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Exploring the Historic Streets of  
Kumamoto City

**The  
CASTLE TOWN  
and  
KAWASHIRI  
Walking Map**



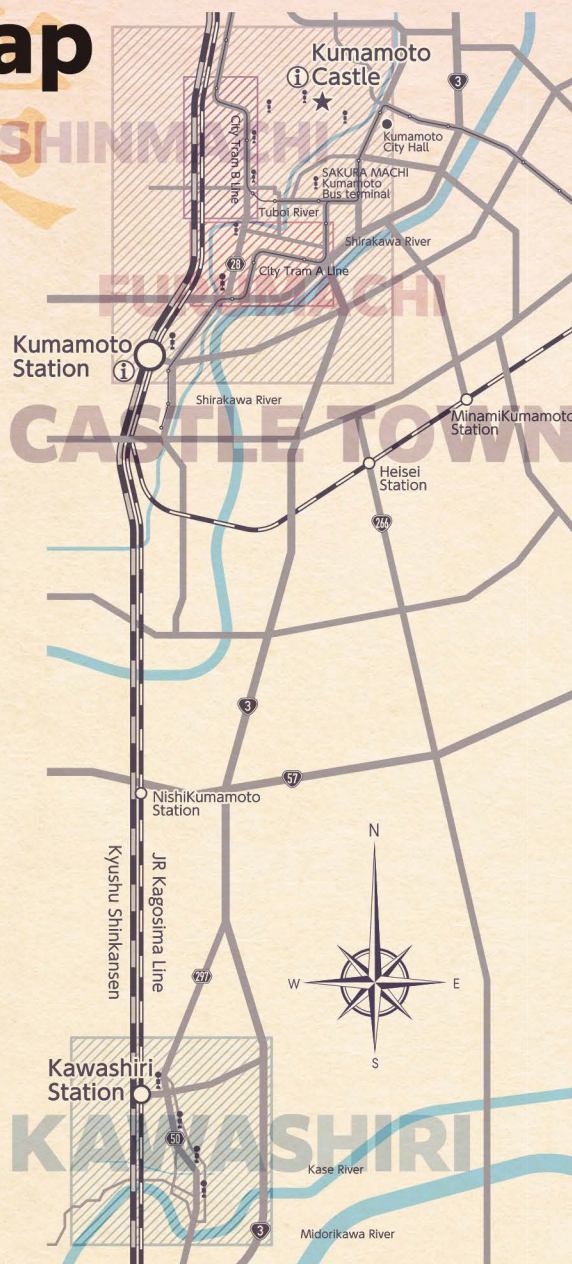
Exploring the Historic Streets of Kumamoto City

# The CASTLE TOWN and KAWASHIRI Walking Map

Kumamoto City is a place brimming with history and culture. Notably, the castle town district surrounding Kumamoto Castle and the Kawashiri district, which flourished as a port town, have preserved many historical buildings and street layouts from the Edo Period (1603-1868). Why not explore these historic neighborhoods and experience the local lifestyle and culture?

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## Access

### 新町 SHINMACHI

- Shiden [Kumamoto City Tram] B Line
- Kumamoto Castle Loop Bus [Shiromegurin]

### 古町 FURUMACHI

- Shiden [Kumamoto City Tram] A Line
- Kumamoto Castle Loop Bus [Shiromegurin]

### 川尻 KAWASHIRI

- JR KYUSHU RAILWAY COMPANY  
Get off at JR Kawashiri Station [approximately 7 minutes from Kumamoto Station]  
▶ [鹿児島本線八代行] Kagoshima Main Line bound for Yatsushiro  
▶ [三角線三角行] Misumi Line bound for Misumi
- Kyushu Sanko Bus  
Approximately 25 minutes from Sakuramachi Bus Terminal  
▶ [R1-1] [R2-1] 川尻市道經由川尻町行き Bound for Kawashirimachi via Kawashiri City Road  
▶ [R1-2] 川尻市道經由国町行き Bound for Kokucho via Kawashiri City Road  
▶ [R1-5] 川尻市道經由松橋行き Bound for Matsubase via Kawashiri City Road

