

From Nikko to Katashina  
Nikko > Katashina  
Drive & Access Guide

# RAKU-TABI

A guide for having  
fun traveling (RAKUTABI)  
Nikko & Katashina

\* Head out to the famous valley of flowers, Katashina!

**Recommended!**

## Katashina Sightseeing Spots!

Head out to the famous valley of flowers, Katashina. Introducing some of the best spots in Katashina, Gunma!

Relax and refresh in lovely scenery!

**D-2**

**Oze National Park**  
Oze, the largest highland wetlands on Honshu, is bursting with the appeal of untouched nature. There are three entry points into Oze from Katashina: Hatomachi Pass, Fujimishita and Oshimizu.  
Inquiries: 0278-58-3222 (Katashina Village Tourism Association)

**Marunuma Kogen Summer Luge & Tree Adventure**  
Here there are two courses you can enjoy, both popular with adults and children alike. The luge allows you to ride a special cart down on a 800m downhill course with a height difference of 100m, while the tree adventure places you in a harness and allows you to traverse between trees using scaffolds and rope bridges.  
Inquiries: 0278-58-2211 (Marunuma Kogen General Information)

**White World Oze Iwakura Activities**  
These slopes here are some of the largest in Kanto, allowing incredible skiing on powder snow to be enjoyed in the winter. In the summer activities such as the "sky trampoline" appear, providing fun for all the family.  
Inquiries: 0278-58-3751 (Oze Iwakura Resort)

**Hotaka Bokujo Camp Site**  
The Hotaka Bokujo Camp Site is located halfway up Mt. Hotaka, one of the one hundred famous mountains of Japan. As well as camping you can also stay in log cabins and other facilities. There's also some delicious lamb jingisukan (Genghis Khan) to eat and a range of experiences to try that include baking bread and making crafts.  
Inquiries: 0278-58-3751 (Katashina Hotaka Bokujo Camp Site)

**Sugenuma**  
Sugenuma is known for its beautiful deep-blue waters, some of the clearest in all Japan. Between June and November you can also enjoy canoe & SUP guided tours. There is also a camp site here, allowing you to spend a full day surrounded by the nature of Katashina.  
Inquiries: 0279-58-2958 (Sugenuma Camp Village)  
Inquiries: 080-5978-6714 (Canoeing / Bluebird Canoe)  
Inquiries: 080-7826-0815 (SUP / High Five Mountain Works)

# A Whole Host of Food & Souvenirs

Locals foods and great gifts are all part of the fun when taking a trip. Here's a sampling of the treats and specialties you can find in Katashina and Nikko.

**Katashina Village Gelato**  
Enjoy a selection of gelato made with a rich selection of local ingredients. The menu includes the hananame gelato that's so popular with Oze hikers, richly blended with the hananame beans that are a specialty of Katashina.

**Katashina Village Watanabe Seika Hananame Bread**  
This popular bread is baked using plenty of Katashina hananame beans, boiled slowly to make them super soft and delicious.

**Katashina Village Roadside Roasted Sweetcorn**  
The famous "sweetcorn road" is located along the road from the Katashina town hall in the direction of Nikko. Katashina sweetcorn boasts a high sugar content, making it especially sweet and deliciously fragrant.

**Katashina Village Large Sized Portions (Homitei)**  
A hit menu item for around 30 years, and by now a dish that Katashina is famous for. Apparently it got its start when construction workers visiting to work locally asked if the portions could be made any larger...

**Katashina Village Hotaka Bokujo Jingisukan (Genghis Khan)**  
A famous Hotaka Bokujo dish that can be enjoyed while camping amid the vastness of nature or enjoying other activities. Dynamic preparation in a special skillet only increases the flavor.

**Katashina Village Katashina Handmade Amazake**  
This is your chance to experience handmade "amazake", a sweet low-alcohol drink made from fermented rice. Packed with the blessings of nature, this particular amazake is made using renowned Katashina mochi rice, carefully selected malt, and snow-melt water from Oze.

