



Special Edition

Historical adventure, delicious cuisine, and fun activities...  
Take a trip back in time!

Just 7 minutes  
from  
Kyoto Station!

Kyoto



# Muko

## city



Discover a World Rich in  
Fascinating History and Beautiful Nature

Chic cafés,  
bakeries, and  
confectioners  
Perfect for a short break!



Our recommended  
Muko dishes  
All the finest Japanese  
and world cuisine!



Take a Stroll  
Around a Mystical Ancient Town



Gekikara Shotengai  
Behold! Japan's Capital of Spicy Cuisine



Must-Buy!  
Famous Gifts From Muko





# Muko at a Glance!

Full of HISTORY and NATURE!

Muko City: The third smallest city in Japan, and the smallest outside Greater Tokyo. Beautiful nature and fascinating history are all crammed into this very small area. Let's set out on an amazing Muko adventure!

Fantastic! 1

A Beautiful Bamboo Grove and Delicious Bamboo Shoots

## The City of Bamboo!

Muko is famous for the number and quality of edible bamboo shoots it produces, and there are a great many places and events related to bamboo!

Here's Where to Get Bamboo Shoots!

Seasonal Foods Paradise Kanzakiya

TEL 075-932-1137 MAP P12C2

The local market Kanzakiya stocks a variety of Kyoto vegetables including matsutake mushrooms and bamboo shoots. They also sell gift sets that are great for bringing back to the folks at home.

- 4 Higashinodan, Teradocho, Muko
- 10 min. on foot from Hankyu Nishi-muko Sta.
- 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Open every day during business season
- 50 spaces Western-style toilets available

Get grilled bamboo shoots at just ¥350 apiece, made with Kanzakiya's special recipe. (Only available during bamboo shoot season.)



We stock all sorts of seasonal goods including rice topped with matsutake mushrooms or bamboo shoots!

Once bamboo shoot season rolls around, the storefront makes a strong impression! The available goods vary year-round.

### Takenomichi Street (Bamboo Road)

TEL 075-931-1111 (Muko City Planning and Promotion Division) MAP P12B1

Selected as one of the "500 Roads You Need to Walk in Japan," as you walk down this 1.8-km path rambling through a bamboo grove the sun pierces through the branches above creating a wondrous, mystical atmosphere. There are eight types of bamboo fences for you to see, so keep an eye out for them!

Shibayama, Teradocho, Muko - Naganō/Nakakaido, Mozumecho, Muko 15 min. on foot from Hankyu Higashi-muko Sta. or 25 min. on foot from Rakusaiguchi Sta. L ¥ X ¥ Free P N/A

### Discover All Kinds of Bamboo Fences!



Takeho-gaki

This is the standard bamboo fence, made with bundled and tied bamboo branches. It is the most common on Takenomichi Street.



Kaguya-gaki

This bamboo hedge-fence is patterned after the 12-layered ceremonial robe of Princess Kaguya, the heroine of an ancient Japanese legend. Made by combining bamboo pipes with bamboo ears.



Kofun-gaki

An arch-shape modeled on an ancient Japanese kofun, or burial mound. Located nearby the Terado Otsuka Burial Mound, it is built with a low top so that you can see the burial mound.

## Here's a Fun Activity!

They can also make specific items to order! Get all your bamboo goods under one roof!

### Toyo Bambooworks

TEL 075-933-7733 MAP P12B3

This venerable workshop has been in business for more than 60 years, and excels in manufacture, wholesale, and retail of bamboo goods. With everything from tools for the tea ceremony or flower arrangement to bags and lighting equipment, if it can be made of bamboo you'll find it here! You can also try your hand at various activities involving bamboo, such as making your own chashaku bamboo tea spoon.

13-2 Kuguso, Teradocho, Muko Right by JR Mukomachi Sta. 8:30 am - 5:00 pm X Saturday, Sunday, holidays P 10 spaces

Elegant bamboo flower baskets and interior decorations make great souvenirs!

Prices indicated are generally amended to include the consumption tax as it will be on October 1, 2019, but some prices may differ. It is recommended that you contact each establishment in advance, by telephone or otherwise.

### Bamboo Shoot-Picking Activity at Muko

TEL 075-921-2732

(Muko City Society of Commerce and Industry)

This fun activity will allow you to go hunting for bamboo shoots on Saturdays during April (the heart of the bamboo shoot season). When you're done you can take the shoots you picked home with you... Or if you want you can also cook and eat them there and then!

