

Fude-Making Tours,
Experiences, and Shopping
Dining
Cultural Properties
and Sightseeing Spots

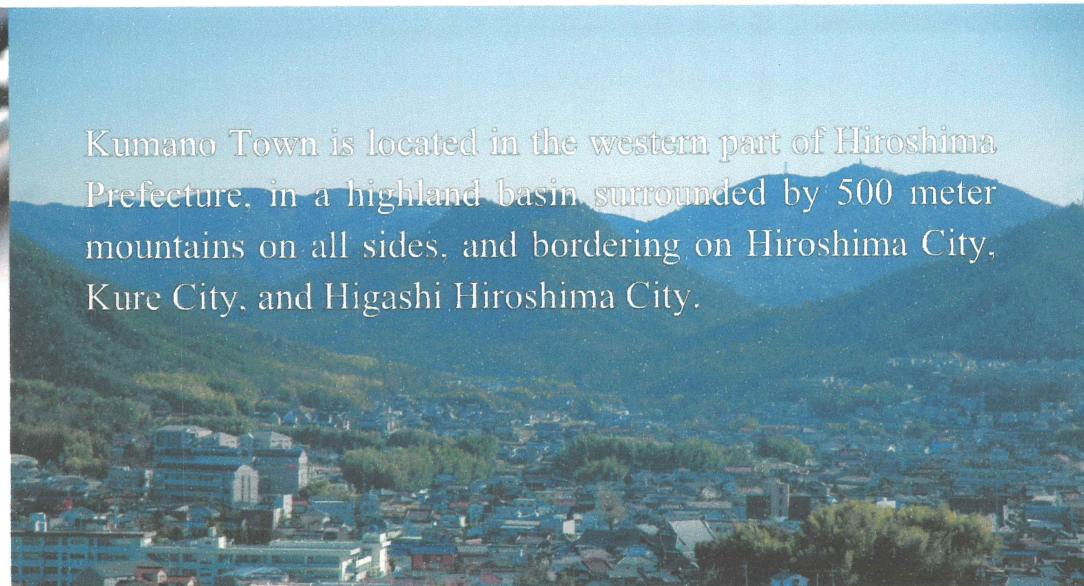


World-Famous
cosmetic fude!



HOME TOWN OF FUDE KUMANO TOWN HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE

EXPLORATION MAP



It has been known for its fude production since the middle of 19th century, and around 1950 it began applying its calligraphy fude-making techniques to the manufacture of paint fude and cosmetic fude. Just as with calligraphy fude, Kumano Town produces the largest quantities of these products in Japan. At present, around 2,500 persons (10% of the population) are involved in fude work, and the production of Kumano fude is a tradition and a skill that are carried on by the entire town.

Fudenosato Kobo -
The Largest Fude in the World



In this brochure, brushes are referred to by the Japanese word "fude".



Local Character

The Kumano Town
sightseeing ambassador

"FUDERIN" was born at Fudenosato Kobo in 2008. It is a fude sprite created around the motif of "Konin Onhitsu" the largest and brightest example of ancient Emperor Saga's calligraphy fude in the valuable "Kimura Yozan Collection" maintained by Fudenosato Kobo. FUDERIN was made the Kumano Town sightseeing ambassador in 2012.



🍵 FUDE MATSURI (BRUSH FESTIVAL)

This festival has been held each year on the autumnal equinox since 1935. It is held in memory of ancient Emperor Saga, considered one of the three great calligraphers of Japan, and in appreciation for the work of the village members who founded the fude industry in Kumano Town.

In addition to the "Fude Kuyo memorial service" for fude that have reached the end of their useful lives, "Taisaku-Sekisyo" at which a calligrapher draws a giant calligraphy painting on a cloth the size of approximately 20 tatami-mats, and a "calligraphy competition", the festival also features a "Fude no Ichi fude market" organized by Kumano Town fude manufacturers. The festival draws 50,000 visitors each year.

