

# CHIZU

# Tourist Guide



Chizu Town/Tottori Prefecture



# EXPLORE Chizu!

Chizu Town (Chizu-cho, Yazu-gun, Tottori-ken)

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Chizu is a small town with a population under 7,000. Since 93% of its area is covered by forests consisting mostly of cedar trees, Chizu is known as "a town of Japanese cedar". The town also gains attention as having the source of the Sendai River, which has supplied sand to the Tottori Sand Dunes. Though it is a small town, there are countless wonderful attractions. We hope that you see, taste, and experience all that we have to offer. We are positive that you will enjoy Chizu when you come visit.

Look, Taste, Listen, Explore, and Experience Life Here.



In autumn, one of the largest colored forests in West Japan at the Ashizu Valley welcomes you.  
(Photo of Mitaki Dam)



# Map of Chizu

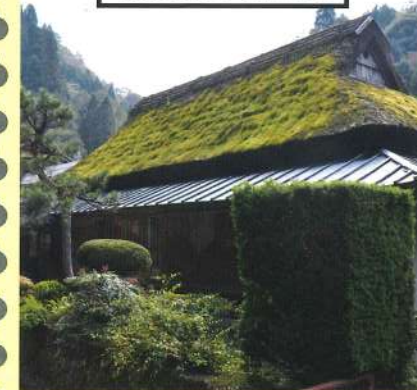
You will encounter relaxing scenery retaining old-time ambience. Enjoy watching the unspoiled rural landscape and interacting with locals.



Chizu-shuku Post Town



Itaibara Village

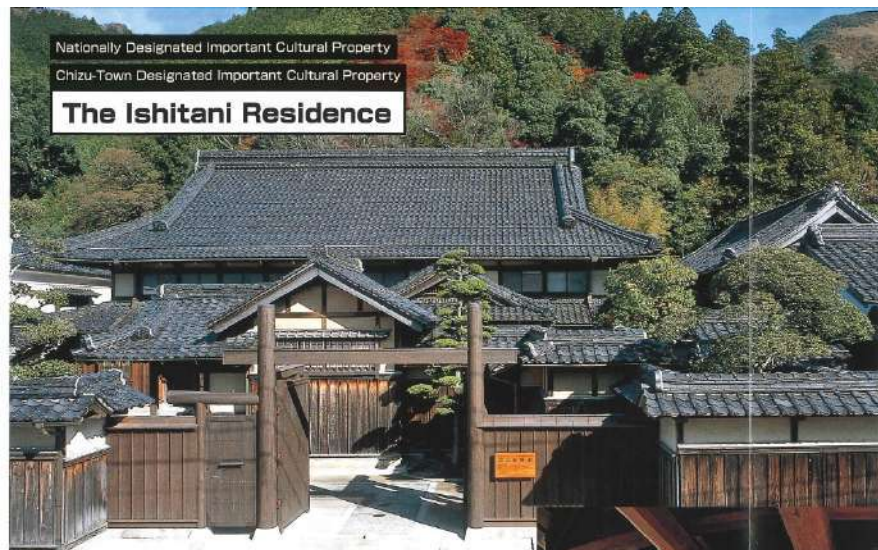


**EXPLORE**  
**Chizu!**



Nationally Designated Important Cultural Property  
Chizu-Town Designated Important Cultural Property

## The Ishitani Residence



Situated in the historic center of Chizu-shuku post town, this mansion used to be the residence of the Ishitani Family, who served as self-governing local officials of neighboring villages in the Edo Period. Having about 40 rooms in the huge 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> (over 100,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) premises, this large-scale estate with modern Japanese architecture is highly acclaimed and has been visited by many tourists since being opened to the public.



The Ishitani Garden

Enjoy seasonally changing panoramas of a *chisen telen* (pond garden) that faces tea-ceremony and drawing rooms.



### Galleries

The storehouses are open to the public as galleries, exhibiting the works of artists from Tottori and throughout Japan.



Suwa Shrine

Best 100 Scenic Footpaths

Glimpses of the past

## Chizu-shuku Post Town

Chizu Town thrived as the biggest post town in Tottori prefecture. The old streetscape with historic sites and road signs is still maintained today, and evokes images of the unforgotten past.



Shoyademise

This town house of an old merchant called Shioya was constructed around 1897 and has a Japanese garden. (Nationally Registered Tangible Cultural Property)



There are many houses along the main street of Chizu-shuku that have been built with masterful skill from huge Japanese cedar trees.

