

## Introduction to Kuroe

Kuroe is a craftsman town that has prospered as the home of Kishu lacquerware since the Muromachi period. The "saw-toothed" (from above) houses that remain today were part of a unique town where lacquerware merchants and craftsmen lived. It is said that the techniques of "Negoro Nuri" were introduced to Kuroe in the Muromachi era by the monks of Negoro-ji Temple, who escaped to Kuroe after Toyotomi Hideyoshi's attack on Kishu in the late 1500s. During the Edo period, it became a lively business town with lacquer craftsmen and many merchants coming and going under the protection of the Kishu Domain. In the past, most transport of goods was by sea, and today's Kawabata-dori, the main street, was a canal. Water still flows through a channel under the road. It is believed that the original layout of the town had the woodworkers, the lacquer painters and merchants in separate streets, so that the goods could be passed from one to the other as they were completed. The "saw-tooth" arrangement of the fronts of the buildings probably made it easier to move carts in and out. Since the Meiji era production has been modernized, a brick lacquer refining factory has been built, and lacquerware has become one of the signature industries of the area. In the middle of the Showa era, the manufacturing was relocated to a nearby site and sales of lacquerware nationwide reached a peak. In 1978, Kishu lacquerware was designated by the government as a "traditional craft", and in 2017, the town of Kuroe was registered as part of the cultural heritage area known as "Treasure House of Scenic Beauty: Wakanoura". There are big festivals several times a year, attended by tourists from all over the country.

## Seasonal festival

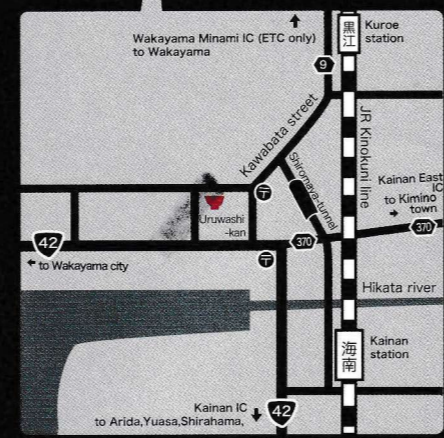
- Geta-ichi (geta: wooden clogs) (August 14), a summer festival which dates to the Edo Period
- Kishu Lacquerware Festival (1st Saturday and Sunday in November)
- Kuroe Metta festival (Metta: Japanese rice fish) (on a Sunday at the end of May or early June)

## Access by plane

- ① Kansai International Airport (KIX) → Limousine bus (40 minutes)  
→ Get off at JR Wakayama Station
- ② Kansai International Airport (KIX) → JR Kansai Airport Station  
→ JR Hineno Station, take Wakayama train  
→ Get off at JR Wakayama Station

JR Wakayama Station (Kinokuni Line Platform 4-5)  
→ Get off at JR Kuroe or Kainan Station

\*Kuroe is about a 20-minute walk from either of these stations.  
Kainan Station has coin lockers, rental cycles, a taxi rank and bus stop.



**Uruwashi-kan**  
Kishu Lacquerware Traditional Industrial Museum  
address : 222 Funō, Kainan City, Wakayama  
phone number : 073-482-0322  
business hours : 10 : 00-16 : 30  
Closed at Obon vacation (in middle of August) and New year's holiday



# KUROE TOWN WALK

- ENGLISH -



Kuroe originally prospered as the home of Kishu lacquerware. The houses that were built as part of the artisan town in the Muromachi era remain in Kuroe, and you can see evidence of the lacquerware culture throughout the town. Strolling through the unique maze of alleys has become a popular activity.

Nakagoto Shrine

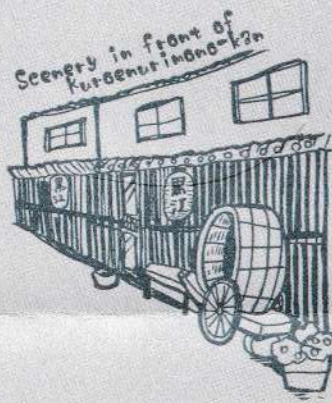
わがまち元気プロジェクト支援補助金 / 紀州漆器を活用した黒江ブランドの構築協議会

