

### General Information Guide

## Kawaguchi City A Map of Sightseeing Routes



## Kawaguchi City A Map of Sightseeing Routes A Guide to Recommended Tourist Spots

What images come to mind when you hear the words 'Kawaguchi City'? Do you think of cast iron products, beautifully cultivated gardens and high-rise apartments? Or do you think of it as Tokyo's neighboring city, home to the Arakawa River... the possibilities are endless! In the hope that you can discover the hidden charms of Kawaguchi for yourself, we have compiled a tourist map featuring 11 recommended sights. From an old shell midden of the Jomon period, to distinctive shopping streets and parks, Kawaguchi boasts a number of interesting attractions. This map outlines the unique appeal of each tourist spot in detail. We hope that someday you can enjoy strolling about the city during your leisure time, this map in hand.

### 1 JR Kawaguchi station, East Exit

Total Length 4.2km Allow for 52mins.

The city's major commercial area is located within the environs of JR Kawaguchi Station (East) and is an ideal place to walk around. The pedestrian deck in front of the station, constructed in 1990, has dramatically modernized the traditional landscape. However, not far from the station, one can still catch sight of ancient temples and shrines. Long established stores can be spotted alongside a pilgrimage route dedicated to the Tokugawa Shogunate. This is an area where modern facilities and historical sites harmoniously coexist together.



Cupo La Building

### 2 JR Kawaguchi station, West Exit

Total Length 6.3km Allow For 80mins.

Enjoy the view from the Arakawa riverside. This river paved the way for the city's industrial development by providing water transport and supplying indispensable products, such as sand, to the cast iron industry. Two new monuments have recently been established at this site: a large cultural complex stands in place of the old national research institute. Furthermore, an old brewery has made way for a vast shopping complex/art gallery.



Arakawa Athletic Grounds

### 3 Motogou/Ryouke

Total Length 5.3km Allow For 65mins.

The recent establishment of the SR Line, combined with the construction of modern high rise apartment buildings, has dramatically changed the original landscape of Motogou/Ryouke. However, the city retains its unique 'industrial' essence by way of the factories congregated near the Shibakawa River. A brick residence, an example of Western-Japanese architecture, is also located in the vicinity. It is known as the Former Tanaka Residence and is a Registered Cultural Asset of Japan.



Eto Tower Building and Cast Iron Foundry/Factory

### 4 Nishikawaguchi/Aokicho Heiwa Koen (Park)

Total Length 6.7 km Allow For 82 mins.

Owing to the construction of a new station building, the landscape of Nishikawaguchi has changed dramatically in recent times. Thanks to a regional tree-planting campaign, the city streets are lined with trees and flowers. Aokicho Heiwa Koen (Memorial Park) is a hub of sporting activity with well-equipped facilities. It features a replica of the cauldron used at the park 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games. Just walking about the park is fun in itself!



Aokicho Heiwa Koen (Memorial Park)

### 5 Shiba

Total Length 5.5km Allow For 69mins.

This area used to be a rice paddy region until the 1940s. However, with the advent of modernization, the area has witnessed the building of giant housing complexes and other residential structures. Nevertheless, symbols of ancient religions still remain. For example, visitors can view a stone monument of Koshin (the 57th God of the Oriental Zodia) and statues of Jizo (The Guardian Deity of Travelers and Children) along the roadside. Do not forget to visit Choutokuji, an old temple which was constructed under the patronage of the Tokugawa Shogunate. The temple's spacious environs are filled with peace and serenity.



Choutokuji temple

### 6 The Green center

Total Length 6.0km Allow For 76mins.

'The Green Center' is three times as large as the Tokyo Dome and it is full of flowers, plants and playground equipment. Seeing as the area has an extensive history of cultivating plants and flowers, you will find numerous horticultural facilities/nurseries in the area. The Green Center is also home to 'Genchouji'. This is a temple that belonged to the Ina family, the head of whom was regional governor during the Edo period. By traveling to nearby Araijuku Village, you can experience the atmosphere of an ancient rest-stop region.



The Main Greenhouse of The Green Center

### 7 Sashima/Kizoro

Total Length 6.1km Allow for 77mins.

