

Access

✈ Airplane

*Information is valid as of October 2019. Please check with the airline for details on flight operations.

Haneda airport	ANA (Five flights a day)	Tottori Sand Dunes Conan Airport	About 1 hr 15 min
	ANA (Six flights a day)	Yonago Kitaro Airport	About 1 hr 20 min

🚆 Railway

*Travel times are rough estimates.

Tokyo, Nagoya, and Keihanshin areas	Tottori	Osaka to Tottori About 2 hrs 20 min <small>Limited Express Super Hakuto via Chizu Line</small>
Kyushu and Sanyo areas	Tottori	Okayama to Tottori About 1 hr 40 min <small>Limited Express Super Inaba via Chizu Line/Kibi Line</small>
Tokyo, Nagoya, Keihanshin, Kyushu, and Sanyo areas	Yonago	Okayama to Yonago About 2 hours <small>Limited Express Yakumo via Hakubi Line</small>

	Tottori	Yonago
Tokyo	4 hrs 50 min	5 hrs 30 min
Nagoya	3 hrs 10 min	3 hrs 50 min
Kyoto	2 hrs 50 min	3 hrs 20 min
Shin-Osaka	2 hrs 30 min	2 hrs 50 min
Osaka	2 hrs 20 min	3 hrs 10 min
Okayama	1 hr 40 min	2 hrs
Hiroshima	2 hrs 30 min	2 hrs 50 min
Hakata	3 hrs 30 min	3 hrs 50 min
Kumamoto	4 hrs 10 min	4 hrs 30 min
Kagoshima-Chuo	4 hrs 50 min	5 hrs 10 min

🚗 Car

*Travel times are rough estimates.

	Tottori	Kurayoshi	Yonago
Nagoya	4 hrs 20 min	5 hrs	5 hrs
Osaka	2 hrs 30 min	3 hrs 20 min	3 hrs 20 min
Okayama	2 hrs 30 min	3 hrs	2 hrs
Hiroshima	4 hrs	3 hrs 20 min	3 hrs
Sakaide	2 hrs 50 min	2 hrs 20 min	2 hrs 20 min



*Estimated travel times for each section of the route assume smooth, weekday traffic.

Required Time between Main Sections



万葉の郷ととりけん
Manyo no Sato, Tottori Prefecture

The Province of Houki

伯耆国

The Province of Inaba

因幡国



Yamanoue no Okura



Ōtomo no Yakamochi



Cultural Affairs Division
Regional Development
Promotion Division
Tottori Prefectural Government

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Official Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/artpiatottori>

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<https://www.twitter.com/artpiatottori>

<https://www.pref.tottori.lg.jp/manyo/>



Tottori Prefecture, a land related to the Manyoshu

The Manyoshu is Japan's oldest existing collection of waka (poetry in Classical Japanese).

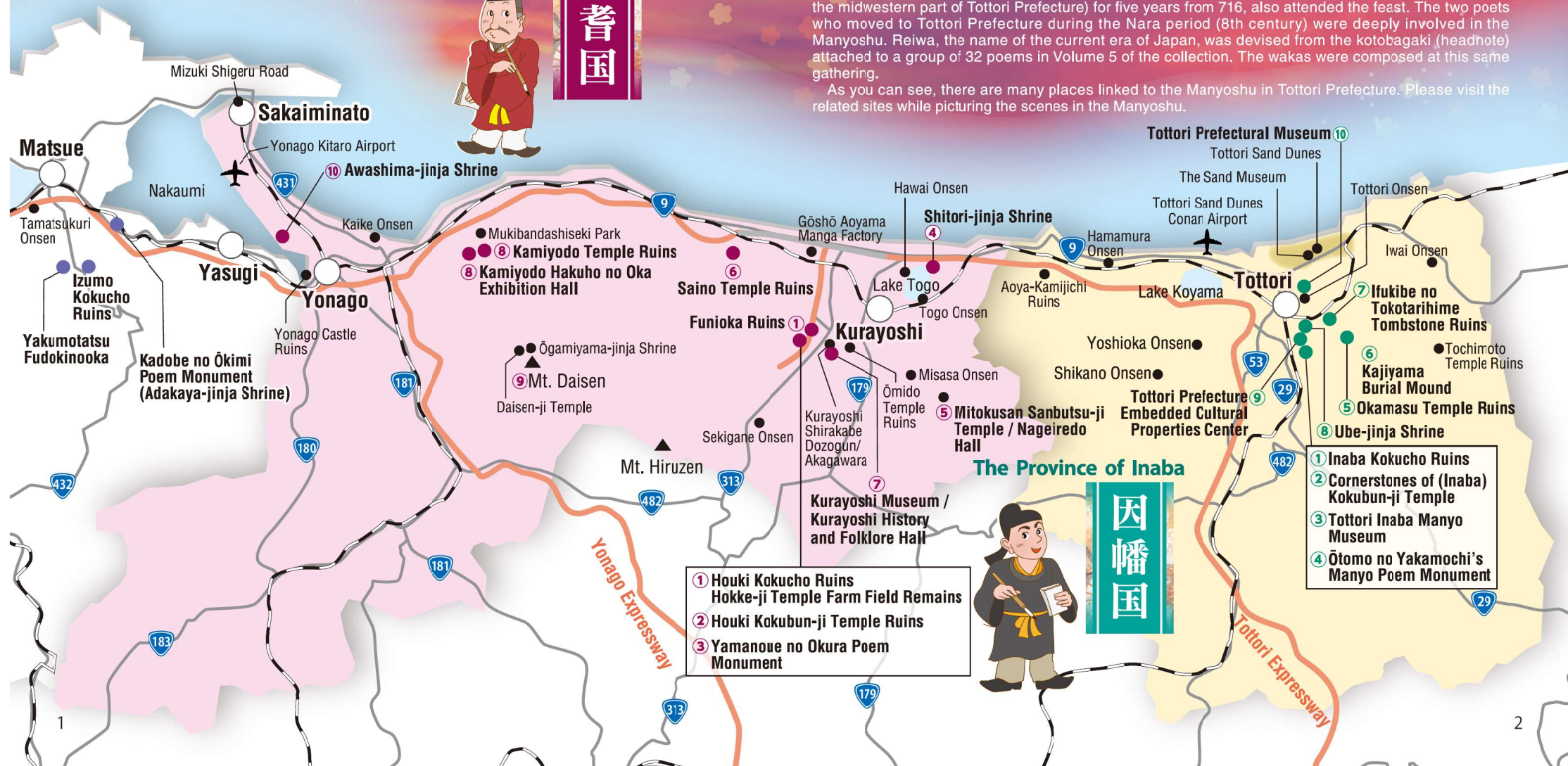
It contains more than 4,500 waka written by about 460 people (excluding unknown authors) mainly from the first half of the 7th century through the middle of the 8th century. The authors were in various positions, including emperors, aristocrats, soldiers garrisoned at strategic posts in Kyushu, and peasants. It is said that Ōtomo no Yakamochi was involved in the compilation of the Manyoshu. He was a Japanese political leader and waka poet who was assigned as Governor of Inaba Province (presently the eastern part of Tottori Prefecture) in 758. The Manyoshu ends with the poem he wrote at the Inaba Province Office on New Year's Day of 759.

