresh food including meat and fish. Prepared side dishes include tempura. 241-2 Terado, Kurotaki-mura Tel 0747-62-2906



Kaki-no-ha Sushi • Torase

You can savor the finest kaki-no-ha sushi inspired with the nature that breathes here, deep in Nara Yoshino. 118-2 Terado, Kurotaki-mura Tel 0747-62-2943 (reservation only)



Kurotaki Village • Forest Co-op

There is not space enough for bragging about locally grown Yoshino sugi. See the gorgeous grain, color, and luster of famed local Yoshino sugi in trays and other small objects. Admire elegant, framed openwork carving. We can make items to order. Mont-bell outdoor gear is also on sale. 154 Terado, Kurotaki-mura Tel 0747-62-2124



Wood Shop • Rabbit and Tortoise

Up near the Aka-iwa Gorge, this unstaffed shop operated by Kurotaki Village Tourist Association has woodcrafts and a few other items. 867-1 Nakato, Kurotaki-mura Tel 0747-62-2031 (Town Hall Planning & Policy Division office)

• Opening days and hours may change without notice: avoid disappointment by checking shop status in advance.

Kurotaki Sightseeing Map

So much to see!

Take a trip to heal your body and soul.



You'll want to take photos of many sights around the village.
Social media likes Kurotaki ♪
#kurotakimuraphoto
#kurotakimura
#japanheritagekurotakimura
#thenavelofnara



Suggested photo sights



Japan Heritage



Kurotaki Village has a hot spring ♪
Outdoor bath at Kurotaki Mori Monogatari Village



Japan Heritage

Kurotaki Old Town Hall

Kurotaki Suspension Bridge

Kurotaki Mori Monogatari Village

Kurotaki Kenmin Sports Ground

Kurotaki Waka-sugi Community Center

Kurotaki Culture and Sports Forest

Kurotaki Town Hall

Kurotaki Community Sports Ground

Kurotaki Elementary and Junior High School

Kurotaki Village Forest Co-op

Kurotaki Sugi Kōbō Workshop

Tsuchiya Nature Farm Cafe

Kurotaki Village Forest Co-op

Kurotaki Culture and Sports Forest

Kurotaki Town Hall

Kurotaki Community Sports Ground

Kurotaki Elementary and Junior High School

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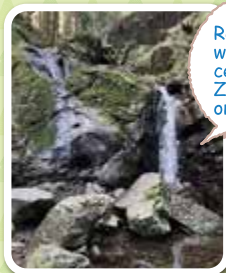
Kurotaki Culture and Sports Forest

Kurotaki Town Hall

Kurotaki Konnyaku • Yomogi no Sato
Local Specialty Shop
Nakatsuji Meiboku Rinplus



Feel free to ask here about great local spots to visit!



Furō Waterfall

Kurotaki Chaya Teashop

Kurotaki Chaya Teashop

Kurotaki Chaya Teashop

Kurotaki Chaya Teashop

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Kurotaki Village Calendar

Spring

Apr. End Apr Eitai-kyō sutra chanting (village temples)
• Cherry blossom & magnolia
• Rhododendron
• Japanese primrose
• Ferns and other wild plants

May

Jun. 1st Sun Jun Kawa-wake Shrine Annual Festival (Nakato)
• Jun – Jul Fireflies can be seen
• Hydrangea hirta • Hydrangea • Saxifrage

Jul. Golden-rayed lily
• Iris Japonica

Summer

Aug. Mid-Aug Summer festival (Terado)
Coming-of-age rites (Terado)
24 Aug Jizōbon (parishes, some in Jul.)
• Lily

Sep. Late Sep Higan-e equinox rites (village temples)
• Equinox lily

Oct. Mid-Oct Kurotaki Yamanami Sports Day
Eitai-kyō sutra chanting (village temples)

Autumn

Nov. 3 Nov Kawa-wake Shrine Annual Festival (Nakato)
Annual festivals (village shrines)
Early Nov Wakasugi Fureai Festival (Dōbara)
• Autumn foliage: maple, ginkgo, etc.

Dec. Early Dec Mtn. deity feasts (parishes)
31 Dec Bell ringing (village temples)
New Year bonfires
• Nandina

Winter

Jan. 1 Jan New Year's Day festivals (village shrines)
Early Jan Tondo-yaki (parishes)
Kurotaki Fire Brigade New Year's Parade (Terado)
• Hoar Frost

Feb. Late Mar Amago season start (designated fishing spots)
Higan-e equinox rites (village temples)
• Plum blossom & butterbur buds

Mar.

Every season has special charms.
Any trip to Kurotaki is filled with fresh natural encounters and new cultural discoveries.

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• Cherry blossom & magnolia
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Kurotaki Village World Heritage Ōmine-Ōkugake Pilgrim Trail

Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range

Mountain ascetics still train along the way to Ōmine. Running south from Yoshino to distant Kumano, attributed to En no Gyoja, the routes were fixed in the 7th century. In 2004, for historical value and natural scenery, the routes were listed by UNESCO.

From Yoshino to Ōmine, the five-day mountain trail's first half passes through Kurotaki.

To climb Ōmine, make sure to plan and be properly equipped with sturdy shoes and light equipment adequate for rural hiking trails.

Respect the mountain and other hikers. Leave only footprints. Be safe.



Likely resting place of Kozatsu Shonin (d. 1098), who is credited with reviving Kimpusen-ji Temple on Mt. Yoshino.



Frame your shots with lush greenery against the red rocks to get some great shots ♪



Early to mid-April, weeping cherry branches blooming are a sight to see.

World Heritage Ōmine-Ōkugake Pilgrim Trail

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◆ Depending on the year, actual dates may differ from those listed here.