- しろめぐりん Shiromegurin [Kumamoto Castle Loop Bus]



- 熊本市電 Shiden [Kumamoto City Tram]



## KUMAMOTO CITY *Tourism* Official Guide



## くまもと歴まち 360° Kumamoto Rekimachi 360°



Experience Historical Spots Through 360° VR Videos

## Kumamoto City Urban Design Section 熊本市都市デザイン課 Instagram



- ① : Information
- 🌸 : Cherry Blossom
- 🍁 : Fall Foliage
- 👁️ 見る : View
- 🍴 食べる : Eat
- 🛒 買う : Buy
- 🛖 泊まる : Stay



Exploring the Historic Streets of Kumamoto City

# CASTLE TOWN Area

## Walking Map

Located south-west of Kumamoto Castle, this district was developed as a castle town alongside the construction of the castle. Kato Kiyomasa used the Tsuboigawa River as both a moat for castle defense and boat transportation, fostering the area's growth as a merchant district. While many machiya were lost in the Seinan War, some reconstructed buildings from that period still dot the landscape today.

### Meihachi-bashi Bridge 明八橋



This stone bridge was constructed in 1875 by renowned stonemason Hashimoto Kangoro, who also built the Tsujun Bridge in Kumamoto's Yamato Town and the Mansei Bridge in Tokyo.



### Kozawamachi Street 小沢町通り

This atmospheric street lined with machiya and storehouses features shops operating from preserved traditional buildings.

Note that there are no sidewalks.

### Topics

#### Bicycle sharing service

[ Chari chari ]

シェアサイクルサービス  
「Charichari (チャリチャリ)」



This service offers multiple parking locations with per-minute pricing. It's easily accessible via smartphone and is perfect for exploring the area.

Charichari



0 100 200 500m





## Topics



### Karashi Renkon [Spicy Lotus Root] 辛子蓮根

Karashi Renkon is a local dish of lotus root stuffed with mustard-flavored miso paste and deep-fried. This regional specialty has been made in Kumamoto for over 400 years.



Imo Manju is also recommended



Murakami  
Karashi Renkon



## Topics

### Machiya [Traditional Townhouses] 町屋

Machiya are traditional urban buildings that served as combined homes and shops for merchants and artisans. These buildings faced directly onto the street, with neighboring houses connected, sharing a continuous roofline extending across the entire property frontage.



## Topics

### The Seinan War [The Satsuma Rebellion] 西南戦争

The Seinan War was Japan's last civil war, taking place in Kyushu in 1877. In this conflict between government forces and the Satsuma army, the Satsuma forces advanced north from Kagoshima and held a war council in Kawashiri. At this council, they decided to attack Kumamoto Castle. The castle became the stage for a siege, and the castle town was devastated by the flames of war.



## Topics

### Mitsusuke Zogan Experience 光助象嵌体験



Higo Zogan is a unique Kumamoto technique of inlaying pure gold and silver into iron. The workshop offers hands-on inlay-making experiences. Reservations are required one day in advance.



## Topics Festivals

### Fujisaki Hachimangu Shrine Grand Festival 藤崎八幡宮例大祭

The Fujisaki Hachimangu Shrine Grand Festival, a vibrant autumn tradition deeply rooted in the Kumamoto community, is held annually in September. The divine procession features Shinto priests leading a parade of armored warriors, portable shrines, and decorated horses, accompanied by drums and trumpets.



# Exploring the Historic Streets of Kumamoto City CASTLE TOWN Area FURUMACHI

The Furumachi district flourished as a residential area for its townspeople. Within its "one town, one temple" layout, many temples and machiya still remain. After the Meiji period (1868-1912), the area became an economic center with many wholesale merchants operating from earthen-walled storehouses.



### 01. Shiraume Tenmangu Shrine 白梅天満宮

Pass through a narrow 1-meter-wide passage between houses to reveal this Tenmangu shrine. Though destroyed in the Seinan War, local residents still enjoy festivals here today.