About 30 years earlier, in January of 730, Yakamochi's father, Ōtomo no Tabito, held a poetic gathering around his garden's plum tree in Dazaifu (now Dazaifu City, Fukuoka Prefecture) where he had been assigned as a military leader. Yamanoue no Okura, who served as Governor of Houki Province (presently the midwestern part of Tottori Prefecture) for five years from 716, also attended the feast. The two poets who moved to Tottori Prefecture during the Nara period (8th century) were deeply involved in the Manyoshu. Reiwa, the name of the current era of Japan, was devised from the kotobagaki (headnote) attached to a group of 32 poems in Volume 5 of the collection. The wakas were composed at this same gathering.

As you can see, there are many places linked to the Manyoshu in Tottori Prefecture. Please visit the related sites while picturing the scenes in the Manyoshu.

The Province of Houki

伯耆国



- 1 Houki Kokucho Ruins
Hokke-ji Temple Farm Field Remains
- 2 Houki Kokubun-ji Temple Ruins
- 3 Yamanoue no Okura Poem Monument

- 1 Inaba Kokucho Ruins
- 2 Cornerstones of (Inaba) Kokubun-ji Temple
- 3 Tottori Inaba Manyo Museum
- 4 Ōtomo no Yakamochi's Manyo Poem Monument

因幡国



大伴家持

Otomo no Yakamochi

Ōtomo no Yakamochi was a nobleman and waka poet in the Nara period. He was born to Ōtomo no Tabito, a Japanese military leader and waka poet. When he was a boy, he was educated by his aunt Sakanoue no Iratsume who was a leading waka poet. As a result, he wrote many outstanding wakas throughout his life.

Yakamochi is said to be a Manyō poet with a checkered career, his life following a cycle of promotions and demotions. Yakamochi, as well as his grandfather Yasumaro, and his father Tabito, left his mark on history as a senior official of the Japanese government under the ritsuryō codes (System that was based on criminal law and administrative law). As chief of the Ōtomo Family, Yakamochi served as Governor of several provinces, including Echū, Inaba, Satsuma, Sagami, and Ise. He also became a council member, following which he was given the position of Jusanmi (upper class noble).

The Fujiwara clan entered the main political stage in the Nara period and Yakamochi, being the head of a prestigious clan, was often involved in anti-Fujiwara movements. He was repeatedly demoted to lower regional bureaucratic positions only to be returned to the central bureaucracy.

Yakamochi died at the age of 68 in 785, a year after he took charge of the campaign to defeat Zo (Hokkaido).

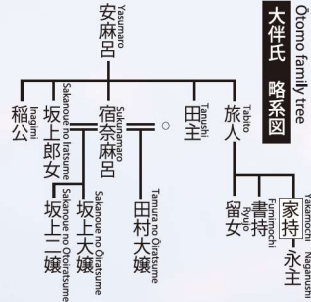
There were also significant changes connected to him following his death. For example, the Emperor's favorite retainer, Fujiwara no Tanetsugu, was assassinated in September of the same year and Yakamochi was alleged to have been one of the plot's masterminds. He was posthumously deprived of all his honors, including his official rank, and his son Naganushi was exiled to the island of Oki. Later, a number of misfortunes befell Emperor Kanmu, and he feared that the troubles were due to the curse of Prince Sawara, who died of resentment related to the incident of Fujiwara no Tanetsugu. About 20 years later, amnesty was given on the day of the Emperor's demise in 806 (25th year of Enryaku), and Yakamochi was posthumously returned to his rank of honor.

In 758, Yakamochi was assigned as Kokushu (governor or director in charge of general government administration) of Inaba Province (presently the eastern part of Tottori Prefecture). It snowed on New Year's Day of the following lunar year which was considered to be the sign of a good harvest. Furthermore, New Year's Day overlapped with the first day of spring, which only occurs once every 19 years; this was also considered very auspicious. The Manyōshū ends with the following poem written by Yakamochi at the Inaba Government Office on that day, and no newer poems have been found: *Aratashiki toshinohajimeno hatsuharuno kyofuruyukino iyashikeyogoto (Like the snow that is falling on the first day of the new year in the early spring, may there be ever more promising things to come.)* Approximately 10% of the Manyōshū is comprised of poetry and includes about 470 long and short poems. Many believe that Yakamochi was involved in the compilation of the Manyōshū.

It is said that Yamanoue no Okura, an older poet and cultural figure, strongly influenced Yakamochi. A dominant theory is that Yakamochi accompanied his father, Tabito, when he was transferred to Dazaifu. However, he was still a boy at that time and is not included in the list of 32 poets who attended Tabito's poetic gathering. Yakamochi, as a boy, may have been watching Okura and his father who authored poems at the feast.

Yakamochi composed many poems that expressed his feelings through descriptions of his natural surroundings. The three poems below are called Yakamochi's three superb seasonal poems and are most representative of his work. They include the poem he wrote in Inaba Province that appears at the end of the Manyōshū.

