

# NIC Walking Guides

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## ①⑧ Seto Kamagaki-no-Komichi





Since ancient times, a number of well-known potteries have been located in the Seto area. The long history of the ceramic industry of this area gives this town a fascinating atmosphere.

### Access From Nagoya

Exit Sakae Subway Station and transfer to the Meitetsu Seto Line 名鉄瀬戸線. Take any train get off at Owari Seto Station. It is the last stop. Costs 440 Yen, takes about 40 minutes.



and

### Area Map



## Fukagawa-jinja Shrine 深川神社 & Suehiko Shrine 陶彦神社

The Seto River runs in front of the Owari-Seto Station, and there are many pottery shops along the river.



A five minute walk east from the station brings you to Fukagawa-jinja Shrine (map①).

The shrine is more than 1,200 years. In the treasure house, there is a pair of guardian dogs reputedly made by Toshiro, the founder of ceramics.



Suehiko Shrine, which is dedicated to Toshiro, stands next to Fukagawa-jinja Shrine. People make their wishes known to the miniature guardian dogs, and bring their dogs to the shrine. It is believed the shrine has special powers of wisdom.





## Kamagaki-no-Komichi 窯垣の小径

Cross the river via the footbridge and follow the eye-catching ceramic path. This is called “Kamagaki-no-Komichi” (map②).



The path used to be used by craftsmen from the local kilns to carry pottery and ceramic ware into the town via horseback. The walls and fences of the path are adorned with “Kama-dogu”, which were tools used for making ceramics. Once the tools had out-worn their use in the kilns they were recycled as building materials.

During walking, I dropped into, the Material Museum of this path (map③).

Walking along this path, you can visit the “Kamagaki-no-Komichi Museum ” (map③).

## Kamagaki-no-Komichi Museum 窯垣の小径資料館

The museum is open daily 10:00 - 15:00 (except Wednesdays) and admission is free.

The museum is a converted late 19<sup>th</sup> century potter's house. It was remodeled from the remains of the Terada residence the owners of the "Hongyoyaki" ceramics kiln.

In the "Doma" earthen floor, you can still see an old cooking stove.

The wood poles and the ceiling are covered with soot, and have turned black. The soot protects the wood from harmful insects.



You can see a very fascinating bathroom and a toilet room decorated with "Hongyo tiles" in this museum. Even though both facilities were used by the original occupants, they are still beautiful and graceful even now.



## Hongyo-gama Kiln 本業窯

A 5 minute walk from the museum is Hongyo-gama Kiln (map④).

The kiln is a type of “Noborigama”, which has series of kilns constructed on the slopes of a hill. This kiln had been used from after World War II to 1979. Around the kiln there remains many ceramic tools and bundles of firewood - as if the kiln is still used today.

In the olden days, there were many Noborigama in this area, but nowadays, gas stove kiln are used.



“Kamagaki-no-Komichi” is about 400 meters long, and you can find it full of ceramics which have been preserved in their original state.





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