Held Saturdays in April

\*Details will be posted on the websites of the Muko City Society of Commerce and Industry, the Muko Tourist Association, etc.

This is how you do it!



Get help from a Bamboo Shoot Master...

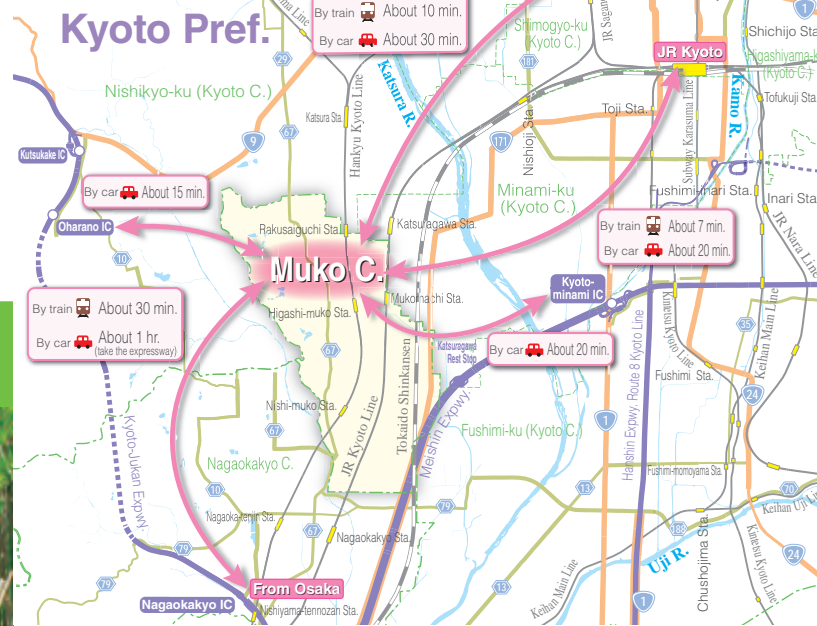
Available at 6 spots around Muko!

Muko City Tourist Information Noticeboards (Digital Signage) MAP P12B3 (etc.)

These Digital Signage noticeboards are equipped with touch panels and provide a variety of information, from sightseeing locations, places to eat, and events, to GPS information for sightseeing routes (accessible by scanning the QR code). It is available in English, Chinese, and Korean, as well as Japanese.

CHECK!

You can check the information on this big screen. The amazing natural scenery of the four seasons is also a sight to behold!



### Nagaoka Palace Site

TEL 075-931-9901 (Cultural Assets Survey Bureau) MAP P12C3-D2

Even though the imperial capital stood in Nagaoka-kyo for a scant 10 years, it is still an undeniable fact that the center of Japan was right here in Muko City. The remains of the Daigokuden (main audience hall) and Chodo-in (ceremonial hall), where civil functions and ceremonies were carried out, can still be found at the site. DATA P4

Fantastic! 3

Experience the Beauty of the Four Seasons!

## A City Full of Flowers!

Muko is blessed with rich nature, and boasts an array of beautiful seasonal flowers year-round. Come to Muko and experience the shifting beauty of the seasons!

#### Cherry Blossom

The pathway leading into Muko-jinja Shrine is lined with beautiful cherry trees. It is known far and wide as a great place to enjoy this most Japanese of flowers.

#### Poinsettia

Muko is the only place in all of Kyoto Prefecture, an area of more than 4,600 square kilometers, where the poinsettias bloom.

#### Sunflower

The sunflower is one of the city flowers of Muko. In the summer, some 5,000 sunflowers come into bloom in the sunflower fields.

#### Cascade Chrysanthemum

Blooming between summer and fall, the "cascade chrysanthemum," or kengai-giku in Japanese, is known as a special product of Muko City.

### Muko-jinja Shrine

TEL 075-921-0217 MAP P12C2

This Shinto holy site dates back to 718, and faces the Saigoku Kaido Road (→P5). Known as a spot where the cherry blossoms and autumn leaves are especially beautiful, it is also the origin of the name of Muko City. The central worship hall is designated as an Important Cultural Property by the Japanese government. DATA P5

It's great to be able to get here in under an hour from either Kyoto or Osaka!

Fantastic! 2

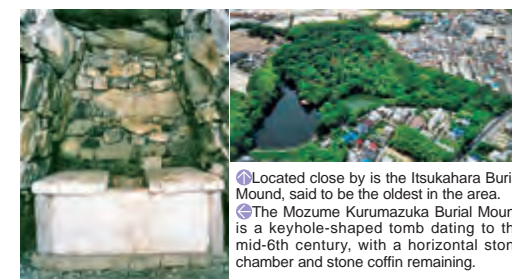
This Was Once the Site of the Nagaoka-kyo Capital!

