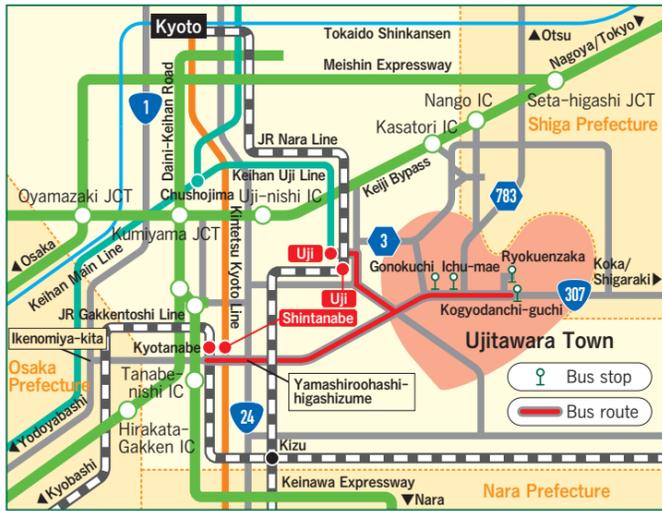


Access to Ujitawara Town/Yuyadani (Yantan)



Railroad/Bus

Kyoto	JR Nara Line (Rapid): Approx. 20 min.	Uji	
	Kintetsu Kyoto Line (Express): Approx. 25 min.	Shintanabe	
Nara	JR Nara Line (Rapid): Approx. 30 min.	Uji	
	Kintetsu Kyoto Line (Express): Approx. 30 min.	Shintanabe	
Gion-Shijo	Keihan Main Line (Limited Express): Approx. 15 min.	Chusho-jima	
Yodoya-bashi	Keihan Main Line (Limited Express): Approx. 40 min.		
		Keihan Uji Line: Approx. 15 min.	Uji

Take the Kyoto Keihan Kokabus bound for Kogyodanchi, Ryokuenzaka, or Ichu-mae at Uji/Shintanabe station and then stop at Kogyodanchi-guchi bus stop. (It takes approx. 35 min.)

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

Time required to reach the main spots from the Kogyodanchi-guchi bus stop
 ▶ Yuyadani Hall: Approx. 23 min. on foot
 ▶ The birthplace of Soen Nagatani: Approx. 37 min. on foot

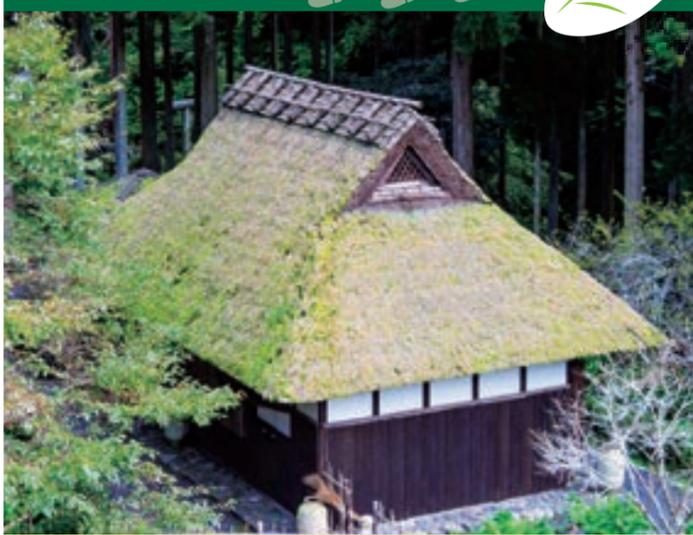
Car

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. 20 min.). OR, drive on Keinawa Expressway and change to National Route 307 at Tanabe-nishi IC (approx. 25 min.).

Publisher © Ujitawara Town Industrial Tourism Department
 March 2017

Yantan Walking Map

Ujitawara Town's Yuyadani Area
 宇治田原町・湯屋谷エリア



Welcome to Yantan.
 Spend some time warming your heart at the birthplace of tea.

Ujitawara Town is famous as a tea region, and Yuyadani district, its southeast area referred to as "Yantan" among the locals, is the birthplace of Japanese green tea.

