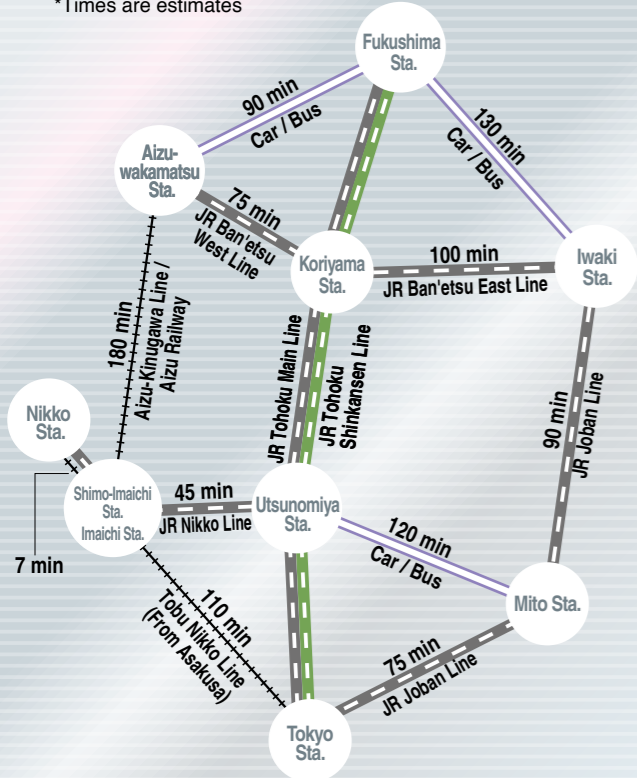


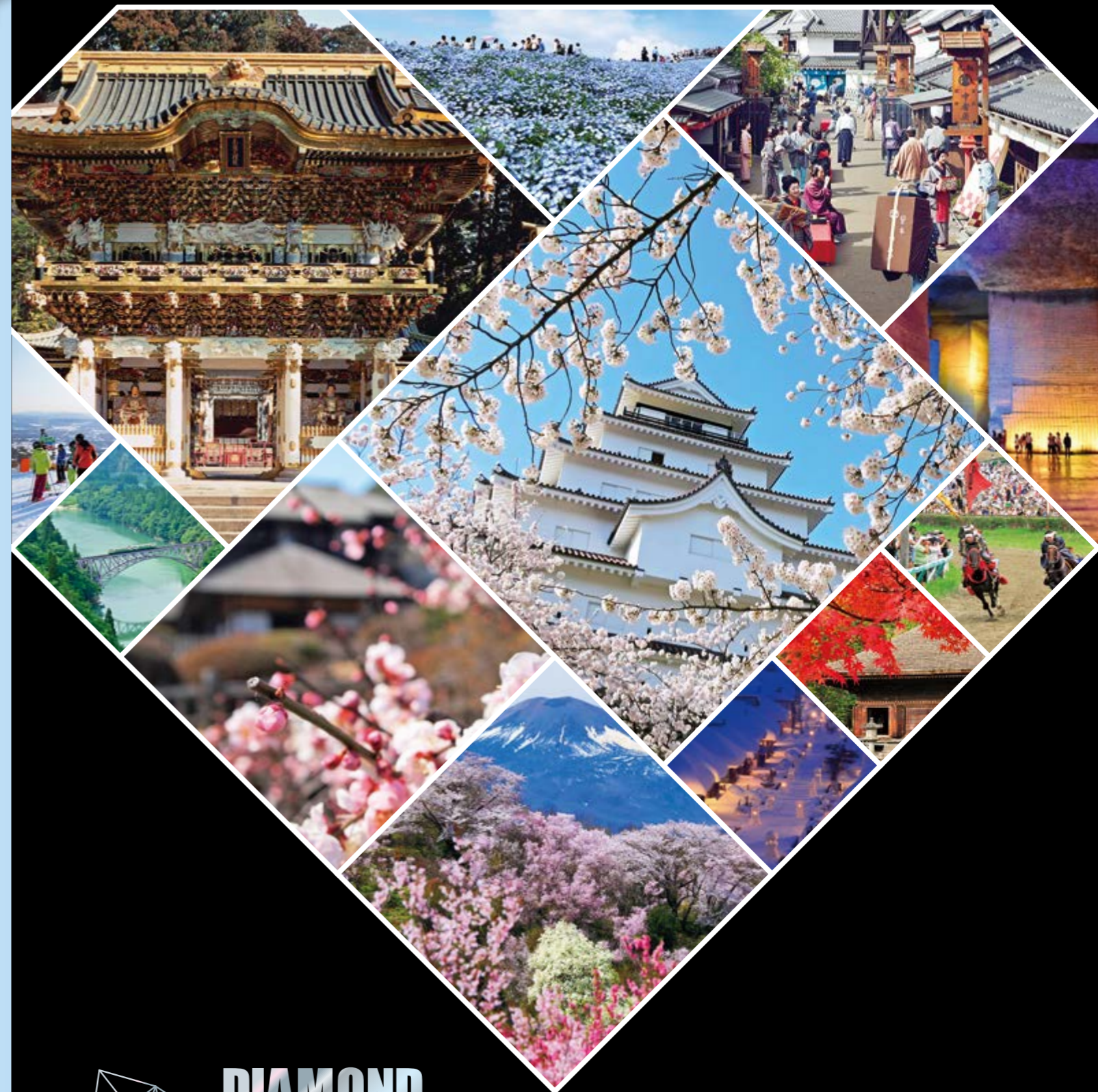
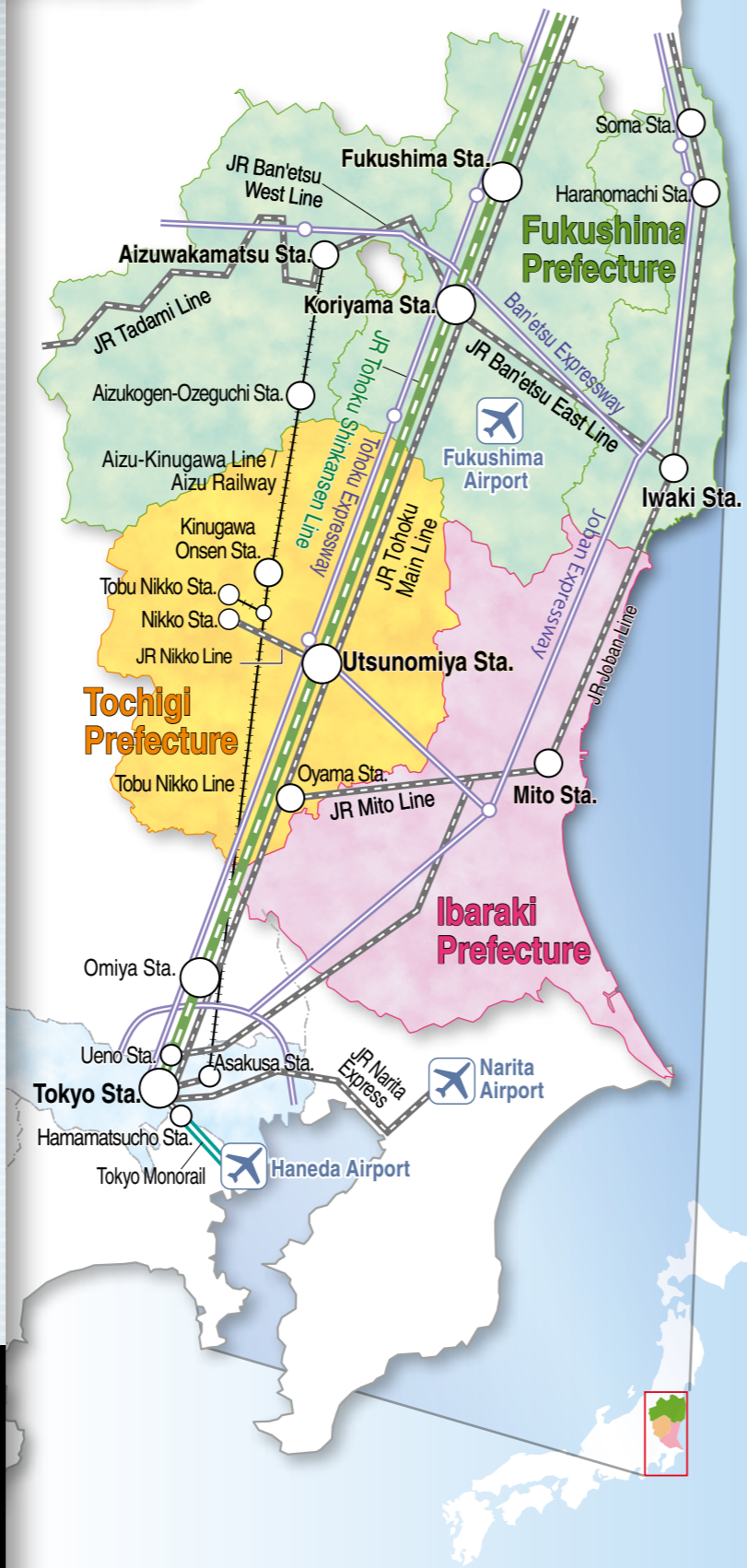
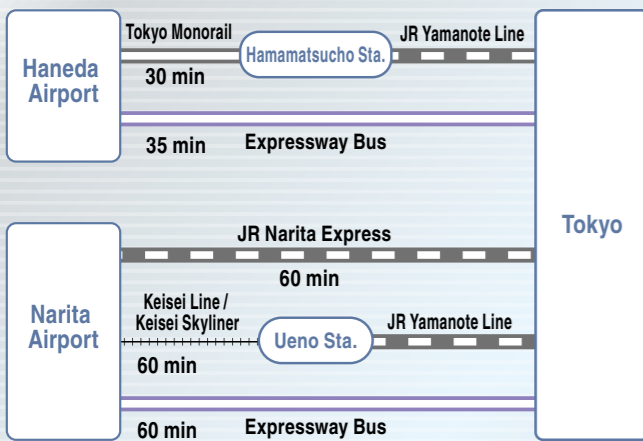
ACCESS

Traveling Between Different Areas

*Times are estimates



Reaching Tokyo from Nearby Airports



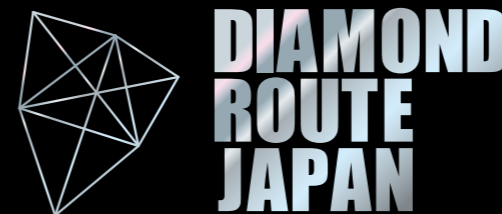
Departing and returning to Tokyo, this wide-reaching route travels through the three prefectures of Fukushima, Tochigi, and Ibaraki. Using our official travel guide app, you can check recommended itineraries which allow visitors to experience history, nature, and local delicacies.

Diamond Route Japan HP
<http://diamondroutejapan.com/>



Fukushima Prefecture Tourism & Local Products Association

Corasse Fukushima 7th Floor, 1-20 Mikawaminami-machi, Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture, 960-8053
TEL: (+81) 24-525-4024
URL: fukushima.travel



Sightseeing Guide

Fukushima | Tochigi | Ibaraki



DIAMOND ROUTE JAPAN

The Diamond Route connects the prefectures of Fukushima, Tochigi, and Ibaraki, which are overflowing with reasons to visit, such as history, culture, scenery, food, and outdoor leisure activities. Countless experiences allowing you to feel the inner depths of Japan await you across this huge and exciting area.



Fukushima Prefecture

Experience Samurai Culture

The Aizu area is dotted with tourist destinations that can be enjoyed throughout the year, such as a wealth of hot springs in terms of both volume and variety, local cuisine unique to each area, magnificent natural scenery creating expansive picturesque landscapes, and sake recognized as being the most delicious in Japan.

URL fukushima.travel



Hanamiyama (Fukushima City) ▶P19

Soma Nomaori Festival (Soma City/Minamisoma City) ▶P25

Tsurugajo Castle (Aizu-Wakamatsu City) ▶P5 · P13

Tochigi Prefecture

Numerous Cultural Assets Remain

There is much to see and do, including the historical sites of Nikko, areas full of beautiful flowers, interactive experiences at Royal Resort Nasu, and well-known sightseeing spots, including the registered World Heritage and UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritages sites.

URL <https://travel.tochigiji.or.jp/en/>



Oya History Museum (Utsunomiya City) ▶P27

Ashikaga Flower Park (Ashikaga City) ▶P29

Nikko Toshogu Shrine (Nikko City) ▶P3

Ibaraki Prefecture

Flowers Competing to Bloom

The area is packed with things to experience to make your visit memorable. These include the marine products of the waterfront area, sacred and peaceful temples and shrines, parks with magnificent blooming scenery, and various hands-on experience marking the coexistence of history and the future.

URL <https://english.ibarakiguide.jp/>



Oarai Isosaki Shrine (Oarai Town) ▶P33

Kairakuen (Mito City) ▶P33

Hitachi Seaside Park (Hitachinaka City) ▶P8 · P9 · P35



Popular Itinerary

7 days, 6 nights

Day 1 *Times are estimates

Tobu-Nikko Sta. / JR Nikko Sta.

1 World Heritage Shrines & Temples of Nikko

2 Kanaya Hotel History House (Samurai House)

3 Kinugawa Onsen (Accommodation)

Day 2

4 Kinugawa Onsen

4 Cruising on Lake Chuzenji

5 Ouchi-juku

6 Yunokami Onsen Sta.

Take a ride on the Aizu Railway Line

7 To-no-hetsuri Crags

8 Higashiyama Onsen (Accommodation)



2 Kanaya Hotel History House (Samurai House) Nikko City

Nikko has been popular among international visitors since the Meiji Period. Kanaya Hotel History House was originally a samurai residence, which was reopened as the Kanaya Cottage Inn. This inn was dedicated to accommodating foreign guests. It has been carefully preserved over time as the first Western-style resort hotel in Japan and is now open to the public as the Kanaya Hotel History House.

