

## History·Culture

### Shrines/Temples

**1 Mizuwakasu Shrine**  
This shrine is dedicated to good harvest and the safety of ships in the Japan Sea. The architecture of the shrine is a style that is unique to Ōki. Mizuwakasu Shrine became an important cultural asset of Japan in 1992.

**2 Tanawakasu Shrine**  
This is the chief shrine in Ōki. The main building of this shrine is made in traditional Ōki style. Mizuwakasu Shrine, both shrines became national important cultural properties in 1992. The priests family (also called Ōki) is said to be a descendant of the governor of Ōki Country. There are 3 treasures in the shrines treasury. They are Ekirai, Karabitsu and Ōkinokuni-zouin.

**3 Hachioji Shrine**  
This shrine is dedicated to the 8 divine children of the god Amaterasu and god Susano. A three-legged crow called "Yatai-garasu" is enshrined inside. It symbolizes the sun. The local people call it Hachioji. One of the three big festivals, Muramatsu Furyo is held for this shrine and Ichinori Shrine, which is dedicated to. This festival of-fers prayers to the sun and moon.

**4 Ise-mikoto-jinja Shrine**  
Amenokoyasu-no-mikoto, which is famous for Amaterasu's Hider Legend, is enshrined here as is Amaterasu's brother Takaiyomi-no-mikoto. The treasure of this shrine is a rabbit, which is the symbol of the moon. People call this shrine Batten-san, which means the shrine of the moon. Muramatsu Furyo is held for not only for Hachioji Shrine but also for Ichinori Shrine.

**5 Ichinori-jinja Shrine**  
Izanami-koto is enshrined here. This shrine was seen as one of the greatest shrines in Japan during Emperor Nimrod's rule. Amaterasu is worshiped at this shrine on the 25th of July (old years) or 28th of July, (even years). Kani-kagura is a prefectural special asset.

**6 Amatakekanakaya Shrine**  
The daughter of the god Susano are enshrined here, as well as Express Jingo, Princess Taneyori, Shiotsumi-no-okina and Isotakeru-no-mikoto. There are some legends and episodes about them around this shrine.

**7 Kanishika Shrine**  
Princess Toyotama is mainly enshrined here. The gods Izanagi, Izanami and Kikayohime are also enshrined. Princess Toyotama is a daughter of the god Matsunori (Posedon). She became the wife of Yamahiko, which makes her the grandmother of Emperor Jinnu.

**8 Kamonabi Shrine**  
Betsuairi-no-mikoto is enshrined here. The god Susano and Princess Taneyasu are also enshrined here. Momo Festival is a special festival because 7-year-old boys shoot arrows. It is on March 11. The horse of this shrine is allowed to be in front of Tanawakasu Shrine and has special rights at Gorei Furyo.

**9 Wakenosu Shrine**  
The god Wakenosu is believed to be a parent of Tanawakasu-no-mikoto. This is the oldest shrine in Ōki. Some say that Wakenosu is equal to Amano-ohiro-no-kami, which is used as the local name of Ōki (on Kojiki). Ancestral people like this shrine because it is believed that the god of sake is here. They call it Matsuo-nyojin.

**10 Kiriake Shrine**  
This shrine is concerning for God Susano in Waidou, to the west of Saigo port. Sasa Shrine in Sado (Izumi) has the same event named Kiriaki Shinji. Susano is enshrined there too (so in spite of explanation on the shrine's booklets or generally accepted opinion, Susano is also enshrined in the Kiriake Shrine)

**11 Utagi Shrine** **12 Shiratori Shrine**  
**13 Images of Buddha called Ago-nashi Jizo**  
**14 Kousanji Temple** **15 Ōki kokubunji Temple**  
**16 Ganmanji Temple**  
**17 The Shrine on Benten Island** **18 Takada Shrine**  
**19 Dangyuu Shrine** **20 Hanakite Shrine**  
**21 Iiei Shrine** **22 Kaminishi Shrine**

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### Remains·Historic Sites

**1** **Tanulus of Iiei Shrine**  
This is the biggest Zouko-Koon-Fun in Ōki. It's 48m long and seems to be an ancient-tomb of a powerful family who ruled around here. It was mainly its treasure were almost all stolen. There are 9 similar Zouko-Koon-Fun in Do-go. Seven of them are on the hill besides the river Yabi.