- *Harumononi kasumitanabiki uraganashi konoyukageni uguisunakumo (I see the haze falling in the spring field, and my heart sinks in sadness; in the light of this dusk, a nightingale is singing)*
- *Wagayadono isasamuratake fukukazeno otonokasokeki konoyubekamo (I can hear the faint sound of the wind blowing through the little bamboo swarms of our house, and I feel the loneliness of this evening)*
- *Uraurani tereruharuhini hibariagari kokorokanashimo hitorishioeoba (When I muse alone, I feel the sadness in the song of a lark that soars into the mildly shining sunlight of a springtime day)*



Land related to Inaba Province



Aerial photo of Inaba Kokucho Ruins (Photo: Courtesy of Tottori City Board of Education)



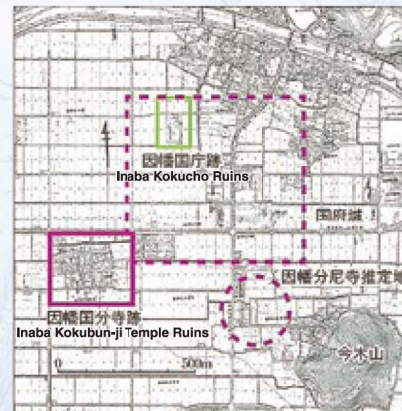
Inaba Kokucho ruins and Mt. Omokage

① Inaba Kokucho Ruins (National Historic Site)

The Inaba Kokucho ruins are what remains of the provincial office from which Inaba was governed from the Heiar period to the Kamakura period (end of the 8th century through the middle of the 14th century). Ōtomo no Yakamochi was assigned as Governor of Inaba during this period. Three mountains collectively called Inaba Sanzan can be seen from the site. They are respectively called Mt. Koshiki (East), Mt. Omokage (West), and Mt. Imaki (South). It is estimated that Kokufu area, including the provincial government office, was about 654m². Kokubun-ji Temple and Kokubunni-ji Temple are located on the south side.

In 1977, traces of a building with remaining foundations were discovered at a depth of only 20 centimeters the site was subsequently designated as a National Historic Site.

- 📍 Chugo, Kokufu Town, Tottori City
- 🚌 Take the Nakagawara Line from Bus Stop #3 at JR Tottori Station. Get off at Miyanoshita Bus Stop and walk for 15 minutes.



Imaginary map of Inaba Kokufu area (Reproduced from Volume 6 of Traditional Archeology in Tottori Prefecture (2013))



General restoration image of Inaba Kokucho

② Cornerstones of (Inaba) Kokubun-ji Temple (Protected Cultural Property of Tottori City)

Kokubun-ji Temple was founded in 741 by the order of Emperor Shomu. This temple was located 500 meters southwest of the Inaba Kokufu. The pagoda, south gate, roofed perimeter mud wall, and building pillars were found through an excavation survey.

The excavated cornerstones have been preserved.

- 📍 Kokubun-ji, Kokufu Town, Tottori City
- 🚌 Take the Nakagawara Line from Bus Stop #3 at JR Tottori Station. Get off at Miyanoshita Bus Stop and walk for 20 minutes.



Cornerstones of (Inaba) Kokubun-ji Temple



3 Tottori Inaba Manyo Museum

The Inaba Manyo Museum shows exhibits about the Manyoshu, Ōtomo no Yakamochi, and Ifukibe no Tokotarihime (a maid-in-waiting of the period).

It provides a base for visitors to experience ancient Inaba and Manyo cultures. Inside the museum, visitors can also enjoy a garden of plants related to the Manyoshu and try on period costumes.



Try-on experience of ancient costumes

- 🏠 726, Machiya, Kokufu Town, Tottori City
- 🕒 Closed on Mondays (next weekday if a national holiday), weekdays after national holidays, and during the year-end and New Year's holiday period.
- 🚌 Take the Nakagawara Line from Bus Stop #3 at JR Tottori Station. Get off at Inaba Manyo Rekishikan Bus Stop. Alternatively, get off at Inaba Manyo Rekishikan Iriguchi Bus Stop and walk for 5 minutes.



Inaba Province Model Course

3 Tottori Inaba Manyo Museum

Approx. 0.5 km ▼ 5-min walk
2-min drive

4 Ōtomo no Yakamochi Manyo Poem Monument

Approx. 1 km ▼ 10-min walk
4-min drive

1 Inaba Kokucho ruins (Kokucho Ruins Park)

Approx. 5 km ▼ 10-min drive

5 Okamasu Temple Ruins and Okamasu Stone Hall

Approx. 0.6 km ▼ 10-min walk
3-min drive

6 Kajiyama Burial Mound

Approx. 5 km ▼ 10-min walk

7 Ifukibe no Tokotarihime Tombstone Ruins

Approx. 1 km ▼ 15-min walk
5-min drive

8 Ube-jinja Shrine (Inaba Ichinomiya)

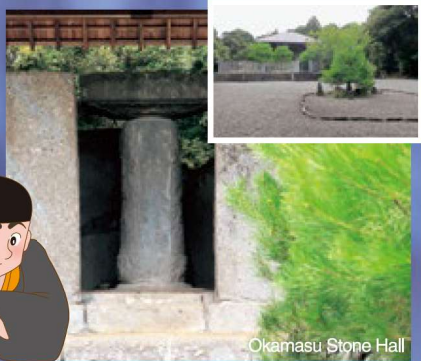


Ōtomo no Yakamochi Manyo Poem Monument
(Reproduced from Kokufucho Hometown Chronicle 1997)

4 Ōtomo no Yakamochi Manyo Poem Monument (Tottori City Historic Site)

This is a poem monument in honor of Ōtomo no Yakamochi, whose poem appears in the Manyoshu. The monument was built on the site of the Kokufu provincial office in 1922 and has been designated as a Tottori City historic site. It is made of a natural stone that is approximately three meters high. The poem carved on its surface reads: *Aratashiki toshinohajimeno hatsuharuno kyofuryuyukino iyashikeyogoto (Like the snow that is falling on the first day of the new year in the early spring, may there be ever more promising things to come)*

- 🏠 Kokufu Town, Tottori City
- 🚌 Take the Nakagawara Line from Bus Stop #3 at JR Tottori Station. Get off at Inaba Manyo Rekishikan Bus Stop and walk for 5 minutes.



Okamasu Stone Hall

5 Okamasu Temple Ruins and Okamasu Stone Hall

The temple that stood here was built from the end of the 7th century through the beginning of the 8th century. This unique stone structure with entasis pillars is presumed to have been Emperor Antoku's mausoleum. The Imperial Household Agency manages the site. The Okamasu Stone Hall has a stone column and a middle platform with embossments which include rare lotus and palmette patterns with elements from the Six Dynasties of China.