Chizu-shuku is the post town where the feudal lord of Tottori stayed his first night during his *Sankin-Kotai* biennial travels to Edo.



An old road sign



A Western-style fire depot built in 1942  
(Nationally Registered Tangible Cultural Property)

### Katsumi Nishikawa Film Museum

(Nationally Registered Tangible Cultural Property)

This museum exhibits materials related to Mr. Katsumi Nishikawa, a film director from Chizu, who contributed to the golden age of Japanese films with his masterpieces including *"Zessho"*, *"Aoi Sanmyaku"*, *"Izu no Odoriko"*, and *"Sisai"*.

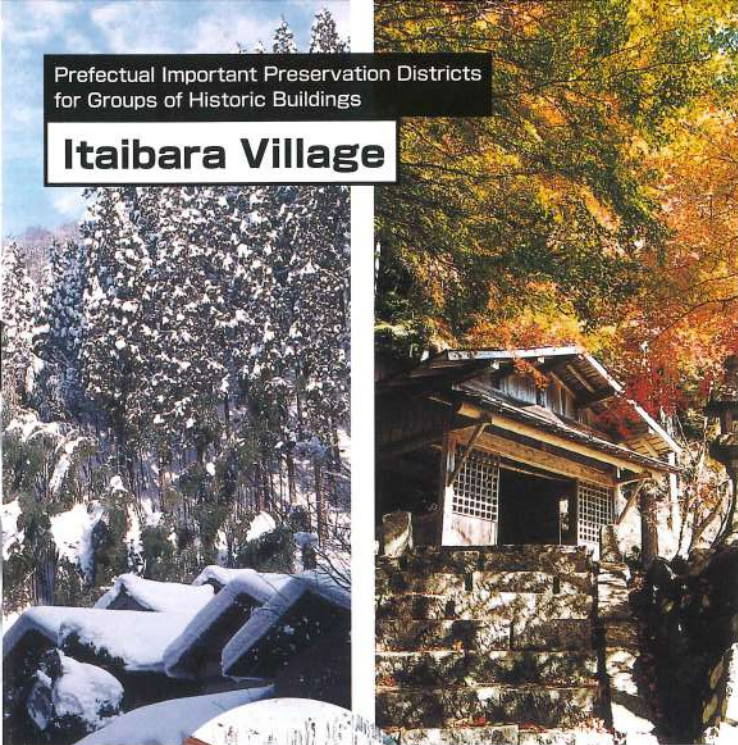


A sake brewery operating since 1839



Prefectural Important Preservation Districts  
for Groups of Historic Buildings

## Itaibara Village



Itaibara Furusato Kan  
(The Folk Heritage Museum of Itaibara Village)



Restaurant "Kamado"

Burnt, crispy rice cooked on an old stove is so delicious! Have a taste of country cuisine at a traditional Japanese house.

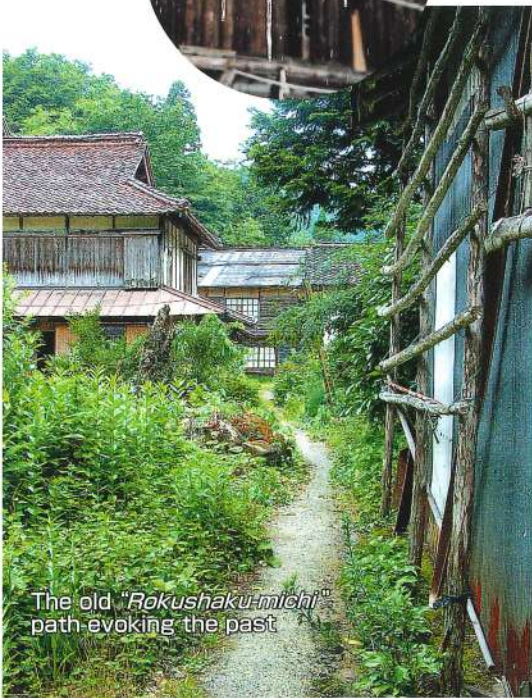


Itaibara white radishes grow to only 15cm long. Itaibara Gouko, the traditional pickle recipe of sun-dried radishes, is made within the village.



### Travel back in time to the 1950's.

The original landscapes of mountain villages remain untouched here, which is uncommon and precious throughout Japan.

