

A Short Detour Take a Stroll Around Obaku

Obaku is one stop before JR Uji Station and two before Keihan Uji Station. Its main attraction is Manpukoji Temple, a rare example of a Ming dynasty-style temple. Through the imposing main gate awaits the exotic scenery of China from the old time! If you're hungry, Obaku also has some great food options.



Manpukoji Temple
Founded in 1661, Manpukoji is head temple of the Obaku sect of Zen Buddhism. The buildings, design and statues are all Chinese style. There's a restaurant in the grounds serving Fucha-yuho Chinese vegetarian cuisine, by reservation only.



Curry Architects
Bengal-style curry restaurant and architect's office run by an architect who has spent time in India and his wife. Open Wednesday to Saturday.



Tamakitei
Bakery with fans across the country. From flavoured crusty cruet loaves to a variety of filled rolls, choose from more than 100 types of bread items.



Fukujuen Ujicha Kobo
Fukujuen Ujicha Kobo offers a variety of tea-related experiences such as matcha on a stone mortar, hojicha (roasted green tea)-making, and tea bowl-making.

Incense Kitchen
Join one of Incense Kitchen's workshops and make your own matcha incense in Japanese sweet molds. Held irregularly at Agata Shrine study hall and other locations.



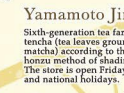
Showen Kumihimo
Try your hand at braiding a beautiful silk cord at Showen Kumihimo. Staff will make your cord into a strap or a bracelet.



Tea jar Postbox
Five matcha makes the perfect gift.

JR Uji Station

Lova
Restaurant in a charming old town house serving seasonal Japanese dishes and crispy tempura deep fried in rice oil.



Yamamoto Jinjiro
Sixth-generation tea farmers growing tencha (tea leaves grown to make matcha) according to the centuries-old method of shading tea plants. The store is open Friday to Sunday and national holidays.



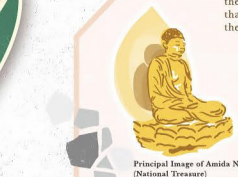
Nakamura Tokichi Honten
The distinctive facade of this tea shop was part of the original tea merchant's residence built in the late 1800s. Popular dishes at the café include the Maruto Parfait served in bamboo and the Fresh Tea jelly.

BYODŌIN AREA

About Uji

A town seeped in dynamic culture and the scent of tea

Uji initially developed as a strategic point on ancient traffic routes. With the establishment of the capital in Kyoto at the end of the 8th century, the Heian nobles, attracted by its scenic beauty, began to build vacation villas here. The custom of cormorant fishing that lights up the night skies each summer goes back to this era. Uji is also known as the setting for the final chapters of Murasaki Shikibu's classic work, *The Tale of Genji*.
Uji is synonymous with the fine quality, fragrant green tea known as Ujicha. Tea was first cultivated here in the 13th century, and the local product flourished and gained renown thanks to a combination of favorable environmental conditions and the patronage of Muramatsu and Edo shoguns. The matcha, sencha and gyokuro varieties of tea drunk throughout Japan today are produced according to methods developed in Uji.



Principal Image of Amida Nyorai (National Treasure)

View historical temple treasures up close in the museum. The original pair of phoenixes that stood atop the roof of Phoenix Hall in the 11th century are a must-see.
The principal image of Amida Nyorai, a National Treasure, is enshrined here. The building is named for the pair of phoenixes that grace the roof and its resemblance to a phoenix with outstretched wings. The majestic world inside the hall is breathtaking!
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Byodoin Highlights

Originally a holiday villa, Byodoin was established in the 11th century by powerful court noble Fujiwara no Yorinichi who procured the property from his father, Michinaga, and converted it into a temple. Phoenix Hall was completed a year later with the central hall housing an image of Amida Nyorai (Amitabha Buddha) created by Jochō, the greatest Buddhist sculptor of the time, and the temple prospered. Miraculously, we can see the very same statue and building today. The hall is open to the public, so don't miss the chance to experience the splendor of Heian dynasty culture.

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Byodoin Temple

Byodoin was founded in 1052. Pictured on the 10 yen coin, the magnificent Phoenix Hall (a National Treasure) is the embodiment of the Buddhist paradise dreamed of by people seeking salvation at that time. The building gives the impression of a palace floating above the pond like a scene of the Buddhist Pure Land.

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Principal Image of Amida Nyorai (National Treasure)

Kyoudon Miyoshiya

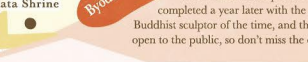
Kyoto-style udon noodles that are a favorite with locals. The tempura rice balls are also popular. Takeout available.



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Nakaui Yorin

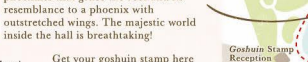
A renovated old dwelling and building, fixture factory, now a stylish multipurpose space. Tenants include a dessert shop, a French bistro and a Japanese pottery shop.



A renovated old dwelling and building, fixture factory, now a stylish multipurpose space.

Horii Shichimeien

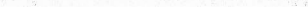
The retail outlet of Okunoyama Tea Garden, one of a small number of plantations endorsed by Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu some 600 years ago. The plantation is a 7-minute walk from the shop. Search online for details.



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Osakaya Market

A retro arcade with 60 years of history, revitalized by a new generation. Enjoy coffee, chai, pizza, bento and sandwiches and more at a range of specialty shops.



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Uji Bridge

Reportedly first built in 644, Uji Bridge is one of the oldest bridges in Japan. The current structure was built in 1996.



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Tsuen

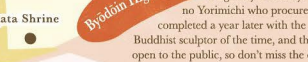
Founded at the foot of Uji Bridge in 1160, Tsuen is Uji's oldest tea house. The present building dates back to the 17th century. There's a great view of the river from the café.



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Kunugi Teahouse

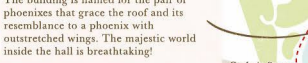
Try some matcha fondue, green tea soba noodles, or "dam curry"—curry and rice made to look like Amagase Dam!



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Salon de Thé Consolateur

Enjoy a refreshing "jewel soda" for afternoon tea.



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Ujigami Shrine

An ancient temple at the foot of Mt. Daikichi. A National Treasure, the main hall dates back to the 11th century and is the oldest extant shrine in Japan.



An ancient temple at the foot of Mt. Daikichi. A National Treasure, the main hall dates back to the 11th century.

The Cross Experience Concierge Map

Concierge paper for walking in the city of Kyoto today.

A Cooling Walk on the Uji Waterfront

This summer, escape to Uji, where the Kyoto nobles of the Heian period (794-1195) came to vacation and beat the heat. Let the rushing Uji River and leafy green mountains cool your senses just as they have since ancient times, and don't forget to quench your thirst with an icy cold glass of the famous local green tea!