- 🏠 Okamasu, Kokufu Town, Tottori City
- 🚌 Take the Nakagawara Line from Bus Stop #3 at JR Tottori Station. Get off at Inaba Manyo Rekishikan Bus Stop. Alternatively, get off at Okamasu Bus Stop and walk for 15 minutes.



Mural with fish motif

6 Kajiyama Burial Mound (National Historic Site)

This burial mound was raised in the 7th century and is presumed to be the tomb of the Ifukibe family, a local clan, who dispatched a maid-in-waiting to the capital in the age of Manyo (8th century). The stone room has a colored wall painting with a fish motif, which is rare in Japan.

- 🏠 Okamasu, Kokufu Town, Tottori City
- 🚌 Take the Nakagawara Line from Bus Stop #3 at JR Tottori Station. Get off at Okamasubashi Bus Stop and walk for 5 minutes.

Hire a guide to show you around historical Kokufu & the Tottori Inaba Manyo Museum

- 📄 Inaba Kokufu Guide Club (inside the Tottori Inaba Manyo Museum)
Phone: 0857-26-1780
- 💰 1,000 yen per guide
*Reservation required one week in advance.



7 Ifukibe no Tokotarihime Tombstone Ruins (National Historic Site)

Ifukibe no Tokotarihime was a daughter of the Ifukibe family, a powerful local clan, and she served as a maid-in-waiting for Emperor Monmu.

A box-shaped funerary urn made by hollowing out a large stone (1.4 meters long, 0.9 meters wide, and 0.5 meters thick) was found at the site. A copper ossuary had been placed in it. On the lid, 108 characters describing how Ifukibe no Tokotarihime was cremated are engraved.

This is the oldest cremation tomb in the San'in area, and the ossuary is kept as an important cultural property at the Tokyo National Museum. Visitors should exercise caution when climbing the steep mountain path to the site.

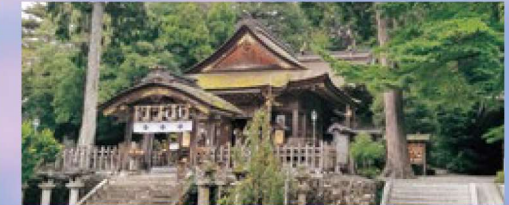
- 🏠 Miyanoshita, Kokufu Town, Tottori City
- 🚌 Take the Nakagawara Line from Bus Stop #3 at JR Tottori Station. Get off at Miyanoshita Bus Stop and walk for 30 minutes.



9 Tottori Prefecture Embedded Cultural Properties Center

This museum provides information about archeological sites in Tottori Prefecture. Many excavated items are on display in the exhibition room.

- 🏠 1260, Miyanoshita, Kokufu Town, Tottori City
- 🕒 Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, and during the year-end and New Year's holiday period
- 🚌 Take the Nakagawara Line from Bus Stop #3 at JR Tottori Station. Get off at Okutaniguchi Bus Stop and walk for 7 minutes.



8 Ube-jinja Shrine (Inaba Ichinomiya)

Takenouchi no Sukune no Mikoto, enshrined and worshiped as a god of longevity, is said to have lived until the age of 360. In 1899, an image of the Worship Hall of Ube Shrine was adopted on the five-yen bill along with the statue of Takenouchi no Sukune no Mikoto. It was the first time that the image of a shrine was chosen for a Japanese banknote. Ube Shrine images have been adopted several times since then, which lead to people making a connection between Ube Shrine and money. Many worshippers come from all over Japan to pray for business prosperity and luck in wealth. On April 21st, Ube Shrine holds its annual festival, where a traditional Kirin Shishimai dance, which has been taking place since the Edo period (1603 - 1868), is dedicated.

- 🏠 651, Miyanoshita, Kokufu Town, Tottori City
- 🚌 Take the Nakagawara Line from Bus Stop #3 at JR Tottori Station. Get off at Miyanoshita Bus Stop and walk for 10 minutes.

10 Tottori Prefectural Museum

This is a comprehensive museum where visitors can learn about the history, folklore, nature, and arts of Tottori Prefecture. Visitors can view materials related to the mokkan (wood tablets on which official messages are written) that were used in the Nara period (710 - 794), in addition to materials about the Ifukibe family, a powerful local clan.

- 🏠 2-124, Higashi Town, Tottori City
- 🕒 Closed on Mondays (next weekday if a national holiday), weekdays after national holidays, and during the year-end and New Year's holiday period
- 🚌 Take the 100-yen circular route bus Kururi on the Green Course at JR Tottori Station. Get off at #11 Jinguaku Kenritsu Hakubutsukan Bus Stop and walk for 2 minutes.
- Take the bus from Bus Stop #40 or #45 at JR Tottori Station for the Sand Dunes, Koyama, and Karo areas. Get off at Nishimachi Bus Stop and walk for 5 minutes.

*The traffic information is valid as of October 2019.

山上憶良
Yamanoue no Okura

Yamanoue no Okura was a government official born to a lower aristocrat in the early Nara period (710 – 794), and was also famous as a poet. He left behind approximately 80 poems, which were included in the Manyōshū. Many of Okura's poems, including “Korawo Omofu Uta” (A song for children) and “Hinkyū Mondoka” (Answering for the Poor), describe the lives of common people and people's love for their children and family members. He also dedicated one of his poems to Ōtomo no Tabito (Ōtomo no Yakamochi's father) when Tabito's wife died. With this opportunity, they started deepening their friendship. It is said that this exchange with Tabito led to a life filled with poetry later on.

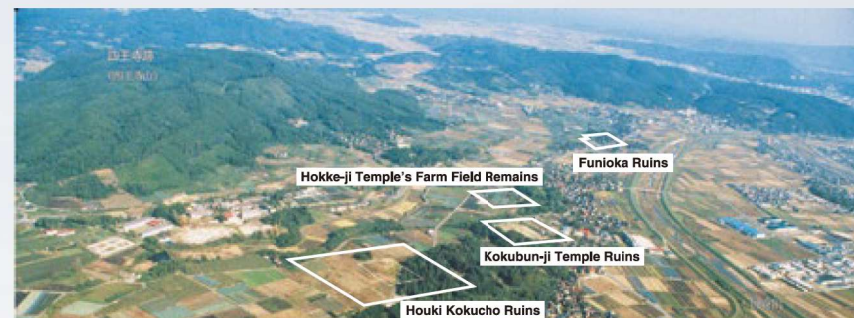
It is estimated that he was born around 660, but there are various views on his origin. He was promoted to the position of secretary of Japanese mission to China during the Tang dynasty at the age of 42, and there, he was exposed to the cutting-edge culture of China before he returned to Japan. He then became a senior official at the age of 54, and served as Governor of Houki Province (presently the midwestern part of Tottori Prefecture) at the age of 57 in 716. He was assigned as Governor of Chikuzen Province at the age of 67.

