

What is NARAtive ?

“NARAtive” is the main project of the “Nara International Film Festival”, dedicated to producing films across various locations in Nara.

Film Staff

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Local Government

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Community Residents

“NARAtive” is a collaborative effort involving film staff, local governments, and community residents. It was initiated by Naomi Kawase, a filmmaker from Nara, with the vision of revitalizing modern Japan through local communities. The project aims to rediscover the charm of the regions, reestablish their value, and create a legacy for the future.

Featuring Filmmakers Poised for Global Success

Unveiling the Beauty of Local Communities

Filmmakers selected from the award-winning works of the Nara International Film Festival visit different areas of Nara to conceptualize their NARAtive films. Perspectives from local residents and those visiting from outside create unique insights. Different living environments lead to diverse cultural interpretations, ensuring that the filmmakers’ perspectives bring fresh discoveries to light.

Involvement of Local Residents as Volunteers and Extras

Energizing Communities Through Participation

During most part of the production, filmmakers and their teams immerse themselves in the community, relying heavily on the involvement of local residents. Local residents play an important role as extras as well as volunteers. Whether it’s sharing meals with nearby neighbors or connecting with international crew members, the sense of togetherness becomes one of the project’s most rewarding aspects.

Timeless Moments Woven into Stories

Films as Regional Assets

Majestic mountains, serene rivers, breathtaking sunrises peeking through the morning mist, simple yet fulfilling lifestyles, and resilient individuals—these elements are captured in the films and remain vibrant over time. As such, the films become invaluable assets for the community.



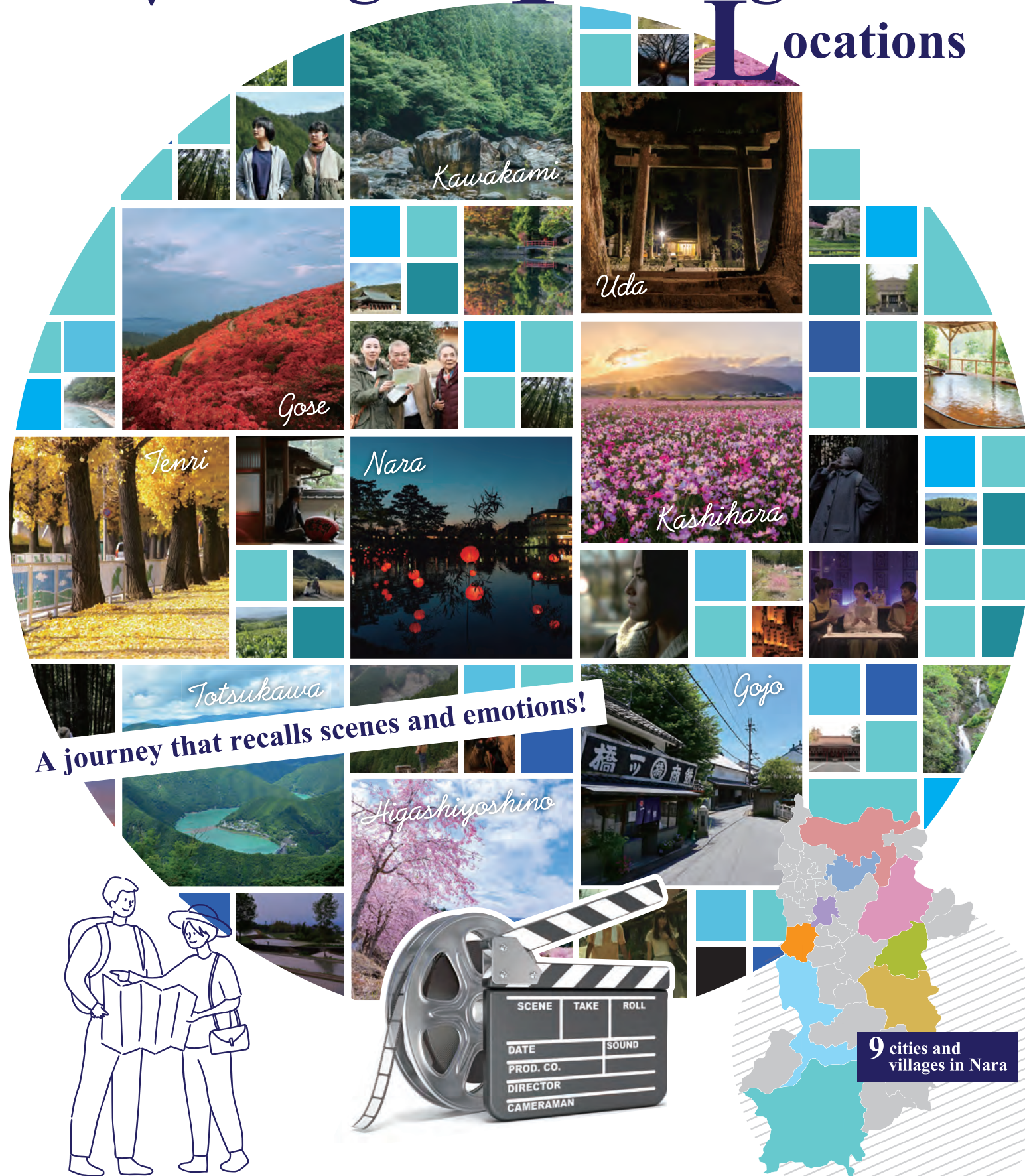
Nara
International
Film
Festival



Movies produced through “NARAtive” are premiered during the biennial “Nara International Film Festival” (held in even-numbered years).



