



お茶の京都

Kyoto Infused
with Tea

宇治田原町

Ujitawara Town Hot Spot Guide

With Map

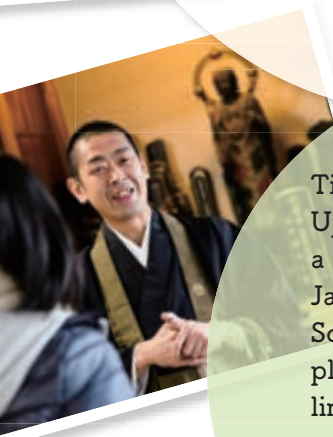
Four special course
covering Ujitawara Town




- Experience
- Cuisine
- Souvenirs
- Table of Annual and Other Events



Feel the four seasons.
Walk in the footsteps
of history.
Refresh your soul.
Enjoy our traditional
hospitality.



Time flows peacefully in Ujitawara Town. Imagine having a cup of tea with traditional Japanese hospitality. Scenery of expanding tea plantations, historic properties lingering in the back areas of valleys, and heartwarming interactions with locals—the trip to Ujitawara Town is sure to make you smile.





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* The data is as of Feb. 2017.

* Consumption tax is included in the stated prices unless special notes are shown.

* The time required for each course is calculated based on 3.2 km/hour (walking) and 40 km/hour (driving). The time required for buses is based on the timetables of the local bus companies.



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▲ Nango IC

▲ Otsu

This town of traditional hospitality is
“heart-shaped.”

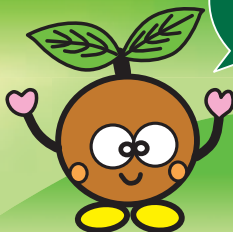
Ujitawara Town Area Map



Bus stop

Tea plantation

With your app
reading the QR
code, you can
watch the town's
PR video.



Ujitawara Town Mascot
Chappy



The more you know, the more delightful
your trip will become!

Ujitawara Town is the chief production district of Uji tea.

This page introduces the history of the “birthplace of Japanese green tea” and the town’s current features.

Green tea originated in Obukudani.

Ujitawara Town began tea cultivation in the Kamakura Period. It is said that the disciple of a noted priest, Myo-e, a reviver of the World Cultural Heritage Kozan-ji Temple, introduced the cultivation method in the Kamakura Period. The first tea seeds were planted at the interior of Obukudani located at the foot of the sacred Mt. Jubu. The tea cultivated at Obukudani, a suitable place for tea cultivation, is said to have become popular and was presented to the Shogunate and Imperial House at that time.



The birth of Japanese green tea

Currently, many people in Japan enjoy drinking green tea. In fact, green tea is said to have originated at Yuyadani district in Ujitawara Town. In the middle of the Edo Period, Soen Nagatani, a tea dealer from Yuyadani, developed a tea method over 15 years, finally delivering tea with superior color, taste, and smell. His success changed the crude brown tea that common people used to drink into delicious green tea. Soen travelled to Edo (Tokyo) and sold the green tea through the sales channel of a tea dealer, Kahei Yamamoto, who later opened Yamamotoyama Store. His tea was quickly heralded as the “Best in Japan” and stirred a new boom. This tea method is known as “Aosei Sencha Seiho” and serves as the foundation of modern Japanese green tea.



Recognized as “Japan Heritage”



Yuyadani's tea industry flourished thanks to the popularity of Soen's sencha (common green tea). While walking through the streets, lined with large tea wholesale stores and populated by tea farmers, visitors can imagine how this narrow area flourished at that time despite the fact that the small area is located along a valley. Soen's home, which is located at the interior of Yuyadani, was also restored (P9). There, visitors can see the remains of a tea dryer that Soen is said to have used. Yuyadani's streetscapes, with his birthplace, tea plantations, tea dealers, and tea farmers, are recognized as “Japan Heritage.” (For details, please refer to the description at the bottom of this page.)



Yuyadani village is lined with tea factories and wholesaler buildings, which are made of impressive stone fences and nostalgic architecture.



Tea-making tools and the remains of a tea dryer are conserved inside Soen Nagatani's home.



Tea making with the use of a dryer

The tea industry is still alive in this town.



In Ujitawara Town, more than 100 tea farmers are still engaged in making superior tea. Tea events such as tea-picking, tea-tasting competitions, and tea-making events are held mainly in the fresh-tea season. Furthermore, the town is disseminating attractive information associated with tea, such as information on sweets that utilize tea in their ingredients. With pride as a town of tea in mind, Ujitawara Town has inherited a fruitful history and culture.



Manhole cover



Ujitawara Hometown Festival (P23)



Info on sweets made with tea (P21)

What is “Japan Heritage”?