In 730, four years after he took office of Governor of Chikuzen Province, he attended the poetic gathering in the garden of Ōtomo no Tabito's residence in Dazaifu. The following poem by Okura is listed fourth in the group of 32 poems composed at the gathering: *Harusareba mazusakuyadono umenohana hitorimitsutsuya haruhikurasamu* (I wish I could spend all spring days alone at this residence while I enjoy watching the plum that blooms and tells the arrival of spring). It is considered to be the best poem about plum blossoms in the collection, and is one of his representative works.

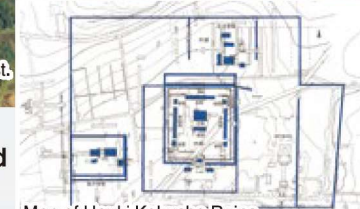
After he retired from his position as of Governor of Chikuzen Province, he returned to the capital city, and died of illness in 733 at the age of 74.

It is said that Okura spent about five years as Governor of Houki Province. The poems written during his stay are not confirmed, but it is believed that his experience and exposure to the nature and culture of Houki during the assignment influenced his poetry.

It is also said that Ōtomo no Yakamochi, who later became Governor of Inaba Province (presently the eastern part of Tottori Prefecture), was strongly influenced by Okura. Okura wrote: *Onokoyamo munashikuarubeki yorozuyoni katarisugubeki nawatatezushite* (As a man, I wonder if it is correct to spend and end my life fruitlessly without leaving my name to posterity). Yakamochi added: *Masuraowa naoshitatsubeshi nochinoyoni kikitsuguhitomo katarisugugane* (A man should succeed and leave his mark so that his name and deeds will be handed down from generation to generation.)



Around the Houki Kokuchō Ruins viewed from the southwest. (Photo: Courtesy of Kurayoshi City Board of Education)



Map of Houki Kokuchō Ruins (Courtesy of Kurayoshi City Board of Education)



Restoration image of Houki Kokuchō

① Houki Kokufu/Houki Kokuchō Ruins, Hokke-ji Temple Farm Field Remains, and Funioka Ruins (National Historic Site)

The Funioka Ruins have been confirmed to be related to the ancient Houki Kokufu (provincial office). Located about 1.5 kilometers northeast of the old provincial office and adjacent to the Hokke-ji Temple Farm Field Remains. Collectively, the Houki Kokufu site is designated as a National Historic Site.

The ruins of Kokuchō include traces of the local government office which was in use from the Nara period through the Heian period (the 8th century to the 11th century).

The Kokuchō, Kokubun-ji Temple, and Kokubun-ji Temple were located close to the Yashiro District of Kurayoshi City, which became the political, financial, and cultural center of Houki Province during that period. Reconstructed image of Houki Kokuchō.

At the beginning of the 8th century, when Yamanoue no Okura was assigned as Governor of Houki Province, the Kokuchō had not yet been established. It is believed that Okura's office was situated in the earlier Kokufu provincial office found at the Funioka site.

It is believed that Hokke-ji Temple's Farm Field was the original location of the Kokufu government office, which was relocated to Kokubun-ji Temple later.

📍 Kokubun-ji, Funioka and Kokufu, Kurayoshi City

🚶 Take the Yashiro Line/Kitadani Line from Bus Stop #2 at JR Kurayoshi Station. Get off at Kokufu Bus Stop and walk for 10 minutes (walk for 15 minutes to the Funioka ruins).



Hokke-ji Temple's Farm Field Relics with reconstructed west gate



Houki Kokubun-ji Temple Ruins (Photo: Courtesy of Kurayoshi City Board of Education)

② Houki Kokubun-ji Temple Ruins (National Historic Site)

Houki Kokubun-ji Temple was founded in 741 by the order of Emperor Shōmu. The ruins are 182 meters wide from east to west and 160 meters long from north to south. The locations of buildings, including the south gate, main hall, auditorium, and pagoda, have been confirmed.

📍 Kokubun-ji and Kokufu, Kurayoshi City

🚶 Take the Yashiro Line/Kitadani Line from Bus Stop #2 at JR Kurayoshi Station. Get off at Kokufu Bus Stop and walk for 10 minutes.

Funioka Ruins

*The traffic information is valid as of October 2019.



Northside of Houki Kokubun-ji Ruins



Showa-machi Children's Park #3

3 Yamanoue no Okura Poem Monument

The poem monument of Yamanoue no Okura, a contributor to the Manyōshū, was built on the north side of the Houki Kokubun-ji Temple ruins in 2017. The monument is inscribed with his poem: *Urihameba kodomoomohoyu kurihameba nashiteshinohayu izukuyori kitarishimonoso manakaini motonakakarite yasushinasanu*. The poem monument of Bunmei Tsuchiya, a member of the coterie of Araragi magazine, with its poem in memory of Yamanoue no Okura, is on the left side of Yamanoue no Okura's monument. Another poem monument of Yamanoue no Okura is located in Showa-machi Children's Park #3, which is right in front of Tottori Prefectural Kosei Hospital.

Yamanoue no Okura Poem Monument on the north side of the Houki Kokubun-ji Ruins

Kokufu, Kurayoshi City

Take the Yashiro Line/Kitadani Line from Bus Stop #2 at JR Kurayoshi Station. Get off at Kokufu Bus Stop and walk for 10 minutes.

Yamanoue no Okura Poem Monument in Showa-machi Children's Park #3

Minamishowa Town, Kurayoshi City

Take the Yashiro Line/Kitadani Line from Bus Stop #2 at JR Kurayoshi Station. Get off at Kosei Byoin-mae Bus Stop and walk for 5 minutes.



7 Kurayoshi Museum/Kurayoshi History and Folklore Hall

The Kurayoshi Museum and Kurayoshi History and Folklore Hall exhibits archaeological materials, such as those excavated from historical sites in the city of Kurayoshi and its vicinity, including those from the Houki Kokucho Ruins and, in particular, the Kokubun-ji Ruins. Furthermore, the exhibits include works of painters connected to Kurayoshi, such as Kanji Maeta and also Tatehiko Suga, a woodworker, as well as Hiromichi Osaka, a living national treasure.

