

DEWA SANZAN

A "Journey of Rebirth" where Nature and Faith Thrive

Dewa Sanzan, starting with 2446 stone steps lined with cedar trees over 300 years old

KITAMAE BUNE

Mountain,  
Village, Sea

A city blessed with  
three Japan Heritage assets

# Tsuruoka City

SAMURAI SILK

A unique space woven by the dreams of  
men who survived the stormy seas

Kitamae-bune ports of call and  
shipowners' settlements

TSURUOKA Japan Heritage

Japan Heritage Samurai Silk

Visit Tsuruoka, a town to enjoy the original landscape of  
Japan's modernization

Supported by the entire region, the Shonai area centering on Tsuruoka City developed as the northernmost silk production area in Japan, originating from the largest group of silkworm farms in Japan at Matsugaoka Reclamation Land, which was established by the former feudal retainer of Shonai Domain who used their swords as plows. It is the only place in Japan where the entire process from sericulture to silk weaving survives to this day. Besides Matsugaoka, in Tamugimata Village located along the Rokujūrigoe Kaidō, there are also layered private homes, which are four-story houses where people live and raise silkworms in a single dwelling. In addition, there is a silk mill established in the Meiji era (1868-1912), which is the only one of its kind in Japan where the scouring process is still carried out. Visitors to Tsuruoka can experience the original landscape of Japan's modernization, the fruit of the efforts of our predecessors, through the entire cityscape.

< Local government: Tsuruoka City >

1 The "Honjin" used as the center of the silk industry in Matsugaoka, which triggered the development of the silk industry in Tsuruoka, and five three-story "silkworm breeding centers" in the Joshi Shimamura style tiled roofs still are preserved until this day. The history of its contribution to the regional industrial development is passed down through generations.

Certified in 2017!

STORY 02

## Samurai Silk

Visit Tsuruoka, where visitors will encounter the roots of Japan's modernization

Cultural assets that make up the story



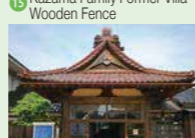
4 Matsugaoka Silk Industry Inari Shrine



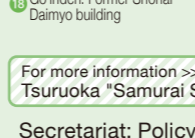
7 Heishindō: Kazama Family Former Residence



8 Main Gate



15 Kazama Family Former Villa Wooden Fence



18 Go'indō: Former Shonai Daimyo building



2 The Matsugaoka Honjin



5 Matsugaoka Reclamation Land Soldier's quarters



10 Muryokoen Shakado Villa



16 Shibuya Family Former Residence



19 Chidokan: Shonai Clan School



20 Uzen Silk Refinery Company Limited



3 Matsugaoka Silk Breeding Center



6 Endo Family Former Residence



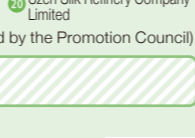
12 Kazama Family Former Villa Front Gate



17 Former Nishitagawa-gun Government Office



13 Inner Gate



14 North gate

For more information >> Tsuruoka "Samurai Silk" Promotion Council

Secretariat: Policy Planning Division, Planning Department, Tsuruoka City  
TEL 0235-35-1184  
[HP] <https://samurai-yukarino-silk.jp/>



Cultural assets that make up the story



2 The Ishinazaka Family House and Warehouse



3 Hanging bell of the Jozenji Temple



4 Gohyaku Rakandō (an arhats hall) of the Zenpoji Temple



5 Materials relating to Kitamae-bune of the Chido Museum collections

For more information >> Tsuruoka City Kitamae-bune Japan Heritage Promotion Council

Secretariat: Tourism and Product Division, Commerce, Industry and Tourism Department, Tsuruoka City  
TEL 0235-35-1301  
[HP] <https://www.kitamae-bune.com/>  
(Kitamae-bune KITAMAE official website)



The coasts of the Japan Sea and Seto Inland Sea are lined with port towns that feature mountains as part of their landscapes. Many small streets lead to the harbor, with spacious merchant houses and luxurious residences of shipowners lining the streets. In addition, Ema tablets and ship replicas can be found at shrines and temples, where locals hold festivals that originated in Kyoto and other distant places, and sing folk songs based on traditional Japanese tunes. These port towns were ports of call and shipowners' settlements for Kitamae-bune, which transcended rough seas, created enormous wealth as a dynamic general trading company, and brought prosperity to various regions.

< Local governments: Tsuruoka City and 47 other municipalities >

STORY 03

## A unique space woven by the dreams of men who survived the stormy seas

~Kitamae-bune ports of call and shipowners' settlements~

Additional certification in 2019!