### 02. Uemura Genzo Shoten 上村元三商店

Originally a hardware store opened in 1956, it now operates as an izakaya serving local specialties.  
(Instagram: @genzoshoten)

## Furumachi Information One Town, One Temple

古町情報 (一町一寺)

The Furumachi district features square blocks measuring approximately 120m on each side. At the center of each block stands a temple. Kato Kiyomasa invited them to the area during the reconstruction of Kumamoto Castle, and they are surrounded by residential houses. This arrangement served both as a military camp and as a firebreak to prevent the spread of fires among wooden buildings.



### 03. Kiyonaga Main Store 清永本店

The Kiyonaga family has been here since the Horeki period (1751-1764), starting out as a general goods merchant. It's one of the largest machiya in the district. \*As this is a private residence, it is not open to the public.



#### 04. Nishimura Residence

[Nationally Important Cultural Property]

西村邸【国登録有形文化財】

Built in 1917, this building originally operated as an oil merchant. It features brick firewalls on both the east and west sides. It currently houses a miso and soy sauce shop (Hibi Kojiya).



#### 05. Musashiya

武蔵屋



A long-established footwear shop operating since the Meiji period (1868-1912). It sells handmade geta (wooden clogs) and zori (straw sandals). Their bamboo-woven sandals and clogs are cool in summer and warm in winter.

#### 06. Shiokoshou / Root's Purely

塩胡椒 / Root's Purely



This three-story machiya includes a basement once used for unloading cargo from the Tsuboigawa River. It is now a restaurant and store where you can dine while enjoying calming views of the river.



Shiokoshou:  
French Restaurant



Root's Purely:  
Stores and restaurants  
with organic products

#### 07. PS Orangerie

[Nationally Important Cultural Property]

PS オランジュリ【国登録有形文化財】



Built in 1919 as a bank, this building now serves as a showroom for an air conditioning manufacturer.

\*Tours are available by reservation only.

(Instagram: @ps\_orangerie)



#### 08. Hayakawa Warehouse

早川倉庫



Built in 1877 as a sake brewery, this building now serves as an event and coworking space.



#### 09. Ryoriya Residence

(Commerce Club)

[Nationally Important Cultural Property]

料理谷邸 (商工クラブ)【国登録有形文化財】

Constructed in 1890 by the Ryoriya family, who served as generations of chefs for the Kumamoto Domain. It now offers a restaurant on the first floor and accommodations on the second floor.



#### 10. Kawakami saketen

[Liquor Store]

川上酒店



A renovated 100-year-old machiya now operating as a liquor store specializing in Kumamoto-produced sake, shochu and wine. A nearby bar allows visitors to sample their selection of spirits.

#### 11. Carino MS Building

カリノ MS ビル

Originally constructed as a bank in 1934 in Kumamoto City's financial district, this building now serves as an event hall.



### Topics Festivals Kitaoka-jinja Shrine Grand Festival 北岡神社例大祭



Kitaoka-jinja Shrine was established in 934 after receiving divine transfer from Yasaka Shrine in Kyoto. The annual grand festival, held August 1st to 3rd, offers up a prayer for protection against epidemics. Today, children carry portable shrines in procession through the Furumachi district.

