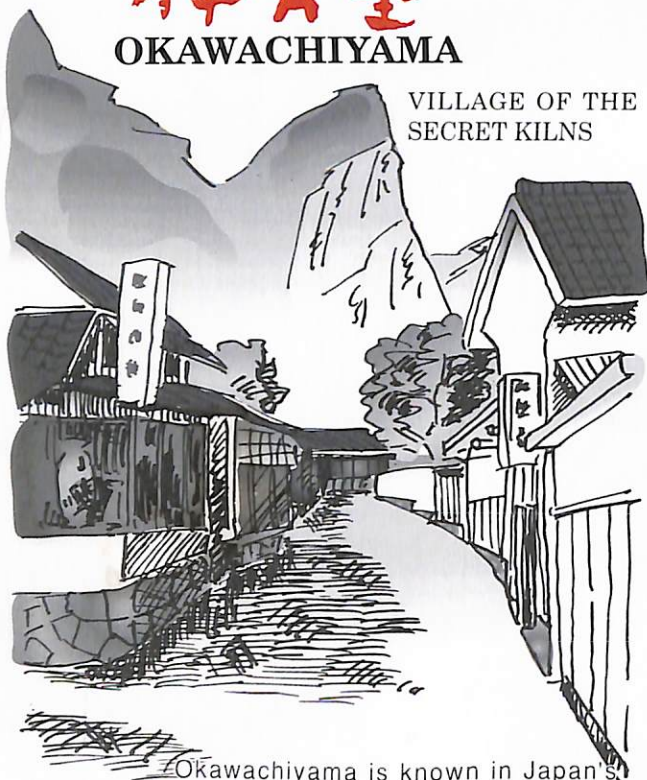


IMARI 伊万里 OKAWACHIYAMA

VILLAGE OF THE
SECRET KILNS



Okawachiyama is known in Japan's history as home of the Nabeshima Clan, who built special kilns to make fine porcelains for the Shogun Dynasty.

TOURING THE KILNS

Okawachiyama is enclosed on three sides by mountains. Thus many people call it "The Village of The Secret Kilns".

The first thing that you will notice is the breathtaking view of the picturesque mountains and streams.

The kilns were built in the style resembling those in Keitokuchin in China. Today, many traditional brick chimneys and kilns can be seen.

And while touring Okawachiyama you can feel the history and tradition of the past 300 years.

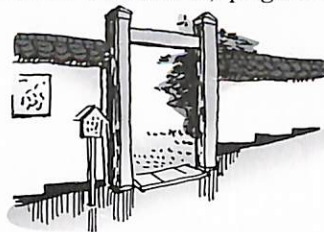
NABESHIMA CLAN KILN (HANYOU) PARK

This park is on the hill next to the kilns of Okawachiyama-"The Village of The Secret Kilns".

Here you can find many old buildings and ruins. The area is rich with over 300 years of proud history, which can be felt in the air around you.

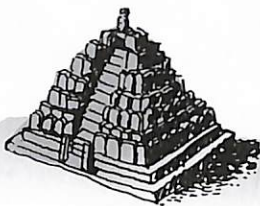
POINTS OF INTEREST

- potter's house ●the old factory
- the old kiln's ruins ●wall paintings
- rest area at a Japanese garden
- porcelain plaza ●observation park
- the old gate ●bower house
- potter's garden (Chinese millstone, pagoda with a porcelain bell)
- four seasons garden (flower garden, an arbor, Japanese garden, kiln-brick bridge)



POTTERS' GRAVE

About 880 unknown graves are gathered in the shape of a pyramid. This monument was built for many Korean potters, as well as potters from other countries.



KOREAN POTTER'S GRAVE

Graves of many Koreans, who came before the Nabeshima Clan, were built in a high place on the mountain. The graves are nostalgically facing toward the north-the direction of Korea.

NIPPO-SAN

The lord Naoshige is worshiped at this monument. This lord is now called Nippo-san.

The names of 31 potters are on the face of the monument, which explains the system of the kiln clan. A festival is held on November 1st every year to pay tribute to Nippo-san.