Visiting the Filming Locations



Introducing
All 9

NARAtive Films

2010

Bion



A quiet depiction of a man and woman torn by fate

Shiho, 28 years old, carries the trauma of being separated from her mother at a young age. After many years, she decides to visit her mother, only to find that her feelings remain unreciprocated. Shortly after, she receives news that her mother has been in a car accident. Shiho is suddenly forced into the role of guarantor for the mother who abandoned her, leaving her deeply shaken. Amid this melancholy, Shiho finds solace in her weekly cooking classes. Just as she begins to find her footing, an unexpected piece of news arrives.

2010 / 60 minutes / Distributor: Nara International Film Festival / Director & Screenwriter: Tsuyoko Yamazaki / Producer: Naomi Kawase / Cast: Akiko Monou, Touta Komizu, Lily

Nara
City

Kashi
hara
City

A mother's love, following her son's footsteps

One day, a mother, who is supposed to be hospitalized in Tokyo, visits Kashiwara City in Nara Prefecture. Her reason for traveling is to search for her son. Using photographs stored in her son's digital camera, she retraces his steps one by one. Along the way, she encounters kind friends of her son, the majestic nature of Nara, and the deep feelings her son held for her. A heartfelt story of a mother and son from Kashiwara City.

2010 / 60 minutes / Distributor: Nara International Film Festival / Director & Screenwriter & Editor: Zhao Ye / Producer: Naomi Kawase / Cast: Kaori Momoi

Last Chestnuts

2010



Inori

2012



A documentary of villagers living with resilience

In the remote Totsukawa Village of Nara Prefecture lies a small hamlet, Kannogawa. With most young people having left for the cities, the village is now a quiet place where only a few residents live. The villagers continue a way of life intertwined with nature, embodying the cycle of "life." This documentary quietly questions the meaning of "progress" in the modern era.

2012 / 72 minutes / Production & Distribution: Nara International Film Festival / Director & Cinematographer & Editor: Pedro González-Rubio / Producer: Naomi Kawase / Co-Producer: Shunji Dodo / Cast: Sakae Fukui, Shigefumi Kotani, Tetsuo Yanase, Ryo Ikeo, Noriko Ikeo

Totsu
kawa
Village

Gojo
City

A modest romance and infinite stories of film

Taehoon, a film director from Korea, travels to Gojo City in Nara Prefecture for script research, accompanied by his Japanese-speaking assistant, Mijeong. Guided by Takeda, a staff member from the tourism department of the city, they explore the town and find inspiration. A story about dreams of cinema and a fleeting romance.

2014 / 96 minutes / Distributor: "A Midsummer's Fantasia" Project 2014-2015 / Director: Jang Kun-jae / Producer: Naomi Kawase / Cast: Kim Sae-byuk, Ryo Iwase, Lim Hyung-kook, Suon Kan

A Midsummer's Fantasia

2014



2016

The Wolves of the East



A determined drama rooted in history of Higashiyoshino Village

For over 100 years, the Japanese Wolf has not been sighted in Higashiyoshino Village. However, Akira, an elderly local hunter, believes the wolf still exists. As the chairman of the hunters' association, Akira disregards opposition and uses its budget to search for wolves, driven by an obsession. He ventures deep into the forest, pursuing his elusive goal.

2016 / 72 minutes / Produced by Nara International Film Festival, Seven Sisters Films / Distributor: HIGH BROW CINEMA / Director: Carlos M. Quintela / Executive Producer: Naomi Kawase / Cast: Tatsuya Fuji, Masamitsu Onishi, Masahiro Kobori

Higashi
yoshino
Village

Tenri
City

A tale of family legacy directed by an international filmmaker

Tatsuya and his mother, Haru, are troubled by the impending end of their family lineage after losing Tatsuya's only son. Following the separation with his wife, Haru pressures Tatsuya into an unwanted marriage while secretly hoping his daughter, Yuko, will take a husband to continue the Nikaido Family line. A story of family discord over inheritance and tradition.

2018 / 106 minutes / Produced by LDH JAPAN, Emperor Film Production Company Limited, Nara International Film Festival / Distributor: HIGH BROW CINEMA / Asia Distribution (Outside Japan): Emperor Motion Pictures / Director: Ida Panahandeh / Executive Producer: Naomi Kawase / Cast: Masaya Kato, Shizuka Ishibashi, Keita Machida, Yoji Tanaka, Kazuko Shirakawa, Hana Hizuki, Kayo Ise

The Nikaidos' Fall

2018



Tracing Her Shadow

2020



A journey of three souls united beyond language barriers

The story begins when an elderly Chinese woman visits her "granddaughter" Xiaozhe in Japan. She seeks her adopted daughter, Lihua, a Chinese returnee with whom she lost contact years ago. Joined by a former police officer, Kazuo, the three embark on a journey to find Lihua, bonded by fate and mutual understanding.