The Agency for Cultural Affairs recognizes the narratives with regional attractive features that represent Japan's cultural and traditional properties. Regional areas take initiatives to maintain and utilize such integral cultural properties (regardless of whether tangible or intangible) and disseminate such information both inside and outside Japan, aiming to revitalize local areas. “A Historical Walk Through 800 Years of Japanese Tea” (Kyoto Prefecture), of which the narratives of Yuyadani in Ujitawara Town are part, was recognized as the first “Japan Heritage” offering, in April 2015.

Model Course 1



Visitors can tour around Ujitawara's standard spots. Shall we fully enjoy tea culture and history as well as the tranquil scenery of Yuyadani—the birthplace of Japanese green tea?

Follow the footsteps of history through various tea-related spots.

- 1 Bus stop
↓ 6 min. on foot 0.3 km
- 1 Tea Reference Room
↓
- 1 Bus stop
↓ 5 min. by bus 2.2 km
- 1 Bus stop
↓ 37 min. on foot 2 km
- 2 The birthplace of Soen Nagatani
↓ Short jaunt on foot
- 3 Chasomyo Shrine
↓ 26 min. on foot 1.4 km
- 4 Takadatsusen
↓ 11 min. on foot 0.6 km
- 1 Bus stop
↓ Kogyodanchi-guchi



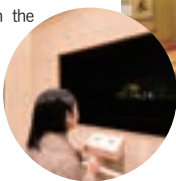
1 Cultural Center 総合文化センター Tea Reference Room

Visitors can learn about tea culture, the town's history, and the achievements of Soen Nagatani, the inventor of Japanese green tea (P6), on the third floor.

Town history exhibitions are sometimes held in the lobby of the second floor.

- Iwayama Numajiri 46-1, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
- Reference Room: 10:00–17:00
- Closed on Tuesdays (except holidays) & 12/28–1/4
- Free admission
- Parking lot for 90 cars

08



Unique videos and rare reference information/panels are provided to help relay interesting details.

See

永谷宗円生家

2 The birthplace of Soen Nagatani

Soen Nagatani used to live here. Now, tea-making tools and the remains of a tea dryer are preserved for viewing. Also, various events are held, such as: Fresh Tea Festival in May (P22) & the New Year Tea Hand-rolling Dedication Ceremony (P23). Visitors can also view Japanese hydrangeas and autumn leaves.



Let's talk with the locals! They might tell you intriguing stories.

Mr. Tanimura (chairperson) & Ms. Nagatani
Soen-san's Birthplace Support Association in Yuyadani

A raccoon welcomes you.

- Yuyadani Sorabiro, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
- 9:00-17:00 (The interior is open to public only on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.)
- Free admission

See

茶宗明神社

3 Chasomyo Shrine (Daijingu-sha)

Soen Nagatani is worshipped as the father of tea at Daijingu-sha, located at the interior of Yuyadani. Lichen-tinted stone fences and the forest surrounding the precinct give off a mysterious atmosphere. Autumn leaves fall on the frontal approach to the shrine in autumn. How about visiting here, especially during that season?

- Yuyadani Sorabiro, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
- Visitors may visit these precincts freely.

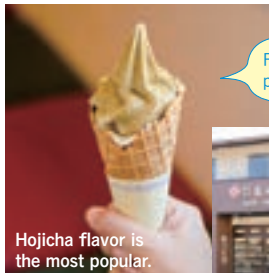


Eat

高田通泉園

4 Takadatsusen

Tea leaves and tea sweets selected by a tea wholesaler established in 1924 are available here. Their regularly offered ice cream includes distinctive flavors such as hojicha (roasted green tea) and matcha. Other flavors include "Freshly picked tea" and gyokuro, which are available for a limited time from May to June, and around September, respectively. (all 310 yen) (Souvenir info P21)



Hojicha flavor is the most popular.

Full of tea leave powder!

- Yuyadani Nagadori 45, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
- 9:00-18:00 (Open at 10:00 on Sundays and holidays)
- Closed on New Year holidays



A nostalgic tea factory

Visitors can enjoy Yuyadani's picturesque streetscape scenery, where wooden tea factories on stone fences and many tea wholesalers stand in a row. You can also see a large three-story tea factory.



Episode 1

Scenic fukei-in post office-style ink stamp for collecting memories

Collecting fukei-in scenic post office-style ink stamps of local notable places is a great to capture trip memories. Tea plantations and Souen's birthplace are depicted in the ink stamps of Ujitawara Town Post Office.

* If you ask the clerk when mailing postcards at the post office, they will stamp the ink stamps.

* Different scenic post office-style ink stamps are provided at Gonokuchi Post Office.



Episode 2

Let's tour around the historical temples and shrines in the heart of nature's bounty. Spend a relaxing time with unique scenery and cultural hotspots!