STEPPED KILNS

The Nabeshima Clan used to make porcelain for the successive Shoguns and emperors in the style of the stepped kilns. Every year there is an "Autumn Ritual Festival" to celebrate "The Kiln for the Imperial Family", whereby the traditional "stepped kiln" technique is used.











IMARI AND ARITA WARE INDUSTRIAL CENTER

This center exhibits traditional and modern style Imari and Arita ware.

AN EXPERT'S QUICK GUIDE TO IMARI WARE

HOW IT'S MADE!

-  **SHAPING** ⇒ Pieces of clay are shaped by hand or with a potter's wheel.
-  **DRYING** ⇒ The rare products are oven-dried in order to evaporate all remaining water.
-  **FIRING** ⇒ Products are fired in kilns with temperatures between 850-900 degrees centigrade.
-  **OVERLAY PAINTING** ⇒ Special paints are used (e.g. cobalt iron).
-  **GLAZING** ⇒ Pieces are coated with specially prepared glazes.
-  **FIRING** ⇒ The temperature of the kiln is about 1300 degrees centigrade.
-  **OVER PAINTING** ⇒ After the second firing, other colors are painted over the glaze, and then they are fired again.
-  **FINISHING PROCESS** ⇒ The finished products are then inspected and sorted.

It takes many steps to produce each and every piece of fine Imari ware.

CHARACTERISTICS OF IMARI WARE

Iro-Nabeshima

The characteristic Nabeshima colors, red, yellow, and green are painted on a pure white background, or on a blue and white background. ("Iro" means "color" in Japanese.)

Nabeshima-Sometsuke

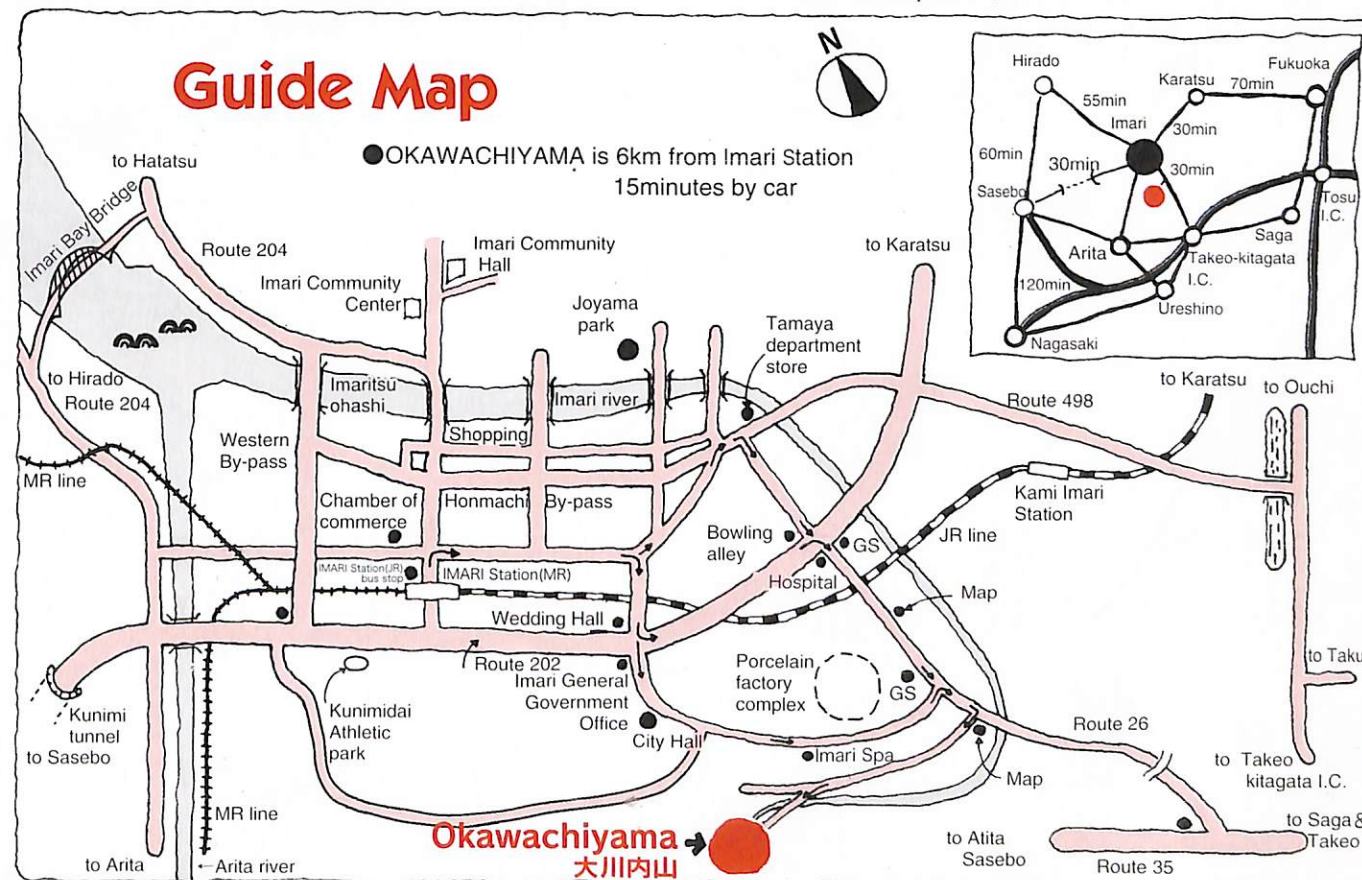
Indigo blue paint is used on white base. This color is different from the Iro-Nabeshima colors. The result is a beautiful calming effect. ("Sometsuke" means "to dye" in English.)

