

Main Touristic Spots: 主な観光スポット

The city weaves its future, Joso-shi 未来を紡ぐ常総市

Historical tour to where the Joso's peculiar culture has originated.

常総市史跡めぐり 常総文化発祥の地

Joso City, where we can feel an atmosphere; full of histories and cultures fed by the rivers, Kinugawa and Kokaigawa, those are running through the city. Since ancient times, the city was known as "a rich region in agricultural and textile industries, thanks to abundant water and green areas", "a city with a high level of technology in the Nara and Heian eras" and also "land of warriors, Bandou-bushi". In recent years, the city is rediscovering and preferred as a new tourist site to know the memories of "great bravery, Tairano-Masakado", "a poet and writer, Nagatsuka-Takashi" and "an artistic weaving, Tsumugi".

Landscapes in which a wealth of nature is preserved on the shores of rivers and lakes. Temples and shrines where they remember us the histories. Towns where they provide visitors with an environment of memories and nostalgia. The city offers several "special places" to visit, where we would like to suggest to many people know. The city's current landscape images are being explored for filming of several movies and dramas in recent years, such a scenario narratives, and are spread throughout the country.

Castle Toyoda (Regional Exchange Center) 豊田城 (地域交流センター)



A castle-style building that exposes local histories and industries in the region has an exhibition hall, a convention hall and a library, opened in 1992. The castle has seven floors with a height of 48.5 meters, is the 2nd highest castle in Japan.

Mitsukaido Culture Museum; Residence of the Sakano Family, "Sakano-ke Jyutaku"

水海道風土博物館 坂野家住宅



上：表 門
左：主 屋

The residential building was expanded and reformed drastically in the mid-Edo period, which is a representative house, showing its peculiarity of powerful farm family, a lobby of beaten earth floor (Doma hall) and a high standard Irimoya style roof, with an immense land area over an acre surrounded by mud walls and a portal with samurai family style. The house was designated in 1968 as a **National Important Cultural Heritage** of the Country and is currently being displayed to the public as a **Mitsukaido Culture Museum**.

Gugyouji Temple 弘経寺



This is a famous temple of the region; it has been spoken that the temple has founded in 1414 by a master monk called Tanyo Ryoukei Shounin. At the time of a master monk Ryougaku Shounin 10th, there was a big amount of the contribution of the Tokugawa family to reform the main building and the big bell. Since then, **Sen-hime princess** began to devote herself to Buddhism, Sen-hime chose Gugyouji as **Bodaiji** (temple in memory). The grave of Sen-hime is inside the temple area.

Ounogou Tenmangu Shrine 大生郷天満宮



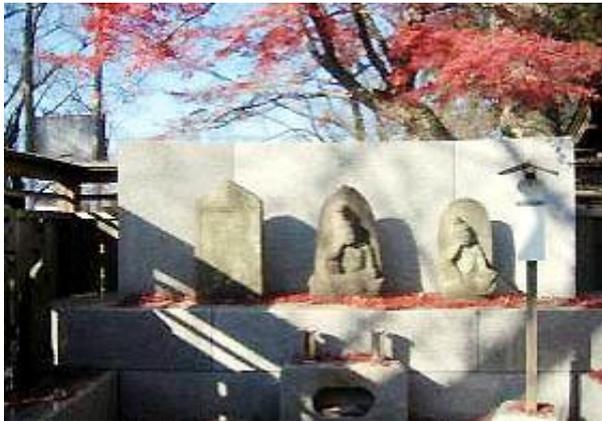
It has been said that the shrine established in the year 929 by the third son of Michizane Sugawara, and is known as one of three main Tenjin shrines among those celebrating the Tenjin in Japan. Sugawara Michizane is known as "Guardian of Learnings", so at the occasion of Hatsu-Tenjin-sai (the first festival of Tenjin in a year), many students visit to ask for a sort in college entrance exams.

Hitokoto-nushi Jinjya Shrine 一言主神社



It has been spoken that the shrine has the origin in the year 809, at the time called Daido era, this locality received the spirit of a god, **Hitokoto nushi**, from the hill Katsuraguisan in the region of Nara (at the time it was called Yamato). It is widely known among people throughout the Kanto region, which is **a god in word** who hears people's wishes and **realizes only one wish** of each. In the great annual festival in autumn, there will be a traditional **Puppet Theatrical Play with Fireworks on a Rope, Karakuri Tsunabi** of Otsukado. (See the photo displayed on the file, occasional events of 4 seasons of the year)

Grave of Kasane (in Houzouji Temple) 累の墓 (法蔵寺)



Houzouji Temple was founded in 1592, is known as **the burial place of a family called Kasane**, according to a legend told about the family where there were repeated murderers in the family under shade by the evil spirits of dead stagnant in the place. Later the spirits of the dead were freed from the place, by a monk, **Yuten Shounin**. In Houzouji temple, a wooden statue of Kasane, a rosary-beads used in the ritual of exorcism by the monk and others are being preserved.