

Vicinity of Kibiji Fudoki-no-Oka Prefectural Natural Park

The Kibiji region is a treasure house of ancient ruins. There are numerous burials mounds as well as precious and important cultural/historical sites that tells the story of ancient prosperity, such as the remains of Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple and Nunnery ruins.



History walk

Temple Area : Nationally designated historic site.

Building group : Prefecturally registered tangible cultural properties.

Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple | MAP >>> H-6 |

Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple is one of the Kokubun-ji temples that Emperor Shōmu ordered to be established in each province of Japan. It is said that the building from that time was destroyed by fire in the Nanboku-chō period, and although the overall perspective is not clear, its grandeur in the time when it was established can be inferred from the many foundation stones remaining .The present building was reconstructed in the Edo period.



Nationally registered tangible cultural properties.

| MAP >>> H-6 |

Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple Five-story Pagoda

This is the only five-story pagoda in Okayama Prefecture, and it has been designated as a cultural asset of national importance. The present five-story pagoda has an overall height of 34.3 m, and a timber structure with tiled roof and bronze sōrin (the finial at the top of the pagoda) .



Nationally designated historic site.

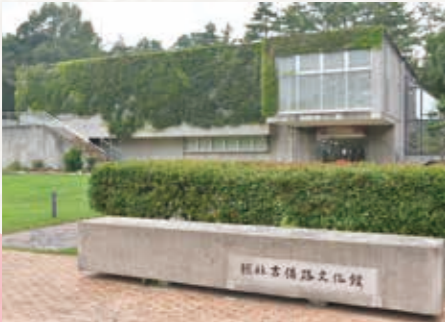
Bitchū Kokubun-niji Nunnery Ruins | MAP >>> I-6 |

Bitchū Kokubun-niji Nunnery Ruins are located on the gentle hill about 700 meters east of Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple. Like Kokubun-ji temple, Kokubun-niji nunnery was built at the request of Emperor Shōmu. Currently, only traces of the building's foundation stones and earthen walls remain, but the temple area at that time is estimated to be 108 meters from east to west and 225 meters from south to north. The building has the south gate, central gate, main hall, and lecture hall, all arranged straight on the center line of the temple grounds. Based from remaining cornerstones, the main hall can be assumed to be a fairly large building.



Art Gallery Soja kibiji bunkakan | MAP >>> H-6 |

We display works by the late Seikaku Takagi, a kana calligrapher and an Order of Culture recipient, as well as artworks related to Soja city. There are also photographs of historical heritage sites of Kibiji making it a perfect stop for your walk around the area.



>>> INFORMATION

- Opening hours:9:00-17:00 (Admission until 16:30)
- Closed: Mondays and Year-end and New Year holidays (12/29 ~ 1/3) (may temporarily be closed due to exhibition change)
- Entrance fee:Free (charges may apply for special exhibitions)
- Contact information:Soja Kibiji Cultural Museum Kambayashi 1252,Soja City



Kofun (Burial mound) etc.



Nationally designated historic site.

Japan Heritage Cultural properties.

Tsukuriyama (Sakuzan) Burial Mound | MAP >>> G-6 |

Tsukuriyama Burial Mound is located approximately 1 kilometer west of Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple. It is a three-tiered key-hole shaped burial mounds with a total length of 282 meters, and 24 meters in height. It is the second largest burial mounds in the prefecture after the Tsukuriyama(Zouzan) burial mound (4th largest in the country, located in Okayama city) and the 10th largest in the country. Based on its shape, structure, clay figures, and other features, it is thought to be the burial mound of the chieftain of Kibi, which was built around the 5th century after the Tsukuriyama (Zouzan) burial mound.



The Love Story of Emperor Nintoku and Kurohime

As her name suggests, Kurohime had long, shiny black hair and was a beauty that heads turned. Rumor spread as far as the capital, and Emperor Nintoku called Kurohime to his side. The two had a strong bond and spent happy days together, but the jealousy from the princess grew so strong so that Kurohime became afraid and fled back to her birthplace, Kibi.

When the Emperor found out that Kurohime had left the imperial courts, he was devastated. Out of longing for her, he visited Kurohime under the pretense that he was going on a trip to Awaji, and they spent some intimate time together. However, the Emperor still had to return to the capital. Poems about the pain and sadness of their love still remain today in this place.



Romance beyond time and space



Ancient Tomb

Nationally designated historic site.

Japan Heritage Cultural properties.

Komoritzuka Burial Mound | MAP >>> H-6 |

Komoritzuka Burial mound is a keyhole shaped burial mound with a total length of 96 meters located between Bitchū Kokubun-ji Temple and Bitchū Kokubun-niji Nunnery Ruins. It is about the same scale as the Ishibutai Tumulus in Asuka village, Nara prefecture. Estimated to be built around the latter half of the 6th century, it has a large hole-shaped chamber, and is known as one of the three major stone chambers in Okayama prefecture. A house-shaped sarcophagus carved out of a Namigata stone from Ibara, is enshrined in the stone chamber. This tumulus was also called the “Kurohimezuka Burial Mound” because of the legend that it was the burial mound of “Kibi no Kurohime” who was said to have been in a romantic relationship with Emperor Nintoku.