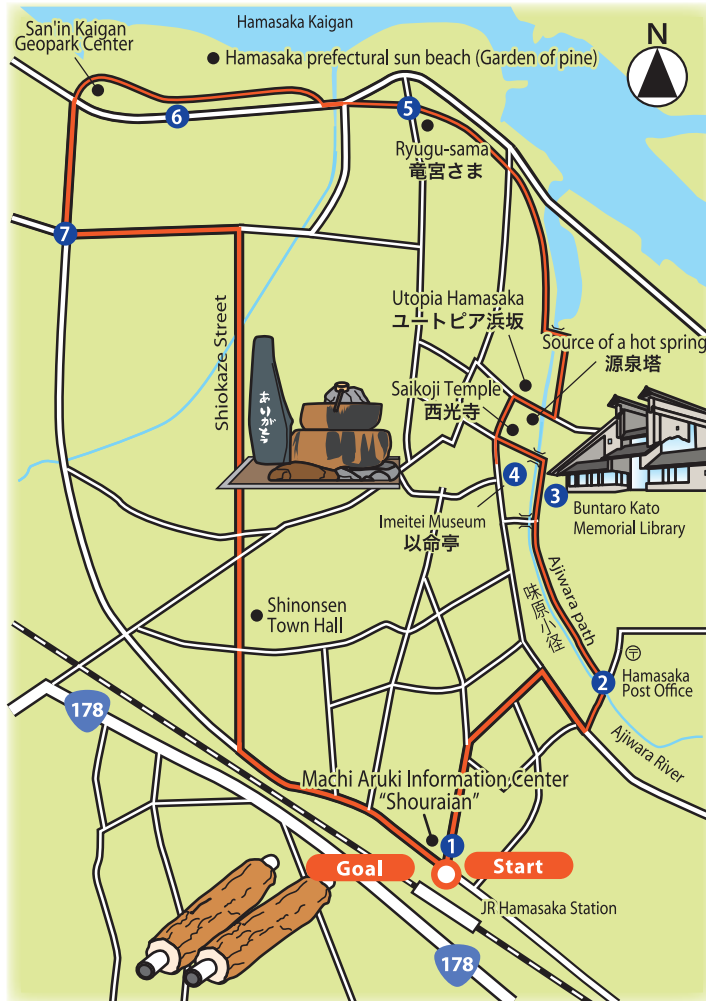


Walking Hamasaka Town

This route will take you around the beach area from Hamasaka Station along Ajiwara Path. Hamasaka is a town developed on a sandbank; it's also where flatboats use to travel along the Ajiwara Stream. There are old houses and stonewalls from those times still around, relics to reminisce by. On the last half of the course, visit Hakusha-seishou, a beautiful stretch of sandy beach dotted with pine trees, which is part of the UNESCO Global Geopark. Enjoy this area's pleasant scenery and refreshing sea breeze. You can find hot spring footbaths and hot spring facilities along the course; feel free to take advantage of these along your way.

- 1 Start & end at "JR Hamasaka Station" with its *noren* curtain. The station opened in 1898 & flourished as a railway base, the remnant water tower is a discernible landmark. Here you'll find the railway museum corner "Room of Tetsuko". You can get a route map from Machi Aruki Information Center "Shourai" in front of the station.
- 2 Go straight out from the station, turn right at the intersection with the traffic lights, turn left at the alley heading to the post office and you'll come to a small river, Ajiwara River. Go down the red/brown colored path. Flatboats once traveled along this river; even now the stonewalls from various time periods create a stunning landscape. Wells & washing stations are also seen along the river, festivals occur near by celebrating the god of water & Kannon (god/goddess of mercy). Ajiwara path is a well-known site on the course.
- 3 Keep walking and you will see "Buntaro Kato Memorial Library", modeled after a mountain, on your right. Information on Buntaro Kato, a solo climber from Hamasaka, is located on the second floor. Cross the bridge on the left past the library and go up the stone paved slope, on the right is a well / washing station and Saikoji Temple, on the left is the Imeitei Museum (Museum of local great figures) which has been refurbished in the former Mori family home. By all means, feel free to come in and look around.
- 4 Leave the Imeitei Museum (Museum of local great figures) and go to the right, at the end of road is "Utopia Hamasaka" Public Bathhouse. Here there is a hot water basin you can make your own Onsen Tamago (hard boil an egg in hot spring water) in. Leave from Utopia Hamasaka and go to the left, immediately on your right is a hot spring source, with hot spring water flowing out. The hot spring water is distributed to all the houses in the area; the water is extremely hot so please be careful. Return to the Ajiwara path and follow it north to the harbor, here's Hamasaka's old fishing port. The large stone lantern resembles the old lighthouse.
- 5 Traveling away from Ajiwara path, going further north on the paved road along the river, you'll see the Sea of Japan in front. Waves surge back up the river in the winter. Turn right and you can get close to the sea, but we will go straight. Go a little ways up the slope and you'll find the temple "Ryugu-sama" the god that protects the safety of the sea. The area nearby is called "Fisherman Town", the roads here are narrow and complex, and walking here feels almost like entering a maze. If you have the time try exploring the streets.
- 6 Go to the west from Ryugu-sama with the Sea of Japan on your right, you'll see a pine forest on the left. Originally, the Hamasaka coast was covered in wide sand dunes, but in early Showa period pine trees were planted to create a windbreak and to control erosion. Today it is one of Japan's 100 chosen "Hakusa-seisho", a beautiful stretch of sandy beach dotted with pine trees, making it a great walking course. There is a maintained boardwalk along Hamasaka Beach (Hamasaka prefectural sun beach) that makes for a lovely walk. At the end of the boardwalk is the San'in Kaigan Geopark Center. Here you can learn about the dramatic birth of the Sea of Japan.
- 7 Leave the geopark center and go along the pine forest directly outside, turn left at the intersection with the traffic light, then turn right at the sign for Shiokaze Street and go straight. You should soon see a cemetery (the tombs of Soubai Ichihara, who played an important part in promoting Hamasaka needles as a past major industry; and Buntaro Kato the mountain climber are here) and an office on the left. Continue until the end of the street then turn left. You should then be able to see the JR San'in line train tracks.
- 8 Continue straight ahead until you return to JR Hamasaka Station. You can rest and soak your feet in the footbath at the station; you can also take a listen to the Hamasaka needle on the gramophone at Machi Aruki Information Center. The shops in front of the station also sell fun souvenirs like Hamasaka grilled chikuwa.



● **Difficulty** : ★☆☆

● **Restroom** : JR Hamasaka Station, Hamasaka pocket park, Matsuno Niwa restroom, Buntaro Kato Memorial Library

● **Access** : By Train: JR Hamasaka Station
By Car: Buntaro Kato Memorial Library as well as Hamasaka prefectural sun beach

● **Contact** : Machi Aruki Information Center TEL: 0796-80-1126

Approx. Distance

3 km