Iwayama intersection

4 min. by car 2.7 km

1 Sarumaru Shrine

1 min. by car 0.8 km

2 Zenjo-ji Temple

3 min. by car 2.1 km

3 Ochanosato Kitaniyama

9 min. by car 5.9 km

4 Shoji-in Temple

Refresh yourself at healing spots!



猿丸神社

1 Sarumaru Shrine See

This shrine is home to Sarumaru Dayu, who was said to be a poet in the Heian Period and who is listed in "One Hundred Poems by One Hundred Poets." Locals have worshipped this shrine as having the power to heal bumps and swells. Prayers dedicate wooden tablets with knots when they visit this shrine, so as to offer thanks. Monthly festivals are held on the 13th (fate day) of each month. Especially, Shinto fire rituals are held in June and December (P23), and grand festivals are held in April and September.



- Zenjo-ji Chimakidani 44, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
- 7:00-16:00
- Visitors may visit the precincts freely.

* Extra buses are offered at Ichu-mae bus stop on the 13th of each month.



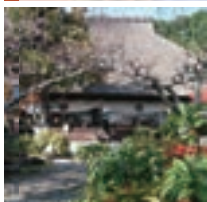
Monkey fortunes (300 yen)

Drawing a monkey face!

You will be smiling at a cute face!

Monkey votive wooden tablet (400 yen)





See

禅定寺

2 Zenjo-ji Temple

Zenjo-ji Temple was built in 991. Visitors can spend a relaxing time in its reed-thatched Main Hall and also in the Treasure Hall, where Buddha statues from the Heian Period are set up. The entire precinct is designated as a historic natural environment preservation area. By the mountainside, visitors can see "Otome Kannon," holding a persimmon branch. The statue stands in front of Bijō-iwa (Beautiful Woman Stone) at the legendary place of a local specialty, the korogaki (dried persimmon: P20).

Visitors need to walk a mountain path for 15 min. to see Bijō-iwa and Otome Kannon. If you plan to go there, tell the temple staff in advance.

- Zenjo-ji Shochi 100, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
- 9:00-16:00
- Admission fee: 500 yen

Eat

3 Ochanosato Kitaniyama

木谷山

Café & shops are situated next to the tea-making factories. The signboard "Ira-ccha-i" (Welcome!) is shown near this café. The sixth owner provides unique matcha sweets at a reasonable price. Lots of handmade matcha jellies, sponge cakes, and shiratama (rice-flour dumplings) are added to the popular dish of "matcha parfait" (550 yen). (Souvenir info P21)

- Iwayama Yasunba 8, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
- 10:00-17:00
- Closed on Wednesdays * No smoking

How about eating at the terrace zone on a sunny day?



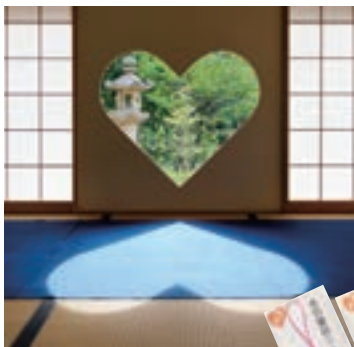
Shop manager: Ms. Kitani

See Experience

正寿院

4 Shoju-in Temple

The guest hall's heart-shaped window is impressive. This traditional pattern, carved here and known as "Inome" (meaning a "boar's eye," which is heart shaped), is deeply related to Buddhism. The temple goods and red seals in the motif of this heart shape are popular. Visitors can experience yoga or the copying of a sutra and a Buddha image inside the precinct. (Experience info P17)



"Mizu-hiki Inome (Heart Carving) Good Luck Charm" (700 yen) ▶

- Okuyamada Kawakami 149, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
- 8:30-16:30 (reception ends at 16:00 in winter)
- Admission fee: 400 yen (Tea, confectionary, a Buddhism-related small flower, and a commemorative string are included.)



The color and pattern of the "Inome (Heart Carving) Window-shaped Red Seal" (300 yen) changes season-by-season. Your name can be put on the seal.

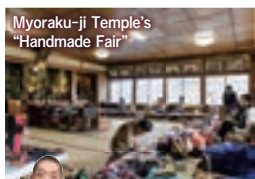
Visitors can tour tea plantations at short distance while following the footsteps of history in the streetscapes, where shrines and old folk-style houses are still standing. You can walk on level roads, but please pay attention to cars.

Embark on a curious hike to unearth history



1 Gonokuchi's streetscapes & Myoraku-ji Temple

Gonokuchi district used to be a castle town. Myoraku-ji Temple preserves a portrait of Soen Nagatani and also tea plantation photos from 100 years ago. Tasteful warehouses, old folk-style houses, tea shops, and stone monuments can be spotted here.



Myoraku-ji Temple's "Handmade Fair"



Gonokuchi's streetscapes



The "Handmade Fair" and rakugo (traditional comic storytelling) shows are sometimes held here. Please feel free to visit.