2020 / 99 minutes / Produced by Beijing Hengye Herdsman Pictures Co., Ltd., Nara International Film Festival, Xstream Pictures (Beijing) / Distributor: Mimosa Films / Director: Pengfei / Executive Producers: Naomi Kawase, Jia Zhangke / Cast: Jun Kunimura, Wu Yanshu, Ying Ze, Shintaro Akiyama, Masatoshi Nagase

Gose
City

Kawa
kami
Village

Change comes to the family of Ihika, a 12-year-old girl born into a family running an inn for generations

In a quiet village nestled among the mountains in the southeastern part of Nara Prefecture, there is a community that once bustled with mountain climbers and tourists visiting its shops and inns. This is where 12-year-old Ihika was born into a family running a traditional inn for generations. Though her parents have been separated for several years, her mother, Saki, continues to run the inn with her father-in-law, Shige. One day, Shige suddenly disappears which leads the inn's future in jeopardy. Amid this crisis, a time of transformation begins for Ihika's family.

2022 / 67 minutes / Produced by Nara International Film Festival / Supported by: Nara Prefecture, Kawakami Village, Nara City / Director: Daichi Murase / Executive Producers: Naomi Kawase / Script: Daichi Murase / Cast: Shuri Miyake, Masaki Miura, Shinzo Hotta, Asami Mizukawa

Beyond the Fog

2022



Transit in Flamingo

2024



A special day where three timelines intersect by chance

Sae has been left behind by the lover she moved in the village with. Akari is on a journey to find flamingos. Ryutaro has never left his hometown. Under the vast sky of Uda City, these three young strangers' paths cross by chance. As their hearts intertwine for a single day, the encounter becomes a fleeting yet warm memory—a small but meaningful transit in their lives.

2024 / 98 minutes / Planned & Produced by Nara International Film Festival / Supported by: Nara Prefecture, Uda City / Director: Yuki Horiuchi / Executive Producers: Naomi Kawase, Jia Zhangke / Cast: Rio Yamashita, Gaku Hosokawa, Kirara Inori, Masaki Miura, Ryuzo Tanaka, Kotone Furukawa (voice)

Uda
City

NARative Location Map

NARative Filming Location Access Guide



Experience the Film's World in the Tea Fields of Tawara



Nara is widely known for its tea production. Yamato-cha tea, primarily produced in the Tawara area, traces its origins to the seeds brought back from China by the Buddhist monk Kobo Daishi. Cultivated in a climate with significant temperature differences between day and night, abundant water sources, and fertile soil, the lush green tea fields featured in the film are unique to this region.

Tea Fields in Tawara District
Around Tawara District, Nara City



The Cooking Class Attended by Shiho



Located in the suburbs of Nara City, this gallery serves as the real-life venue for the cooking classes attended by Shiho, the main character of the story. In addition to hosting exhibitions of pottery, lacquerware, woodworking, glass art, and contemporary art objects, the gallery promotes "quality living" and "mindful lifestyles."

Gallery Fabrice
1400 Myoga-cho, Nara City



Feel the deep culture that has been

spun in harmony with nature



Naramachi Yuho: Lit lanterns at Sarusawa Pond

Nara City

Located in the northern part of Nara Prefecture, the city is home to eight assets registered as the "Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara," a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visitors can enjoy historic townhouses in the Naramachi district and scenic countryside with terraced rice fields and tea plantations in areas like Tawara.

Nara

Ukimido Pavilion – A Place of Serenity Visited by Shiho



Floating on Sagi Pond in Nara Park, near the Kasuga Taisha Shrine, the Ukimido Pavilion is a hexagonal structure with a cypress bark roof. The area features cherry blossoms in spring, crape myrtle in summer, autumn foliage, and icy landscapes in winter. Lit up at night, the pavilion offers a magical view, making it a peaceful waterfront spot.

Ukimido Pavilion
Takabatake-cho, Nara City

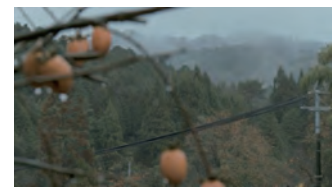


Mount Kasuga Primeval Forest – A Sacred Mountain Preserved for Centuries

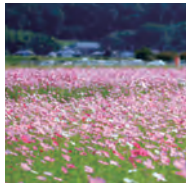


Part of the "Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara" and a Special Natural Monument, this forest has been protected as a sacred mountain of Kasuga Taisha Shrine for over 1,000 years, with hunting and logging forbidden. It remains a rare expanse of evergreen broad-leaf trees, home to unique wildlife. Hiking trails allow visitors to explore its lush beauty.

Mount Kasuga Primeval Forest Kasugano-cho, Nara City



Fujiwara Palace Site – The Mother's First Visit to Kashihara



Once Japan's first palace city, modeled after Chinese capitals, Fujiwara Palace was the political center for 16 years during the reigns of three emperors: Jito, Monmu and Genmei. Today, it is a peaceful spot known for seasonal flowers and stunning views of Yamato Sanzan (the three mountains of Nara). A museum nearby provides insights into its 1,400-year history.

Fujiwara Palace Site

Takadono-cho and surrounding areas, Kashihara City

Kashihara City

Located in central Nara Prefecture, Kashihara played a significant role in Japanese history, from the achievements of Empress Jito. It is also a special town whose development was made as an autonomous town in the Edo period. Surrounded by Yamato Sanzan (the Three Mountains of Nara), the city retains its historical essence.