3445-8, Nakano Town, Kurayoshi City

Closed on Mondays (next weekday if a national holiday) and during the year-end and New Year's holiday period

Take the bus from Bus Stop #2 at JR Kurayoshi Station for the Sekigane, Hirose, and Kurayoshi Park Square. Get off at Shiyakusho Utsubuiki Koen Iriguchi Bus Stop and walk for 5 minutes or get off at Akagawara Shirakabe Dozo Bus Stop (in Meiji-machi) and walk for 10 minutes.



4 Shitori-jinja Shrine (Houki Ichinomiya)

Shitori Shrine is also known as Houki Ichinomiya and has a high status. The name of the shrine is recorded in Englishiki Jinmyocho (a register of shrines in Japan). It is not clear when this shrine was built, but legend has it that Shitateru-hime, the daughter of Okuninushi no Mikoto (who is believed to be the Master of the Great Land), arrived from Izumo (an area along the rural San'in Coast of the Sea of Japan) and decided to settle here and that the shrine was built in her honor.

754, Miyauchi, Yurihama Town, Tohaku County

Take a taxi for 10 minutes from JR Matsuzaki Station to the approach.



Photo: Courtesy of Kamiyodo Hakuho-no-Oka Exhibition Hall

8 Kamiyodo Temple Ruins (National Historic Site) and Kamiyodo Hakuho no Oka Exhibition Hall

The ruins are the remains of a temple that was built in the late 7th century. One of the oldest murals in Japan, which is comparable to the ancient wall paintings in the main hall of Horyu-ji Temple, was excavated from the remains of the main hall area, attracting attention from all over Japan. At the nearby Kamiyodo Hakuho-no-Oka Exhibition Hall, the interior of the main hall was reconstructed as an exhibition. The highlights are a 3.8-meter-tall statue of Shakyamuni and attendant statues, which were restored from excavated statue pieces.

977-2, Fukuoka, Yodoe Town, Yonago City (Kamiyodo Hakuho no Oka Exhibition Hall)

Closed on Tuesdays (next weekday if a national holiday) and during the year-end and New Year's holiday period (Kamiyodo Hakuho no Oka Exhibition Hall)

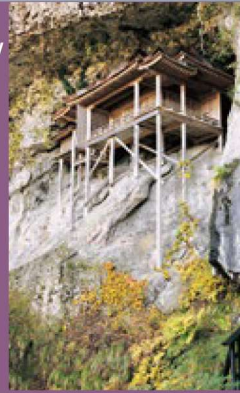
Walk for 20 minutes from JR Yodoe Station.

5 Mitokusan Sanbutsu-ji Temple / Nageiredo Hall (National Treasure)

It is said that Mitokusan Sanbutsu-ji Temple was opened to pilgrims in 706. Nageiredo, also called Okunoin (national treasure), which sits atop a steep pilgrimage path, dates from the Heian period (794 - 1185) making it the prefecture's oldest building. It is also famous as the most dangerous location to enjoy a Japanese national treasure.

Mitoku, Misasa Town, Tohaku County

Take the Misasa Line from Bus Stop #3 at JR Kurayoshi Station. Get off at Mitokusan Sando Iriguchi Bus Stop and walk for 10 minutes.



6 Saino Temple Ruins (Special National Historic Site)

The Saino Temple Ruins are the remains of a temple of the Hakuho period (mid-7th century to early-8th century). The ruins are the San'in area's only designated special national historical site. This temple had a Horyu-ji style temple layout. On the spacious land at the foot of Mt. Daisen, visitors can see the traces of the pagoda, main hall, auditorium, and central gate. A small Buddha statue enshrined in the pagoda has been excavated, and it seems to be smiling gently.

Tsukinoshita, Kotoura Town, Tohaku County

Take a taxi for 10 minutes from JR Urayasu Station.



Reproduced image of Saino Temple Ruins (CG) (Courtesy of Kotoura Town Board of Education)

9 Mt. Daisen/Daisen-ji Temple/Ōgamiyama-jinja Shrine Okunomiya (National Important Cultural Property)

It is said that Mt. Daisen has a 1300-year history of Buddhism and that the temple was opened in 718, which is also the birth year of Ōtomo no Yakamochi. It is a sacred mountain for both Shintoism and Buddhism.

A giant golden image of Amitabha Buddha is flanked by the Bodhisattvas Avalokiteshvara and Mahasthamaprapta and is enshrined in the Amida Hall of Daisen-ji Temple.

Both the Amida Hall and the image are important national cultural properties. The Worship Hall of Ōgamiyama Shrine Okunomiya (national important cultural property) features a beautiful and long corridor with widened wings

Daisen, Daisen Town, Saihaku County

Take the Daisen Line from Bus Stop #4 at JR Yonago Station. Get off at Daisenji Bus Stop and walk for 10 minutes.



10 Awashima-jinja Shrine

Awashima Shrine has a long history and honors Sukunabikona no Mikoto, the god of country-building. Legend has it that he sowed millet, rode on a grown millet ear, and traveled to the land of eternity. On the site is a poem monument of Oishi no Suguri no Mahito, which reads: *Ohonamuchi sukunabikonano imashikemu shitsunoiwayawa ikuyohenuramu (I wonder how long it has passed since the stone cave was entered by Onamuchi and Sukunabikona no Mikoto, who lived there).*

1404, Hikona Town, Yonago City

Take the Uchihama Line from Bus Stop #2 at JR Yonago Station. Get off at Awashimajinja-mae Bus Stop and walk for 5 minutes.

Houki Province Model Course

7 Kurayoshi Museum of Kurayoshi History and Folklore Hall

Approx. 5 km ▼ 10-min drive

1 Houki Kokufu/Houki Kokucho Ruins and Hokke-ji Temple Farm Field Remains

▼ 3-min walk

3 Yamanoue no Okura Poem Monument

Approx. 12 km ▼ 20-min drive

6 Saino Temple Ruins

Approx. 40 km ▼ 40-min drive

9 Mt. Daisen/Daisen-ji Temple/Ōgamiyama-jinja Shrine Okunomiya

Approx. 16 km ▼ 25-min drive

8 Kamiyodo Hakuho-no-Oka Exhibition Hall

Approx. 20 km ▼ 30-min drive

10 Awashima-jinja Shrine

Shimane Prefecture is located to the west of Tottori Prefecture. Manyo poets Kakinomoto no Hitomaro and Kadobe no Ōkimi were respectively assigned to Iwami Province (presently the western part of Shimane Prefecture) and Izumo Country (currently the eastern part of Shimane Prefecture) as local government officials. Both of them left many poems.