Access: 6 min by bus from Tobu Nikko Sta. on the Tobu Nikko Line or Nikko Sta. on the JR Nikko Line. By Car: 12 min from the Nikko I.C. on the Nikko Utsunomiya Toll Road
Business Hours: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm (Dec. - Mar. 10 am - 2:30 pm)
Mapcode: 367 311 137*51
<http://nikko-kanaya-history.jp/en/>



The famous spots of Nikko, where Tokugawa Ieyasu is enshrined

1 World Heritage Shrines & Temples of Nikko Nikko City

The 103 buildings of Nikko Toshogu Shrine, Nikkosan Rinnoji Temple, and Nikko Futarasan Shrine and the landscape that surrounds them are registered world heritage sites. Among them, Toshogu Shrine is particularly famous with many characteristic structures such as the Yomeimon Shrine and the sleeping cats.

Access: 10 min by bus from Tobu Nikko Sta. on the Tobu Line or Nikko Sta. on the JR Nikko Line. By Car: 15 min. from the Nikko I.C. on the Nikko Utsunomiya Toll Road
Opening Hours: 8 am - 5 pm (Nov. - Mar. 8 am - 4 pm)
Mapcode: 367 312 517*24
<http://www.nikko-travel.jp/english/>

10 min

1 hour

3 Kinugawa Onsen (Accommodation) Nikko City

One of the largest hot spring resort areas in the Kanto region where inns and hotels line the Kinugawa River. It is popular as a base for sightseeing around Nikko and Oku-Nikko.

Access: Alight at Kinugawa Onsen Sta. (Tobu Railway Line)
Mapcode: 367 566 787*47
<http://www.nikko-travel.jp/english/>



DAY 2

4 Cruising on Lake Chuzenji Nikko City

Make use of the convenient 1-day boat ticket that allows you to get on and off the boat wherever you like. There are many sites to be enjoyed, such as the Tachiki Kannon and Embassy Villa Memorial Parks.

Access: 45 min by bus from Tobu Nikko Sta. on the Tobu Line or Nikko Sta. on the JR Nikko Line. By Car: 30 min from the Kiyotaki I.C. on the Nikko Utsunomiya Toll Road
Mapcode: 947 269 316*68
<http://www.chuzenji-co-cruise.com>

1.5 hours
Kinugawa Onsen

3.5 hours

5 Ouchi-juku Shimogo Town

This post-town along the historical highway connecting Aizu and Nikko still contains many buildings with thatched roofs. The entire area is making efforts to protect and preserve the history of the town.

Access: 10 min by taxi from Yunokami Onsen Sta. (Aizu Railway Line).
By Car: 60 min from Shirakawa I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 433 583 590*36



Negisoba

The beauty of the gorge lined with uniquely-shaped rocks is amazing!

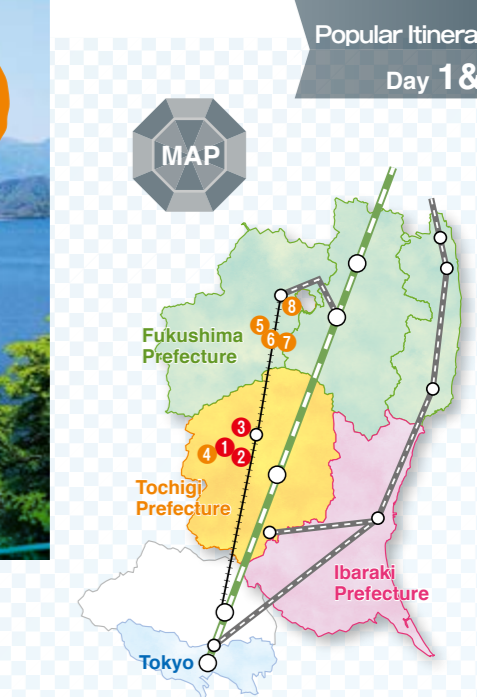
7 To-no-hetsuri Crags Shimogo Town

The beautiful valley formed over millions of years is the highlight of the Okawa Line. The autumnal leaves against the rock surface create a giant mural.

Access: 5 min on foot from Tonohetsuri Sta. on the Aizu Railway Line. By Car: 60 min from Shirakawa I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 433 379 426*48



1.5 hours



6 Yunokami Onsen Sta. Shimogo Town

The view of a station with a thatched-roof is rare sight throughout the whole of Japan, but something you can enjoy here. Warm up at the wood burning hearth inside the station, or soak your feet at the foot bath outside while waiting for your train.

Access: Alight at Yunokami Onsen Sta. on the Aizu Railway Line
Mapcode: 433 497 114*30

10 min

10 min



Take a ride on the Aizu Railway Line

This local railway connects the Aizu Region to Asakusa passing through the Kinugawa Onsen resort area. The pastoral landscapes which you can enjoy from the train window will give you a feel of life in Japan from a time gone by.



8 Higashiyama Onsen (Accommodation) Aizu-Wakamatsu City

Often called the "inner salon" of Aizu-Wakamatsu City, this onsen resort has about 1300 years of history since its founding and the geisha culture here is still alive today.

Access: 20 min by bus from Aizuwakamatsu Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 20 min from Aizuwakamatsu I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 97 205 897*36
<http://www.aizu-higashiyama.com/english/>



Popular Itinerary

7 days, 6 nights

Day 3 *Times are estimates

8 Higashiyama Onsen

9 Aizu Bukeyashiki (Samurai Residence)

10 Mt. Iimori

Lunch: Sauce Katsudon

11 Tsurugajo Castle

12 Nanukamachi-dori Street

13 Urabandai Area (Accommodation)

Day 4

14 Urabandai Area

15 Nakatsugawa Valley

Lunch: Aizu Yamajio Ramen

16 Lake Hibara

17 Goshikinuma Ponds Nature Trail

18 Tenkyokaku

19 Inawashiro Town (Accommodation)

12 Nanukamachi-dori Street

Aizu-Wakamatsu City

A variety of shops line this street, which is brimming with the romantic atmosphere of the Taisho Period. We highly recommend taking a stroll down this street.

Access: Alight at Nanukamachi Sta. on the JR Tadami Line. By Car: 10 min from Aizuwakamatsu I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 97 290 626*33 <http://nanuka-machi.jp/en/>



45 min

13 Urabandai Area (Accommodation)

Kitashiobara Village P18

DAY 3



Higashiyama Onsen
10 min

9 Aizu Bukeyashiki (Samurai Residence) Aizu-Wakamatsu City

The old Aizu Matsudaira clan samurai residence has been restored as the Aizu Bukeyashiki. In addition to the exhibitions displaying life during the Edo Period, you can also enjoy hands-on experiences such as painting an akabeko or dressing up in period costume.

Access: 15 min by bus from Aizuwakamatsu Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 15 min from Aizuwakamatsu I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Business Hours: 8:30 am - 5 pm (Subject to change during the winter months)
Mapcode: 97 234 804*43
<https://aizuwakamatsu.mylocal.jp/trip/en/>

Lunch: Sauce Katsudon

Aizu-Wakamatsu City

Juliened strips of cabbage are laid over a bowl of Aizu-grown rice and topped with pork cutlets dipped in brown sauce. This dish is the quintessential Aizu comfort food.



15 min



10 Mt. Iimori Aizu-Wakamatsu City

Known for its tragic history as the place where the 19 members of the Byakkotai (a squad of teenage samurai warriors) took their own lives upon gazing down at their castle in flames during the Boshin civil war. Their gravestones now stand here. Mt. Iimori is also home to Sazaedo, a designated Important Cultural Property, and other historic spots of Aizu-Wakamatsu.



Access: 5 min by bus from Aizuwakamatsu Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 15 min from Aizuwakamatsu I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 97 325 033*3
<https://aizuwakamatsu.mylocal.jp/trip/en/>

25 min

This famous red-roof tile castle must not be missed on a trip to the Aizu region.



11 Tsurugajo Castle Aizu-Wakamatsu City

This castle is known as the "impregnable castle" that withstood a month-long siege at the end of the Edo Period. It is famous for cherry blossoms in the spring and autumnal leaves in the fall. It is one of the most famous sightseeing destinations among visitors to Aizu-Wakamatsu City.

Access: 20 min by bus from Aizuwakamatsu Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 15 min from Aizuwakamatsu I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Business Hours: 8:30 am - 5 pm (Last entry at 4:30 pm)
Mapcode: 97 261 148*73
<http://www.tsurugajo.com/language/eng/>

10 min



Urabandai Area
15 min



Lunch: Aizu Yamajio Ramen

This ramen uses mountain salt produced by simmering down the hot spring water of Urabandai. The clear soup and mild salt flavor is very popular.

DAY 4

14 Nakatsugawa Valley

Inawashiro Town / Kitashiobara Village

One of the most famous spots on the Bandai Azuma Lake Line with waterfalls and rapids that stretch for approximately 10 km. There is a maintained path along the valley allowing you to enjoy the brilliant autumnal leaves up close.

Access: 30 min drive from Inawashiro Bandaikogen I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 937 003 453*85

15 min



15 Lake Hibara Kitashiobara Village

The largest lake in Urabandai, with a circumference of 30 km. Ride on a sightseeing boat, or enjoy smelt fishing on the front surface of the lake in winter.

Access: 35 min by bus from Inawashiro Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 25 min from Inawashiro Bandaikogen I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 413 562 235*16
<https://www.urabandai-inf.com/en/>

16 Goshikinuma Ponds Nature Trail

Kitashiobara Village

This is the most popular out of the 19 mountain climbing and hiking courses in Urabandai. With little variation in elevation, this hike can be enjoyed in 1.5 hours.

Access: 35 min by bus from Inawashiro Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 25 min from Inawashiro Bandaikogen I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 413 566 311*67
<https://www.urabandai-inf.com/en/>

10 min



17 Tenkyokaku Inawashiro Town

This Western-style building was built as an imperial villa in the Meiji Period. The Renaissance-style residence conveys the essence of the period. Visitors can experience dressing in a Meiji-style dress, or Aizu Cotton dress here.

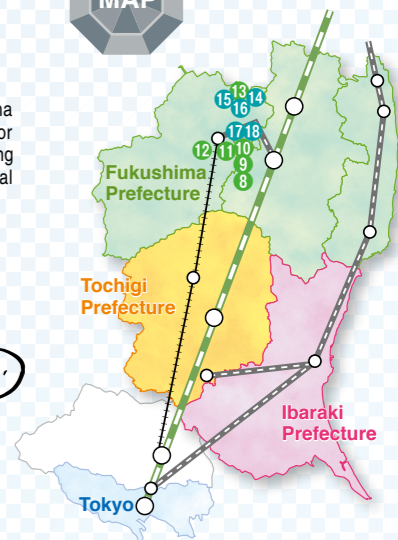
Access: 15 min by bus from Inawashiro Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 10 min from Inawashiro Bandaikogen I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Business Hours: 8:30 am - 5 pm (Subject to change during the winter months)
Mapcode: 413 080 169*25
<https://www.tif.ne.jp/tenkyokaku/en/>

20 min

1 hour

18 Inawashiro Town (Accommodation)

Inawashiro Town P18





Popular Itinerary

7 days, 6 nights

Day 5 *Times are estimates

18 Inawashiro Town

19 Aquamarine Fukushima (Fukushima Ocean Science Museum)

20 Lunch at Iwaki Lalamew

21 Shiramizu Amidado Temple

22 Iwaki Yumoto Onsen (Accommodation)

Day 6

22 Iwaki Yumoto Onsen

23 Fukuroda Falls

24 Nakaminato Fish Market

25 Hitachi Seaside Park

26 Oarai Onsen (Accommodation)

Day 7

Tokyo

Return Home

The Pure Land Jodo-style garden displays beautiful scenery throughout the four seasons.



DAY 5

Inawashiro Town 1 hour 40 min

19 Aquamarine Fukushima (Fukushima Ocean Science Museum) Iwaki City

This is one of the largest hands-on aquariums in the Tohoku region. In addition to a fishing experience and behind-the-scenes tour, there is a goldfish hall displaying rare varieties, and a corner replicating the natural environment of tropical Asian waters.

Access: 15 min by bus from Izumi Sta. on the JR Joban Line.
By Car: 20 min from Iwakiyumoto I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 5:30 pm (Dec. to mid-Mar.: 5 pm)
Mapcode: 82 078 707*66
<https://www.aquamarine.or.jp>

10 min



20 Lunch at Iwaki Lalamew Iwaki City

At Iwaki Lalamew, located near Aquamarine Fukushima, treat yourself to a delicious seafood lunch while enjoying scenic views of the Pacific Ocean.

Mapcode: 82 079 842*55

Treat yourself to fresh seafood

21 Shiramizu Amidado Temple Iwaki City

It is said to have been built at the end of the Heian period in the image of Konjikido in Hiraizumi. In the summer, ancient lotus bloom in the vast Jodo-style garden. Scenery that speaks of the garden's history is abundant here.

Access: 18 min by bus and 5 min on foot from Iwaki Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 15 min from the Iwaki-Yumoto I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours: 8:30 am - 4 pm (Nov. - Mar.: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm)
Mapcode: 82 430 026*62
<https://kankou-iwaki.com>

30 min

DAY 6

Iwaki Yumoto Onsen 1.5 hours

23 Fukuroda Falls Daigo Town

This dynamic waterfall is one of the three most famous in Japan with a height of 120 m and breadth of 73 m. Early to late November, when the brilliantly colored leaves adorn the valley, is the best time to see it.

Access: 10 min by bus from Fukuroda Sta. on the JR Suigun Line.
By Car: 50 min from the Naka I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Mapcode: 379 634 306*41

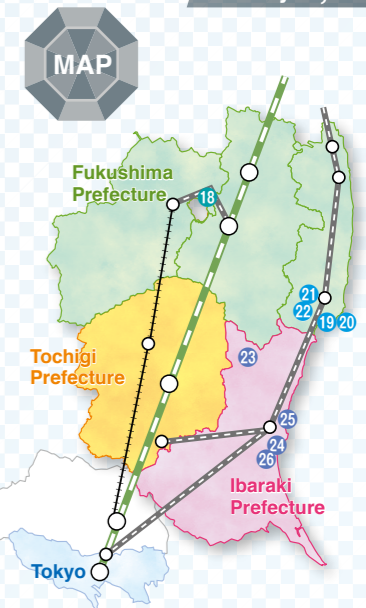
3 hours 15 min



24 Nakaminato Fish Market Hitachinaka City

The market faces the Pacific Ocean. The fish sold at the market are freshly caught. Treat yourself to a rice bowl topped with fresh seafood.

