



To commemorate the 35th anniversary of the city's establishment, Hirakata's Eight Best Views were designated with the aim of passing on to the future the scenery distinctive of our hometown Hirakata.
Designated on October 1, 1984, by Hirakata City

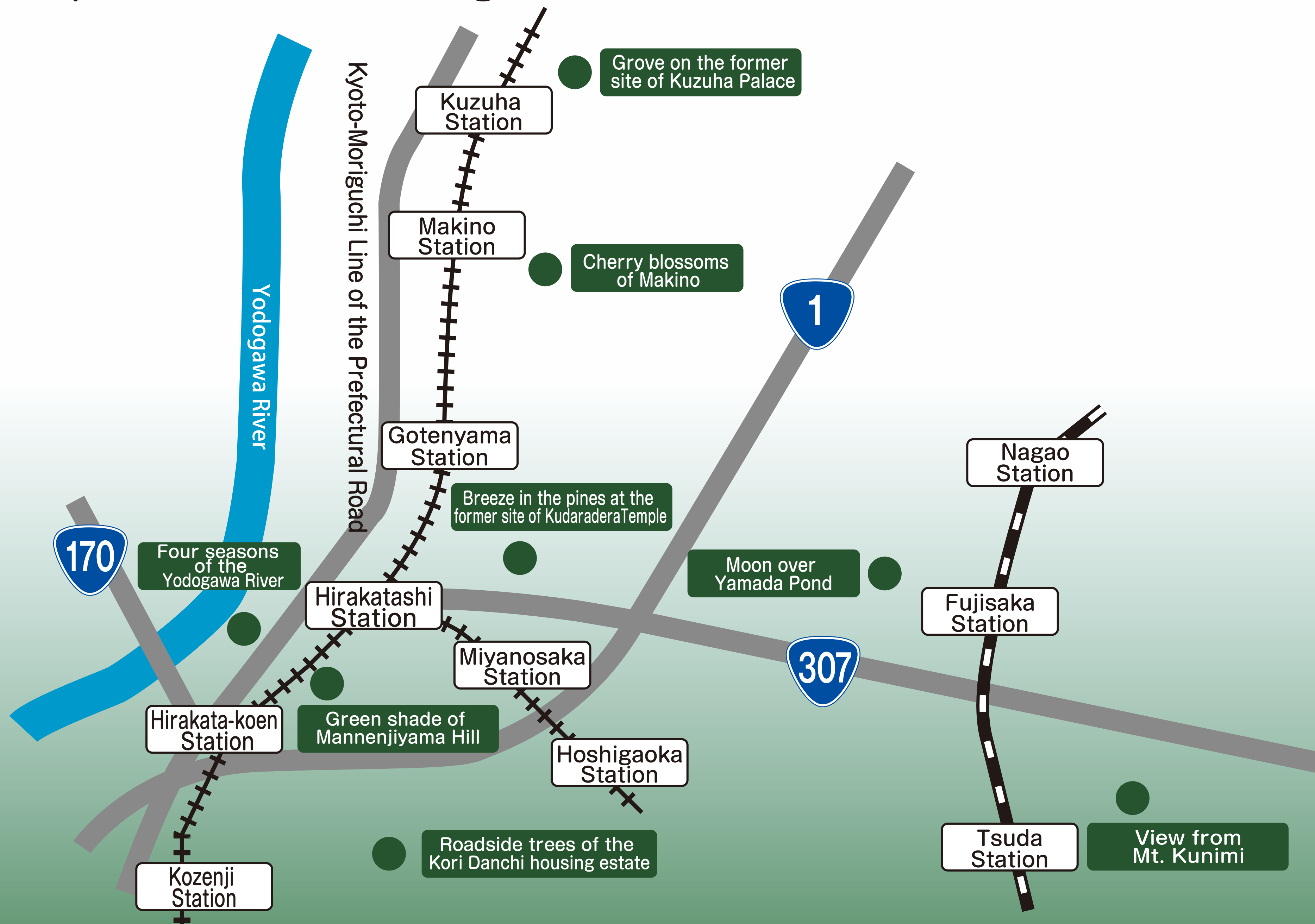


English guide

한국어 안내
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Map of the Hirakata's Eight Best Views



Green shade of Mannenjiyama Hill

Overlooking the long, narrow streetscape in the old Hirakata-shuku [post town] along the Yodogawa River, Mannenjiyama is a jutting hill surrounded by lush greenery. This scenic hill, which offers a panoramic view of the mountains in Settsu and Tamba, together with the rich flow of the Yodogawa River, is located exactly halfway between the two major cities of Kyoto and Osaka and has been the site of many historical events. In the precincts of Okami-jinja Shrine on top of this hill is the Mannenjiyama Kofun, a burial mound erected in the early Kofun period. From the mound, eight bronze mirrors have been excavated.

According to legend, the history of Mannenji Temple began when Keikan, a monk from Koryo (Koguryo), admired the beautiful scenery of the area, which he thought resembled the Lin'an River in the Tang Dynasty, and built a hermitage during the reign of Empress Suiko (592-628). The flame of Buddhism was passed down at the temple for over a thousand years, and its evening bell announcing the end of the day was loved by people. Following the Meiji era's separation of Shinto and Buddhism, however, Okami-jinja Shrine has been relocated to the area. Even today, the stone pillar engraved with the name of the temple in kanji characters and a thirteen-story stone pagoda, both covered in moss, are located next to the stone steps leading to the shrine, evoking memories of the past.

In recent years, many of the red and white plum trees planted in the precincts have grown large, making the shrine a popular spot for plum viewing.

If you head north through the plum grove, you will reach the Former Site of Ochaya-goten Palace, constructed under the order of Toyotomi Hideyoshi and now developed into a lookout that commands a wonderful view.