柿本人麿
Kakinomoto no Hitomaro

It is said that Kakinomoto no Hitomaro was assigned as a local government official of Iwami Province early in the 700s. However, there are not many records about him, and specific details about his life are unknown.

He was a poet during the Asuka period (538 - 710), and he opened a new world of poetry in all aspects. It is said that he is one of the poets who stood at the pinnacle of Manyo poetry from the viewpoint of the number and quality of his poems. The contents of his poems are diverse, and the Manyoshu includes poems of his that mourn the devastated capital city, those related to the princes and princesses, as well as poems about his wife.

Of the many poems he left, one representative work is entitled *Iwami Somonka*, in which some the names of locations around Gotsu area appear.



門部王
Kadobe no Ōkimi

Kadobe no Ōkimi was a member of the royal family in the Nara period (the 8th century) and is said to have been Emperor Tenmu's great-grandson. It is believed that he was Governor of Izumo Province from 720 through 733.

He was a poet attuned to the human condition, and his poem entitled "A Poem of the Lord of Izumo Thinking of the Capital City" appears in the Manyoshu. The poem reads *Ounoumino kawaranochidori naganakeba wagasahogawano omohoyurakuni (Hearing a plover's song on the beach of the Sea of Ou, I cannot help but remember the Saho River in my hometown)*. The Sea of Ou refers to Nakaumi, a brackish lake located between Tottori and Shimane Prefectures. The Saho River flows through the capital of Nara. It is a poem that describes nostalgia and longing he felt for the distant capital city when he heard a plover sing by the Iu River, which flowed to Nakaumi. The Saho River is well known for the residence of Ōtomo no Yakamochi's grandfather Ōtomo no Yasumaro. Yakamochi once lived in this house as well. The area from the right bank of the Saho River to Mt. Saho to the north of the Saho River was called Sahonouchi, and it was a residential area for noble people. It is said that Kadobe no Ōkimi's residence was located nearby.

◆Manyo Poet Chronology

	AD	Era	Related event
Asuka period	660	Empress Saimei 6th year	Birth of Yamanoue no Okura (estimated).
	684	Emperor Tenmu 13th year	Kakinomoto no Hitomaro changes his family name to Asomi.
	Around 700		(Circa) Assignment of Kakinomoto no Hitomaro to Iwami Province as local government official.
	701	Taiho 1st year	Enactment of the Taiho Code
	702	2nd year	Yamanoue no Okura (43) joins a Japanese mission and visits Tang China
Nara period	704	Keiun 1st year	Yamanoue no Okura (45) returns to Japan
	708	Wado 1st year	Kakinomoto no Hitomaro dies in Iwami (estimated).
	710	Wado 3rd year	Relocation of Imperial Capital to Heijokyo (Nara)
	716	Reiki 2nd year	Yamanoue no Okura (57) becomes Governor of Houki Province
	718	Yoro 2nd year	Birth of Ōtomo no Yakamochi.
	719	3rd year	Kadobe no Ōkimi serves as Governor of Ise Province as well as traveling inspector of the provincial governments. Kadobe no Ōkimi serves as Governor of Izumo Province.
	720 - 733 (Undetermined)	Yoro 4th year - Tenpyo 5th year	
	724	Jinki 1st year	Enthronement of Emperor Shomu
	726	3rd year	Yamanoue no Okura (67) becomes Governor of Chikuzen Province.
	728	5th year	Ōtomo no Tabito (Ōtomo no Yakamochi's father) is transferred to Dazaifu as a director (Yakamochi is 11 years old)
730	Tenpyo 2nd year	Yamanoue no Okura (71) attends the poetic garden gathering. Reiwa, the current era of Japan, is devised from a headnote in several poems written at the event.	
Heian period	731	3rd year	Death of Ōtomo no Tabito (Ōtomo no Yakamochi's father) (Yakamochi is 14 years old).
	733	5th year	Death of Yamanoue no Okura (74).
	745	17th year	Death of Kadobe no Ōkimi.
	746	18th year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi is appointed Governor of Echū Province. Death of Fumimochi (Yakamochi is 29 years old), Yakamochi's younger brother.
	751	Tenpyo-shoho 3rd year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (34) becomes Shonagon (lesser counselor of state).
	758	Tenpyo-hoji 2nd year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (41) becomes Governor of Inaba Province.
	759	3rd year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (42) authors a poem for the New Year's greetings at the Inaba Kokucho.
	764	8th year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (47) becomes Governor of Satsuma Province.
	767	Jingo-keiun 1st year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (50) becomes Dazai no Shoni (undersecretary).
	774	Houki 5th year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (57) becomes Governor of Sagami Province.
	776	7th year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (59) becomes Governor of Ise Province.
	780	11th year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (63) becomes a council member and serves as Udaiben (Major Controller of the Right).
	783	Enryaku 2nd year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (66) becomes a medium-ranked councilor in the Department of State.
	784	3rd year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (67) becomes Commander in Chief of the Army.
	785	4th year	Death of Ōtomo no Yakamochi (68).
Heian period	794	13th year	Relocation of Imperial Capital to Heiankyo (Kyoto)
	806	25th year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi is posthumously restored to his last position.

The Manyoshu mainly contains poems written during the Manyo period (130 years) between the Asuka period (530 - 710) and the Nara period (710 - 794). The poems are categorized into four periods: early Manyo, Hakuho Manyo, Heijo Manyo, and Tenpyo Manyo. Poems dating to the early Manyo period are easygoing and straightforward. Those from the Hakuho Manyo period are powerful, while the works of the Heijo Manyo period are characterized by individuality. The poems of the Tenpyo Manyo period are delicate and ideological. Kakinomoto no Hitomaro, Ōtomo no Tabito, Yamanoue no Okura, and Ōtomo no Yakamochi are typical Hakuho Manyo, Heijo Manyo, and Tenpyo Manyo poets, respectively.

Basic knowledge of Manyoshu

The details of the originator and purpose of the creation of the Manyoshu are unknown. The collection contains many different forms and types of poems. Knowing how to differentiate them is part of the fun of the Manyoshu.