Mapcode: 47 026 351*12



Breathtaking scenery in gradient colors changing from green to bright red



25 Hitachi Seaside Park Hitachinaka City

From its amusement park and BBQ area, to its BMX course, there is enough in this large park to spend the entire day here. It is a popular spot for taking photos of nemophila in spring and colorful kochia in autumn.

Access: 15 min by bus from Katsuta Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: A few minutes from the Hitachi Seaside Park I.C. on the Hitachinaka Toll Road
Business Hours: 9:30 am - 5 pm (Subject to change depending on season)
Mapcode: 47 236 610*18
<https://hitachikaihin.jp/en.html>

15 min



26 Oarai Onsen Oarai Town (Accommodation)

There are number of popular accommodation facilities in Oarai Town which boast an ocean view and have onsen hot spring baths. In recent years the town has gained fame due to being used as the setting for an anime show.

Access: Alight at Oarai Sta. on the Oarai Kashima Line. By Car: Get off at Mito-Oarai I.C. on the Higashi-Mito Road
Mapcode: 239 596 283*01

Trip Itinerary No.1

3 Days, 2 Nights

*Times are estimates

Day 1

Tokyo Sta.

▼   1 hour 10 min by train (JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line) and bus

Strawberry Picking at Ichigo-no-Sato Farm


(Oyama City)

Reservation Required

Eat all the ripe, juicy strawberries you like for 30 minutes.

Mapcode: 64 539 740*60




▼  40 min via the JR Ryomo Line

Ashikaga Flower Park


(Ashikaga City)

▶ P29



▼  1 hour 45 min via the JR Ryomo Line and Tobu Nikko Line


Nikko Toshogu Shrine (Nikko City) ▶ P3

▼  1.5 hours via the Tobu Nikko Line and Tobu Kinugawa Line



Kinugawa Onsen (Accommodation) (Nikko City) ▶ P3

Day 2

Kinugawa Onsen

▼   3 hours by Tobu Nikko Line, Aizu Railway Line, and bus

Ouchi-juku (Shimogo Town) ▶ P4, P15

▼   1.5 hours via Aizu Railway Line and bus

Akabeko Painting Experience / Kimono Experience

(Aizu-Wakamatsu City)

▶ P13



Spring Cherry Blossom Adventure

Public Transportation

Tour Bus

Rental Car



 10 min on foot

Tsurugajo Castle


(Aizu-Wakamatsu City)

▶ P5, P13



▼  20 min by bus


Aizu Bukeyashiki (Samurai Residence) (Aizu-Wakamatsu City) ▶ P5

▼  1 hour 45 min via the JR Ban'etsu West Line

Bandai Atami Onsen (Accommodation) (Koriyama City)

Day 3

Bandai Atami Onsen

▼  3 hours 45 min via the JR Ban'etsu West Line, JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line, JR Joban Line, and bus

Hitachi Seaside Park (Nemophila)

(Hitachinaka City)

▶ P8, P35



▼  15 min by car

Nakaminato Fish Market (Seafood Lunch)

(Hitachinaka City) ▶ P8



▼  20 min by bus

Oarai Mentai Park (Souvenir Shopping) (Oarai Town)

Visitors can buy freshly-prepared local delicacy mentaiko (spicy salted cod roe) and tour the factory.

Mapcode: 239 504 892*37



▼   1 hour 40 min by train (Oarai Kashima Line and JR Joban Line) and on foot

Tokyo Sta.

Trip Itinerary No.2

3 Days, 2 Nights

*Times are estimates

Day 1

Tokyo Sta.

▼   1.5 hours by train (JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line) and bus

Oya History Museum (Utsunomiya City) ▶ P27

▼   1 hour 10 min by car

Nasu Animal Kingdom (Nasu Town)

More than 600 animals from around the world live here where you can enjoy seeing them close up.

Mapcode: 203 455 485*34
https://www.nasu-oukoku.com/contents/english2015.html



▼   20 min by car

Nasu Kogen (Accommodation)

Day 2

Nasu Kogen

▼   45 min by car

Komine Castle (Shirakawa City)

The beautiful stone wall and fine-looking sanju-yagura (three-story turret) have been restored to how it would have looked during the Edo Period.
Mapcode: 203 476 482*31



▼   5 min by car

Shirakawa Daruma Painting Experience

(Shirakawa City)

▶ P22



▼   10 min by car

Shirakawa Ramen (Shirakawa City) ▶ P22

Summertime Road Trip

Public Transportation

Tour Bus

Rental Car



Other Itineraries
No.1, No.2

 1 hour 45 min by car

Aquamarine Fukushima (Fukushima Ocean Science Museum)

(Iwaki City)

▶ P7, P23



▼   25 min by car

Iwaki Yumoto Onsen (Accommodation)

(Iwaki City) ▶ P7, P23

Day 3

Iwaki Yumoto Onsen

▼   15 min by car

Shiramizu Amidado Temple

(Iwaki City)

▶ P7, P24



▼   1 hour 35 min by car

Fukuroda Falls (Daigo Town) ▶ P8, P36



▼   30 min by car

Ryujin Big Suspension Bridge

(Hitachiota City)

▶ P35



▼   3 hours by train (JR Suigin Line and JR Joban Line) and bus

Tokyo Sta.

Trip Itinerary No.3

4 days, 3 nights

Autumnal Trip Through History

Public Transportation Tour Bus Rental Car



*Times are estimates

Day 1

Tokyo Sta.

2.5 hours by train (JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line and JR Nikko Line / Tobu Nikko Line)

Nikko Toshogu Shrine
(Nikko City)

▶P3



30 min by car

Kegon Falls (Nikko City) ▶P30

15 min by car

Senjogahara (Nikko City) ▶P30

1 hour by car

Kinugawa Onsen (Accommodation) (Nikko City) ▶P3

Day 2

Kinugawa Onsen

1 hour 40 min by car

Ouchi-juku (Shimogo Town) ▶P4, P15

1 hour 10 min by car

Lake Inawashiro (Inawashiro Town) ▶P18

15 min by car

Enichiji Temple Remains (Bandai Town)

This temple is known as being the first place in the Aizu region where Buddhist culture was adopted more than 1200 years ago.

Mapcode: 97 538 620*55



10 min by car

Bandaisan Goldline

(Bandai Town / Kitashiobara Village)

▶P18



25 min by car

Goshikinuma Ponds Nature Trail
(Kitashiobara Village)

▶P18



10 min by car

Urabandai (Accommodation) (Kitashiobara Village)

Day 3

Urabandai

10 min by car

Morohashi Museum of Modern Art
(Kitashiobara Village) ▶P18

20 min by car

Aizu Yamajio Ramen (Kitashiobara Village) ▶P6

1 hour by car

Bandai-Azuma Skyline
(Fukushima City)

▶P19



30 min by car

Tschiyu Onsen (Accommodation) (Fukushima City) ▶P20

Day 4

Tschiyu Onsen

Short walk

Tschiyu Kokeshi Doll Painting Experience
(Fukushima City) ▶P20

2 hours 45 min by car

Kairakuen (Mito City) ▶P33

1 hour by car

Ushiku Buddha (Ushiku City) ▶P36

2 hours by train (JR Joban Line) and bus

Tokyo Sta.

Trip Itinerary No.4

3 Days, 2 Nights

Experience the Samurai Spirit

Public Transportation Tour Bus Rental Car



*Times are estimates

Day 1

Tokyo Sta.

1 hour 45 min via the JR Utsunomiya Line and Tobu Iseaki Line

Bannaji Temple (Ashikaga Former Residence)
(Ashikaga City)

This designated National Treasure was the family temple of the Ashikaga Clan who ruled Japan under the shogunate established approximately 700 years ago. The temple ground brings to mind samurai residences of the Kamakura Period.

Mapcode: 34 624 109*46



1 hour 15 min by car

Nikko Toshogu Shrine (Nikko City) ▶P3

30 min by car

Kinugawa Onsen (Accommodation) (Nikko City) ▶P3

Day 2

Kinugawa Onsen

1 hour 40 min by car

Ouchi-juku
(Shimogo Town)

▶P4, P15



50 min by car

Tsurugajo Castle (Aizu-Wakamatsu City) ▶P5, P13

20 min by car

Nisshinkan (Archery and Zen Meditation Experience)
(Aizu-Wakamatsu City) ▶P14

20 min by car

Mt. Iimori
(Aizu-Wakamatsu City)

▶P5



10 min by car

Higashiyama Onsen (Accommodation)
(Aizu-Wakamatsu City) ▶P4

Day 3

Higashiyama Onsen

1.5 hours by car

Komine Castle (Shirakawa City) ▶P10

2.5 hours by car

Kodokan (Mito City)

One of the largest Hanko (clan schools) in Japan. In addition to martial arts, a broad range of subjects were taught here, much like at modern day universities.

Mapcode: 47 132 620*68



1 hour 20 min by car

Kashima Jingu Shrine
(Kashima City)

The head shrine of the approximately 600 Kashima Shrines throughout the country, it is said to have been established in the B.C. era.

Mapcode: 340 151 813*7



2.5 hours by bus

Tokyo Sta.

The historical spots such as Tsurugajo Castle give the former castle town of Aizu-Wakamatsu an olde-worlde feel. Take part in a sake brewery tour or try your hand at making your traditional crafts during your time here.



Tsurugajo Castle Aizu-Wakamatsu City

The remains of one of the most famous castles in Tohoku are now preserved as Tsurugajo Castle Park. The interior of the castle is now a local history museum where you can take your time to learn about Aizu's past.

Access: 20 min by bus from Aizuwakamatsu Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 15 min from Aizuwakamatsu I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Business Hours: 8:30 am - 5 pm (Last entry at 4:30pm)
Mapcode: 97 262 129*12
<http://www.tsurugajo.com/language/eng/>



Tsurugajo Kaikan Akabeko Painting Experience Aizu-Wakamatsu City

Akabeko is a symbol of Aizu that brings good fortune. They have long been celebrated as traditional Aizu crafts. The Akabeko painting experience at Tsurugajo Kaikan is particularly popular.

Access: 15 min by bus from Aizuwakamatsu Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 15 min from the Aizuwakamatsu I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Rental Desk Hours: 9:30 am - 2 pm
Mapcode: 97 262 336*34
<https://aizu-kimono-rental-tsuruga.com/english/>



Rinkaku Tea Room - Japanese Matcha Experience Aizu-Wakamatsu City

At the Rinkaku Tea Room, located in Tsurugajo Castle Park, enjoy drinking matcha green tea while taking in the scenery offered by the gardens.

Business Hours: 8:30 am - 5 pm
<http://www.tsurugajo.com/language/eng/>



Tsurugajo Kaikan Kimono Experience Aizu-Wakamatsu City

Why not take a stroll around the castle town in a kimono and enjoy a meal? There is a wealth of variety available including yukatas and kimonos made of Aizu cotton, and you can enjoy a fulfilling tourist plan in every season.

Access: 15 min by bus from Aizuwakamatsu Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 15 min from the Aizuwakamatsu I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Rental Desk Hours: 9:30 am - 2 pm
Mapcode: 97 262 336*34
<https://aizu-kimono-rental-tsuruga.com/english/>



Nanukamachi-dori Street Aizu-Wakamatsu City

Hundreds of years ago, a main highway ran through this street, which bustled with inns and restaurants. Now, the street is popular for its olde-worlde atmosphere that remains from the romanticism of the Taisho period.

Access: Short walk from Nanukamachi Sta. on the JR Tadami Line. By Car: 10 min drive from the Aizuwakamatsu I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 97 290 626*33 <http://nanuka-machi.jp/en/>



Suehiro Sake Brewery Kaeigura

Aizu-Wakamatsu City

At this brewery with ties to renowned scientist Hideyo Noguchi, you can learn the process by which sake is brewed. There is also a café that serves sweets made using Japanese sake.

Access: 10 min by bus from Aizuwakamatsu Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 15 min from the Aizuwakamatsu I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 5 pm Mapcode: 97 291 334*40
<https://aizuwakamatsu.mylocal.jp/trip/en/>

Aizu Cuisine

From the best known local dishes of the region, such as Kozuyu soup and herring pickled in sansho pepper, to Dengaku (skewers of vegetables and tofu which have been dipped in miso and baked) and Sauce Katsudon (rice bowls topped with cabbage and cutlets glazed with brown sauce), there is a huge variety of local Aizu foods to enjoy.



Sauce Katsudon



Dengaku



Wappa Meshi: Traditional delicacy from the Aizu Region, featuring rice with various toppings steamed and served in round bamboo boxes.

Experience the culture of a genuine samurai school!

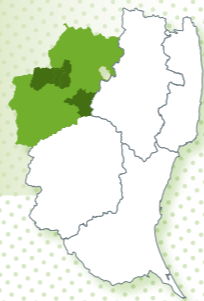
Aizu Clan School Nisshinkan Aizu-Wakamatsu City

Try out Zen meditation, tea ceremony, and Japanese archery at this school that was attended by the disciples of the Aizu clan's samurai during the Edo Period. The school allows you an up-close look at samurai culture.

Access: 30 min by bus from Aizuwakamatsu Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 5 min from the Bandai Kawahigashi I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 5 pm (Last Entrance: 4 pm)
Mapcode: 97 503 561*4
<https://aizuwakamatsu.mylocal.jp/trip/en/>



The area is dotted with photogenic spots admired by both local and overseas visitors, including a post town with streets lined with thatched-roof houses, local trains whose passing reflection in the surface of the water changes with the seasons, and atmospheric hand-rowed boats.



