





holds the Awara Yukake Festival to celebrate the natural blessings of the hot spring. Participants splash each other with warm water at this lively festival.

Photo courtesy of Nikkan Kenmin Fukui



# Ashiyu

This free footbath, located at Awara Yunomachi Plaza by Awara-Yunomachi Station, is built from all hinoki cypress wood, and is fed by a natu-



geisha culture, and visitors can be transformed with geisha outfits and makeup! Don't miss this rare opportunity for such a unique experience!



Experience traditional

Saintpia Awara

Geisha Games

Enjoy playing traditional geisha games with an Japanese hospitality, led by experts certified n sake tastings.

Many of the *ryokan* inns have lovely Japanese gardens, beautiful through all four seasons.

> Each November, the Awara Togenkyo Festival serves as a local symbol of autumn. The streets of the hot spring town are lit by some 2,000 bamboo lanterns, creating a quietly magical atmosphere.



A public hot spring bath perfect for day-trip visitors. Features two unique baths, including an open-air bath.

The open-air bath on the roof feels completely different during the day and at night.

# Refresh Body and Soul in Awara Onsen, One of the Hokuriku Region's Finest Hot Spring Towns.

Awara Onsen's hot springs were discovered in 1883, and in the years since, the town has come to be beloved by the people of Osaka and Kyoto in particular, as well as locals. With some 820,000 visitors annually, Awara Onsen is one of the leading hot spring towns in the Hokuriku region, and the finest in Fukui. With 74 different source springs, each ryokan inn in Awara Onsen has unique characteristics to its water, said to have various medicinal properties, for something new to enjoy every time you visit.



 $\label{eq:Awara} \textbf{Awara, and the Hokuriku region as a whole, enjoys the finest foods from both land and sea, all}$ throughout the year. Even so, winter is a particular highlight, bringing Echizen Gani Crab snow crab so prized for its incredible flavor that it is even offered as a gift to the emperor. The sake produced by the women who run these ryokan inns brings out the best of these dishes.



Savor a rice bowl topped with premium Wakasa Beef, served with wasabi and soy sauce. 

P12











R Yukemuri Yoko-cho is a charming collection of cozy restaurants, located by Awara-Yunomachi Station. Stop in and have some yakitori, deep-fried skewers, oden, seafood, ramen, or even French food at the ten places you'll find here, and drinks selected by the chefs to go with every item. The small size of each of these restaurants helps bring visitors closer to the chefs and to each other, for a great evening together with the locals.



These Echizen Onigawara sweets feature crisp wafer sandwiches shaped like Onigawara tiles, a local craft, and are filled with chunky sweet bean



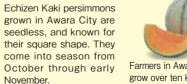


Dorayaki pancake V sandwiches filled with plenty of sweet bean paste, and featuring the Awara mascot Yumeguri Gonzo branded onto the surface

October through early November



Premium matcha green tea cream puffs, with incredible flavor and aroma that make it clear that they were develgrow wild in pine forests; oped by a tea shop. enjoy their crisp texture and delicate sweetness. →P12



Farmers in Awara City grow over ten kinds of melons, in various shapes and colors, and with a variety of want to try them all!



Tomitsu Kintoki sweet potatoes are a Fukui specialty, known rich sweetness and crumbly texture.





nationwide for their prepared items, or enjoy some freshly cooked handmade unique flavors. You'll deliciously moist, soba noodles topped with grated daikon radish. →P12

04









# **Beautiful Natural Environments to Enrich the Body and Soul.**

Whether it's the placid Lake Kitagata or the nearby iris garden, a colorful tree-lined road, peaceful rural landscapes, or historic paths, Awara City offers plenty for lovers of the great outdoors. The lovely sights and scenery change with the seasons, offering casual relaxation and lively invigoration alike all throughout the year.

cycling path. There are also pedal-powered boats and unusual variants on bicycles available to enjoy.



The local Echizen Railway that runs through Awara City offers wonderful views of the rural scenery, with the green of freshly planted rice in spring and the gold of harvest time in autumn.



This garden boasts some 200,000 irises across 300 different varieties. The Lake Kitagata Iris Festival is held here from early to mid June each year.

The road from JR Awaraonsen Station to the hot spring town of Awara Onsen features stretch roughly 150 meters long lined with American sweetgum trees. Enjoy the changing colors with the seasons, with the fresh greenery of spring and the brilliant red of autumn.