Chief priest of Myoraku-ji Temple

Myoraku-ji Temple

- Gonokuchi Honmachi 118, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
- Visitors may visit the precinct freely. (Prior inquiry is recommended if you would like to visit the temple's interior.)

2 Mikurusu Shrine

御栗栖神社



This shrine was built near the location where Emperor Tenmu is said to have buried a chestnut for making a prayer before ascending the throne during the Asuka Period. In the narrative, the chestnut developed into a chestnut grove, and the harvested chestnuts were presented to the Imperial Court. This is the origin of this shrine's name. Currently, the chestnut grove has been turned into a tea plantation.

Solemn hinoki bark-thatched Shinto building

- Minami Miyanokami-nishi 76, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
- Visitors may visit the precinct freely.

3 Hokyoin-to Pagoda (Deity of straw sandals)

宝篋印塔

Travelers used to dedicate their straw sandals here and change them for new ones. Currently, this shrine is worshipped as enshrining the deity for feet and the lower back.



- Minami Nakahata, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun

4 Tawara Elementary School's gate

This place used to be the gate of "Ikoukan" of Araki district, which was founded in 1873 as the first school in the town. Even today, this gate is utilized as Tawara Elementary School's gate.



- Gonokuchi Nakabayashi 7, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun

Shimomachi

Bus stop 4 min. on foot 0.2 km

1 Myoraku-ji Temple

28 min. on foot 1.5 km

Okanoyabu bridge

30 min. on foot 1.6 km

2 Mikurusu Shrine

28 min. on foot 1.5 km

3 Hokyoin-to Pagoda

9 min. on foot 0.5 km

4 Tawara Elementary School's gate

7 min. on foot 0.4 km

5 Ichinosho

4 min. on foot 0.2 km

Shimomachi

Bus stop

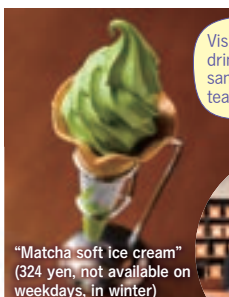


5 Ichinosho

竜之庄

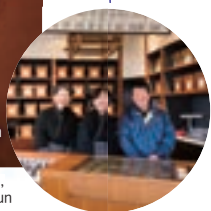
Eat

Wooden tea boxes are arranged at this tasteful restaurant. The smell of hojicha (roasted green tea), a trademark dish, is also wafting inside. The soft ice cream made from matcha grinded with a stone mortar and the sweet-smelling green tea are also delicious. (Souvenir info P21)



"Matcha soft ice cream" (324 yen, not available on weekdays, in winter)

Visitors can enjoy drinking free tea samples during tea-picking season!



- Gonokuchi Kitadoyama 23, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
- 10:00-18:00
- Closed on Tuesdays

Model Course 4



According to the narratives, Tokugawa Ieyasu passed this “Iga-goe Road” on his way from Sakai to Mikawa immediately after Nobunaga’s death (various views have been raised regarding the routes taken). Why not enjoy hiking in tranquil village and forest scenery?

Hike the forest and the village, along the same route as Ieyasu.



See

1 Yamaguchi Castle Ruins

The Yamaguchi clan built Yamaguchi Castle at Gonokuchi (P13) under Nobunaga's orders. Ieyasu is said to have visited the castle. Currently, tea plantations are expanding here. Gokuraku-ji Temple nearby is the Yamaguchi clan's family temple. It is said that the temple gate is located at the back gate of the castle.



● Gonokuchi Tanaka, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun

Ieyasu Iga-goe Road Experience



Go over the pedestrian crossing on National Route 307 and walk on the road in front of the convenience store's signboard.

3



Walk away from Iga-goe Road for a time and go to the route where you can see the tea plantation expanding around the mountain slope. In autumn, kakiya (buildings made with logs and straws for drying persimmons) (P23) is constructed on the field along the road to make korogaki (P20), a local specialty.

Henjo-in Temple See

This Koyasan Shingon sect temple was built in 1570, and sits on Iga-goe Road. Ieyasu is said to have stopped to rest here. Old plum trees with reddish pink blossoms are located inside the precinct. Archetypal scenes expand around the temple, and this type of area is often referred to as a typical Japanese "furusato" (hometown).

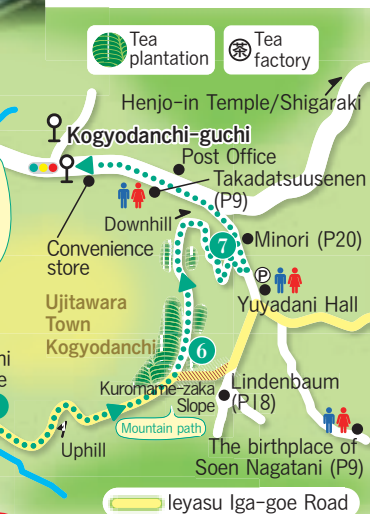


The tea plantation continues along the road.