Ouchi-juku Shimogo Town

The thatched-roof houses still line the streets of this post-town, which is located along an old highway that has connected Nikko and Aizu since the Edo Period. The atmosphere here will make you feel as if you have slipped back in time.

Access: 10 min by taxi from Yunokami Onsen Sta. on the Aizu Railway Line.
By Car: 60 min from Shirakawa I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 433 583 590*36

Ouchi-juku Snow Festival

Date Held 2nd weekend of February

Many events are held during the Snow Festival, which is held annually in February. The snow lanterns gently illuminate the streets and fireworks brilliantly adorn the winter night sky.



Ouchi-juku Cuisine

Try Negisoba (soba eaten with one long leek instead of chopsticks) and Shingoro Mochi (rice that has been mashed, put on a skewer, and grilled with junen-miso paste).



Negisoba



Shingoro Mochi

Popular View Point



Tadami River Bridge No.1 Viewpoint Mishima Town

The scenery that changes with the seasons, and the Tadami Line reflected on the surface of the river are whimsical sites and known as popular viewing spots among the large numbers of both Japanese and overseas visitors.

Access: 5 min by bus from Aizumiyashita Sta. on the JR Tadami Line (one bus per day). By Car: 20 min from Aizubange I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 397 230 028*62 <http://www.mishima-kankou.net/20160129-2/>



Mugenkyo no Watashi River Crossing

Kaneyama Town / Mishima Town **Reservation Required**

Days of Operation Late April to Mid-November

The journey in this hand-rowed boat through the mist-enveloped river is like a dream. Travel beyond space and time to visit Japan's ancient landscapes.

Access: 15 min on foot from Hayato Sta. on the JR Tadami Line. By Car: 25 min from Aizubange I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 397 161 372*28
<http://www.kaneyama-kankou.ne.jp/en/>

Yanaizu's Sauce Katsudon



Hotto in Yanaizu Yanaizu Town **Reservation Required**

Hotto in Yanaizu stands adjacent to the Michi-no-Eki Roadside Station. Visitors can try making their own Awamanju sweet buns, or painting an Akabeko. Make sure to try Yanaizu's original Sauce Katsudon during your visit. Groups welcome.

Access: 20 min on foot from Aizuyanaizu Sta. on the JR Tadami Line. By Car: 10 min from the Aizubange I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 6 pm
Mapcode: 397 417 095*77



Enzoji Temple Yanaizu Town

One of three great Japanese Kokuzo Bodhisattvas temples, it boasts 1200 years of history. This temple, which is the birthplace of the legendary Akabeko red cow, is famous for its autumnal leaves.

Access: 10 min on foot from Aizuyanaizu Sta. on the JR Tadami Line. By Car: 10 min from the Aizubange I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 397 417 550*71

Ouchi-juku MAP

Business Hours: 8 am - 5 pm
(From Nov. to Mar.: 8 am - 4 pm)
Please note some shops close during the winter

- 1 Asanuma (Ogiya-bunke)
- 2 Nakaya
- 3 Katoya
- 4 Masuya
- 5 Kanoya
- 6 Yoshidaya
- 7 Yamadaya
- 8 Minoya (Bunke)
- 9 Tamakiya
- 10 Yamagataya
- 11 Minatokawaya
- 12 Daikokuya
- 13 Ebisuya (Bunke)
- 14 Matsukawaya
- 15 Matsumotoya
- 16 Honke Ogiya
- 17 Minatoya
- 18 Iseya
- 19 Yorozuya
- 20 Nansenin-honke
- 21 Ogiya (Bunke)
- 22 Matsumiya
- 23 Misawaya
- 24 Misawaya Tea Rooms
- 25 Tamaya (Bunke)
- 26 Nansenin (Bunke)
- 27 Nansenin (Bunke)
- 28 Ouchi-juku Tourist Information Center
- 29 Komeya
- 30 Shinkomeya
- 31 Yoshimiya
- 32 Wakamatsuya
- 33 Ogiya (Bunke)
- 34 Ogiya (Bunke)
- 35 Shin-Fujiya
- 36 Izumiya
- 37 Itoya
- 38 Komeya
- 39 Yamamotoya
- 40 Ogiya (Bunke)
- 41 Tomiya (Waki-honjin)
- 42 Fujiya
- 43 Komeya (Bunke)
- 44 Ebisuya
- 45 Tamakawaya
- 46 Ouchi-juku Town Museum
- 47 Matsubaya
- 48 Yamatoya
- 49 Ishiharaya (Waki-honjin)
- 50 Honke Tamaya
- 51 Minoya
- 52 Kanoya (Bunke)

Kitakata City is known for its storehouses and ramen, while Kitashiobara area boasts a varied selection of beautiful ponds and lakes against picturesque scenery. There is plenty to do in both areas, including a variety of outdoor activities to help you unwind in nature.



Kitakata Storehouse MAP



Kitakata - Japanese Storehouses Galore Kitakata City

More than 4,000 storehouses, including sake breweries and miso paste storehouses, still stand in Kitakata City, and are still used in the daily lives of its people. Taking a stroll through the city, you will find storehouses with a retro atmosphere dotted throughout. You can even take a tour at some of them.

Access: Alight from the JR Ban'etsu West Line at Kitakata Sta.

There is so much to see in this city with its retro cityscape.



Sannokura Highlands Sunflower Fields Kitakata City

From early August until early September, roughly 2 million sunflowers bloom on the slopes of Sannokura Ski Resort. The yellow canola flowers that bloom in spring are also a sight to behold.

Access: 30 min by car or taxi from Kitakata Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 50 min from the Aizuwakamatsu I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 674 299 492*61

Best Season

- (Sunflowers) Early August - Early September
- (Canola Flowers) Mid-May - Early June

Kitakata Cuisine



Kitakata Ramen

Kitakata Ramen is one of Japan's three famous ramen. It is characterized by its curly noodles and soy sauce-base soup. You can even have it for breakfast at some shops. Burgers and pizza inspired by this ramen are also popular.

Try soft-serve ice cream made using Aizu-grown peanuts!



Peanut soft-serve ice cream

Access: 5 min on foot from Kitakata Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 25 min from the Aizuwakamatsu I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 97 824 160*15

Bandai-Azuma Lakeline

Inawashiro Town / Kitashiobara Village



This sightseeing road has a viewpoint that gives you a view of Lake Akimoto, Lake Onogawa, and Lake Hibara from one spot. The Nakatsugawa Valley is a particular highlight for enjoying autumn leaves and the beauty of the valley.

Access: 30 min by car from the Inawashiro Bandaikogen I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 413 596 568*37



Bandaisan Goldline

Bandai Town / Kitashiobara Village



A number of small and large ponds and lakes are scattered along the sightseeing road that connects Aizu and Urabandai. Enjoy the great outdoors along its trekking routes and sightseeing paths.

Access: 20 min by car from the Bandai Kawahigashi I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 413 288 257*12

Morohashi Museum of Modern Art Kitashiobara Village

This art museum displays the works of Impressionist and Surrealist artists, with a special focus on those of Salvador Dali. It is known for being the only art museum in Asia with a permanent Dali exhibition.

Access: 25 min by bus from Inawashiro Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 20 min from the Inawashiro Bandaikogen I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Business Hours (Late Apr. - Late Nov.): 9:30 am - 5:30 pm*
*Open until 5 pm in November. (Entrance is permitted until 30 min prior to closing)
Mapcode: 413 566 141*17
<https://dali.jp/en/>



Goshikinuma Ponds Nature Trail Kitashiobara Village



8 ponds are scattered along this trail - the most popular hiking course in Urabandai. Take in the mystical scenery and the different colors of the ponds that change depending on season and weather.

Access: 35 min by bus from Inawashiro Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 25 min from the Inawashiro Bandaikogen I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 413 566 311*67
<http://www.urabandai-inf.com/en/>

Plenty of activities for enjoying nature to the full!



Lake Inawashiro Water Sports

Inawashiro Town / Aizu-Wakamatsu City / Koriyama City

Japan's fourth largest lake, Lake Inawashiro is known as the "Heavenly Mirror Lake" for its transparent waters. A variety of leisure activities, such as swimming, marine sports, and pleasure cruising, can also be enjoyed here.

Mapcode: 377 272 622*13
<http://www.bandaisan.or.jp/lb/en/>



Cycling around Lake Hibara

Kitashiobara Village

Cycling around the circumference of Lake Hibara (around 31 km) while feeling the highland breeze is popular among visitors. Bicycles can be rented from hotels and other facilities.

Mapcode: 413 562 235*16
<https://www.urabandai-inf.com/en/>



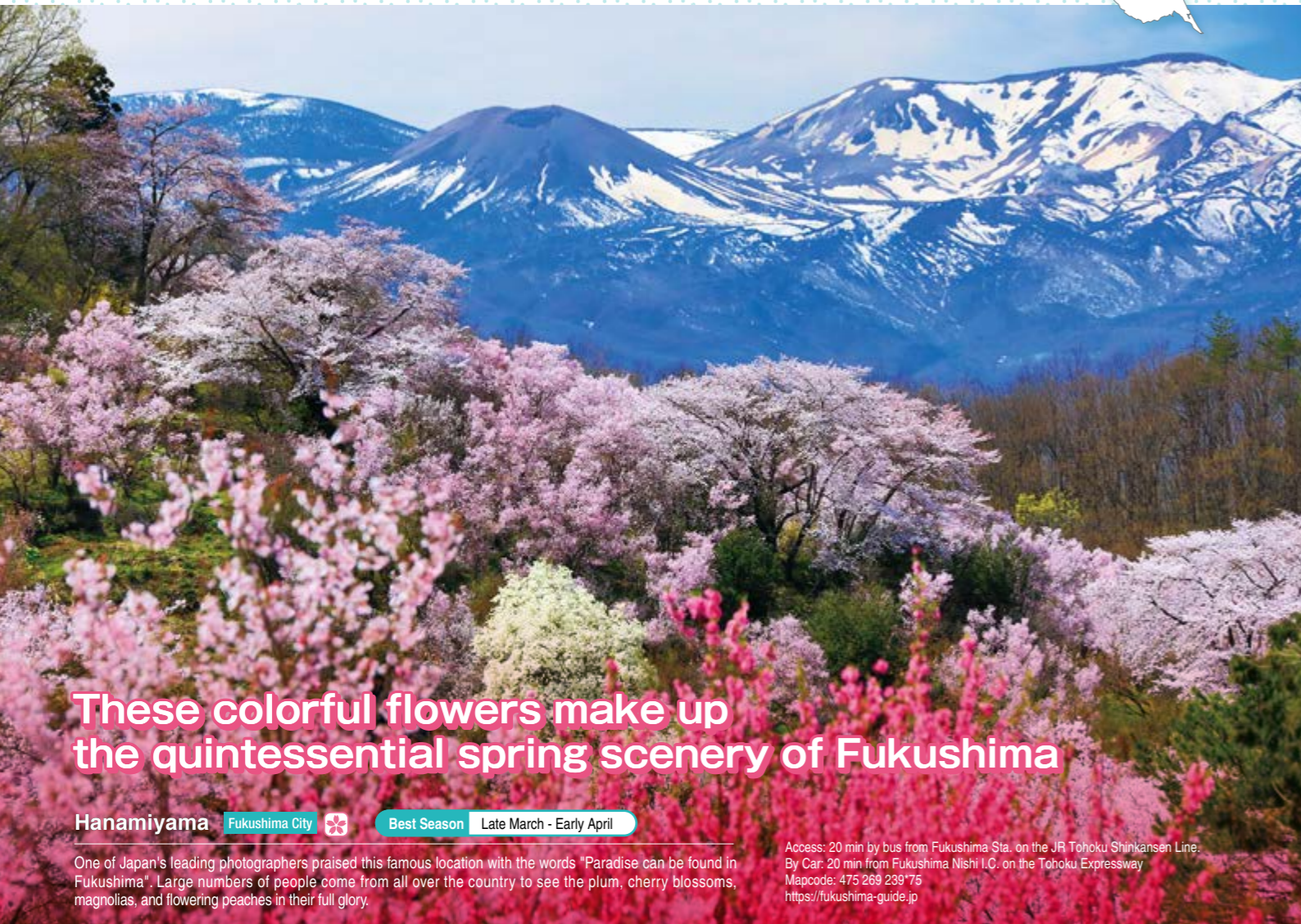
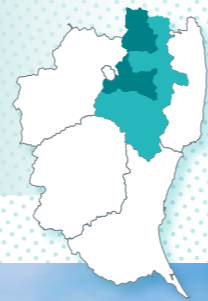
Winter Sports

Kitashiobara Village / Inawashiro Town / Bandai Town

Enjoy winter sports such as skiing and snowboarding in addition to nature skiing, backcountry skiing, and snowshoe trekking.

<https://www.aizuski.jp>

Hanamiyama is just one of the famous scenic spots of Nakadori Area. It is so picturesque that it has been referred to as a floral paradise. Other highlights include eating fresh fruit you pick straight from the tree, and other trips which introduce you to local history and tradition.



These colorful flowers make up the quintessential spring scenery of Fukushima

Hanamiyama Fukushima City **Best Season** Late March - Early April

One of Japan's leading photographers praised this famous location with the words "Paradise can be found in Fukushima". Large numbers of people come from all over the country to see the plum, cherry blossoms, magnolias, and flowering peaches in their full glory.

Access: 20 min by bus from Fukushima Sta. on the JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line. By Car: 20 min from Fukushima Nishi I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 475 269 239 75
<https://fukushima-guide.jp>

Fruit-Picking Fukushima City

Along the road running through the suburbs of Fukushima City known as "Fruit Line", visitors can pick cherries, peaches, pears, grapes, and apples. Don't miss out on the delicious taste of fresh-picked fruit!

Mapcode: 76 216 158*02
<https://fukushima-guide.jp>



Japanese Pear



Fruit Harvest Calendar

Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Cherries					
		Peaches			
			Grapes		
				Japanese Pears	
					Apples



Tsuchiyu Onsen Fukushima City

This onsen town has more than 10 types of hot springs and more than 1400 years of history. It is also known for being home to one of the three most famous types of kokeshi dolls.