In order to make their way to what was once the holy city where Yoshizaki Gobo Temple was located, the villagers cleared this pass through the mountains by hand, over the course of just three months. Even in summer, this road









Echizen Onigawara tiles are a traditional craft that has been handed down for 250 years in the Taki area of Awara City. These tiles are popular as gifts and interior decorations, and considered good luck items. Visitors can also try making their own miniature Onigawara tiles.



The Kanazu Festival, held every July, features three giant floats, children's dances, and *taiko* drumming throughout town. The Honjin Kazarimono, scenes and figures made of everyday items, are a particular highlight of the festival.

The Awara Onsen Spring Festival is dedicated to the deity of Yakushi Shrine, who watches over the hot spring. Three floats — each featuring a giant figure, cherry blossoms, and *taiko* drumning — are paraded around town, into the evening







This museum is also home to permanent displays of Honjin Kazarimono, remarkable scenes and figures built out of everyday items in such a way that they can be disassembled and the items involved can still be used. Honjin Kazarimono can also be found elsewhere around town.

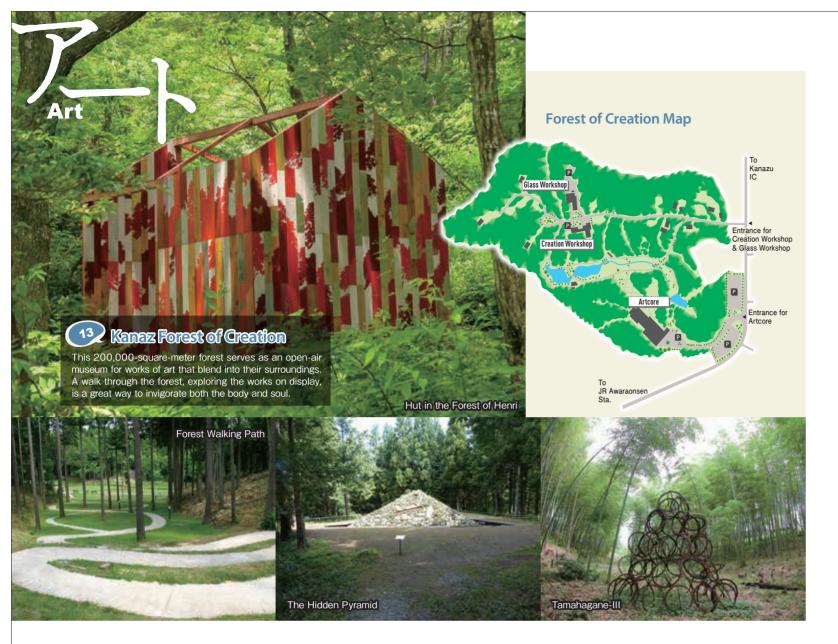
# Step Back in Time with Historic Destinations and Local Festivals.

Awara City is home to Yoshizaki Gobo, an area with ties to the historic Buddhist priest Rennyo. Even today, many of Awara's festivals and much of its culture have ties to long ago. Enjoy a stroll through town, taking in the historic atmosphere, or join a lively festival for an experience you won't have anywhere else — there are plenty of ways to encounter Awara City's traditional culture firsthand.





Genkuro Fujino was a professor at a medical school, born in Awara City; as a professor, he provided enthusiastic instruction to Lu Xun, a student from China, treating him without prejudice like any of his other students. Lu Xun was deeply moved by this gesture, and is said to have revered Fujino for the rest of his days as his "lifelong mentor." At the Genkuro Fujino Memorial Hall, visitors can see books, medical instruments, letters, and other items on display.





# A Museum in a Forest, Overflowing with Art.

Kanaz Forest of Creation encompasses an entire forest, with works of art that dot the landscape among the trees, as well as workshops for artists to engage in their creative work. The Forest also plays host to modern art exhibits and craft markets, making it a great place for visitors to experience art at their own pace, surrounded by the beauty of the great outdoors.



**One-Day Art Experiences** 



As the name "Forest of Creation" would imply, there are various hands-on art experiences available for visitors. At the ceramics workshop, visitors can try cloisonné or painting magnets. At the glass workshop, visitors can make photo frames or glass stamps, try sandblasting, or paint glass furin wind bells. The friendly instructors offer helpful instructions and advice, for a fun and easy way to make a great souvenir or gift.











late July to late August, making it a great time of year to enjoy ripe, fresh blueberries.