Indigo-paper version of the Manyoshu (Replica)
(Photo: Courtesy of the Tottori Inaba Manyo Museum)

Types of Manyoshu Poems

Main poetic categories	Zoka (Miscellaneous poems)	Zoka-style poems are not categorized as somonka or banka. They are about nature, court ceremonies, or written while traveling. They are often presented in public spaces.
	Somonka (Love poems)	Many somonka-style poems are about love between men and women. Unlike zoka-style poems that depict every day or public affairs, somonka-style poems express personal matters.
	Banka (Elegy)	Banka-style poems express feelings related to death and include mourning poems, deathbed-related poems, and poems cherishing the memory of the dead.

Forms of Manyoshu Poems

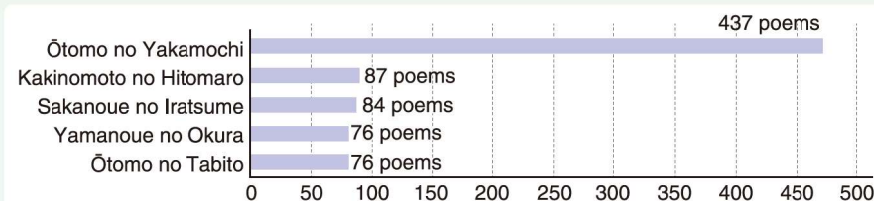
Choka (about 260 poems)	Choka is a form of poetry that consists of alternating lines of five and seven syllables and ends with an extra line of seven syllables. However, some choka poems end with five, three, and seven syllables or repeat the last phrase. The Manyoshu includes answer poems (in tanka form) to choka poems to summarize the theme or add words.
Tanka (about 4,200 poems)	Tanka is another form of poetry with a syllable pattern of 5-7-5-7-7. Some tanka-form poems include an extra syllable.
Sedoka (about 60 poems)	Sedoka is a form of poetry composed of two sets of 5-7-7 syllables. Many folksong-type sedoka poems repeat the same phrase.
Bussoku sekika (one poem)	Bussoku sekika is a form of poetry engraved in stone in Yakushi-ji Temple in Nara and composed of six phrases with a syllable pattern of 5-7-5-7-7-7. It is said to have originated from ancient songs.

Poems Characteristic to Each Volume

The Manyoshu did not organize poems in chronological order in its 20 volumes; it grouped them around a central theme.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Vol. 1: Zoka poems centered on the Court. | Vol. 14: Poems of eastern provinces |
| Vol. 2: Same as Vol. 1, somonka, and banka | Vol. 15: Poems of Japanese missions to Silla |
| Vol. 3: Poems to supplement Vols. 1 and 2 | Vol. 16: Poems of sad love between Nakatomi no Yakamori and Sano no Chigami no Otome |
| Vol. 4: Same as Vol. 3. Poems of love exchange | Vol. 17: Legendary poems and humorous poems |
| Vol. 5: Poems centered on Dazaifu | Vol. 18: Poems from before and after Ōtomo no Yakamochi's transfer to Ecchu Province |
| Vol. 6: Poems centered on the Court | Vol. 19: Mainly Ōtomo no Yakamochi's poems during his assignment as Governor of Ecchu Province |
| Vol. 7: Mainly travel-related poems | Vol. 20: Ōtomo no Yakamochi's poems during his assignment as Governor of Ecchu and after his return to the Capital |
| Vol. 8: Poems about each season | |
| Vol. 9: Travel- and legend-related poems | |
| Vol. 10: Seasonal poems | |
| Vol. 11: Poems of love and somonka exchange | |
| Vol. 12: Same as Vol. 11 | |
| Vol. 13: Mainly folksong-type choka poems | |

Number of Poems for Respective Poets in the Manyoshu



References: Tanoshiku Wakaru Manyoshu, supervised by Susumu Nakanishi (2011), Natsumeha Zusetu Chizuto Arasujide Yomu Manyoshu, supervised by Masaru Sakamoto (2006), SEISHUN PUBLISHING
Manyoshu Inishieno Utawo Tabisuru, edited by Keiho Nashimoto (2017), Yosensha
Yomitai Manyoshu, supervised by Migifumi Murata (2015), Nishimihon Publisher
Manyono Uta—Hitoto Fudo@ Chugoku/Shikoku, authored by Tadashi Shimoda (1986), HOIKUSHA Publishers

Manyo Cuisine—Meals in the Nara Period

Literature and excavated mokkan (wood tablets) reveal the state of meals in the Nara period.

People ate boiled or baked vegetables, such as eggplant, lotus root, cucumber, radish, root vegetables, as well as meat, such as venison, duck, and fish and shellfish, such as salmon and abalone, and seaweed, such as wakame. They used seasonings, including salt, soy, vinegar, and miso (fermented bean paste). Soy, vinegar, and miso were valuable, and ordinary people could not use them.

A wooden tablet excavated at Heijokyo was the tag of a shipment from Inaba Province, and it listed foodstuffs, such as seaweed, dried sweet fish, salmon, and dried meat. From this, we know it was a tribute of local specialties.

Example of Menu for Ōtomo no Yakamochi, Governor of Inaba Province

He must have enjoyed the seafood from Inaba Province. It must have gone well with sake. "Oh! I have a great idea for a poem!"

[Sake]
[Staple food] White rice
[Soup] Turnip soup
[Main dish and side dish] Grilled yellowtail, boiled abalone and radish, yam, taro, cooked beans, venison, duck, and edamame, etc.
[Pickles] Ginger pickled in soy
Gourd pickled in sake lees
[Dessert] Persimmon, chestnuts, and walnuts
[Seasoning] Soy and salt

Example of Menu for a Government Official of Inaba Province

Grilled mackerel, Stewed taro and burdock, Salted radish, Rice (brown rice), Salt, Wakame soup

Brown rice, soup, vegetables with dressing, stewed dishes, and grilled fish. Seaweed was also found on shipping tags from Inaba Province.

Example of Menu for Common People

Grilled sardine, Green vegetable soup, Rice (Brown rice and red rice), Salt

A simple soup and one dish. The staple food was mainly brown rice and millet. No soy or vinegar was provided, and the only seasoning was salt.

*Photo of reproduced dinner: Courtesy of the Tottori Inaba Manyo Museum