When coming to Kiryu, be sure to visit here:

Kiryu Tourism & Products Shop “Watarase”
Phone: 0277-40-1888
The shop sells goods made in Kiryu and distributes tourist information.

Kiryu Citizens’ Activities Center “YUI”
Phone: 0277-47-4066
Serves as a free bicycle loaning station.

* Both “Watarase” and “YUI” are location in JR Kiryu Station.

“Kinopi” is the Kiryu mascot, symbolizing the early modern heritage of the city's sawtooth-roof textile mills. This lively mascot, an emblem of the city, represents the plentiful water resources and verdant green environment with which the city is blessed. The 3 roof peaks on Kinopi's head symbolize the 3 harmoniously consolidated districts of the city: Kiryu, Niisato and Kurohime, while reflecting the future growth of the city.

“Kinopi Goods” are available at the Kiryu Tourism & Products Shop "Watarase", Citizen’s Activities Promotion Center “YUI”, Kiryu Textile Weavers Union Shop (1F) and Kiryu Local Industries Promotion Center Gift Shop (1F).

By Car
- about 1 hr. from the Sano-Fujikko Exit on the Tohoku Highway
- about 20 min. from Ota-Kiryu Exit on the Kita Kanto Highway

By Tobu Railways - to Shin Kiryu Station
- about 1 hr. 40 min. from Asakusa Sta. on the Ryomo-go

By JR Ryomo Line - to Kiryu Station
- about 45 min. from Takasaki Sta. on the Ryomo Line
- about 55 min. from Oyama Sta. on the Ryomo Line

Historical Cityscape
» A textile manufacturing center
» 1300-Year Tradition of Kiryu Textiles
» many sawtooth roof mills and earthen-walled warehouses for storing silks
» Kiryu Shinmachi Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings (selected by the National Government “Agency for Cultural Affairs”)

A Bountiful Forest and Pure, Limpid Stream
» Enjoy the Beautiful Ravine to Your Heart's Content
» The Watarase and Kiryu rivers flow through the city
About Kiryu City

Kiryu City was incorporated in March, 1921 as the 84th city in Japan. Through the Meiji, Taisho and early Showa eras (1868-1930), Kiryu developed as a center of the Japanese weaving industry. The city’s present population is approximately 120,000. While Kiryu brims with vigor as a vital center for fashion and high technology, it is also a place of scenic natural beauty, with 70% of its area covered by mountainous terrain. Blessed with both water and greenery, the Watarase and Kiryu Rivers flow gently through the city, while a span of mountains spreads before, like a work of art by a great landscape master. Kiryu City is a place of living, breathing history and tradition, well known throughout Japan as the “City of Textiles” and the “City of Baseball.”

City of Textiles

During Edo Era, it was written of famous textiles centers in Japan, “Nishijin in the West, Kiryu in the East.” Kiryu was well-known as a center of textile manufacturing from ancient days. The textile industry was responsible for the growth of Kiryu, not only as a city, but also as a center of a strong and unique culture. The textile industry generated a people rich in both enterprising spirit and creative nature. We trace the source of the development of Kiryu’s industry and culture, cultivated over many centuries to the rise of textiles manufacturing here.

In Touch with your senses

A rich artistic culture brings life and energy to a city. Kiryu citizens are justifiably proud of the Kiryu City Performing Arts Center and other cultural facilities, which provide a forum for Arts appreciation.

New Breezes Blow on Street Corners... The Sense of an Ancient City along the Back-Streets

The Textile industry, with its saw-tooth roofed factories and earthen-walled shops, has given Kiryu its own unique scenery. The wealth of early modern architecture reveals the passage of time, contrasting with the ultramodern conveniences of a city as it is today. Past and present blend together in charming harmony, creating an attractive and unique city - the pride of her citizens.

Protecting and Transmitting the Romance of Early Modern Era Culture

The textile industry flourished at the turn of the 20th century. Buildings raised to meet the needs of modern industry remain today in the 21st century, as witnesses to a modern heritage, and as a lesson about the rise of the textile industry.

A Traditional Atmosphere in a Modern City

A few steps off the main street into Kiryu’s alleys reveals a look at what Japanese life was like hundreds of years ago.

Greenery and Water, Superb and Everlasting

The mountains surrounding Kiryu are dazzlingly beautiful in every season. Streams run clear and sparkling through town. Kiryu has been blessed with an abundance of untarnished nature close at hand. A heart in tune with nature finds quiet moments in everyday life.

Kiryu River Headwaters

The wonderful in which is found the headwaters of the Kiryu River has been selected as one of the Best 100 Forest in Japan - another symbol of Kiryu’s rich natural heritage.

A Magnificent Sky, a Carefree Lifestyle

With an abundance of natural scenery and parks, people of all ages can enjoy the city’s charm and richness - a great source of community pride.

The Living Culture of Kiryu Reflects the Passage of Time

Various explanations have been offered for the origin of the name, “Kiryu (桐生).” Some says it comes from mists (“Kiryu (桐生)” in Japanese) that form in the morning and evening, while others claim it comes from the paulownia tree (“kiri (桐)” in Japanese). In historical documents, the name “Kiryu” was associated with the samurai, Kiryu Rokuro. The legend of Princess Shirataki is inextricably with the 1300-year history of textile weaving in and around Kiryu.

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