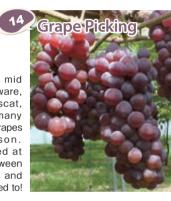
# Strawberries come into season from February through May. Enjoy the firm, juicy sweetness of Benihoppe strawberries.

Awara City is a great place for hands-on experiences sure to delight kids and adults alike. Different fruits are available to pick in different seasons, so you're bound to find something absolutely delicious, including strawberries, grapes, blueberries, and Asian pears — fruit never tastes better than when it's freshly picked! There are also other unique experiences for travelers to enjoy, including designing your own label for local sake, dressing up in a beautiful kimono, and more.

So Much to Enjoy, You'll Want to Come Back for More.

From mid July to mid September, Delaware, Pione, Shine Muscat, Fujiminori, and many other varieties of grapes come into season. You'll be shocked at the difference between truly fresh grapes and the ones you're used to!

lands-On Expe





### Pick Your Own Koshi-no-Ruby **Tomatoes**

Koshi-no-Ruby is a unique type of tomato first bred in Fukui. These large cherry tomatoes come into season from June through November, and are rich in lycopene and have a distinctive sweetness that just might be the secret to their popularity.



## Asian Pear Picking Learn about how to select

and pick only the best Asian pears, for a great fruit-picking experience available from late August through the end of September. Visitors are welcome to as much as they can eat while picking them, and can take home any leftover pears for an additional fee.





Awara is a great place for fun and relaxed tours to enrich both the body and soul, where you can enjoy the natural surroundings, delicious food, relaxing hot springs, and even local agriculture



#### Make Your Own Hot Spring Egg

Sentopia Awara, a public bath facility, offers this unique experience: write your name or draw a picture on an egg, then put it in the hot spring water and wait about 40 minutes, to enjoy an egg cooked to perfection. Sentopia Awara also offers Hot Spring Egg Fortune-Telling, a popular way to find out what's in store for your love life based on how your egg is cooked!



#### Make Your Own **Local Sake Label**

A local sake shop in Awara Onsen lets you customize the label to create a truly one-of-a-kind bottle of sake! Write or draw whatever you'd like on an Echizen Washi paper label, and stick it on a bottle of sake for a great, unique souvenir!