Step back in time to

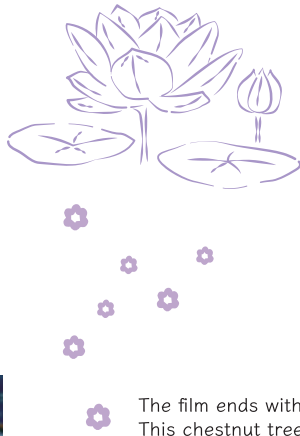
a bustling autonomous town

Kashihara Jingu Shrine – A Symbol of Japan's Heritage

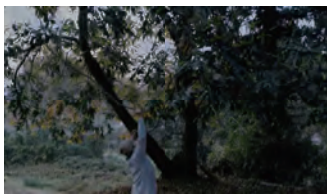


The Kashihara Jingu Shrine was built in 1890 on the former site of the Kashihara Palace, where Japan's first emperor, Emperor Jinmu, ascended to the throne. The shrine buildings stand in a 530,000-square-meter sacred area at the southeast foot of Mt Unebi, with the main hall in particular, which was a gift from Emperor Meiji of the Kyoto Imperial Palace's inner reception hall, being designated a National Important Cultural Property. 1890 was also the year of the first election for the House of Representatives under the Constitution of Japan promulgated the previous year, when the country as a whole began to move into a new era. The fact that the Kashihara Jingu Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Jinmu, was built in the same year is truly a symbol of the progress of the new Japan.

Kashihara Jingu Shrine 934 Kume-cho, Kashihara City



The Iconic Chestnut Tree Featured in the Final Scene



The film ends with a final scene in which Mitsuo's mother drops a chestnut. This chestnut tree, which staff had great difficulty finding, was located a short distance up in the Amanokaguyama Shrine. Amanokaguyama Shrine is located at the foot of Mount Amanokaguyama and is mentioned in the Kojiki. The deity Kushimachi-no Mikoto is said to have been a deity of divination and to have been considered very important as a deity involved in national affairs.

One chestnut tree (at Amanokaguyama Shrine)

Minamiura-cho, Kashihara City

Last Chestnuts

Imai-cho – Preserving Traditional Architecture



Imai-cho was created as a temple town of the Ikko sect of Buddhism. It was a special area that was thoroughly self-governing and self-defending due to preferential measures such as the granting of autonomous privileges by the shogunate. It developed greatly as an economic city, building its own unique culture by circulating its own currency, the Imai-fuda. Within an area measuring approximately 600 m east to west, 310 m north to south, and 17.4 ha in area, there are approximately 760 buildings, of which about 500 are still standing traditional structures. It is the largest Important Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings in Japan.

Imai-cho District Imai-cho, Kashihara City

Uchino of the Kannogawa District – The Film's Primary Setting



The Kannogawa district was the main setting for the film. The "Kumano Pilgrimage Route Kohechi" that passes through this district is registered as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site as part of the "Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range." The district is also working to revitalize the region through agricultural and mountain village exchange experiences that take advantage of the resources in the area, and is actively welcoming visitors from overseas. At the farmer's inn "Yamamoto," which was in charge of preparing meals for the film crew, visitors can experience making konnyaku and Totsukawa Yubeshi (only during the yuzu citrus fruit season).

Kannogawa District Totsukawa Village: Uchino, Totsukawa Village, Yoshino



Japan's Largest Village by Area –

Enjoy Breathtaking Nature



A Unique Forest Experience – Treetop Outdoor Facility

Opened in spring 2020, Kuuchu-no Mura allows visitors to walk on net pathways 4–12 meters above the ground, offering a "floating in the air" experience. Enjoy a nap or a good book in a hammock, or chat over a cup of organic coffee, all while enjoying the natural beauty of Totsukawa Village. Wifi is available in the park, and "Workation" stays are also possible. This is a place where children and adults alike can enjoy a completely new way of spending time in the forest.

Kuuchu No Mura (The Village in the Sky)

112 Ogawa, Totsukawa Village, Yoshino



The Symbolic Suspension Bridge in "Inori"



In a memorable scene at the beginning of the film, the main character Sakae walks across a suspension bridge that stretches from one end of the screen to the other. At the end of the long suspension bridge is "Kannogawa Farm," where Sawatari, who also appears in the film, runs his chicken farm. The farm has about 700 chickens, which are kept as flat-raised chickens. Kannogawa Farm's eggs have been selected as one of the village's best specialties. The farm is now making efforts to produce specialty products of Totsukawa Village.

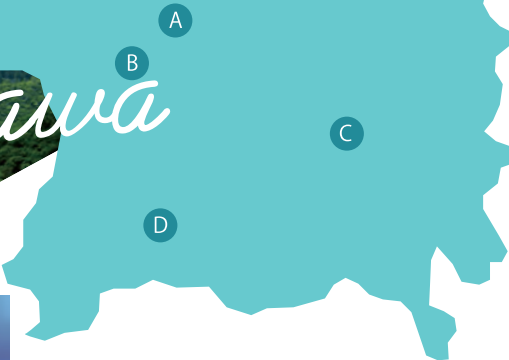
Kannogawa Farm

111 Sugise, Totsukawa Village, Yoshino

Totsukawa Village

Located in the southernmost part of Nara Prefecture, Totsukawa boasts stunning natural attractions, including hot springs, pristine rivers, waterfalls, and suspension bridges.

Totsukawa



Unwind in Open- Air Hot Springs Amid Nature

Totsukawa Village was the first village in Japan to declare its hot-spring water source "free-flowing hot-spring water" in 2004. It is said that the hidden hot spring "Kamiyu Onsen", which springs quietly in the great nature of a deeper area of Yoshino, was originally discovered by a villager between 1716 and 1736. The sodium bicarbonate spring water is said to be effective for skin diseases and atopic dermatitis, and is known as a hot spring for beautiful women.

