



Streets of Sabae's Temple and Castle Towns

Hon-machi and Elsewhere, Sabae City

The streets of Sabae still hold traces of the castle and temple towns from its feudal period. Temples, traditional homes, and other markers of days bygone tell the history of its days as a castle settlement.



Jōshō-ji Temple^①

Sabae grew from a temple town during Japan's medieval period to a castle town producing 50,000 *koku* of rice. Much of its temple town-era architecture remains today, giving the town a historical feel and lining the streets with its long heritage.



Makoto-ichi and Goen-ichi (2nd Sunday of every month, March-December)^②



Wooden sculpture of a dragon in flight



Ameya General Store (Nat. Reg. Cultural Property)



Bankei-ji Temple's gate (City Cultural Treasure)^③



Ueda Clan Longhouse (City Cultural treasure)^④

Jōshō-ji Temple's sanctuary for its images of the Buddha is the largest wooden structure in the prefecture, and its gate is a Prefectural Cultural Treasure. Known as *Torisumazu no Mon*, or "the gate where birds do not live," it is particularly famous for its wooden dragon sculpture by Hidari Jungorō.

On the second Sunday of every month, Jōshō-ji's grounds host Makoto-ichi, a market fair. Local vendors hold their Goenichi concomitantly, and the area buzzes with eager shoppers.

On the street that passes in front of Jōshō-ji can be found the Ameya General Store, whose black lacquered walls convey its long history.

The city's Bankei-ji served as the family temple for the ruling Manabe clan, and its gate was built in 1849, then as now an example of simple but elegant Buddhist architecture. Visitors can also find the gateway to the Ueda Clan Longhouse, home to the Manabe clan's loyal chief retainers and a symbol of Sabae's days as a feudal domain.

