



Welcome!
UTSUNOMIYA
宇都宮

**Feelin'
casual!**



Welcome!
UTSUNOMIYA
宇都宮

**Feelin'
casual!**

Very close to
TOKYO
Only 50minutes by
SHINKANSEN.

Very convenient
to **NIKKO** and
other locations...
Utsunomiya is
your gateway to Tochigi



How to go to UTSUNOMIYA?

Access Guide

Train

From Tokyo : Take JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line at Tokyo or Ueno Station. Or take JR Utsunomiya Line (Tohoku-honsen Line) from Ueno Station. From Asakusa, take Tobu line to Utsunomiya.

- Tokyo-Utsunomiya/JR Tohoku Shinkansen 50min.
- Ueno-Utsunomiya/JR Utsunomiya Line by Rapid train "Rabbit" 1hour 25min.
- Asakusa-Utsunomiya/Tobu Nikko Line / Change at Shin-Tochigi to Tobu Utsunomiya Line 1hour 40min.

From other prefectures:

- Sendai-Utsunomiya/JR Tohoku Shinkansen 1hour 20min.
- Niigata-Utsunomiya/JR Joetsu Shinkansen/ Change at Omiya to Tohoku Shinkansen 3hours

Car

From Tokyo to Downtown : Take the Tohoku Expressway to Kanuma I.C. From Sendai to Downtown: Take the Tohoku expressway to Utsunomiya I.C. Choose the I.C. that is most convenient for you.

Highway:

- Tokyo-Utsunomiya/Tohoku Expressway 130km
- Sendai-Utsunomiya/Tohoku Expressway 230km
- Niigata-Utsunomiya/Bantetsu Expressway via Koriyama I.C. to the Tohoku Expressway 255km

Highway Bus:

- Narita-Utsunomiya/10 buses a day/By Maronie-go(Kanto Bus) 3hours
- Osaka-Utsunomiya/1 night-bus/By Tochinoki-go(Kanto Bus) 8hours

1 Utsunomiya → Nikko



Nikko, where both Japanese and international travelers visit, is an international sightseeing spot with many exciting spots to see. From Utsunomiya, you can enjoy passing through Cherry blossom tunnels or a row of cedar trees on Nikko Highway.

2 Utsunomiya → Kinugawa



Kinugawa and Kawaji are famous places to enjoy Onsen and looking beautiful ravines. Yunishigawa, Kawamata, and Okukinu used to be hiding place for the exiled warriors of the Heike clan, and you can also see the untouched natural surroundings that have been preserved in these areas.

3 Utsunomiya → Nasu-Shiobara



Nasu has recreational facilities and museums. There is a resort in the highlands. And Shiobara is a famous place where you can see beautiful ravines. Many literary men and artists have visited there since the Meiji Era.

