

Introducing myself Ilse Coenen

Ilse is living in Toyota City with her husband since October 2011.

They are both Belgian and lived in Belgium before moving to Japan, where Ilse worked as a preschool teacher. We like to spend time for cooking and discovering Japan.



Traveler's Testimonial

If you want to escape from the big modern city and you want to visit a historic village, then Asuke is the place to be. Asuke offers everything that you need: a nice view, traditional Japanese houses, shops and shrines. And all of this is surrounded by beautiful nature. In the Autumn season you can enjoy the colouring of the leaves. You can explore Asuke by your own. Every street or place will surprise you. You can visit Asuke with the whole family.

Information

Asuke hosts a number of events all year round. Pay a visit to Asuke in each season to enjoy the town to its fullest!!

Hina Dolls of Chuma from early Feb. to early Mar., 9a.m.-4p.m.

More than 100 private houses display their own hina dolls at their entrances. This seasonal event is held as part of the Girls' Festival in Asuke. Visitors can enjoy seeing the lovely kimono-clad hina dolls and traditional earthenware dolls at houses throughout the village. (Display times vary at each house.)

Asuke Spring Festival early April

The festival of Asuke Shrine. Ornate floats decorated with flowers lead a procession through the town. Young girls beat drums and sing to the accompaniment of flutes.

Tankororin from early Aug. to mid Aug.

Candles burning inside bamboo cages (tankororin) are on display throughout the town in the evening.

Colored Maple Festival in Korankei Gorge (香嵐溪) Nov. 1-30

Korankei Gorge is famous for its beautiful colored autumn leaves. The illuminated night view is particularly popular with visitors. There are a wide range of food stalls as well as opportunities to participate in tea ceremonies.

Old Farmhouse at "Sanshu Asuke Yashiki" (三州足助屋敷)

There is a reconstructed old farmhouse with a thatched roof and big beams. You can try your hand at various Japanese handicrafts such as papermaking, charcoal making and straw crafts. Admission: Adults 300 yen. Children 100 yen (ages 18 and under). Closed Thursdays, year-end and New-Year holidays, and the third Wed. of June.

How to travel to Asuke

◆ By bus

Take the bus bound for 足助 "Asuke" from the bus stop No.1 at 豊田市駅 "Toyota-shi Station" bus terminal (in front of the Meitetsu train station on the side of the Meitetsu Hotel). Get off at 香嵐溪 "Korankei" (800 yen, 400 yen/child) Approx. 45 min. Please allow plenty of time during the autumn leaves season.

Bus timetable to 香嵐溪 (Korankei)

Weekdays	6:43, 7:18, 8:35, 9:40,
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Sat. & Sun.	7:18, 9:40, *10:40, 11:40
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Bus timetable to 豊田市 (Toyota-shi)

Weekdays	16:43, 17:43, 18:43, 19:38, 20:43, 21:43
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Sat. & Sun.	12:43, *14:43, 16:43, 17:43, 18:43, 19:43, 21:43
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* Service available only during the autumn leaves season

◆ By train and bus

1. Take the Meitetsu Mikawa Line from 豊田市 "Toyota-shi" to 猿投 "Sanage" (220 yen, leaves every 15 mins).
2. Take the Toyota Oiden bus from 猿投 "Sanage" to 香嵐溪 "Korankei" (600 yen). Bus service available at 45 minutes past every hour from 8:45 to 21:45.

Return trip from 香嵐溪 "Korankei"

Bus service available at 41 minutes past every hour from 7:41 to 20:41. (Bus timetable applies both weekdays and weekends)

This information dates from April 2011.

Please confirm the bus timetable at the bus stop or at TIA(0565-33-5931)

Gohei-mochi (五平餅)

Gohei-mochi is a local dish often sold in Asuke. It is a skewered flat rice dumpling covered with sweet soy-sauce mixed with ground sesame seeds or nuts. It is served grilled over a charcoal fire. It has a unique and authentic Japanese flavor. There are several Gohei-mochi shops in town, so while you are walking, you can visit one of the shops. Gohei-mochi shops all have a sign or flag with "五平餅" written in Chinese characters. You can even find Gohei-mochi shops just in front of the bus stop for your return trip.



ENJOY TOYOTA Travelers' Guide

HANGING OUT IN ASUKE



When you want to get in touch with the real culture of Japan, then you have to visit Asuke. Asuke is a nice mix of old traditional houses, tradition, nice food and beautiful nature. Asuke is one of the best places to see the autumn leaves. You can go exploring the area for a whole day. Asuke is a lively village!