Kamiyu Onsen Kawara-no Yu

220 Dedani, Totsukawa Village, Yoshino





A

Shinmachi Street – The Main Setting of the Film



Stretching for about 1 kilometer, Shinmachi Street is home to buildings dating back to the Edo and Meiji periods. Together with Gojo City on the eastern bank of the Nishikawa River, a tributary of the Yoshino River, it forms Japan's longest Important Preservation District for Groups of Historic Buildings. Many scenes were filmed here, such as Hye-jeong watching fireworks from Yamada Ryokan and the bar where she connects with Yusuke. Walking down this street feels like stepping into the film's world.

Shinmachi Street Gojo City



B

Gojo Station Front – Where the Drama Began



In front of Gojo Station lies the tourist information center where Hye-jeong, the main character, first meets Yusuke, the persimmon farmer. Nearby are the diner where the two share lunch and the pub where the director, Taehoon, and assistant Mijeong converse—locations central to the film's story.

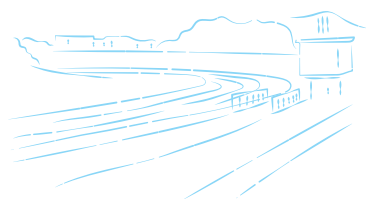
Gojo Station Front & Tourist Information Center 3-70 Sue, Gojo

Gojo City

With retro streetscapes preserving a rustic charm, Gojo City is located in southwestern Nara Prefecture, bordering Wakayama and Osaka Prefectures. This area has been historically significant as a transportation hub connecting Ise, Yamato (Nara), and Kii (Wakayama), with the Yoshino River flowing through. Traditional buildings from the Edo period to the prewar Showa era remain well-preserved.



A Nostalgic Summer Fantasy



Yoshino River – A Scenic Film Highlight



C



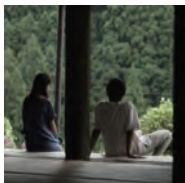
The Yoshino River, a symbolic landscape of Gojo City, features prominently in the film. Originating in the Odaigahara region of Kamikitayama Village, it flows into the Kino River in Wakayama Prefecture. Along its banks are stunning rock formations, historic sites, camping spots, and areas for ayu fishing. The annual Yoshino River Festival in August draws large crowds.

Yoshino River Gojo City



D

Shinohara District – A Haven of Seasonal Nature



About 1.5 hours south of central Gojo City by car, the Shinohara District offers breathtaking mountain and valley views. The film's scenes featuring villagers were shot at Manpukuji Temple here. The area also boasts the three-tiered Miya-no Waterfalls, with a height of 40 meters, noted for the unique splash of its second tier.

Shinohara District Oto-cho, Gojo



A

Japanese Wolf Statue – A Village Symbol



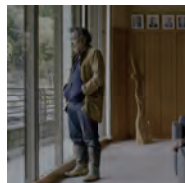
The statue of the Japanese wolf that appears at the beginning of the film was brought to Higashiyoshino Village in 1905 by a hunter for use as an animal specimen for Malcolm Anderson, a member of a zoological expedition organized by the Zoological Society of London and the British Museum, when he visited the village for animal research. This wolf was the last recorded capture of a Japanese wolf. It is now preserved at the Natural History Museum, London.

Japanese Wolf Statue Ogawa, Higashiyoshino Village, Yoshino



B

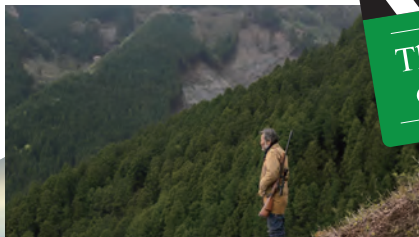
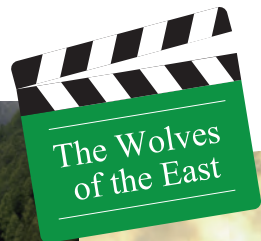
The Setting of the Film: Higashiyoshino Village Hall



The Higashiyoshino Village Hall, where the protagonist played by Tatsuya Fuji argues with the village mayor, was the actual filming location. This area along the Takami River was once the site of a fierce battle between the Sonno Joi faction's Tenchugumi and the Shogunate forces. The location of the hall served as the headquarters for the Hikone troops, the enemy side. Nearby, you'll find Hosen-ji Temple, the mortuary temple for the Tenchugumi, where an annual memorial service is held on November 5.

Higashiyoshino Village Hall

99 Ogawa, Higashiyoshino Village, Yoshino



Surrounded by Yoshino cedar

and rich in natural beauty

Higashiyoshino Village

Higashiyoshino Village lies in eastern Nara Prefecture, near the border with Mie Prefecture. It developed along the Ise Highway and has been cherished by many poets for its pristine streams and picturesque mountains. The village is also known as the final stronghold of the armed Sonno Joi faction group "Tenchugumi," which played a pivotal role during the Meiji Restoration.

Higashiyoshino

Shrine to the Deity of Water: Niukawakami Shrine



Founded in 675 by Emperor Tenmu, this shrine is dedicated to Mitsuha-no Me-no Kami, the goddess of water. Known as the site where Emperor Jinmu prayed for victory, the shrine has a strong historical connection to the imperial court, evidenced by frequent visits by emperors from the Tenmu era onward. In June, the Suijin Festival is held, and in October, the Ogawa Festival features eight large drum floats parading through the shrine grounds. A prayer scene in the film was shot here.