**2 The Monument of Ōki Commune**  
Ōki Commune had broken up affected from Sannou-Jyoti Movement (almost the end of Edo Era in 1868). It happened 5years earlier than the Paris Commune. 3000 people in Dojo armed uprising and ejected government rule in that region. However people gave the officers alcohol and rice as farewell presents.

**3 The Ōkis**  
The Ōki Family are an ancestral Shinto priest family that have 2 royal standards (kiri no) and 1 royal seal (horo) dating from times when Japan was divided into smaller kingdoms. The family are also important to Japanese culture because they are also said to be descendant of a governor of Ancient Ōki Country. Their house is about 200-year old and designated as a national important cultural property. Their treasure in treasury are also designated as important cultural properties.

**4 The House of Sasaki**  
This is the oldest wooden house in Ōki. Main building is a one-story house and made of cedar's skin and stones on the roof. It is built in 1792. Some precious materials which rich farmers style in Edo era are exhibited inside. For example farming implements, tableware, lightning and so on.

**5 Old Private House in Isuzabane**  
This house belonged to the Hino and was built in about the end of Edo Era. Then it was moved to Goka in Tabane. It is designated as a tangible-shrine of Shikano. If you book your lunch to Goka-sozenkyo Tel: (0852-5-2865). You can enjoy Ōki lunch there.

**6 Fukuura Tunnel**  
There are 3 tunnels in Fukuura. The smallest is called Kosa-tunnel, the medium sized one is called Mado-tunnel and the biggest is called Shin-tunnel. Together they are known as the Sandai Tunnels of Fukuura. They show the high quality of civil engineering in Meiji Era. So that the Civil Engineering Academy designated them heritage status in 2005.

**7 Temple Kenpukuji**  
**8 Garden Lantern of Branch Izumo Shrine**  
**9 Seikyuuji Temple (Buddha Fudouyuuou)**  
**10 traces of Kunda Castle**  
**11 traces of Kouougyu Castle**

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### Festivals

**1 Big festival of Mizuwakasu Shrine**  
This is a festival (Yama-biki Shinji) which is held at Mizuwakasu Shrine. It is one of Ōki's three biggest and greatest festivals held every 3rd year. At the festival there is a wooden float which is pulled by young boys. The float is decorated beautifully. You can see traditional Japanese dances called 'Shishimai' and traditional Japanese horse-back archery (Yabusame).

**2 Gorei-furuy**  
This is the biggest religious festival in Ōki. It's held every year on June 5th. We call it Gorei-Furuy. People believe that on this day the native gods from 8 areas go to Tanawakasu Shrine on horseback to pay their respects at the shrine. This is called 'Umare-Shinji'. You can also see Yabusame (traditional Japanese horse-back archery). It is an exciting festival which visitors can enjoy seeing them close-up.

**3 Muramatsuri-furuy**  
Nakura people call it Mura-matsuri. It's one of Ōki's greatest festivals. The festival's formal name is Nichigatsuo-onnyouwasai. It means Hachioji Shrine (and Shinji) and Ichinori Shrine (and Shinji) have one festival together. The festival is called "Mozigarasu" and a rabbit, which is the symbol of the moon meet and make a circle three times then. It is open on October 19th every odd year.

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### 21st. There are only 3 dragons (Eguro's court, Itsukushi-no Shrine and Heian era) in Japan. So that it is an important intangible cultural property in Japan.

**5 Tomo in Izumi**  
It is open on January 15th every year. People make a big bamboo tower decorated New Year's decorations in the sea. Then it is burnt down, almost naked men in two groups rush into the cold sea to get the holy log.

**6 Kagura (Japanese holy dances) in Ōki**  
There are three streams of Kagura in Ōki. They are Dozon, Suki and Ōki in Doago. To dance around two tatami's space is the characteristic of Doago Kagura. It follows traditional Kagura. It means the donor has kept the origin of Kagura to divine not to show.

**7 Momote Festival in Tsudo**  
It is held on March 28th every year. It is a festival for Isejima Shrine. Two performers have to shoot some arrows for exorcism instead of other people in Tsudo.

**8 Yamamatsuri in Fuse**  
In Japanese tradition big trees and mountains were believed to be gods. The festival is held in April every 2 years (in even years according to the Gregorian Calendar) to calm the Mountain-Spirit. At this event the young men wear the big crests and wear a half times around the cedar in 3 places.