Access: 40 min by bus from Fukushima Sta. on the JR Tohoku Shinkansen. By Car: 15 min from Fukushima Nishi I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 475 039 522*33 <http://www.tcy.jp/en/>



Kokeshi Painting Experience Fukushima City

Experience painting your own Tsuchiyu kokeshi doll at Yume Butai (Tsuchiyu Onsen Tourism Center) which opened in 2019.

Access: 40 min by bus from Fukushima Sta. on the JR Tohoku Shinkansen. By Car: 20 min from Fukushima Nishi I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 6 pm
Mapcode: 475 039 537*60



Bandai-Azuma Skyline Fukushima City

This mountain road stretches for 29 km connecting Takayu Onsen and Tsuchiyu Toge Pass. The road that is said to "run through the sky" seems to weave through the mountain, and it is known as a scenic spot for viewing autumnal leaves.

Access to Jododaira: 60 min by car from Fukushima Nishi I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 475 181 457*55 <https://fukushima-guide.jp>

Hanamomo no Sato Fukushima City

Best Season Early April - Early May

Approximately 300 flowering peach stems have been gathered from around the world and planted here where they bloom in a variety of colors from early April to early May.

Access: 15 min by taxi from Iizaka Onsen Sta. on the Fukushima Kotsu Iizaka Line. By Car: 15 min from Fukushima Iizaka I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 76 278 549*63
<http://iizaka.info/sightseeing-spots/>



Nakano Fudosen Temple Fukushima City

This sacred place, where many people have come to worship since ancient times, is said to ward off evil and help in avoiding hardships.

Access: 25 min by bus from Fukushima Sta. on the JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line. By Car: 10 min from Fukushima Iizaka I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Business Hours: 8:30 am - 5 pm (Mid-Oct. - Dec.: 8:30 am - 4 pm)
Mapcode: 76 245 576*60
<http://iizaka.info/sightseeing-spots/>



Takashiba Dekoyashiki Koriyama City

4 residences-turned-craft-workshops, known for being the first place to create the Miharu-goma decorative items and other papier-mâché crafts from Miharu Town. These residences continue to preserve tradition and create a variety of new products. Try painting your own traditional crafts here.

Access: 5 min by car from Miharu Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu East Line. By Car: 10 min from Koriyama Higashi I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Mapcode: 129 130 785*53

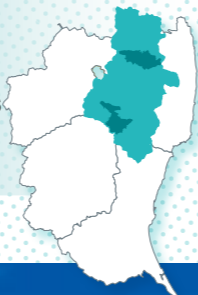
Commutan Fukushima Miharu Town

Learn all about the current situation of Fukushima's environment, and how it has changed. Displays on nuclear radiation and the current state of Fukushima's environment, as well as events such as science shows, will ensure you are well-informed. If you reserve in advance, an English-speaking guide can join you during your visit.

Access: 15 min by bus from Miharu Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu East Line. By Car: 5 min from Funehiki-Miharu I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 5 pm
Mapcode: 129 047 742*18
<https://www.fukushima-kankyosozu.jp/eng/index.html>



The castle towns of Nihonmatsu and Shirakawa, home to Kasumigajo Castle and Komine Castle respectively, have many famous confections and traditional crafts which have been handed down for generations. These cities have their own unique culture and stunning natural scenery which can be enjoyed year-round.



Mt. Adataro Ropeway Nihonmatsu City

A 10-minute aerial ride on the ropeway will take you to Mt. Adataro's 8th station and hiking trailhead. In autumn, you can look down upon a majestic view of the autumnal leaves and experience the "real sky", which has been praised in Japanese poetry.

Gaze up at "the real sky" praised in poetry



Access: 50 min by bus from Nihonmatsu Sta. on the JR Tohoku Main Line.
By Car: 25 min from Nihonmatsu I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 377 744 339*74



Kasumigajo Park Nihonmatsu City

The castle once maintained by the first feudal lord of Nihonmatsu is now a prefectural park and famous viewing spot for cherry blossoms in spring. It also acts as a venue for the local Chrysanthemum Doll festival in fall.

Access: 20 min on foot from Nihonmatsu Sta. on the JR Tohoku Main Line.
By Car: 5 min from Nihonmatsu I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 129 636 597*11

Dake Onsen

Nihonmatsu City

Dake Onsen, which is unusual for the slightly acidic nature of its hot spring waters, boasts over 1000 years. The hot spring water is gentle and soft, and is known for its beautifying effects on the skin. It is thought to be effective for soothing skin conditions.

Access: 20 min by car from Nihonmatsu Sta. on the JR Tohoku Main Line. By Car: 15 min from Nihonmatsu I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 377 688 333*73
<http://www.dakeonsen.or.jp/en/>



Reflections of fall leaves and surrounding landscapes on the lake's surface are beautiful.

Nanko Park Shirakawa City

This park was made more than 300 years ago and is said to be the oldest public park in Japan. Nanko Park has around 800 cherry blossom trees and also boasts trees changing leaves in the autumn. It maintains its elegant appearance throughout the seasons of the year.

Access: 10 min by bus from Shirakawa Sta. on the JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line. By Car: 15 min from Shirakawa I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 203 416 010*75



Suirakuen Garden Shirakawa City

Enjoy tea in the teahouse with a view of the lake and mountains, located in the Japanese garden within Nanko Park.

Access: 10 min by bus from Shirakawa Sta. on the JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line. By Car: 15 min from Shirakawa I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 5 pm (Dec. - Mar.: 9 am - 4:30 pm)
Mapcode: 203 416 045*15



Shirakawa Ramen

The popularity of this ramen gives Kitakata Ramen a run for its money. Shirakawa City is home to more than 100 shops specializing in Shirakawa Ramen, which is known for its crimped noodles and the light flavor of its soy sauce-based broth.

Shirakawa Cuisine

The castle town of Shirakawa has many Japanese confectionaries with famous sweets, such as dango (sweet rice dumpling), that continue to be passed down from generation to generation.



Shirakawa Daruma Painting Experience Shirakawa City

Shirakawa Daruma have a history of 300 years. Their eyebrows are shaped like cranes, their mustaches are turtles, their beards are pine trees, and their ears are plum trees. All of these things are symbols of good luck - making Shirakawa Daruma good luck charms. Paint your own daruma at one of two workshops in the city.

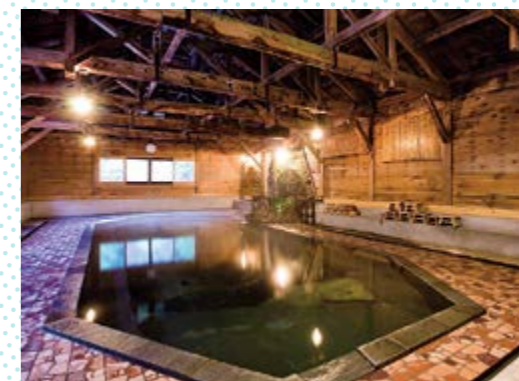
/Sagawa Daruma Seizosho/ Business Hours: 8:30 am - 7 pm
/Watanabe Daruma Shop/ Business Hours: 10 am - 5 pm
Access: 10 min by taxi from Shirakawa Sta. on the JR Tohoku Shinkansen. By Car: 10 min from Shirakawa I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 203 476 021*72

Kashi Onsen

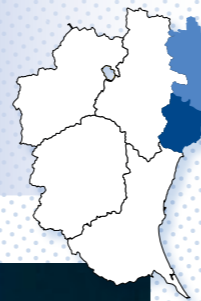
Nishigo Village

This secluded hot spring has a history of more than 600 years since its founding. The sole ryokan of Kashi Onsen was a favorite of the Shirakawa feudal lord. Do visit in fall, when the entire mountain is covered in brilliant colors.

Access: 40 min by bus from Shirakawa Sta. on the JR Tohoku Shinkansen. By Car: 40 min from Shirakawa I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Business Hours: 10 am - 3 pm (Dec. - Mar.: Closed on Wednesdays)
Mapcode: 433 059 339*14



The Iwaki area, which sits along the Pacific coast, has a wealth of leisure facilities that make use of the great volume of hot spring water, an aquarium, and restaurants where you can enjoy fresh seafood.



Aquamarine Fukushima (Fukushima Ocean Science Museum) Iwaki City

An aquarium themed on the Pacific tide. It has exhibits replicating the ecosystems of the seas, mountains, and lakes in Fukushima, one of the world's largest touch pools, where you can interact with the creatures found in the ocean, and a display of coelacanth specimens among a variety of other available experiences.

Access: 15 min by bus from Izumi Sta. on the JR Joban Line.
By Car: 20 min from Iwaki-Yumoto I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 5:30 pm (Dec. until mid-Mar.: 9 am - 5 pm)
Mapcode: 82 078 707*66
<https://www.aquamarine.or.jp>



The giant, arch-shaped tank full of schools of fish is the highlight of this aquarium.

Enjoy summer year-round at this hot spring leisure facility.



Iwaki Yumoto Onsen Iwaki City

This onsen town has over 1000 years of history and is rare in that the onsen water has mixed hot spring sources. The "Bijin no Yu" bath is said to have skin beautifying properties.

Access: Alight at Yumoto Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 10 min from Iwaki-Yumoto I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Mapcode: 82 311 418*33 <https://kankou-iwaki.com>



Spa Resort Hawaiians Iwaki City

Step into summer at any time of year here, where onsen waters are used to maintain the temperature of this domed facility at 28 degrees. 6 theme parks are located within Spa Resort Hawaiians, and the hula show and water park are two of the facility's main attractions.

Access: 15 min by bus from Yumoto Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 3 min from Iwaki-Yumoto I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours: 10 am - 10:15 pm (Open from 9 am* on Sat., Sun., and Public Holidays. * Subject to change depending on the season.)
Mapcode: 82 248 819*58 <https://www.hawaiians.co.jp/english/>



Iwaki City Coal and Fossil Museum
Horuru Iwaki City

Features exhibitions on the history of the Joban Coal Mines of Iwaki, and displays of fossils discovered in the city. At the entrance, you will be greeted by the Futabasaurus Suzukii fossil discovered in Iwaki City.

Access: 10 min on foot from Yumoto Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 10 min from Iwaki-Yumoto I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 5 pm
Mapcode: 82 342 126*61
<https://kankou-iwaki.com>



Wonder Farm Iwaki City

Whether it's by picking tomatoes, having a BBQ outdoors, or eating a buffet lunch including dishes made using freshly-picked tomatoes, enjoy nature to the full at Wonder Farm.

Access: 15 min by car or taxi from Yotsukura Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 3 min from Iwaki-Yotsukura I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Mapcode: 82 744 480*30

Michi-no-Eki Yotsukurakou (Roadside Rest Area)

Enjoy a variety of foods, including kamameshi dishes, sushi made with fresh fish, and an incredible, mega-sized seafood rice bowl.

Food Court Business Hours: 10 am - 6 pm (Nov. - Feb.: 10 am - 5 pm)
Mapcode: 82 689 467*27



Halal Shokudo

A restaurant featuring halal dishes. There is also an adjacent prayer room.

Access: 5 min on foot from Yumoto Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By car: 10 min from Iwaki-Yumoto I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours: 11 am - 7:30 pm (Sat. and Sun.: 11 am - 2 pm)
Mapcode: 82 312 542*73
<http://www.halal-iwaki.jp/english/>

Mori-no-Kitchen

At Wonder Farm, enjoy freshly-picked tomatoes, tomato curry, and brick-oven grilled pizza among the 40 dishes on the all-you-can-eat menu.

Access: 15 min by car or taxi from Yotsukura Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 3 min from Iwaki-Yotsukura I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours: 11 am - 3 pm (Sat., Sun., and Public Holidays: 11 am - 3:30 pm)
Mapcode: 82 744 480*30



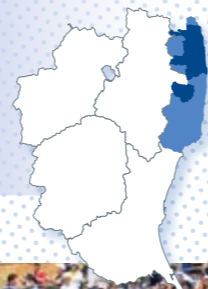
Shiramizu Amidado Temple Iwaki City

The main hall built at the end of the Heian period is the only building in the prefecture designated as a National Treasure. Its elegant appearance harmonizes with the surrounding Japanese garden.

Access: 18 min by bus and then 5 min on foot from Iwaki Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By car: 15 min from Iwaki-Yumoto I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours: 8:30 am to 4 pm (Nov. - Mar.: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm)
Mapcode: 82 430 026*62 <https://kankou-iwaki.com>



Soso offers a number of places where visitors can experience samurai culture, such as Samurai Armor Experiences and attending the Soma Nomaoi festival, during which man and horse work together to win challenges. This area also has many spots for appreciating nature.



An exhilarating local festival that looks like a scene from a heroic picture scroll from the Warring States Period



Soma Nomaoi Festival Soma City / Minamisoma City

Date Held Last Sat., Sun., and Mon. of July

This traditional festival still lives on even after more than 1000 years. Horse-mounted samurai in full armor create a magnificent and heroic display in their procession weaving through the streets, the fervent armor-clad horse races, and heated competition over sacred flags all form a splendid and magnificent display of samurai culture.

Access: Shuttle bus is available from Haranomachi Sta. on the JR Joban Line (Only for the main festival held on Sunday).
By Car: 15 min from Minamisoma I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Mapcode: 208 145 463*63
<http://soma-nomaoi.jp/en/top-page/>

Nakamura Castle Remains Soma City

Home to Soma Nakamura Shrine, one of the venues for events held as part of Soma Nomaoi Festival. The Otomon gate of old remains standing today along with remnants of the stone walls, earthen walls, and moat.

Access: 15 min from Soma Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 10 min from Soma I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Mapcode: 208 770 333*12



Nomaoi-dori Meijokan Samurai Armor Experience

Minamisoma City Reservation Required

Try wearing samurai and foot soldier armor and experience the atmosphere of the Sengoku period.