Niukawakami Shrine

968 Omura, Higashiyoshino Village, Yoshino



C



Highlight

D

Mount Takami: Frost Flowers Under a Cerulean Sky



Mount Takami, standing at 1,249 meters on the border of Higashiyoshino Village and Matsusaka City in Mie Prefecture, is famed for its symmetrical and stunning shape, and is often nicknamed "the Matterhorn of the Kinki region." In winter, the summit is adorned with frost-covered trees that glitter against a deep blue sky, creating a masterpiece of nature. At the base, the "Sky Garden Takami-no Sato" offers a panoramic view of about 1,000 weeping cherry blossoms in full bloom in spring.

Sky Garden Takami-no Sato

298-1 Sugitani, Higashiyoshino Village, Yoshino





A

Nagataki Town: A Picturesque Community of Historic Houses



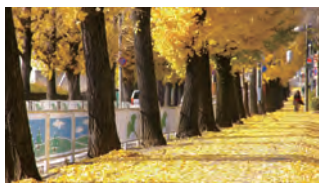
Nagataki Town, home to the Nikaido and Tada families, is a highland area about 15 minutes from the city center. The town is surrounded by nature, with beautiful old houses and the gentle sounds of a babbling brook, creating a tranquil setting. Local volunteers actively work to preserve the area's scenic beauty, including efforts to restore the "Long Waterfall," from which the town takes its name.

Nagataki Town Nagataki-cho, Tenri



B

Tenri's Iconic Ginkgo Trees



A sentimental scene where Tatsuya takes Sara in his car to pick up Satomi was shot along Tenri City's famous ginkgo tree-lined avenue. The ginkgo tree, also Tenri's official city tree, turns the streets into a sea of gold every autumn. The "Oyasato Boulevard" northeast of Tenri City Hall is especially well-known for its orderly rows of trees and the breathtaking "golden carpet" of fallen leaves.

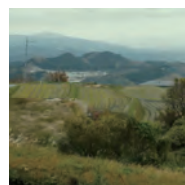
Ginkgo Tree Avenue

Kawaharajo-cho and Mishima-cho, Tenri



A

Katsuragi Trail and Terraced Rice Fields



The Katsuragi Trail runs along the base of the Katsuragi Mountains, west of the Yamato Plain. The area is rich with historic sites and evidence of agricultural culture dating back to the Katsuragi dynasty. The terraced rice fields seen throughout the trail also appear in several scenes in the film. The "Fushimi Pond," a vital water source for local rice fields, is surrounded by brilliant red spider lilies in spring, offering a striking view.

Katsuragi Trail and Fushimi Pond

Fushimi, Gose



B

The Izakaya Where the Three First Met



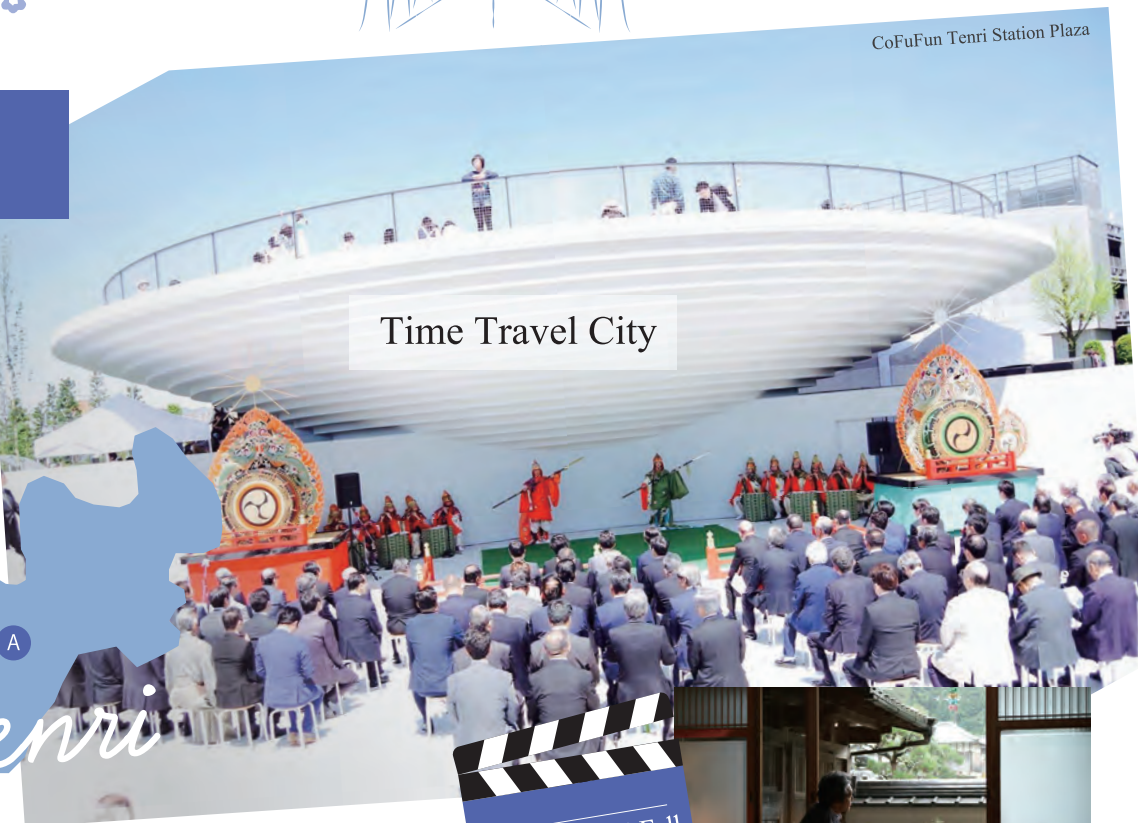
Located about 200 meters from Kintetsu Gose Station, this popular izakaya (tavern) serves local sake from Gose. It is where Kazuo first learns that Xiaoze and Grandma are searching for someone, marking the beginning of his involvement in helping them.

