

# 2 Days Driving to Dams & Canals



## No.3 Visiting dams and surroundings along Kizu River and its tributaries on and near Hase Road, connecting West Mie and East Yamato District.



Our previous drive plans were based on a one-day trip basis. This time we would like to propose a two-day trip, including visits to three dams of Shorenji, Hinachi and Murou out of 5 dams (Takayama, Nunome, Shorenji, Hinachi, and Murou) managed by Kizugawa Dam Integrated Operation and Management Office of Japan Water Agency.

Hase Road connecting Mie Pref. and Nara Pref. has a long history. It is said to have served Emperor Tenmu in the 7th Century and a renowned scholar of Japanese Literature Norinaga Motoori in the 18th century for their trips. So along the way, there are many structures which let you feel nostalgia for old days as well as the natural attractions you will be fascinated while driving the car other than those beautiful dam sites.

\*The destinations offered here are as of October 2018 and there could be a change afterward.

### Starting Point

Less than 4 hours from Tokyo to Nagoya by a bullet train and Kintetsu Limited Express train from Nagoya to Nabari, combined

### Nabari Station of Kintetsu Railway

One of the gateways to Mie Prefecture, accessible in an hour and a half from Nagoya Station by the Limited Express train (Frequency: about one train / every hour.)  
As Nabari is the birthplace of Ranpo Edogawa, a leading mystery writer of Japan, his statue will welcome you at the east entrance of the station when you get started on this trip.



### 1

### Former Residence of Nabari Todo Family

Feudal Lord Todo achieved an unmatched feat at the battle of Sekigahara, that made the start of long-lasting Tokugawa Shogunate Government. His family kept reigning this area and had his family residence here. Though in 1710 the residence was once burned down and re-built, the residence still keeps its historical value.  
Please visualize the lives of feudal samurai lord when taking a tour in this residence.

Add: 54-3 Marunouchi, Nabari City, Mie Pref.  
Phone: +81-595-63-0451 Open: 9:00-17:00  
Closed: Mon, Thu, year end and beg (28 Dec-3 Jan)  
\*In case Mon or Thu is a holiday, the next day it is closed.  
Fee: Adult ¥200; Senior High Student ¥100;  
Elem & Junior High free Parking lot: available



### 2

### Hinachi Dam

Built and managed by the Japan Water Agency (JWA) on Nabari River, a tributary of Kizu River of Yodo River System, Hinachi Dam is a multi-purpose concrete gravity dam, serving Nabari City, one of the residential town of Osaka, Kyoto Pref. and Nara City.

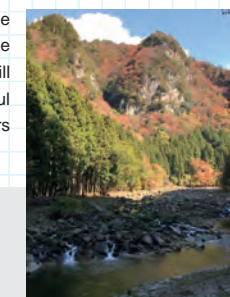


Dam cards are available  
8:45-17:15 except Sat., Sun., holidays  
Closed: no off-days  
Fee: free Parking lot: available

### 4

### Kaochidani Ravine

Both sides of Shorenji River are andesite rocks in the shape of regular polygonal prism called columnar joints. This unique rock formation extends about 8km along the river. You will find amazing red-colored leaves in autumn and beautiful yellow-colored kerria flowers and red-colored azalea flowers on the superb cliffs in spring in this ravine.



Add: Shorenji, Nabari City, Mie Pref.  
Phone: +81-595-63-7648  
(Nabari City Tourist Interchange Office)  
Open: whole day Closed: no off-days  
Fee: free Parking lot: available

### 6

### Road Station Isehonkaido (Ise Main Road) Mitsue Hot Spring "Himeishi-no-yu"

This hot spring is called "Water of Warmth", as its name stands, you will feel your body is kept warm a long time after getting out of natural hot bath. At the cafeteria called "Self-service Uguisu", Hinachi Dam and Curry, one of well-known Curry Dishes with venison cutlet, are served. Nearby local market provides fresh local farm produce, of course, without preservatives or additives, such produce includes Konnyaku (Japanese yam cake), pickles, and soya bean miso paste, etc.



Add: 6330 Kouzue, Mitue Village, Uda-gun, Nara Pref.  
Phone: +81-745-95-2641  
Open: 11:00-20:00 (Bath: entry before 19:30)  
Closed: Tue. (except Holidays) Fee: Adult ¥700;  
3 Year-old-Elem. School child ¥350; Infant (less than 3) free  
Parking lot: available

\*Those who present Hinachi Dam cards will receive discount coupon of bath ticket.