Access: 15 min on foot from Haranomachi Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 10 min from Minamisoma I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 5 pm
Mapcode: 208 205 521*07



Iwana-no-Sato Kawauchi Village

Lodges designed like traditional houses, a watermill, Japanese garden - Iwana-no-Sato is very picturesque. You can catch iwana (char), grill it with salt, and enjoy it as part of a meal with soba noodles you prepare from scratch as part of their soba-making experience.

Access: 70 min by car from Iwaki Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 35 min from Joban-Tomioka I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours (Restaurant): 11 am - 4 pm, (Fishing): 9 am - 4 pm
Mapcode: 451 083 657*53



Michinoku Coastal Trail

Soma City / Shinchi Town



This long trail stretches along the coast of the Pacific Ocean from Hachinohe City in Aomori Prefecture to Soma City in Fukushima Prefecture. Within the prefecture, the trail includes the Shinchi Town route which takes you up Mt. Karosan, and from its summit you can see Matsukawaura, and if the weather is good, as far as Mt. Kinka. And the Soma City Route which allows you to experience the history and culture of the city when it flourished as a castle town.

<http://tohoku.env.go.jp/mct/english/>

Tenzan Bunko Museum Kawauchi Village

The thatched-roof facility houses a library of roughly 3,000 books donated by the famed poet and honorary villager, Kusano Shinpei. There is a festival held in his honor every year in July.

Access: 60 min by car from Iwaki Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 20 min from Joban-Tomioka I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 4 pm
Mapcode: 451 021 409*66



Soso Area Cuisine

Namie Yakisoba (Namie Town)

This yakisoba is characterized by its simple ingredients of thick noodles, rich sauce, pork, and bean sprouts. This flavor, well-loved for more than 50 years, can be eaten at places such as Sedette Kashimaya, Michi-no-Eki Minamisoma (Roadside Rest Area), and Machi Nami Marché.



Café Amazon (Kawauchi Village)

The first of this popular Thai café to open in Japan. Enjoy coffee made from beans imported from Thailand at this café whose interior resembles a log cabin.

Access: 75 min by bus from Funehiki Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu East Line. By Car: 20 min from the Joban-Tomioka I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours: 10 am - 7 pm
Mapcode: 451 022 570*56



Numerous buildings and landscapes in Tochigi offer glimpses of the Japan of a time gone by, and many of these places are being used by local people in new, innovative ways.

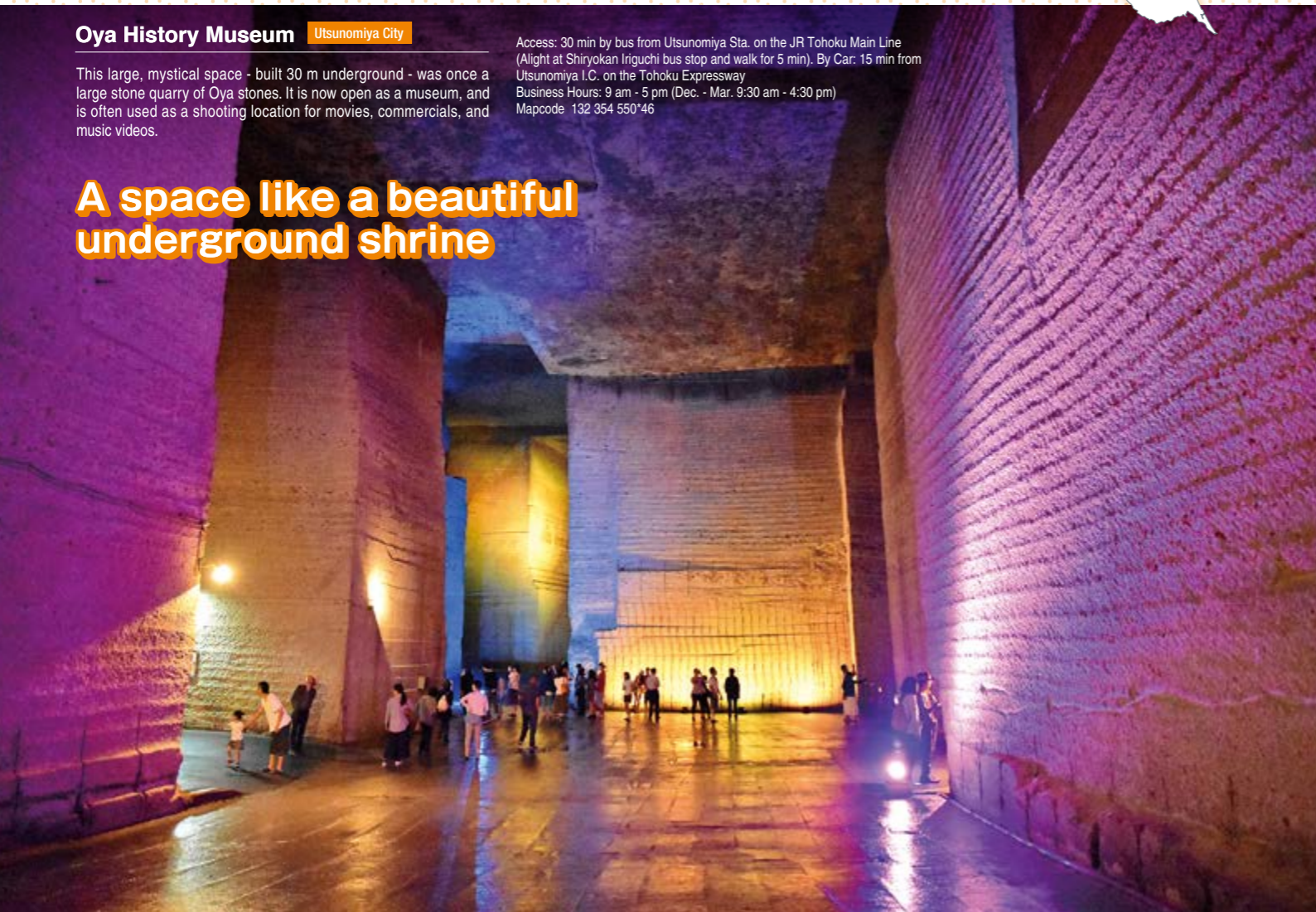


Oya History Museum Utsunomiya City

This large, mystical space - built 30 m underground - was once a large stone quarry of Oya stones. It is now open as a museum, and is often used as a shooting location for movies, commercials, and music videos.

Access: 30 min by bus from Utsunomiya Sta. on the JR Tohoku Main Line (Alight at Shiryokan Iriguchi bus stop and walk for 5 min). By Car: 15 min from Utsunomiya I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 5 pm (Dec. - Mar. 9:30 am - 4:30 pm)
Mapcode: 132 354 550*46

A space like a beautiful underground shrine



Kura-no-Machi Tochigi City

There are still areas in Tochigi City where visitors can get a glimpse at the city's past as a prosperous Edo Period post-town. A variety of storehouses remain, located along the river that flows through the city and along the coast.

Access: 10 min on foot from Tochigi Sta. (JR Ryomo Line / Tobu Nikko Line). By Car: 10 min from Tochigi I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 64 778 649*52

Ashikaga School Ashikaga City

The oldest school in Japan. In the mid-16th century, it was introduced to the world by Francis Xavier as "the largest and most famous university in Eastern Japan". It is certified as a National Historic Site and as a Japanese Heritage Site.

Access: 10 min on foot from Ashikaga Sta. (JR Ryomo Line) or 15 min on foot from Ashikagashi Sta. (Tobu Iseaki Line). By Car: 15min. from Ashikaga I.C. on the Kita-Kanto Expressway
Mapcode: 34 594 834*44



British Embassy Villa Memorial Park
Italian Embassy Villa Memorial Park

Nikko City

These embassy villas of different countries were built on the shores of Lake Chuzenji from the Meiji through early Showa periods, and are now open to the public. Great views of Lake Chuzenji can be seen from their windows.

Access: 50 min by bus from Nikko Sta. (JR Nikko Line) or Tobu Nikko Sta. (Tobu Nikko Line), then take another bus for 5 min. By Car: 35 min from Kiyotaki I.C. on the Nikko Utsunomiya Toll Road
Mapcode: 947 208 619*77
<http://www.nikko-nsm.co.jp/en/>

Nikko Futarasan Shrine (Nikko World Heritage Area) Nikko City

This shrine, known for its god of fortune, and ability to bring about romantic match-making, is popular among Japanese people as a "power spot" (place where visitors can bathe in healing energy).

Access: 15 min by bus from Nikko Sta. (JR Nikko Line) or Tobu Nikko Sta. (Tobu Nikko Line)
Business Hours: 8 am - 5 pm (Nov. - Mar.: 8 am - 4 pm)
Mapcode: 367 311 599*61



Nikkosan Rinnoji Temple (Nikko World Heritage Area) Nikko City

With a history of more than 1250 years, this temple has deep ties to the imperial family and the Tokugawa family. Sanbutsudo, which is the largest wooden building in Eastern Japan, and Taiyuu, which enshrines Tokugawa Iemitsu, should not be missed.

Access: 5 min by bus from Nikko Sta. (JR Nikko Line) or Tobu Nikko Sta. (Tobu Railway)
Business Hours: 8 am - 5 pm (Nov. - Mar.: 8 am - 4 pm) Entrance is permitted until 30 minutes prior to closing.
Mapcode: 367 312 158*18

Tamozawa Imperial Villa Memorial Park

Nikko City

Beginning with the Taisho emperor, three generations of emperors and imperial princes used this imperial villa, now maintained as a memorial park. The billiards room and rooms used to entertain guests have been restored.

Access: 6 min by bus from Nikko Sta. (JR Nikko Line) or Tobu Nikko Sta. (Tobu Nikko Line). By Car: 20 min from Nikko I.C. on the Nikko Utsunomiya Toll Road
Business Hours: 9 am - 5 pm (Nov. - Mar.: 9 am - 4:30 pm)
Mapcode: 367 281 820*82
<http://www.park-tochigi.com/tamozawa/news/info/english>



Former Aoki Family Nasu Residence

Nasushiobara City

This Western-style building located on the grounds of the Meiji-no-Mori Kuroiso rest area, was built in the Meiji Period using European architectural techniques.

Access: 20 min by bus from Kuroiso Sta. on the JR Tohoku Main Line. By Car: 10 min from Kuroiso-Itamuro I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Business Hours*: 9 am - 5:30 pm *Subject to change Oct. - Mar.
Mapcode: 121 883 708*85



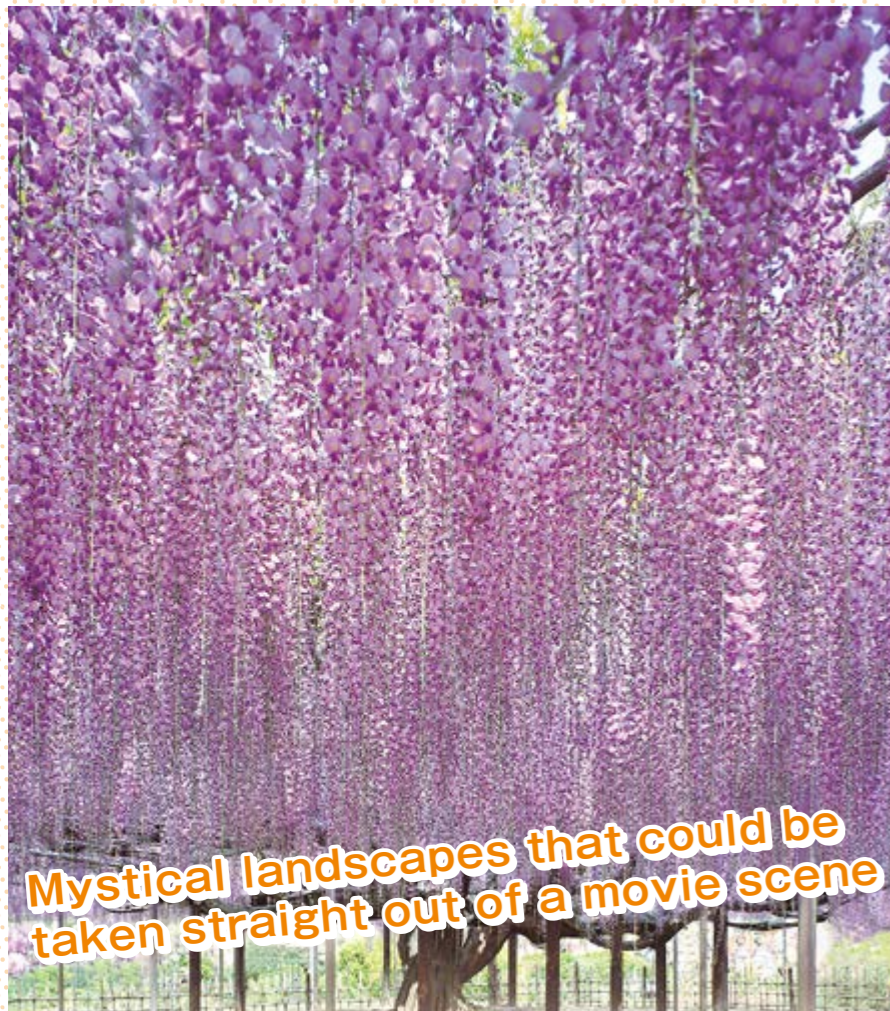
Furumine Shrine Kanuma City

This shrine is famous for being dedicated to tengu (long-nosed mythical creatures). The Japanese garden in the grounds is home to a variety of seasonal flowers, such as cherry blossoms and hydrangeas. There is also a tea house where you can enjoy matcha green tea, as well as places to eat and stay the night.

Access: 70 min by bus from Kanuma Sta. (JR Nikko Line) or 60 min by bus from Shin-Kanuma Sta. (Tobu Nikko Line). By Car: 50 min from Kanuma I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 489 858 199*23



The rich natural scenery and magnificent waterfalls of Nasu and Nikko are stunning. Tochigi has many locations for viewing flowers, such as one of Japan's best wisteria trellises and moss phlox that spreads as far as the eye can see.