Izakaya Yamiichi

336 Suehiro-cho, Gose

Tenri City

Tenri City, located in northern Nara Prefecture, boasts numerous archaeological sites dating back to the Kofun period. It is known as a city of cultural heritage, featuring relics mentioned in historical texts like the Kojiki and Nihon Shoki. The city is also a religious hub, home to many Tenrikyo facilities. In recent years, new tourist destinations have emerged, allowing visitors to experience different eras in a single city.



Time Travel City

The Nikaidos' Fall

Tenri University: Where Patrick Teaches



C



Tenri University is an internationally diverse institution with a large number of international students. The film features Yuko graduating and Patrick teaching here. A delicate scene portraying cultural and ideological differences was filmed against a backdrop of the university's Gagaku (Japanese court music) ensemble. Its affiliated library houses six national treasures and many valuable classical texts, and it is open to the public.

Tenri University 1050 Somanouchi-cho, Tenri

Highlight

D

Isonokami Jingu Shrine: One of the Oldest Shinto Shrines



One of Japan's oldest shrines, Isonokami Jingu Shrine served as the tutelary deity of the ancient Mononobe clan. It has been revered as a protector of health, longevity, and safety, as well as a granter of success in all endeavors. The shrine's main hall, which was donated by Emperor Shirakawa in the late Heian period, is the oldest surviving structure of its kind and is designated a National Treasure.

Isonokami Jingu Shrine 384 Furu-cho, Tenri

The Place Where

The Gods Descend

Gose City

Located in central Nara Prefecture, Gose City, along with neighboring Katsuragi City, is part of the ancient Yamato Katsuragi region, prominent in the Kofun period. It is said to have been the headquarters of the powerful Katsuragi and Kose clans at the time. It is also home to many sites connected to Masashige Kusunoki, a key figure in the Nanboku-cho period.



Tracing Her Shadow



Kamotsuba Shrine: Heart of the Kamotsuba Ruins

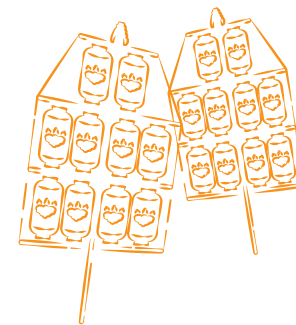
C



Kamotsuba Shrine, one of the origin sites of Kamo shrines across Japan, sits at the center of the Kamotsuba Ruins. This area, dating back to the middle of the Yayoi period, has yielded numerous pottery and stone artifacts. The Susuki Lantern Offering Festival held in summer and autumn features over 30 lanterns and prays for bountiful harvests, household safety, and health. It is the largest lantern festival in southern Nara Prefecture.



Kamotsuba Shrine 513 Miyamae-cho, Gose



Takamadera-Hashimotoin Temple Overlooking the Nara Basin



D



Takamadera-Hashimotoin Temple the temple managed by Tsuyoshi, played by Masatoshi Nagase in the film, offers a breathtaking view of the Nara Basin along the Katsuragi Trail. The temple's history dates back to 718, when Buddhist monk Gyoki built a monastery here. Its "Garden of Meditation" showcases seasonal flowers and welcomes visitors throughout the year.

Takamadera-Hashimotoin Temple 350 Takama, Gose



A

Kashiwagi District,
the primary setting of the film



The Kashiwagi District, the main stage of the story, is home to the “Omine Okugakemichi,” a trail designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Historically a prosperous lodging town for mountain climbers, the district features the “Asahikan,” one of the filming locations. This inn is built in the unique local architectural style known as “Yoshino-date,” which harmonizes with the mountainous terrain and has welcomed countless travelers over the years.

Kashiwagi District

Oaza Kashiwagi, Kawakami Village, Yoshino, Nara



B

Chigoro Natural Deep Pool,
featured in a key scene



In Kawakami Village, which boasts a 500-year history of forestry, approximately 70% of the forest is artificial. Around the Chigoro Deep Pool contains an artificial forest with trees over 300 years old. The pool also features sections of the river lined with large rocks and streams ideal for fishing. A scene was filmed here where Shige talks to Ihika about the mountains and river while fishing for yamame trout.



A

Yataki – The house where Sae moved in



One of the protagonists, Sae, moves into a house in Yataki. The street in front of the house was once bustling with activity, but today, it is a quiet place, with only a bus stop remaining as a reminder of the past. Originally an abandoned house, it served not only as a filming location but also as a rest space for the production staff and a base for the film crew.

Yataki (Bus Stop) Haibara Yataki, Uda City



B

Kaneko’s Stationery Store
and Playhouse



A nostalgic used book shop and playhouse run by Kaneko, Ryutaro’s junior friend. The area is designated as a Preservation District for Important Traditional Buildings, featuring the historic Uda Matsuyama Castle ruins and a charming old castle town.