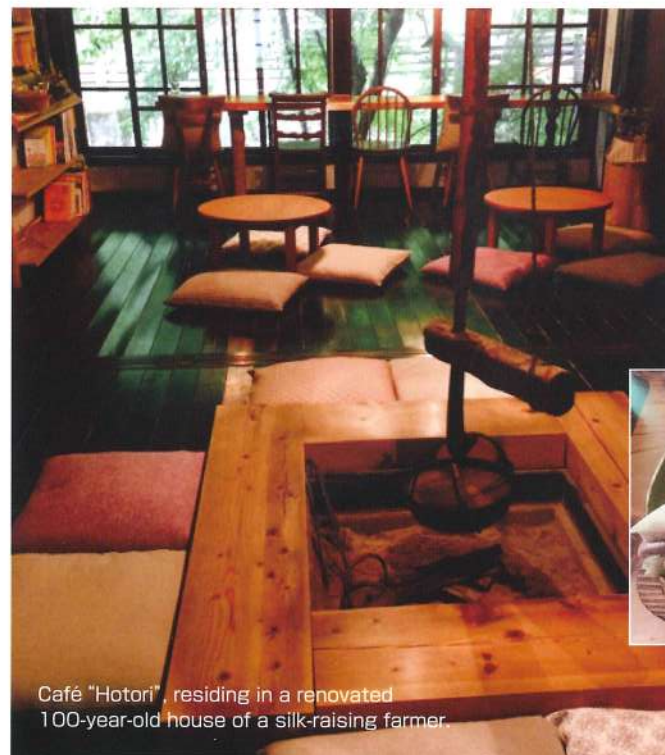


The old "Rokushaku-michi" path evoking the past



Fujiwara House (Town Designated Cultural-Property), built in around 1899.

The road running through this village, where defeated soldiers of the Heike Clan are said to have hid themselves, is referred to as "Rokushaku-michi" (1.8m path) and is too narrow for a car. Most of the houses here are more than 70 years old, including one that has stood for about 280 years. This community endures a long severe winter, being covered with deep snow until the middle of March, waiting for the late arrival of spring.



Café "Hotori", residing in a renovated 100-year-old house of a silk-raising farmer.

You might feel as if you have experienced this warm and cozy atmosphere in the distant past. Spend some peaceful time at this secluded place where everything stands still as if time has stopped.



Lunch at Café "Hotori"

Relax to the ambient sounds of birds and a flowing stream.



Pursuing to rebuild a community where people love to live,  
with aspirations for maintaining the landscape in its original state.

A village of Joruri puppetry

## Shinden

Shinden village, with rustic scenery evoking  
the feeling of the original state of a Japanese  
farming village, is blessed with natural beauty,  
clear air, and pure water.

A traditional entertainment in which techniques of *Manjuro*,  
who was a Living National Treasure, live on.

## The Aioi Bunraku Puppet Play

Bunraku Puppet Play, started in the late 19th Century,  
and is still being handed down in this mountain village  
to this day. In the play, the three elements of the  
puppeteers, narrator, and Samisen (Japanese lute)  
player work in unison to perform stories of moral  
obligation and humanity, which has been an integral  
part of the philosophy of the Japanese.



Café "Seiryu No Sato Shinden"



In this village, you can  
taste cuisine made  
with local ingredients.

## Country Life Experience

For those who are considering moving to Chizu,  
the town is offering trial stays in three houses.

Choose your favorite from these three different type of houses—a log house,  
a renovated traditional house, and a house built using local cedar wood.  
(Available for 3 days to 3 months)



Akebi House (Nakahara)



Hosugi House (Satohara)



Irori House (Asizu)

These houses are available as accommodations for those looking for a home in  
Chizu, or as a tourist base for nature activities, such as harvesting edible wild  
plants in spring, snowshoeing in winter, and Forest Therapy (R).  
(Only for those who satisfy the term of use)

## Minpaku

Experience a warm and homey country life,  
as if you were staying in the house of  
a relative or friend.

Enjoy Minpaku lodging, where tourists stay in a private home in the town  
to enjoy the environment as well as interaction with locals.  
Stay relaxed and have a good time with the owner's family.



Chizu Minpaku Marathon







Forest Therapy Base

## Ashizu



Restaurant "Mitakien"

In the Ashizu district is a source of the Sendai River, which has supplied sand to the Tottori Sand Dunes. Certified as a Forest Therapy Base, Ashizu has a grand forest consisting of evergreen Japanese cedars, cypresses, and broadleaf trees which brilliantly change colors. After being led by a Forest Therapy Guide, and appreciating the beauty of nature and the changing seasons, why don't you spend time leisurely savoring wild plant dishes or staying at a Minpaku lodging to refresh yourself in the countryside?



