

# Spots to Visit

## Ino Tadataka's Memorial Museum

This museum houses a lot of Tadataka's exploits, such as maps of Japan, tools, and other things tracing the process of map making.

## Festival Float Museum (Dashi-kaikan)

This three-storied museum contains two elaborate floats and materials concerning Sawara Grand Festivals. You can see both of the lively summer and fall festivals on video.

## Museums on the street

These unique museums are open to the public at the inside of each shop showing old dolls or daily commodities.

## Sake Breweries

Two breweries are making *sake* at present. You can sample the taste of *sake* at two breweries, 'Baba' and 'Tokun'.

## Katori Jingu (Shinto shrine)

This shrine has been worshiped as one of the oldest shrines since ancient times. This site used to be the most important military base of the old Japanese administration in the far north of Japan. There were a lot of soldiers dispatched from the central Japan, so that the art of handling swords, called '*Katori-shinto-ryu*,' was created here by *Izasa Choisai* who lived at a hamlet near the shrine in the Middle Age. The main building and the gate to it were erected in Edo era. Enjoy a serene, tranquil air in the tree-covered precincts. The Treasure House contains the oldest bronze mirror (*national treasure*) in Japan.

## Kanpuku-ji (Buddhist temple)

This temple was founded about 600 years ago, as one of the three greatest temples that deify Kobo Daishi. It is blessed with the power of driving away evils over human beings. The other two temples can exorcise the evils over vegetation and bugs or animals.

**Mizu-no-Sato Sawara** (riverside shopping center and eating court and museum of the Tone River)

These riverside facilities are located on the riverbank of the Tone River. You can buy and eat various fresh products from local farmers. At the museum (free of charge), you can understand how the Tone River contributes to our life.

## Suigo Aquatic Botanical Garden

8 km north of Sawara across the Tone River, the garden is surrounded by the paddy fields with enormous species of aquatic flowers, open in June.

# Shopping

Sawara is not what is called 'a sightseeing place' but an old commercial town. Several shops sell the same articles as they did 100 years ago, such as bamboo goods, sugar, cooking oil, wooden clogs, kimono, sweet cakes, rice crackers and dried foods, etc.

# Where to Eat

There are eating places in the town center and fast food chains one km north of JR Sawara Station. You can enjoy reasonable priced lunch. Visit the tourist offices to get any information on restaurants. Don't miss the taste of grilled eels, nor black noodles.

# Information

There are three information offices for tourists in Sawara. One is 50m away from JR Sawara Station. Another is on the bank of the Onogawa River close to the historic area (closed on Monday). The third one is called 'Sawara Machinami-Koryu-kan' on the Main Street (Katori-kaido), attached to the former bank building of brown brick. This office is operated by NPO Corporation (closed on a Monday of the month).

# Train & Bus Services

## → To Sawara from Tokyo by train:

Get on a rapid train at the underground platforms No. 3 or 4 at JR Tokyo Station, and transfer at JR Chiba Station to a train for Sawara or Choshi (via Narita) at the platform No. 9 or 10. When you take a rapid train for Narita Airport, transfer at JR Narita Station (one station before Narita Airport No2.) to a train for Sawara or Choshi. There is a private railway Keisei Line between Keisei Ueno and Keisei Narita.

## → To Sawara from Tokyo by non-stop coach:

Although a bus trip is thought to be time-consuming, the non-stop coach from Tokyo Station will carry you to Sawara faster than the train. There are two different bus companies, Chiba Kotsu (the stop at the corner across the broad street facing Yaesu Central Exit) and Kan-tetsu (the stop No.8 on the walkway just out of Yaesu Exit). A bus leaves approximately every hour from a bit before 9 a.m. to late evening (Chiba Kotsu provides the last service past 10 p.m.). If you plan to return to Tokyo by bus, you should buy a set of two, four or six tickets at the reduced price. But those tickets are only available on board a bus of the same company.

## → To Sawara from Narita City:

Take a train for Choshi or Kashima-Jingu at JR Narita Station (40 minutes to Sawara). There is also a bus service for Sawara from a stop in front of Keisei Station.

## ← Back to Chiba or Tokyo by train:

A train leaves for Chiba every hour from JR Sawara Station. You can transfer at Chiba to a rapid train.

## ← Back to Tokyo from Sawara by bus:

A bus for Tokyo departs from the stop across the bridge over the Narita Line in back of JR Sawara Station (Chiba Kotsu; till past 7 p.m.), or from the stop just in front of JR Sawara Station or the Chukey-bashi stop (Kan-tetsu; till past 3 p.m.).

