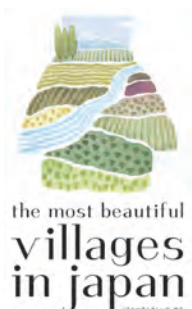


One of the most beautiful unexplored areas in Japan

Soni Village

Tourist guide book

Soni Village is an unexplored area in the tranquil Soni River basin, which exist at the northeastern end of Nara Prefecture next to Mie Prefecture. Welcome to the space where the breathtaking grand nature and the activities of people who protect and hand down such nature are united.



Soni Village declared to be "The most beautiful village in Japan".
It was accepted to become a member of the NPO "The most beautiful villages in Japan" Association in October 2009.



Soni Highland (summer)

Soni Highland is a grassland covered with Japanese pampas grass. The grass is burned in the middle of March every year, and the area becomes like a large fresh-green carpet from spring to summer.



Vous pouvez admirer une splendide prairie dans la journée et un ciel plein d'étoiles le soir.



Mt. Kuroso, one of the 300 noted mountains of Japan

Soni Highland lies on the western foot between Mt. Kuroso and Mt. Kame, which looks like the back of a turtle (kame in Japanese).

100 selected strolls

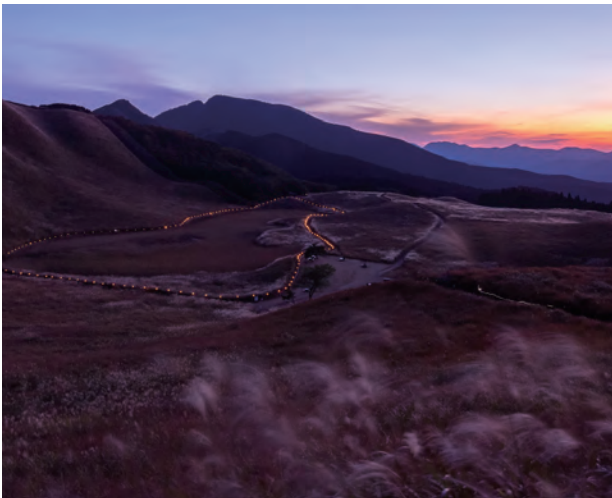
Soni Highland was selected as one of the 100 places people want to visit and stroll in 2002. It was also selected as one of "100 Roads of Hometowns" by Shin Nihon Arukumichi Kiko (New Japan Walkway Travelogue) in 2015.



Soni Highland(autumn)

Silvery and golden Japanese pampas grass glows reflecting sunlight in autumn, and a number of tourists visit this place every year.

*The area is like another world.
Scenery beyond description is waiting to embrace you.*



It is well-known for the most beautiful sunset in Japan.

Japanese pampas grass used to be material for making roofs of private houses in the village, but after tiles roofs became widespread, the use has been abated year by year. Therefore, trees like Japanese cedars were planted in the spring of 1969. However, the residents of the village considered it unfortunate that the splendid scenery was gradually changing to mountains of cedar, etc., and it was decided that Nara Prefecture preserves approx. 40 ha of the grassland of Japanese pampas grass. Since then, the grass covering the area has been burned in March every year in order to suppress growth of plants other than Japanese pampas grass (a perennial plant) and using the ash generated by burning as manure. The Japanese pampas grass of Soni Highland is protected by such efforts of local people.



Burning grass on Soni Highland (mid-March)

The Japanese pampas grass covering the highland withers when winter passes, and when spring comes, fire is set to the highland. Japanese pampas grass grows naturally, but it is said that ratoons do not come out if the grass is burned by humans.

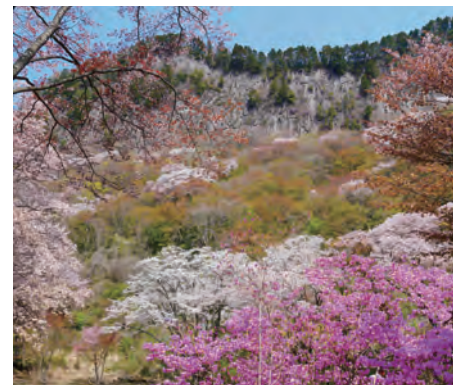
Byobuiwa (spring)

Byobuiwa is surrounded by lovely wild cherry blossoms and various trees and flowers in spring. Along with the extraordinary scenery, such beauty of nature will make your visit unforgettable for sure.



The cherry blossoms of Byobuiwa bloom the latest in the Kansai Region.

There are 300 wild cherry trees which are over 100 years old at the bottom of the rock wall.



Illumination of Byobuiwa (mid-April)

A dreamlike space is created by illumination of Byobuiwa and cherry blossoms in the season when the wild cherry blossoms are in full bloom before a backdrop of the magnificent scenery of a 1.5km-wide rock wall formed with 200-meter-high pillar-like unusually shaped rocks.

