

# THE NAGOYA

Through “SAMURAI” Eyes

Presented by Nagoya Railroad Co., Ltd.

【Contact Us】  
Meitetsu World Travel, Inc.

Tel : +81-52-582-2107  
E-mail: sousei@mwtr.co.jp  
Business days: Monday - Friday  
Business hours: 9:00 - 18:00  
Closing days: Saturday, Sunday, Holiday  
Address: 14-19, 2-chome, Meiekininami,  
Nakamura-Ku, Nagoya-City, Aichi-Pref., JAPAN


The NAGOYA  
Through “SAMURAI” Eyes  
Special WEB site



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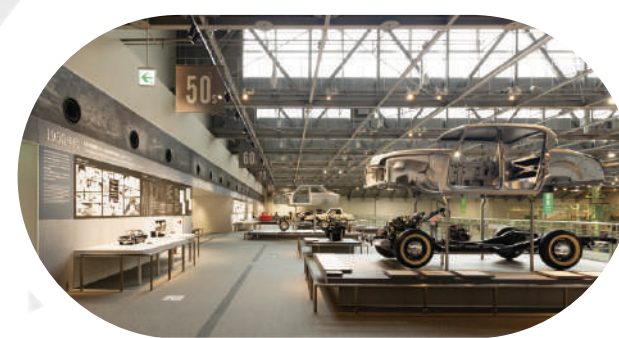
A supreme journey  
to the origins  
of world-renowned craftsmanship





Located halfway between Tokyo and Osaka, Nagoya quietly sustains a unique lineage. While modern skyscrapers and shopping districts rise across the city, historic castles and preserved streetscapes endure, giving the city a character defined by refinement and poise.

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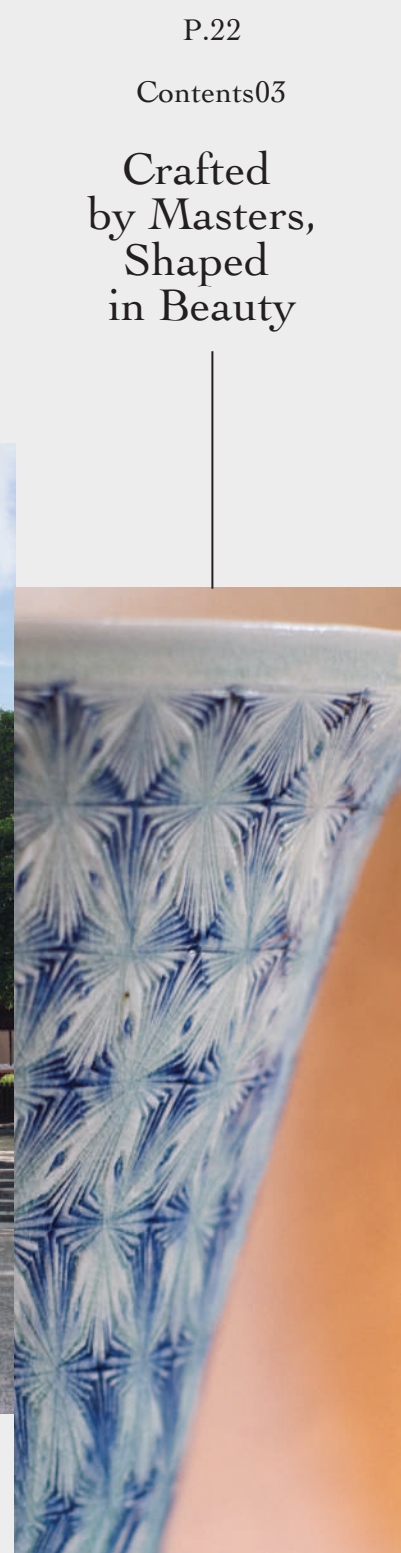
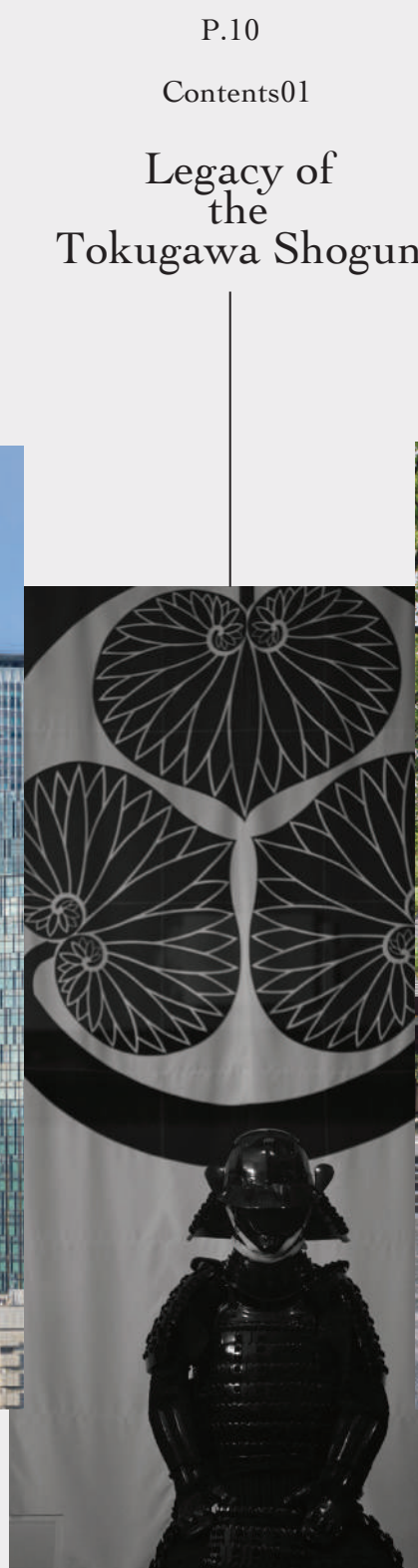
Nagoya is a city defined by craftsmanship, from traditional arts passed down through generations to its world-renowned automotive industry. The enduring spirit of precision and dedication continues to shape its culture and give the city its distinctive character.

Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology





# Contents List







# The NAGOYA Through “SAMURAI” Eyes

A supreme journey to the origins  
of world-renowned craftsmanship

Nagoya, a city where the dignity and refined aesthetics nurtured by renowned samurai quietly live on. The design of castles once gazed upon by samurai, the sacred atmosphere of shrines where prayers were offered, and the exquisite craftsmanship passed down through generations.

All these awaken the senses of those who stand here, reflecting the profound depths of Japanese culture. A journey that goes beyond the surface to reach the true inner essence begins here. Seen through the eyes of the samurai, the contours of the "real Japan" come into view.

Watch the story







Contents 01

# LEGACY

of the Tokugawa Shogun

In Nagoya, the heritage of the Tokugawa lords endures in places of rare authenticity. From the quiet presence of Nagoya Castle to the Tokugawa Art Museum with its samurai armor, swords, and tea utensils, history and culture are felt at close range in privately arranged spaces.

Watch the story







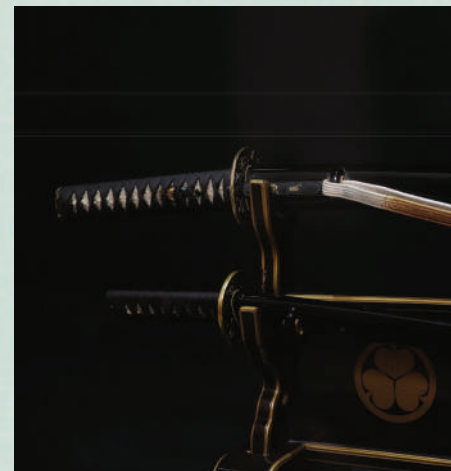
名古屋城

📍 10 minutes by car from Nagoya Station

Nagoya's history is closely tied to the Tokugawa shogunate, which ruled Japan for more than 250 years. The Owari branch, one of the three privileged "Gosanke" families, played a key role in maintaining the stability of the shogunate. Their legacy remains preserved today in numerous cultural assets. Nagoya Castle was commissioned by Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543–1616), the unifier of Japan and founder of the Tokugawa shogunate, for his ninth son, Yoshinao. It was completed in 1612. Its expansive stone walls and intricate defensive structures represent the peak of early Edo-period military architecture. The ornate, golden shachihoko ornaments crowning the roof remain a symbol of Nagoya. Though the original structure was lost to wartime destruction, it has been faithfully reconstructed, along with the Honmaru Palace. Time reveals the craftsmanship in the woodwork, murals, and decorative fittings.



The Tokugawa Art Museum was established in 1935 by the 19th head of the Owari Tokugawa family and houses over 10,000 family heirlooms. Samurai armor, swords, tea utensils, noh masks, and furnishings reveal both the daily lives and ceremonial practices of the Japan's feudal lords. Among its most significant treasures are the National Treasure *Tale of Genji* illustrated handscrolls and the *Hatsune Furnishings*, the bridal trousseau brought by Princess Chiyohime, daughter of the third shogun, Tokugawa Iemitsu.