4 Utsunomiya → Tochigi-Ashikaga

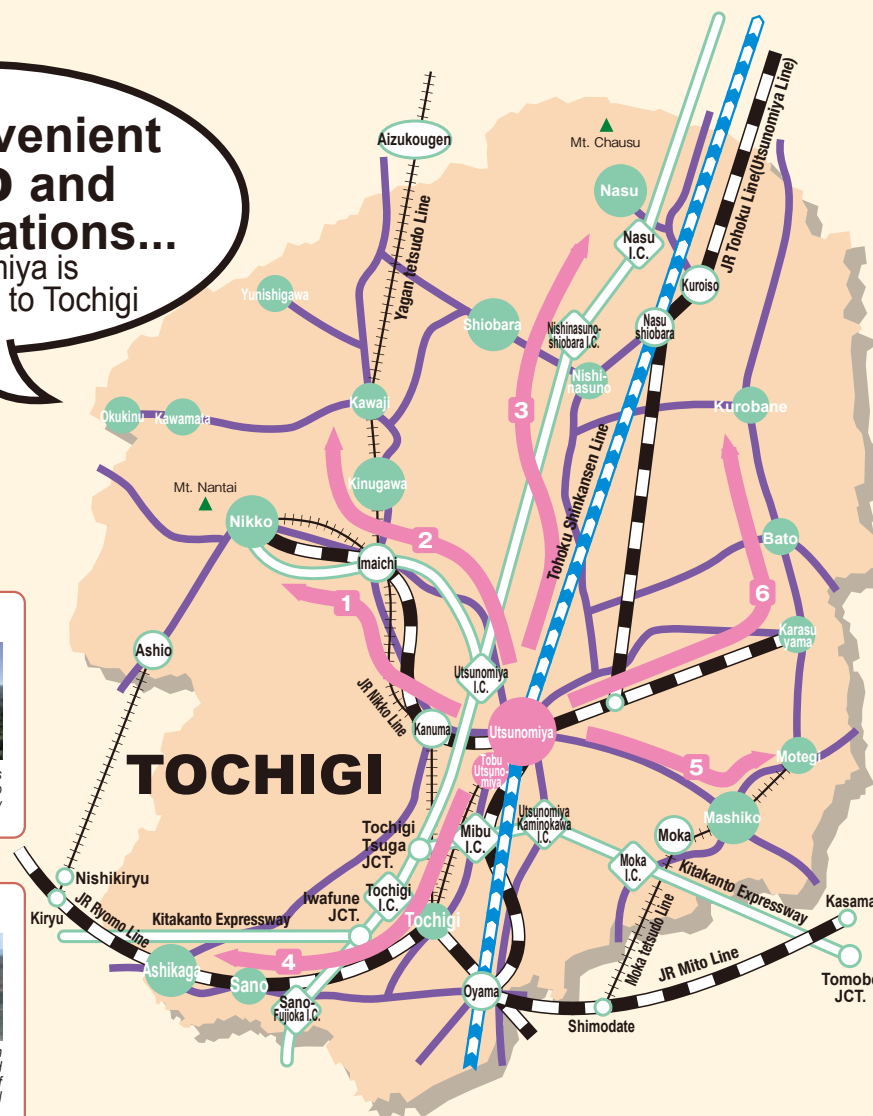


Tochigi, a town of warehouses, and Ashikaga, which has the oldest school in Japan, have as many historical sights as Nikko. Sano is famous for its ramen.

5 Utsunomiya → Mashiko-Motegi



Mashiko is a famous place for ceramic art. If you like cars, you should go to see "Twin-Rink Motegi." The SL nicknamed "Cotton Way" runs the Moka railroad.



Access Guide

●Utsunomiya~Nikko

Train/Change at Utsunomiya to JR Nikko Line 45 min and get off at Nikko station. Or, take the Kanto bus bound for Nikko Toshogu Shrine from JR Utsunomiya station 90 min.

●Utsunomiya~Kinugawa

Bus/Take Kanto Bus bound for Kinugawa from JR Utsunomiya station 90min and then take the bus bound for Kawajonsen 20 min.

●Utsunomiya~Nasu

Train/JR Utsunomiya to Kuroiso station 50 min and then take Toya Bus 30-60 min.

●Utsunomiya~Tochigi

Train/Take Tobu Utsunomiya Line from Tobu Utsunomiya station 35 min and get off at Tochigi station.

●Utsunomiya~Mashiko

Bus/Take JR Utsunomiya station west exit and 2-minute walk to Miyanohashi Bus stop. And then take the Toya bus bound for Mashiko 60 min.



Enjoy Nature!!

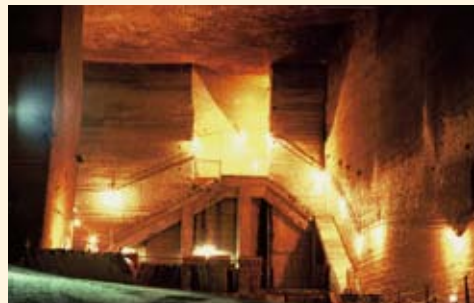
Stone Village “OYA”

石の里“大谷” (Ishi no sato “Oya”) **MAP P10- ②~④**

Oya stone is useful. In geological terms, Oya stone was formed by the explosion of a volcano about 20 million years ago. Oya stone is either white or light green in its natural state. Its soft, warm quality makes it easy to work with and looks different compared to average stone.