Walking through the four valleys, visitors can enjoy the history of a tea-growing areas, tranquil scenery, and interactions with locals. How about visiting "Yantan" and refreshing your body and soul?



Historical streetscapes of "Japan Heritage"!

Yantan'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 the narrow area flourished at that time despite the fact that the small village is located along a valley. Even today, the vestiges of older days clearly remain, and thus the Yantan district is recognized as "Japan Heritage," along with the birthplace of Soen Nagatani. Houses are built on stone fences, and tea plantations and wooden tea factories are also peppered about, creating unique scenery with a nostalgic atmosphere.

Numerous impressive stone fences

Three-story tea factory

Many attractive features in addition to tea!

The attractive features of Yantan, which is closely associated with Japanese tea history, are not exclusive to tea. In ancient times, the area was under the sea, and fossilized shells are in abundance. Also, previously, hot springs gushed forth from here (cold springs gush now), relaying the presence of footsteps of history. Furthermore, the spots that are gaining popularity include "Otaki Waterfalls" (where salamanders are said to live), traditional events that have been handed down from the Edo Period, and local restaurants. Yantan is a village along a valley where time passes peacefully. Spend a cozy time following the footsteps of history.

Hot Springs Map of Yuyadani District (property of the education board of Ujitawara Town) This is a copy of the map that was depicted in 1886 and shows the location of Yantan's hot springs at that time.

Tea cultivation originated in Obukudani!

Ujitawara Town is the chief production district of Uji tea. It is said that, in the Kamakura Period, the cultivation method was devised by a disciple of Priest Myo-e, who was famous for having reconstructed Kozan-ji Temple, in the Rakusai area in Kyoto. Tea plants were first located at the interior of Obukudani, a valley around the sacred Mt. Jubu. According to the narratives, Obukudani's tea was popular and was presented to the Shogunate and the Imperial House, thanks to the favorable tea growing conditions of the area (sunlight was properly shaded by surrounding trees, and the location was frost-free).

The person who first developed green tea lived in Yantan!

Currently, many people in Japan enjoy drinking green tea. However, it is said that commoners used to drink brown tea of coarse taste and smell during the Edo Period, when tea culture became prevalent among the public. However, Soen Nagatani, a tea dealer from Yantan in Ujitawara Town, changed these circumstances. Soen spent 15 years and finally invented a method of making fine green tea.

Soen Nagatani (property of Myoraku-ji Temple)

Method of making fine green tea

The birthplace of Soen Nagatani (900-1700) (The interior is open to the public only on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.)

Yuyadani Sorobito, Ujitawara-cho, Tsuzuki-gun

Free admission

Inside the house

Making dried tea leaves with a dryer

Chasamyo Shrine

Soen is worshipped as a chasamyojin (a deity of tea) in appreciation of his great achievement.

The birthplace of Soen Nagatani

The birthplace of Soen Nagatani, located in the interior of Yantan, was restored, and visitors can see the remains of a tea dryer there. The "Fresh Tea Festival" is held every May, and tea-picking and tea-making events are also offered. At Chasamyo Shrine, next to his birthplace, Soen is worshipped as a chasamyojin (a deity of tea) in appreciation of his great achievement.

Rediscover a "Japan Heritage" town through tea

Ujitawara Town: A History of Yantan

Ujitawara Town Mascot Chappy

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 (Yantan) in Ujitawara Town are part, was recognized as the first "Japan Heritage" offering, in April 2015.

Yantan Walking Map

Signboard standing at the proximity where the first tea plant is said to have been situated in Ujitawara Town. In the mountains behind this signboard, the stone fences remain, and are considered to be the foundation of a temple.



Birthplace of Ujitawara tea

Take care when walking about, as there are areas of poor footing.



The area behind the "Ieyasu Iga-goe Road" signboard is said to be the first location where tea cultivation originated in Ujitawara Town.

The mountainous area starts beyond this point, and hunting is allowed. Come well-prepared with climbing gear.

Watch out for cars while walking! This is a road that is still serving the community.



