

Higashiyama Walking Course



Suggested Walk to Visit Temples (2 hours)

- 1 Unryuji Temple**
 - 1 minute walk
 - It is believed that the gate was moved from Takayama Castle, and now it serves as a temple bell tower too.
- 2 Daiouji Temple**
 - 1 minute walk
 - The temple gate was designated as an important cultural property of Takayama City. The statues of the guardian gods (Niou) are famous.
 - The roof has an interesting mechanism; it springs once snow piles up.
 - The bell tower is one of the oldest in the Hida area, and anyone can strike the bell on New Year's Eve.
- 3 Dounji Temple**
 - 2 minute walk
 - There is a koyasu jizo statue for children who lost their lives in a great famine.
- 4 Sogenji Temple**
 - 2 minute walk
 - This is the temple that retains the grave of Lord Kanamori Nagachika, the first Takayama Castle's owner.
- 5 Tenshoji Temple**
 - 3 minute walk
 - This temple was built in 1182 as the Tendai sect temple; however, it fell into decline later. It was rebuilt and changed to the Jodo sect in 1615.
- 6 Hokkeji Temple**
 - 2 minute walk
 - Part of Takayama Castle was transferred to the main building of the temple (important cultural property by Gifu Prefecture).
 - It is said that your sickness or injury will be healed if you rinse and wash the affected part of the Buddha statue.
 - Benten shrine (important cultural property by Takayama City) is a work of the father of Murayama (Endo) Minjiro who created some Takayama festival floats. The view of pond and building in autumn is fantastic.
- 7 Zennoji Temple**
 - 3 minute walk
 - You can try Zen meditation here.
 - ※Booking essential Starts 6:00 for one hour 500 yen
- 8 Soyuji Temple**
 - 5 minute walk
 - The stone wall of the Takayama Castle was used here, and its bell tower was built thanks to the district governors. This temple served as a group graveyard for those discriminated against and refused to be buried normally.
 - There is a grave of the parents of Yamaoka Tesshu who made a huge contribution to modernize Japan. He was appointed as a chamberlain for the Meiji Emperor by the prime minister and served many government positions. A Buddhist service takes place annually on the 19 of July, the day he died.
- 9 Kawakami Residence Park (Kawakamibettei Historic Site)**
 - 15 minute walk
 - Historic site along the Enako River.
 - An excellent example of late Edo period architecture such as the Inari shrine by Taniguchi Gonnokami from the famous Hida craftsman family and storehouse by Edo Mansaku.
- 10 Shiroyama Park**
 - This park is located at the ruins of Takayama Castle. When spring comes, 1000 cherry blossom trees offer a stunning view.



Higashiyama Walking Course by a mediaeval warlord who longed for Kyoto

Higashiyama Walking Course attractions were created by a mediaeval warlord, Kanamori Nagachika (1524-1600), who longed for Kyoto. He conquered the Hida area and had a great passion for Kyoto culture. When he built the castle town, he decided to construct many temples on a slightly elevated hilly area in the eastern part of town similar to the Higashiyama area in Kyoto which was famous for a number of ancient temples. The Kanamori family ruled Hida for 107 years with six generations, but in 1692 the sixth head of the family lost his position, the kanamori line was ruined and the Takayama Castle was destroyed. Takayama came under direct control of the Edo shogunate. The new governors decided to use one of the mansions that belonged to Lord kanamori as an office for prefectural and district governors from Edo. This mansion was called Takayama Jinya. Parts of building in the Takayama Castle still exist, for example, the warehouse in Jinya, main building of Hokkeji Temple and bell tower in Unryuji Temple. There used to be many samurai residences to protect the castle. It is about four kilometers from Unryuji Temple, the walking course entrance, to Shiroyama Park which is located at the ruins of the castle. The Higashiyama area and the Enako gawa River that was the moat surrounding the castle remain same.

Conversation Mini Phrase Conversation at Higashiyama Walking Course

Q. Where is this building?
 Q. この建物は、どこにありますか？

Q. Where am I on this map?
 Q. 現在地は、この地図のどこですか？
 →地図を指でさして示すと便利です。

Q. Can we enter this building?
 Q. この建物の中は見学できますか？

A. Yes, please take off your shoes and enter.
 A. はい、できます。靴を脱いであがってください。
 A. No, you cannot enter this building.
 A. いいえ、できません。