



Places related [Sesshu](#)

A drawing of a mouse with tears by Sesshu

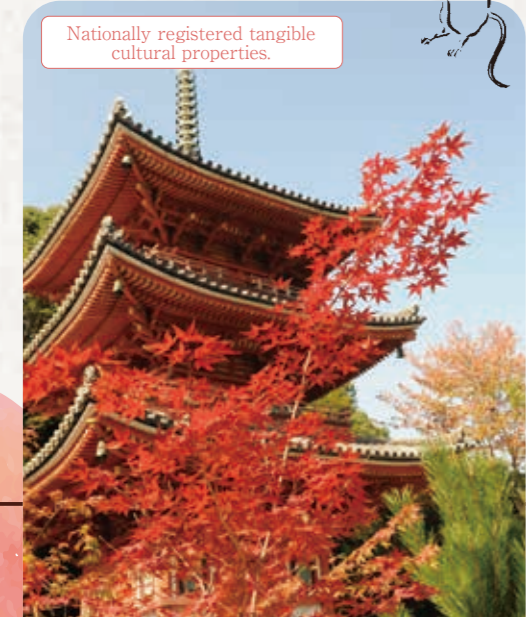
Sesshu, a young monk at Hofuku-ji Temple, did nothing but draw pictures instead of ascetic training. The Buddhist priest could not stand and watch any longer so he tied Sesshu to a pillar as a punishment. After a while, the Buddhist priest went to untie the rope and found that a mouse was about to bite Sesshu's toes. The Buddhist priest was startled and tried to chase away the mouse but the mouse wouldn't move. Wondering why, the Buddhist priest approached and realized that it was a mouse Sesshu had drawn with his toes using his tears.

The Buddhist priest was impressed and from this point on, gave permission for Sesshu to keep drawing.

Prefecturally designated historic site.
Nationally registered tangible cultural properties.

Iyama Hofuku-ji Temple | [MAP](#) >> D-3 |

This is a local head temple of the Tofuku-Ji Sect of the Rinzai School of Buddhism, which is known for the story of the artist Sesshū, who drew a picture of a mouse with his tears. Inside the temple grounds, there are huts and a Buddhist sanctum, etc., which have a unique Zen aesthetic.



Nationally registered tangible cultural properties.



Sesshū, the Sage of Painting

Important Cultural Property: Sesshu self-portrait (copy)
(Fujita Art Museum Collection, Osaka)

Sesshu (1420 ~ 1506)

Sesshu, who became a master of Japanese ink wash painting, was born in 27th year of Oei era (1420) in Bitchū Akahama (present day- Akahama, Soja city) , and was trained at Hofukuji temple as a child. He then moved to Kyoto and studied Zen at Shokokuji temple, while also devoting to training as a painter under the ink wash painter Shubun. Under the patronage of the largest clan in Western Japan's shugo daimyo (feudal lord) Ouchi, he worked as a creative artist at Unkokuan in Yamaguchi. He then travelled to China (Ming Dynasty) and earnestly studied ink wash painting. After returning to Japan, he used Yamaguchi as his base again, and travelled around the country. He left many masterpieces behind. He passed away 3rd year of Eisho era (1506) at the age of 87. Six of Sesshu's works have been designated as national treasures: "Autumn and Winter Landscape View", "Landscape View", "Long Landscape Scroll", "Broken Ink Landscape", "Huike offering His Arm to Bodhidharma", and "View of Amanohashidate".



Yosano Akiko

noki mo nureyuku muraame fureba

Iwayama wa ten no hashira no moji aru mo



a national scenic spot.

Scenic Spot at Gokei | [MAP](#) >> SmaLe-scale Map |

The ravine in the upstream part of Makidani River, a tributary of the Takahashi River, has a charm that is unique in the Soja district with its genial climate. The harmony of the rocky beauty, the stream, and the changing of colors in the autumn produces magnificent natural beauty, so this place has been designated as a national scenic spot.



Sesshu Birthplace Park

| [MAP](#) >> I-4 |

Sesshu who left behind wonderful ink paintings is praised as a master of painting. The park includes area for picnics, exhibits and facilities where you can learn about Sesshu's life and achievements, and houses that feel the Muromachi period. Visit this park to get acquainted with Sesshu, who is the pride of our hometown.

- >> **INFORMATION**
- Location: Akahama 2025
 - Open: 9:00 to 17:00
 - Closed: End of the year and New Year (12/29 to 1/3)
 - Entrance: Free of charge