**Katashina Village Maitake Mushroom Dishes**  
Katashina is where cultivation of maitake ("hen-of-the-woods" mushrooms) started out. With carefully controlled temperature, humidity and growing periods, these delectable mushrooms have as natural a texture and fragrance as possible. You'll taste that difference not only with the famous maitake rice bowl, but also as tempura when accompanying delicious "Katashina soba", which itself is made using water selected as one of the top one-hundred in Japan.

**Katashina Village Ozedofu Zaru Tofu**  
Tofu made using famed Katashina big white soy beans, which were revived after ten years of hard work. The rich flavor of the soy beans and smooth texture have won over many fans.

**Nikko City Nikko Handmade Soba**  
Nikko is famous as the producer of some of the finest soba noodles in Tochigi, and this delicious example is made using locally produced flour and pure Nikko water. You can find many old-style restaurants serving handmade soba in Nikko.

**Nikko City Natural Ice Shaved Ice**  
Shaved ice made using natural ice and time-honored methods. This natural ice is only made by five places in all of Japan, making this rare treat popular in cafes across the city.

**Nikko City Nikko Mizuyokan**  
Refreshing Nikko mizuyokan is a jelly dessert made using red bean paste and plenty of fresh water from the Nikko mountains. The elegant interaction of the delicious ingredients has garnered great popularity.

**Nikko City Nikko Yuba**  
Yuba, also known as "tofu skin" and "bean curd robes", is said to have started out as food for monks during Buddhist training. It is now eaten in a variety of different ways, including sashimi yuba, rolled up or fried.

**Nikko City Nikko Pickles**  
Traditional Nikko pickles, made using an amber by-product called "tamari" that is produced when making soy sauce or miso. They go perfectly with white rice and also with "Chazuke" (cooked rice with green tea poured on it).

**Nikko City Cheesecake, Meiji-no-Yakata**  
Using cream cheese from Denmark, the Meiji-no-Yakata cheesecake is made using meticulous methods and the best ingredients. Incredibly popular, in particular for its no-bake flavor from a baked cheesecake. Also makes a great gift!

**Nikko City Nikko Pudding, Nikko Pudding Tei**  
Pudding characterized by a full, rich flavor and subtle sweetness, made using fresh eggs from Nikko and milk from the Nikko Kirifuri Highland Ozasa Ranch. The melt-in-your-mouth texture also further brings out the delicious flavor.

**Nikko City Kanaya Hotel Bakery Bread**  
Hefty "Royal Bread" is the most popular choice here, with a dense dough that produces a subtle texture. Then there is the cylindrical and fragrant "Cheese Lord" with a crispy toasted surface wrapped around melting cheddar cheese. Enjoy flavors that only carefully selected ingredients and traditional baking methods can produce.

**< Inquiries >**

**Katashina Village Tourism Association**  
3964 Oaza Kamata, Katashina-mura, Tone-gun, Gunma 378-0415  
TEL 0278-58-3222 FAX 0278-58-3213  
URL: http://www.oze-info.com/

**Katashina Village Murazukuri Tourism Division**  
3967-3 Oaza Kamata, Katashina-mura, Tone-gun, Gunma 378-0498  
TEL 0278-58-2112 FAX 0278-58-2110

See the homepage for more details

**Nikko City Tourism Association**  
717-1 Imaichi, Nikko-shi, Tochigi Prefecture 321-1261  
Inside the Tourism Information Hall at the Roadside Station Nikko (Nikko-Kaido Nikonikonjorin)  
TEL 0288-22-1525 FAX 0288-25-3347  
URL: http://www.nikko-kankou.org/

See the homepage for more details

**Nikko City Tourism Section Tourism Promotion Division**  
1 Imaichihoncho, Nikko, Tochigi 321-1292 (inside the Nikko City Office)  
TEL 0288-21-5170 FAX 0288-21-5121

See the homepage for more details

**Nikko Kinugawa Travel Guide**

**Recommended!**

## Nikko Sightseeing Spots!

Head out to Nikko, treasure-trove of history, culture and nature. An introduction to some of the best spots in Nikko, Tochigi!

