



# Kumagawa Lodgings

*Kumagawa, Wakasa-cho; Obama Imamiya, Obama City*

Moving away from Route 303 toward the Kumagawa Lodgings takes visitors into the past, when the site provided lodgings for travelers along the Wakasa Highway during the Edo Period. Its charms grow with time spent there...



The Kumagawa Lodgings include many well-reserved examples of traditional architecture (Kumagawa, Wakasa-cho)



Maegawa, a rivulet running through Kumagawa<sup>①</sup>

The Wakasa Highway, which joined Obama City with Kyoto's Demachiyana, gained the nickname "Saba (Mackerel) Highway" from its primary role of transporting saba and other fish to Kyoto. Along this major route, the Kumagawa Lodgings, located near Wakasa-cho, thronged with weary travelers in the Edo Period.



Market street at the start of the old Saba Highway (Idsumi-cho, Obama City)<sup>②</sup>



Kumagawa Lodgings in winter<sup>③</sup>



Fall leaves at Matsuki Shrine (Kumagawa, Wakasa-cho)<sup>④</sup>

Owing to its importance as both a transit route for military forces and regional traffic, in 1589 the lord of the area designated the settlement at Kumagawa as tax- and levy-exempt. At its peak, the various shops and inns that formed the settlement stretched over 1km on both side of the highway. Every October, the Kumagawa Ippuku History Village welcomes visitors with a wide array of events designed to recreate the look and feel of the town in its heyday. On the border between Wakasa and Omi a guardhouse to maintain order was established, and its site remains today along with a reconstruction built in 2003.

Within the area visitors can find Matsuki Shrine, dedicated to Matsuki Shōzaemon, a figure renowned for his self-sacrifice and who gave his life to take a stand against unfair taxation. Its beautiful cherry blossoms and fall leaves are well-known among local residents, who often travel there for rest and repose.



Kumagawa Ippuku History Village<sup>⑤</sup>



Kumagawa Guard House

