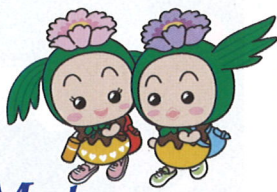


# Tourist Spots in Higashi-Matsuyama



## Yakyu Inari Shinto Shrine (箭弓稲荷神社)



### Origin and History:

Yakyu Inari Shrine was founded 1,300 some years ago. The first shrine is believed to have been completed in 712. The shrine's history describes that Taira no Tadatsune, the lord of Shimofusa country rebelled against the Imperial Court to invade into Musashi country. The court ordered Minamoto no Yorinobu to hunt down and destroy Tadatsune. Yorinobu set a camp at Yakyu field and prayed for victory at the original Yakyu shrine.



After a little while, an arrow-shaped white cloud appeared in the sky and flew toward Tadatsune's camp. Yorinobu believed this phenomenon would bring good message for him to destroy the enemy and Yorinobu overcame Tadatsune as a result. Yorinobu gave thanks to Kami and ordered to rebuild the shrine. He also commanded village people to change the shrine name from Yakyu (野久: Field Long) to Yakyu (箭弓 Arrow and Bow). Since then, Yakyu Inari Shrine has been crowded with worshippers hoping for a peaceful and developed society.



### Response from Kami (Japanese God):

- Huge Harvest
- Prosperous Business
- Family's Safety and Prosperity
- Traffic Safety
- Accomplishment of Arts
- Better Fortune
- Purification
- Wish Fulfillment

### Faith and Enshrined Deities:

Goddess possessing food

### The architecture of Yakyu Inari Shrine:

Constructed with the main hall and the worship hall. These halls are connected with the intermediate passageway. The main hall was reconstructed in 1804 and the intermediate passageway was rebuilt in 1811. The worship hall was reconstructed in 1835 by a famous skilled craftsman, Iida Sennosuke.

### Danjuro Shrine:



Ichikawa Danjuro (the seventh generation) was one of the most famous Kabuki actors in 1800 era. He is still famous and respected among Kabuki fan. Danjuro deeply worshiped Yakyu Inari Shrine to achieve the fulfillment of his Kabuki programs. Praying sincerely, his performance had remarkably improved and he was admired among audience in Edo. He appreciated Kami's help and donated a small shrine made of stone (You can see it there). Since then, many artists have come to pray for improved performances.

### O-Numa and Me-Numa (男<上沼> & 女<下沼>)



Yoshiro, a merchant living with his new wife and mother was recruited in army 450 years ago during the civil war. He reluctantly followed the army attacking Odawara, but he fought against the enemy. However, he was very worried about his family and ran away from the army to return home. When he got home, no one was there and he found two spirit tablets on the table. He immediately asked his relatives nearby what had happened. He was told that a merchant Yoshiro was killed in the conflict and his wife and mother felt sorrow and his mother died soon after. His wife was in fatal despair and she threw herself down into Shimo Numa pond. Yoshiro felt sad and thought that he must be found out and should be killed by the army, so he drowned himself in Kami Numa pond. After these tragic affair, people in the village call Kami-Numa as O-Numa (male pond) and call Shimo-Numa as Me-Numa (female pond). As to the path from Me-Numa to O-Numa, it is known as the matchmaking walking path.



## Yakumo Shrine (八雲神社)



Yakumo Shrine (located toward the south-east of Kami-Numa Park along Route 407) is the subsidiary shrine of Hikawa Shinto Shrine (renamed as Matsuyama Shrine) and enshrined as the local shrine deity of old Matsuyama post town.

The summer festival is carried out as a regular festival for Tennou-Sama on the fourth Saturday and Sunday of July each year.



You may appreciate beautiful carvings in the main hall. Carvings of flowers, birds, dragons, Chinese lions are displayed in the front of the building.