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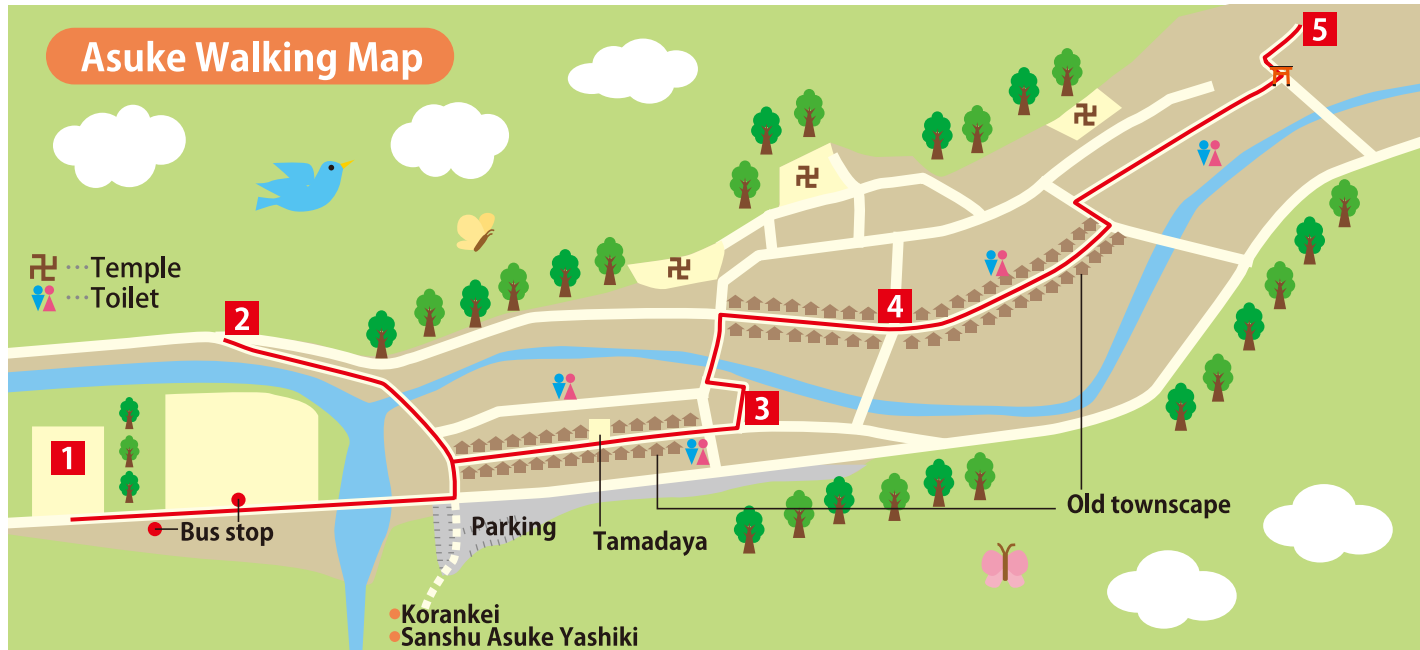
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Recommended course in Asuke town



This is a recommended 120-minute walking course. If you have a plenty of time, a visit to Korankei Gorge (香嵐溪) and Sanshu Asuke Yashiki (三州足助屋敷) will allow you to enjoy the town even more!



1 Asuke Hachimangu Shrine



It is said that Asuke Hachimangu shrine was first established about 1300 years ago. The main shrine

was rebuilt in 1466 and has been designated as an Important Cultural Property. The kanji characters for Asuke (足助) mean "to help the feet (or leg)". It is believed that if people pray at this shrine, their injured feet will be healed or their feet will be protected throughout their journey. That is why a sculpture of a sandal can be found in the precinct.

2 Bato Kannon



guardian of horses. The statue was erected by the carriage guild of Asuke in the early 20th century.

Bato Kannon are representations of a Buddhist deity with a horse's head (bato) on the crown. This particular statue, situated at a roadside watering place for horses, is in the typical style with three heads and eight arms. Bato Kannon is often worshiped as the

3 Guidepost



back to the year 1845 is engraved with the directions "Horaiji (temple) to the right and Zenkoji (temple) to the left".

At the crossroad of the old highway (Chuma Kaido), a guidepost dating

4 Manrin Koji



times changed, the kimono shop was converted into a bookstore, and the alley was offered to Asuke Town for public use. Now, Manrin Alley is famous in its own right.

This narrow alley with all the charm of bygone days used to be part of the private land of the Manrin Kimono Shop. "Manrin" is the shortened form of the owner's name. This well-known shop has a history dating about 100 years. As

5 Okama Inari Shrine



rice-cooker which never became empty no matter how much rice people ate from it. It is believed that the man was Heihachi Inari, a deity who resided in this area. For this reason, a huge rice cooker made of iron is enshrined here.

Built in the 17th century, this shrine has its origin in a folktale of the 14th century. According to the folktale, once upon a time, an old man had a

Chuma Kaido Highway (中馬街道)

"Chuma" (中馬) was a freight transportation system which was started by farmers in Shinshu Province (today's Nagano) in the 17th century to transport salt from Asuke to the mountainous Shinshu on horseback. In those days, salt produced in Mikawa Bay was carried by river to Asuke and was repacked to be carried on horseback via Ina Highway, also known as Chuma Highway. Asuke prospered as the relay point in this trade. The Chuma system was also used to transport products such as rice and cigarettes from Shinshu to Mikawa.

The townscape of Asuke

The great charm of Asuke Town is perhaps best seen in the rows of houses which line its main streets, providing a glimpse of life in the old town which was once prosperous as a lodging district along the Ina and the Iida Highways. Strolling amongst the houses built in the "Hirairi" or "Tsumairi" traditional architectural styles, you will come across the beautiful Manrin Koji. As you discover its old warehouses, you may feel the warm and nostalgic atmosphere that prevails there. The historic townscape of Asuke was the first to be designated as a Preservation District for Groups of Historic Buildings in Aichi Prefecture.



Old townscape



Tamadaya (Old Inn)