Fude Matsuri Executive Committee
(Kumano Town Chamber of Commerce and Industry) TEL.(082)854-0216



🎁 GIFTS



Kumano Fude

Kumano fude are the No. 1 produced Fude in Japan, and are known worldwide. In addition to fude for calligraphy, visitors can also buy paint fude, cosmetic fude, and other fude at shops in the town. (See back cover.)



KuMa-yaki

This is a Japanese-style pie confection made from beans (Tanba black soybeans), which are a famous product of Kumano Town.

Confectionary shop Kopeck TEL.(082)854-5445

Daigourei (local saké)

This brewery began operating in 1893, and its owner himself produces small batches of handmade saké. This local Kumano saké is the product of the passion for rice artistry of the master brewer, and is known for its well-rounded ginjo fragrance and sharp aftertaste realized by bag squeezing. This is the only brewery in Aki District.

Bajo Sake Brewery
TEL.(082)854-0104



🍴 LOCAL CUISINE

Fluffy grilled natto

Fluffy grilled natto is a dish that won the Grand Prix at the "Kumano Grade-B Gourmet competition". Made from ingredients including yams, eggs, and natto, it is a recipe that nourishes the body. It is grilled on a hot plate or other grill in the same way as Kansai-style okonomiyaki.

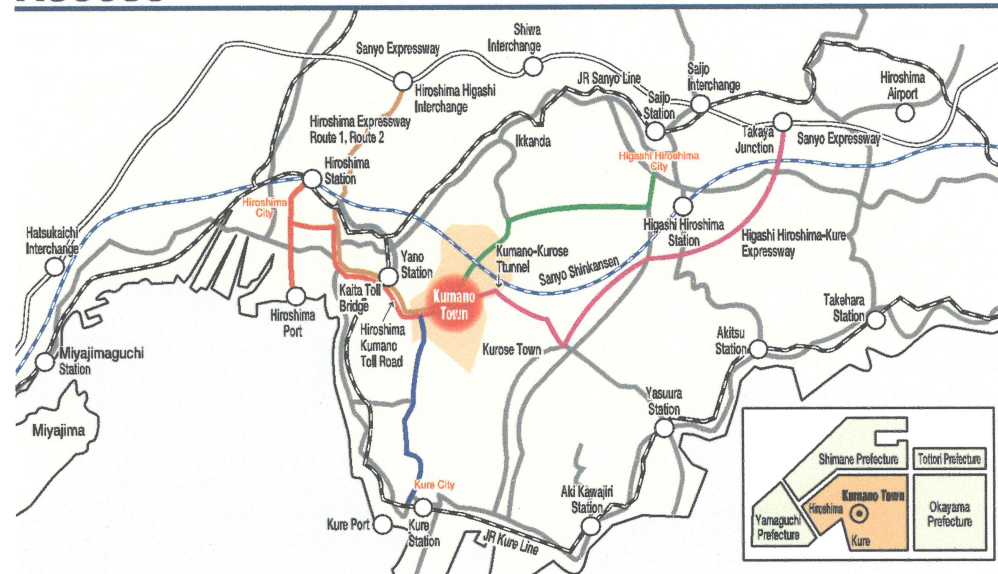


Kumano twice-cooked chicken

No. 2 on the list of local culinary specialties! Use cosmetic fude to make yourself beautiful on the outside, and eat the collagen-rich Kumano twice-cooked chicken to make yourself beautiful from the inside.



Access



by Bus

Approx. 45 min by bus (Hiroshima Electric Railway) from Hiroshima Station

Approx. 15 min by bus (Hiroshima Electric Railway) from Yano Station

Approx. 35 min by bus (Hiroshima Electric Railway) from Kure Station



by Car

Approx. 40 min by car from Hiroshima Airport

— Approx. 35 min by car from Hiroshima City (approx. 20 km)

— Approx. 25 min by car from Kure City (approx. 15 km)

— Approx. 35 min by car from Higashi Hiroshima City (approx. 25 km)