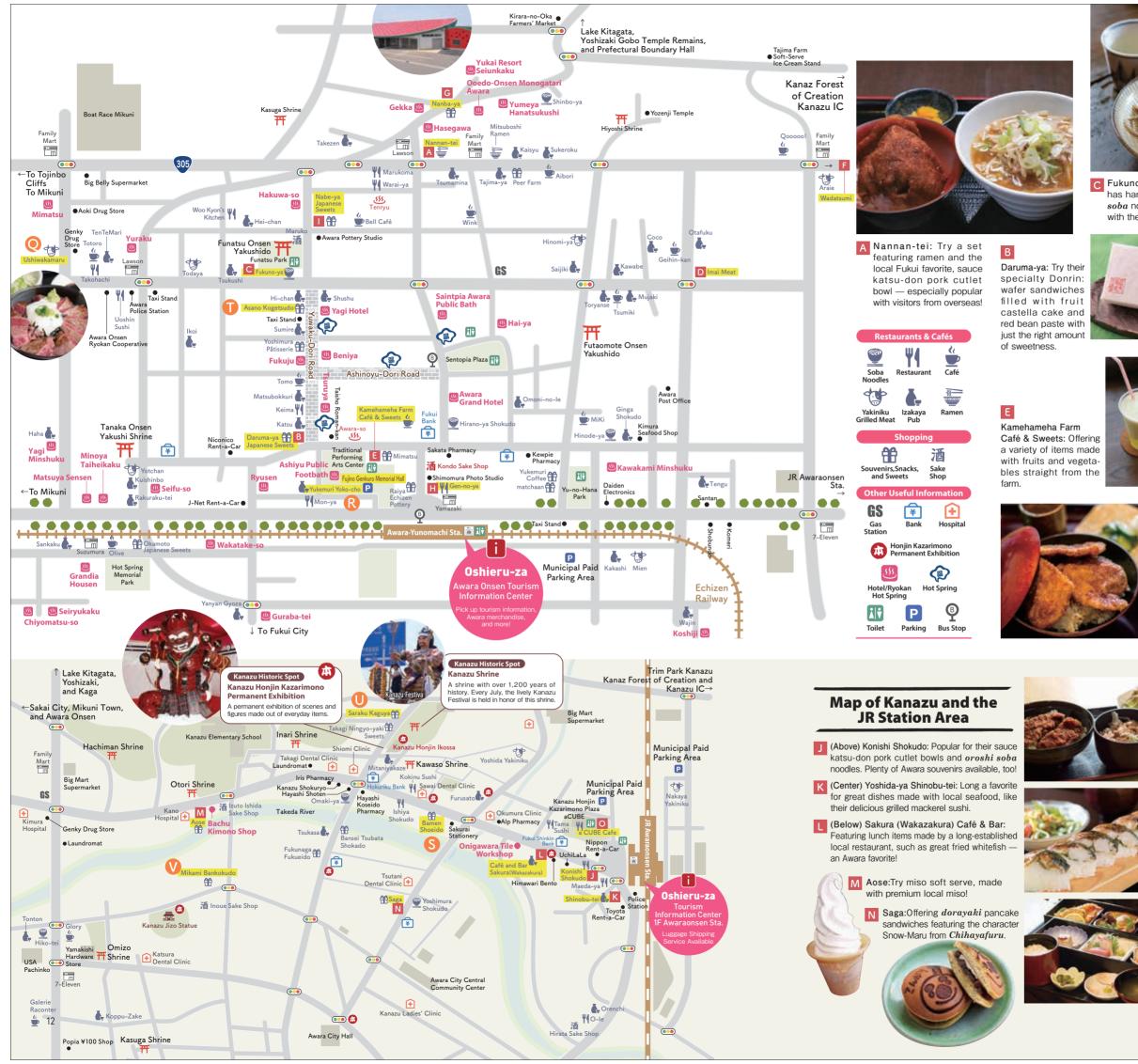
#### **Formal Kimono Dress-Up Experience**

Dress up in a formal kimono, complete with *hakama* pleated skirt, to enjoy a walk around town in style!



Lunch & Sweets Coupons for use in Awara City are available for ¥1,200 (including tax), and make a great way to save money during a day around town!

**Available at locations** marked with on the map!



# D

Fukunoya: Established in 1928, Fukunoya has handed down the recipe for their oroshi soba noodles for generations. Always popular with the locals!

#### Map of the Awara **Onsen Area**

Imai Meat: Try a delicious

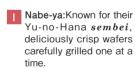
croquette with the rich flavor and subtle sweetness of meat! Perfect for a snack.







H Gen-no-ya: This long-established Western-style restaurant is beloved for their delicious sauce katsu-don pork cutlet bowls and their signature omu-rice.







Wadatsumi: The perfect place to enjoy the fresh seasonal seafood available in the Hokuriku region — the special seafood rice bowl, topped with plenty of fresh sashimi, is a must-try!

G Nanba-ya: Enjoy light, tender Ashi-no-Yudama sweets, inspired by the steam from Awara Onsen













aCUBE Café: Enjoy great pasta and desserts, as well as delicious seasonal menu items.





The ryokan inns of Awara Onsen are known for their views of the beautiful countryside surroundings. The hot spring was originally **INFOMATION** discovered in 1883 when someone was digging a well in a rice field, and 80°C water began gushing out. Hot spring inns began to open the following year, and the area grew into a hot spring town. Today, there are 74 known source springs, and the hot spring town is divided into three areas, each with a shrine to protect that part of this hot spring town.

Yukemuri Yoko-cho

food at reasonable prices

Open days vary by restaurant

(0776) 77-1877 (Oshieru-za)

Awara Lake Kitagata

Iris Garden (p. 7)

come into bloom here each June.

Restaurant Alley (p. 5)

A popular nighttime destination — enjoy local

**©**18:00 to 23:00 (Some restaurants open until 24:00)

200,000 irises across 300 different varieties

**♣**9:00 to 17:00 **♣**Open daily **९**(0776) 73-8029

10 Awara City History Museum (p. 8)

Featuring exhibits of ancient stone items unearthed at the

Kuwano Ruins (nationally designated as important cultural proper-

ties), Honjin Kazarimono made for the Kanazu Festival, and more.