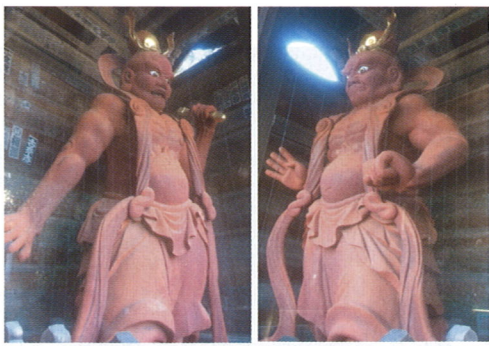
At the side and the back of the building, there are carvings related to Japanese mythology, Ama no Iwato (cave of heaven) and Yamata no Orochi (a big snake with eight heads). The religious faith of this shrine is warding off evil spirits and forgetting the summer heat.

## Iwadono Kannon (Shobo-ji) (岩殿観音)



Iwadono Kannon (Shobo-ji temple) is the 10th temple of the Bando 33 Kannon Fudasho (Pilgrimage; temples where amulets are collected) It has become the focus of people's worship and formed a town around the temple. Minamoto no Yoritomo who was the founder of Kamakura shogunate and his wife Hojo Masako worshiped Iwadono Kannon deeply. Going up the stone steps from the Deva gate, you can see Kannon Hall and an old big Ginkgo Tree in the precinct and an old bell tower stands. In late autumn season, ginkgo leaves fall and spread to cover the entire precinct of the temple. In the Heian period, Sakanoue no Tamuramaro dropped in Iwadono Kannon on the way to Oushu (northern part of Japan) in order to conquer its province and prayed for victory.





People in the village asked him to punish the bad dragon attacking their fields. Tamuramaro accepted their desire and punished the dragon with using arrows given by the temple. Dragon's head was buried in the soil and then water came out and became a pond. After that, people in the village enjoyed peaceful days.



### Yoshimi Hyakuana (吉見百穴)



Yoshimi Hyakuana (100 caves) is a cluster of ancient graves built from AC590 to AC690. Hyakuana means hundred caves. In comparison with ancient mounded tombs located in Nara area, the building cost and labor for construction were largely reduced. Yoshimi Hyakuana was found out to have 237 caves in all by Shogoro Tsuboi in 1888. He thought the cluster of caves should be houses of korobokkuru, prehistorical aborigines. However, during the Taisho period about 100 years ago the further study concluded that these caves were tombs for ancient people. This place has been designated as a national historical monument. At the end of the World War II, Yoshimi Hyakuana was rebuilt as munitions factory. As a result of construction, the number of caves decreased to 219 in all.



**Luminescent moss:**  
(Natural Monument)  
It is very rare to find out Luminescent moss at the flat area. In general, Luminescent moss grow on the highland.



### Iwamuro Kannon (岩室観音)



Ku-Kai (Kobou Daishi) is well known as the Buddhist Grand Master engaged in missionary work to a lot of people. He visited to engrave the Kannon sculpture and donated it into the cave of the mountain during the Heian period, about 1,200 some years ago. It is believed that he also named the cave Iwamuro mountain. Lords of Matsuyama castle worshiped and maintained the Iwamuro Kannon over many years. The main hall was rebuilt in the Edo period. Its architecture style is called "Kake style" almost like the Kiyomizu-Dera Temple in Kyoto. You'll see the 88 Buddha statues representing the 88 holy places in Shikoku where people go on a pilgrimage.

### Yoshimi Kannon (吉見観音)

Yoshimi Kannon (Anraku-ji Temple) is the eleventh temple of the Bando 33rd Kannon Fudasho. This temple is believed to have been founded by Gyoki who was a priest in 741, Nara period and the hall was built by Sakanoue no Tamuramaro who was a shogun in 806. In Kamakura period, the first shogun Minamoto no Yoritomo's brother-in-law Minamoto no Noriyori built the three storied pagoda, but it was destroyed in the flames of war, but it was rebuilt in the Edo period.



In the era of Noriyori, the main hall was four times larger than the latest hall. Sokusho-in Temple was originally established in the Yoshimi Kannon precinct, but the temple was moved to the 1km away place. In the main hall, there is a famous engraving named "No-Arashi no Tora (Tiger attacking the fields)" by Hidari Jingorou in the Edo period who worked to engrave famous sculptures in Nikko Toshogu.



For further information, please access to the following site or scan the QR code :  
<http://www.higashimatsuyama-kanko.com/sightsee.html>  
<E.& O.E.> as of October, 2015