Strange shape You will be impressed with the view. Here is a Stone Wonder Land!! The view from Oya Keikan Park is fantastic.

Big space This place shows the mining history of Utsunomiya. The total volume of mining space is about 20,000 square meters, extending a full 60 meters below ground level. The air is a cool 13°C throughout the year.



How tall!! 27m!! The symbol of the home of stone is the gigantic Heiwa Kannon Statue. In 1948, this statue was created as a memorial to those who had died in World War II. It took 6 years to finish. It's amazing that it was carved only by hand.

The oldest carved Buddhist reliefs in Japan-Oya

Kannon Kukai founded Oyaji Temple in 810. The main building is in the entranceway to a cave on sheer rock. The reliefs are referred to as Oya Magai-butsu, and are designated as Special Historical Sites and Important Cultural Properties



•How to get there:From JR Utsunomiya station west exit 8th track.Take the

Oya Shiryokan

•Open:9:00~16:30 •Closed:the end of the year & the beginning of the year •Admission:Adult:¥600, Under Junior high:¥300 •Parking:Free •Contact:Tel028-652-1232 Utsunomiya-shi Oya-machi 909

Oya Kannon

•Open:8:30~17:00(April~Oct.),9:00~16:30(Nov.~Mar.), (Jan.~Mar. 2nd, 4th Thursdays, 12/19~31) •Admission:Adult:¥300, Junior High School Students:¥100, Elementary School Students:¥70 •Contact:Tel028-652-0128 Utsunomiya-shi Oya-machi 1198 Oya-ji.

The Utsunomiya Agricultural Park “ROMANTIC-MURA”

ろまんちっく村 (Romantic Mura)

MAP P10- ①



Romatic Onsen House

The onsen house provides a relaxing and healthy atmosphere for visitors and uses a natural hot spring that. You can enjoy nature in an open-air bath and also be satisfied in an indoor bath with the full aroma of Japanese

cypress. Both baths' hot water is alkaline and good for your skin. Also, there are many facilities, like a 25 meter swimming pool, wet or dry sauna, and an outdoor pool.(Swimming suits needed. Rental available.)

Utsunomiya local beer You should try the first local beer of Utsunomiya. The Romantic Brewery makes beer with local barley. You can enjoy hand made pizza and grilled food with fresh beer. Having lunch on the terrace so you can enjoy the breeze is also a good idea.

Going to shiny Rose Garden There are many sections such as the flower hall, green house, and vegetable factory, where you can see orchards, many varieties of flowers, and plants. You will also learn about agriculture for the future.

Shiki no Mori, Tsuru no Sato, Herb Farm Kuraingaruden (Residential Garden) Don't miss the lavender festival in June.



•How to get there:From JR Utsunomiya station west exit 8th track. Take the local bus bound for “Romantic-Mura” 40min

•Open:9:00~17:00(3/21~10/31),9:30~16:00(11/1~3/20) •Closed:2nd Tuesdays every month •Admission:Free(Except for special facilities in the yard) •Parking:Free.1,100 spaces available •Contact:Tel028-665-8800 Utsunomiya-shi Niisato-machi Otsu 254



Commune with Art!!

TOCHIGI PREFECTURAL MUSEUM OF FINE ART

栃木県立美術館 (Tochigi kenritsu bijutsukan) **MAP P10-⑥**

This museum exhibits landscapes, Western paintings like Turner and Constable, Japanese paintings, prints and crafts. Some work is related to Tochigi and artists who are from Tochigi. There is also much modern art from all over the world.