Byobuiwa (autumn)

Byobuiwa is decorated with autumnal leaves in the season. The contrast against the rock wall is splendid.



Unusually shaped rocks created by volcanoes scattered in the village

The rocks, which existed deep inside the land about 130 million years to 70 million years ago, became granite and gneiss over a long time by the workings of heat of magma and pressure. They were buried under volcanic ash after fierce volcanic activities that occurred many times near this lake about 13 million years ago. The volcanic activities ceased after a while, and a large area covered with thick rhyolitic tuff lava (rocks formed by grains being welded by heat and weight of a large amount of accumulated volcanic ash while it is still hot) was left in Soni Village. It is considered the land surface eroded continuously, and gradually formed the current magnificent scenery of mountains and valleys including the steeply-rising cliff Byobuiwa, Mt. Kabuto and Mt. Yoroï.



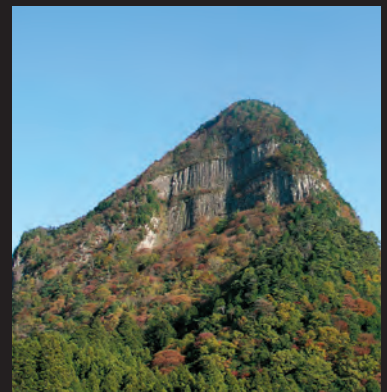
Mt. Kogo
(altitude: 953 m)

Mt. Kogo (altitude: 953 m) has a grand shape of mountain formed with vitreous biotite and quartzite. There is a 360-degree panoramic view and a spectacular sight from the top, and protrusions of unusually shaped rocks present a spectacular sight at the top.



Mt. Yoroï (altitude: 894 m)

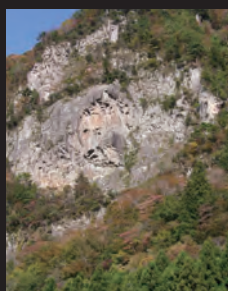
Mt. Yoroï (altitude: 894 m) (another name: Odake), a rocky mountain, was named after its manful looking as if it is in a yoroï (a suit of armor) towering against the sky.



Mt. Kabuto (altitude: 920m)

Mt. Kabuto (altitude: 920m) (another name: Medake) is next to the west side of Mt. Yoroï. It is named after the form of the mountain like a samurai warrior helmet with a hoe-shaped crest.

With improved nature trails to Mt. Yoroï and Mt. Kabuto, the number of hikers who visit here increased, and this area has become a popular hiking course. *Mt. Kabuto and Mt. Yoroï were designated as national natural monuments in December 1934.



Kotaroiwa

Kotaroiwa (altitude: 702 m) provides one of the best autumn leaf sights in Nara Prefecture. It is a range of vertical rock walls of a height of about 200 m. There is a rock called "lion rock" which looks like a lion's face in the middle of the walls.



Shishimai (Lion Dance) of Soni Village

This is an autumn festival held at Kadofusa Shrine, a historic shrine which is said to have existed since the reign of Emperor Yuryaku, about 1,600 years ago.



Shishimai (Lion Dance) (early October)

This is a folk performing art inherited by people since more than 300 years ago, and a famous program "Soni-no-shishimai (Lion Dance of Soni)" is offered to a deity. There is a particular atmosphere when it is performed in the middle of a circle surrounded by lots of visitors.



The birthplace of Japanese lacquer work

The Japanese lacquer work, which is called japan in foreign countries, is a traditional craftwork inherited from a long time ago. The lacquerware shines by coating with sap of lacquer multiple times. Because of its one-of-a-kind methods and values, it may be said that Japanese lacquer work is one of the symbols of Japanese culture.

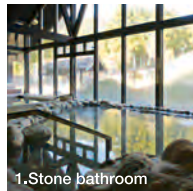
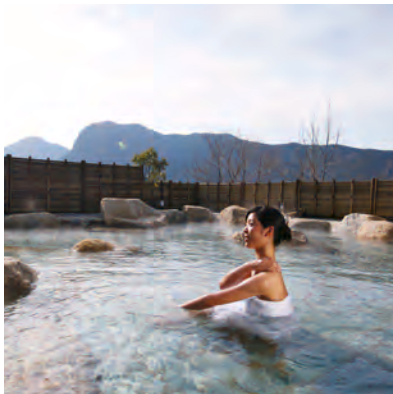


A hot spring, meals and accommodations

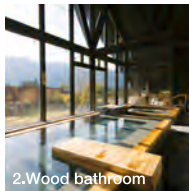
Relaxing in an open-air bath

A hot spring whose spring quality was ranked No.1 in Western Japan

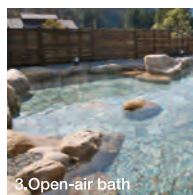
There are two types of bathrooms, "Stone bathroom" and "Wood bathroom". They are provided for male customers or female customers alternately on a weekly basis. Both bathrooms have an open-air bath. There is a panoramic view of Mt. Kabuto and Mt. Yoro from the open-air bath of Wood bathroom, and Soni Highland from the open-air bath of Stone bathroom. The spring quality is sodium-hydrogencarbonate, which makes the skin moist. The spring of beauty receives high reputation from the customers. You can also eat local cuisine of Soni Village inside the building.