### Topics Festivals Shiraume Tenmangu Festival 白梅天満宮大祭

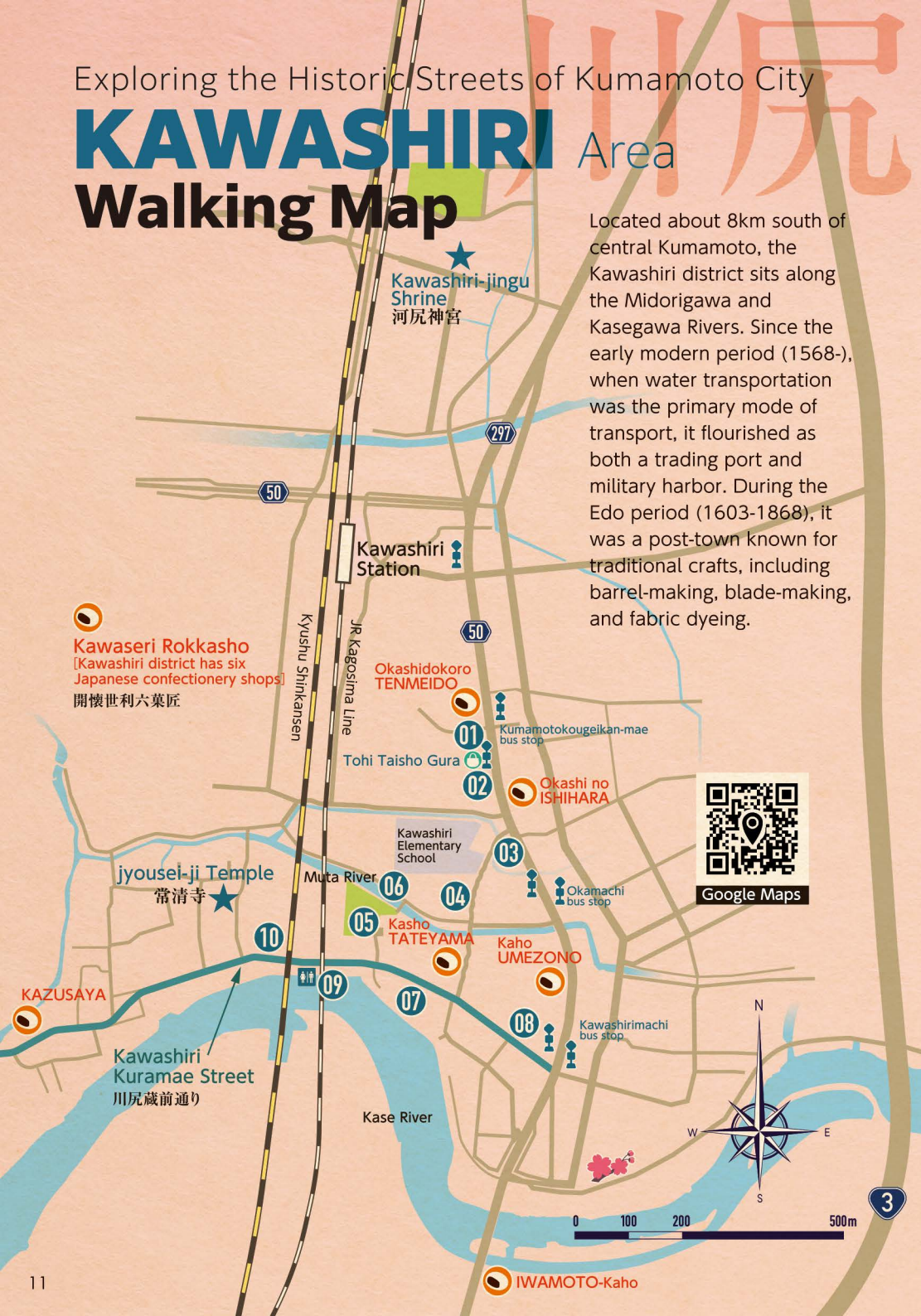
Held annually on November 15th with ceremonies conducted by the head priest of Kitaoka Shrine. The eve of the festival features Fujin Daikon, a dish of daikon radish cooked with copious amounts of chili pepper. It is said to prevent colds.





# Exploring the Historic Streets of Kumamoto City

## KAWASHIRI Area Walking Map



Located about 8km south of central Kumamoto, the Kawashiri district sits along the Midorigawa and Kasegawa Rivers. Since the early modern period (1568-), when water transportation was the primary mode of transport, it flourished as both a trading port and military harbor. During the Edo period (1603-1868), it was a post-town known for traditional crafts, including barrel-making, blade-making, and fabric dyeing.