Mystical landscapes that could be taken straight out of a movie scene

Best Season for Wisteria Mid-April to Mid-May

Ashikaga Flower Park Ashikaga City

The 4 great wisteria trees and 80 m-long white wisteria tunnel look best from mid-April to mid-May. From autumn to winter, the entire park is lit-up in the evening.

Access: 3 min on foot from Ashikaga Flower Park Sta. (JR Ryomo Line).
By Car: 12 min from Sano-Tanuma I.C. on the Kita-Kanto Expressway
Business Hours*: 9 am - 6 pm * Subject to change depending on the season
Mapcode: 64 512 262*40
<http://www.ashikaga.co.jp/english>



Ichikai Town Shibazakura Park Ichikai Town

Best Season Mid-April to Early May

Around 200,000 red, pink, purple, and white shibazakura (moss phlox) are planted across a surface area of roughly 20,000 m². Every year from mid-April through early-May the 4 colors of shibazakura adorn the entire surface. The park looks like a beautiful patchwork of brilliant flowers when seen from the observation deck.

Access: 15 min by taxi from Karasuyama Sta. (JR Karasuyama Line). By Car: 40 min from Utsunomiya-Kaminokawa I.C. on the Kita-Kanto Expressway
Mapcode: 39 719 888*58



Wakayama Farm Utsunomiya City

This beautiful bamboo forest, spreading across 24 ha, has been used as a filming location in numerous movies, commercials, and TV dramas. Experience searching for bamboo shoots and making bamboo crafts here.

Access: 30 min by bus from Utsunomiya Sta. on the JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line. Alight at Nozawateramae bus stop and walk for 10 min. By Car: 10 min from Utsunomiya I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 132 417 551*81
<http://www.wakayamafarm.com>



Kegon Falls Nikko City

One of Japan's three great waterfalls. The sudden drop from a height of 97 m is grand and allows you to wonder at the magnificence of nature. Take the elevator down to the viewing platform to witness the splendor of the falls up close.

Access: 40 min by bus and then 5 min on foot from Nikko Sta. (JR Nikko Line) or Tobu Nikko Sta. (Tobu Nikko Line). By Car: 30 min from Kiyotaki I.C. on the Nikko Utsunomiya Toll Road
Elevator Operation Hours: May - Sep.* 7:30 am - 5 pm (Sat., Sun., and Public Holidays: 7:30 am to 5:30 pm) * Subject to change in other months
Mapcode: 367 240 263*35 <http://kegon.jp/sub5.html>



Mt. Nantai Nikko City

This mountain rises to the north of Lake Chuzenji at an altitude of 2486 m and has long been regarded as a place of mountain worship. It can be climbed between the end of April and early November.

Access: 50 min by bus from Nikko Sta. (JR Nikko Line) or Tobu Nikko Sta. (Tobu Nikko Line) Mapcode: 735 059 428*87



Nasu Flower World Nasu Town

Tulips, poppies, roses, lilies, dahlias and other beautiful, colorful flowers bloom each season displaying gorgeous scenery like that of a painting.

Access: 60 min by car from Nasu Shiobara Sta. (JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line), or 50 min by car from Kuroiso Sta. (JR Tohoku Main Line). By Car: 40 min from Nasu I.C., or 25 min from Nasu Kogen Smart I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 203 370 552*10

Senjogahara Nikko City

This wetland stretches out at an elevation of 1400 m, and is registered on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. You can find a large variety of plants here.

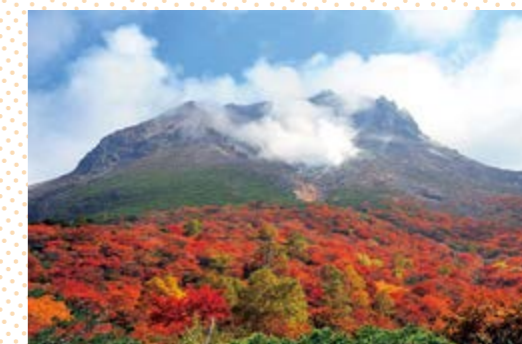
Senjogahara Marshland Observation Deck Access: 50 min by bus from Nikko Sta. (JR Nikko Line) or Tobu Nikko Sta. (Tobu Nikko Line)
Mapcode: 735 113 103*56



Mt. Nasu (Mt. Chausu) Nasu Town

You can take the ropeway up to the 9th station and enjoy the grand panoramic views. The summit has well-maintained footpaths making it enjoyable for beginners and seasoned mountain climbers.

Access: 60 min by bus from Kuroiso Sta. (JR Tohoku Main Line). 50 min on foot from the Ropeway Sancho Sta.. By Car: 40 min to the Ropeway Summit Sta. from Nasu I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 548 746 544*31



Nasu Heisei-no-mori Forest Nasu Town

This expansive forest boasts an area 120 times the size of Tokyo Dome. It is part of the land belonging to the Nasu Imperial Villa that has been opened to the public. Some areas can be explored freely, and other areas must be traversed with a guide.

Access: 50 min by taxi from Nasu Shiobara Sta. on the JR Tohoku Shinkansen. By Car: 35 min from Nasu I.C. or Nasu Kogen Smart I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Business Hours*: 9 am - 5 pm * Subject to change Dec. - Mar.
Mapcode: 203 391 642*36
<http://www.nasuheiseinomori.go.jp/en/>



Experience a theme park where you can enjoy the atmosphere of the Edo period or learn traditional techniques from craftsmen. There is also a facility where you can get your fill of motor sports. Enjoy a variety of different travel plans.



Enjoy the culture of the Edo Period to the full at this wonderland!



Edo Wonderland Nikko Edomura Nikko City

Enjoy the feeling of slipping through time by transforming into a samurai, town girl, or courtesan and walking through the townscape brimming with the atmosphere of old Edo and its post towns, samurai residences, and merchant houses. Ninja and yabusame (archery on horseback) experiences are also available.

Access: 15 min by bus from Kinugawa-Onsen Sta. on the Tohu Kinugawa Line. By Car: 15 min from Imaichi I.C. on the Nikko Utsunomiya Toll Road
Business Hours: 9 am - 5 pm (Dec. - mid-Mar.: 9:30 am - 4 pm)
Mapcode: 367 443 719*23
<http://www.edowonderland.net/en/>



Twin Ring Motegi Motegi Town

You can watch international motor sports here, in addition to exploring the indoor and outdoor athletic facilities, getting lost in a 3D maze, zip-lining, and a variety of other outdoor activities.

Access: 20 min by bus from Motegi Sta. on the Mooka Railway Line. By Car: 40 min from Mito I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Mapcode: 188 703 390*38 <https://www.twinring.jp/english/>



Mashiko Pottery Experience Mashiko Town

Reservation Required for Pottery Making

Mashiko pottery is popular as every day tableware. Each kiln offers hands-on experiences, including painting plates or cups, hand-kneaded pottery making, and pottery wheel experiences.

Access: 70 min by bus from Utsunomiya Sta. on the JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line. By Car: 20 min from Sakuragawa-Chikusei I.C., or 25 min from the Mooka I.C. on the Kita-Kanto Expressway
Mapcode: 39 178 334*88 <http://www.mashiko-kankou.org/english/>



Japanese Confectionery-Making Experience

Tochigi City Reservation Required

Experience making Japanese confections at a long-standing shop under the instruction of a craftsman.

Access: 10 min on foot from Tochigi Sta. (JR Ryomo Line) or Tochigi Sta. (Tobu Railway Nikko Line). By Car: 15 min from Tochigi I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 7 pm
Mapcode: 64 778 037*02

Sightseeing Fishing Weirs Experience

In the areas where the Naka River flows, such as the towns of Nakagawa and Motegi, and the cities of Nasu Karasuyama and Otawara, sightseeing fishing weirs are set up from summer through fall where you can try catching fish with your hands and enjoy ayu (sweetfish) dishes.



Kanuma Lattice-Making Experience Kanuma City

Try your hand at making a coaster using the traditional latticework craft technique at the Kinofurusato Gallery of Traditional Arts and Crafts.

Access: 8 min on foot from Shin-Kanuma Sta. on the Tohu Nikko Line. By Car: 15 min from Kanuma I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 5 pm
Mapcode: 132 224 173*00



Nikko Woodcarving Experience Nikko City

Experience carving your favorite designs on trays, confection bowls, or hand mirrors using unique techniques passed down from the Edo Period.

Business Hours: 9 am - 5 pm
Mapcode: 367 314 485*81



Farm Visit

There are farms in the Nasu and Nikko that make the most of the vast nature of the areas. Get close and personal with farm animals and taste freshly-milked milk.

Tochigi Cuisine

Strawberry-picking, Fruit-picking

Eat all the strawberries you like in the prefecture which has held the title of Japan's No. 1 strawberry-producing area for the last 50 years. You can also pick grapes, peaches, pears, and other fruit at various sightseeing orchards in Tochigi.



Tochigi Wagyu Beef

Enjoy the flavor of the highest quality of wagyu beef with its fine marbling and melt-in-your-mouth tenderness at the designated producers of Japanese Black Wagyu in the prefecture.



Kakigori shaved ice made with Nikko natural spring water

Shaved ice that uses natural ice created during the icy-cold winter. It is soft, fluffy, and slightly sweet, and melts gently in your mouth.

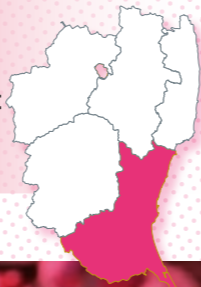


Cheese & Other Dairy Products

Natural cheese made from high-quality fresh milk, made mainly at various facilities across the Nasu area.



The area is scattered with power spots (places considered to have healing energy), famous sites related to the Mito Clan, and temples and shrines that have been used for worship for centuries.



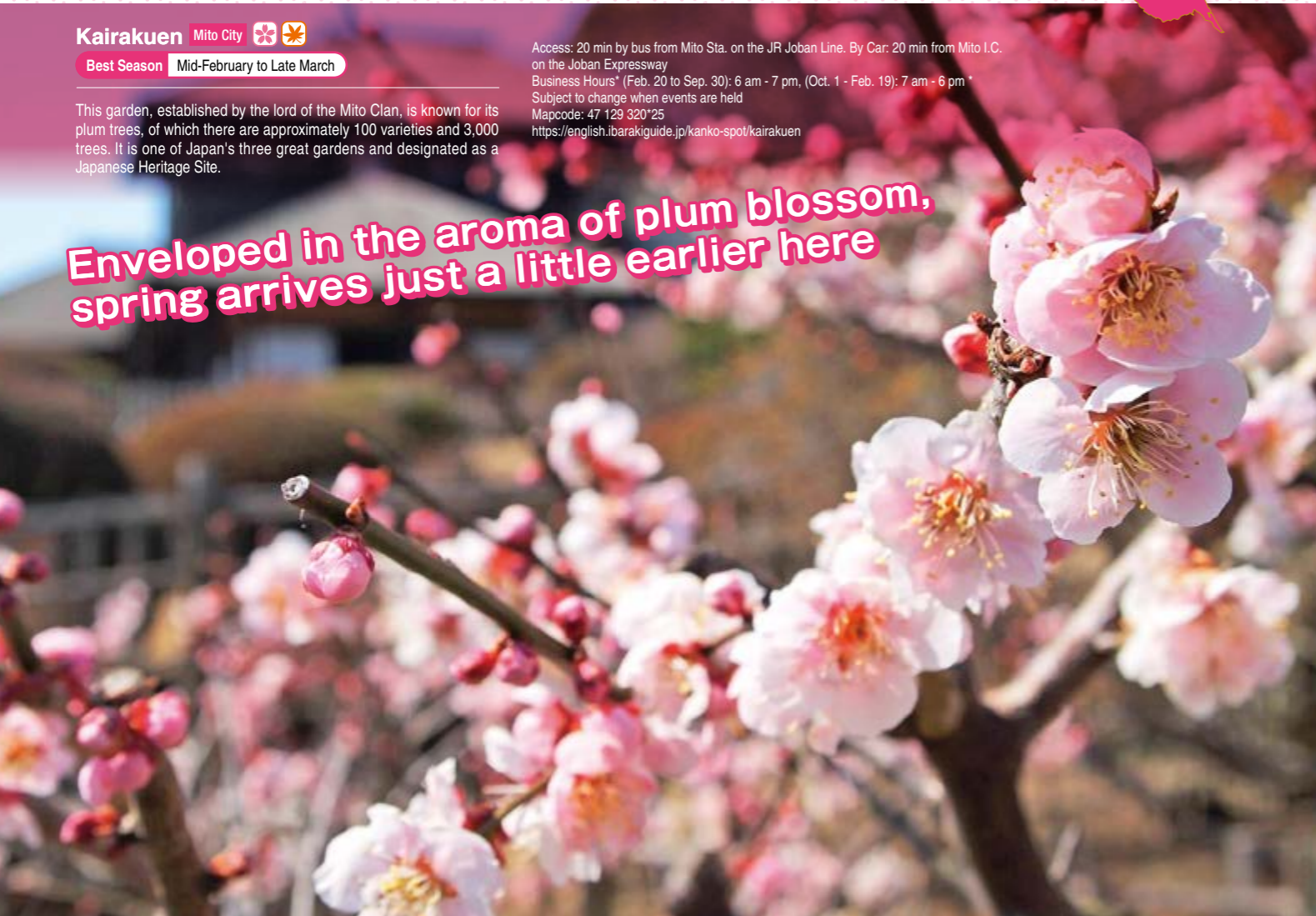
Kairakuen Mito City

Best Season Mid-February to Late March

This garden, established by the lord of the Mito Clan, is known for its plum trees, of which there are approximately 100 varieties and 3,000 trees. It is one of Japan's three great gardens and designated as a Japanese Heritage Site.