1.Stone bathroom



2.Wood bathroom



3.Open-air bath



4.Restaurant

1.Stone bathroom : Enjoy the natural hot spring in rural beauty and tasteful stone baths. There is a view of Soni Highland from the open-air bath. 2.Wood bathroom : Gentleness and warmth of wood are felt in this bathroom. There is a panoramic view of Soni mountains from the open-air bath. 3.Open-air bath : Panoramic-view bath where you can enjoy the nature of Soni like Mt. Yoro and Mt. Kabuto 4.Restaurant : Relax and enjoy dining after taking a hot spring bath.

Soni Highland Hot Spring Okame-no-yu

Open:April to November 11:00 - 21:00 (Reception is closed at 20:00.)
December to March 11:00 - 20:30 (Reception is closed at 19:30.)
Closed:Wednesday (Open if Wednesday is a national holiday, and closed on the next day.), year-end and New Year holidays
830, Taroji, Oaza, Soni-mura, Uda-gun, Nara 633-1202
0745-98-2615
<http://www.soni-kogen.com/okame.html>

The only craft beer in Nara Prefecture Fresh local beer containing yeast

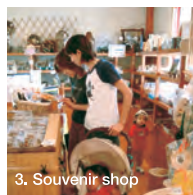
"Soni Farm Garden" located at the entrance of Soni Highland has two facilities. Convenient for stopping by after strolling Soni Highland. "Susuki-no-yakata" is a restaurant where you can enjoy the richness of tasting food using locally-grown fresh vegetables in a beautiful setting of Soni. "Soni Kogen Beer" is produced everyday at "Mugi-no-yakata" according to the method directly transmitted from a brew master from a home of beer Germany.



1. Mugi-no-yakata



2. Susuki-no-yakata



3. Souvenir shop

Soni Highland Farm Garden

Open: 10:00 - 18:00 (Changes according to the season)
Closed:Wednesday (Open if Wednesday is a national holiday, and closed on the next day.), year-end and New Year holidays
839, Taroji, Oaza, Soni-mura, Uda-gun, Nara 633-1202
0745-96-2888
URL:<http://www.soni-kogen.com-susuki.html>

Have relaxed time among the nature of Soni.

Sun Village Soni opened at the base of Mt. Kabuto, a natural monument designated by the government, is an auto camping site surrounded by beautiful nature and green. A cottage in the cottage site (for 5 people, 1bedroom, 9 cottages) is equipped with a kitchen, TV, beds, air conditioners, a terrace kitchen, etc. Other accommodations and facilities are the bungalow site (for 4-8 people, 4 bungalows), the auto camping site (26 lots), the outdoor athletic zone, tennis courts, hot showers, coin-operated washers, bathrooms, the all-weather barbecue site, etc.



There is a sweeping view of Soni Village from the cottage. You can stay comfortably in a room with a sense of openness.

Okukochi Auto Camping Site Sun Village Soni

911-1, Imai, Oaza, Soni-mura, Uda-gun, Nara 633-1212
0745-94-2619 Reservation accepted 10:00 - 17:00. *Reservation only by phone.
<http://www.soni-kogen.com/sun.html>

Access

About 90 minutes from within Nara City or Ise, and about 2 hours from Kyoto and Osaka. An easily-reached, one of the best high land resorts.

