

Things to do in Nagoya

General Notes:

This website has the best collection of things to do in and around Nagoya City.

<https://www.nagoyaisnotboring.com/>

Particularly the Nagoya & Aichi guide tab at the top has a lot of good info. I don't have experience with their tours so I can't give recommendations there.

Below are some of my own personal recommendations.

Within Nagoya City

1. Toyota Commemorative Museum of History and Industry

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/XAwbnx5pCbuMyZb6>

Isaac Notes: Highly recommended. One of the best museums in the world in my opinion

2. Nagoya Castle

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/oeJjYYQYRuTCztU69>

Isaac Notes: The castle keep is currently closed, but the inside wasn't great anyways. The restored palace alone is worth the trip here. The park nearby is a great place to see cherry blossoms.

3. Osu Shopping Street

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/BFdiJ13m6LqowtLQ6>

<https://www.nagoyaisnotboring.com/osu-shopping-street/>

4. Atsuta Jingu Sword Museum (Same location as wedding ceremony)

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/qxP1ZowkkmPLuVjX7>

Isaac notes: This shrine houses the sacred sword of the Imperial Regalia and is famous for its large collection of Japanese swords.

5. Toyota Automobile Museum

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/5yDZDB85eF5AxRat6>

Cherry Blossom Spots

Hanami = Grabbing a picnic blanket and sitting under the cherry trees with some beers

1. Tsurumai Park

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/tBbBvQFnYMjHmQNr5>

This has the most trees and may have a bunch of food vendors out depending on the cherry blossom status and day of the week. This can get busy on the weekends, but weekdays are generally alright.

2. Meijo Park

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/VyGYZiAky46ZXTHN6>

This is a great one to combine with Nagoya Castle. Not as many trees as tsurumai park, but still some good spots and a little less busy.

3. Yamasaki River

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/jh7zTHm5gmYYqa1t7>

Take the train to either Mizuho undojo higashi Station or Kawana Station

Day Tips by Train or Car

1. Gifu Castle

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/K7P78QRMmPFRjkuLA>

Isaac notes: A castle up high on a hill that overlooks Gifu city and where you can see all the way to downtown Nagoya on a clear day. There is a cable car or it's a nice 1-2 hour hike up.

2. Inuyama Castle / Meiji Mura

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ctKmPUvNQbg58Ve27>

Isaac notes: One of the only castles in Japan that retains its original structure. The streets nearby are full of traditional buildings with various shops and restaurants. You can get a combo ticket to also go to Meiji Mura which is a collection of late 1800's buildings that were transplanted to a valley near Nagoya. Getting to Meiji Mura is difficult without a car.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/cWHhZ4V9bUmnfEcc7>

3. Tokoname Pottery Walk

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FvkmCEsP5KX1fgfc6>

Isaac notes: Tokoname is one of the "six ancient kilns of Japan" and has a very long history of making a wide range of ceramics. There is a footpath here where there are 25-50 independent pottery shops selling high quality plates, bowls, tea pots, etc. You can also see many of the old kilns and most of the buildings are preserved traditional old buildings. This is near the top of my list for recommended things to do.

<https://www.japan.travel/japan-heritage/popular/six-ancient-kilns-ceramics-echizen-seto-tokoname-shigaraki-tanba-bizen>

4. Seki City Knife Shops (train is difficult)

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/aaTq5PJh1ngLn5u66>

Isaac notes: Seki city is the historical center for things with blades in Japan. It has the highest number of registered swordsmiths in Japan outside of Kyoto. As the swordsmiths are limited by law in the number of swords they can produce, they also produce a large amount of extremely high quality knives. If you are able to rent a car, this is one of my top recommendations.

5. Nagashima Spa Land

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/bMmcUozBxSbHtDJs7>

Isaac notes: This is the second largest general theme park in Japan and has some serious roller coasters and other rides. It can get crowded on the weekend, but weekdays are generally pretty open. There is a direct bus from Nagoya Station. The entrance is right next to an outlet mall (directions below).

<https://mitsui-shopping-park.com/mop/nagashima/english/access/#access01>

Overnight trips

1. Matsumoto

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/2CnZBBFqUveC5Uvb6>

Isaac notes: A city in the main valley of the central Japan alps with a picturesque castle and historical town center. Let me know if you want more recommendations here.

2. Takayama

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/h9tLMFe35SoFu2mu9>

Isaac notes: A city in the Japan alps famous for a large preserved historical town center and very high grade beef. I haven't been here, but everyone who has been raves about it.