Access: 20 min by bus from Mito Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 20 min from Mito I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours* (Feb. 20 to Sep. 30): 6 am - 7 pm, (Oct. 1 - Feb. 19): 7 am - 6 pm
Subject to change when events are held
Mapcode: 47 129 320*25
<https://english.ibarakiguide.jp/kanko-spot/kairakuen>

Enveloped in the aroma of plum blossom, spring arrives just a little earlier here



Oarai Isosaki Shrine Oarai Town

This shrine sits on the coast of the Pacific Ocean and has a history of more than 1160 years. The Kamisono Torii gate, built on a coral reef off the shore, fosters a sacred atmosphere.

Access: 15 min by bus from Oarai Sta. on the Kashima Rinkai Railway Oarai Kashima Line. By Car: 15 min from Mito-Oarai I.C. on the Kita-Kanto Expressway
Mapcode: 239 535 476*13



Amabiki Kannon Sakuragawa City

The Kannon (Buddhist Goddess) is worshipped for its power to ensure safe delivery during childbirth, help in raising children, and ward off evil. This Buddhist site is also famous for hydrangea. An annual hydrangea festival is held from June 10 to July 20, which boasts 3,000 beautiful hydrangea in bloom.

Access: 10 min by taxi from Iwase Sta. on the JR Mito Line. By Car: 15 min from the Sakuragawa-Chikusei I.C. on the Kita-Kanto Expressway
Business Hours: 8:30 am - 5 pm
Mapcode: 123 899 296*38

Makabe Hina-Matsuri (Doll Festival) Sakuragawa City

This event was started by volunteers in Makabe Town, which is known for its traditional storehouses. It is held annually from February 4 to March 3. Hina dolls dating back to the Edo Period decorate the town. The warm hospitality of the residents is another attraction for visitors.

Access: 40 min by bus from Iwase Sta. (JR Mito Line) or 90 min by bus from Tsukuba Sta. (Tsukuba Express). By Car: 20 min from Sakuragawa-Chikusei I.C. on the Kita-Kanto Expressway
Mapcode: 123 687 758*27



Shunpu Banri So (Kasama Nichido Museum of Art Annex)

Kasama City

This is a relocated private home with a thatched-roof that was once used by Kitaoji Rosanjin. Numerous works of art beloved to Rosanjin are displayed and the beautiful garden greets you with a tea house, and cherry blossom or rhododendron, depending on the season.



Access: 3 min by car from Kasama Sta. on the JR Mito Line. By Car: 5 min from Tomobe I.C. on the Kita-Kanto Expressway
Business Hours: 9:30 am - 5 pm (Winter: 10 am - 4 pm)
Mapcode: 188 105 315*65



Kasama Inari Shrine Kasama City

One of Japan's three great Inari shrines, it is visited by more than 3.5 million people annually. Aside from the chrysanthemum festival held in autumn, there are various religious events held throughout the year.

Access: 5 min by bus from Kasama Sta. on the JR Mito Line. By Car: 15 min from Tomobe I.C. on the Kita-Kanto Expressway
Mapcode: 188 165 835*15 <http://www.kasama.or.jp/english/>

Tsukubasan Shrine

Tsukuba City

One of the oldest shrines in the country, Mt. Tsukuba has been the object of worship here for the past 3000 years. Close to 80 Tokyo Domes could fit within the boundaries of its vast grounds, and all of the Kanto region can be seen from its summit.



Access: 40 min by Tsukubasan shuttle bus from Tsukuba Sta. on the Tsukuba Express. By Car: 40 min from Tsuchiura-kita I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Mapcode: 123 477 225*46



Sakatsuraisosaki Shrine Hitachinaka City

The shrine attracts worshippers who pray for a range of things, from abundant fishing and academic success, easy childbirth and child rearing, to winning the lottery. The 300 m-approach, lined with ancient camellia trees, is called the "mystic approach" and has a unique atmosphere.

Access: 5 min on foot from Isosaki Sta. on the Hitachinaka Kaihin Railway Minato Line. By Car: 5 min from Hitachinaka Kaihin Koen I.C. on the Hitachinaka Toll Road
Mapcode: 768 150 456*61

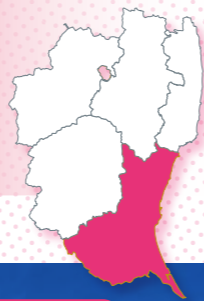


Oiwa Shrine Hitachi City

This prestigious shrine has been visited by generations of Mito Clan lords throughout the ages. 188 deities are enshrined across the entire area of Mt. Oiwa. There is a well-maintained easy mountain climbing trail in the nearby area, and skunk cabbage, rhododendrons, and other seasonal flowers can be enjoyed.

Access: 20 min by taxi from Hitachi Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 10 min from Hitachi-chuo I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Mapcode: 379 175 860*16

Enjoy a trip where your eyes will be greeted to sights of brilliant red, yellow, and pink flowers, and your soul will be soothed by the waterfalls and valleys enwrapped in vast natural scenery.



Hitachi Seaside Park Hitachinaka City

There are many photogenic, jaw-dropping spots here, including the 4.5 million blue nemophila plants in spring, and the kochia that dyes the area bright-red in autumn.

Access: 15 min by bus from Katsuta Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: A few minutes from the Hitachi Seaside Park I.C. on the Hitachinaka Toll Road
Business Hours: 9:30 am - 5 pm (Subject to change depending on season)
Mapcode: 47 236 610*18 <https://hitachikaihin.jp/en.html>

Best Season (Nemophila) Late-April to Early May
(Kochia) Mid-September to Mid-October

The sea and sky blend together like a magnificent carpet of blue.



Poppies at Kokaigawa Fureai Park Shimotsuma City

The park, which makes use of the river bed, is divided into four zones: the nature observation zone, sports zone, nature center, and flower zone, with peak poppy viewing season in May.

Access: 10 min by bus from Shimotsuma Sta. on the Kanto Railway Joso Line. By Car: 20 min from the Joso I.C. on the Ken-o Expressway
Mapcode: 123 404 018*18

Best Season Early May to Late-May

Ryujin Big Suspension Bridge

Hitachiota City

This 375 m-long suspension bridge, which stretches across a beautiful valley, is one of the country's longest pedestrian bridges. The view from the 100 m-high bridge is breathtaking. Visitors can try thrilling bungee jumping here.

Access: 40 min by bus from Hitachi-Ota Sta. (JR Suigin Line), and another 20 min on foot. By Car: 40 min from Hitachi-minami Ota I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours: 8:30 am - 5 pm (Last entry at 4:40 pm)
Mapcode: 379 341 608*12



Fukuroda Falls Daigo Town

This waterfall, designated as a National Site of Scenic Beauty, is not only beautiful with the fresh greenery of spring or the changing leaves of autumn, but is also a popular site in the winter when the falls become completely frozen over.



Access: 10 min by bus from Fukuroda Sta. on the JR Suigin Line. By Car: 50 min from Naka I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Mapcode: 379 634 306*41

Akeno Himawarino Sato Chikusei City

Best Season Late August to Early September

Roughly 1 million sunflowers with double petals bloom across an area of approximately 4 ha with Mt. Tsukuba as their backdrop. A Sunflower Festival is held at the end of August.

Access: 20 min by taxi from Shimodate Sta. on the JR Mito Line. By Car: 20 min from Sakuragawa-Chikusei I.C. on the Kita-Kanto Expressway
Mapcode: 123 621 575*65

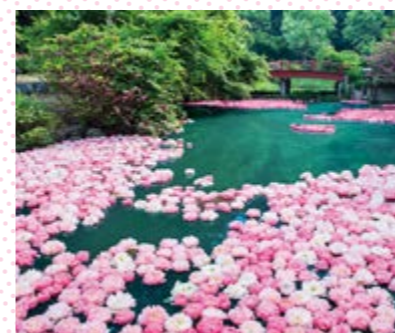


Peony Garden Tokyo in Tsukuba Tsukuba City

Best Season Early April to Late May

The world's largest Peony Garden, home to 60,000 peonies, which bloom beautifully between April and May.

Access: 15 min by bus from Midorino Sta. (Tsukuba Express) or from Ushiku Sta. (JR Joban Line). By Car: 5 min from Yatabe I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours (Early-Apr. to late-May): 9 am - 5 pm
Mapcode: 18 657 301*70 <https://www.peonygardentokyo.com/>



Ibaraki Flower Park Ishioka City

From 800 varieties and 30,000 stems of roses from around the world to 1 million Japanese irises and mountain lilies, flowers bloom brilliantly throughout the four seasons at this park that covers roughly 30 ha of land.

Access: 30 min by bus from Ishioka Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 15 min from Tsuchiura-kita I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 5 pm (Dec. - Jan.: 9 am - 4 pm)
Mapcode: 112 455 054*27



Suigo Itako Ayame Gardens Itako City **Best Season** Late May to Late June

Many varieties of iris bloom here from late May through June. A lily festival is also held here. During the festival period, you can enjoy a sightseeing gondola ride, amongst other events unique to the Suigo area.

Access: 3 min on foot from Itako Sta. on the JR Kashima Line. By Car: 10 min from Itako I.C. on the Kanto-Higashi Expressway
Mapcode: 162 081 124*88

Koga Peach Blossom Festival Koga City

Best Season Late March to Early April

5 types of peach blossom bloom here from the end of March through early April - it is truly a sight to behold.

Access: 10 min by taxi from Koga Sta. on the JR Utsunomiya Line. By Car: 30 min from Kuki I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Mapcode: 45 609 797*73



Ushiku Buddha Ushiku City



If the weather is clear, visitors can see Tokyo Skytree and Mt. Fuji from the observation deck of this 120 m-tall statue of the Buddha. The premises boast flowers that bloom throughout the four seasons. Visitors can also pick a variety of flowers here, including poppies, snapdragons, dianthus, and cosmos.

Access: 20 min by bus from Ushiku Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 8 min from Ami-higashi I.C. on the Ken-o Expressway
Business Hours*: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm (* Subject to change depending on the season)
Mapcode: 65 521 474*45

Sunflower Fields around Naka City General Park Naka City

Best Season Late August

Approximately 250,000 sunflowers bloom in this field that stretches across roughly 4 ha. Looking at the carpet of sunflowers from the observation deck is a stunning sight.

Access: 20 min by taxi from Kami-Sugaya Sta. on the JR Suigin Line. By Car: 10 min from Naka I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Mapcode: 47 458 516*70



An area where you can experience both traditional techniques and cutting-edge technology. Combine visits to various places with delicious culinary experiences to make even more amazing memories in Ibaraki Prefecture.



Pottery Experience Kasama City

This area is home to Kasama pottery kilns, which have been around since the Edo Period. Try your hand at the pottery wheel, hand kneading, and painting at Kasama Kogei no Oka.

Access: 15 min by bus from Kasama Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 10 min from Tomobe I.C. on the Kita-Kanto Expressway
Business Hours: 10 am - 5 pm
Mapcode: 188 136 293*88

Create an original piece at one of the leading pottery areas in Kanto!



Yuki Tsumugi Silk-Making Experience

Yuki City
Reservation Required

Yuki Tsumugi is known as being the oldest woven silk in Japan. At Tsumugi-no-Yakata (which has an adjacent museum) learn more about Japanese culture while taking a look at the displays of Yuki Tsumugi Silk. Choose your favorite color thread and try your hand at weaving a coaster.

Access: 10 min on foot from Yuki Sta. on the JR Mito Line. By Car: 40 min from Sano-Fujioka I.C. on the Tohoku Expressway
Business Hours: 9:30 am - 5 pm
Mapcode: 74 195 080*54



Tsukuba-Kasumigaura Ring Ring Road

This 180 km cycling course tours through 14 cities, towns, and villages in Ibaraki Prefecture, mostly in Kasumigaura. Why not ride through the Kanto plains while taking in some fantastic scenery?

Access to Tsuchiura: 45 min to Tsuchiura Sta. from Ueno Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 45 min to Sakura-Tsuchiura I.C. from Misato I.C. on the Joban Expressway



Tsukuba Science Tour Tsukuba City

In Tsukuba City, which has a concentration of universities and research institutes, there are a number of facilities where you can learn about cutting-edge Japanese science and technology, such as the Tsukuba Expo Center and JAXA Tsukuba Space Center.

<https://www.i-step.org/tour/english.html>



SUP (Stand Up Paddleboarding) Ibaraki Town

Lake Hinuma is popular as a location where you can try out a variety of marine sports, including SUP, where you stand on a surfboard and use a paddle to propel yourself forward.

Access: 15 min by car from Oarai Sta. on the Kashima Rinkai Railway Oarai Kashima Line. By Car: 15 min from Mitominami I.C. on the Kita-Kanto Expressway
Business Hours: 9 am - 7 pm
Mapcode: 239 404 365*53



Suifu Paper Lanterns Mito City Reservation Required

These lanterns, which came about in the Edo Period, are made from strong Japanese rice paper and good quality bamboo. This is one of the three major production areas in Japan. There are workshops here where you can experience authentic lantern-making.

Access: 15 min by bus from Mito Sta. on the JR Joban Line. By Car: 15 min from Mito I.C. on the Joban Expressway
Mapcode: 47 219 035*21 <https://www.suzumo.com/en/>

Ibaraki Cuisine

Fruit Picking



Enjoy picking and tasting seasonal fresh fruit, such as strawberries, grapes, pears, blueberries, and melons in each region.

Hitachi Soba Noodles

With a unique fragrance and flavor, a sweet variety of buckwheat is used to make these noodles. Hitachiota City is famous for soba with its more than 40 soba restaurants.



Hitachi Beef

The top quality domestic Japanese Black Wagyu boasts good quality red meat and fatty portions that melt at low temperatures for a flavor even professional chefs love.

Hoshiimo (Dried Sweet Potatoes)

This is a local specialty item to Ibaraki. Ibaraki Prefecture accounts for 90% of nationwide hoshiimo production. It is characterized by its extraordinary sweetness, softness, and sticky texture.



Local Sake

Home to the highest number of breweries in the Kanto area, there are many unique local types of sake breweries here that use their vast natural surroundings to their advantage.