●9:30 to 18:00 (Last admission at 17:30) ③Closed Mon., new year holidays, and 4th Thu. of each month (or the following

**Q**2-14-1 Harumiya, Awara City (2F Kanazu Honjin Ikossa)

day if a holiday) \$\(0.776\) 73-5158 \$\(\text{\text{Free}}\) ree admission

(Awara City Department of Tourism Promotion)



Enjoy a hot spring bath, and even try cooking an egg with the hot spring water.

**6**4-305 Onsen, Awara City **€**10:00 to 22:00 



## Lake Kitagata Park (p. 6)

Offering lakeside bicycle rentals and pedal-powered

**☉**153-137 Kitagata, Awara City **᠑**9:00 to 16:00 itals) (a from Nov. 20 to Mar. 19 (0776) 79-0008 (Park Management Office)



A former missionary base for the Buddhist priest Rennyo's revival of the Jodo Shinshu school of

♠1-901 Yoshizaki, Awara City (Yoshizaki Gobo Rennyo (or the day before if a holiday) and new year holidays. **③**(0776) 75-2200 **¥**¥500



**ൂ**1-9-31 Harumiya, Awara City **♣**9:00 to 16:00 **③**(0776) 73-2711 **❸**Mini tile-making hands-on experience ¥3.000 and up



#### Kanaz Forest of Creation (p. 10)

This vast forest is home to outdoor works of art, as well as an art museum, artist workshops, a restaurant.



**1**-11 Harumiya, Awara City **4**9:00 to 18:00 **6**9:00 to 18:00 Closed Tue. and new year holidays (0776) 65-1045



souvenirs, including magnets, charms, towels, and other items featuring the Awara mascot Yumeguri Gonzo.

#### **Awara-Yunomachi Station**

**⊚**1-1-1 Onsen, Awara City **⊜**9:00 to 18:00 ©Closed Dec. 31 to Jan. 3 (0776)77-1877

#### JR Awaraonsen Station

♠1st Floor, 1-12-15 Harumiya, Awara City **(**0776) 73-2290

#### Awara Onsen Ashiyu Public Footbath (p. 2)

This free public footbath features five different footbaths to enjoy. The building is beautifully lit up at night, and features Wi-Fi internet access and a towel vending machine.

**1**-203 Onsen. Awara City **2**7:00 to 23:00 ©Open daily (0776) 78-6767 vara City Tourism Association)

Free (Separate fee for towel vending machine)



Offering produce straight from the farms, as well as bread and sweets made with local ingredi-

**©**25-56 Ushiyama, Awara City **©**9:00 to 17:00 Closed 3rd Wed. of each month (0776) 78-6020

#### Mt. Shigitani Pass (p. 7)

The "Rennyo Road," which the Buddhist priest Rennyo took from the old Hokuriku-do Route to

**⊙**Hosorogi, Awara City **९**(0776) 77-1877 (Awara-Yunomachi Sta. Tourism Information Center)

#### Genkuro Fuiino Memorial Hall (p. 8)

The relocated house where Genkuro Fujino spent his later years. Step back into the lifestyle of 1930s Japan.

**1**-203 Onsen, Awara City **9**:00 to 18:00 **9**:00 to 18:00 ©Closed Tue. (or following day if a holiday) and new year holidays ○(0776) 77-1030 ○¥200

Blueberry Picking (Late Jul. to late Aug.): Zuikaen

**Q**53-2-11 Yamajuraku, Awara City **Q**8:30 to 11:00

Closed Thu. (open daily Jul. & Aug.; closed for rain)

# 14 Fruit Picking

## Strawberry Picking (Feb. to May): Norari

**⊙**58-23 Yamajuraku, Awara City **⊜**9:30 to 15:30 

#### Grape Picking (Mid Jul. to mid Sep.): Koshi-no-Ruby Tomato Picking: Peer Farm

68-87-2 Namimatsu. Awara City **1**0:00 to 16:00 **Closed Mon.** ©(0776) 77-1707 (during picking season only) & (080) 5854-3512

# Asao Denbe

**⊘**5-5 Todoroki, Awara City Call for hours/reservations **®**Open Sat. only **③**(090) 9302-0846 🗪¥1 000

## Asian Pear Picking: Yonekura Pear Farm

∩68 Namimatsu Awara City up ¥800 (kids 6-11 ¥600, kids 5 and under ¥400)





Established in the year 1244 by Dogen Zenji, the founder of Soto Buddhism, as a Zen dojo. Ruri Shobo Kaku features various precious artifacts on display.