At this site, visitors can observe the remnants of early irrigation systems that were constructed during the Edo Period. The flood control measures implemented at this time transformed the boggy marshland into thriving paddy fields. Admire the innovation and techniques of our forebears, evinced by structures such as the Minumadaiyousui Canal and the Minumatsusensbori Canal. Many people do not realize that Kizoro is also known for cultivating a fragrant herb called Bouhu, in addition to Sanshou, a Japanese pepper.



Minumatsusensbori

### 8 Tozuka/Ayasegawa-river

Total Length 6.5km Allow for 80mins.

This is a newly developed residential area lined with supermarkets, large-scale shops, parks, schools and sporting facilities. From the east, beautiful cherry trees grace the banks of the Ayasegawa River. It is a place where locals love to gather to admire the cherry blossoms. The river itself is home to wild ducks and herons, making it a nice, quiet place frequented by birdwatchers.

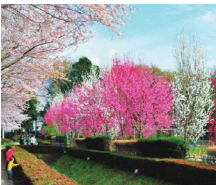


Tozuka nakadai kouden (Park)

### 9 Akayama/Angyou

Total Length 7.1km Allow for 86mins.

With almost a 400 year history of cultivating plants and flowers, the Angyou District continues to lead the way in horticultural innovation. Akayama Castle, which was once used by local governor Iie as a base of operations, reveals a more historic side to the city. There is an extensive array of ruins, including earthworks and a moat, at this castle. Visitors can make their way to Kusen-in Temple, which is located in the midst of a natural forest, and learn about heat therapy treatments. Visitors can also stop at Jinji Takushi Hozou-in, a temple where people pray for their eye problems to be cured. The region is overflowing with uniquely 'Kawaguchi' historical attractions.



Ruins of Akayama castle

### 10 Angyou/Mine

Total Length 4.2km Allow for 51mins.

This is an area that blooms with seasonal flowers all year round. 'Ichirinsou anemone nikopensis', one of the rarest wild grasses in Japan, flourishes naturally thanks to the protection afforded by local residents. Many gardens are open to the public for the benefit of visiting tourists. Visitors can also see a mock serpent hanging from a Japanese 'Keyaki', or zelkova tree. This serpent is used in an annual ritual called Angyouhara no Jatsukuri. Clearly, this is a region that proudly preserves the sanctity of nature and tradition.



Angyouhara no Jatsukuri

### 11 Hatogaya Area

Nikkou Onari Pilgrimage Route Total Length 6.1km Allow for 77mins.

Shibakawa River Route Total Length 5.3km Allow for 66mins.

An ancient rest stop town, a lingering feeling of nostalgia imbues the Hatogaya area. Within this area, we recommend two main sightseeing attractions: The first of these is the Nikkou Onari Pilgrimage Route, a sight which strongly retains the essence of the Edo Period. The second is the Shibakawa River, which runs from north to south. Nikkou Onari Michi, the Shogun's pilgrimage route, leads you past ancient temples and shrines such as Jizo-in Temple and Hikawa Shrine. If you happen to arrive at the right time, you can hear the mechanical clock chiming the hours in the town square, and watch a procession of lovely Daimyo (feudal lords) issuing from the clock tower. With regards to the Shibakawa River, you can enjoy many great attractions. These include a bike-riding path situated on a levee, a small square close to Kamiakibashi-Bridge (which boasts a lock) and a promenade along the Old Shibakawa River near the Kawaguchi Motorcycle Racing Circuit. It is nearly impossible to find another destination where you can almost touch the surface of the water.



Hatogaya Hikawa shrine



Shibakawa-riverside walk

### Profile of the Kawaguchi city

Located at the southern tip of Saitama Prefecture, Kawaguchi city is adjacent to the Tokyo metropolis, with the Arakawa River running between the two cities. The pedestrian deck at JR Kawaguchi Station is considered the gateway to Kawaguchi City. By virtue of the fact that it now links the East and West sides of the station, the location is more convenient and desirable than ever before.

