

Rice Ball Making

Koga, Ibaraki

Learn traditional Japanese skills at a 200-year-old rice shop and an engraving museum

Explore the traditional heart of Koga City and connect with local shopkeepers and artisans in a unique tour that dives beneath the surface of this rural Ibaraki town. Stroll through a traditional shopping district, make a bento box lunch at an Edo-era rice shop, picnic on the grounds of a traditional samurai residence, and try your hand at stamp carving at Japan's only seal engraving museum.

Program 1 Koga Picnic

Duration
2 hours

After meeting at the station, we make our way to Komegin, where the friendly eighth-generation owner of this traditional rice and obento shop will guide us in making our own delicious bento box lunches. You will choose from a variety of traditional fillings and learn how to shape omusubi rice balls using freshly steamed local rice before completing your lunch with a selection of tasty side dishes.

We then make our way to the beautiful and verdant gardens of the Takami Senseki Memorial Museum to enjoy a picnic lunch on the tranquil grounds.

*Vegetarian side dishes are available, making this program equally suitable for those who choose to abstain from eating meat or fish.



Program 2 Seal Engraving Museum Tour and Workshop

Duration
2 hours



Carved seal stamps are deeply rooted in Japanese culture, and Koga is the birthplace of two of Japan's most famous engravers and, fittingly, home to the country's only seal engraving museum. After touring the museum's exhibits, you will have the opportunity to choose a design and learn from an expert instructor how to engrave your own stone seal stamp, which will become a unique souvenir of your visit to Koga.

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Komegin Rice Shop Address: 3-1-43 Chuouchou, Koga, Ibaraki, Japan
 Tenkoku Museum Address: 2-4-18 Chuouchou, Koga, Ibaraki, Japan
 Access: 15 minutes' walk from JR Koga Station
 (approx. 60 minutes by rail from Tokyo Station or Shinjuku Station; Koga station pick-up available)
 30 minutes from Kazo IC on the Tohoku Expressway
 (Approximately 90 minutes by car from the Tokyo metropolitan area; parking available)

The program is by reservation only. (We are happy to respond to individual requests concerning your desired date, the content of the tour, your transportation needs, and any other details, so please feel free to inquire.)

Website: <https://musubi-travel.jp/experience> Inquiries: megumi@musubi-travel.jp

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