

What you Need to Know before Visiting Hida

The Hida region of Japan, where SATOYAMA EXPERIENCE is located, is blessed with abundant nature, rich historical culture and tradition, and many important architectural structures. To preserve and pass on this natural, human and built heritage to future generations, we would like to work with both visitors to Hida and local residents to protect it. Therefore, our tour guides will place emphasis on wildlife, cultural assets and the livelihood of the local people, as outlined below.

A little consideration on the part of each visitor to Hida can make a big difference. We would appreciate your cooperation.

Protection of Wildlife

The Hida region is located in the northern part of Gifu prefecture in the central part of Honshu, Japan's main island. Around 80% of Gifu prefecture's area is covered by forest (the second most in Japan), with the proportion rising to 94% in Hida City. The Hida region is comprised mainly of deciduous broad-leaved forest, while Mt. Haku and the Northern Alps belong to the subalpine and alpine zones. Because of this unique environment, the area is home to a wide array of plants and animals. In particular, large animal species such as Japanese serows, black bears, Japanese deer, and wild boars are widespread; lucky visitors may even see a serow during their cycling tour.

The sheer variety of flora and fauna in the area means there are also many endangered species. It is unlikely that you will see such species (listed below) in the *satoiyama* area of Hida, our tour locations, or in towns. However, if you do come across them, please do not interfere with or damage them in any way, for example by harming animals or picking flowers. The following list presents those species categorized by Gifu prefecture as "Designated Rare Wildlife (16 species)":

Classification	Species	Family
Amphibians (1 species)	HynobiushidamontanusMatsui	Salamander
Fish (2)	Pseudorasborapumilasubsp	Carp



species)		
	<u>GasterosteusaculeatusleirusCuvier</u>	Pseudobagrus
Plant (13 species)	<u>AdonismultifloraNishikawaetKo.Ito</u>	Buttercup (Ranunculus japonicus)
	<u>AdonisramossaFr.</u>	Buttercup (Ranunculus japonicus)
	<u>Pulsatillacernua(Thunb.)Spreng.</u>	Buttercup (Ranunculus japonicus)
	<u>Shibateranthispinnatifida(Maxim.)SatakeetOkuyama</u>	Buttercup (Ranunculus japonicus)
	<u>PrimulasieboldiiE.Morr.</u>	Siebold's primrose (Primula siebold)
	<u>PedicularisresupinataL.var.microphyllaHonda</u>	Jersey cudweed (species of cottonweed, Gnaphalium affine)
	<u>ChionographisjaponicaMaxim.var.minoensisHara</u>	Lily(Lilium spp.)
	<u>Fritillaria japonica Miq.</u>	Lily(Lilium spp.)
	<u>Petrosavia sakurii (Makino) J.J.Sm.ex Steenis</u>	Lily(Lilium spp.)
	<u>CalantheatricarinataLindl.</u>	Orchid
	<u>CypripediumjaponicumThunb.</u>	Orchid
	<u>Dendrobiummoniliforme(L.)Sw.</u>	Orchid
	<u>Orchisgraminifolia(Reichb.fil.)TangetWang</u>	Orchid

Gifu Prefecture, "Outline of Gifu Prefecture's Ordinance for the Protection of Rare Wildlife".
<https://www.pref.gifu.lg.jp/page/8322.html>

For more information on other endangered species, please refer to the following links to the website of Gifu Prefecture:



Gifu Prefecture, "Gifu Prefecture's Endangered Wildlife (Animal Edition) Revised Edition - Gifu Prefecture Red Data Book (Animal Edition) Revised Edition".

<https://www.pref.gifu.lg.jp/page/4261.html>

Gifu Prefecture, "Gifu Prefecture's Endangered Wildlife (Plants) Revised Edition - Gifu Prefecture Red Data Book (Plants) Revised Edition".