## See, buy and hands-on experience / Introducing local shops

<p><b>1 Uruwashi-kan</b> Kishu Lacquerware Traditional Industrial Museum General information center. We have a wide range of traditional lacquerware souvenirs. On the second floor, valuable materials are displayed, and on the third floor, you can do "Makie" (hands-on experience of painting lacquer work, payment and reservation required).</p> <p>MAP B-3 222 Funō 073-482-0322 10:00~16:30 Obon vacation and New Year's Holiday / Available HP chuokai-wakayama.or.jp/sikki-k/</p>	<p><b>2 Ikesho Shikki-store</b> established in 1876 (Meiji 9) The store is 220 years old and has been designed as a national tangible cultural property. In addition to Kishu lacquerware, we display and sell a wide range of lacquerware from all over the country selected by the shop owner.</p> <p>MAP B-3 692 Kuroe 073-482-0125 9:00~17:00 Sundays and public holidays HP ikeshoo.jp</p>	<p><b>3 Kijiya</b> Shop on Kawabata Street. We sell traditional lacquerware and other goods in a 150-year-old townhouse with an "oribe" lantern in the garden.</p> <p>MAP B-4 661 Kuroe 073-482-9043 10:00~17:00 Irregular holidays</p>	<p><b>11 Takomatsu</b> founded 50 years ago A takoyaki restaurant that has been here for almost 50 years. The old-fashioned, simple sauce is recommended.</p> <p>MAP B-4 653-7 Kuroe 073-482-7259 9:00~18:30 Regular holidays</p>	<p><b>12 SOHGENDO</b> Former Tajima lacquer Factory A cafe in the former Tajima Urushi brick lacquer factory. Sandwich shop with delicious coffee. Business hours variable depending on events and the season.</p> <p>MAP B-4 166 Funō 070-1795-0855 10:00~17:00 Sunday and Monday HP sohgen.do.jp</p>	<p><b>19 Zubora-yaki</b> Kainan soul food "Zubora-yaki", known as Kainan soul food, is a popular sweet containing homemade sweet bean paste or custard cream "Dango" are also popular. ¥95 each.</p> <p>MAP C-5 210 Hikata 073-482-4124 9:30~19:00 Tuesday</p>	<p><b>20 OLD FACTORY BOOKS</b> Former Tajima lacquer Factory Open only two days a week. A hideaway second-hand bookstore with books on the theme of travel and the world. Sometimes open on Sundays / holidays due to events.</p> <p>MAP B-4 166 Funō 090-5891-9092 Friday 10:00~15:00 Saturday 19:30~24:00 HP instagram.com/old_factory_books</p>	<p><b>21 Nishi Shunji Shoten</b> Palm brooms are popular We carefully select materials and techniques to produce handmade brooms which can withstand long-term use. We sell brooms and palm products nationwide.</p> <p>MAP B-4 677 Kuroe 073-482-1128 8:00~17:00 Saturday and Sunday and public holiday</p>	
<p><b>4 Urushiya Hayashi</b> Makie with a traditional craftsman. The style of Katsuhiko Hayashi, a certified traditional lacquerware craftsman, uses traditional techniques to produce work that is in line with modern lifestyles. Doing "Makie" on chopsticks is popular.</p> <p>MAP B-3 222 Funō 073-483-6019 10:00~16:00 Irregular holidays *Makie experience: payment/reservation required 1 week in advance</p>	<p><b>5 Vettin-san</b> Inheritors of Kuroe's "narezushi" A cafe renovated from a Japanese house built in the Meiji era. Admire the gardens and enjoy narezushi, in which has been handed down in Kuroe for three generations. Coffee is also available.</p> <p>MAP B-4 659 Kuroe 073-488-3369 10:00~17:00 Tuesday and Wednesday HP bettinsan.jp</p>	<p><b>6 Kuroe Nurimono-kan</b> A cafe in an old private house, converted from a late Edo period lacquerer house. Lunch with lacquerware is popular. Kuroe curry is available as an "omiyage" souvenir. We hold craft sessions regularly.</p> <p>MAP B-4 680 Kuroe 073-482-5321 11:00~17:00 Tuesday and Wednesday HP kuroe.info</p>	<p><b>13 Humpty dumpty</b> buffet A shop on National Route 42 famous for chicken cakes. Popular cake buffet. There is also a set breakfast.</p> <p>MAP C-2 26-39 Funō 073-482-5551 9:00~18:00 Thursday HP facebook.com/cafehumpydumpty/</p>	<p><b>14 Kusumotoya</b> ramen A popular Wakayama ramen restaurant on National Route 42. Wakayama-style ramen eaten with narezushi.