

History of OKADA

After the Battle of SEKIGAHARA, in 1606 (KEICHO Period Year 11), 3 districts in HINAGAGO area, OKUMURA, NAKAMURA, and SATOMURA, were united and became OKADA village.

Population at the time was 700, number of houses was 146, and production volume of rice was 689 KOKU (approx. 100,000 kg). Farmers started weaving cotton to gain additional income.

From EDO Era (1603 - 1868) till SHOWA Era Year 30s (1955 - 1964), OKADA prospered as the center of CHITA cotton industry.

In 1929 (SHOWA Era Year 4), SHIN street was paved, and OKADA was crowded with cotton factories and stores.

"KIRAKUZA" (theater hall) was crowded entertaining people. At the height of its prosperity, there were 3,000 female textile workers working in OKADA.

At Spring Festival in April, 3 DASH (float) are paraded, and KARAKURI and DEKU (wind-up doll and wooden doll) are devoted to the god. Historical streetscape and precious tradition and culture have been passed on to the present.



Cotton Dried in the Sun



Transporting Cotton



Reeling Thread



View of Prefecture Street (since SHOWA Era Year 4: 1929)



Cotton Factory



NAKASHICHI Second Cotton Factory (TAISHO Era: 1912 - 1926)



OKADA Post Office



KIRAKUZA (Theater Hall) (early SHOWA Era)



OKADA Town Hall (TAISHO Era)



MASUISO, Japanese Restaurant and RYOKAN (Inn) (TAISHO Era)

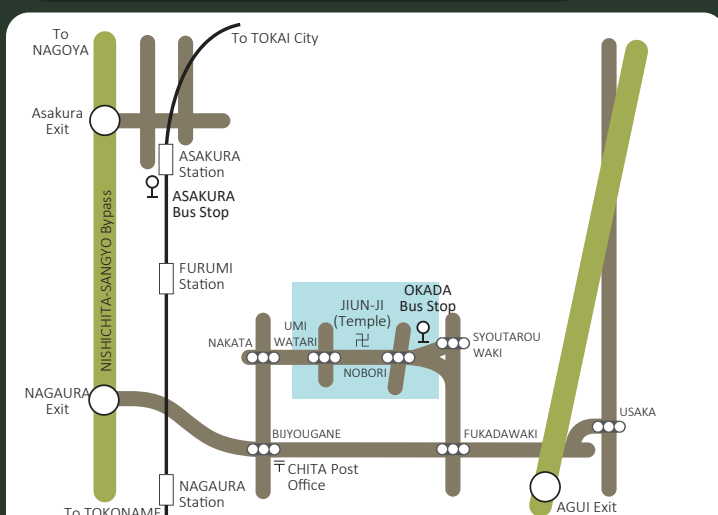
Spring Festival in OKADA

The main festival is held on a Sunday close to April 16. (Please contact via e-mail to confirm date.) On the day before the main festival, during YOIMIYAMATSURI (Festival-Eve Celebration), SHIRAKU (parade with Japanese lantern, whistle, drum, and ISE-ONDO (dance) by KAJININ) is dedicated to the god of SHINMEISYA Shrine. At the main festival, DASHI (parade float) get together in front of



DAIMON (big gate) boosting the festival mood. In OKADA, there are 3 DASHI, each of which belong to different groups: OKUGUMI, NAKAGUMI, and SATOGUMI; and each are called "KAZAGURUMA (car of wind)", "AMAGURUMA (car of rain)", and "HIGURUMA (car of the sun)". The name of SAKIGURUMA (the first float) and the weather on the day of the festival usually match. Each DASHI holds SHITADEKU and UWADOKU (wooden dolls). Dance of the dolls is devoted to the god once in the morning and once in the afternoon. Quite exciting NEJIMAWASHI (turning the direction of the floats) is held at 1:00p.m.

Directions to OKADA



By Car From NAGOYA, take NISHI-CHITA-SANGYO Bypass, get off at NAGAURA Exit, and head east for 10 minutes. Or, take CHITA-HANTO-DO (toll), get off at AGUI, and head west for 10 minutes.

By Train From Nagoya station, take MEITETSU TOKONAME Line, get off at ASAKURA station, and then take CHITA bus.

By Bus Take CHITA bus bound for HIGASHI-OKADA, and get off at OKADA Bus Stop.

