

Wazuka-cho town, which is located at the southern edge of Kyoto Prefecture, about midway between Heijo-kyo ruins in Nara and Byodo-in temple in Uji, is the main production area of Uji-cha tea. Wellorganized tea plantations stretch out on the green hillsides surrounding the town.

Wazuka-cha, tea produced in Wazuka-cho, is famous for its sencha-tea shining greenish golden yellow. Its savory flavor is the gift of the morning mist due to large temperature difference, arising from the Wazuka River running through the town from east to west.

As the landscape in Wazuka-cho has been made over many years by tea-production and their scenic view is incomparably beautiful, it was designated and registered as the first of the Scenic Property of Kyoto Prefecture. It was also selected as the Cultural Scenery of Kyoto by Kyoto Prefectural Government.

WAZUKA-CHA CAFE



This facility is the Station to send Information of Wazuka town. You can get teas that were made in Wazuka and a various specialty product there.

Business hours: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Telephone number: 0774-78-4180

Access to Wazuka-cho

By public transportation

Take the JR Kansai Line to JR Kamo Station, and then take a bus of Nara Kotsu Bus bound for Kosugi at the bus stop in front of the west exit of the station and get off at the bus stop of Yamano-ie-mae in Wazuka-cho. It takes about 20 minutes from JR Kamo Station to Yamano-ie-mae

From Osaka, Nara, or Kyoto area

Drive along National Route 24 and 163 to Ibirao, and then take Kizu-Shigaraki Route to Wazuka-cho.

From Otsu or Shigaraki area

Drive along National Route 307 and then take Kizu-Shigaraki Route to Wazuka-cho

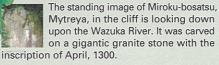
1 Saval Tomb of Prince Asaka (安積親王陵墓)

Prince Asaka was the second son of Emperor Shomu in Nara era. He died in he year 727 when he was 17 years old. Emperor Shomu moved the capital om Heijo-kyo to Kuni-kyo near Wazuka-cho for a while, and he built his detached palace called Shigaraki-no-miya in Shigaraki. It is said that Prince Asaka was buried in this tomb in Wazuka-cho because he loved the area along the trail connecting these three places and Wazuka-cho is located on the midway of the trail. The tomb is also called Taiko-yama hill, and from its top you can enjoy a glorious view of tea plantations.

2 Towering Kitayama Cedar Tree in Yasaka Shrine (八坂神社の大杉)

This Kitayama cedar tree of 12.8 meters around and 31 meters high is believed to be more than 1300 years old. It is said that, after the main trunk had fallen down in the past, eight saplings grew from the stump into one large tree. There is no other Kitayama cedar tree in the town, and it is not known who planted it. It is designated as a prefectural natural treasure.

Miroku Magai-butsu(弥勒磨崖仏)



4 Shobo-ji Temple(正法寺)



Shobo-ji temple is a Zen temple built by Gyoki, a famous priest in Nara era, in order to pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of Prince Asaka.

This temple is also well known for beautiful red leaves around it in autumn

5 Fudo-no-taki (不動の滝)



This waterfall used to be a training place where the ascetics of Mountain Buddhism performed cold water ablutions for their spiritual

training. Fudo-myo-ou, Acala, is enshrined in its basin, and it is believed to have miraculous power. The waterfall is also called "Ogon-no-taki", Golden Waterfall.

6 Jubu-san Kontai-ji Temple(鷲峰山金胎寺)



To Osaka

JR Gakkentoshi Lir

It is said that this temple was founded by En-no-Ozunu, a famous mystic in Nara era, around the end of

Wazuka-cho

Kizu Sta.

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JR Nara Sta.

Kamo Sta. JR Kansai Line

7th century and, later, Emperor Shomu reconstructed it as a Royal temple in order to protect Kimon, the devil's gate, of

7 Gyo-ba (行場)



Mountain Buddhism regarded high mountains as sacred and did their spiritual training deep in steep mountains. Kontai-ji Temple was

English

founded as one of such spiritual training places, and it still has Gyo-ba, a site for spiritual practice. The area around Gyo-ba in the mountain is designated as a historic natural conservation area of Kyoto Prefecture.

8 Wazuka Yama-no-ie for the Youth (和東青少年山の家)



This is an accommodation facility in the Wazuka Athletic Park, but you can use it for various purposes.

In Yama-no-ie, you can also enjoy Cha-kaiseki, a formal meal for a Japanese tea ceremony, and other dishes using tea in them in a casual atmosphere. Tel: 0774-78-2603

9 Wazuka Tenmangu Shrine (和東天満宮)



This shrine was founded in the year 983 when the painted image of Lord Sugawara Michizane was

enshrined. The main hall of the shrine presents the architectural style of Muromachi era in the 15th century, and it is designated as an important cultural treasure.

10 Hyakujo-iwa (百丈岩)



A massive granite rock in a beautiful ravine called Kamakura-dani. It is also called Hachijo-iwa, and its view is among 200 selected natural scenes of Kyoto.

M Nagomi-no-Mizuumi (なごみの湖)



An artificial lake in the Yubune Forest Park, which was made by blocking a feeder stream to the Wazuka River. You can enjoy sportfishing here.

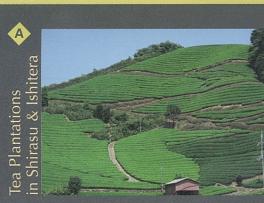
™ Yubune Forest Park (湯船森林公園)



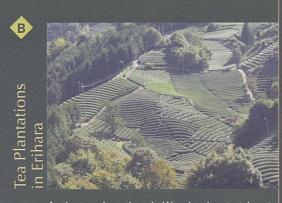
A natural park in the forest. There are hexagonal pavilions and a mill roofed with reeds, and walk trails are arranged. Lots of people enjoy barbecuing in summer and mushroom picking

*The scenery of the four areas on the below was acknowledged as the first of the Kyoto Scenic Asset.





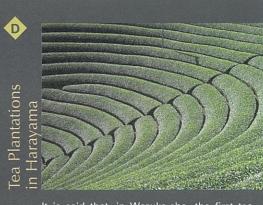
In spring, it gets warm earlier in the west part of Wazuka-cho than in its east part. and called "Hayaba", early crop areas, where tea picking starts as early as in late April. The tea plantations here have been developed in a stretched out into the sky.



As the tea plantations in Wazuka-cho stretch out on steep hills, you cannot imagine how large they are by just looking up from the riverside In this area, the ridges of tea bushes cover every slope of the hills and make patchwork-like elaborately-wrought patterns.



All the tea plantations on Mt. Kamatsuka-yama were cultivated by our ancestors with hand spades. The pleasant scenery where the residence of the farmers and their tea plantations lie side by side is that typical landscape made by tea production which Wazuka-cho is proud of



It is said that, in Wazuka-cho, the first tea trees were planted at Harayama in the 12th century, in Kamakura era. As the tea bushes in Wazuka-cho are trimmed and taken care of many times throughout the year, much more frequently than in any other tea production areas, the tea plantations in Wazuka-cho present very artistic views.