Nabeshima-Seiji

Extracts from a pale-green stone produces a glaze, which in turn produces an elegant pale-green color. The result is a fired product with a mysterious blue-green color.

NABESHIMA AND KOIMARI

Nabeshima is the name given to the porcelain produced in the kilns of the Nabeshima Clan. Eventually these products became known as Imari ware, which were shipped from Imari port during the Edo and Meiji periods (1603-1911). Thus, Imari soon became synonymous with fine porcelain ware. Its porcelain from the past is now called "Old Imari" or "Koimari" ("Ko" means "old" in Japanese).



If you see this pattern, it's 'Iro-Nabeshima'.

This "comb" pattern is a characteristic of Nabeshima and can be found on the base of many Nabeshima pieces.

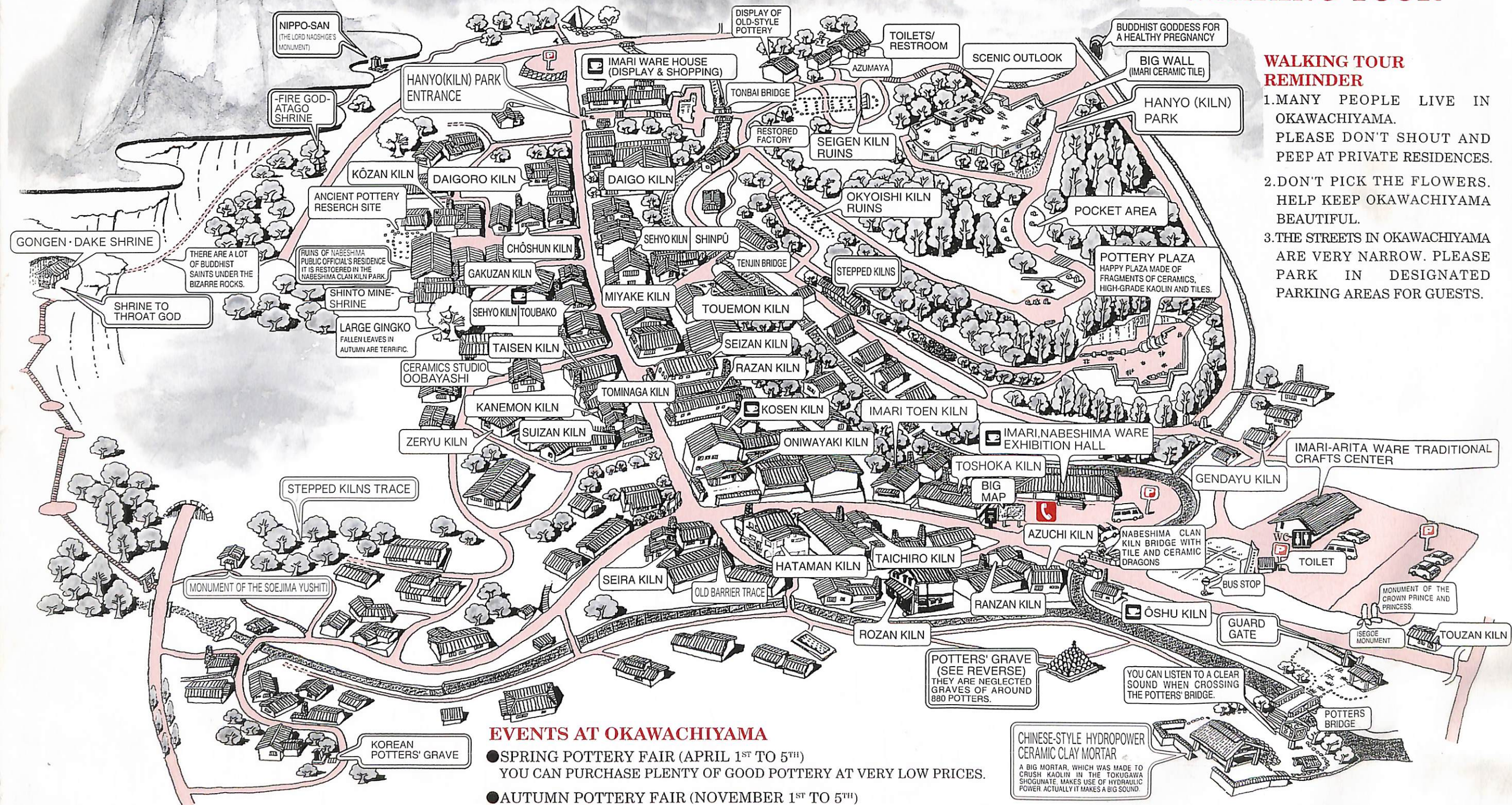
For more information call:
IMARI WARE EXHIBITION CENTER Telephone(0955)23-7293
IMARI TOURIST ASSOCIATION Telephone(0955)23-3479
