

National Treasures
and
Important Cultural
Properties

Other cultural properties

It's not just Kongo-ji and Kanshin-ji temples either. Just walking around the streets you will encounter all sorts of valuable cultural artifacts: that is what makes all of Kawachinagano like a museum.



Important Cultural Properties Eboshigata Hachiman-jinja Shrine

An "eboshi" is a type of hat worn by male courtiers in ancient times, and this shrine is so named due to the hill on which it is built having a similar shape to such a hat. The main shrine was constructed in the latter part of the Muromachi Period (15th century), and is enwrapped in an austere feeling of silence. There is a record of the shrine undergoing repairs on the demand of the lord of this area at the beginning of the Edo Period (17th century).

Data Wide area map : C-2
Location 305 Kita-cho Tel.0721-63-0027
Free
Entry fee All day
Time Open year round
Access 21 minutes on foot from Kawachinagano Station, or 16 minutes on foot from Mikkaichicho Station



City-Designated Cultural Properties Kagata-jinja Shrine

Constructed in the mid-Edo Period (18th century). In 2017 restoration work on the images in the main building was completed, and the original lively colors shine for us once again.



Data Wide area map : C-3
Location 135 Kagata
Tel. 0721-64-1753
Entry fee Free
Time All day
Open year round
Access 25 minutes on foot from Mikanodai Station

Important Cultural Properties Yushutsu-zan Iwawaki-ji Temple : Two-storied pagoda

Iwawaki-ji Temple, rising up out of the forest, houses a two-storied pagoda that is designated as an Important Cultural Property. Constructed in 1532-1555. The two-layered building's upper part is cylindrical in shape and the lower part a square. Its simple structure belies a hidden power, and its unique form is striking.



Data
Wide area map : C-5
Location 3824 Kagata
Tel. 0721-62-4000
Entry fee Free
Time All day
Open year round
Access 90 minutes on foot from "Kono" bus stop

City-Designated Cultural Properties Tako-jinja Shrine

A shrine surrounded by woodland that possesses a mystical atmosphere. The central shrine building was constructed in 1608, and the architecture has a profound quality with three spaces between the pillars at the front. The shrine is dedicated to 10 divinities such as Susano-o no Mikoto, a famous figure from Japanese mythology.

Data Wide area map : B-2
Location 291 Tako
Tel. 0721-54-1007
Entry fee Free
Time All day
Open year round
Access 3 minutes on foot from "Kami-tako" bus stop



The Story of Kusunoki Masashige



Fondly dubbed "Nanko-san", the famous military general Kusunoki Masashige was active in the end of the Kamakura period, which lasted from 1185 to 1333 and has a deep connection with Kawachinagano. He is reputed to have spent eight years in his childhood studying Buddhism at Kanshin-ji Temple. Additionally, Masashige's tactics won his side many battles in the war between the Northern and Southern Courts that ravaged Japan at that time, and he is said to have studied military tactics Oe Tokichika. In the Kagata area of Kawachinagano, the Oe Tokichika residence site, to which Masashige traveled many times over three years, supposedly still remains. (It is not open to the public.) Later in life, Masashige, now a general, answered

the call of Emperor Go-Daigo to overthrow the Kamakura Shogunate, and called his banners. He made multiple requests to Kongo-ji Temple to pray for his victory in battle at this time, and that temple to this day is in possession of multiple letters written by Masashige that reveal a lot about his personal character. In 1336 Masashige was defeated in battle against Ashikaga Takauji, but his valor and sincerity, as well as loyalty to the emperor, were recognized, and his severed head was returned to Kanshin-ji Temple where it was interred in a burial mound. The *Nanko-kubizuka* ("Burial Mound for the Head of Lord Kusunoki") continues to be visited by admirers of Masashige to this day.

Sites associated with Kusunoki Masashige

Kongo-ji Temple



The *Kusunoki-shi Monjo*, a collection of 14 letters sent by Masashige to the temple, among other objects is housed here. It has also recently garnered attention for the folding screen in its holdings having been designated a National Treasure in 2018. The details are on page 7

Kanshin-ji Temple



In addition to being the temple where Kusunoki Masashige studied, there is an unfinished tower whose construction he commanded, as well as the burial mound (*kubizuka*) that is the final resting place for his severed head, and many other sites associated with him. By the temple entrance is a bronze statue (photo above) of Masashige on horseback. The details are on page 10