Sengensha

Former House of the Naito Family

Machizukuri
(Community Development) Center of Uda-Matsuyama

"Sengensha" was first opened in October 2003, as the Community Development Center of Uda-Matsuyama. The building of "Sengensha" is a traditional Japanese townhouse with unique features such as "Dai-gushi" (wooden lattices), "Mushiko-mado" (insect cage-style windows with an ultra-fine lattice), and "Kemuri-dashi" (ventilation). The house, which once served as a pharmacy/dentist's office, was renovated and transformed into this community center in October 2003.

The facility's name comes from "Uda-Sengen" (A Thousand Houses in Uda), a wish that this area would be bustling with people, just like it used to be. This facility serves as a hub to provide support for community development, to give information about the historic district to visitors, and also as a model of a renovated 'machiya', a traditional Japanese house.

It is used as a place for community meetings and also a rest area and visitor information center.

Uda-Matsuyama

Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings

Since the Asuka period (592-710), the Ouda area was called 'Akino' and it was used as an imperial hunting ground. In the Sengoku (Warring State) period, Lord Akiyama built a castle in Ouda, and the castle town that flourished at the foot of the mountain 'Shiro-yama' is believed to be the origin of the district of 'Uda-Matsuyama'. Today's townscape of Uda-Matsuyama has been formed through a historical transition, affected by each era in its long history.
Uda-Matsuyama: Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Historic Buildings

Uda-Matsuyama is a historic townscape that remains unchanged since the Edo period. It was designated as the Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Historic Buildings in 2006.

The name 'Uda-Matsuyama' may sound unfamiliar, but the district has developed as a castle town and then merchant town. It has maintained the picturesque historical townscape since the Edo period, while creating a lived-in feeling with the still-inhabited houses. Strolling around this historic town is fun; time passes slowly, and you can enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of this area filled with the old houses and long-established stores.

1. Matsuyama NHS Koinon
2. Moriko Mochida Orchid Garden
3. Maruyama-jo Castle
4. Yohokko Family House
5. Kusuriya 'Yokaze'
6. Guda Welfare Center
7. Okayama Shinto Shrine
8. The site of the former townscape
9. Danzaikasen (old jail)
10. Okayama Bank Branch
11. Kagurazaka Shrine

This 1,000-year-old gate served as the entrance to the castle town. As most of the gate is painted black, this gate is affectionately called 'Kusa moyo' (Black Gate) by the towns.

This is Japan's oldest private medieval herb garden where about 250 species of medicinal herbs are grown. It was designated as a national historic site in 2005. It is a great place to see a view of the town below.

This house was built in the late Edo period. The skateboard of the medicine 'Temari' placed on top of the building stands out and makes the building strike. This former Moriko Mochida family house (traditional wooden house) serves as Uda City's Historical Museum of Medicine now. It is a cultural property designated by the prefecture.

This building was built in 1805 and served as the former town hall. This structure shows the typical example of the modern architecture in the prefecture with distinctive architectural features: single-storied house with a gable roof, 'hirakai' (long side entrance), 'tennoji' (a gabled, hipped roof) and 'kura' (a gabled roof) at the front.

A new natural phenomenon in which sunlight and a colorful glow appear in the eastern sky on hour before sunrise. "Yagami" appears only in the cold-winter morning. If the weather conditions are good, there is a famous poem about "Kagami" in "Manyoku" ('50 thousand leaves'), and it is believed to have been written in this Guda area.

This shrine is affectionately called "Kamimochi" by locals. Since the Edo period, Kagurazaka Shrine has been held annually in February.

You can get close to and learn about many different species of animals here. A variety of experiences are available: feeding goats and sheep, milking a cow, and driving a pony. The farming corner provides cheese, butter and sausage making workshops.

This 300-year-old cherry tree is named after Matoba Gohe, a military commander in the Tachibana period (15th-16th century). Matoba Zakura has a trunk circumference of 3 meters and a height of 33 meters. In spring, visitors from all over Japan flock to Uda to see this iconic cherry tree.

12. Kodai-ji Osaka-ji Oda
13. Sakonoe Park
14. Anzen-ko Park
15. Akina Hitoro Park
16. Kaguro-ri Oka Merry Park
17. Guda Park
18. Guda Castle Park
19. Guda River Park
20. Uda Hanami Park
21. Maruyama Park

This facility has a souvenir shop, a restaurant, a hot bath, and a farmers market selling locally grown food. Rental bikes are available. Start your stroll around Uda-Matsuyama here. Rental bikes are available.

Hot spring for day-trippers. With its smooth-quality water, this natural hot spring is affectionately called "Takamatsu". A thermal swimming pool, soft stone, electric bath, herbal bath, and open-air bath are available.

This 70,000 square meter park is near Akina Hoten hot spring. You can enjoy outdoor sports, take a walk, go biking, or just relax. It is suitable for people of all ages.

There is a monument on which a famous poem from the "Manyoku" ('50 thousand leaves') is inscribed. Every winter "Kagami" viewing is held here, where many people get together and wait for the rare natural phenomenon to appear in the eastern sky, one hour before sunrise.

This is a family temple of the Oda family who ruled the Uda-Matsuyama Domain in the Edo period. "Gakenno" (five elements pagoda), which stands in the back of the temple ground, is a grave of the four generations of the Oda family.

This shrine is believed to have been associated with the Yamato Imperial Court in ancient times. Within the shrine ground remains a stage for Noh performances, where 'Akina Hoten' hall is held annually in June.

1 km (slow walk - 15 minutes)