Walking down the hill, the Yuyadani village (P9) comes into view.

- Gonokuchi**
6 min. on foot 0.3 km
- 1 Yamaguchi Castle Ruins**
15 min. on foot 0.8 km
- 2 Pedestrian crossing on National Route 307**
56 min. on foot 3 km
- 5 Omichi Shrine**
45 min. on foot 2.4 km
- Yuyadani Hall**
23 min. on foot 1.2 km
- Kogyodanchi-guchi**



Go back to Iga-goe Road, and you can see tea factories standing in a row. The scent of tea might be noticeable here.



Omichi Shrine's torii gate is decorated with crimson autumn leaves in autumn. Nearby is the memorial mound of Shinzei Nyudo, who perished during a rebellion in the 12th century.

An amazing experience

Tea culture experience



Tea-picking event

The “tea-picking event” is held at tea plantations from early May to mid-June. Visitors can become familiar with tea through various experiences such as making traditional tea and grinding matcha with a stone mortar. A costume for tea-picking is also for rental. Similar experiences are provided at the “tea-picking interaction events” that are held in early May each year (prior booking essential).

Tea-tasting competition costume

Tea-tasting competitions were referred to as “toucha” during the Nanboku-chō Period. In this game, the participants guess the production region and the brand. This competition used to be prevalent among aristocrats and those highly cultured. Even today, this competition is held mainly in areas where the tea industry is active. If you participate in the above-mentioned “tea-picking event,” you can also join the tea-tasting competition.



21 Tea Hometown Seminar

Tea-picking event: 2,500 yen for adults, 1,250 yen for children

“Tea-picking lady” costume rental: 1,000 yen for adults, 500 yen for children

Prior booking essential (Please inquire about the schedule in advance.)

“Tea-tasting competition set”: Allows tasting seven types of teas (1,000 yen)



An old tea factory that was built more than 100 years ago was renovated into a guesthouse with the option of experiencing farming (the facility as a whole is for rental). Famous artisans and designers created this facility while keeping the charm of the old tea factory intact. From here, local men and women teach farming. The contents change depending on the season: rice reaping, rice planting, and wood collecting, etc.

MARU+JYU

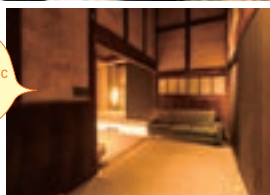
Staying overnight without board in this facility, flat fee: 25,000 yen and up (eight people at maximum)

* A kitchen, bath, and restroom are provided inside the facility.

Farmer's guesthouse



The illumination creates a romantic inner atmosphere at night.



Experience in nature

Why not enjoy an extraordinary experience at a tea plantation, a temple, and at a village forest?



Yoga Even beginners are welcome at this yoga lesson. Here, participants have the opportunity to listen to the vice priest's sermon and to drink a green smoothie.

Enjoy a special time at a quiet temple in the valley.

Shoju-in Temple,
vice priest

Location:
Shoju-in Temple
(Temple info P11)

"Yoga" (1,000 yen, green smoothie included)

At 11:00 on the second Sunday from April to

November in 2017 (excluding August)

"Original bracelet/rosary-making" (2,000 yen with tea and sweets included)

Beads used for children (500 yen)

"Copying of a sutra," "Copying of a Buddha image" (1,000 yen for each)

* Prior booking is essential for each lesson (Please book the yoga lesson five days or more in advance.)



Taking lessons at a temple



Copying of a sutra or a Buddha image

Participants can copy the Wisdom Sutra or a Buddhist painting after purifying themselves with incense.



Original bracelet rosary-making

Participants can choose materials out of approx. 30 types of seasonal aromatic wood types and natural stones. After completion, they place their hands together before the main Buddha statue.

Outdoors



末山・くつわ池自然公園

Sueyama-Kutsuwa Pond Nature Park

Gonokuchi Sueyama 3, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun

8:30-17:00 from January 26 to the second Sunday of November

8:30-16:00 from the second Monday of November to January 25

Closed every Thursday from the second Thursday of November to February 25 and also on New Year holidays

Admission fee: 400 yen for adults, 200 yen for children

(additional fee required for using a bungalow, the fishing pond, and parking lots)

This park was selected as one of the "100 Forests in Japan for Forest Bathing." In addition to three campsites and a few bungalows, this facility contains various outdoor recreation such as tennis courts, a fishing pond, and a roofed barbecue house. Furthermore, a foot path full of nature and a heart-shaped observation deck are provided. How about visiting here on the weekend to get refreshed?



This barbecue house is standing next to a campsite. A new trailer house is also standing nearby!

Distinctive
flavors
of various
styles!