Access via the Sanyo Expressway

Takaya Junction → Higashi Hiroshima-Kure Expressway → Kumano Town

Hiroshima Higashi Interchange → Hiroshima Expressway Route 1, Route 2, Kaita Toll Bridge → Kumano Town

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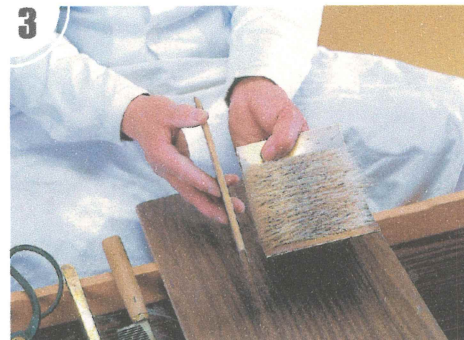
FUDE-MAKING PROCESS (CALLIGRAPHY FUDE)



1 Hair selection and assembly: The necessary raw hairs for each fude type are selected, weighed, and assembled.



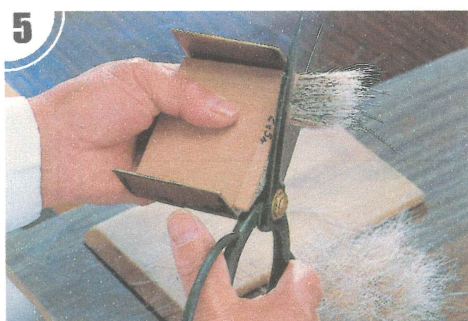
2 Ironing and massaging: Ash from burning of rice chaff is scattered over the hairs, which are then ironed and the hairs wrapped with deerskin and massaged. This process removes the oil component from the hairs and straightens them, improving ink absorption.



3 Hair assembling: After combing to remove any fluff, the hairs are assembled together a few at a time.



4 Removal of reversed and damaged hairs: After the hairs are assembled and aligned, the craftsman uses a small knife known as a hansashi and the feeling in his fingertips to remove standing, frayed, and other irregular hairs.



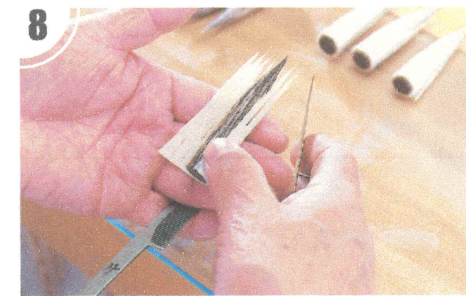
5 Cutting to each length: The tips of the fude hairs are divided into 5 parts, and the hair sizes are cut to the correct length for each part.



6 Mixing: The hairs are spread out into a thin layer and then folded back multiple times to mix them. This step is performed to prevent unevenness when the fude is assembled.



7 Fude core shaping: The mixed bundle of hairs is placed into a cylinder called a koma to divide them into the amounts needed for a single fude and to create the fude shape. The craftsman uses the feeling of his hands and removes any unnecessary hairs.



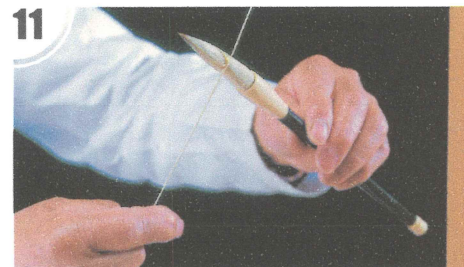
8 Wrapping with high-grade hair: In order to improve the feel when writing, a thin layer of high-grade hair called koromoge is wrapped around the dried core hairs, and the hairs are then dried further.



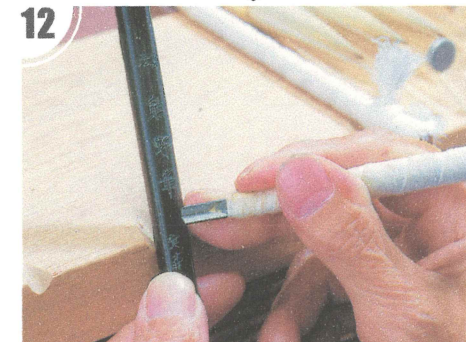
9 Tying with thread: The base of the hairs is tied together with a hemp thread and then quickly quenched with a hot iron. At this time, the glutinous property of the hairs acts as an adhesive and bonds them firmly together. The fude head is now completed.



