

# Tottori Prefecture, a land related to the Manyoshu

The Manyoshu is Japan's oldest existing collection of waka (poetry in Classical Japanese).

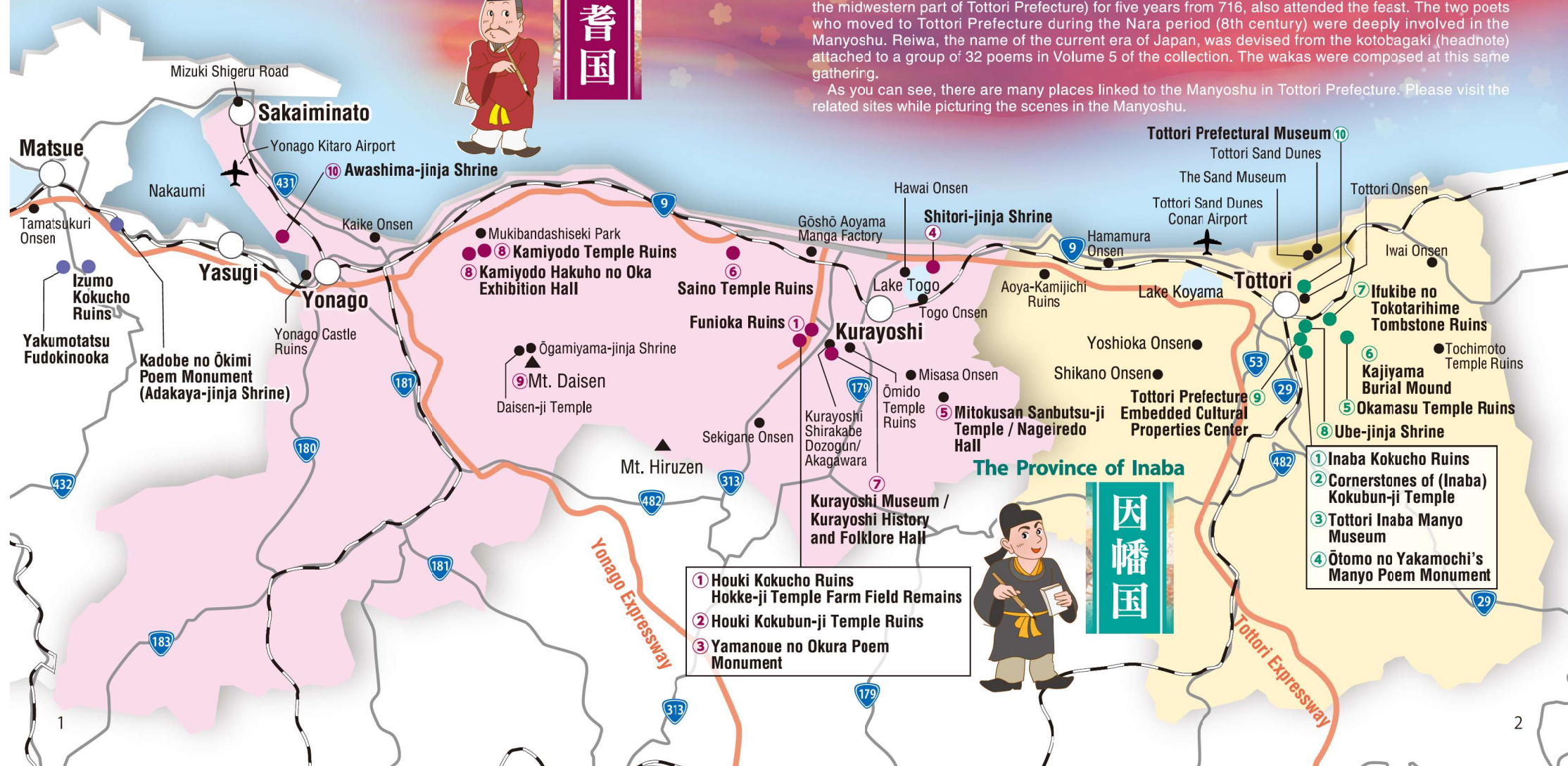
It contains more than 4,500 waka written by about 460 people (excluding unknown authors) mainly from the first half of the 7th century through the middle of the 8th century. The authors were in various positions, including emperors, aristocrats, soldiers garrisoned at strategic posts in Kyushu, and peasants. It is said that Ōtomo no Yakamochi was involved in the compilation of the Manyoshu. He was a Japanese political leader and waka poet who was assigned as Governor of Inaba Province (presently the eastern part of Tottori Prefecture) in 758. The Manyoshu ends with the poem he wrote at the Inaba Province Office on New Year's Day of 759.

About 30 years earlier, in January of 730, Yakamochi's father, Ōtomo no Tabito, held a poetic gathering around his garden's plum tree in Dazaifu (now Dazaifu City, Fukuoka Prefecture) where he had been assigned as a military leader. Yamanoue no Okura, who served as Governor of Houki Province (presently the midwestern part of Tottori Prefecture) for five years from 716, also attended the feast. The two poets who moved to Tottori Prefecture during the Nara period (8th century) were deeply involved in the Manyoshu. Reiwa, the name of the current era of Japan, was devised from the kotobagaki (headnote) attached to a group of 32 poems in Volume 5 of the collection. The wakas were composed at this same gathering.

As you can see, there are many places linked to the Manyoshu in Tottori Prefecture. Please visit the related sites while picturing the scenes in the Manyoshu.

## The Province of Houki

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- 1 Houki Kokucho Ruins  
Hokke-ji Temple Farm Field Remains
- 2 Houki Kokubun-ji Temple Ruins
- 3 Yamanoue no Okura Poem Monument

- 1 Inaba Kokucho Ruins
- 2 Cornerstones of (Inaba) Kokubun-ji Temple
- 3 Tottori Inaba Manyo Museum
- 4 Ōtomo no Yakamochi's Manyo Poem Monument

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