



Feel the history here!

Even today, the culture and traditions that blossomed while the Kahoku Town was a flourishing center for Safflower trade are still alive.



Yachi Donga Festival

Held during September every year, the Yachi Donga Festival offers a variety of family fun festivities. At Yachi Hachimangu, visitors can watch Yachi Bugaku performance for the gods, see a parade with Yakko (Samurai attendants) leading the way for a Mikoshi (a portable Shinto shrine), watch to performing groups riding parade floats, or eat out at one of the many vendors in the area. On the final evening of the festival, all of the performing groups and stalls gather together under lantern lights for one last night of enjoyment.

Kahoku Hoku Festival



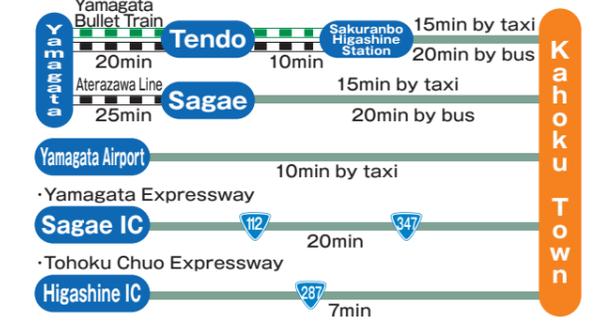
This business-related festival is held by a cooperation of business ranging from agriculture, industrial companies, and retailers. It is held on the 3rd Sunday in October (or before / after that) every year.

Yachi Daikoku Dance



While posing as Daikoku (the god of wealth), dancers acting as Daikoku sing and dance lively in hope of bringing good fortune to all. This dance is performed during the Yachi Donga Festival.

Saffron Dye Experience Activity
Benibana Museum ☎0237-73-3500



Business Commerce Tourism Department of Kahoku Town, Yamagata Prefecture Tel.0237-73-2111
Kahoku Town Tourism Association Tel.0237-72-3787



With Every Step a New Adventure



Kahoku-cho

A Town of Hina Dolls and safflower
Kahoku Town Yamagata Prefecture

<http://www.town.kahoku.yamagata.jp/>

Kahoku Town Search



Experience traditional culture!



Benibana Museum
The house of Horigome, a family made wealthy by the Benibana (Safflower) trade during the Edo era (1603-1868), now stands as a museum for all to visit. On exhibit is a variety of artifacts such as weapons, printing and name seals, books, Kyoho Hina dolls, and traditional-style homes called Nagaya. In addition to these things, visitors can learn about the local Benibana trade responsible for the region's prosperity. Used as an ingredient in products such as lipstick, Benibana was once regarded as a treasured commodity. It was also used for dyeing clothes. One can still see kimono dresses today that utilize Benibana dyes.

Yachi Doll's Festival
A number of Hina Dolls (ornamental dolls) which have remained in the possession of local families for generations tell stories of when the town once blossomed with Safflower trade. Every April 2nd and 3rd during Yachi Doll's Festival, Hina dolls are place on exhibit for the public to see, turning the town's main street into a Hina-ichi (doll market). During this time viewers can see a variety of historical Hina Dolls, as known as Kyoho Hina, Jiro Zaemon Hina, Goshou Dolls, Trick Dolls, and more. Coinciding with this, the local Akiba Shrine holds a memorial service dedicated to the Hina Dolls.



Imperial Couple of Heisei (Life-sized Hina Dolls)
Produced by Saitama Prefecture's Iwatsuki Dolls Cooperative, these life-sized Hina Dolls representing the Imperial Couple of Heisei are the nation's largest.



Yachi Bugaku
Yachi Bugaku is a traditional form of court dance and music from the Yachi region. Not only has Yachi Bugaku been passed down for over 1,000 years, but it is also classified as a national cultural asset. It is performed in the ceremony for the gods during the Yachi Donga Festival and held on September including Keiro no Hi (Respect for the Aged Day).



Saffron Dye is popular for its vivid color. Would you like to try the dye activities, which used to attract people from urban area. A colored liquid made with mashed flowers is used for dyeing handkerchiefs. The natural vegetable dye material, which is also said to be having a secret power as a medicine, is effective for aesthetic and health.



Kahoku Guide Map

- Things to enjoy & Places to see
- National high way
- Prefectural road
- Traffic lights
- Cherry Blossom Bank
- Saffron preservation area



Things to enjoy & places to see!