Restaurants

This page introduces the hottest restaurants providing local food at tranquil locations, etc. Let's stop by while on a walk!

Restaurants at which the locations are also attractive

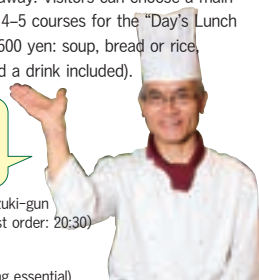


Pork tender loin grilled with gyokuro and breadcrumbs
Lots of local vegetables are used.

リンデンバウム Lindenbaum

The chef of this restaurant showed off his cooking skills at the Japanese consulate in Germany and then opened this Western-style restaurant, which looks like a quaint hideaway. Visitors can choose a main dish out of 4-5 courses for the "Day's Lunch Special" (1,600 yen: soup, bread or rice, dessert, and a drink included).

Dishes that use tea leaves produced in Ujitawara are also available here.



Owner & chef: Mr. Miura



Yuyadani Kaminishitani 1, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
11:00-15:00 (last order: 14:30), 17:00-21:00 (last order: 20:30)
Closed on Tuesdays
Booking advised
(only 1 group available for dinner: prior booking essential)
* No smoking at lunch time

Many locals visit this



60 yen or more for handmade bread, 400 yen for a cake

Cherry チェリー

Locals ranging from children to the elderly often visit this café. The day's lunch special, the handmade hamburger steak, the "Chappy set" (only on Sunday), and handmade breads & cakes are popular.

Gonokuchi Nakabayashi 33,
Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
8:30-18:00

Closed on Mondays



"Delicious Ramen" (800 yen)

Shinryumenkan 新立麺館

Thick slices of superior roast pork ribs are set onto the ramen noodles, in which the soup is based on wild boar meat, pork, and chicken bone. Many locals enjoy eating this impressive "Delicious Ramen."

Tachikawa 67-1, Ujitawara-cho,
Tsuzuki-gun
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:00
(The service ends when all dishes are sold out.)
Closed on Tuesday nights



Sawarabisanso Akamasa 赤政

This is a long-established restaurant with a history spanning over 100 years. Located away from noisy cities, here visitors can spend a relaxing time in a Japanese-style tatami room, which is like staying in a traditional inn. Visitors might start getting very hungry upon seeing the "Botan pot," which uses superior wild boar meat (only in winter), or the "Unaju (Broiled eel over rice)," which includes small dishes, a clear broth using eel liver, and fruit (only at lunch time).

Gonokuchi Mukai 24, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
12:00~L.O.14:00, 17:00~21:00 (L.O.20:30)
Irregular holidays
Prior booking essential
A free chauffeur service is offered for groups of over 10 people.

Every room is set as a private room, thus 2-80 people can enjoy a relaxing time.

Fifth owner: Mr. Fukunaga



"Unaju (Broiled eel over rice)"
(3,500 yen excluding consumption tax and service charge)



Matcha salt is used as a unique flavor for tempura

Miroku みろく

This soba restaurant is set within an old folk-style house, where customers can enjoy a nostalgic and relaxing feeling. This restaurant provides various kinds of handmade buckwheat noodle dishes. The "Miroku Gozen Set" (1,500 yen, including boiled rice with added ingredients, seasonal tempura, and small dishes) is popular.

Gonokuchi Mukai 81, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
11:00-15:00
Closed on Tuesdays
Prior booking essential for dinner
* No smoking

Relaxing
Japanese-style room



restaurant.



"Curry udon" (620 yen)
"Oyako tendon (Bowl of rice topped with chicken & eggs and tempura) (small)" (350 yen)

Tanaka-ya Ujitawara Store たなか家

This famous udon restaurant offers noodles that are soft, but with a pleasant firmness in mouth. Apart from the generous selection of udon noodles, Ujitawara Town-produced rice bowls topped with various ingredients, and freshly made tempura are also delicious options.

Iwayama Yasunba 8,
Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
11:00-15:00 (last order: 14:40)
Closed on Sundays, Irregular
holidays * No smoking



Bento boxes to-go, for walking,
made from local ingredients!



* The bento's ingredients change depending on the season and prices.



This long-established restaurant of over 100 years offers the "Ujitawara hometown bento box" (1,080 yen and up), which is made of local tea, vegetables, and others. The tea-flavored mackerel sushi" (2,700 yen) also makes a wonderful gift.

魚定本店 Uosada Honten

Minami Mizojiri 16,
Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
9:30-19:00
Closed on Mondays
Prior booking essential
(three days or more in advance necessary)

Souvenir Sell

Tea-related souvenirs

1 Tea leaves



Ujitawara sencha (common green tea)
(648 yen for 100 g)

Ujitawara gyokuro (refined green tea)
(1,080 yen for 100 g)

100% Ujitawara tea
Quantities are limited.



