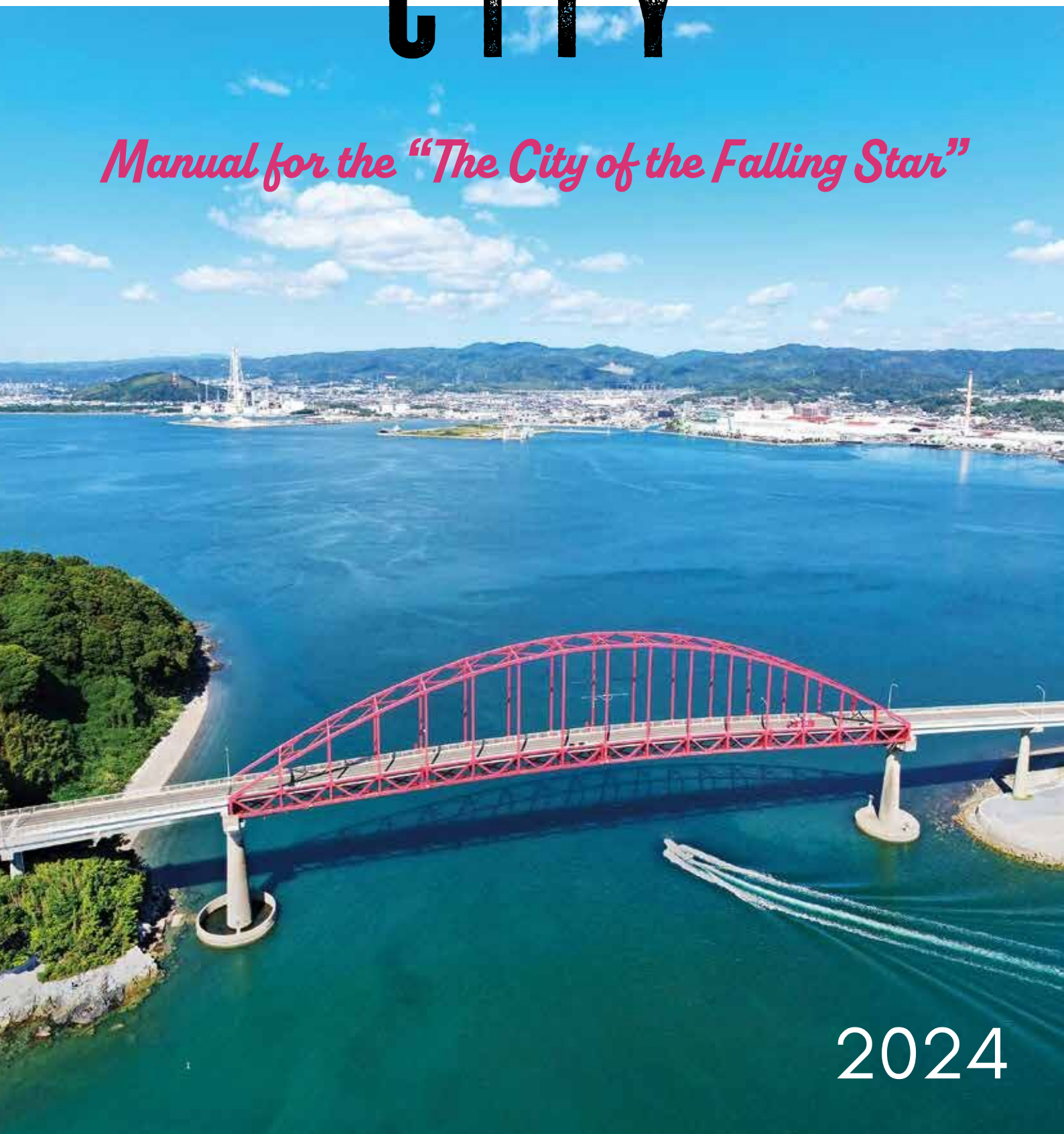


Kudamatsu City in Yamaguchi Prefecture



KUDAMATSU CITY

Manual for the “The City of the Falling Star”



2024

“The city of the falling star,” where urban functions in harmony with nature create Japan’s most comfortable place to live

The name “Kudamatsu” comes from the time of Empress Suiko, when the Great Star (also known as the North Star) is said to have fallen on a pine tree in Aoyaginoura, part of the villa belonging to the Washizu clan. The star shone there for seven days and seven nights, sparking a prophecy that a prince from Baekje would come to the land. Three years later, Prince Rinsho, considered the ancestor of the Ouchi clan that would subsequently rule Yamaguchi, came from Baekje (called “Kudara” in Japanese).

Because of this, “Hoshi ga kudatta matsu” (“the pine where the star fell”) became “Kudari Matsu,” then “Kudamatsu.”