## A City With History Flowing Through Its Veins!

Muko was once the center of the Nagaoka-kyo capital of Japan. With a history of so many long centuries, even now you can visit here and gaze upon the legacy of this rich history!

### Lots of ancient burial mounds!

The landscape is dotted by an abundance of burial mounds, great and small—Motoinari, Itsukahara, Mozume Kurumazuka, and more! P4



Located close by is the Itsukahara Burial Mound, said to be the oldest in the area. The Mozume Kurumazuka Burial Mound is a keyhole-shaped tomb dating to the mid-6th century, with a horizontal stone chamber and stone coffin remaining.

Fantastic! 4

Can You Stand the Heat?!

## A City of Super-Spicy Gourmet!

The "Gekikara Shotengai" super-spicy market started out as a regional invigoration initiative. It now has roughly 70 participating stores and restaurants, truly becoming a massive movement.



Every year the "KARA-1 Grand Prix," a contest to decide who makes the tastiest and spiciest dishes, draws a huge crowd. DATA P10 With everything from the "sweet" kind of spicy to the kind that'll make you feel like your tongue is burning and your eyes are going to burst from their sockets, there's something for everyone! We especially recommend the super-spicy tantanmen noodles.





# Let's Take a Stroll!

# Around a Mystical Ancient Town

Let's head out on a mystical journey to discover the ancient ruins scattered about Muko, from the Nagaoka-kyo capital that was the center of the imperial court for just 10 years in the late 8th century, to ancient burial sites, and more. Don't forget to grab a bite to eat when you get hungry!

## It's Finally Done!

The final touches have at last been added to the Nagaoka-kyo Site exhibit stand. The park is now fully equipped for tourists to come and experience Japan's ancient capital.

## START

Experience the fascinating history of the palace for which the capital was named

## Nagaoka Palace Site

TEL 075-931-9901 (Cultural Assets Survey Bureau)  
MAP P12C3-D2

From the Daigokuden where Emperor Kanmu reigned, to the Chodoin ceremonial hall, and the Imperial Palace corridor: Muko is full of historic sites where you can learn about the history of Japan in the 8th century.

Daigokuden, Kaidecho, Muko  
3 min. on foot from Hankyu Nishi-muko Sta. L X Free P N/A

## What's

What was the Nagaoka Palace?

In the decade between when the imperial court left Heijo-kyo (modern Nara) in 784 to when it moved to Heian-kyo (modern Kyoto) in 794, Nagaoka-kyo served as the capital of Japan, and this site was the center of the Nagaoka-kyo government.

## What a Mystery!

The Chodoin was completed in just six months! Some scholars think that maybe the materials from the Naniwa Palace were transported up the Yodo River from Osaka...

## Site of the Chodoin, and Chodoin Park

This site once served a function similar to the Parliament or Congress. There were four government buildings lined up on the east and west sides, for a total of eight.

Yamahata, Kaidecho, Muko  
Right by Hankyu Nishi-muko Sta.  
L X Free P N/A MAP P12D2

## The burial mounds that help uncover the mysteries of Japan's ancient past

## Otokuni Kofun Cluster

TEL 075-931-9901 (Cultural Assets Survey Bureau)

This is a collective name for the burial mounds scattered about the Otokuni area. 37 "chieftain-level" burial mounds have been discovered. The best-preserved 11 mounds were designated as national historic sites in 2016.

## A Rent-a-Cycle Is Another Great Way to Get Around!

Get around quickly and comfortably with a rented bike, available right outside Hankyu Nishi-muko Station. Please bear in mind that you will be asked to show your passport or other ID when you use this service.

Hankyu Rent-a-Cycle Nishi-muko Station  
TEL 075-931-2114 MAP P12D2

19-1 Minamibiraki, Kamiuenocho, Muko Right by Hankyu Nishi-muko Sta.  
7:00 am - 7:00 pm ¥2 hrs. from ¥110 X New Year's holiday P N/A

## Site of the Daigokuden and Shoanden

The Daigokuden is the building from which Emperor Kanmu ruled his realm. In 1964 it was designated as a national historic site, and the crimson tripod pillar was reconstructed.