The population of Kawaguchi City has grown annually due to its proximity to Tokyo. In October 2011, Kawaguchi City joined with Hatogaya City to become the second largest city in Saitama Prefecture. The city landscape consists of the Shibakawa River in the center, with the Ayasegawa River to the east and the Arakawa River to the South. A mixture of upland and lowland regions make for rather diverse terrain. Plants, flowers and other horticultural endeavors flourish in the northern uplands, while the lowlands in the south comprise 70% of the residential city. Industries such as cast iron manufacturing, textiles, fishing products and domestic breweries have thrived throughout history. During the Edo Period, the Shogun established a pilgrimage route that boosted the urban economy and lead to industrial growth - in particular, to the expansion of the cast iron manufacturing industry. The city eventually became famous throughout Japan for the rapid development of its various industries. Today, the name 'Kawaguchi' is associated with cast iron products.

Marking a change from years past, Kawaguchi is rapidly changing into a commuters' town. Factories have made way for high-rise apartments and shopping facilities. At the moment, the city's landscape is an interesting mix of traditional, industrial sites and modernized residences.

Recently, Kawaguchi City has begun to promote its emergent film-making industry. The center for this new industry is SKIP City, built on the site where NHK Radio once stood. The city holds the International D-Cinema Festival every summer in order to encourage businesses and visionaries into making digitalized films. At Skip City, you can see a rose bush which traveled to space in a space shuttle. Tourists can also visit the Science Museum. This museum consists of 3 high-quality astronomical observatory domes/planetariums, designed to stimulate your interest in deep space.

### Access to Kawaguchi area



The time it takes to **Kawaguchi** from the principal station

- From Ueno, about 17 minutes
- From Ikebukuro, about 17 minutes
- From Omiya, about 20 minutes

The time it takes to **Hatogaya** from the principal station

- From Ueno, about 38 minutes
- From Ikebukuro, about 46 minutes
- From Omiya, about 46 minutes

### The Kawaguchi city economy part Industry Promotion Division

2-1-1, Aoki, Kawaguchi-city  
Phone Number : 048-259-9018 FAX : 048-259-2622

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## Kawaguchi - An Old Industrial City A Region Supported by Traditional Industries

### Cast Iron Products

The cast iron industry is said to representative of Kawaguchi City. The origins of the industry can be traced back to the Edo Period. Manufacturing plants thrived in the southern part of the city and produced numerous cast iron products. Easy access to Tokyo, the use of traditional techniques, expert craftsmanship and unmatched innovation saw Kawaguchi City become one of Japan's most renowned industrial cities. While the number of factories is now decreasing throughout Kawaguchi City, the tradition of producing new things is still alive and well.

### What are Cast Iron Products?

The signboard at JR Kawaguchi Station is made of cast iron, a way of paying homage to Japan's first steam locomotive, Zenkou-gou. This train was constructed at the back of an old temple called Zenkuji. At that time, Kawaguchi City was a landscape of blast furnaces, smoky chimneys and cupola rooftops. Such scenery even appeared in films and the city subsequently became known as 'the town of cupolas'. However, these days, there are only a few remaining factories with cupola rooftops. In their place are numerous super high-rise apartment buildings.

Cast iron products have a distinctively smooth surface and a soft silvery sheen. Once you recognize these characteristics, you can see that you are surrounded by cast iron products daily - everything from art objects, streetlights and manhole covers, to bridge parapets and iron plates to serve Taiyaki. Cast iron products are made by melting iron ores to high temperatures (over 1500°C), then the melted iron is poured into 'sand' molds until it has cooled down. Even though the original creators expected the resulting molds to be lumpy, they turned out wonderfully smooth. It is said that the origin of this technique can be traced to premodern times when humans discovered fire, and used lumps of iron found in ditches to construct earthenware.

The mold is indispensable when making cast iron products. First, a prototype is made using wood, metal or synthetic resin. Then, the prototype is put into a box filled with sand. Once the sand has consolidated, the prototype is extracted and the melted iron is poured into the mold. This leads to a key question - how can a metal with such a high melting point (1500°C) be reconfigured without destroying the sand mold? The answer lies in the phenomenon of 'surface tension' and the low viscosity of melted iron. The liquid iron is thus prevented from infiltrating the sand, enabling the creation of fine details by way of intricate dents.

Today, the cast iron products produced in Kawaguchi City are used in the construction of industrial machinery, car parts, ship frames, ornaments and other daily necessities.