Uji black tea (510 yen for 50 g)
Local tea farmers made this tea using the leaves for Japanese green tea.

Mug cup
(800 yen)

2 Ceramics

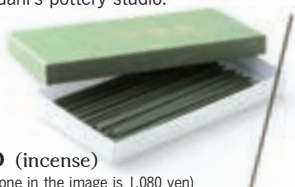
Delicate flower designs are characteristic of Yuyadani's pottery studio.



3 Souenko (incense)

(540 yen or more; one in the image is 1,080 yen)

This original tea-scented incense is made by a women's group from the town's chamber of commerce. Three tea types, such as roasted green tea and "Kyo-bancha" (originating from Kyoto), are provided.



Persimmon

This is a local specialty using small astringent persimmons known as "tsurunokogaki."

12 Korogaki

(440 yen or more for 200 g)
This natural sweet taste is popular. A legend regarding the origin of these dried persimmons has been handed down via Zenjo-ji Temple (P11). This confectionary starts to be sold by around December every year.



Vegetables and others

14 Fresh vegetables

Fresh vegetables that grow via fine water and healthy land are also popular.



15 Shiitake mushrooms

These thick shiitake mushrooms cultivated on withered tree logs are one of the town's specialties.



Sun-dried shiitake mushrooms cultivated on withered tree logs & kelp (460 yen)

Sun-dried shiitake mushrooms cultivated on withered tree logs (500 yen or more)

16 Pickled plums & vegetables

Pickled plums (230 yen or more)

Plums harvested in Takao district are used, associated with Priest Kukai.



Ujitawara pickled vegetables (300 yen)
Pickled cucumbers harvested in Ujitawara Town.

13 Persimmon vinegar

(650 yen or more for 150 ml)
Mild taste, additive-free fruit vinegar



1 3 12 13 14 15 16

JA farmers' market: Ujicha-no-sato

This farmers' market sells seasonal agricultural foods and specialties harvested in Ujitawara Town. A smoking area is provided inside the store.

Gonokuchi Nakabayashi 12,
Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
9:30-16:30

Closed over the New Year holidays

* The listed foods may be out of stock depending on the season.



2 Soba restaurant Minori 実り

Here, buckwheat noodles are arranged on ceramic dishes that the owner created by herself. The ceramics are also sold. At the studio next to the restaurant, ceramic-making lessons are also being offered (prior booking essential).



Restaurant owner: Ms. Maeda

Yuyadani Shimonakabata 83-6,
Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
11:30-15:00

Open only on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays
(The lesson is held at 10:30 and 13:00 from Monday to Wednesday.)
* No smoking

Selection

Special

Tea, sweets, and specialties...
Buy souvenirs for travel memories.

* The listed prices (consumption tax included) are as of February 2017.

Tea sweets

4 Matcha roll (1,200 yen)



Fluffy dough with local matcha is mixed with fresh cream in an exquisite balance.

5 Matcha daifuku cake (170 yen)



The daifuku cake that contains powdered green tea-flavored bean jam and fresh cream is sold only from November to mid-May.

6 Bean-jam pancake with fresh cream inside (270 yen each)



Two types of bean-jam pancakes with lots of fresh cream inside are sold frozen; roasted green tea and matcha types are also available.

7 Roasted green tea pudding (169 yen/not on sale during winter)



This pudding is so popular that it is sometimes sold out later in the week.

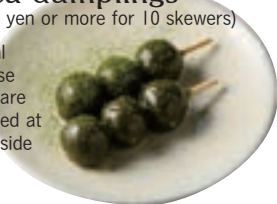
8 Char-Ming bits of rice cake (500 yen)



These rice cakes flavored with light soy sauce and sprinkled with Japanese green tea matcha well with tea.

9 Tea dumplings (530 yen or more for 10 skewers)

No artificial colors; these dumplings are also provided at the café inside the shop.



10 Ichinoka (216 yen for each)

This confectionery is the result of collaboration with a Kyoto cake shop. The gâteau chocolat is flavored with gyokuro and hojicha.



11 Chappy matcha cream cookies (388 yen for five cookies)

Matcha cream sandwiches also carry the branded image of "Chappy," the town mascot.



4 5 BaVato



Owner: Mr. Baba



Gonokuchi Honmachi 62,
Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun
10:00-19:00
Closed on Wednesdays

This store initially sold confectioneries (using packing crates) in 1875. Currently, BaVato mainly offers handmade Western-style cakes and has gained a strong presence in the local area.

Other store info

6 7 Takadatsusenon P9

8 9 Ochanosato
Kitaniyama P11

10 11 Ichinosho P13

Table of annual events & an event calendar



Yasuragi Road (early April to mid-April)

Approx. 200 cherry trees bloom along Tawara-gawa River, and this road is the best viewing spot in town.