Restaurants

A Takadatsusen



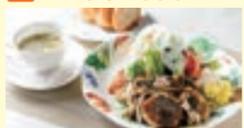
Hojicha (roasted green tea)-flavored soft ice cream is the most popular. "Freshly picked tea"-flavored soft ice cream is available in May. 9:00-18:00 (Open at 10:00 on Sundays and on holidays/closed on New Year holidays)

B Soba restaurant Minori



Handmade buckwheat noodles are on offer, and visitors can experience making ceramics. 11:30-15:00/open only on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays (ceramic-making lessons offered from Monday to Wednesday; prior booking essential)

C Lindenbaum



Western dishes featuring multitudes of local vegetables are popular, and many fans of this food come here even from distant places. 11:00-15:00 (last order: 14:30) & 17:00-21:00 (last order: 20:30)/closed on Tuesdays

Discovering the history of Japanese green tea

Soen Road Course

Visitors can tour through tea-related spots such as stone houses, tea wholesalers, and tea plantations.



The birthplace of Soen Nagatani (For details, please refer to the History page.)

Model Course 1

Approx. 4 km

- Bus stop Kogyodanchi-guchi
- 1 Yuyadani Hall
- 2 Cold springs
- 3 Obukudani
- 4 Birthplace of Ujitawara tea
- 5 The birthplace of Soen Nagatani/Chasomyo Shrine
- 1 Yuyadani Hall

Enjoy forest bathing

Otaki Waterfall Road Course

In addition to the birthplace of Soen Nagatani, visitors can fully enjoy Otaki Waterfall, with water that comes from Mt. Jubu.



"Ofudo-san" (Fudo Myo-o), worshipped at Otaki Waterfall

Model Course 2

Approx. 6 km

- Bus stop Kogyodanchi-guchi
- 1 Yuyadani Hall
- 2 Chofuku-ji Temple
- 3 Otaki Waterfall
- 4 Entrance to Akagao
- 5 The birthplace of Soen Nagatani/Chasomyo Shrine
- 1 Yuyadani Hall

*The time required is calculated based on 3.2 km/hour.

Tea plantation



Please do not enter the tea plantations.



Bus stop

Model Course 1
Model Course 2

You can read the code via a smartphone app.

Yuyadani's Introduction Video "Story of Yantan"



Yantan's events

Fresh Tea Festival at the birthplace of Soen Nagatani

(On Sundays in early and mid-May) At the birthplace of Soen Nagatani
Making everlasting memories at events such as tea-picking at Soen's tea plantation, tea-making from sprouts, and sipping on sencha, with a rice ball.

Lantern Decoration & the Yantan Lantern Festival

(Sundays in mid- to late August) At Chofuku-ji Temple
Here, participants decorate lanterns with Oriental zodiac signs made of vegetables and insert a comical haiku inside. The lanterns are then dedicated to the temple. This festival has been handed down from the end of the Edo Period, and the Yantan Lantern Festival is also held during the same period now.

Otaki Waterfall Festival

(9/1) Otaki Waterfall
This is a rainmaking ceremony that is said to have started in the Edo Period. After reciting a norito (Shinto prayer), the participants threw eels that drank sake into the waterfall basin.

New Year Hand-rolled Tea Dedication Ceremony

(12/31-1/1) At the birthplace of Soen Nagatani
This hand-rolled tea event (a traditional tea making method) is open to the public (from 21:00 to 2:00 the next morning each year). Locals dedicate the tea to the adjacent Chasomyo Shrine.

Mt. Jubu

This is a sacred mountain famous for dedicated mountaineering. The mountain's water pours into the town and contributes to the deliciousness of tea and provides water for rice and vegetables.

Otaki Waterfall

大滝



As you walk closer to the waterfall, the path becomes more and more surrounded by trees.

Otaki Road

Nakatani (Nakantan)

Mt. Jubu Road

Nishitani (Nishitan)

No vehicle thoroughfare is allowable beyond this point up to the mountain side (road is chained).

Ushio Waterfall

Chausu-iwa Rock

This giant rock is said to be used for making tea-grinding mortar. Ushio Waterfall is shown behind the rock (walking close to the waterfall is difficult).

Let's exchange greetings with the locals! The conversation might become lively.



Ieyasu Iga-goe Road

Historic road where Tokugawa Ieyasu is said to have passed on his way from Sakai to Mikawa soon after the Honnoji Incident

Jizo (guardian deity)



Stone tablet inscribed with a haiku

Small shrine

Stone tablet inscribed with a haiku

Stone tablet inscribed with a haiku