•How to get there:From JR Utsunomiya station, take the Kanto bus bound for Sakushin-gakuin Komanyu 15min. Get off at Sakuradori-Ju-monji •Open:9:30~17:00 •Closed:Mondays, days after national holidays, New Years holidays •Contact:Tel028-621-3566 Utsunomiya-shi Sakura 4-2-7



UTSUNOMIYA MUSEUM OF ART

宇都宮美術館 (Utsunomiya bijutsukan)

MAP P10- ⑤



It's located in Utsunomiya Bunka no Mori, and it is a good place to see changes in the seasons. The museum exhibits 20th century art like Magritte and Chagall, and also show posters and furniture made in Western countries.

Museum Shop You can buy crafts, post cards and stationary here. This shop also has high quality accessories and living goods, which have a natural theme.



Restaurant This restaurant is located in an Oak grove. Through the windows, you can see green areas, sky and clouds.... What a nice view!!

Taste Italian food and wine and have a good time!



•How to get there:From JR Utsunomiya station west exit 5th track, take the bus bound for Utsunomiya Museum of art 25 min •Open:9:30~17:00 •Closed:Mondays, days after national holidays, New Years holidays •Admission:Adult:¥310 Students:¥210, under Junior High:¥100(Special exhibition:another fee) •Parking:Free. 200 spaces available •Contact:Tel028-643-0100 Utsunomiya-shi Nagaoka-cho 1077

TOCHIGI PREFECTURAL MUSEUM

栃木県立博物館

(Tochigi Kenritsu hakubutsukan)

MAP P10- ⑧

It's located in Prefectural Central Park. This museum uses models of plants in the Nikko district to understand nature easily.

They have exhibitions showing the history, animals and plants of Tochigi.

•How to get there:From JR Utsunomiya station, take the Kanto bus bound for Tsuruta via Sakuradori, or Nishikawada via Sakuradori 20 min. Get off at Chuo Koen Hakubutsukan-mae •Open:9:30~17:00

•Closed:Mondays, days after national holidays, New Years holidays •Contact:Tel028-634-1311 Utsunomiya-shi Mutsumi-cho 2-2





Explore Historic sites.

FUTAARAYAMA SHRINE

二荒山神社 (Futaarayama jinja)

MAP P9-A



This is a good place for you to start in order to get acquainted with the history of Utsunomiya. The City of Utsunomiya has grown and prospered around Futaarayama Woods,

and Futaarayama Shrine has been the spiritual center of the daily life of the citizens of Utsunomiya to date. People visit and pray on occasions like New Year's Day and Shichigosan(the gala day for children of three, five and seven years of age). Students go there to ask for help in their entrance examinations. The Shrine was erected about 1,600 years ago to the spirit of Toyokiirihikonmikoto, the founder of Utsunomiya. It used to be called Shimotsuke-ichinomiya, from which, some argue, the name of the city, Utsunomiya had been derived. The treasures of the Shrine, iron guardian dogs and a helmet have been designated as national important artifacts. The Shrine is beautifully illuminated at night.

►Tennou Festival is held from July 15th to 20th The festival of Suga Shrine located in the compound of Futaarayama Shrine is held annually in July. The highlight is the happy meeting of Parent Mikoshi(portable shrine) and Mikoshi Children. Don't miss the exciting sight of Mikoshis representing each town running up the stairs leading to the Shrine all at once after being carried gaily around the City.



►Kikusui Festival is held on the last Saturday and Sunday of October This is the main festival of Futaarayama Shrine. The image of the god of Futaarayama Shrine, Toyokiirihikonmikoto, is set on a Houren(A kind of Mikoshi), and carried around the City of Utsunomiya.

•How to get there:From JR Utsunomiya station, take the Kanto Bus headed for Sakurashin-gakuin komanyu or to Tomatsuri via Kiyosumi and after about 5 min Get off at Babacho Futaarayama Shrine-mae •Open:5:00~21:00 •Contact:Tel028-622-5271 Utsunomiya-shi Baba-dori 1-1-1

Country's Important cultural assets

FORMER SHINOHARA FAMILY RESIDENCE

旧篠原家住宅 (Kyu shinoharake jutaku)

MAP P9-8

This is the former residence of one of the old and respectable families of Utsunomiya, the Shinoharas whose history dating way back into the Edo Era, where you can enjoy the atmosphere of good old days of the Meiji Era. The main house and the storehouse made of stone, built in 1895, will give you some idea about the life of wealthy merchants at that time. The outer walls made with black mortar and Oya stone(locally produced tuff), the lattice work decorating the storefront which characterized merchant houses in those days are worth seeing. It is conveniently located near Utsunomiya Station and has been designated as national important cultural property.