<https://www.pref.gifu.lg.jp/page/11109.html>

Protection of Cultural Properties

Many tourists visit the Hida region in search of nature and the beauty of the townscapes, culture and traditions that remain here, formed over the centuries through the efforts of the local people. In particular, Shirakawa-go has been designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The old streets of Takayama City have been selected as an Important Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings in Japan. Hida Furukawa is not formally designated as a preservation area, but the striking and beautiful rows of houses with white walls and earthen storehouses along the Seto Canal are unique in Japan. During the Takayama Festivals, held in both spring and autumn, and the Furukawa Festival in spring, visitors can experience the region's traditional culture by viewing *yatai* (festival floats), created by a combination of the skills of local artisans, known as *Hida-no-takumi*. These *yatai* events have been recognised by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage.

There are numerous other designated cultural properties in Gifu prefecture, including traditional residences like the Kusakabe and Yoshijima Houses, religious treasures such as the main building at Atayuta Shrine and the sutra repository at Ankokuji, as well as artworks and crafts. For details of such cultural properties, please see the link below:

Gifu Prefecture, "Gifu Prefecture Catalogue of Cultural Properties".

<https://www.pref.gifu.lg.jp/page/13288.html>

As a tourist, there is a possibility that you may encounter some of these properties at temples, shrines and museums, but please be careful not to buy them as souvenirs, regardless of whether they are real or fake.



Although not designated as cultural properties, there are many other traditional and local crafts in the Hida region. These include Hida *shunkei* (lacquerware) and *Ichii-itto-bori* (yew wood carving), designated as traditional crafts by the Japanese government, as well as Hida *sashiko* (embroidery), the pottery styles of *Shibusa-yaki* and *Koito-yaki*, and *Enku* carving. Please take care that any items you may purchase are genuine, for example by patronising official shops or asking our guides for advice. Please refer to the HIDA TAKAYAMA Tourist Information page for an overview of traditional handicrafts and Gifu folk art:

HIDA TAKAYAMA Tourist Information, "Traditional Crafts"

<https://www.hida.jp/english/localspeciality/shopping/4000194.html>

We thank you as a visitor for making purchases that help to sustain, not damage, the nature and cultural assets unique to the Hida region. Please also make sure to comply with the Washington Convention, Japan's laws regarding permissible exports, and any relevant import laws in your home country:

CITES

<https://cites.org/eng>

Japan Customs, "Export/Import"

<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/index.htm>

Consideration for the Local Community

Our tours are based on the theme of "Travelling Through Life", with the aim of showing you the lifestyle and knowledge that local people have developed and preserved in Hida through long generations. Because we at SATOYAMA EXPERIENCE provide our guests with community-based tour services, we consider our relationship with the local people to be of paramount importance. To show respect for residents and their way of life, we ask that you refrain from the following activities in the community:

- Unauthorised entry into private places not open to the public (e.g. private houses, gardens, rice paddies, unopened areas of shrines and temples, etc).
- Stealing or destroying/damaging crops from fields or items from private homes.
- Taking pictures of residents without permission.



- Illegal dumping of garbage.
- Causing harm to plants and animals.

In addition, SATOYAMA EXPERIENCE promotes sustainable tourism. To help us with our goal, we would appreciate your cooperation in fostering positive relationships within the community:

[Society]

- Please respect the lifestyle, culture and history of the local communities.
- Please enjoy your interactions with local residents as a tourist; we are sure you will leave having developed mutual respect and understanding.

[Environment]

- Whenever possible, please travel by public transportation, bicycle, or on foot, in order to reduce CO2 emissions.
- Please keep plastic waste to a minimum, especially the consumption of plastic bottles. Water dispensers are available at our facilities. Please bring your own bottle.
- Please follow the rules for the appropriate separation of garbage.

[Economy]

- Please patronise local restaurants. In particular, please support restaurants that serve locally produced ingredients and traditional local dishes. Don't hesitate to ask us for recommendations.
- When purchasing souvenirs, please choose items produced in the Hida area.
- Please purchase environmentally friendly products, such as those without plastic packaging or organic foodstuffs.

Sustainability means the preservation of the worthwhile, whether natural, cultural or societal. And so we ask for your cooperation in that task. With your help, we can continue to introduce our beautiful area with its many charms to as many visitors as possible in the future. We look forward to your visit to Hida.