Quality is the Result of Craftsmanship and Innovation

### The History of the Cast Iron Industry in Kawaguchi City

The cast iron industry in Kawaguchi City is thought to have begun no later than the Edo Period. This historical assessment is based on the journal writings of a Buddhist priest who resided at Choutokuji Temple. In his journal, he recorded the names of blacksmiths and casters, in addition to contemporary methods of making pots. It is thought that the cast iron industry arose due to the ease of retrieving sand and clay from the Arakawa and Shibakawa Rivers. The city also had a good water transport system and thus provided easy access to the large neighboring city of Tokyo.

Initially, cast iron products were intended as offerings to temples and shrines. In due course, manufacturers began to produce farm implements and daily necessities such as pots and kettles. According to the priest's journal, the first signs of a consumer industry arose in the 19th century, when an order was received to make rainwater tanks. These tanks were to be made in order to prevent fires in the Shogunate capital of Edo (formerly Tokyo). At the conclusion of the Meiji Period, the industry had expanded exponentially in terms of techniques and output, achieving maximum output status during the 1960s. Kawaguchi became well-known throughout Japan with the advent of the ubiquitous coal-burning stove. The epitome of Japanese cast iron production is thought to be the Cauldron of the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games. This cauldron was created with the cooperation of the entire city's cast iron industry.

Making cast iron products requires specialized, expert knowledge of sophisticated techniques as well as considerable natural ability. Monobloc casting is characteristic of this industry, which helps to reduce expenses and enable product miniaturization. The elaborate design formations are also remarkable.

Cast iron products are used extensively in industrial materials. Resistant to oxidation and to movement, they also absorb noise. They are used to make car engine parts, nuclear reactor turbines, power shovels, manhole covers, iron gates, streetlights, art objects and much more. Recently, light-weight, nonmagnetic, recyclable cast iron products, with good thermal conduction, are becoming popular in the construction of sporting equipment, furnishings and cooking utensils.



A Replica is displayed at Aokichou Heiwa kouen (Memorial Park)

### Garden Plants

Thanks to a favorable climate, flower and plant cultivation thrived throughout the Angyou district, particularly in the northeast. The district is situated around upland flood plains, 20 meters above sea level. The local people made use of the soil from the Kanto loam and developed gardening techniques related to cutting, propagation, cross-fertilization and greenhouse storage. The Edo Period was witness to many new horticultural developments, in part due to the people's advanced use of water transportation. Thus, the name Angyou has always been associated with cultivation and innovation. Artificially-shaped Matsu pine trees and Maki (Japanese yew trees) called Shizatemono demonstrate evidence of 'burilapping', a technique which effectively preserves tree roots upon extraction/transportation. This horticultural process is known as the Angyou Method. This and other distinctive, long established techniques are highly valued both domestically and worldwide.

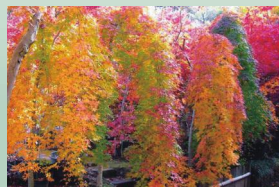
### What has Made the Garden Plants of Kawaguchi so Famous?

Garden cultivation is widespread throughout the northeast regions of the city, including Angyou, Kamine, Tozuka and Shingou. Beneath the surface soil in these upland regions is an accumulation of volcanic ash. Years of volcanic erosion has resulted in a diverse terrain with a wide assortment of plant life. Cutting and Cross-fertilizing techniques developed among areas of well-drained, upland soil, as did the practice of flower cutting. These cuttings were used in greenhouses that were built on slanted landscapes for the purpose of absorbing reflective sunlight. Kawaguchi, located near the center of Japan, offers up a variety of flora from both warm and cold climates. Due to its close proximity to Tokyo, the practice of garden tree cultivation developed into a key industry and its associated products were used in every district throughout the country.

Garden tree cultivation is thought to have started during the Edo Period, when local governor Ina established his manor house at Akayama. He encouraged and pushed hard for a regional land development program. Another leading figure who helped to establish Kawaguchi's 'garden' fame is Gon-nojima Yoshida. During the reconstruction of Edo (formerly Tokyo, which had been destroyed by fire) Yoshida famously seized a business opportunity to deliver Angyou's trees to the razed area. Taroubetsu Iwasaki is another such figure who helped ensure Kawaguchi's reputation. More specifically, he enabled specimens of Kawaguchi's Edamono branches (such as sakaki-dekaya japonica) to take root in Edo.