徳川美術館

The Tokugawa Art Museum

📍 15 minutes by car from Nagoya Station



📍 25 minutes by car from Nagoya Station

# Japanese Cuisine Yamato 日本料理やまと



Experiencing the Tokugawa legacy extends beyond architecture and exhibitions. At Yamato, a restaurant dedicated to traditional Japanese cuisine, the 700-year-old Shijo-style *bocho-shiki* ritual is performed. Using only a knife and chopsticks, the chef prepares fish with respect for the ingredients and the divine, conveying the spirit of ancient Japanese culinary traditions.



📍 5 minutes by car from Nagoya Station

# Onish Doll

大西人形本店

Founded in 1882, Onishi Ningyo Honten, a long-established doll shop, continues to preserve Japan's traditional culture, which has lasted over 1,000 years, selling seasonal dolls and carp streamers made according to courtly customs and traditions. Specially arranged workshops introduce the meticulous techniques and processes of creating these special decorations related to Japan's seasonal festival and ceremony, known as *sekku*.



The tour provides exclusive private access to the castle and museum, enabling deep immersion in their refined beauty. Engaging directly with the strength, aesthetics, and traditions cultivated in the era of the shoguns and samurai provides a rare opportunity to gain a deep understanding of Nagoya's history and culture. This tour offers exclusive private access to Nagoya Castle and the Tokugawa Art Museum, allowing visitors to fully immerse themselves in the refined beauty and grandeur of these historic treasures.





# Sacred Paths

of

# ATSUTA

The Atsuta area is where history, nature, and culture converge. From the sacred halls of Atsuta Shrine to the tranquil paths of Miya-no-Watashi Park, and the enduring tradition of Kaminoi Shuzo, centuries of heritage unfold in a serene setting.

Watch the story





# Atsuta

熱田神宮

# Shrine

📍 15 minutes by car from Nagoya Station

Atsuta Shrine is one of Japan's most venerated Shinto shrines, enshrining the sacred Kusanagi-no-Tsurugi sword, an imperial regalia passed down through generations. With a history of nearly 1,900 years, its grounds are filled with centuries-old camphor and other majestic trees, creating a serene atmosphere far removed from the bustle of the city. Visitors can walk along the worship path, explore treasured artifacts at the Treasure Hall and the Kusanagi-kan sword museum, and select protective amulets to take home.

Visitors can wander the pathways, take part in traditional rituals, admire historical swords, and select omamori charms, small tokens of good fortune. Here, the air carries a sense of purity unique to sacred spaces in Japan, offering a moment of calm reflection.



A short walk away lies Miya-no-Watashi Park, once a key ferry crossing along the historic Tokaido Road during the Edo period. Pilgrims and travelers once stopped here to rest before or after visiting Atsuta Shrine. Today, the park preserves this history with restored features such as a stone lantern, a bell tower, and a small dock, recreating the ambiance of an old post town. Whether strolling along its pine-lined paths or pausing at the pier, visitors can feel echoes of the journeys that once shaped this region.

## Miya-no-Watashi Park

宮の渡し公園

📍 20 minutes by car from Nagoya Station



Founded in 1856, Kaminoi Shuzo has been brewing sake in Otaka, Nagoya, for over 160 years. Its name, “Well of the Gods,” comes from a historic connection with Atsuta Shrine, where the founders donated rice to the shrine’s sacred fields. The name embodies purity and respect, qualities reflected in every bottle.

# SAKE Brewery

神の井酒造  
-Kaminoi Shuzo Co., Ltd.

📍 25 minutes by car from Nagoya Station



The careful control of temperature and timing at each stage reflects the skill and patience of the master brewers. The tour concludes with a tasting of selected sakes, ranging from light and crisp to richer, umami-driven styles. Each sip conveys the local land, the centuries of tradition, and the brewers’ dedication, offering a tangible connection to Japan’s cultural and culinary heritage.

Kaminoi sake is known for its smooth texture and clean, elegant finish. Traditional brewing techniques, passed down through generations, are combined with modern refinements, preserving heritage while exploring subtle new flavors. A guided brewery tour provides access to the heart of sake production, from steaming rice to fermentation in tanks.