Another theory holds that Prince Rinsho visited to open trade with Baekje, and a mispronunciation of the word “Kudaratsu,” meaning “port of commerce with Kudara,” became “Kudamatsu.” This then began to be written as it was pronounced.

These legends were passed down and live on in daily life, as Kudamatsu is known as “the city of the falling star.”



[The Kudamatsu City Charter]

With wisdom, friendship, and courage,
we the citizens of Kudamatsu
will abide by our rules to brighten our city,
love flowers and greenery to beautify our city,
familiarize ourselves with sports to invigorate our city,
encourage manufacturing to enrich our city,
and cultivate the power of youth to create a city of
continued growth.



Kudamatsu City

(End of September 2024)

Area: 89.34 km² Total population: 56,630 Total households: 26,963



City emblem:

The character for “Kuda” (下) and the peaceful waves of Kasado Bay are represented by pine needles, and the circle signifies harmony.



City flower:
Scarlet sage



City tree:
Japanese bayberry

Greeting from the Mayor Message

Kudamatsu City has actively engaged in a wide variety of “monozukuri,” meaning “making things,” as an industrial city from the Taisho period to the present day, against the backdrop of a fine natural harbor facing the Seto Inland Sea. Thanks to large commercial facilities opening one after another in recent years, the city has also continued to make rapid progress as a regional base for business and logistics.

In addition, Kudamatsu is highly rated as a city in which it is comfortable to live, surrounded by the rich nature of the mountains and ocean, and compactly bringing together a lively city atmosphere with the feel of the laidback countryside.

I have developed many policies through the efforts of all of Kudamatsu concentrating the powers of citizens, the local community, and industry for the purpose of the further development of the city built by our predecessors, and to make it the most livable city in Japan.

I would love for this directory to deepen people’s understanding of Kudamatsu, give them a sense of its attractions, and motivate them to be involved in the city.

Mayor of Kudamatsu City: Masuo Kunii

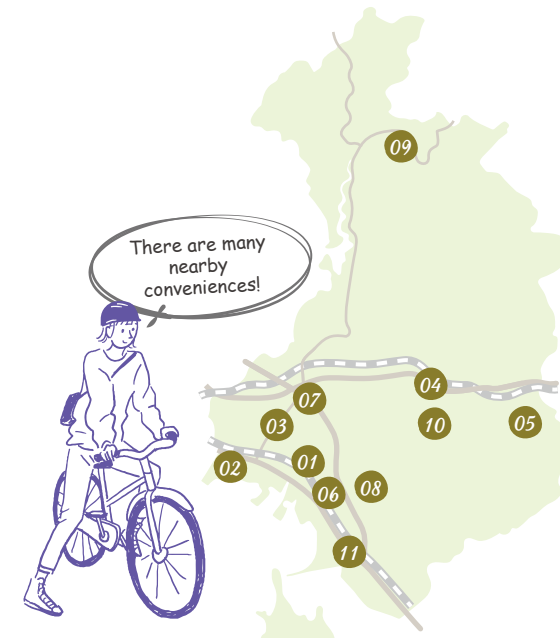


【A compact city】

A city that has it all, for everything from daily life to recreation

Compact City Kudamatsu

The urban part of Kudamatsu has commercial facilities, medical institutions, childcare facilities, social welfare facilities, and more within a distance that can be traveled on a bicycle. Every necessity of daily life is brought together in one place, making it a compact city livable for all generations. There is also a full selection of places for people to live actively, such as sports facilities and recreation spots, for a comfortable life in the city.



01 Kudamatsu Town Center Kiraru

Kudamatsu Town Center Kiraru features a shopping mall where specialty shops with the necessities of daily life, like a grocery store, clothing shops, and variety stores, stand side by side. It also houses the community radio station Shunan FM, which transmits local information; a theater for enjoying the latest movies; a culture hall that hosts concerts and other events; and a health center. The complex represents Kudamatsu as a base for commerce, culture, and health.



Hoshi Plaza, bringing together a variety of specialty shops



Kudamatsu Health Center, responsible for promoting citizens' health



MOVIX Shunan, for enjoying the latest movies on the big screen



Starpiaa Kudamatsu, for enjoying a variety of entertainment



02 Kudamatsu Kenko Park

Kudamatsu Kenko Park is a recreational complex to refresh the mind and body. There are ways to have fun unique to every season, regardless of the weather, like swimming in the indoor pool with adjoining water slide in summer or having an exhilarating skate on the indoor ice rink in winter. The park is also fully equipped with spacious natural hot spring baths and saunas to alleviate everyday tiredness, and a golf course where players can view the beautiful Seto Inland Sea.

Experience a variety of activities all year round with your family, partner, or friends.