Beautifully Manicured Gardens in Angyou



Nurseries specializing in Momiji/Japanese Maple Trees

### Long-established Techniques

Angyou's garden trees are highly valued, both domestically and abroad. In recent times, Japan has been sending them to the International Gardening Expo (EX'82) which is held every ten years in Holland. Japanese gardeners that exhibit a wide array of region specific techniques consistently win prizes. As a result, the name 'Angyou' is highly esteemed overseas.

Most cultivation techniques originated in Angyou and have been handed down to subsequent generations. One such technique is called Nemaki-burilapping, used when transplanting a tree. The tree roots and the surrounding soil are wrapped in a jute mat so that the soil is not disturbed. Then, the mat is bound with a thick straw rope. In the past, 'rice' ropes were used because they acted as natural fertilizers once they were planted. The beauty of Japanese 'burial' ropes is highly praised by outside sources. Other techniques include Magemono-bending, (elegant shapes formed by bending branches and trunks). This technique takes approximately 30 years to learn and requires a lot of skill. The Shiori-technique is another method which is used when transporting Edamono branches - branches that will be used in 'Ikebana', the hobby of flower arranging. This technique involves a series of coarse branches woven together to prevent the buds falling off during transportation. Each technique is considered to be a reflection of the plant's natural environment, and all techniques continue to be used to this day.

From the Edo period onwards, garden cultivation thrived in Kawaguchi's northeast. There is no 'busy' season like there is with farmwork. Therefore, there was a time when almost 90 % of Angyou's farmland was used for cultivating garden trees. Even now, the area is home to a great many landscape gardeners and their preferred trees - everything from pine trees and camellias to Japanese cypress. In the spring time, soft green buds welcome visitors. In the autumn, visitors can admire glorious sites of red and oranges leaves.

## Onarimichi Pilgrimage Route

Nikko Onarimichi is a pilgrimage route that was especially constructed for the Shogun. National Road 122 and Prefectural Road 105 comprise this route. The villages of Kawaguchi and Hatogaya are designated rest stops on the route and the economy thrives as the result of transient visitors. Two villages are also involved in exporting items such as garden plants, fishing rods and textiles to Tokyo. The recently combined cities aim to work together for the benefit of future industrial endeavors.

### Linked Rest Stops

Nikkou Onarimichi is a secondary route on the Nikkou Kaidou (Edo Period Highway). Its total length is 48km and it connects the following rest stops: Hongou Owake, Iwabuchi, Kawaguchi, Hatogaya, Daimon, Iwatsuki and Sate Owake. According to the 'old' calendar, this route was used by the Shogun family on the 17th of April - the anniversary of Shogun Ieyasu's 'death'. There was a large festival by way of a pilgrimage procession to Nikkou, with the pilgrims visiting the family's mausoleum. From 1617 to 1843, this pilgrimage procession was reenacted on 17 different occasions.

During the Edo period, the ferry-crossing stations and rest stops of Kawaguchi and Iwabuchi were always crowded with people. Forwarding personnel, or agents who transported mail and luggage from one town to another, proliferated during this time. With regards to the aforementioned pilgrimage procession, contemporaneous records relate how the 8th Shogun Yoshimune and the 10th Shogun Ieharu, both stopped and took their rest at Shakujouji Temple in Kawaguchi. Those who were tourist guides during the Edo period have attested to the fact that dozens of foundries, called Kamaya, were located in the backstreets of Kawaguchi rest stop towns. By perusing old records such as these, readers can see how just much the industry has progressed.

With respect to the rest stop town of Hatogaya, the army was officially appointed to reside in an inn at the town's center. Merchants dealing in grain, straw, ash (used for fertilizers and indigo-dyeing), general products and dried fruit banded together to establish a renowned commercial district. The famous Sanpachichi Market started in the middle of the Edo Period and attracted many people from the surrounding towns. Ever since, the town of Hatogaya has retained its reputation as a thriving distribution center of consumer products.

The villages of Kawaguchi and Hatogaya thrived as rest stop towns on the Nikko Onarimichi route. Moreover, they assumed important roles in transporting traditional products such as garden plants and fishing rods. This is indicative of a long history of commercial and cultural exchange between the two cities. In October 2011, the two townships joined together with the aim of furthering cordial relations and industrial development.