# Crafted by Masters

Centuries-old crafts continue to survive through the hands of master artisans. From the intricate patterns of Arimatsu Shibori, to the soft green tones of Owari Ofuke ceramics, the elegant black-lacquered formal wear, and the brilliant glow of Owari cloisonné, these traditions of craftsmanship and artistry remain alive today in Nagoya, passed down through generations. The traditional crafts of Nagoya have been passed down through generations, embodying skill, refinement, and an enduring aesthetic. Vivid and delicate textiles, graceful ceramics, formal black garments, and intricate metalwork each carry a sense of artistry honed over centuries.

# Shaped in Beauty

Watch the story





# Arimatsu Shibori

— Patterns Woven by Hand

有松絞り

📍 25 minutes by car from Nagoya Station



Arimatsu Shibori, developed in the Arimatsu area, is a cotton dyeing technique where fabric is tied or folded to create intricate patterns. This method has been a regional specialty since the Edo period and is even depicted in ukiyo-e prints.



# Nagoya Kuromontsuki zome Dyeing

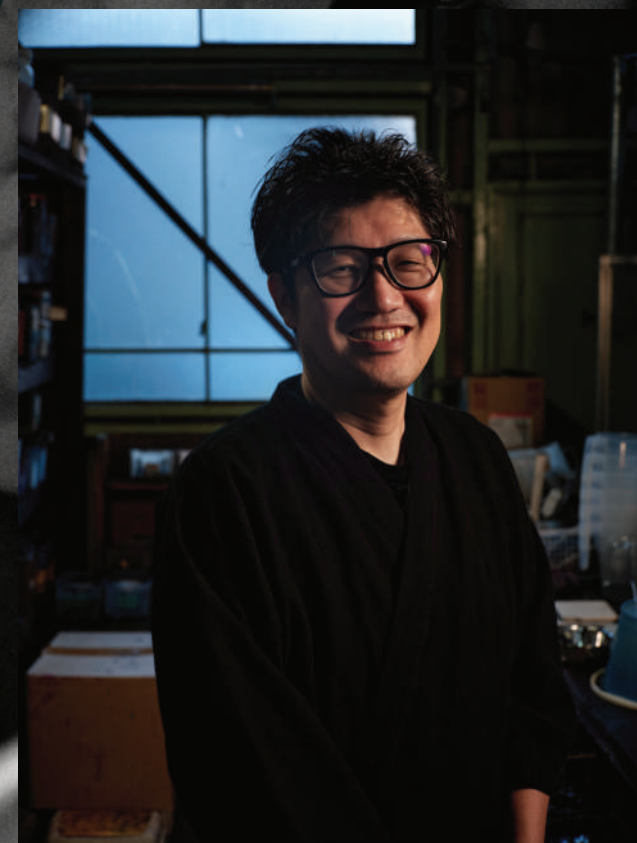
— The Art of Formal Black

名古屋黒紋付染

📍 10 minutes by car from Nagoya Station



Nagoya Kuromontsuki zome Dyeing, black formal kimonos adorned with family crests, evolved as the attire of samurai and townspeople for weddings and official occasions. Its elegant sheen and deep black color remain a hallmark of tradition.





# Seto Ware

– The Kiln of the Owari Tokugawa Clan

瀬戸焼

📍 40 minutes by car from Nagoya Station

Originating as the Tokugawa family's official kiln in the early 17th century, Owari Ofuke ceramics were used for tea utensils and ceremonial vessels.

Its pale green and yellow-green glazes offer a distinctive texture, and the technique continues to be preserved by modern kilns.



Owari Cloisonné, in which glass-like enamel is fired onto metal, shifts color with the light and demands exceptional skill and patience, reflecting Nagoya's refined craftsmanship.

Together, these crafts convey the mastery and devotion of Nagoya's artisans, representing living traditions that continue to enrich the city.



# Owari Cloisonné

– Colors Forged in Fire

尾張七宝

📍 10 minutes by car from Nagoya Station



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# Riverside Elegance of INUYAMA



From the flickering lights of cormorant fishing on the Kiso River and the stately presence of Inuyama Castle, to the charm of historic gardens and local streets, much of the Inuyama area is a reflection of Japan's long history. From flowing rivers to serene tea gardens, the city invites all to step into a world shaped by tradition and refined aesthetics.

Watch the story








# Kisogawa

木曾川 鵜飼

# UKAI

-cormorant fishing

📍 40 minutes by car from Nagoya Station



On the Kiso River, which flows alongside the Inuyama area, visitors can witness *ukai*, a traditional fishing method with a history of some 1,300 years. Records note that in 1618, the lord of the Owari domain visited Inuyama to view this practice, where skilled fishermen known as *ukabo* guide trained cormorants to catch fish. Passed down through generations despite many challenges, the fishermen's techniques remain preserved today as a treasured cultural heritage. The shimmering glow of bonfires reflected on the river's surface, the swift movements of the cormorants, and the splashing of fish create a serene and dreamlike atmosphere.



