From Uji-river

Uji river that runs through over 1000 years— Attracted to the beauty of nature, nobilities in Heian period built their villas in Uji while writers chose this area as the site of their stories. And the climate by Uji river created and refined the unique Uji-tea culture. The scenery beauty, culture, tradition, and the aroma of Uji tea have succeeded by generations.

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The secrets of deliciousness of Uji tea

Tea Town Unique events

The river fog screening out from the Uji river protects the young leaves from frost and keeps them soft. The geographical features and people’s efforts to develop the technique over generations have made Uji famous for tea.

During the Heian period, nobilities were looking for a place to build their villas outside the capital Kyoto. Due to its geographical advantage and scenery beauty, nobilities built their villas. And the Fujiwara clan made Uji what is called Fujiwara villa town. Two world heritage - Byodo-in and Ujikami Shrine - were built during this time.

It is believed the Buddhist master "Kukai" introduced Uji tea to the Uji area in the Kamakura era. When it came to the Muromachi era, great tea farms called "Shichimizumi" and springs called "Shichimizumi" were established and Uji became a first-class tea producing area under the patronage of great samurais such as Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi. In the Edo period, Uji tea masters made an annual ceremonial journey called "Ochayaodobu" to Edo (Tokyo) to present the tea to the Tokugawa shogun, which made Uji tea a luxurious tea brand.

Secret ①
We grow the Tea of Uji by using the method called “Ooshita” that covers tea leaves before plucking them. This method is endemic to Uji. By keeping sunlight off the cover, the tea leaves increase umami. We employ traditional method of hand-picking to pluck tea leaves, Tencha-tea - the ingredient of Matcha green tea - and Gyokuro tea made of young leaves that have been picked carefully tip by tip are worthy of being called high-quality tea. Uji tea has attracted a national reputation with this unique and time-consuming method. And still Uji tea keeps winning many awards like the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Award. 

Secret ②
Tea wholesalers steam and dry tea leaves and then blend different teas to produce distinct teas according to their brand. This tea processing and blending technique has been tried and refined for several generations. The delicate and subtle sense and technique of the tea wholesalers has been inherited through generations and supported the Uji tea brand.

O “Kencha-sai” (Tea offering festival)

Every early October this festival is held to show gratitude to three great benefactors of Uji tea - Eisai, Zenshi, Myoe Shonin, and Sen no Rikyu - and to pray for the prosperity of Uji tea. On the Uji-bashi bridge called "San no Ma", where the Toyotomi Hideyoshi used to draw water from Uji-gawa river, we do same ritual that dips up water from the river just as they did.

Besides these festivals, other events related to tea such as "Hachijuhachiyu" (88th day from the beginning of spring) Chatsumi tea picking gathering, "Harunodachikai" (Spring big tea ceremony), National Sencha-do convention and so on are opened in several parts of Uji city.

Tea Town Unique events

O “Ujicha-natsuri” (Uji tea festival)

Every early October this festival is held to show gratitude to three great benefactors of Uji tea - Eisai, Zenshi, Myoe Shonin, and Sen no Rikyu - and to pray for the prosperity of Uji tea. On the Uji-bashi bridge called "San no Ma", where the Toyotomi Hideyoshi used to draw water from Uji-gawa river, we do some ritual that dips up water from the river just as they did.

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Enjoy the Uji tea

Experience

Make tea, brew it and drink it—Why don’t you try a variety of experiences related to tea?

- [Tea room menu] [Tea ceremony menu] (Includes 60 yen) / 100 yen
- Green tea menu / Sancho 500 yen
- Darjeelings / 100 yen

Make tea

- [Tea ceremony experience] for 1,200 yen

It is a very unique municipal tea ceremony house.

Municipal Tea Ceremony House Taihoan

This is a facility where you can experience brewing and drinking tea and having some sweets with it. Japanese tea instructors teach you how to brew delicious powdered green tea and green tea. You can also enjoy games to identify different types of tea.

Uji Chado Dojo Takumi no Yakata

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Powdered green tea making

Fukui-en Uichakobo

- Contact/Tel.0774-22-1100
- Operating hours: 10:00-17:00
- Closing day/Monday

Nakamura Toukichi Honen

- Contact/Tel.0774-22-1700
- Operating hours: 10:00-17:00
- Closing day/Monday

Asahi-ya Sakuraku

- Contact/Tel.0774-25-2517
- Operating hours: 10:00-17:00

Toukinoseato Sumiya

- Contact/Tel.0774-25-8555
- Opening hours: 10:00-17:00
- Closing day/Monday

Pottery making

Factory tour

You can visit Macha factories.