</p> <p>MAP C-2 257-9 Funō 073-482-1661 11:00~23:00 Thursday</p>	<p><b>15 DAISY</b> Saloon's Bar&amp;Cafe A steak bar right next to JR Kuroe Station. The most popular option is the Japanese hamburger lunch. Closed Monday dinnertime.</p> <p>MAP A-5 591-2 Okada 073-483-2180 lunch 11:00~15:00 Dinner 18:00~23:00 (L.O 22:00) Tuesday</p>	<p><b>22 HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY</b> Blacksmith in Kuroe Town We sell small wrought-iron items in the shape of curves and plants. Signboards and furniture can be made to order.</p> <p>MAP C-4 201-14 Funō 073-488-5199 11:00~17:00 Monday-Thursday, 2nd and 4th Sunday HP householdindustry.jp</p>	<p><b>23 A's works</b> Scourer shop Handmade scourers made using natural and locally produced materials. Scourer making sessions - payment/reservation required 1 week before.</p> <p>MAP B-3 221-12 Funō 073-460-8842 10:00~17:00 Saturday and Sunday and public holiday</p>	<p><b>24 Gomon</b> recycled Kimonos and tailored clogs With the motto "We want you to feel close to the kimono," we sell and dress recycled kimonos. Clog-making and kimono sessions - payment/reservation required 1 week before.</p> <p>MAP B-3 221-12 Funō 090-5644-7201 13:00~17:00 Irregular holidays</p>
<p><b>7 Kurushi-chaya</b> A short break at a local brewery A shop directly managed by a local sake brewery and a cafe space where you can enjoy handmade sake. The interior of the shop is decorated with old sake barrels and sake brewing tools.</p> <p>MAP A-4 846 Kuroe 073-482-1115 10:00~17:00 12/31~1/3 HP kurushi.co.jp</p>	<p><b>8 Jokokuji Temple</b> Commonly known as "gobo-san" Built in Kyoroku 5 (AD 1532), the main hall painted by local lacquer craftsmen and the ceiling painting by lacquer artist Yasuo Hashizume. It is open to the public only on the 16th of every month.</p> <p>MAP A-3 976 Kuroe 073-482-1293</p>	<p><b>9 Nakagoto Shrine</b> the famous "black cow" spring "Kuroshigata", a beautiful cove in the Manyōshū, is the origin of the placename Kuroe. Many people visit to worship the spirits of the shrine and pray for marriage and healthy children. The water from the spring has been selected as one of the best in the area.</p> <p>MAP A-4 933 Kuroe 073-482-1199</p>	<p><b>16 Maxim Cafe</b> Western food Located on the Hikata River just off National Route 42, food is freshly cooked every day. Japanese hamburger and om-rice are popular.</p> <p>MAP C-4 185-78 Funō 073-483-5552 11:30~16:00 Wednesday HP pinkgyro.com</p>	<p><b>17 Ryoutei Midori</b> A well-established restaurant standing by the Hikata River. You can enjoy your food while admiring the beautiful Japanese garden from the window.</p> <p>MAP C-4 185 Funō 073-482-4451 lunch 11:30~14:00 Dinner 17:00~21:00 Monday HP ryoutei-midori.jp</p>	<p><b>18 Uoman-Hyoushitsu</b> 80-year-old shaved ice shop Shaved ice is sold from Golden Week to September (¥200). A long line forms in front of the store, and it has become a summer tradition in the Higashi-hama shopping street. Has its own restaurant, "Utage".</p> <p>MAP C-5 186 Funō 073-482-0164 8:00~18:00 Wednesday</p>	<p><b>25 Kinokuni Onsen</b> Hot spring The only natural hot spring facility in Kainan City. Rich in ionic components, it helps make skin smooth. Has its own restaurant, "Utage".</p> <p>MAP C-4 1274-76 Hikata 073-483-0428 10:00~22:00 Open all year round HP w428.jp/kinokuni/</p>	<p><b>26 Taisho Onsen</b> popular local public bath A public bath that has been open since the end of the Taisho era. A soft-water public bath that is popular with locals.</p> <p>MAP B-2 115-20 Funō 073-483-4126 16:00~23:00 Open on a three-day open, one-day holiday cycle.</p>	<p><b>27 Takarayū</b> Popular local public bath Showa-style public bath. An old photo of the neighborhood is displayed on the door of the dressing room. You can relax in a bright, spacious bath area.</p> <p>MAP B-4 172 Funō 073-482-1726 15:00~21:00 Irregular holidays</p>