Daigokuden, Kaidecho, Muko  
7 min. on foot from Hankyu Nishi-muko Sta.  
L X Free P N/A MAP P12C3

## Close up!

## AR Experience

The "AR Nagaoka Palace" app allows you to explore Nagaoka Palace up close. You can rent a device at the Chodoin Park Information Center. When the clock strikes 4:00 pm, vengeful ghosts and people tied to the Nagaoka Palace might show up on the app screen... or they might not!

You'll feel like you've taken a trip back in time to the Nagaoka Palace of the 8th century!

## What a Mystery!

The Tsukahara Burial Mound has roughly the same shape as the Hashihaka Burial Mound in Nara (said to be the resting place of Himiko, the Japanese shaman-queen mentioned in the 3rd-century Chinese Records of the Three Kingdoms), and may have been built using sophisticated tools.

## Mozume Kurumazuka Burial Mound

This keyhole-shaped burial mound is roughly 46 meters long and 8 meters high. The horizontal stone interment chamber has survived in very good shape, and so it is opened to the public every spring. MAP P12B2

It is speculated that someone close to Emperor Keitai (reigned early 6th century) was laid to rest here.

The name "Kurumazuka" (literally "cart-tomb") comes from a legend that says the 9th-century Emperor Junna's funerary cart was interred here.

## An ancient shrine that has a history closely tied to the people of Muko

## Muko-jinja Shrine

TEL 075-921-0217 MAP P12C2

This Shinto shrine was first established in 718, and the central worship hall, which dates to the early 15th century, is registered by the national government as an Important Cultural Property. Various ceremonies and festivals take place here year-round, attracting large crowds.

65 Kitayama, Mukocho, Muko  
10 min. on foot from Hankyu Nishi-muko Sta.  
L X Free P 10 spaces Western-style toilets available

The ancient shrine rests at the end of a long path.

## Close up!

## Muko City Astronomical Observatory

TEL 075-935-3800 MAP P12C2

There is a massive telescope, as well as a planetarium where you can view a variety of astronomical images and other items.

82-1 Minamiyama, Mukocho, Muko  
10 min. on foot from Hankyu Nishi-muko Sta.  
9:30 am - 5:30 pm (last entry 5:00)  
Free (separate fee for the planetarium)  
Monday, Tuesday, holidays P N/A



The venue hosts a variety of events like concerts and astronomy seminars. It houses up to 80 people.

## new Catch Your Breath!

Within the shrine grounds you will also find a rest area and multipurpose toilet if you need to freshen up. The multipurpose toilet can be used by those in wheelchairs, or for changing diapers and the like. This building might come in useful on your long journey!



## An old manor with 170 years of history

## Nakakojike Jutaku

TEL 075-921-2657 MAP P12D2

The Nakakoji manor is an old house dating to roughly the 18th century, situated by the Saigoku Kaido Road. It was the first tangible cultural property in Muko to be registered by the Japanese national government. Entering through the nagaya gate, you can see a variety of fascinating buildings including the main mansion, the side-house, the grain storehouse, and so on. You can also tour the manor if you are using the café.

48 Shimogahara, Kamiuenocho, Muko 8 min. on foot from Hankyu Nishi-muko Sta. 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Monday, Tuesday, event days P N/A Western-style toilets available

The tatami room is used as a classroom for things like painting and tea ceremony.

## For Those Who Want to Know More About History...

## Head to the Muko City Cultural Museum!

TEL 075-931-1182 MAP P12C2

A museum where you can learn about the history of Muko, and enjoy a variety of exhibits related to the Nagaoka Palace. The permanent exhibit is worth seeing by itself, but there are also irregular exhibits and other events going on all the time.

40-1 Minamikakuchi, Teradocho, Muko 8 min. on foot from Hankyu Higashi-muko Sta. 10:00 am - 6:00 pm (last entry 5:30) Free X Monday (following day if holiday), 1st day of every month (following Tuesday if Saturday, Sunday, or Monday), December 28 - January 4 P N/A (use City Hall parking lot)



## What a Mystery!

Ancient noblemen and male courtiers would accessorize themselves. It was apparently a means of showing their status and authority.

## The ancient "Main Street" bursting with atmosphere

## Saigoku Kaido Road

TEL 075-931-1182 (Muko City Cultural Museum)  
MAP P12B3~D2

Stretching from the Toji Portal of Kyoto to Nishinomiya in Settsu Province (roughly halfway between modern Osaka and Kobe), this ancient highway was one of the most-traveled routes in old Japan. The road is lined with a great many historic sites and stone monuments.