Marukyo Koyamaen

- Opening hours: 10:00-12:00 and 13:00-17:00 on weekdays / 11:00-17:30 on weekends/11:00-17:30 on weekdays / 14:00-17:30 on weekends
- Workshop for adults / 200 yen (Free with tea
- Please inquire for more information

Kambayashi Shinsou Honen

- Opening hours: 10:00-17:00
- Workshop for adults / 200 yen
- Workshop for children / 200 yen
- Please inquire for more information

Memorial museum

Valueable information since Edo era is displayed.

Uji The Kambayashi Memorial Hall

- Opening hours: 9:00-17:00
- Entrance fee: Free

Sankyoan Uji Tea Laboratory

- Opening hours: 9:00-17:00
- Entrance fee: Free
- Please inquire for more information
TWO WORLD HERITAGES in UJI

Byodo-in Temple

In 1052 Fujiwara no Yorinobu, then a Japanese Court noble, made his father Michinaga’s villa into a temple. In the following year, the Phoenix Hall (Hou-do) was built as the Amida Hall. The Hall consists of a central hall (Chudo) where a single image of Amida made by Chosho, a Japanese sculptor, is installed, with wing corridors on both sides of the central hall, and tall corridor. Phoenixes are displayed on the large roof while doors inside the hall are decorated with gorgeous hozen (flower pattern) and with brilliant colors. The double conopy and Unchu Kuyo (Bosatsu) statues are must-sees. In front of the Phoenix Hall lies the garden with a pond, expressing the Western Paradise. Initially, the Uji river and the mountains on the opposite bank were incorporated as part of its landscape and the method of new temples and shrines in creating their landscapes.

Contact: Tel.0774-21-2064
Opening hours: Garden 9:30–17:30, Hozan-kan 9:00–17:00, Hou-do 9:30–16:10
Everyday/maximum number of customers: limited with 50 and extra fees are 300 yen per day
Free/Adults 600 yen; Elementary school student 300 yen
Around is 10 minutes walk from JR/Kyoham Uji station

It is believed as a guardian shrine of Byodo-in temple.

Agata Shrine

Agata is a religious ritual organization of the Yanagisawa group that installed a shrine in each estate. The shrine was a place where the local gods were worshipped and the infallibility of the gods was very important. It is believed that the shrine was built in 1445. The shrine is located in the same area as the main hall of the temple. Contact: Tel.0774-21-1014

It is said they were built by Fujiwara no Yamato, daughter of Fujiwara no Setsukana and Hakusan Shrine is a guardian shrine of Konjiki-in Temple. It is said that they were built by Fujiwara no Konjiki, daughter of Fujiwara no Yamato and Hakusan Shrine is a guardian shrine of Konjiki-in Temple. But currently, the main gate and the entered shrines are a memorial of Konjiki-in Temple. Hakusan Shrine that is believed to be the oldest shrine of its kind in Japan is also considered as one of the Japanese cultural heritage. It is located in the middle of the temple.

Shrine that is revered as a guardian shrine of this world.

Ujikami Shrine

Until Meiji period, together with Uji Shrine next to it, Ujikami Shrine was called Rikyu (Distant Places) Shrine. The enshrined deities are the Emperor Ojin, his sons, the imperial princes Uji no Watakaritsukku, and Emperor Nintoku.  The front shrine was built in early Kansakura period and Shinden-zukuri method was employed. Especially, the beauty of the roof employing the architecture style called sugura-nahita, is very gorgeous. The honden of the shrine is known as the oldest shrine architecture that has remained since the Heian period. The three inner structures are built side-by-side and covered with the common roof, which is very unique. And "Kosunara" installed both in right and left compound is also important. Also inside the precinct lies Kaga Shrine built in Kansakura period and "Kari-haraishi" one of the seven Uji fresh water springs.

Contact: Tel.0774-21-4634
Opening hours: 8:00–16:30
A 10 minutes walk from Uji station of Kahan line

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Sacred lot of rabbit that there is connection in enshrined deities

Mitsukawa, a nobility in the period, which was made into temple by his son Yorimichi. While Byodo-in was built as an afterlife paradise, Uji Shrine was built as an guardian of present world. Combined with natural landscape, the contrast of these two opposing prayers forms a unique atmosphere in Uji.
The Tale of Genji and Uji

It is in around 1000, that is, mid-Heian period when Murasaki Shikibu wrote a full-length novel "The Tale of Genji" that demands on international reputation. 54 chapters constitute the novel and the first 41 chapters are about love romance of Genji and his grandson, and three princesses. Those 30 chapters are called "Uji 10 Chapters" as the main scenes of the story are in Uji. Appreciating the connection with the Tale, Uji city has developed the town based on the themes of the Tale.

## Historic sites of Uji 10 Chapters

- **Kodai-ji**
- **Shinden-ji**
- **Shishin-ji**
- **Sawara-ji**
- **Todai-ji**
- **Ujiyamada-ji**
- **Ujigami Jinja**
- **Rikyu-in**
- **Tenmangu**

### Names of 10 historic sites

- **Kodai-ji**
- **Shishin-ji**
- **Sawara-ji**
- **Todai-ji**
- **Ujiyamada-ji**
- **Ujigami Jinja**
- **Rikyu-in**
- **Tenmangu**
- **Shinden-ji**
- **Shishin-ji**

The location of 10 places of historic sites of Uji 10 Chapters, see P9-10.