Contact

OKADA MACHINAMI PRESERVATIVE ASSOCIATION
Office,
Momengura Chita
Address: 9 AZA NAKATANI OKADA, CHITA, AICHI



Website

CHITA Tourism Association
(located in OKADA MACHIDUKURI Center)
Address: 5 AZA DANDOBO OKADA, CHITA, AICHI
TEL: 0562-51-5637 FAX: 0562-51-7456
Website Search: CHITA KANKO KYOKAI
email: chita-kanko@ma.medias.ne.jp Holidays: Monday

OKADA MACHINAMI PRESERVATIVE ASSOCIATION Office & CHITA Tourism Association

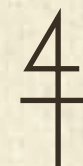
English translation : KH ENGINEERING Corporation

THE LANDSCAPE MAP OF OKADA

— Birthplace of
CHITA Cotton —



THE LANDSCAPE MAP OF OKADA



**Restaurant
& Cafe**

MASUISO: seasonal delicacy (reservation required)
IRORIYA SENJU: 90-year-old house style cafe with great ingredients TEL: 0562-55-3602
Cafe FUJI: cafe where you can rest after a walk TEL: 0562-74-0029
Cafe Novatann: old house style cafe & restaurant TEL: 0562-55-3948
HANJOUTEI: old house style restaurant with rice, seaweed, and noodle TEL: 0562-85-1360

Souvenir

OKAKIYA TATSUSHIN: also a restaurant. ARARE (rice cracker) and MITARASHIDANGO (dumpling with sweet soy sauce) available. TEL: 0562-56-0280
MARUFUJISEIKA: EBI-SENBEI (shrimp cracker) made from fresh shrimp TEL: 0562-55-2819

Hotel

MASUISO: Japanese style inn and restaurant, opened in MEIJI Era, where cherry trees can be enjoyed during the season. TEL: 0562-55-3602
 Hand Weaving Studio

Common Route (Town Scape Course) : About 1 Hour

1. Hand Weaving Studio MOMENGURA CHITA → 2. House of YASUHIRO TAKEUCHI & KURA → 30. CHITA OKADA Post Office → 29. AKIBASHA in NAKATANI-YASHIKI → 28. House of SHIROU TAKENOUCHI and KURA → 27. TADUNA-KE → 26. Former TAKENAKA-SHOUTEN & KURA → 25. Former House of TORAOU TAKEUCHI → 23. OMATSURI HIROBA → 24. Fomer NAKASHICHI-MOMEN Main Shop → 22. JIUN-JI → 20. MASAYASUTEI → 21. Traditional CHITA Cotton, TSUMONOKI → 10. KAITO-HIGASHIGUMI → 8. MASUISO, Japanese Restaurant & RYOKAN → 9. Former OKADA-YA → 7. OKADA SHINMEISYA → 1. Hand Weaving Studio MOMENGURA CHITA

Full View of OKADA (History Course) : About 2 Hours

If you follow the numbers from 1 to 30, you can enjoy the history of OKADA thoroughly.

Stroll around Town : About 30 Minutes

1. Hand Weaving Studio MOMENGURA CHITA → 2. House of YASUHIRO TAKEUCHI & KURA → 30. CHITA OKADA Post Office → 29. AKIBASHA in NAKATANI-YASHIKI → 28. House of SHIROU TAKENOUCHI and KURA → 27. TADUNA-KE → 26. Former TAKENAKA-SHOUTEN & KURA → 7. OKADA SHINMEISYA → 1. Hand Weaving Studio MOMENGURA CHITA

- Hand Weaving Studio MOMENGURA CHITA**
MOMENGURA is a cotton storehouse built by TORAOU TAKEUCHI in the late MEIJI Era. You can experience handweaving and purchase products made in the studio. (Holidays: Wed and Thu)
[Registered Tangible Cultural Property (structure)]
- House of YASUHIRO TAKEUCHI & KURA (Storehouse)**
KURA with Japanese style wall was built in 1920 (TAISHO Era Year 9) and painted black during the war. The family runs apparel company, YAMAKIORIFU.
- FUNAHASHI Family (Trail of Former Ito Bank)**
In 1923 (TAISHO Era Year 12), former CHITA Saving Bank (DOI Family) moved here and later became Ito Bank. In 1936 (SHOWA Era Year 11), the bank was moved to the place where OKADA Branch, AICHI Bank is currently located.
- GOEMON-JIZO**
In EDO Era, a SHUGENJA (practitioner) who liked SAKE started deep meditation to cure epidemic spread in the village. Villagers created stone Buddhist image to mourn his demise.
- AMIDA-DO (Temple Hall)**
The temple already existed in 1660s (KANBUN Period), and the roof was clay tiled in 1841. A Buddhist chant is still devoted every month.
- OKUGUMI-DASHIGURA (Float Storehouse)**
The DASHI (float) was made in 1861 (BUNKYU Period Year 1). It is called "KAZAGURUMA (car of wind)".
- OKADA SHINMEISYA (Shrine)**
Built in 1622 (GENNA Era Year 8). In 1957 (SHOWA Era Year 32), SENGU material of ISE Shrine was given to rebuild this shrine. (SENGU is to transfer the body of a god to another shrine during rebuilding the old shrine.)
- MASUISO, Japanese Restaurant & RYOKAN (Inn)**
In MEIJI Era Year 20s (1945-1954), they ran the inn by the name of KOBO-YADO. It is now a classy Japanese restaurant and inn. (KOBO is short for KOBO-DAISHI, a beloved Japanese Buddhist monk, scholar, poet, and artist who founded the Esoteric SHINGON.)
- Former OKADA-YA**
House of KARO (house elder) built in ONO Castle was moved here. In MEIJI Era Year 20s (1945-1954), inn was opened by the name of KOBO-YADO.
- KAITO-HIGASHIGUMI**
In 1943 (MEIJI Era Year 18), KAITO-HIGASHIGUMI made this as a shelter against air attack. (War Heritage)
- BUNSHIRO-ZAKA (Hilly Street)**
The street was named after BUNSHIRO DOI family in MEIJI Era (1868-1911). There are other hilly streets, such as GONGEN-ZAKA, NEZUMI-ZAKA, etc.
- Hand Weaving Studio, YAMAMOMO**
In 1990 (HEISEI Era Year 2), weaving studio was opened. Every Wednesday, weaving school is open.
- TAMONTEN (also called BISYAMONTEN) & JYUO-DO (Temple Hall)**
The hall was built in 1710 (SYOTOKU NENKAN), and a Buddhist chant is still devoted every month.
- NAKAGUMI-YAMAGURA (Float Storehouse)**
The DASHI (float) was made in 1839 (TENPO Period Year 10), and is the oldest and the biggest in OKADA. It is called "AMAGURUMA (car of rain)".
- KURA (Storehouse) of KURAOU TAKEUCHI House**
The western-style unique storehouse was built in 1927 (SHOWA Era Year 2).

