

# Hida Furukawa 古川駅

Hida Furukawa is called a back room, as it were, to Hida Takayama 高山市. As its name suggests, it is located about 15 kilometers from Takayama, a famous tourist destination, and a 15-minute train ride away. Originally developed as a castle town of a feudal lord named Kanamori, it later became a territory directly under the Tokugawa shogunate.



the Hida Furukawa station









One of the places you should stop by when you come to Furukawa is the Matsuri Kaikan 祭囃子 (Festival Hall).



Furukawa has a big festival on April 19 and 20. The main event



is the main festival, in which various parts of the town pull magnificent, ornate yatai floats with karakuri (mechanical) dolls on them, but the event called "Ōkoshi-taiko" (drumming to wake the town up) held the day before the main festival is particularly famous. In this, a huge drum is on a large raft-like platform, and two people take turns beating it. Then each town group carries a smaller drum and tries to get closer to the main drum. People consider an honor to get as close as possible to the main drum, and the groups thrashes each other violently. Thus the heavy bass of the taiko drums cruises through the town of Furukawa until midnight, signaling the start of the festival.





At the Matsuri Kaikan, visitors can not only see the actual floats and karakuri dolls, but also watch the festival on a powerful screen in the theater.





You can see the most highlight, Shirakabe Dozo 白壁道場 (white



wall storehouse) Street, from the side of the temple in front of the festival hall.





There are 1,000 carp swimming in the Setogawa River and you can feed them, but you have to feed them from a feed box fixed to them. It is because the amount of feed given per day is fixed. In winter, dozens of people move carp to different locations to avoid the freezing cold, a unique challenge in mountainous areas.



















There is a word “Hida no Takumi” (artisans of Hida) to describe Hida craftsmen. This is proof that people all over the country trusted Hida craftsmen. A part of it we can now see in each of the houses. It is called “Kumogata hijiki 雲形ヒジキ (a cloud-shaped ancon)”. We usually see this in temples and shrines, but here you can see it in private houses. This is a remnant of the excellent woodworking skills of the Hida carpenters, who were active in many parts of the country.





Kumogata hijiki 雲間木

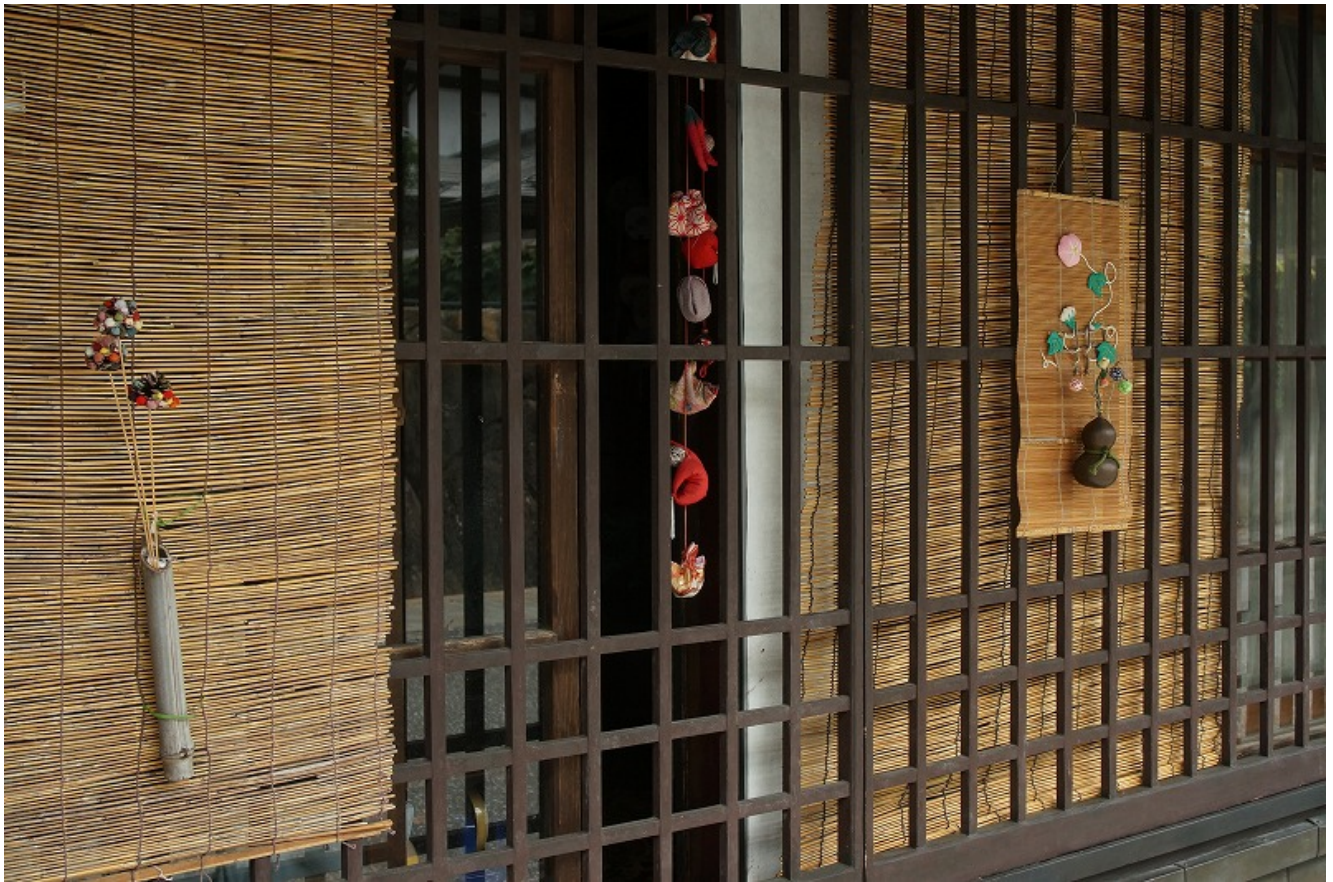


Each carpenter changes the pattern on it. Therefore, you can

tell which carpenter did the work by looking at the pattern.  
We can see the pride of the craftsmen in this work. It is also  
famous for its wood carvings.











Japanese style hotel (ex. Notoya)

















There are simple ramen noodles with a nostalgic flavor, handmade soba noodles, and cafes in old private homes. There is also a famous sake brewery that won the Grand Prix. In recent years, the area has become well known as the setting for the animated film “Kimi no na wa” (“your name” directed by Shinkai Makoto 新海誠 ). However, since it is not as famous as Takayama, there are fewer tourists and you can enjoy a relaxing stroll.









To a town with a sense of nostalgia



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