

Home of
Kagawa Canal

Yoshino River



Visiting the headwaters area of the Yoshino River

A drop of water originating from the center of the Shikoku Mountain Range.

It eventually becomes a stream and then a river. This river with a torrent of water is known as the Yoshino River.

The Yoshino River runs through the Asan Mountains, creating steep canyons, to bring water to Kagawa Prefecture.

What the river brings is not just natural blessings.

The Yoshino River is supported by the people who have made sacrifices to secure water resources and by the people who have strived to protect the green mountains that nurture life.

Reihoku Region in Kochi Prefecture (towns of Ino, Okawa, Tosa, Motoyama and Otoyo) is the headwater basin where the Sameura Dam—the water jar of Shikoku—is located.

The Ikeda Dam is located in Ikeda and Yamashiro in Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture. Water is diverted at the Ikeda Dam to the Kagawa Canal.

The residents of Kagawa Prefecture should not forget that the Kagawa Canal is protected by the efforts and goodwill of the people who live in these areas.

[Special Exhibition]

Kagawa Yousui Commemorative Park (Special Exhibit Room, first floor, Water Museum)

Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Kagawa Yousui Commemorative Park

Admission free



Sameura Dam

To the Headwaters of the

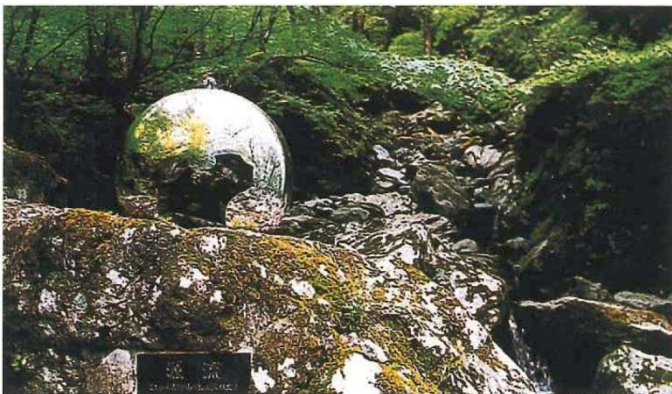
The Yoshino River, one of the major rivers in Japan, has an abundance of water, whose watershed spreads over the four prefectures in Shikoku. The Yoshino River originates far off in Mt. Kamegamori (with a height of 1,897 m) at the border of Ehime and Kochi Prefectures. The Yoshino River—whose trunk river length is 194 km—has a basin area of 3,750 km². It is the mother river of Shikoku that supports our lives, industry and culture.

Yoshino River

Forests in the Headwater Basin Serve as

The Yoshino River originates in a forest. Forests serve to supply high quality water in a reliable manner. Forests are often said to be a green water jar because many gaps in forest soil absorb and store much water like a sponge. In forests, trees spread their roots in the ground, and these roots expand or decay, which causes many gaps in the ground. These tunnel-like narrow and long gaps, which stretch deeply and widely under the ground, store much water. Therefore, it is necessary to improve forests in the upstream to enhance the capacity of forests to retain water and to secure a reliable water supply during droughts.

A Green Water Jar



Headwaters

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Yoshino River—Home of the Kagawa Canal

Destiny of

Shikoku Saburo

The Yoshino River in Shikoku—nicknamed Shikoku Saburo—along with the Tone River or Bando Taro in Honshu and the Chikugo River or Tsukushi Jiro are called the three major rivers in Japan. It is said that they have been given these nicknames because they are rivers representing these areas and are well known as torrent rivers.

The Yoshino River, in particular, has the largest amount of water at the time of flooding and is called the river with the most torrent stream in Japan. The Yoshino River's upstream is one of the major rainy areas in Japan and most of its watersheds are steep mountainous areas, which cause rainwater to flood into the river. In addition, the route of typhoons almost coincides with the flow of the Yoshino River. Typhoons, which cause much rain in the upstream, move and allow rain to fall in the branch river basins as well, result in the river flooding. In this way the Yoshino River is destined to be a "raging river."

Tora no Mizu (Flood in the Year of the Tiger), the Worst Flood in History in which approximately 30,000 People Drowned to Death

In 1866—the year of the tiger according to the Chinese zodiac calendar—a big flood occurred in August. It is recorded that around 28,000 people drowned to death within the domain. According to another document (shown in the photo), 37,020 people died. In any case, it was an unprecedented disaster.



The family register of deaths that recorded the damage of the Tora no Mizu (owned by the Zoshuin Temple)



Traces of the flood left in the Zoshuin Temple

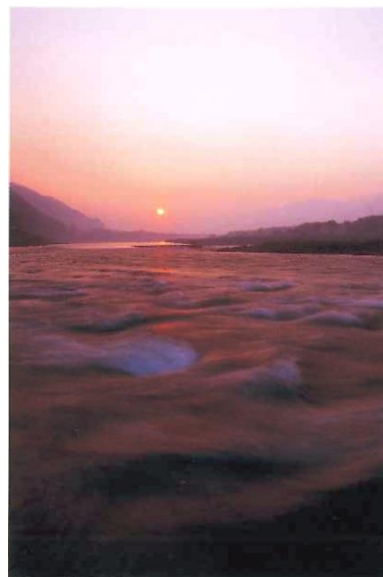


Stone monument and mile post at the side of the main temple gate (Kokufu, Tokushima Prefecture)

Mother River

Yoshino River

There are many historical flood-related assets left in the floodplain areas along the Yoshino River. They are assets developed by the residents to protect their houses from being flooded or washed away. In particular, Awa indigo, which were grown in rich soil brought by flooding of the Yoshino River, supported the economy of Tokushima from the Edo period to the middle of the Meiji period. There are many wonderful scenic spots along the Yoshino River, where people can enjoy the natural beauty in all seasons. Oboke and Koboke, the beautiful valleys located upstream of the river, are praised for their beauty. Exploring the Yoshino River enables you to feel the great benefits of the river.



Yoshino River