

Visiting Places Associated with Mitsubishi



Birthplace of Yataro Iwasaki – The Place Where Mitsubishi Started

(Aki City, Kochi)

Yataro Iwasaki, the founder of Mitsubishi, was born in (now) Aki-city, Kochi, in 1835. The birthplace in which Yataro, his younger brother Yanosuke (second president of Mitsubishi), and eldest brother Hisaya (third president of Mitsubishi), son of Yataro, grew up remains in the same place, providing glimpses into those old days. The birthplace is open to the public.

The house, with a floor space of about 100 square meters, has the appearance of a standard house for middle-class farmers at that time. In the site surrounded by hedges, there is a house that Yataro's great-grandfather relocated around 1795 and a dozo (mud-wall storehouse). Those buildings make you imagine the life of Yataro at that time. In his birthplace, you can also see the Iwasaki family crest called

Yataro Iwasaki

Photo courtesy of Mitsubishi Archives



“Sangai-bishi” (three-tiered water chestnut), which is said to be the origin of the three-diamond Mitsubishi mark, and “Oyashima no Ishigumi” (the stones arranged in the inner garden), which represents the origin of Yataro’s ambitious dreams. In March 2015, the bronze statue of Yataro that stood in Enokawakami Park in the center of the city was relocated to the front side of his birthplace, always watching the house in which he grew up.

It is about a 10-minute drive from Aki Station to the birthplace of Yataro Iwasaki. In the downtown of Aki City, you can enjoy shopping local products such as eggplants, yuzu citrons, and chirimenjako (dried young sardines). Please visit the site where Mitsubishi started.

Viewing points of Yataro Iwasaki’s birthplace



Oyashima no Ishigumi

There are mysterious stones in the garden. It is said that Yataro in his youth arranged these stones to represent his ambitious global dreams by imitating Oyashima which stands for the Japanese archipelago. Yataro was called “Shipping Tycoon of the Orient.” This place was where his dream began to come true.



Location : 1696 Inokuchiko, Aki-city, Kochi

Access : 40-minute drive to Aki Station from Kochi Ryoma Airport. 50-minute train ride from Kochi Station to Aki Station on the Tosa Kuroshio Railway Gomen-Nahari Line. About a ten-minute drive from Aki Station (parking space available).

Open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (365 days)
Admission free

Bronze statue of Yataro Iwasaki

This bronze statue was built by volunteers marking the 150th anniversary of his birth. The 3.3-meter-tall statue stands on a 1.1-meter-tall base. You can see the grand figure of Yataro looking like he is receiving the wind of times.



Sangai-bishi

The “Sangai-bishi” seen on the onigawara (decorative ridge-end tile) represents the Iwasaki family crest. It is said that today’s three-diamond Mitsubishi mark is derived from this “Sangai-bishi” and “Mitsu-gashiwa” (three oak leaves), the crest of the Yamauchi family in the Tosa Domain. You will also find a three-diamond mark on the wall.



With the aim to contribute to the conservation of the regional environment, MC is maintaining 263ha expanse of mountain forests that MC owns in Aki City (including part of the forests the city possesses) under its forest conservation project named Mitsubishi Corporation Thousand Year Forest (commonly called Yataro's Forest). Through this project, MC will continue to maintain these forests into the future as a token of our appreciation and gratitude for the place associated with MC.