

Matsushiro Area

Approx. 30min by bus or car
from Nagano Station

松代 MATSUSHIRO



Site of Matsushiro Castle and Cherry Blossom

《Viewing season: Mid-late Apr》
At the time of the historically famous Battle of Kawanakajima, Matsushiro Castle was built as the stronghold for Shingen Takeda. It later became the residence of the Sanada family.
Renovation work has recently been completed and visitors can learn about the end of the Edo Period as well as view the glorious cherry blossom in the grounds.

INFORMATION
TEL.026-278-2801 (Matsushiro Bunka Shisetsu-to Office)
[Admission] Free Open: 09:00-17:00



Chokokuji Temple

Chokokuji Temple, with the striking Orca ornaments and Rokumonsen emblem that adorns its roof, is the Sanada family temple. The ancestral tomb of the first clan lord Nobuyuki is designated an Important Cultural Property.

INFORMATION
TEL.026-278-2454
[Admission] Adult ¥300, Child aged 7-15 ¥200
Open: 09:00-16:00 Closed Wednesdays, New Year period



Former Yokota Family Residence

The residence of a middle-class samurai who served as the county magistrate of the Matsushiro Clan. The old-fashioned thatched roof and seasonal flowers that bloom in the garden will soothe the soul.

INFORMATION
TEL.026-278-2274
[Admission] Adult ¥200, Child 7-15 ¥100 Open: 09:00-17:00
(Last admission 16:30)



Matsushiro

From the Warring States period to the Edo Period, politics and culture developed in the castle town of Matsushiro Castle. Visitors can explore historical sites associated with the samurai Sanada family and Zozan Sakuma, a politician who advocated the opening of Japanese ports to foreign traders.

Sanada Treasure Museum



Former Sanada Residence



Bunbu School



Learn about the background of the Sanada Clan

The Sanada Treasure Museum which exhibits the Sanada family treasures and the former Sanada Residence with its beautiful garden and Bunbu School, where the sons of the clan members studied literature, military science and swordsmanship, convey the culture of the castle town to the present day.

INFORMATION

TEL. 026-278-2801 (Sanada Treasure Museum)
[Admission]
[Combined ticket for 3 museums] Adult: ¥500 Child 7-15: ¥200
Open: 09:00-17:00 (Last admission 16:30) ※Sanada Treasure Museum is closed every Tue.

Who were the Sanada family?

The long-established Sanada family from East Shinshu expanded their influence as a local ruling family and survived turbulent times from the Warring States period, the age of rival warlords, to the 400 year-long Edo Period. Matsushiro retains the stateliness of the simple samurai spirit of the Sanada family.



Yukiitaka Sanada

What's Rokumonsen?



Rokumonsen is the Sanada family emblem. Tradition has it that the emblem came into use after Yukiitaka Sanada used it on his banner.



The achievements of Zozan

Zozan Shrine / Kogi-tei / Zozan Museum

Kogi-tei is a building steeped in history and the place where Zozan Sakuma debated about the condition of the government with various guests. The museum exhibits electrical medical equipment made by Zozan and teaches us about his talents.



Who was Zozan Sakuma?

In 1868, Japan ended its isolationist foreign policy and began negotiations with other countries. Zozan Sakuma (1811-1864) of the Matsushiro Clan, an advocate for the opening up of Japan, laid the foundations for this to come about. He was a skilled linguist and scientist, and his writings, drawings and sites of experiments, which show his regard for the technology of Western culture, industry and telegraphic communication, can be found at the Zozan Museum and in the town.



※A photograph is taken on a special day.

Matsushiro-yaki

Beautiful pottery

Matsushiro-yaki is the name of the pottery which was created in the early part of the 18th century in the castle town of the Sanada family, Matsushiro. It is unique for its simple form and weight and its distinctive blue-green glaze. Although the pottery can be purchased, visitors who wish to make one should go to the workshop.



INFORMATION

TEL.026-278-7302 (Matsushiro To-en)
Hand-thrown Tea Cup Course ¥1,500
Electric Kiln Course ¥10,000
Open: 09:00-18:00/Closed on Sun & Mon irregularly.
Pottery courses 09:00-15:00 Reservation is required.

Nagaimo Yam

Seasonal fare

The Matsushiro Nagaimo Yam has a unique delicate flavor and is harvested in the spring and late autumn. It is eaten grated with the addition of soup stock and poured over rice cooked with barley or soba, raw tuna or tofu. It can also be enjoyed as thin, firm textured rectangles.



味
Food



Matsushiro-so-Local Government Operated Inn (Matsushiro Onsen)

Matsushiro-so is famous for its peculiar reddish-brown hot spring and as being the secret hot spring reputed to have healed Shingen Takeda's soldiers. The 100% natural hot spring never stops flowing. As the water contains a large amount of sodium, it warms the body right through.

INFORMATION

TEL. 026-278-2596
[Charges] Adult ¥500, Child ¥200
Open: 10:00-22:00 (Last admission 21:30) Open seven days a week

湯
Hot spring



歩
Walk

Walking Courses in Matsushiro (2-3hrs walk)

Matsushiro Station Bus Stop	3min.	Site of Matsushiro Castle	5min.	Matsushiro-han Bunbu Gakko	5min.
Zozan Shrine	3min.	Former Zozan Yamadera Residence	7min.	Zozan Underground Imperial Headquarters	10min.
Zozan Museum	3min.	Former Yokota Residence	5min.	Former Sanada Residence	2min.
Sanada Treasure Museum	4min.	Matsushiro Station Bus Stop			

※All durations indicated are for walking.



Enjoy Japan

Yugaku Castle Town Shinshu/Matsushiro

École de Matsushiro

Play and learn in a castle town. Enjoy an intellectual and creative time in a designated Cultural Property.

As part of its urban development, Shinshu Matsushiro perceives itself as becoming the "Matsushiro School of Learning" - "A resort of lifelong learning and exchange". To this end, it aims to become a resort that provides exchanges through "lifelong learning" by widely introducing the Matsushiro castle town lifestyle that has been passed down over time and by providing places that allows visitors to experience it through the active use of many of the cultural properties available in Matsushiro.

INFORMATION

TEL.026-278-0550 (École de Matsushiro Club)



Matsushiro Clan Sanada Jumangoku Festival

《Mid Oct》

This Festival is the most spectacular event that takes place in the castle town of Matsushiro.

It includes the Matsushiro Clan Sanada Jumangoku Procession, which recreates the atmosphere of the castle town during the Edo Period, and a performance of Sanada Kachidoki Drums.

祭
Festival



Let us show you around Matsushiro.

Matsushiro Cultural Property Volunteers

TEL.026-278-9010
09:30-16:00 (Except the New Year period)
The Matsushiro volunteer town guides show visitors around the area's Cultural Properties.