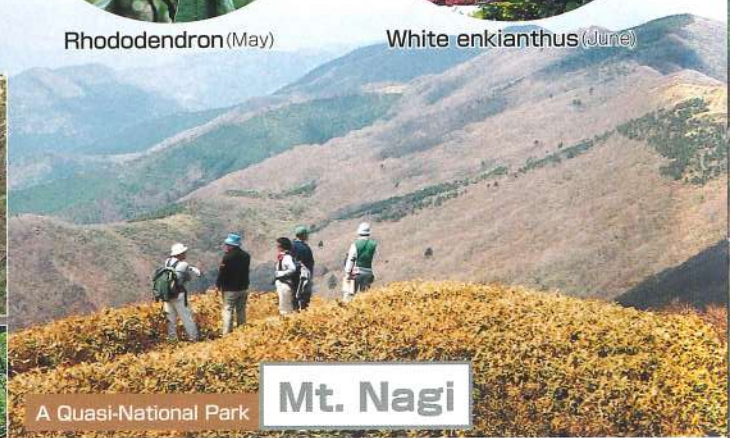
*Shortia uniflora* (April)



*Rhododendron* (May)



*White enkianthus* (June)



A Quasi-National Park

## Mt. Nagi

Situated on the border between Tottori and Okayama Prefectures, Mt. Nagi has been designated as a Quasi-National Park. The panoramic view from the summit is breathtaking—you can see Mt. Daisen in the West, the Tottori Sand Dunes in the North, and in the South, islands in the Inland Sea and even mountain ranges in Shikoku! Why not try climbing it?

A guided tour of

## Snowshoeing

**Skiing is not the only option in winter!**  
Let's explore a snowy mountain slowly and leisurely.



It is quite refreshing to walk around a mountain covered with snow led by an experienced guide. Crunch through the snow for your full enjoyment of the mountains in Chizu, and you may discover something new.



Why not walk along  
a historic road?

## Befriend Mother Nature

### National Historic Site

The 100 Best Historic Roads  
(designated by the Agency for Cultural Affairs)

Best 100 Scenic Footpaths  
(100 Japanese spots for walking)

### The Chizu-orai Highway

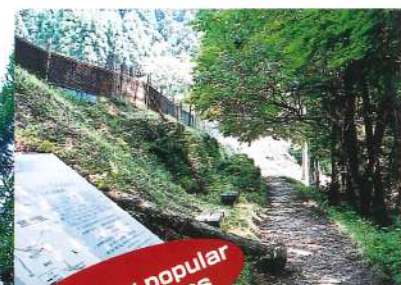
Since before the 8th Century, Chizu-orai had been the main road connecting the *Inaba* Province and the *Kinai* region for many years. In the Edo period, it was the route feudal lords took during their *Sankin-Kotai* travels to Edo. Currently a 21km section in Chizu Town is designated as a "Historic Road".

\* The Inaba Province: the East part of Tottori Prefecture  
The Kinai Region: a part of the Kansai Region where the ancient capitals are situated



Fukugataki Waterfall

Besides the beautiful nature views, Chizu-shuku town, a spot maintaining the same landscape for 270 years, and other noted sites with the atmosphere of the past are spotted along this road. Why not walk on this road just as travelers and merchants in the past did?