1 The neighborhood around Kamo Port. The Kamo area was an important port with shipping agents facing the bay, whose layout still remains intact today.

Cultural assets that make up the story



9 Mt. Haguro's Sanjin Gosaiden



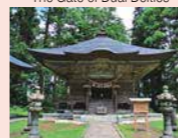
17 Remains of the Kiyokawa Checkpoint



27 The Ancient Road of Dewa Province: Rokujūrigoe Kaidō



2 Mt. Haguro's Zuishin-mon: The Gate of Dual Deities



10 Mt. Haguro Hachiko Shrine



18 Gassan Shrine



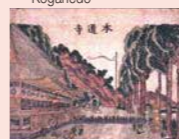
28 Endo Family Former Residence



3 Stone Stairway on Mt. Haguro



11 Mt. Haguro's Shōzen-in Koganedō



20 Happō Nanakuchi: Entrances to Mt. Gassan



29 Niō Gate at Dainichibō Temple



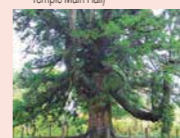
4 Mt. Haguro Japanese Cedar-lined Path



15 Event of Great Torches at Shōreisa



30 Odan-sugi at Dainichibō Temple



31 Chūrenji Temple's Shimekake Cherry



5 Jijisugi: The Grandpa Cedar Tree of Mount Haguro



23 Group of Substitute-Visit Monuments at Hondōji Temple



22 Mt. Yudono Shrine (Former Hondōji Temple)



25 Group of Substitute-Visit Monuments at Dainichiji Temple



6 The Five-Story Pagoda of Mt. Haguro



14 Shōjin-ryōri: Ascetic Cuisine of the Three Mountains of Dewa



24 Mt. Yudono Shrine (Former Dainichiji Temple)



25 Group of Substitute-Visit Monuments at Dainichiji Temple



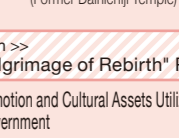
7 Minami-dani: Mt. Haguro's Southern Valley



15 Mineiri at Mt. Haguro



16 Old Haguro Road



16 Old Haguro Road



8 Mt. Haguro Saikan



16 Old Haguro Road



16 Old Haguro Road



16 Old Haguro Road

Certified in 2016!

STORY 01

## A "Pilgrimage of Rebirth" where the bond of nature and faith come alive

~Dewa Sanzan begins with 2,446 stone steps lined with over 300-year-old cedar trees~

In the Haguro Shugendo faith, born against the backdrop of the majestic nature of the three mountains of Dewa located in the center of Yamagata Prefecture, Mt. Haguro is believed to be the mountain of the present that brings blessings to people in the present world. A journey to the three mountains became popular among commoners during the Edo period as a "pilgrimage of rebirth," and with the support of the local community, the bond between nature and faith in the mountains remains alive until now.

The journey begins with a stone staircase lined with cedar trees on Mt. Haguro, which makes visitors feel the spirit and awe of nature and enriches their body and soul, giving them new vigor for tomorrow.

< Local municipalities: Tsuruoka City, Nishikawa Town, Shonai Town >



↑ 1 Mt. Haguro, where rebirth begins. It is said that Prince Hachiko, who opened this area, enshrined a Buddha to protect those living in the present world, and since this mountain was the one closest to villages among the three mountains of Dewa, it is known as "the mountain that represents the present world" for its ability to bring benefits to people in the present world.



↑ 26 Mt. Yudono is the innermost sanctuary of the three mountains of Dewa Sanzan. It is said to be "the mountain that represents the future world." Dainichi Nyorai, the mountain deity who gives birth to all things, is enshrined here. The journey of reincarnation is completed here when a new life is given by the deity from which hot spring water gushes out.

3

The legend of history

# Japan Heritage assets

Tsuruoka City is home to three stories that have been certified as Japan Heritage assets.

Come and experience the rich history and traditions of the mountains (the three mountains of Dewa), the village (Samurai Silk), and the sea (the Kitamae-bune port of call and the shipowners' village).

### About Japan Heritage

The Agency for Cultural Affairs certifies stories that describe Japanese culture and traditions through the historical attractions and characteristics of a region. The purpose of this program is to revitalize local communities by promoting the attraction of tangible and intangible cultural assets, which are indispensable in narrating the stories, both domestically and internationally.



For more information >> Dewa Sanzan "Pilgrimage of Rebirth" Promotion Council

Secretariat: Cultural Promotion and Cultural Assets Utilization Division, Yamagata Prefecture Government  
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[HP] <https://nihonisan-dewasanzan.jp/>



(\*Some images were provided by the Promotion Council)

Access