- FUKU-GAWARA (Tile of Luck) on Fence around House of MATSUDA (dentist)**
In 1720s (KYOHU Period), Matsuda started business as an internal medicine specialist. Since SYOWA Era, MATSUDA family opened a dentistry. On the fence, there is FUKU-GAWARA (Tile of Luck).
- SYUTOKU-JI (Temple)**
Built as one of the branch temples of JIUN-JI (Temple) in 1521 (DAIEI Period Year 1). It follows the denomination of MYOSHIN-JI (Temple) of ENZAI-SYU (Religion).
- SATOGUMI-DASHIGURA (Float Storehouse)**
The DASHI (float) was made in 1689 (GANROKU Period Year 2). It is called "HIGURUMA (car of sun)."
- TAKEUCHI-GOUMEI & KURA (Storehouse)**
TAKEUCHI-GOUMEI is a company and used to be a cotton factory in TAISYO era (1912-1926). KURA (Storehouse) is now used as a company office.
- MASAYASUTEI (Former OKADA Hospital)**
Dr. MASAYASU TAKEUCHI (Former Director of TOYOHASHI Army Hospital) started the hospital in 1929.
[Registered Tangible Cultural Property (structure)]
- Traditional CHITA Cotton, TSUMONOKI**
You can join the class and experience handweaving in the studio, and purchase cotton products. (Open from Thu to Sat)
- JIUN-JI (Temple)**
Built by NORIMITSU ISSHIKI in 1350 (KANNOU Era Year 1). It follows the denomination of MYOSHIN-JI (Temple) of ENZAI-SYU (Religion).
- OMATSURI HIROBA (Festival Space)**
The open space is considered as a center of OKADA. Every year on a Sunday close to April 16, 3 DASHI (float) of different groups: OKUGUMI, NAKAGUMI, and SATOGUMI, are brought here.
- Former NAKASHICHI-MOMEN Main Shop**
Built in 1915. It is now a head office of NAKASHICHI-MOMEN Joint-Stock Company, established in 1896 (MEIJI Era Year 29).
[Registered Tangible Cultural Property (structure)]
- Former House of TORAOU TAKEUCHI**
TORAOU invented power loom in 1898 (MEIJI Era Year 31) and obtained patent. Some says that TORAOU did the research with SAKICHI TOYODA (founder of TOYOTA).
- Former TAKENAKA-SHOUTEN (Store) and KURA (Storehouse)**
TAKENAKA-SHOUTEN used to deal with rice, fertilizer, cotton, etc. The KURA (Storehouse) has a basement with a driveway for horse-drawn cart.
- TADUNA-KE (Hook for Bridle Rein)**
KINSHIRO TAKEUCHI mounted a hook on stone wall to hitch horses drawing a cart.
- House of SHIROU TAKENOUCHI & KURA (Storehouse)**
In 1700s (EDO Era, SHOGUN ruling time), GENSUKE TAKEUCHI obtained a wholesale business license of cotton in EDO (former name of TOKYO). NAGAYA-MON (Gate) and MOMEN-GURA (Cotton Storehouse) still exist.
- AKIBASHA (Shrine) in NAKATANI-YASHIKI**
As EDO suffered a big fire in the middle of EDO Era, many houses enshrined god of fire protection. 16 shrines exist.
- CHITA OKADA Post Office**
Built as a post office / cable station in 1902 (MEIJI Era Year 35). It was closed temporarily but was reopened as a post office in 1993 (HEISEI Era Year 5). This building was the start of townscape preservation.
[Registered Tangible Cultural Property (structure)]