### 3

### Shorenji Dam

Shorenji Dam is a multi-purpose concrete arch dam managed by Japan Water Agency. It is located approx. 2km upstream from the confluence of Nabari River and Shorenji River. It serves domestic water to Nabari City and Hanshin Region. As Shorenji Dam is an asymmetrical design arch dam in terms of the width of dam body, an elevator cannot be installed inside the dam body. So a monorail car named Dolphin is installed on the right bank side for main gate operation and inspection purposes.



A Monrail car named Dolphin for maintenance

Dam cards are available 8:45-17:15  
all days regardless of the day of the week  
Closed: no off-days  
Fee: free Parking lot: available

### 5

### Soni Plateau

At the western hillside of Mt. Kame (849m), resembling the back of the turtle, as its name "Kame" stands and stretched from Mt. Kuroso (1038M), one of the top 300 well-known mountains of Japan, Soni Plateau, or Soni Highland, is an attractive tourist destination. In autumn this plateau invites a lot of hikers for widely extended Susuki (Japanese pampas grass) field in autumn.



Add: Taroji, Soni Village, Uda-gun, Nara Pref.  
Phone: +81-745-94-2106 (Village Office)  
Open: whole day Closed: no off-days  
Fee: free Parking lot: available

### ★ More attractions!

### Mihata Burial Mounds

Seven ancient tomb mounds in different shapes (round, rectangular, keyhole shape) are spotted in Mihata area of Nabari City. They were built in the Tumulus period from the 3rd to 7th century and compose the largest burial mound group in Iga region. There is a gentle undulated walking trail course available along the burial mounds for your comfortable historical site tour.



Add: Mihata Town, Nabari City, Mie Pref.  
Phone: +81-595-65-3007 (Mihata Citizen's Center) Open: whole day  
Closed: no off-days Fee: free Parking lot: not available



**Golden-rayed Lily Garden Information Center**  
Add: 976 Shorenji, Nabari City, Mie Pref.  
Reception: Grape Picking, Strawberry Picking

**Shorenji Tourist Village**  
Strawberry Picking: January-May  
Grape Picking: July-October  
Phone: +81-595-63-7000

**Shorenji Lake Information Center**  
Add: 1521-5 Shorenji, Nabari City, Mie Pref.  
Reception: Grape Picking only



## 1 The Akame 48 Waterfalls

This area is not just one spot. Along the ravine, a 4km-long trail is connecting to a series of 48 waterfalls, of which five famous waterfalls named Fudo Fall, Senju Fall, Nunobiki Fall, Ninai Fall, and Biwa Fall are called Akame 5 Waterfalls and give visitors fantastic views of waterfalls against nature-rich surrounding sceneries. This area was selected as one of Japan's 100 Waterfalls as well as the 100 Exquisite and Well-Conserved Waters of the Heisei Period. Many hikers enjoy the 3-hour stroll for forest-bathing.



Add: 861-1 Nagasaka, Akame Town, Nabari City, Mie Pref. Phone: +81-595-63-3004  
Open: 8:30-17:00 (Apr-Nov); 9:00-16:30 (Dec-Mar)  
Closed: 28 Dec thru 31 Dec, Thu of 13 Dec thru 7 Mar  
Fee: Adult ¥400; Junior High and Elementary School students ¥200 Parking lot: available

## 3 Ohno-ji Temple

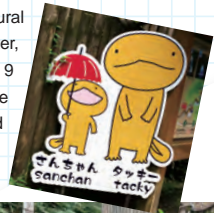
The most attractive scene at this temple in spring is the cherry blossom trees with drooping branches in full bloom. Some of them are estimated to be over 300 years old. On the other side of the river is the engraved Buddhist image of 14m high, one of the tallest in Japan, curved into the surface of the rock. The combination of the huge Buddhist image on a bank and the cherry blossoms on opposite bank let the visitors feel some solemn atmosphere.



Add: 1680 Murou Ohno, Uda City, Nara Pref. Phone: +81-745-92-2220  
Open: 8:00-17:00 (Mar-Oct); 8:00-16:00 (Nov-Feb)  
Closed: no off-days  
Fee: Adult ¥300, Senior High School students and below free  
Parking lot: available

## 2 The Japan Salamander Center

Grown here are giant salamanders, designated as special natural treasure of Japan, very unique creatures in the world. At this center, in addition to the ones born here, there are 50 salamanders of 9 different species cultivated and exhibited. The reason why they are unique is because they still retain the original body shape and hereditary features for 30 million years. You can observe them at very close range.



Add: 861-1 Nagasaka, Akame Town, Nabari City, Mie Pref. Phone: +81-595-63-3004  
Open: 8:30-17:00 (Apr-Nov); 9:00-16:30 (Dec-Mar)  
Closed: 28 Dec-31 Dec; Thu of 13 Dec-7 Mar  
Fee: included in the entry fee for Akame 48 Waterfalls  
Parking lot: available

## Day 2

スタート地点  
Starting Point

名張駅  
Nabari Sta.