An indoor pool where there is no need to worry about the sun's rays



The only ice skating rink in the prefecture



A full-scale seaside course with a large fairway



Baths with a boundless view of the Seto Inland Sea from the windows



03 Suetake Odori Line (Prefectural Route Kudamatsu Kano Line)

The entire route was opened in 1999. The area is also popular as a residential area because of its great convenience, thanks to the accumulation of institutions like large commercial facilities and hospitals.



04 Kudamatsu Community Exchange Center

There is a cross-generational community space in Fukushima Sato where anyone can feel free to gather, tailored to a wide variety of needs, including health promotion, hobby activities, community events, meetings, and training.



05 Kudamatsu Agricultural Park

A hands-on agricultural facility for studying the workings of nature and the importance of food. Many types of experiential projects are implemented to learn about the joys and fun of farming. The twice-yearly morning market bustles with people.



06 Kudamatsu City Library

This library has an ample collection of over 250,000 books in various genres, including novels, history books, and children's books. You can also borrow and read e-books using the digital library system.



07 Hanaoka Rose Garden

A rose garden under the National Route 188 overpass. The local volunteer group the Hanaoka Rose Cultivation Association plants and grows approximately 400 roses of different varieties. The best times of year to visit are around May and October.



08 Kudamatsu Park

The park has a multipurpose square, tennis courts, and more. Visitors can enjoy a sweeping view of the city from Hoshi no To. People flock here in spring, when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom, as it is known as a famous spot for the flowers.



09 Takinokuchi Kasen Park

Enjoy the many facets of nature in all four seasons, like playing in the cool river in summer or taking in the picturesque foliage in fall. Another attraction is that it is close to the urban part of the city, so you can feel free to go whenever you want to refresh your spirit.



10 Kudamatsu Sports Park

A general sports park with facilities like a gymnasium available. Residents also know it as a place to jog or walk. It is also famous for its flowers, including weeping cherry trees and cosmos.



11 Koigahama Ryokuchi Park

A park with inclusive equipment, incorporating universal design so that all children can play safely, securely, and comfortably regardless of ability or disability. It will reopen in spring 2025.

EVENTS

Kudamatsu has events for experiencing traditions like festivals and performing arts in every season.

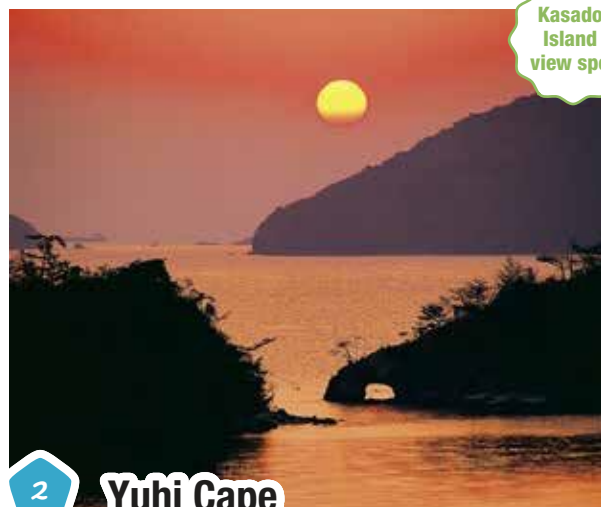
The Inaho Festival every November 3 is a whimsical event where a bride and groom in fox masks parade through the town with their companions in tow. This foxes' wedding draws a lively crowd of 30,000.

Kudamatsu Kasadojima Island Trail, a race through the scenic oceanside and mountains of Kasado Island, brings many runners from all over Japan and is a winter highlight in Kudamatsu.



Treasure island Adventure Around Kasado Island

All of Kasado Island, connected by bridge to the mainland, is designated as part of Setonaikai National Park. It is an island blessed by the nature of the ever-shifting coastline. Campgrounds and swimming areas are also available, making this a recommended tourist attraction for families with children and people who want to enjoy activities in nature.



Kasado Island view spot

2 Yuhi Cape

The most stunning sunsets in western Japan

A recommended spot for admiring beautiful sunsets. The view combined with Hanaguri Rock, formed through erosion by seawater, is spectacular! The winter sun setting on the horizon and dyeing the water a deep red is especially stirring.



My approximately 70 cm-long mustache was once called the "propeller mustache."

A statue of an eminent figure watching over Kudamatsu

5 Gaishi Park

A stone statue of Nagaoka Gaishi, known as a pioneer of skiing and Japanese aviation, stands in Gaishi Park, on a hill two minutes' walking distance from Kokumin Shukusha Oojou.

Key point

Rental bicycles

You can rent hybrid, electric, or road bikes at the Tourism Association Information Desk in Hirameki Park Kasadojima.