### 01. Kumamoto City Handicrafts Promotion Center

くまもと工芸会館

Features exhibitions and sales of Kumamoto traditional crafts, special exhibitions, and craft workshops. Artisans can regularly be found demonstrating their techniques here.



### 02. Kawashiri Shoten Sui

川尻商店 粋

Run by a local community organization, this facility includes rental spaces. The second floor houses Kawashiri no Tomari, an exclusive accommodation facility.



### 03. Shiiba Residence

椎葉邸

Built during the Meiji period (1868-1912), this building was originally a soy sauce shop before being converted into a medical clinic and residence. \*As this is a private residence, it is not open to the public.



### 04. Kimura Masahiko Memorial Museum

木村政彦記念館

Kimura Masahiko was an undefeated judo champion for 15 years and is considered historically the strongest judoka. Born in Kawashiri in 1917, tales of his prowess have been passed down through the years. Hours: 10:00-17:00, Open: Saturday and Sunday, Free admission



### 05. Kawashiri Public Hall

川尻公会堂

Donated in 1931 by the Yoshimura family of Zuiyo Co., Ltd. for community development, this building continues to serve local activities to this day.







## 06. Mutagawa River 無田川

The Mutagawa River, a canal dug during the Edo period (1603-1868), was used to transport rice bales and supplies by boat from various regions to Kumamoto Castle town.



## 09. Ruins of Funatsukiba Wharf [National Historic Site] 船着場跡【国史跡】

This was an important port for the Kumamoto domain, believed to have been constructed during the Keicho period (1596-1615). Smoother stones under the iron bridge mark where high-ranking individuals, like feudal lords, would embark and disembark.



\*Remarks on the remains of a public toilet. These were built in the Meiji era for people loading and unloading cargo at the wharf. It is currently not in use.



## 10. Ruins of Kawashiri-komegura Rice Granary [National Historic Site] 熊本藩川尻米蔵【国史跡】

During the Edo period (1603-1868), lords collected annual taxes in rice. The Kumamoto domain used the Midorikawa River and Kase Rivers to gather rice taxes and transport them by boat, mainly to Osaka for sale. Two rice storehouses from the late Edo period (1853-1868) still remain. An admission fee is required.

## 07. Imamura Family Residence

[Nationally Important Cultural Property]

今村家住宅【国登録有形文化財】



Built in the late Edo period (1853-1868), this building reportedly served as the Satsuma army headquarters during the Seinan War. \*As this is a private residence, it is not open to the public.



## 08. Zuiyo Buildings 瑞鷹閣係建造物



Zuiyo Co., Ltd., founded in 1867, was a sake brewery that pioneered clear sake production when red sake was still dominant in Kumamoto. They continue brewing sake today. The area features several earthen-walled buildings belonging to the company.



## Topics



### Jyouseiji Temple

常清寺

Founded in 1615 to memorialize Kato Kiyomasa's retainers. Offers limited edition goshuin (temple stamps) monthly. Hours: 9:00-18:00; stamp fee applies.



## Topics

### Kawashiri Sake

川尻のお酒

Akazake has unique red color and it is indispensable as a drink at New Year's celebration in Kumamoto. It is also useful as cooking wine for local food. Zuiyo Co., Ltd. produces Akazake and it is available at Taishogura sake shop.



## Topics

### Festivals

### Kawashiri-jingu Shrine Autumn Festival

河尻神宮秋季例大祭

This festival offers prayers for national peace and abundant harvests. It also features performances of sagari-uma (hanging from running horses) and yabusame (archery on horseback), which are dedicated to the gods.



## Topics

### Kawaseri Rokkasho

開懷世利六菓匠

Kawashiri district has six Japanese confectionery shops, collectively known as Kawaseri Rokkasho. These shops offer hands-on sweet-making experiences. Fee required.



## Topics Festivals

### Kawashiri Shoryo Nagashi [Spirit Floating] 川尻精霊流し



An annual ceremony commemorating the souls of the departed is held on August 15 during Obon season at the Kasegawa River. Many lanterns are floated on the river while Buddhist monks chant sutras.