•How to get there:3 minutes' walk from the west exit of JR Utsunomiya station •Open:9:00~16:30(11/1~3/31, to 16:00) •Closed:Mondays, days after national holidays, New years Holidays •Admission:Adult:¥100, under Junior High:¥50 •Contact:Tel028-624-2200 Utsunomiya-shi Imai-zumi 1-4-33



BRONZE STATUE of BUDDHA of THREE SOYBEANS

大豆三粒の金仏 (Daizu santsubu no kanabutsu)

MAP P9-C

Built in 1735, this great statue of Buddha is popular because it is believed to help you accumulate wealth. Sitting in the compound of Zenganji Temple, this 3.6m high statue is called the Buddha Statue of Tree Soybeans. The folklore says that many long years ago, when the believers were at a loss how to raise enough money to erect a statue of Buddha, one traveling priest donated 3 soybeans and suggested to grow them and the money for the statue would be raised dome day, and sure enough the statue was built just as the priest predicted. Why don't you visit this popular statue of Buddha and ask a blessing? Designated municipal cultural property.

•How to get there:8 minutes' walk from the west exit of JR Utsunomiya Station •Contact:Tel028-634-7717 Utsunomiya-shi Minami-odori 1-8-19 Zenganji

THE BIG GINKGO

大いちょう (Ooichou)

MAP P9-D

A precious natural product of Utsunomiya City. This marvelous tree related to the ruins of the castle of Utsunomiya is 400 years old and has been a loyal witness of the long history of Utsunomiya. It is 33m high and its branches spread out 10m eastward and westward and 13m southward and northward, being the welldeserved symbol of Utsunomiya City.

•How to get there:From JR Utsunomiya Station, take Kanto Bus headed for Sakushin-gakuin komanyu or to Tomatsuri via Kiyosumi and after about 6 minutes' ride get off at Kencho-mae. 6 minutes' walk from the bus stop.



Just stroll and Enjoy...

Country's Registered cultural assets

St. JOHN CHURCH

聖ヨハネ教会 (St. John kyokai)

MAP P10-⑦



Ingenuously beautiful church with the use of Oya stone Both the bell tower and the chapel are made of Oya stone, which give them the beauty of simplicity. The interior is decorated with exposed logs and their natural curves are creating a space suitable for a chapel. Built in 1933. Registered national cultural property.

•How to get there:From JR Utsunomiya Station, take Kanto Bus headed for Sakushin-gakuin komanyu and get off at Sakuradori-jumonji. 3 minutes' walk from the bus stop. •Contact:Tel028-622-3853 Utsunomiya-shi Sakura 2-3-27

HACHIMANYAMA PARK

八幡山公園

(Hachimanyama koen)

MAP P9-F

Famous for its beautiful flowers. Utsunomiya Tower and The Suspension Bridge are located inside this park. The park used



to be a privately owned garden that had been made in 1906. Inside this vast park with natural ups and downs are about 700 cherry trees and about 2,300 azaleas of about 30 varieties. People flock to the park during the season. You can take an extensive view of Utsunomiya City with Nikko and Nasu Mountains as a background when you go up the Utsunomiya Tower standing at the center of the park. Enjoy riding go-carts and visiting small animal's zoo, and don't forget to challenge the 1.5m wide and 150m long Suspension Bridge.