Kuroe walking map

黒江  
さんさんマップ



Recommended souvenirs in Kuroe



**Lacquered chopsticks**  
A convenient traditional Japanese gift. Wide range available.



**Mikan cup / gourd cup**  
Cups made from oranges and gourds. A popular Wakayama speciality. Sold at Uruwashi-kan.



**Kuroushi-chaya/Sake etc.**  
Sells souvenirs and sake-related goods. Specialities such as raw sake are also available



**Suichuu-ka**  
(artificial flowers which open in water) Showa-style Suichuu-ka are difficult to obtain elsewhere, so they are very popular. Sold at Nurimono-kan



**Kainyan goods**  
Kainyan is a popular mascot character of Kainan, is sold as a netsuke and magnet at Uruwashi-kan.



**Miscellaneous women's lacquer goods**  
Various items that are perfect for Japanese clothing such as accessories and hairpins. Sold at Uruwashi-kan.



Commonly known as "gobo-san"  
通称「ごぼうさん」  
Jokokuji Temple

An old shopping market that still serves the kitchens of Kuroe.

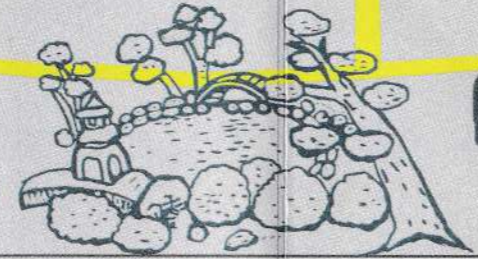


Share house KAINAN (Guesthouse KAINAN)



**Kotonoura Onzansoen**  
A large garden created by the founder of the Nitta Factory at the beginning of the Taisho era. The pond by Kuroe Bay and the Japanese garden with pine trees and blue stones used the latest technology of the time. Admission fee / ¥300

↑ 370Funō ☎073-482-0201  
🕒 9:00~17:00 · holiday : Monday  
¥ 300 🅇 ¥ 500



Commonly known as "gobo-san"  
通称「ごぼうさん」  
Jokokuji Temple



**Walking course**  
黒江の職人めぐり  
Visiting Kuroe's craftsmen

22 HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY  
Blacksmith in Kuroe town MAP C-4  
Wrought-iron art  
Kuroe town has more iron signs.

12 SOHGENDO MAP B-4  
Former Tajima lacquer factory  
Scenic brick building. It is also used as an atelier for young artists. There are exhibitions several times a year.

23 A's Works MAP B-3  
Scourer shop  
A scourer-making workshop is also available (reservation required)

24 Gomon MAP B-3  
Recycled kimono and tailored cloths  
Kimono wearing experience. You will be dressed by a professional. Kimonos are available for rent

Why not take a walk in a kimono in the nearby park? MAP C-1

**Full day tour**  
Walking course  
漆技師に会う  
Meet people who know lacquer

2 Ikesho Shikki store MAP B-3  
Founded in 1876  
Learn about lacquerware at a long-established lacquerware shop

6 Kuroe Nurimono-Kan MAP B-4  
Old private house cafe  
Lunch with lacquerware. Set meals and Kuroe curry are popular

8 Jokokuji MAP A-3  
Commonly known as "gobo-san"  
You can view the sunset over the town of Kuroe from under a 600-year-old camphor tree.

1 Uruwashi-kan MAP B-3  
Kishu Lacquerware Traditional Industry Hall  
"Makie" experience - about 1 hour

7 Kuroushi-chaya MAP A-4  
A short break at a local brewery  
A space where you can compare various sakes.

5 Vettjin-san MAP B-4  
Inheritors of Kuroe's "narezushi"  
Admire the garden and have tea with lacquerware. Narezushi available as a souvenir.

Lacquered business area

to Okada / Asso

to Kimino town

Kaibutsukun  
Kainan City Product Tourism Center

JR 海南駅  
JR Kainan Station