**9 Danjirimai in Uya** **10 Bull Fighting**  
**11 Festival for Isemonikoto Shrine**  
**12 Momote Festival in Nagouda**  
**13 Festival of Kamonabi Shrine**

**4 Renge-zemi Festival (Ōki Kokubunji Temple)**  
There are 7 dances performed every year on April the 21st. There are only 3 dragons (Eguro's court, Itsukushi-no Shrine and Heian era) in Japan. So that it is an important intangible cultural property in Japan.

**1 Ononotakamura**  
During the Heian Era the famous poet and scholar Onono Takamura was exiled to Ōki from Kyoto. In AD 934 he was to be a vice-ambassador to China, however he was against the diplomat and was punished by Emperor Saga. They say he made a famous waka "Matohara yasoshime-kakete kagidato hitoha-tsugetsu ano-tsurubone." when he was decided to exile.

**2 Former Emperor Gotoba**  
Former Emperor Gotoba was exiled to Ōki in August in 1221 because of Juyoku Civil Strife. He has stayed in Ōki for 13 years. He is very talented and famous as a poet of waka and ordered to make 'Shirukin-wakasyu' and so on.

**3 Emperor Godaigo**  
He was exiled to Ōki in April in 1333 after he fought with the Kamakura government and lost. This is known as Juyoku fighting in Japan. One year later he escaped from Ōki and defeated Kamakura government and rose up 'Komuro-shinrei'. Finally he was defeated by samurai and became sick and passed away in Kyoto.

**4 Nakamura Ryonzou**  
He was born in Nakamura, a part of Suki. When he became 20, he went to Kyoto to learn under Yanasaki Ansei. Later he started his private school there. Saigou Takemori's brother and Nakasa Shinanaga belonged to his. He contributed Meiji-shin. He used to be a private tutor of Emperor Kumei and Emperor Meiji and built another private school called Burukano in Totokawa Village, Nara.

**5 Fujihara Kinichi**  
When he saw a little girl walking to school indirectly along the river, he decided to make a new bridge over the river. He used his private property to build a new one. It was built on September 25th in 1928. He named it "a bridge of love" because his belief was "You shall love your neighbor."

**6 Katsube Eijiro**  
He was born in Nakamura in 1910. He made a big effort to build up post offices of Kouri and Kitakata in Saka and telephone systems there. They use all his private money to make a former Nakamura Tunnel between Harada to Nakamura along steep mountains.

**7 Yanauchi Seishi**  
He was a famous poet who came from Kyoto. His real name was Yanauchi Kinchiko. He was a leader of "New Heika Movement" and wrote many poetry. There are two tablets inscribed with a haiku in Ōki because he visited Ōki and make a lot of Haiku in 1993. One is in Dangyu Waterfall, the other is in Ōki Air Port.

**8 Naguchi Ujyou**  
He came from Itozora, Taga-gun, Ibaragi Prefecture. He was a poet, especially he made some children's songs and folk songs. His masterpieces are 'Marusunoko (seven children)' and 'Syotonaka (bubbles)'. He had been to not only all around Japan but also east Asia and made many folk songs. He left one name in Shirahige, Ōki.

**9 Henni Jyun** **10 Koizumi Yukumo**

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### Profiles

**1 Zekko in Ongyaku Shrine**  
There is a forest in the back of Ongyaku Shrine in Harada. Once there were three Zekko but two of them were decayed. Here are new ones. It's 23 meters. Its trunk circuit is 5.2 meters.

**2 Turnip Cedar**  
This cedar has six trunks above 1.5 meter high and one root. It looks like a turnip. They say it is 600 years old. It is 38 meters high. Its trunk circuit is 9.3 meters.

**3 Chichi-sugi (Bread Cedar)**  
It is nearby the top of Mt. Gaisenji, the highest mountain in Ōki. It is about 800 years old. It has one root but its trunk separates into 15 above 4 meters high. It has sprouted new roots which you can see hanging down from the separated trunks. It is 45 meters high. Its trunk circuit is 11 meters.

**4 Black Pine Trees and Cedar in Kasuga Shrine**  
There are about 70 pine trees and about 50 cedars in Kasuga Shrine and more around this shrine. One there was the highest pine tree there, unfortunately it was hit by thunder and fall down. Now you can only see its big root exhibited in the front garden.

