



◎ Ohana Estate of the Tachibana Family

Known as Ohana ("flowers"), the estate of the Tachibana family is located on the grounds of Tachibana Garden – a National Site of Scenic Beauty some 23,000 m² in area. Together with two lovely gardens (Shotoen and Azuma Teien), the Seiyokan (Western wing) and Wakan (Japanese wing) convey the nostalgic ambience of ancient bygone times. The adjacent Tachibana Museum contains an impressive collection, displaying some 5,000 beloved heirloom items used by Tachibana daimyo over the centuries.



◎ Birthplace of Poet Hakushu Kitahara

Family home of poet Hakushu Kitahara – the modern literary giant who amassed a mighty legacy during the Meiji, Taisho and Showa periods of Japanese history. This is actually the house where Kitahara was born – a place of business that then served as a sake distillery. On display within are writings, mementos and other personal effects of Kitahara, who embraced a special affection for Yanagawa until his death at the age of 57. A visit here is an excellent way to become acquainted with the fine verses and other outstanding achievements of this master poet.



◎ Canal Cruises

Cruises on *danko* poled boats, masterfully navigated by boatmen armed with single bamboo poles, provide a popular means of sightseeing around the canals of Yanagawa. These petite crafts make their way along waterways crisscrossing the town and passing through the old castle district as travelers bask in the rich and poetic ambience of the laidback flow of time.



◎ Castle Town Planning and Layout

Geographically, the castle town of Yanagawa City is centered around Gokachū, the district where samurai warriors and their families dwelled in days of old. Together with Yanagawa-cho to the northeast and Okinohata-machi to the west (both traditional residential areas of the local merchants in that era), the city is now comprised of these three primary zones. To this day, vestiges of the town planning vision undertaken centuries ago can be seen in Yanagawa's back streets, canals and other remaining features.



- Seasonal Events in Yanagawa**
- Yanagawa Doll (Girl's) Festival: February 11–April 3
 - Nakayama Ofuji Festival: mid to late April
 - Okinohata Suitengu Festival: May 3–5
 - Japanese iris season: late May–early June
 - Suzumibune: late July–August 31
 - Yanagawa City Sunflower Garden: late July–early August
 - Ariake Fireworks Festival: late August
 - Onigie Festival: second weekend in October and the following holiday Monday (Sports Day)
 - Hakushu Festival Water Parade: November 1–3
 - Kotatsubune: December–February