

Wanidukano Sakura(The cherry tree of Waniduka)

There is an excurrent cherry blossom at the centre of tumulus on the Nirasaki hillside. It is said that the tree is about three-hundred-year old and classified into Edohigan cherry blossom.

People have believed that two theories as origins of the name of the tree. The one is; the tumulus is called as the grave of Takedaoh (a hero in the Japanese myth).

Waniduka is written in Kanji as a tumulus

of King. The other one is; the shape of the tumulus is similar to Wanikuchi (a large gold colored drum).

The Sakura is printed on the total tour booklet of Nirasaki. In this year, news programs talked about it, which made the tree got famous nowadays. The best season to enjoy it is from the end of March to the middle of April. The tree will be illuminated among the limited days from dusk to night time. A lot of cameramen visit and take photos of the tree and Mt.Yatsugatake with snow. The tree stands and blows flowers at the centre of field, which looks so grand and attractive!



ShimpuJo-Ato(The site of the Shimpu castle)

Do you know the place “Shimpu”? Shimpu means 'new central place', which is compared to Kofu (the old central place) where Takeda Shingen controlled. So, Shimpu was the place where Takeda Katsuyori, a son of Shingen, lived. Shimpu is a historical place in Nirasaki. Shimpujo-Ato (the site of the Shimpu castle) is the most important evidence of the history, which was registered as a national cultural property.

When Katsuyori lost at the War of Nagashino, he moved the central place in order to prepare against the next invasion. The Shimpu castle was constructed by Katsuyori at that time, but he set fire to the castle before it's completed. After that he escaped to Tano (Kosyu city at present) and committed suicide, that was the fall of the Takeda family.



The Shimpu castle is the last one of the Takeda family. The particular construction represents their strength. The castle was built with forts and fosses but stone walls. The castle keep still remains and tells us the history of the family.

Shimpu Tohgenkyo(Shimpu Fairyland)

Shimpu is also famous place as peach farms. Peach trees set fresh peach in summer, of course, a lot of blooming flowers look a big pink carpet in spring! Pink (the color of peach blossoms) makes a beautiful contrast with yellow (the color of rape blossoms), blue (the color of sky), and white (the color of snow on mountains)!



Hohoh Sanzan(The three peaks of Hohohsanzan)



Hohoh Sanzan is a part of South Alps and included in a mountain of “one hundred mountains in Japan”. The three peaks of hohohsanzan are named after Buddhist deities; Mt.Jizohgatake, Mt.Kannondake, and Mt.Yakushidake. People believe two theories as origins of the name “Hohoh”. The one is because Nara Hohoh (the king of Nara) found the mountain. The other one comes from “Hohoh (a Chinese phoenix) “ because the Obelisk, a part of Jizogatake (a picture on the right side) , looks the bird stretching the wings.

Amari Yama(Mt.Amari)

Mt.Amari (1,731.4m) is one of “mountains in Yamanashi”, which rises in front of South Alps. From the middle to the end of June, people climb Mt.Amari to enjoy watching communities of azaleas. The fascinations of Mt.Amari are beautiful scenery of azaleas, Mt.Fuji, Mt.Yatsugatake, and Mt.Hohoh. If you are lucky, you could see these mountains with a field of clouds. In addition, there is a pond 'Sawara-ike' on the side of Mt.Amari.



The pond is secretly known for the legend ‘Sawara-ike Densetsu’. The legend tells... A long ago, an old honed woman came to Mt.Amari, and turned into a big snake when she got into the pond. One day, lieges’ children lived in Amari place went to



the pond and were lost in the pond. The lieges got angry and covered it with trees of Sawara. The snake turned into a red cow in order to hide but ran away to somewhere... People have believed that a sword which was used by the lieges is still buried in the pond. The legend makes the atmosphere around the pond more mysterious.

Takeda Hachimangu(The Takeda Hachiman Shrine)

As you get to know, Nirasaki is a place where the Takeda family started. Though there are lots of sites related to the family, Takeda Hachimangu is one of important sites. Takeda Nobuyoshi was celebrated his coming of age (it is called as “Genpuku”) at the shrine and made himself known as the Takeda family in 1140. That is to say, there is the origin of the Takeda family.

The main shrine was reconstructed by Takeda Shingen in 1591, which is designed as national important cultural properties.

The structure shows some characteristics of architecture in Muromachi era and the strength of the family. Also, the reason why the shrine is unique is because the shrine has three torii (a shrine gate). These symbolize the power of god.

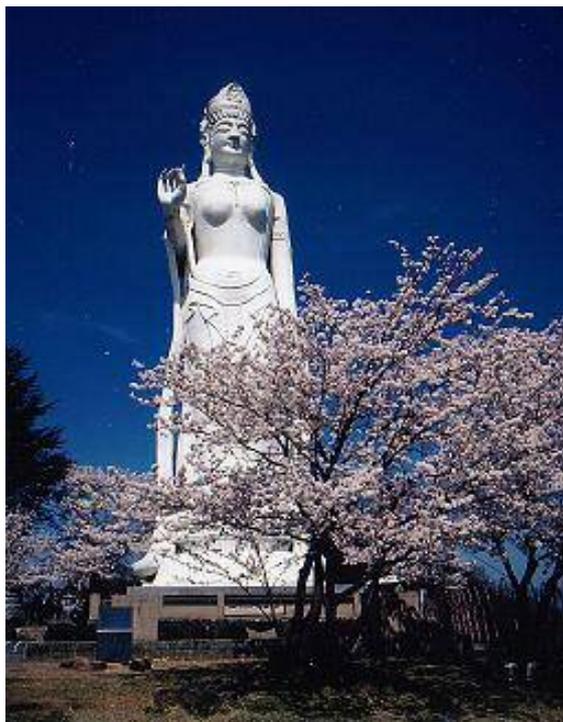


Ganjoji(The Ganjo Temple)



Takeda Nobuyoshi, an ancestor of the Takeda family, began a buddhi temple in Heian era. Three buddhi statues have been placed in the main temple. Both sides of statues were donated by Nobuyoshi and designed as national important cultural properties. There is also “gorin pagoda” which is known as his grave.

Heiwa Kannon(The kannon of Peace)



Heiwa means 'peace'.

Heiwa kannon was erected praying peace and safe in Nirasaki city in 1961. The Kannon is one of “three Kannon in Kanto area” and keeps an eye on our happiness from the Southern edge of Shitsiriwa. Shitsiriwa is a huge amount of rocks formulated by the volcano, and divides Nirasaki city into two parts.

This year, the kannon will come to fifty-year-celebration. Though the kannon has been there for fifty years, it keeps beautiful looking because people try to protect it as the repayment for peaceful life.

Neera

Neera is created as the image character of Nirasaki city in 2009 by Teiichiro Hori who produced Tokyo Disney Land. He wrote a book 'Neera' in memorial project of fifty-five-year anniversary.

In the book, the story goes in Nirasaki with a wizard frog 'Neera'. Why is Neera frog? 'Frog' is 'Kaeru' used in three meanings as verb, 'change' something, 'change something for something', 'come back' in Japanese.

On YouTube, Neera introduces some sightseeing spots in Nirasaki as a guide.

Check it!↓

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CaEPq9tyqs>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8OD8edKCXk&feature=related>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgd_oW98oO4&feature=related

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