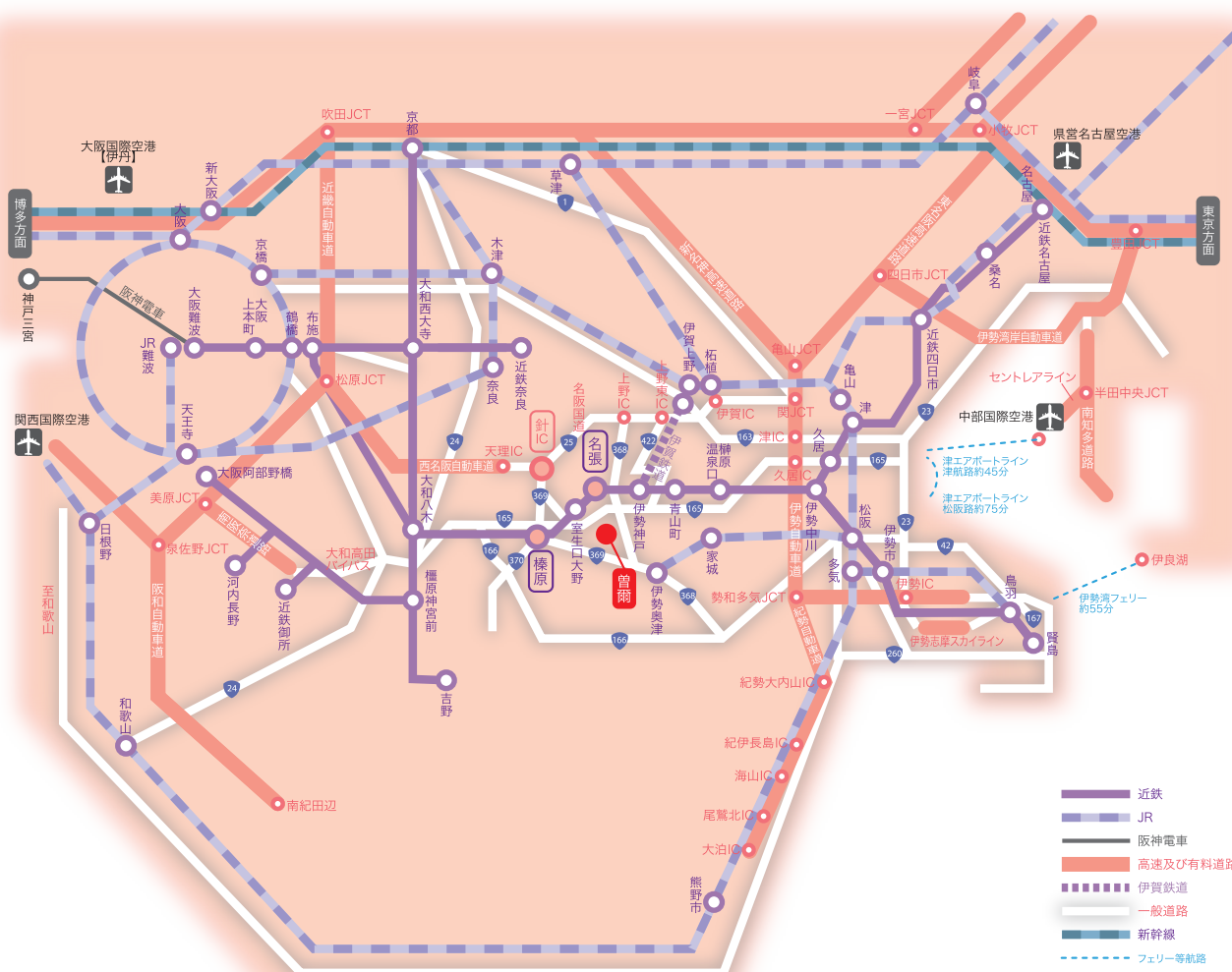
By Kintetsu Railway

*The time varies depending on the train you take.

Kintetsu Nagoya	About 90 minutes by Kintetsu limited express. Change at Ise-nakagawa.	Nabari	About 45 minutes by bus	Soni Village
Kintetsu Namba	About 60 minutes by Kintetsu limited express, Kintetsu Osaka Line	Nabari	About 45 minutes by bus	Soni Village
Kintetsu Namba	About 45 minutes by Kintetsu limited express, Kintetsu Osaka Line	Haibara	About 60 minutes by bus	Soni Village
Kyoto	About 80 minutes by Kintetsu limited express. Change at Yamato-yagi.	Nabari	About 45 minutes by bus	Soni Village
Kyoto	About 65 minutes by Kintetsu limited express. Change at Yamato-yagi.	Haibara	About 60 minutes by bus	Soni Village

By car

About 2 hours from Osaka by taking Hanshin Expressway Matsubara Line, Nishimeihan Expressway, Meihan National Highway, getting off at the "Hari" interchange exit and taking Route 369.
About 2 hours and 40 minutes from Nagoya by taking Higashimeihan Expressway, Meihan Expressway, getting off at the "Ueno" interchange exit and taking Route 368.



Soni Village, Soni Tourism Association

Adresse : 495-1, Imai, Oaza, Soni-mura, Uda-gun, Nara 633-1212
Tel : 0745-94-2106 Fax : 0745-96-2066
Email : kanko@vill.soni.lg.jp
URL Soni Village : <http://www.vill.soni.nara.jp/forms/top/top.aspx>
URL Soni Tourism Association : <http://sonimura.com/>

Soni Tourism Promotion Public Corporation

Adresse : 513-8, Imai, Oaza, Soni-mura, Uda-gun, Nara 633-1212
Tel/Fax : 0745-96-2888
Email : info@soni-kogen.com
URL : <http://www.soni-kogen.com>