1 Donga Hall
Acting as one of the community's multipurpose buildings, Donga Hall has a lot to offer. Its many rooms, open terraces, and car park are often utilized for meetings, farmer's markets, festivals, and more.



2 Kahoku Town Pool
Constructed with health in mind, the Kahoku Town Pool is not only aesthetic-looking, but provides an exercise-friendly environment.



3 Kahoku Children's Zoo
Open every day with free admission, the Kahoku Children's Zoo was built to give children an up-close experience with animals. Visitors and their children cannot only see a variety of animals here, but have the opportunity to feed and pet them as well.



4 Hina-no-Yado
Conveniently located next to Benibana Hot Spring Hina-no-yu, this inn offers guests superior service at low costs. Along with their great accommodations, they offer a variety of packages for guests to participate in agricultural and tourist activities.

Kahoku Agricultural Activities
As an experiential-accommodation facility, the place offers fun agricultural experience activities that be enjoyed only at Kahoku Town. Which one would you like to try?



5 Benibana Hot Spring "Hina-no-yu"
Benibana Hot Spring Hina-no-yu is well known in the region for its high quality spring water. It is even said to be a highly effective treatment for those suffering from neuralgia and arthritis.



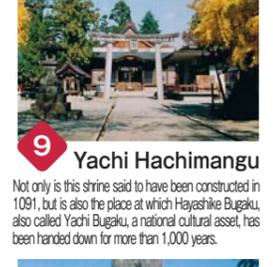
6 Exchange Hall (Yukkura)
Hall #1 is used as a gymnasium where various sports can be enjoyed, while Hall #2 is used as a folk museum.



7 Sahato Benibana
This multipurpose facility houses a dome-shaped panoramic theater, the town library, an auditorium, and various interactive rooms.



8 Roadside Station Kahoku (Burattopia)
Located at the town's entrance on Higashine side, this roadside station offers breathtaking views of the Mogami River and a restaurant.



9 Yachi Hachimangu
Not only is this shrine said to have been constructed in 1091, but is also the place at which Hayashikie Bugaku, also called Yachi Bugaku, a national cultural asset, has been handed down for more than 1,000 years.



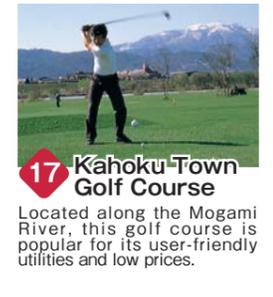
12 Mizonobe's Big Zelkova Tree
Standing 30 meters tall with a diameter of 11 meters, this 750 year-old tree is another one of Yamagata's natural treasures.



13 Tombstone of Shiratori Juro
The tombstone of Shiratori Juro, the owner of Yachi Castle who ruled the region from 1558-1569 during the latter half of the Warring States period.(Sengoku Jitai)



16 Hikiryu Kouryu Park
This park is good for enjoying nature while holding BBQ and "Taro Hot Pot" parties called imoni-kai.



17 Kahoku Town Golf Course
Located along the Mogami River, this golf course is popular for its user-friendly utilities and low prices.

Local Products

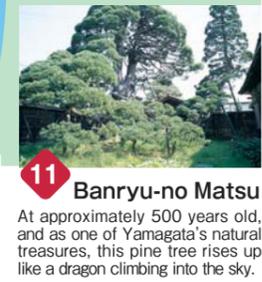
Delicious!

There are a variety of local products to be found in the Kahoku Town. Many of which are produced in an enriched natural environment; giving them distinct seasonal characteristics.

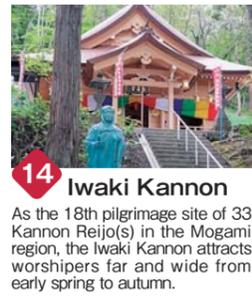




10 Kahoku Central Park (Imoko Train)
Historically this train made runs between Yachi and Jinmachi. It is now a popular attraction for children.



11 Banryu-no Matsu
At approximately 500 years old, and as one of Yamagata's natural treasures, this pine tree rises up like a dragon climbing into the sky.



14 Iwaki Kannon
As the 18th pilgrimage site of 33 Kannon Reijo(s) in the Mogami region, the Iwaki Kannon attracts worshippers far and wide from early spring to autumn.



15 Sun Sports Land Kahoku
Sun Sports Land Kahoku is a full-size sports facility center equipped with a baseball field (Rakuten Eagles Benibana Stadium Kahoku), tennis courts, and lights for night time play.