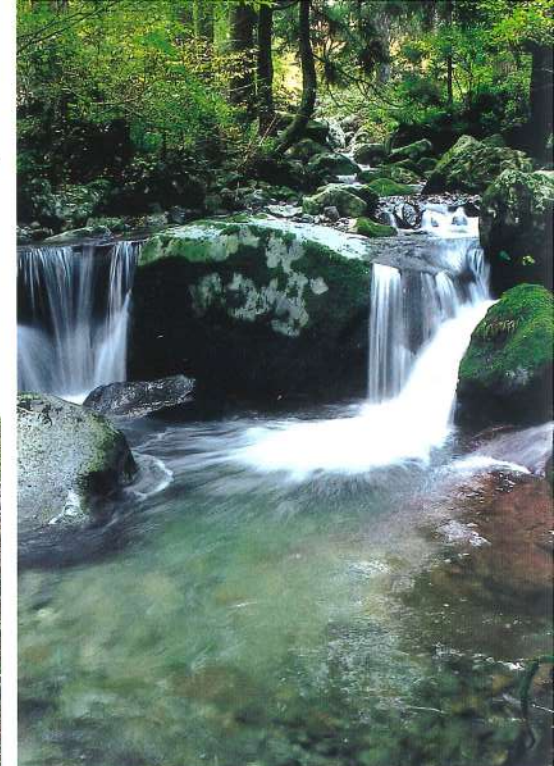
A walk along popular  
trekking routes

Stroll in the countryside surrounded by trees and streams while hearing birdsong. Take a route on a mountain of a legend, a round route from Itaibara village, or a route along the sources of the Sendai River.

Experience seeing a roost of a wild boar, peeping into a bat cave, viewing the Tottori Sand Dunes in the distance from a mountain, looking at a river source, or touching a waterfall.



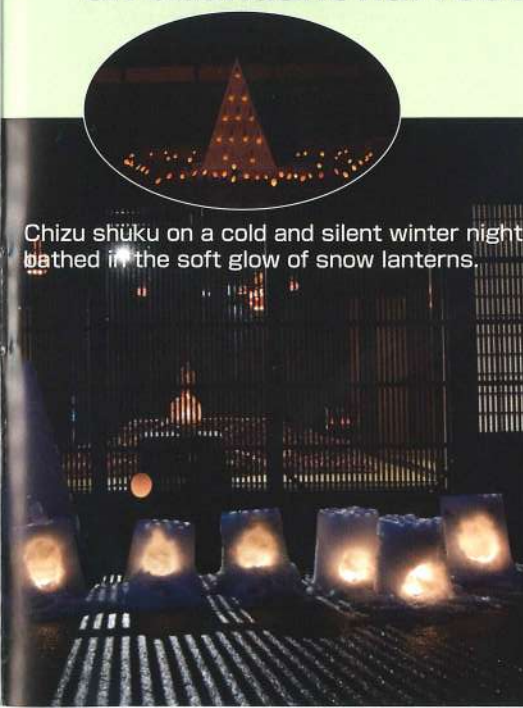
A legend tells that in the past, a young lady with a broken heart turned into a snake out of despair, and her soul stayed in a mountain after her death. Later, a mysterious circle called a "snake circle" repeatedly appeared on that mountain.



## Various festivals are held to pray for an abundant harvest throughout the seasons.

### ■ Chizu-shuku Snow Festival Early Februar

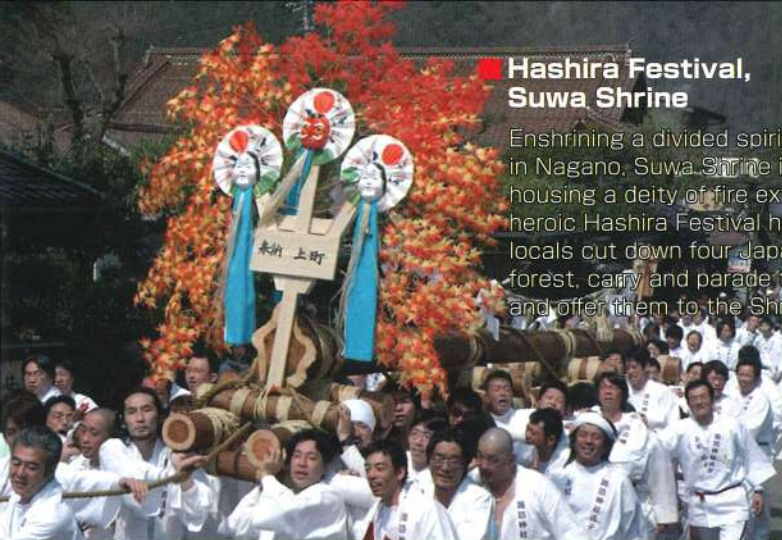
At the winter festival of this snowy town, snow lanterns illuminate the footsteps of visitors. Special amusements for children are a huge snow slide and a kamakura snow hut, which are filled with joyful laughter. Adults can warm up their chilled bones by savoring locally produced sake and hot snacks, sold at various stalls.



Chizu shūku on a cold and silent winter night,  
bathed in the soft glow of snow lanterns.







## Hashira Festival, Suwa Shrine

Enshrining a divided spirit of Suwa-taisha Shrine in Nagano, Suwa Shrine is highly worshiped as housing a deity of fire extinguishment. At the heroic Hashira Festival held every six years, locals cut down four Japanese cedar trees in the forest, carry and parade them through the town, and offer them to the Shrine.