**5 Cedar of Kojin-san**  
People call it Kojin-san in Fuse. Its bottom is wrapped around with long creper many times and decorated with private flags. It's 30 meters high. Its trunk circuit is 5 meters.

**6 Cedar of Oyama Shrine**  
In Japanese tradition big trees were believed to be gods. The cedar of this shrine is ashrined as one. They say it is 600 years old. There are two giant zelkova trees here. It's 50 meters high. Its trunk circuit is 6 meters.

**7 Zelkova in Shirahige Shrine**  
There are two zelkova besides the main building of Shirahige Shrine. They look like the Buddha Niou as doorman. Especially left zelkova is wrapped by a decoration of sacred straw roof. It's 9 meters high. Its trunk circuit is 3.9 meters.

**8 Yononaka-zakura**  
They stand near the trace of Temple Kenpukuji in Banja, Nakamura. People call them Ozakura (apple cherry) and Ma-zakura (apple cherry). Both are about 670 years old. First Ozakura blooms white at the beginning of April, then Mazakura blooms light pink. They were used to divine fortune and harvest year so that they are called 'Yononaka-zakura (Overy blossom of the world)'. They are 15 meters high. Ozakura's trunk circuit is 4 meters.

**9 Karakasano-matsu (pine tree)**  
**10 Black Pine Tree in Igo Shrine**  
**11 Natural Forest in Fuse**  
**12 Some pine trees to protect strong winds in Kami**  
**13 Black Pine Tree in Kitatani Shrine**

**1 Yosuugi (cedar)**  
At Tanawakasu Shrine there is about 1000 year-old or more cedar called Yosuugi which is 29 meters high. Legend says that there is a big snake snoring inside the cedar. They say we can hear its snore at silent night. Its trunk circuit is 11 meters.

**2 Tabunoki in Misaki Shrine**  
If you walk to north in 500m from Saigo Ferry Port, you can find Misaki Shrine and its giant Tabunoki in front of Bay Tunnel. There are a few Tabunoki in Ōki any more. It is 15 meters high and its trunk circuit is 4.1 meters.

**3 Sudajiri back of the Fujita House**  
In front of two big Sudajiri back of the Fujita's in Inuga. There is a small shrine in fruga. There is no one knows how old they are. Perhaps they are very old. They are 13 meters and 15 meters high. Their trunk circuit are 8.8 meters and 4.4 meters.

**4 Cedar in Monomi Shrine**  
It stands as if it is a guard of Monomi Shrine. It keeps stable. It is 25 meters high. Its trunk circuit is 6.4 meters.

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### Profiles

**1 Kurodaki Waterfall**  
**2 Hinozaki Waterfall**

**3 Natural environment**  
**4 Strange Rocks**

**1 Candle Rock (Candle Island)**  
It's a miracle! If the weather is calm at dusk, you can see the rock as if it is a real candle in the sea. It's very amazing. This sightseeing is very popular in the sunset.

**2 Nyubu Iwa (Folding Screen Rock)**  
It's on the right slope of Mt. Washiga-yama (560m above the sea). It is a typical Juyoku-yetsuri so that it seems a giant folding screen made by a polished rock. It's a 80 meter-high cliff. It shows you the greatest scenery of rock in Shiiane.

**3 Tokage Iwa (Lizard Rock)**  
It looks like a real 200-year lizard on the cliff. It was made by erosion for a long time. It consists of very rare rock "amorpholose phonolitic trachyte porphyry" which is found in a few places in the world. So other parts made by different rock were lost long time ago.

**4 Inajima (Dog Island) in Ouka**  
It is in the sea of Ōoku. It looks like a dog. The half bottom of the island consists of Green Tuff. It shows Ōki used to be in the bottom of the lake in the big continent in ancient time. Actually Japan Sea used to be a big lake in the Eurasia continent.

**5 Yoro-i-iva (Armor Rock)**  
It's on the small peninsula named Noritabane. It consists of basalt and seems an armor of samurai. So people call it Yoro-iva. There is a legend that samurai ran away from Miyako and his armor became a rock. There is an explians to get there.