**H-4 Nikko Toshogu Yomei Gate (National Treasure)**  
A mausoleum for Ieyasu Tokugawa, and part of the Shrines and Temples of Nikko World Heritage Site. The "Heisei major repairs" have recently been completed, the first of their kind in around 40 years and restoring much of the original beauty of the temple, including incredible colors and lacquer on the 508 carvings, decorations adorned with gold leaf, and pure white pillars.  
Inquiries: 0288-54-0560 (Nikko Toshogu)

**C-4 Katashina Pottery Experience**  
The "Oze Hanasaku gama kiln" is located close to Hanasaku Onsen. The pottery making experience here can be enjoyed by simply making a reservation, and the careful instruction of the teacher makes it perfect even for absolute beginners. A stroll through the mountain garden is also recommended!  
Inquiries: 0278-58-4835 (Reservation required (Oze Hanasaku gama))

**D-4 Indigo Dyeing Experience**  
Experience indigo dyeing for yourself on a handkerchief, T-shirt, stole or carrying cloth, all using traditional Japanese methods (natural indigo made of fermenting indigo leaves).  
Inquiries: 0278-25-3443 (Reservation required (Indigo Studio Shigehachi))

**H-4 Highland Produce Harvesting Experience**  
You can experience harvesting a range of different highland produce, including tomatoes, sweetcorn, blueberries and apples. Picking them yourself makes them taste even better! You can also take them home or give them as gifts.  
"There will be seasonal variations in exactly what you can harvest."  
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**C-4 Charcoal Handmade Accessories Experience**  
Making your own original accessory using charcoal, which is also one of the traditional industries of Katashina, has proven to be a very popular experience. You can make a variety of items, including necklaces and earrings, so come along and give it a try!  
Inquiries: 090-8596-0250 (Reservation required (Ikarakan))

**E-3 Delicous Katashina Water**  
The delicious water at the "Oze no Sato Katashina Springs" was selected in 2008 to be among the one hundred most exquisite waters of Japan. Here you can enjoy not only the clear, clean water but also the wonderful surrounding scenery of a famous beauty spot.  
Inquiries: 0278-58-3222 (Katashina Village Tourism Association)

**J-4 Nikko Kimono Experience**  
Wear an antique kimono and head out for a stroll through the world heritage site of Nikko. Take photos in front of each famous location to deepen your memories of your trip.  
Inquiries: 0288-53-6465 (Utakata)  
Inquiries: 0288-25-6625 (COCON NIKKO)

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You'll find more than 100 types of Japanese Okaki and Senbei crackers here! The handmade senbei crackers experience even allows you to create your own unique cracker decorated with an image or lettering of your choice.  
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**J-4 Kinugawa Rafting**  
This popular outdoor tour places your party in a rubber boat and forces you to work together to navigate the rapids of the Kinugawa river. With an instructor along for the ride, even beginners can take to the water!

**J-4 Canyoning**  
Give yourself over to a natural rock waterslide created by the canyon itself! This thrilling dive into basin of water will take bravery, but is more than worth it! Experience for yourself all the fun that nature has to offer.

**J-4 Experience Nikko Pottery**  
Three different studios offer the chance to experience pottery making, by hand for beginners or children and or using an electric potter's wheel for more experienced potters.  
Inquiries: 0288-53-3379 (One Play It)  
Inquiries: 0288-21-7674 (Kiryu-yaki Karabazama)  
Inquiries: 0288-76-0854 (Nikko-yaki Kinugawa-an)

# Katashina Flower Tour

The representative flower of Oze, white skunk cabbage, is joined by a natural monument of Gunma prefecture, the Japanese azalea, and Japanese wood poppies, covering the mountainside in blooms from ancient times. Why not take the tour of all the beautiful flowers that bloom in Katashina?

**C-4 Koshimoto White Skunk Cabbage Forest**  
(Late April - Early May)  
A forest of white skunk cabbage featuring around 15,000 plants. The forest is illuminated during the Golden Week period, allowing you to also enjoy the skunk cabbage at night.