📍 40 minutes by car from Nagoya Station

## Urakuen 有楽苑

At Japanese Garden Urakuen, home to the National Treasure tea house Jo-an, the spirit of tea and the aesthetics of samurai culture are encountered.

Together, the castle, town, and garden offer a unique opportunity to appreciate Japan's enduring traditions and beauty through architecture, craftsmanship, and nature.



📍 40 minutes by car from Nagoya Station

## Inuyama Castle Town 犬山城下町

Perched on a small hill along the Kiso River, Inuyama Castle was built in 1537 and is the oldest surviving wooden castle keep in Japan. At the foot of the castle lies the castle town, preserving the charm of the Edo period, with traditional merchant houses, storehouses, and historic townhouses lining its streets. Local specialties of Aichi Prefecture, such as gohei-mochi, skewered rice cakes grilled with a miso-walnut sauce, showcase the region's strong miso culture and spirit of traditional hospitality. There are also countless other Japanese sweets to enjoy. Visitors can take in the town's vibrant crafts and culture.



# Savoring the Essence of Nagoya 名古屋

## Hitsumabushi: Nagoya's Refined Eel Experience

Nagoya is known not only for its rich history and culture but also for its unique culinary traditions.

Among its specialties, hitsumabushi stands out as a dish that unites tradition, flavor, and the joy of eating.

This regional delicacy features grilled eel caramelized over hot coals in a sweet soy sauce, cut into pieces, and served over steaming rice.



Hitsumabushi is enjoyed in three steps. First, savor it as it is to appreciate the eel's smoky aroma and tender texture. Next, add condiments such as green onions, wasabi, or nori to explore subtle variations in flavor. Finally, pour hot dashi over the mixture to enjoy it as a comforting ochazuke.

The golden caramelized eel, the sweet and savory sauce melting into the rice, and the gradual change of flavors create a refined dining experience. Hitsumabushi is more than just a meal, it's a moment of indulgence, leaving a lasting impression of Nagoya's culinary elegance.

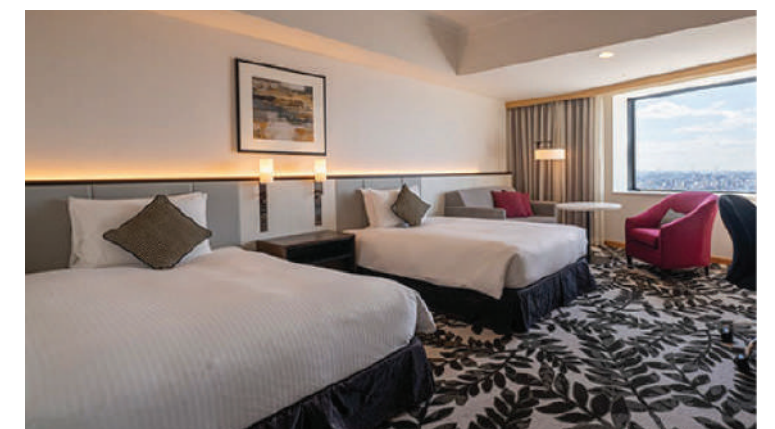


# Staying in the Spirit of Nagoya

After a day among historic sites and cultural landmarks, the settle down for the evening at the hotel. Views of gardens, the castle, and the city's nightscape invite quiet reflection. This moment of calm transforms your stay into something truly special.



Adjacent to the National Treasure Inuyama Castle and just steps away from the Japanese Garden Urakuen, home to the National Treasure tea house Jo-an, Hotel Indigo Inuyama Urakuen Garden is in a unique location where history and nature harmonize. Guest rooms offer views of Inuyama Castle, the Kiso River, and the National Treasure tea house Jo-an. A window-side seat creates a quiet moment of reflection. Throughout the hotel, art inspired by Inuyama's history, culture, and landscapes is displayed, creating an atmosphere that reflects the neighborhood's charm and stories.



Rising 30 floors above the city, the hotel offers beautiful views of Nagoya's skyline. Guest rooms are modern and spacious, equipped with all the comforts needed for a relaxing stay. A top-floor bar looks over the glittering city lights, while restaurant Star Gate serves Japanese-French cuisine crafted from seasonal local ingredients. Carefully prepared dishes are served with views of the Nagoya cityscape, bringing the day to a serene and indulgent close.



