

Crafts
in
Nishi-Awa

Contact information

Tokushima Prefectural Government West District Administration Bureau
Email : seibu_c_mm@pref.tokushima.jp

Knives for cutting,
plants to make dye,
and raw bamboo.

Craftsmen are being inspired
by traditional methods of producing these goods.

Some make them to be sold.
Some make them to be displayed.
Some make them to be culturally preserved.

Take a glimpse at these carefully made pieces.



Indigo Dye

A valuable cultural fusion
of chemistry, wisdom and labour
in ancient times.

It is said that the production
of this beautiful indigo colour is
an extremely burdensome process.

Yamauchi limited company
2698-5 Haibara Aza Wakimachi, Mima-shi,
Tolishima-ken
(徳島県美馬市脇町字拝原 2698-5)
surf360@amber.plala.or.jp

Since the old days, the indigo plant has been used not only for dyeing a variety of products, but also for medicinal purposes.

In Japanese daily life, indigo was an important and indispensable commodity. However, due to the import of industrially manufactured indigo dyes, the production of local natural indigo in ancient Japan diminished. It became limited to select regions in the country. One of the precious indigos that still exists today is the *Awa Ai* of Tokushima Prefecture.

It is said that the work that goes into the creation of the dye is extremely demanding. The hands of craftsmen who continue to dye the cloths over and over again have become blue and black, blending in with the indigo colours.

Each design crafted through the Craftsman's time, effort, and blue-dyed hands is unique. Feel Japan Blue, a fabric that is becoming more predominant in fashion.



Mima Japanese Umbrellas

Bamboo and Japanese paper.

Handicrafts made from

materials exclusive to Japan.



These handmade umbrellas evoke images of historical Japanese dramas.

The umbrella is made by pasting Japanese paper onto a bamboo frame, and treating the assembly with oil. The combination of the oil fragrance and the sounds of raindrops falling on the umbrella create a pleasant and surreal atmosphere for your senses. Each umbrella is constructed with the utmost delicacy. Japanese paper is then affixed to the framework. When it takes shape, it is reinforced with glue or persimmon juice. Oil is added to waterproof it. The craftsmen finally decorate it with lacquer to add finishing touches.

Japanese umbrellas were popular until 1950. Around that time, production volume drastically decreased, and most of the traders were forced to go out of business. In recent times, volunteers have gathered to revive the production of old-fashioned umbrellas. To further the cause, creation is currently being done on handmade Japanese umbrellas. We do our part also by carrying out experience programs to spread knowledge about the umbrellas.

Mima Japanese Umbrella Production Group
92 Wakimachi Oaza Wakimachi, Mima-shi,
Tokushima-ken
(徳島県美馬市脇町大字脇町 92)
mima.wagasa.labo@gmail.com



Bamboo Doll

Little Dolls Beaming with Vibrance



This fine art is devoted to breathing life into bamboo.

The bamboo doll is made by long time bamboo craftsman using bamboo as an artistic canvas. Bamboo is sharpened, bent with heat, and assembled. It just takes a few centimeters to a few millimeters of bamboo, and pieces come to life in the palms of the craftsman.

In particular, these dolls themed with *Awa Odori*, Tokushima's very own local dance, is a craft that can only be seen here.

Kimono, drum; each doll has its own individual features that make them one-of-a-kind. No doll looks like another, as the materials are cut simply in a way that makes good use of the original characteristics of the bamboo being utilised. When all the parts come together, these dancing dolls capture the eyes of the viewer. The characteristics change depending on the piece of bamboo used. The technique of producing them one by one by hand, is a display of true craftsmanship.

Jidaiya
124 Wakimachi, Mima-shi,
Tokushima-ken
(徳島県美馬市脇町 124)
toiawase@jidaiya.co.jp



Tung Wood Geta (sandals)

Japanese traditional footwear



Soot black and earth toned in colour, this footwear is produced using select materials.

Saito Kirizai Industrial limited company
3384-3 Kamo, Higashimiyoshi-cho,
Miyoshi-gun, Tokushima-ken
(徳島県三好郡東みよし町加茂 3384-3)
info@geta-shop.co.jp

These sandals are representative of traditional footwear worn on Japanese feet. From cutting the wood materials to shaping their form, craftsmen work by hand from start to finish.

The blade is key in this process. In order to make these sandals, special blades made specifically for shaving materials or drilling holes are indispensable. In addition, the colouring process goes beyond just painting. By burning it with a burner and polishing it with a rope, it renders a distinct beautiful black soot colour.

Geta were used as a fashion statement for Japanese hundreds of years ago. Even as the times have changed, the same sandals remain fashionable.

Originally, *geta* were meant to be paired with traditional clothing, but in keeping with the times, the sandals are also being fashioned to match with modern styles.



Wooden Origami Cranes

In the past, food was wrapped in parcels made from thinly shaved wood. We are now crafting new products using technologies that allow use to shave untreated wood thin enough to be used for *origami*.

Big Will Corporation
20-1 Hiruma, Higashimiyoshi-cho,
Miyoshi-gun, Tokushima-ken
(徳島県三好郡東みよし町 昼間 20-1)
info@bigwill.co.jp



Plant Pot

A form of interior art that consists of a plant growing in a moss-covered ball of soil.

A bowl is not needed. It can act as an accent in any space by simply placing a plate underneath.

Tsurugi Town
1-3 Higashiura Aza Sadamitsu,
Tsurugi-cho, Mima-gun, Tokushima-ken
(徳島県美馬郡つるぎ町貞光字東浦 1 番地 3)
syoukou@tsurugi.i-tokushima.jp



Bamboo Cup

The appearance of the bamboo, a material that has been essential since ancient times, is improved upon with the addition of dye. The craft is finished only after the craftsmen ascend the mountain, carve the chosen bamboo, and proceed to colour it with *Awa* indigo.