### Photo point

The only museum in the world that you must see as a fan of "The Tale of Genji".

## The Tale of Genji Museum

The Museum shows exhibitions and movies to explain about the world of "Uji 10 Chapters" of the Tale. You will enjoy Heian culture and know the world of Uji 10 chapters.

### Contact Tel:
0774-21-3030

## The Monument of Uji 10 Chapters

Every autumn, Uji city holds lots of events called "Genji Romance" to promote the city.

### Literature Prize

We use "Murasaki Shikibu Literature Prize" for female writers and "Murasaki Shikibu Civil Culture Prize" for the residents of Uji city. We hold these prizes ceremony every November.

## Genji Romance

Genji Romance is a story about Uji 10 Chapters. The monument is on the site where the scene of Uji 10 Chapters was shot.

### Visitors information

- **Contact Tel:** 0774-21-3030

## Seasonal flowers and events

One of the best place to see blooming flowers in Japan

**Mimuro-ji Temple**

It was built 1,200 years ago as an extraordinary head temple of Hossan Shugendo (Mountain ascetics, with emphasis on integrating Shinto and Buddhist ideals). As the 10th temple of 33 pilgrimage sites in Western part of Japan, it attracts many visitors. Many Buddhist paintings and statues of this temple were made in Fujikawa period. In Rehe’den, the founder of this temple, Rehe is installed. The oldest reproduced statue of Shakyamuni of Sekiyama Temple style. Currently, this temple is known as temple of flowers.

### Contact Tel:
0774-21-3030

Monday: 9:30~10:00, 11:30 (between April and October)

10:00~10:30, 11:30 (between April and October)

**Mimuro-ji Temple**

- **Contact Tel:** 0774-21-3030
- **Opening hours:**
  - Summer: 9:30~10:00, 11:30~12:30
  - Winter: 9:30~10:00, 11:30~12:30

- **Parking:**
  - Free parking on foot, for walking in garden, 300 yen to tour inside the hall
  - 15 minutes walk from Mimuro-ji station of Keihan line

**Kosho-ji Temple**

This is a temple of Soto sect and famous for slope called "Kotokoko." Though initially模糊Dogen, the founder of Soto sect built the temple in Fukusaku, Kyoto, after it was burned down due to troubles. Naoko Numata rebuilt the temple in Uji. As he was a tea master, he built at least three tea houses.

### Contact Tel:
0774-21-3030

**Opening hours:**
- Summer: 9:00~17:00
- Free for walking in garden, 300 yen to tour inside the hall

**Uji 10 Chapters Stamp Rally**

Let's enjoy visiting the historic sites around Uji River. Anybody can join this event from late October to early November every year.

### Main events introduction

- **Ujiwas Cherry Blossom Festival**
- **Cormorant fishing in Uji River**
- **Uji 10 Chapters Stamp Rally**
- **Agata Festival**
- **Uji-tea Festival**
- **Ujiwas Fireworks Festival**
- **Agata Fireworks Festival**

**Kosho-ji Temple**

- **Contact Tel:** 0774-21-3030
- **Parking:**
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**Ujiwas Cherry Blossom Festival**

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- **Parking:**
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Tips to enjoy Uji

1. Let's visit World Heritages: There are two World Heritages in Uji.
2. Let's taste Uji tea: Uji tea is a synonym for Uji.
3. Let's cross Uji Bridge: Views from the bridge are magnificent. Never forget to take pictures!
4. Feel Genji Romance: Uji is the main site of The Tale of Genji.
5. Feel seasons: Spring cherry blossoms and autumn maple leaves - Uji is filled with the beauty of nature.

Uji Bridge

The original bridge was built by the Shinden style method. The current bridge was completed in March 1996. This is the 13-layered stone stupa style. It is said that the current bridge was picked up and set in the same location to make tea. The landscape is very beautiful.

Hashidera Temple (Hojo-in)

It is said that Shohonzan Horyu-ji sent a model of the temple to build the temple in Uji. As it was necessary to Uji, the temple was called "Hashidera". It is a stone pagoda to Uji Bridge. (See the map at the bottom of the page for the exact location.)

Uji Gawa Tako Tumutiai (Historic Site)

This is a remnant of the site used to prevent flooding, which was designated as a historic site in 1994. The story goes that the ruins were set up when the site was found. It is now buried again and the memorial park is to be built.

Tayogooka Stadum (Yamashiro Park Stadium)

This is an athletic park with 10 hectares, also located to west of Tayogooka Park. You can enjoy a variety of water and flower shows. (See the map at the bottom of the page for the exact location.)