**C-4 Marunuma Kogen Japanese Wood Poppies**  
(Early June - Late June)  
The Japanese wood poppy is known as the queen of the wild mountain plants. They also form a striking contrast with the rock garden at the Nikko-Shiranesan summit station.

**C-4 Harihara Tannoazakura Cherry blossom tree**  
(Late April - Early May)  
A natural monument of Gunma, this massive cherry blossom tree is thought to have lived for over 300 years. When illuminated at night, you will be transported to an illusory world.

**C-4 Hotaka Bokujo Japanese Azalea**  
(Mid-June - Late June)  
Enjoy around 15,000 Japanese azaleas, the natural monuments of Gunma, as they turn the vicinity of 1,500m elevation Sangodaira bright red.

**J-4 Nikko Toshogu Yomei Gate (National Treasure)**  
A stunning component of the Shrines and Temples of Nikko World Heritage Site. There's plenty to see here, including the gate to the "Taiyuan" Mausoleum of Iemitsu Tokugawa, the third of the Tokugawa Shogunate.  
Inquiries: 0288-54-0531 (Nikko-zan Rin-noji)

**J-4 Nikko Futarasan Jinja Shinkyo**  
The beautiful crimson lacquered "Shinkyo" ("divine bridge") at Futarasan Jinja shrine, which is dedicated to Mt. Nantai, marks the gateway to the Shrines and Temples of Nikko World Heritage Site. It is also counted among the three great bridges of Japan.  
Inquiries: 0288-70-1181 (Nikko Futarasan Jinja)

**G-5 Italian Embassy Villa Memorial Park & British Embassy Villa Memorial Park**  
Parks where you can enjoy modern architecture that blends Japanese and Western styles, along with the rich nature of Chuzenji Lake and a historic international setting. Both buildings are recreations of those used for many years as embassy villas by their respective countries.  
Inquiries: 0288-55-0880 (Nikko Natural Science Museum)

**J-4 Edo Wonderland Nikko Edo Village**  
A theme park recreating a Japanese townscape from the Edo period (1603 - 1868). Dress in period-correct clothing, as a villager or even a samurai, and slip back to a different time.  
Inquiries: 0288-70-1777

**J-4 Osarurand Theater**  
The famous pair of Taro and Jiro have now opened this new theater! Enjoy this extremely funny show, other attractions, and even get close to the primates.  
Inquiries: 0288-70-1288

**J-3 Tobu World Square**  
A theme park that features more than 100 1/25 scale, highly detailed recreations of famous buildings and world cultural heritage sites from around the globe, including Japan's own Skytree.  
Inquiries: 0288-77-1055

**G-4 Ryuzu Falls Rhododendron Wadanum**  
(Early May - Early June)  
Rhododendron wadanum bring a wonderful splash of purple to the Ryuzu Falls, one of the three great waterfalls of Chuzenji Lake and a historic international setting. Both buildings are recreations of those used for many years as embassy villas by their respective countries.  
Inquiries: 0288-77-2030 (Nikko Nasu Outdoor Service)  
Inquiries: 0288-77-4802 (e-rafting)

**F-4 Senjugahama Japanese Primrose**  
(Early June - Mid-June)  
Japanese primrose bloom multiple flowers off from their stems. Here you can experience the m blooming so thickly that they form a veritable carpet.

**F-4 Sanjogahara Tussock Cottongrass**  
(Late June - Late June)  
As the name suggests, experience a vast spread of fluffy white cottongrass. This is your chance to enter an illusory, charming world.

**H-3 Kirifuri Kogen Hemerocallis Esculenta**  
(Late June - Mid-July)  
Take in 260,000 hemerocallis esculenta, as they bring brilliant yellow color to highlands at an elevation of 1,600m and with a stunning view of the Kanto Plain.

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# Nikko Flower Tour

The unique environment in Nikko provides many beautiful flowers, including at Senjugahara, Lake Chuzenji and Ryuzu Falls. Taking a flower tour will also take you to the best sights in Nikko, and comes recommended at any time of year.

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