赤目口駅  
Akameguchi Sta.

三本松駅  
Sanbonmatsu Sta.

室生口大野駅  
Murouguchi Ono Sta.

室生寺  
Murou-ji Temple

濡れ地蔵  
Wet Stone Jizo Statue

室生ダム  
Murou Dam

日本サンショウウオセンター  
The Japan Salamander Center

赤目四十八滝  
The Akame 48 Waterfalls

忍者の森  
Ninja Forest

たまきや  
Japanese Confectionery Shop "Tamakiya"

日本サンショウウオセンター  
The Japan Salamander Center

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## 4 Murou-ji Temple

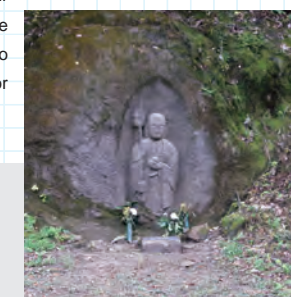
Not only five-storied pagoda, a national treasure of Japan, but also Mido, where buddhist statues are enshrined, designated as a national treasure as well as an important cultural asset, are serenely standing in the precinct. The pagoda was erected in the Heian Period, over a thousand years ago. Please come and feel the history of 1000 years yourself.



Add: 78 Murou, Uda City, Nara Pref. Phone: +81-745-93-2003  
Open: 8:30-17:00 (Apr-Nov); 9:00-16:00 (Dec-Mar)  
Closed: no off-days  
Fee: Adult ¥600; Elementary school student ¥400  
Parking lot: available

## 5 Nure Jizo (Wet Stone Jizo Statue)

It is said that in the past water ducted from the mountain behind was kept pouring onto the Jizo statue. Because of this story, this Jizo statue is called a wet Jizo statue. This statue is now placed in the Haibara Plaza at the entrance of Murou Dam reservoir in Haibara Yamabe San district. As the water level of the reservoir fluctuates depending on the weather and water storage condition, this statue is mostly seen from spring to autumn, when water level is lowered in preparation for the rainy season and typhoon season.

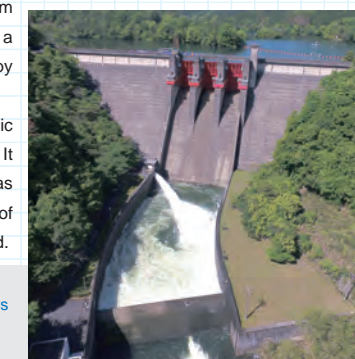


Add: 319, Haibara Yamabe San, Uda City, Nara Pref. (at Haibara Plaza) Phone: +81-745-82-3674  
(Park Management Section, Uda City Office)  
Open: whole day Closed: no off-days Fee: free  
Parking lot: available

## 6 Murou Dam

It is a multi-purpose concrete gravity dam located in the middle reaches of Uda River, a tributary of Nabari River and is managed by Japan Water Agency.

This dam reservoir is the source of domestic water for the residents of Nara Prefecture. It also coordinates with other dams such as Hinachi and Shorenji dams to take the role of protecting the downstream area from the flood.



Dam cards are available  
8:45-17:15, weekdays, weekends and holidays  
Closed: no off-days  
Fee: free Parking lot: available

### ★ More attractions!

Hekoki Manjyu  
(Japanese sweet cake)



Japanese Confectionery Shop  
Tamakiya

Add: 670-1 Nagasaka, Akame Town, Nabari City, Mie Pref. Phone: +81-595-63-0113 Open: 10:00-16:00

### Ninja Forest

It is said that in the area where the Akame 48 Waterfalls are situated was the birthplace of IGA NINJA. The Ninja founder Momochi Tanba is said to have practiced ninja training and conducted deadly combat against Nobunaga Oda, a very strong feudal lord attempting to unify and dominate entire Japan.

Isn't it a fan to experience yourself the Iga Akame Ninjutsu (the art of Ninja), which was firmly established by the ancient Ninja Masters?

Add: 671-1 Nagasaka, Akame Town, Nabari City, Mie Pref. Phone: +81-595-64-2695 Open: 9:00-17:00  
Closed: 28 Dec- 2 Jan, Wed of 3 Jan thru 8 Mar  
Fee: Ninja Training experience (costume included)  
Adult ¥2000;  
Junior high - Elementary school student ¥1750,  
kindergartener or younger ¥1550  
Parking lot: available



KIZU  
FANTASTIC  
DRIVING