<http://www.imari-ookawachiyama.com> **OKAWACHIYAMA PROMOTION MEETING**

IMARI OKAWACHIYAMA

VILLAGE OF THE SECRET KILNS WALKING TOUR

WALKING TOUR REMINDER

1. MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN OKAWACHIYAMA. PLEASE DON'T SHOUT AND PEEP AT PRIVATE RESIDENCES.
2. DON'T PICK THE FLOWERS. HELP KEEP OKAWACHIYAMA BEAUTIFUL.
3. THE STREETS IN OKAWACHIYAMA ARE VERY NARROW. PLEASE PARK IN DESIGNATED PARKING AREAS FOR GUESTS.



EVENTS AT OKAWACHIYAMA

- SPRING POTTERY FAIR (APRIL 1ST TO 5TH)
YOU CAN PURCHASE PLENTY OF GOOD POTTERY AT VERY LOW PRICES.
- AUTUMN POTTERY FAIR (NOVEMBER 1ST TO 5TH)
(SAME AS ABOVE)
- INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR CERAMIC CONTEST (APRIL 1ST TO 10TH)
- PORCELAIN WIND BELLS' FESTIVAL (JUNE-AUGUST)

CHINESE-STYLE HYDROPOWER CERAMIC CLAY MORTAR
A BIG MORTAR, WHICH WAS MADE TO CRUSH KAOLIN IN THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE, MAKES USE OF HYDRAULIC POWER. ACTUALLY IT MAKES A BIG SOUND.