Akikogei
3-6-36 Jonancho, Tokushima-shi,
Tokushima-ken
(徳島県徳島市城南町 3-6-36)
minatozaki@me.pikara.ne.jp



Bamboo Flute

The bamboo flute is an indispensable part of Tokushima's *Awa Odori*.

One craftsman completes the flute making process from start to end, from material selection to tuning.

Bamboo Flute Workshop Tomobue Sinpu
151-2 Nishibun Aza Wakimachi Inoshiri,
Mima-shi, Tokushima-ken
(徳島県美馬市脇町猪尻字西分 151-2)
muku1022.mm1117m@docomo.ne.jp



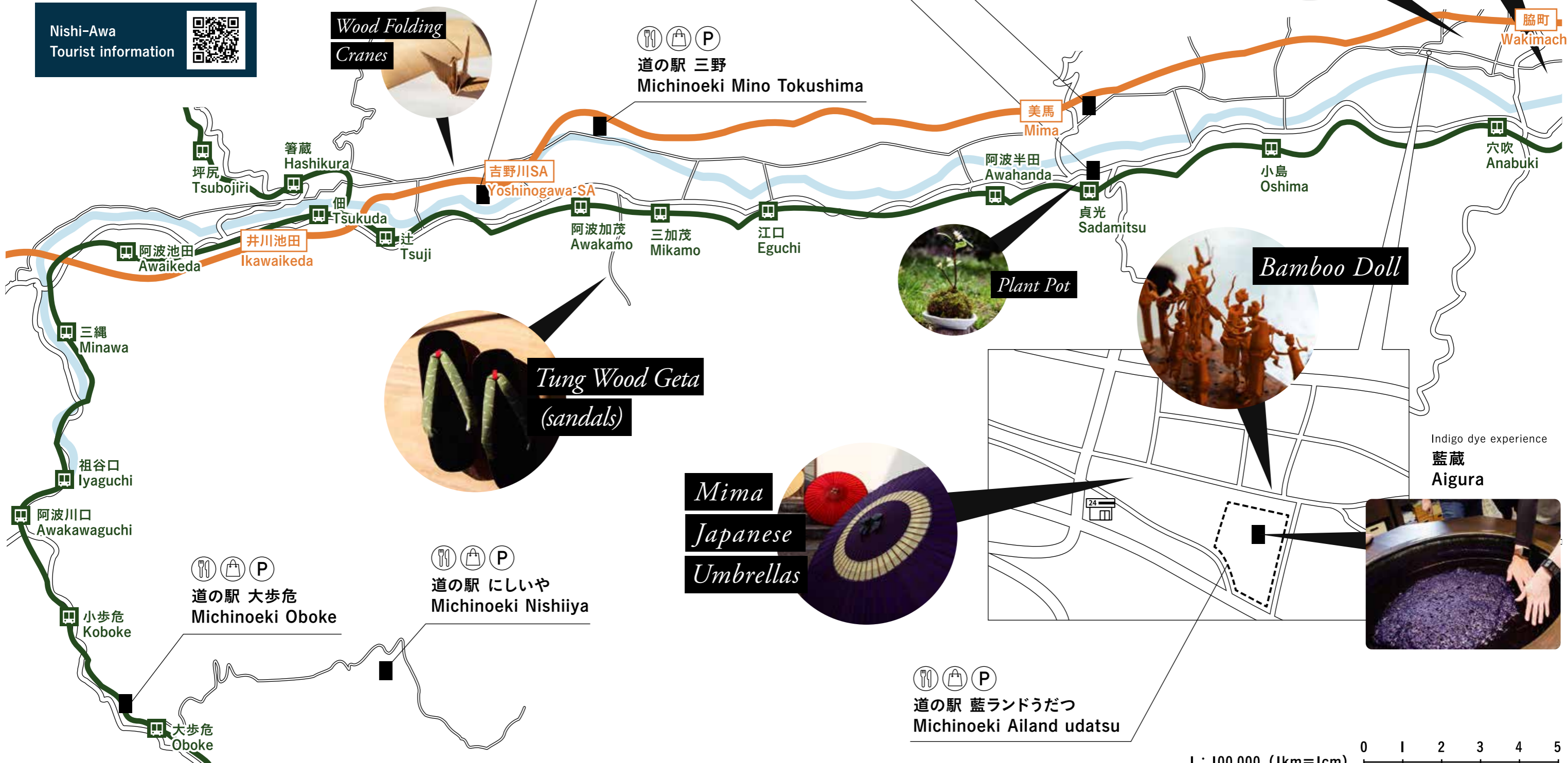
Nishi-Awa area map



Souvenirs and local crafts are sold at each road station.
Try to find them shown here!

- JR
- Highway
- Main road
- Railway Station
- Shopping
- Restaurant
- Parking lot

Nishi-Awa
Tourist information



道の駅 貞光ゆうゆう館
Michinoeki Sadamitsuyuyukan

吉野川ハイウェイオアシス
Yoshinogawa highway oasis

道の駅 みまの里
Michinoeki Mimanosato

道の駅 三野
Michinoeki Mino Tokushima

Wood Folding
Cranes

Tung Wood Geta
(sandals)

Mima
Japanese
Umbrellas

Bamboo
Flute

Indigo Dye

Plant Pot

Bamboo Doll

Indigo dye experience
藍蔵
Aigura

道の駅 藍ランドうだつ
Michinoeki Ailand udatsu