**6 Kuro-i-iva (Skull Rock)**  
**7 Ropponseki (Hexagonal Rock)**  
**8 Zouga-hana (Elephant Island)**

**9 Doctough Violet**  
It's a kind of lilias. It blooms in March to April in violet pink. However it belongs to pre-alpine plants. It spreads nearly seashores in Ōki. Many volunteers keep and manage Park of Doctough Violet.

**10 Nagoran (orchid)**  
Nagoran was found in Nago, Ōkinawa. So it is called Nagoran. In Ōki people call it Ōki-furaru. It is parasitic on fir, oak, Kurobe, Hinekonusu and Black pine tree. It has been taken for ornamental so that it became one of endangered species.

**11 Obsidian**  
Obsidian of Ōki was used not only in Japan but also in Korean Peninsula, Vrajivostok and Nakhotka 20,000 years ago. Because it was used as a tip of arrow or a knife etc... When you know how obsidians are spread in the east Asia, you can understand how much people mixed well with other people in ancient time.

**2 Ōki Henaga-gan (Ōki Gneiss)**  
It is the oldest rock in Japan. However it is about 200,000,000-year-old and as old as Hida Gneiss, we sometimes find 2,000,000,000 year-old or 3,200,000,000-year-old rocks or see Jewels like garnet among Ōki gneiss. It's very unique of the world to find such thick (several decades meters) stratum of gneiss.

**3 Green Tuff**  
People call it Boka-Ishi because its major source is Ōka. We have used it as material of stone fences. When Japan Sea was a lake, much volcanic ash fell down in to the lake and volcanic glasses were fused on it and became Green Tuff. So this proves that Japan Sea used to be a big lake long long time ago.

**4 Keisondou (Diatom Earth)**  
Keisou means diatom. This is made of dead diatom plankton. Shichirin (old Japanese stove) consists of this. Nowadays it is used as material of walls of houses. Now we see it besides the road where it used to be the bottom of the deep sea 15,000,000 years ago.

**5 Aokuri-yuonangan (Alkaline Rhyolite)**  
This rhyolite has much alkalinity. It looks white. Rim of Ōki made by volcanic activity consists of the rock. If alkaline rhyolite is melted by violent volcanic activity and cooled down immediately by the sea, it becomes obsidian.

**1 Shiraito-no-taki (waterfall)**  
It appears on the left side mountain of Hotel Uneri when it rains heavily. It seems a white thread from the top of the mountain so we call it 'Shiraito-no-taki (White Thread Waterfall)'. It is a kind of lava. We call it Kanran-gan or Haka-ku-gan in Japanese. There are only three places where we can see zenorisa in Japan. When mantle opened out directly from the core of the earth to the surface. We think it proved that Ōki was made by large-scale diastrophism. Researchers trace mantle cracks seen through the research of carbon dioxide.

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**3 Ryokusyoku-sarekigan**  
**4 Juyouyetsuri**

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### Plants and Animals

**1 Ōki-no-uraigaku**  
This is peculiar to Ōki. This is found mainly in seashore. It's flower shape, lovely yellow in fall. It's called 'Ōki-chrysanthemum hana'. A few flowers is found in Shiiane Peninsula. Yanauchi prefecture or a small part of North Kyusyu.

**2 Ōki Hanelion**  
It's peculiar and a kind of Japanese dandelions. There are differences between Western ones and Ōki's. Its calyx is smooth and stands straightly. But western ones have bigger calyx and their edge are carving outside.

**3 Ōki-no-zaani**  
It has just distinguished as a popular thistle. It has many thorns, especially under its calyx there are big thorns growing.

**4 Ōki-syakunage**  
It is a variation of Azusa Rhododendron. Its petal looks similar to Hen Rhododendron. Its leaf looks rounder and smaller leaves under flowers than usual. When you visit Rhododendron Garden in Ōka, you can see 1000 rhododendron trees.

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Nagoran was found in Nago, Ōkinawa. So it is called Nagoran. In Ōki people call it Ōki-furaru. It is parasitic on fir, oak, Kurobe, Hinekonusu and Black pine tree. It has been taken for ornamental so that it became one of endangered species.

**7 Kurobe**  
It is a kind of Hinoki which is peculiar to Japan. Mozuko is its different name. However it is an alpine plant, we can see it around seashores. It habitats especially nearby water on the small island in Kame Port. It's very interesting.</