Price list/
Online reservations



1 Kasado Bridge

A spectacular road to access Kasado Island

Its beautiful crimson is well known as a symbol of Kudamatsu. Experience an unbroken view of the Seto Inland Sea from the bridge. The bridge lit by external lights reflects off the water surface at night to produce a fantastic atmosphere, revealing a completely different charm than in the day.

3 Hanaguri Swimming Beach

Enjoy marine activities with friends and family

A swimming beach with beautiful white sands and sparkling emerald sea. There are shallows where even small children can play safely, and rocky shores. Visitors can also fish.



4 Hanaguri Beach Promenade on the Sea

The invigorating feeling of walking on the sea

An approximately 300 m-long promenade undulating like waves stretches over the sea. A wide range of people visit to stroll while feeling the sea breeze, fish, or snap photos of the gorgeous view.

Kasado Island view spot



8 Kasado Island Family Travel Village

Located on a hill overlooking Kasado Bay, it offers car campsites, cabins, and a barbecue garden. Enjoy the blue of the sea and sky in the daytime, the sunset sinking into the water in the evening, and the view of the illuminated industrial complex at night.

9 Hirameki Park Kasadojima (Kudamatsu City Cultivation Fishery Center)

Come in direct contact with coastal fish and shellfish at the largest touch pool in Japan. The feeding experience for Kasado flounder, a specialty of Kudamatsu, is also popular.



A hands-on tourist facility for encountering and learning about sea creatures.

10 Shiokaze Garden

A carpet of flowers swaying in the sea breeze

Named Shiokaze ("Salty Sea Breeze") Garden for the mingling of Kasado Island's tranquil sea, blue sky, and lovely flowers. Visitors are captivated by the Kawazu cherry blossoms and rapeseed flowers in spring, and the sunflowers in full glory in summer.



11 Dice Toilets

Is that a giant die standing on the shore?!

An enormous die appears suddenly at the end of the prefectural road crossing Kasado Island. It is actually a public restroom. The unique exterior depicting the faces of a die makes this a popular photo spot for tourists.



12 Fukaura Floating Torii Gate

Kasado Island's power spot!

The gate of Itsukushima Myojin Shrine, not far from the Dice Toilets. Legend connects this place to Miyajima in former Aki province (Hiroshima), and every year, on June 17 by the old Japanese calendar, the 17th-Night Kangen Festival is held to pray for safe seas.



6 Kokumin Shukusha Oojou

Experience the spectacular landscapes and hot springs

Take in the scenery of the beautiful Seto Inland Sea from this hotel where all rooms have an ocean view. Other attractions include a restaurant to eat your fill of cuisine made from fresh local ingredients like famous Kasado flounder, and natural hot spring baths with views of the sea.



See here to get even more enjoyment out of Kudamatsu!

Kudamatsu City Tourism Association

Visit Kudamatsu! Kudamatsu Sightseeing Guide



Access



Access by air

- Tokyo (Haneda) → Yamaguchi Ube Airport
(Approx. 1 hour and 35 minutes)
→ Approx. 1 hour by car from the airport
- Tokyo (Haneda) → Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport
(Approx. 1 hour and 30 minutes)
→ Approx. 40 minutes by car from the airport



Access by ferry

- For people from Shikoku, Boyo Ferry provides services from the port of Mitsuhamama (Matsuyama, Ehime) to the port of Yanai. (2 hours and 30 minutes' ferry ride)
- For people from the vicinity of Oita, Suonada Ferry offers services from the port of Taketatsu (Kunisaki, Oita) to the port of Tokuyama (2 hours' ferry ride)



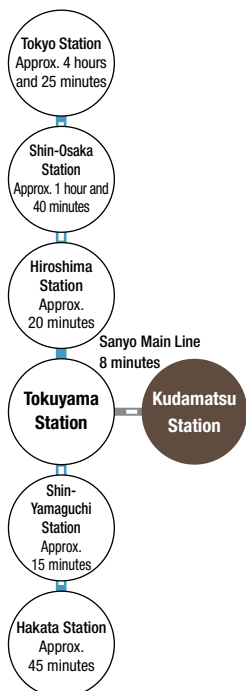
Access by car

- Approx. 10 minutes from Tokuyama Higashi Exit on Sanyo Expressway
- Approx. 20 minutes from Kumage Exit on Sanyo Expressway
- Approx. 40 minutes from the port of Yanai
- Approx. 15 minutes by taxi from Tokuyama Station
- Approx. 25 minutes by bus from Tokuyama Station



Access by train

- Take JR Sanyo Shinkansen to Tokuyama Station and transfer to JR Sanyo Main Line. Get off at Kudamatsu Station.



Kudamatsu City Directory commemorating the 85th Anniversary of the incorporation as a city

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Kudamaru,
Kudamatsu City's mascot