

Koman no Yu Footbath

A side street opposite Seki Jizoin Temple runs northward to the free parking lot for visitors. Immediately next door to this is a small public footbath, Koman no Yu. This is a good place for footsore walkers to rest their legs and possibly chat with local people. The hot spring water, which comes out of the ground about 50 meters north of the parking lot, is rich in iron and salt, with a yellowish tinge, a smooth, silky texture on the skin, and the reported effect of closing the pores to “lock” warmth inside the body. The water is calibrated to a comfortable temperature of 42°C.

Koman no Yu takes its name from Koman, a celebrated female swordfighter of the late eighteenth century who was brought up as an orphan in what is now the Aizuya restaurant just opposite Seki Jizoin Temple. Trained exclusively to thrust and not parry with her sword, she grew up to avenge her father, a retainer of the Kurume clan, by killing the man who murdered him.

Koman no Yu is roofed in, so it can be enjoyed in all kinds of weather. It is open year-round from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.