•How to get there:From JR Utsunomiya Station, take Kanto Bus headed for Sakushin-gakuin komanyu or to Tomatsuri via Kiyosumi and after about 6 minutes' ride get off at Kencho-mae. 15 minutes' walk from the bus stop. •Contact:Tel028-622-6002 Utsunomiya-shi Hanawada 5-2-70

HORSE CHESTNUT STREET

マロニエの並木道 ("Marronnier" no namikimichi) MAP P9-G

An invitingly beautiful street flanked on both sides by horse chestnut trees. The tree is designated as the tree of Tochigi Prefecture, as tochigi means a horse chestnut tree in Japanese. They were planted in 1939 and counting 62 at present. The brightly shining green leaves and lovely pink and white flowers decorate Utsunomiya in early summer and when the autumn comes the trees bear nuts. This scenic street with an atmosphere of some European street is a good place to go for a leisurely stroll.





How
Delicious!!

GYOZA IN UTSUNOMIYA



宇都宮の餃子
Utsunomiya is famous for gyoza. Gyoza is a Chinese food. Minced pork, finely chopped Chinese cabbage, leek, and garlic is mixed and wrapped in a soft, thin round shell made from flour and water. It is either boiled or fried. There are many gyoza lovers, gyoza specialty stores and of course lots of delicious gyoza in Utsunomiya. But why?

Reason #1: The climate The summer is hot and the winter is cold in Utsunomiya, as it is located inland. You need a lot of stamina to overcome this severe climate, and gyoza is a food that gives you stamina. It is a food culture born from the climate of Utsunomiya.

Reason #2: There used to be an army post in Utsunomiya, and the No.14 Division of the Japanese Imperial Army stayed there. Gyoza was originated in the north eastern region of China, where the No.14 Division stayed during World War II. Rumor has it that they came to love gyoza during their stay in China, and when they came back home, they let the people of Utsunomiya know about the good taste of gyoza.

30 speciality stores! So many! You can say Utsunomiya is a city of gyoza, as there are as many as 30 specialty gyoza stores! There are many ways of cooking, and you can enjoy boiled or fried gyoza. There are a wide variety of ingredients, too. There is even a full course dinner of gyoza. As it is low in price as well as delicious, it is popular among the young and old alike. People quite often enjoy gyoza in Utsunomiya. You can reasonably say that gyoza is the fast food of Utsunomiya.

It is only natural that you will find a statue of gyoza just outside of the eastern entrance of JR Utsunomiya Station. It is a statue of Venus wrapped in Gyoza, which may give you a mysterious feeling. As the statue is carved out of Oya stone, it is sure that you are looking at a very unique statue!



cocktail & gyoza in UTSUNOMIYA

カクテルと餃子の街宇都宮

COCKTAIL IN UTSUNOMIYA

宇都宮のカクテル

Enjoy a world of cocktails They say there are about 3,000 to 5,000 cocktail recipes. There are so many that nobody bothers to count. Try to find your favorite kind of cocktail, as you would try to find your type of lover, from among the countless cocktails. Once you find your favorite, indulge yourself in the colorful world of cocktails.



Many ace bartenders As there are so many shot bars in Utsunomiya, competition is intense among bartenders. They

try their best to be number one as a pro night and day, which raises the standards of saloons in Utsunomiya. Cocktails in Utsunomiya are famous in the industry and among enthusiasts. There are 17 first prize winners, and many other prizewinners of national contests working in Utsunomiya. 6 bartenders of Utsunomiya have competed in world championships as representatives from Japan and have won medals, which is a very convincing fact that explains the large number of ace bartenders here. Short, long, hot, and tropical. From standard to original recipe, enjoy a wide range of choices and conversation with your bartender. Utsunomiya's night of cocktails really is worth visiting.



How about taking
some home?

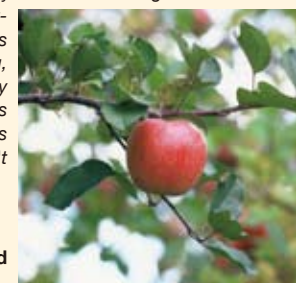
SPECIAL PRODUCTS

特産品 (Tokusanhin)

As you know, orchids are elegantly beautiful. Utsunomiya is the number one production center of orchids in Tochigi Prefecture. There is a huge variety of orchids: Phalaenopsis, Cymbidium, and Cattleya, to name just a few.

