The gateway to the coastline of Kyoto
A city of textiles woven with harmony

The city of Ayabe is known for two symbols, Gunze and Omoto. These two forces, each with its own history, go hand in hand, just like the supple nature of twill weaves. Feel a sense of the nostalgia and warmth of old Japan as you walk around the city and its streetscapes steeped in history, with old Japanese inns, sweet shops, and shops of other unique specialty shops.

Ayabe City
Tourist Agency
114 Hyogo-ku Shimo-yahiko Kurumadai, Ayabe City, Kyoto (inside the Ayabe Tourist Information Center)
Tel: 0773-42-9550
Fax: 0773-42-8514
Visit www.ayabe-kankou.net

Access to Ayabe City
From Kyoto: Approx. 90min via Kyotoden Expressway
     — National Route 27
From Osaka: Approx. 179min via the Chugoku Expressway — Mutsuji-Minami Expressway, or Approx. 90min via National Route 173 — National Route 27
From Nagoya: Approx. 216min via the Metropolitan Expressway — Hikari-ku Expressway — Mutsuji-Minami-Jo Expressway or Approx. 216min via the Kyushu Expressway — Shin-Mutsuji-Jo Expressway — Kyotoden Expressway — National Route 27
From Ayabe City, Approx. 1hr 30min via the Tobu-Daiichi-Kiha Line (Direct Rapid Service) — Sanjo Main Line (Limited Express) or Approx. 1hr 30min via the Tobu-Daiichi-Kiha Line (Limited Express) — Sanjo Main Line
From Osaka: Approx. 2hrs 30min direct
From Tokyo (Shinkansen): Approx. 3hrs 30min direct

Cycling Rental
300 yen for the first 4 hours and 100 yen for every additional hour. Full-day cycle rental for 1,000 yen. Bicycles can be rented from 9:00 to 18:00.

Tourist Information Center: 0773-42-9550 (South Exit JR Ayabe Station)

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Symbolic history behind Ayabe —
The Silk City

Gunze
One of Japan’s leading textile manufacturers, Gunze was founded in Ayabe in 1886. Breathing vitality into the area to the point where it was known across Japan as “the silk city.” Today, the Gunze Memorial Hall (formerly the head office) and the head office factory gate have been restored and preserved as historic monuments that have given rise to the modern-day silk industry. Ayabe Gunze Square was also opened in 2004 as a new attraction and has become a hub of interaction for visitors to the area.

Oomoto
The southern end of the city is home to the Oomoto Headquarters, Baishin (translated as “garden of plum and pine trees”), a religious sect founded in Ayabe in 1892 and is surrounded by tranquility. Visitors can view a large number of valuable buildings, including the Mirokuden, designated a national cultural asset of Japan, the main worship hall, Chosaiden, said to be one of the largest wooden structures in the 20th Century, and the Konohana, also designated an important cultural property of Japan. The traditional Japanese gardens are beautifully maintained, making it a popular power spot for visitors to feel close to nature.

Power spots surrounded by an imperial feeling

Mirokuden
A large number of valuable resources depicting the history of Oomoto can be viewed in the shrine.