10 Fitting: The craftsman uses a small knife to evenly cut away the inside of the fude shaft as it rotates so that the fude head can fit inside more easily. Then the head is fastened in place with adhesive.



11 Finishing: Glue compaction is performed to give the fude head a longer life. A large amount of glue is first absorbed by the fude tip. A hemp thread is wrapped around the head, and the shaft is rotated to squeeze out the excess glue.



12 Name engraving: The brand name is engraved with a triangular blade, and that part is colored with paint.

Kumano Town in Hiroshima Prefecture - Home Town of Fude where the history and traditions of fude-making live on today

The largest production of fude in Japan is supported by fude-making techniques for crafting individual fude by hand. At present, the main fude produced include calligraphy fude, paint fude, and cosmetic fude. Production of paint fude and cosmetic fude was started after the war by applying the production techniques used for calligraphy fude, and Kumano fude hold the top share in Japan for all three products. Many are also exported to Europe, the United States, and other destinations overseas.

FUDE TYPES AND MATERIALS

Calligraphy fude

These are the top fude in Japan in terms of both quality and quantity, available in a wide range from high-grade fude for Japanese calligraphy to student fude and special fude.



Materials: Goat, horse, weasel, deer, raccoon dog, others

Cosmetic fude

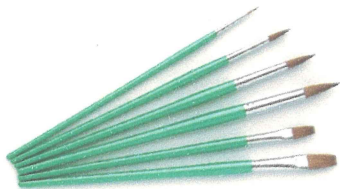
Known for their high quality, these fude are supported by makeup artists worldwide.



Materials: Goat, horse, weasel, squirrel, others

Paint fude

Widely used in Japan and overseas for Japanese painting, western painting, and design art.



Materials: Horse, pig, weasel, synthetic fibers, others

Baby hair fude

These popular fude are made from a baby's first hair, and can only be made once in a person's life.



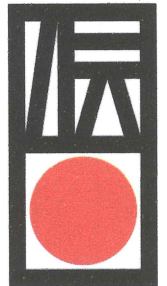
TRADITIONAL CRAFT PRODUCTS DESIGNATED BY THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Traditional Craft Products are designated by the Minister of International Trade and Industry (now the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry). The requirements are the following.

1. It must be used primarily for everyday living purposes.
2. The primary part of the production process must be by manual work.
3. It must be produced by traditional techniques or methods.
4. It must use raw materials that were traditionally used.
5. Production must be limited to a certain geographical area.



Kumano fude (calligraphy fude only) were designated as a "Traditional Craftwork" by the Minister of International Trade and Industry (now the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry) on May 10, 1975.



Mark of Tradition
承認番号 30-044
Officially designated Traditional craft products Kumano-fude
The product with "Mark of Tradition" quality certification label is the Traditional crafts product officially designated by the Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, that has passed the standard of the Kumano fude Business Cooperative.

MASTER OF TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

A "Master of traditional crafts" is someone who has many years of experience and a high level of skill in producing crafts in the production region of a designated traditional craftwork, and who was recognized by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Kumano fude Masters of traditional crafts are persons who have 12 years or more of experience in fude-making and who work for the advancement of the Kumano fude production area, and who furthermore were selected by means of a written test, a practical test (test of actual fude-making), and an examination of a fude produced during the most recent month. Kumano fude Masters of traditional crafts must not only work to improve their own fude-making techniques, but also work to communicate fude-making techniques to others who are producing Kumano fude, train successors, and otherwise work for the advancement of Kumano, Home Town of Fude. Of the approximately 1,500 fude-makers in Kumano Town, the number of recognized active Kumano fude Masters of traditional crafts is currently 15.