## Chizu Riverside Sakura Café Festival April

In 1969, about 180 cherry trees were planted by interested locals along the bank of the Sendai River in Chizu. With box seats, a stage, and stalls set up on the bank, the festival is held with enthusiasm.



## Kinsai! Minsai! Odorinsai!! August

In this enthusiastic summer festival, dancers parade through a shopping avenue lined with traditional latticed buildings. Anyone can join the large-group dances, including tourists!



## Dodan Festival May

Dodan Tsutsuji (white enkianthus flowers) are exhibited and sold. Take a picture of the lovely Dodan Girls and flowers!



## Chizu-shuku Haikara Ichi November

Many people come to Chizu-shuku dressed in the stylish retro clothes of the Taisho Period (around 1920), and parade in retro cars, filling the town with a "haikara" (fashionable) spirit.

## Local specialties and crafts unique in Chizu

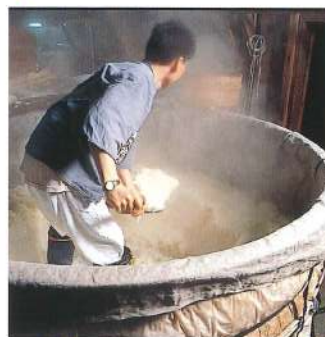
In the rich, natural environment of unspoiled mountain villages, various local specialties and crafts, which are simple and rustic, are made with the wisdom and techniques of locals.



### Traditional handmade tea



### Indigo-dyed items



### Local sake brewing



### Japanese Sake



### Rice cakes & tochi yokan (sweet bean paste jelly mixed with Japanese horse chestnuts)



### Itaibara Goko

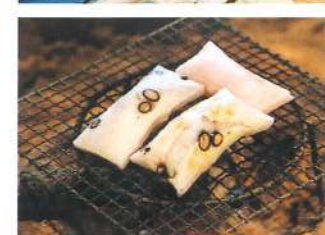
Once referred to as phantom pickles, its production restarted after a 40 years absence.



### Wooden mosaic coasters/mouse pads

### Yatarazuze pickles (Pickled mixed vegetables)

### Kakinoha-zushi (Sushi wrapped with a persimmon leaf)



### Handmade Kakimochi (sliced and dried rice cake)





## Directions and Transportation

### ● By JR Train

From Osaka: 2h (Chizu Express)  
 From Kyoto: 2h 30m (Chizu Express)  
 From Okayama: 1h 30m (Chizu Express)  
 From Tottori: 45m (JR Inbi Line)  
 From Hiroshima: 2h  
 (Shinkansen - Himeji - Chizu Express)

### ● By Car

From Osaka: 2h  
 (Chugoku EXPWY - Sayo Jct. - Tottori EXPWY)  
 From Tottori City: 30m (Tottori EXPWY)  
 From Okayama: 2h (R53)  
 From Hiroshima: 3h 30m  
 (Chugoku EXPWY - Tsuyama IC - R53)

### ● By Express Bus

From Osaka: 2h 20m  
 (Nihon Kotsu Express Bus)

### ● By Air

Haneda Airport, Tokyo - Tottori Airport: 1h 10m  
 Tottori Airport - Chizu (by car): 40m



**Use the Super Hakuto Ltd. Express!**

**Osaka to Chizu  
in only 2 hours!**

\*All times are rough estimates.

### ● Contact/Tourist Information

#### Chizu Town Tourist Association

2067-1 Chizu, Chizu-cho, Yazu-gun, Tottori-ken, 689-1402  
 TEL: +81-858-76-1111 FAX: +81-858-76-1112  
 Email: [kankou@town.chizu.tottori.jp](mailto:kankou@town.chizu.tottori.jp)  
 URL: <http://www1.town.chizu.tottori.jp/kankou/>



Chizu Town Website

#### Chizu Town Office

2072-1 Chizu, Chizu-cho, Yazu-gun, Tottori-ken, 689-1402  
 TEL: +81-858-75-4112 (main) FAX: +81-858-75-1193  
 Email: [chizu@town.chizu.tottori.jp](mailto:chizu@town.chizu.tottori.jp)  
 URL: <http://www1.town.chizu.tottori.jp/>



Chizu Town Facebook



**EXPLORE the town for a day, and you will know Chizu.**