Echizen bamboo dolls are officially designated by Fukui Prefecture as a local craft. Artisans use differ ent types of bamboo to build bamboo dolls and crafts, many of which can be seen on display and for sale. Hands-on experiences also available (fee required).

**⊚**63-1 Kamikumeda, Maruoka Town **●**9:00 to 16:30 Closed Wed. (may change during winter; call for details) and the year-end through the New Year's holidays Q(0776) 66-5666



Built around the year 1575 over the course of five years, by Kanamori Nagachika, a samurai commander under Oda Nobunaga. The castle's walls feature natural rocks used as-is. In recent years, the castle has become famous as the "Castle in the Sky."

@3-109 Shiro-machi, Ono City @9:00 to 17:00 (6:00 to 16:00 Oct. and Q(0779) 64-4817 (Tourism Promotion Office, One City Department of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Promotion) 

Adults ¥200



Said to have been founded in the year 717 by the Buddhist monk Taicho, as a base in modern-day Fukui for the Mt. Hakusan faith. Its modern nickname. "moss shrine." comes from the beautiful moss that blankets the grounds.

⊕Heisenji, Heisenji-cho, Katsuyama City ● Open 24 hours a day ② Open daily ③ (0779) 88-8117 (Katsuyama City Department of Commerce, Industry and Tourism/Hometown Creation Division)



Nationally registered as a natural monument and a place of scenic beauty. This coastline features truly dramatic rocky cliffs that extend for a kilometer. Pleasure boat rides are available for a spectacular view from below, as well.

Anto, Mikuni Town (0776) 82-5515 (Mikuni Tourism Association)



This beautiful gorge is located in Yamanaka Onsen, in Ishikawa Prefecture, and features a walking path perfect for enjoying the dramatic rocks and waterfalls along the gorge, as well as seasonal beauty like fresh spring greenery and red autumn leaves.

Stretches from 1-Chome Higashi-machi to Korogi-machi, manaka Onsen, Kaga City, Ishikawa (0761) 78-0330 (Yamanaka Onsen Tourism Associ



Originally built in 1576 to provide backup to Kitanosho Castle. The castle grounds are now home to hundreds of cherry blossom trees. filling the grounds with beautiful blossoms every spring.

**1**-59 Kasumi-cho, Maruoka Town **2**8:30 to 17:00 **2**8:30 to 17:00 ast admission 30 min. before close) ØOpen daily \$\(0776\) 66-0303 \$\(\mathbb{Q}\) Adults \(\mathbb{Q}\) 450, kids 6-14 \(\mathbb{Q}\)150



One of the world's largest museums dedicated to dinosaurs, featuring 44 dinosaur skeletons, large dioramas, exciting videos, and more. The nearby outdoor fossil-digging experience is popular, too!

**⊚**51-1 Muroko-cho Terao, Katsuyama City **●**9:00 to & 4th Wed. of each month and new year holidays (open daily during summer break) (0779) 88-0001 (Adults ¥720) kids 6-14 ¥260, kids 15-18 and college students ¥410



Once the second home for the Matsudaira Clan, who ruled the Fukui domain, Yokokan is better known for its beautiful garden, an example of mid-Edo-era (1603-1868) Japanese gardens with the walking path around the large central lake. Even surrounded by the city, it offers a moment's peace and beautiful scenery throughout the year.

**3**-11 Hoei, Fukui City **9**:00 to 19:00 (closes at 17:00 Nov. 6 to end of Feb.; last admission 30 min. before close) Closed for new year holidays (0776) 20-5367 



## Sightseeing **Destinations around** Awara

Visit this website for details on places in the area!



The Okamoto area of Echizen City is one of the country's finest producers of washi paper. The Udatsu Paper and Craft Museum offers an up-close look at old-fashioned tools and materials used by traditional artisans. At Papyrus House, visitors can try making their own washi paper. There's also the Paper and Culture Museum, and more!

**Q**8-44 Shinzaike-cho, Echizen-city (Papyrus House) **Q**9:30 to 17:00 House is open) and the year-end through the New Year's holidays **③**(0778) 42-1363 **④** Adults ¥200 (¥300 during special exhibits)