Sweet, delicious strawberries shining bright red. Tochigi Prefecture is the number one producer of strawberries in Japan. We recommend our original brands, Nyoho and Tochiotome to satisfy your taste.

Why are Utsunomiya apples so tasty? To find the answer, why don't you drop by one of the fruit gardens for sightseers when you visit Utsunomiya? Utsunomiya apples are excellently sweet. Tsugaru, Orin, and Fuji - there are many kinds of apples to enjoy. And as you know, an apple a day keeps the doctor away, so why don't you have some?



Very nutritious dried gourd shavings (Kanpyo)

Dried gourd shavings contains lots of dietary fiber, iron, phosphorus, and calcium. For example, it contains 3 times as much calcium as milk, and accordingly it is good to eat before and after childbirth, and for those with high blood pressure. Tochigi Prefecture is producing 90% of the dried gourd shavings produced in Japan.



CONFECTIONERIES – JAPANESE and WESTERN

宇都宮の和洋菓子 (Utsunomiya no wayougashi)

Tasty and versatile confectioneries are found in Utsunomiya. As there are so many kinds, they are sure to pose a hard choice.

JAPANESE RICE WINE “SAKE”

宇都宮の酒 (Sake in Utsunomiya)

High quality water and rice make Utsunomiya's local sake. Utsunomiya has quality water running from Nasu and Nikko Mountains flowing into the Kanto Plain. Rice grown in good soil with quality water and good care and local people working with passion and love are the secrets of the high quality sake of Utsunomiya.



special foods & products of UTSUNOMIYA

宇都宮のおみやげ

SOUVENIRS

民芸品 (Mingeihin)

Mamedaiko (Miniature drum) Mamedaiko are made of Japanese paper and soy beans and are treasured as a good-luck charms for success in business. To work mame means to work hard in Japan, and naturally a hard worker is very likely to succeed in business, which is how Mamedaiko became a charm. It is said that its shape was modeled after the drum used in a ritual prayer for rain.



Yellow crucian carp is for good health. A folk tale says that a long time ago when there was an outbreak of smallpox in the region, a local fisherman caught a yellow crucian carp. He gave it to one of the smallpox patients, who miraculously recovered. The yellow crucian carp made of paper has become a good-luck charm for good health and is a popular souvenir.

Fukube ware made of bottle gourd nuts. The dried nut shell is called fukube in Japanese. This natural material is cleverly made into masks, charcoal container, flower vases, and ornaments for alcoves. Above all, masks are very unique and look friendly. This fukube ware is expected to fight against evil for you, but you might doubt their effects as they look too lovely to be tough fighters.

Oya stone ware made from Oya stone (local material). Frogs, turtles, garden lanterns, and a whole lot of other things are made out of it.

As Oya stone is soft and easy to work with, it can be made into almost any shapes. From frogs, turtles and Tanuki, to garden lanterns, images of Buddha, and figurines, they are favored by many people.





お花見 (Cherry blossoms Festival)

Beginning of April, about 830 cherry trees are bloom out all over Utsunomiya, HACHIMANYAMA Park, Mt. TAGESAN and SHINKAWA River. Cherry blossoms are lighted up at night and you will find many people enjoy eating and drinking with families and friends under beautiful cherry blossoms.



ジャパンカップ

The last Saturday and Sunday of October. The Japan Cup cycling road race (Around Shinrin Park) Men who want to win the cycling race come from all over the world to Utsunomiya. There are hills and hollows for the racecourse, so both riders and viewers will be excited about this race. This is a fantastic event for cyclists around the world.



ふるさと宮まつり (*Furusato miya matsuri*)

The first Saturday and Sunday of August. This festival's main theme is "Encounter & Communication." It takes place in Utsunomiya's main street, Odori, and there are many performances like Ohayashi, Mikoshi, parades, dancing, and Taiko. Mikoshi have an especially powerful atmosphere. In 2 days, about 80 Mikoshi are carried around the streets, and you can see the biggest festival in the North Kanto area.

