



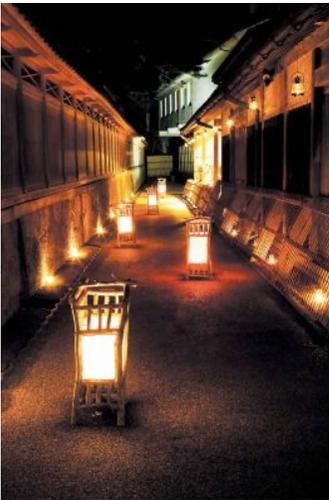
Kōno Port

Kōno, Minami Echizen-cho; Hirose-cho, Echizen City

Kōno flourished as a way station between Tsuruga and Echizen, where cargo was transferred to horseback couriers who would then carry it into the Echizen interior. Today, the town's remaining architecture from the time quietly retells the story of its heyday.



Kōno's traditional homes



Town light-up

Kōno, now part of Minami Echizen-cho, was a major port of call for coastal shipping from the Edo to the Meiji Period. Mansions of ship owners dotted the old mountainside roads, and those that remain today call to mind the town's boon times. *Ukon-ke*, home to one of the five great shipping families along the Sea of Japan coast, is representative of these homes. Several National Tangible Cultural Properties, such as *Omo-ya* (which now serves as the Kitabune Historical Archives) and the *Seiyōkan*, offer superb views of the sea from atop the hill where they stand.

To avoid congestion along the Kinome Pass, shipping was sent from Tsuruga to the Kōno Inlet, from which it travelled to Fuchū (in present-day Echizen City) along the Bashaku Highway. This overland route was in use for 400 years from the Warring States Period until the early Meiji Period, conveying vital goods throughout the area.



Bashaku Highway, along which goods travelled until early Meiji (City/Town Historical Remains) (Hirosechi-cho, Echizen City)



Echizen-Kōno Shioikaze Line (Daira, Minami Echizen-cho)

The Echizen Coast area of Kōno Ward, representative of Fukui's natural beauty, has been designated a national park. In order to attract tourism and provide a stunning view of the coast, the 9km *Shioikaze* Line gives visitors a thrilling drive along Fukui's beautiful coast.



Ukon-ke, former home to one of local shipping magnates, and *Seiyōkan* in background (Nat. Cultural Property) (Kōno, Minami Echizen-cho)

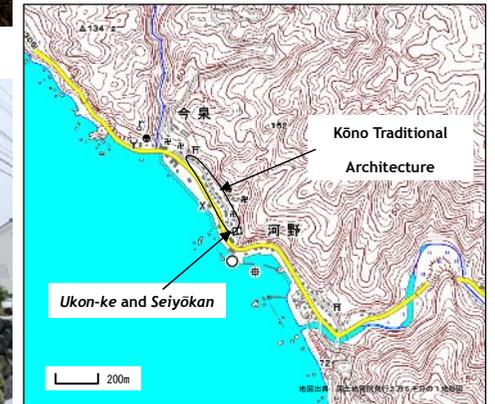


Photo ① courtesy of Minami Echizen-cho