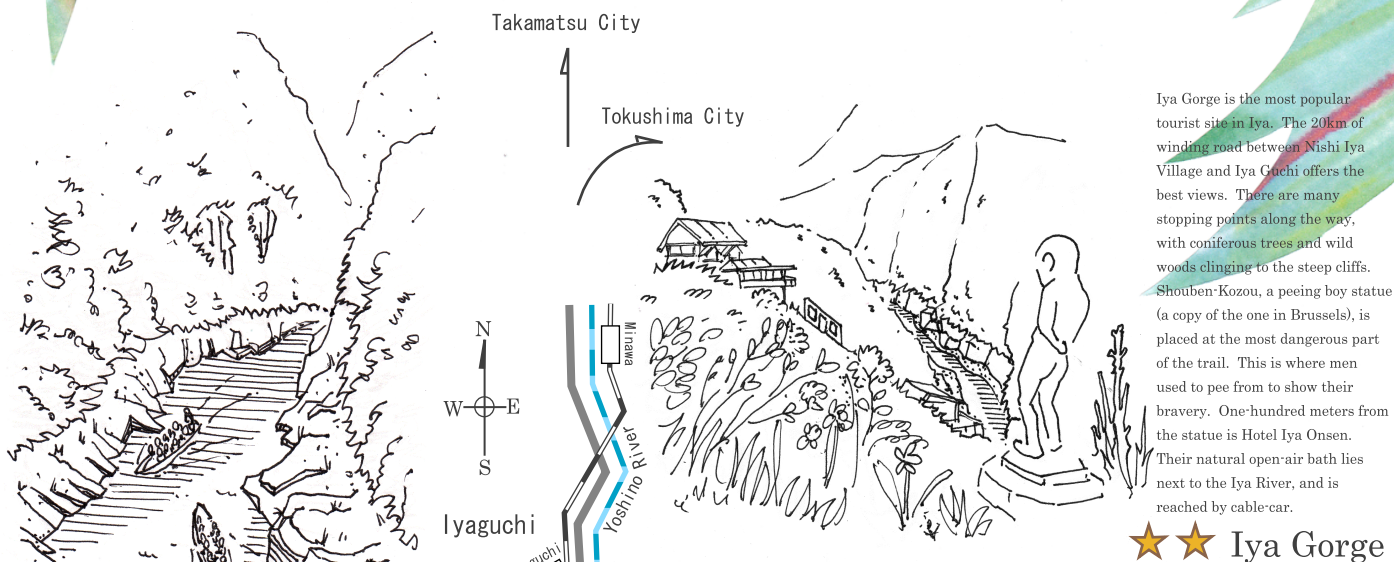


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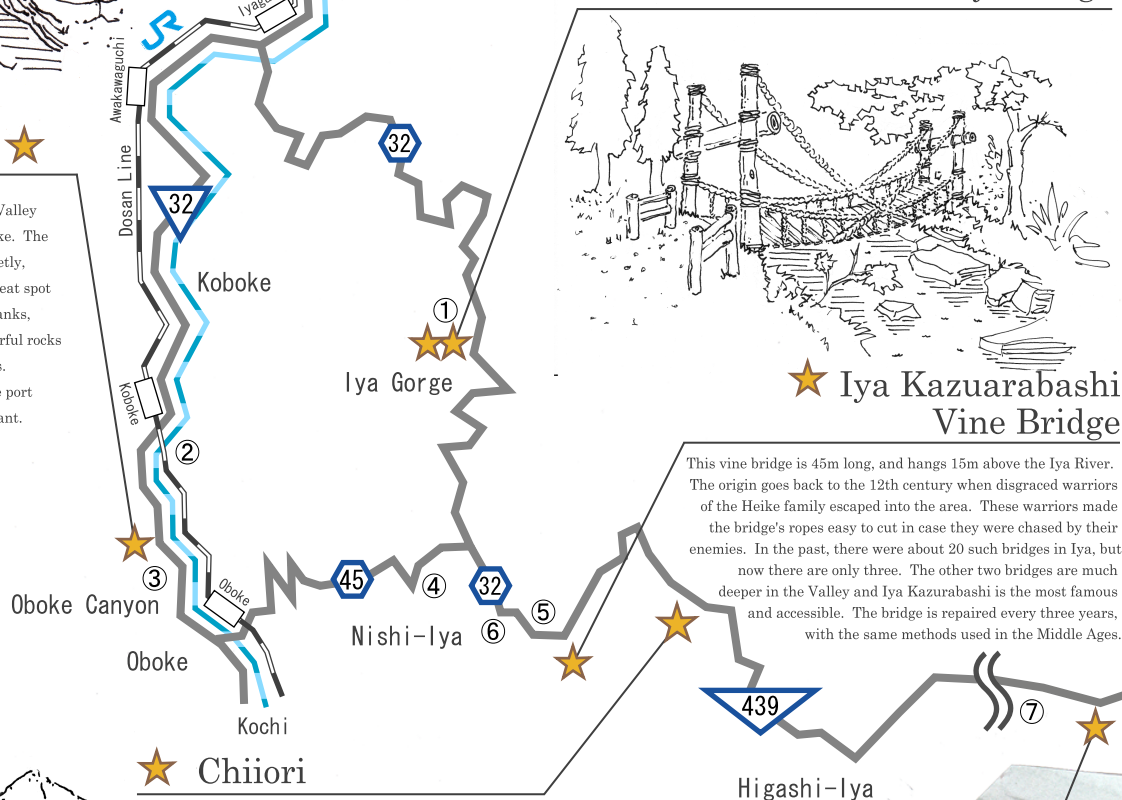
## MICHELIN GUIDE MAP IN OBOKE, IYA



Iya Gorge is the most popular tourist site in Iya. The 20km of winding road between Nishi Iya Village and Iya Guchi offers the best views. There are many stopping points along the way, with coniferous trees and wild woods clinging to the steep cliffs. Shouben-Kozou, a peeing boy statue (a copy of the one in Brussels), is placed at the most dangerous part of the trail. This is where men used to pee from to show their bravery. One hundred meters from the statue is Hotel Iya Onsen. Their natural open-air bath lies next to the Iya River, and is reached by cable-car.

### Oboke Canyon ★

Beautiful views on the Yoshino River Valley stretch 4km between Oboke and Koboke. The deep green water flows sometimes quietly, sometimes rapidly. This makes it a great spot for kayaking and rafting. Along the banks, among the dense foliage and huge colorful rocks you can find the tracks of wild animals. Sightseeing tour boats depart from the port beneath Oboke-kyo Mannaka Restaurant.



### ★ Iya Kazuarabashi Vine Bridge

This vine bridge is 45m long, and hangs 15m above the Iya River. The origin goes back to the 12th century when disgraced warriors of the Heike family escaped into the area. These warriors made the bridge's ropes easy to cut in case they were chased by their enemies. In the past, there were about 20 such bridges in Iya, but now there are only three. The other two bridges are much deeper in the Valley and Iya Kazuarabashi is the most famous and accessible. The bridge is repaired every three years, with the same methods used in the Middle Ages.



This thatched roof farmhouse was built around 1720 and purchased in 1972 by an American, Alex Kerr. It has been restored and acts as the headquarters of Chiiori Trust, a non-profit organization. Here you can see features of traditional Japanese architecture, such as open floor hearths, still in use today. The house is perched on a ledge and looks out on the undeveloped valley below.

### ★ Oku-Iya Vine Bridges

These twin bridges are located at the foot of the second-highest mountain in western Japan, Tsurugisan (1995m). Because these bridges are less popular and accessible than the bridge in Nishi Iya, we can still enjoy the surrounding nature uninterrupted. The bridges lie next to each other, with the larger one called "husband" and the smaller one called "wife".