Roughly from Kuguso, Teradocho, Muko (JR Mukomachi) to Kibidaira, Kamiuenocho, Muko (Ichimonbashi Bridge) 3 min. on foot from Hankyu Higashi-muko Sta. L X Free P Use nearby parking spaces

## Close up!

## Bamboo-Shaped Signposts

These signposts are in the shape of bamboo stalks, and stand along the Saigoku Kaido Road.

## Itsutsuji Night Lantern

This stone lantern was built in 1865 to light the way to the Sengan-ko in Kyoto.



## Higashi-muko Station!



## GOAL

## Check These Out!

### Motoinari Burial Mound

This keyhole-shaped burial mound, roughly 94 meters long, lies in Katsuyama Park. Excavations found gourd- and pipe-shaped pottery, believed to be the oldest of Japan's haniwa clay tools, dating the site to the end of the 3rd century. MAP P12C2

### Terado Otsuka Burial Mound

This is a keyhole-shaped dating to the early-4th century, with the round portion extending into Muko's famous bamboo grove. There is one interment chamber each in the front and back parts. MAP P12B1

### Itsukahara Burial Mound

This keyhole-shaped burial mound sits atop the hill on the west bank of Harikoike Pond. Its length totals around 91 meters. Said to predate Motoinari, this burial mound is estimated to date to the earliest part of Japan's Kofun period (late 3rd to early 7th century). MAP P12C2

## Drop-In-'n'-Eat

Someone you can rely upon for banquets and other events.

## Uokyu Kyoto-Style Cuisine

TEL 075-921-0590 MAP P12C3

Founded in 1946, this restaurant serves fine Kyoto cuisine. Depending on your budget you can get anything from a lunchbox with side dishes to a multi-course banquet. There is Japanese-style zashiki seating on the 2nd floor.

10 Umenoki, Teradocho, Muko  
3 min. on foot from Hankyu Higashi-muko Sta.  
10:00 am - 9:00 pm (reservation required)  
Wednesday P 2 spaces  
Western-style toilets available



The Daigokuden Bento Box includes condensed-milk ancient Japanese "cheese" and all sorts of other dishes that people in ancient Nagaoka-kyo enjoyed. You can enjoy it too for ¥3,300!

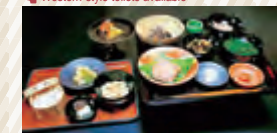
Taste the season in a restaurant with a long and storied history

## Yaou Kyoto-Style Cuisine, Sushi, and Catering

TEL 075-921-9219 MAP P12C2

This Kyoto cuisine restaurant has 120 years of history. It serves different foods for each of the four seasons. The Spring-Only Bamboo Shoot Course Banquet can be enjoyed for ¥7,500+. The 1st floor has counter seating, and the 2nd has Japanese-style zashiki seating.

3 Kitayama, Mukocho, Muko 11 min. on foot from Hankyu Nishi-muko Sta. 10:00 am - 6:30 pm (last order) X Wednesday, one Thursday each month, New Year's holiday P 1 space  
Western-style toilets available



For ¥3,300 (reservation required) you can enjoy the Daigokuden Gozen: everything down to the cutlery is designed to resemble what the nobility in ancient Japan used.

The world of picture books calls to you...

## Books & Café Wonderland

TEL 075-931-4031 MAP P12B3

A specialist in children's books. Relax in a stylish facility that combines art gallery and café.

8-2 Kuguso, Teradocho, Muko  
1 min. on foot by JR Mukomachi Sta.  
8:00 am - 6:00 pm  
(Saturday, holidays: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm)  
Sunday  
Western-style toilets available



Buy delightful picture books about cars, animals, life, the earth, and more!  
The popular Stew Set is ¥1,100. It comes with bread and tea or coffee.

Flavor that brings relief. Your best friend when it comes to the dinner table.

## Sanbanya Nishi-muko Station

TEL 075-921-0333 MAP P12D2

A seller of natural boiled goods. Their famous peppered and boiled bamboo shoot has a nice flavor and goes great on rice. You need to make a reservation at least one day in advance. The boiled mushrooms and boiled miso are also delicious.

49 Minamibiraki, Kamiuenocho, Muko Right by Hankyu Nishi-muko Sta.  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm X Sunday, holidays (irregular between late March and early May, and summer and winter seasons)  
P 6 spaces



The peppered and boiled bamboo shoot is ¥1,080 for 170 grams. Thinly sliced bamboo shoots and highly fragrant Japanese pepper: a mouth-watering combination!

The boxed dishes and jar selections make excellent gifts.