Fresh tea (early May)

Ujitawara Town's tea plantations are covered with a fresh green color during this season. Fresh tea events are also held.

Fireflies (June)

Fireflies live around the banks of beautiful rivers such as Tawara-gawa River and Inuuchi-gawa River.

Spring events

Chasomyo Shine Spring Grand Ceremony

(mid-April) Chasomyo Shine

Hand-rolling demonstration & machine-rolling training

(late April to early May)

JA Tea-making Method Training Factory
(only field tours available)

Tea-picking Interaction Events

(on Sundays in early May)

21 Tea Hometown Seminar tea plantation, and others



Fresh Tea Festival at the birthplace of Soen Nagatani

(on Sundays in early and mid-May)

The birthplace of Soen Nagatani

Summer events

Windbell Festival

(7/1-9/18) Shoji-in Temple

Summer Purification Rite

(7/31) Omiya Shrine

Nerikomi Musical Accompaniment

(8/15) Ten Shrine

Lantern Decoration & the Yantan Lantern Festival

(on Sundays in mid- to late August)
Chofuku-ji Temple in Yuyadani district



This page introduces beautiful seasonal views as well as the traditional events that have been handed down in this community.



Autumn leaves

(mid-November to early December)

There are many hidden scenic spots for autumn leaves at noted shrines and temples that are surrounded by mountains (photo: Omichi Shrine).



Kakiya

(used for making korogaki) (mid-November to late December)

Korogaki, a dried persimmon, is a traditional New Year's decoration (P20). The activities of drying persimmons via kakiya (buildings made with logs and straws) and winnowing persimmons are the special features of this season.

Autumn events

Otaki Waterfall Festival

(9/1) Otaki Waterfall in Yuyadani district

Tawara Festival

(Thursday to Sunday before Health-Sports Day in October)

Mikurusu Shrine/Omiya Shrine/Sannomiya Shrine/Otabisho



Ujitawara Hometown Festival

(on Sunday in mid-October)

Cultural Center

Winter events

Shinto Fire Ritual

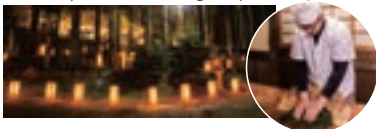
(12/13)* The ritual is also held on June 13. Sarumaru Shrine



New Year Hand-rolled Tea Dedication Ceremony

(12/31-1/1)

The birthplace of Soen Nagatani/Chasomyo Shrine



Kanjoza (cleansing ceremony)

(January to February)

Araki/Iwayama/Zenjo-ji/Tachikawa district

Bean-scattering Ceremony

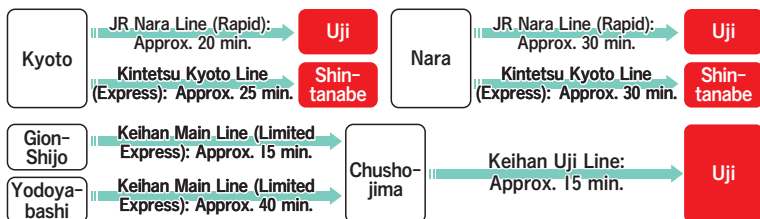
(2/3) * This ceremony may be held on February 4 under certain circumstances.

Zenjo-ji Temple

Access to Ujitawara Town



Railroad/Bus



Take the Kyoto Keihan bus bound for Kogyodanchi, Ryokuenzaka or Ichu-mae at Uji/Shintanabe station. (It takes approx. 30 min. to arrive at Ichu-mae bus stop.)

* Checking the time table in advance is recommended because the number of buses running is limited.

* The bus stop nearest to the birthplace of Soen Nagatani is Kogyodanchi-guchi, but the locations of "Kogyodanchi-guchi" bus stop change depending on whether you go via Kogyodanchi or via Ryokuenzaka.



Car

From the Nagoya area: • Meishin Expressway Seta-higashi JCT ▶ Keiji Bypass ▶ Nango IC (approx. 20 min.)

From the Osaka area: • Meishin Expressway Oyamazaki JCT ▶ Keiji Bypass ▶ Uji-nishi IC (approx. 25 min.) • Meishin Expressway Oyamazaki JCT ▶ Keiji Bypass ▶ Kasatori IC (approx. 20 min.)

From the Osaka (Hirakata) area: • Daini-Keihan Road Hirakata Gakken IC ▶ Change to National Route 307 bound for Kyotanabe (approx. 35 min.). • Drive north on National Route 1. ▶ Change to National Route 307 at Ikenomiya-kita intersection (approx. 45 min.).

From the Nara area: • Drive north on National Route 24. ▶ Turn right at Yamashirohashi-higashizume intersection (bound for Koka) and change to National Route 307 (approx. 15 min.). OR, drive on Keinawa Expressway and change to National Route 307 at Tanabe-nishi IC (approx. 20 min.).