Ouda District Naka Shin, Ouda, Uda City

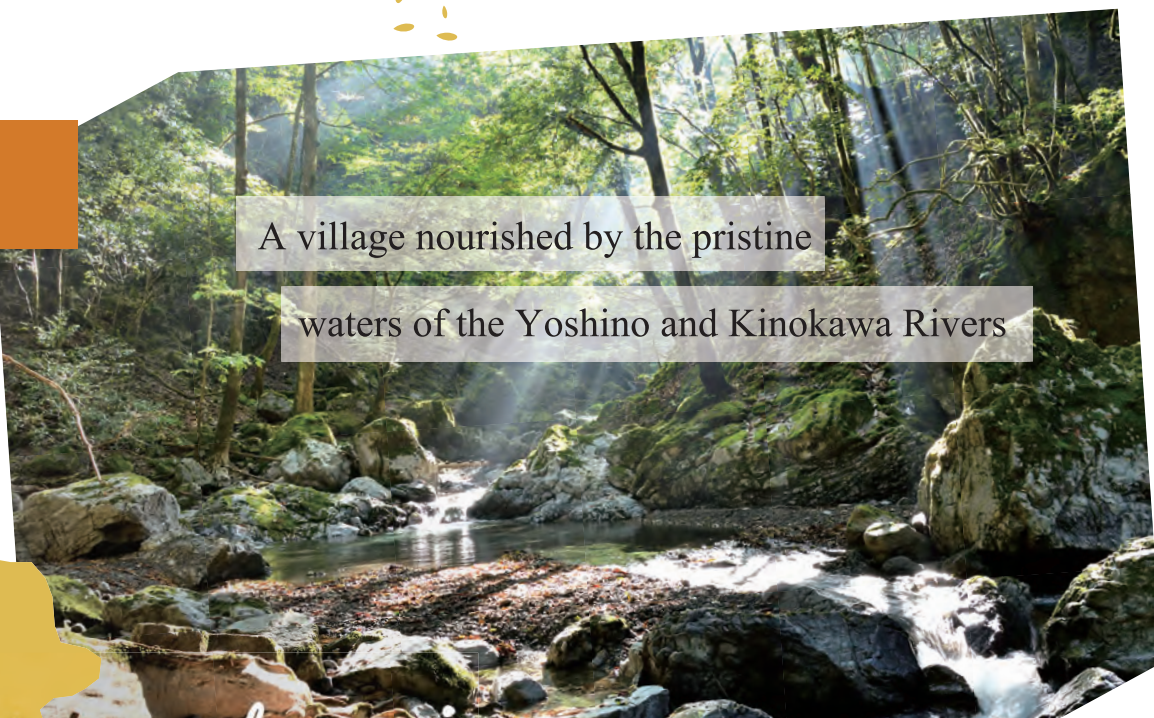
Kawakami Village

Kawakami Village, with a total area of 269.26 square kilometers, is a nature-rich village where approximately 95% of the land is forested. To fulfill its role as the source of the Yoshino and Kinokawa Rivers, the village has preserved around 740 hectares of untouched primeval forest for over 500 years. These forests, known as “The Watershed Forest,” ensure that clean water flows downstream and are carefully protected.

Kawakami

A village nourished by the pristine

waters of the Yoshino and Kinokawa Rivers



Beyond the Fog



Highlight

C

A hotel surrounded by the natural
beauty of the Okuyoshino Gorge



This elegant hotel is nestled among the Yoshino cedar forest of Kawakami Village, offering stunning views of the majestic cedar trees from the rooms and restaurant. It features open-air baths crafted from natural stones and Koyamaki wood. Day-use options are also available. Guests can also savor exquisite kaiseki cuisine prepared by an award-winning chef recognized as a “Master of Nara” by the Nara Prefecture Governor in 2020.

Hotel Sugino Yu

695 Oaza Sako, Kawakami Village, Yoshino, Nara

Highlight

D

New art born amidst nature



Opened in May 1999, “Takumi-no Mura” is a creative haven where artists from various fields establish studios and engage in their work. The village offers a gallery for exhibiting works, a cafe, and workshops where visitors can experience pottery and other art forms. It also provides cottage-style accommodations for an immersive experience.

Takumi-no Mura

135 Oaza Higashikawa, Kawakami Village, Yoshino, Nara



Transit in
Flamingo



A hometown of the heart

woven with history and nature

Muro Ryuketsu Shrine

Uda

Uda City

Located in the northeastern part of Nara Prefecture, Uda City offers convenient access from Osaka and Kyoto. It has been known since ancient times as a region rich in medicinal herbs and still maintains strong ties with pharmaceutical companies. The city is also featured in the ancient chronicles of Japan, “Kojiki” and “Nihon Shoki,” serving as a setting for Japanese mythology. With its historic temples, shrines, and traditional architecture, Uda City boasts a charming and nostalgic atmosphere.

The stairs leading to the stream



C



A staircase where Ryutaro leads the other two to the stream. A memorable scene features a character carrying a refrigerator on her back while peering into the water. The Uda River flows right in front, and the area is surrounded by a tranquil atmosphere.

Hirao, Ouda, Uda City



D

Ryutaro’s place of memories –
The shores of Muro Dam



Muro Dam, a gravity concrete dam built to regulate flooding, maintain river flow, and supply drinking water, has been in operation since 1974, damming the Uda River. The reservoir, also known as Muro Lake, is surrounded by beautiful natural scenery. In the film, Ryutaro takes the two girls here, introducing it as a place of personal memories.

Muro Lake

Haibara Yamabe San, Uda City