The Lodgings of the Kawaguchi Army (Front Gate)



Nakajuku, A Rest Stop in Hatogaya, established c1902.

### Shopping streets

Although Kawaguchi originally flourished as one of Japan's industrial cities, the recent closing-down and relocation of factories has resulted in the arrival of retail stores and large-scale supermarkets. Such venues are always crowded, especially on weekends. There are about 70 shopping streets within the city, each with its own unique flavor and charm. These streets account for the second largest sales figures within the prefecture. Some have been awarded the Kuroobi-top ranking prize for their efforts to be user-friendly shopping areas. To be awarded this prize, the shopping streets must be democratic, cater to a wide variety of patrons, and uphold the 'community' spirit/ethos.

When it comes to lively and distinctive shopping streets, there is one such street in the area of Nishi-Kawaguchi Station that is decorated with flowers. There is another in the surrounding environs of Kawaguchi Station, to the East side, which holds a Tanabata-star festival every year. It also invites patrons to enjoy a community operated art gallery. There is a street in Hatogaya that holds flea markets, hosted by the local residents, at predetermined times throughout the year.

In winter, the residents of the streets put up spectacular light displays for viewers to enjoy. The Japanese refer to these lights as 'illuminations', and visitors really enjoy this cheerful annual event.

Each street attempts to create an attractive atmosphere that reflects the warmth and closeness of the local residents - qualities that many people believe are lacking in the large retail stores of modern times.



Traditional Tanabata-Star Festival in July

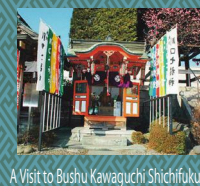


Events such as These Bring People Closer Together

## Annual Events

Jan

New Year's Day Visit to Temples and Shrines  
A Visit to Bushu Kawaguchi Shichifukujin  
- The Seven Deities of Good Fortune  
New Year's Assembly  
/ Town and Residents Association (LULIA)



Feb

Setsubun - Bean Scattering Festival  
(At the Green Center, Various Temples and Shrines)  
Hatsumama - The First Day of the Horse  
--- Worship of Inari, a Local Guardian Deity.  
Flower Exhibition (LULIA/Kawaguchi Ryokka Center)



Mar

Hatsumama - The First Day of the Horse  
- Drumming Contest (LULIA)  
Auction of Spring Garden Trees  
Sakura Cherry Blossom Festival  
(From the Bunka-Housou (Kawaguchi Radio Station))



Apr

Angyo Flower and Garden Tree Spring Festival  
(Ichirinsou-anemone nikoensis Festival  
/ Kawaguchi Ryokka Center, Furusato no Mori)  
Shishimai-Ritual Lion Dance in Edobukuro  
(at Edobukuro Hikawa Shrine)



Jun

Shishimai-Ritual Lion Dance in Angyo Touhachi  
(Angyo Touhachi)

Jul

Tanabata -Star Festival (Fuji no Ichi Shopping Street)  
Summer Festival (Hatogaya Hikawa Shrine)  
International D-Cinema Festival (SKIP City)

Aug

Tatara Festival

Sep

Hayashi & Kagura - Hymn Music and Dance in Ryouke  
(Ryouke Inari Shrine/Sanjiuban Shrine)  
Two-Day March (Tozuka Nakadai Kouden-Park, etc.)



Oct

Green Festival (The Green Center)  
Autumn Angyo Flower Festival  
(Kawaguchi Ryokka Center, etc)  
Shishimai-Ritual Lion Dance in Edobukuro  
(Edobukuro Hikawa Shrine)  
Kawaguchi City's Local Specialty Fair (SKIP City)



Nov

Midori to Daichi no Hounen Matsuri  
- Good Harvest Celebration  
(Plant Exchange Center / Kawaguchi Ryokka Center)  
Arakawa Fureai Festival (Ukima Golf Course)

Dec

Kawaguchi Marathon Convention  
(Aokicho Kouden Sougou Undoujyu- Athletic Field)  
Okame Market (Kawaguchi Shrine)  
Okame Market (Iizuka Hikawa Shrine)  
Okame Market (Hatogaya Hikawa Shrine)  
Year-End Bell Ringing (Various Temples and Shrines)



※Should unforeseen circumstances arise, scheduled events/days/times may be subject to change.