



AKITA COLOR

Travel Guidebook English

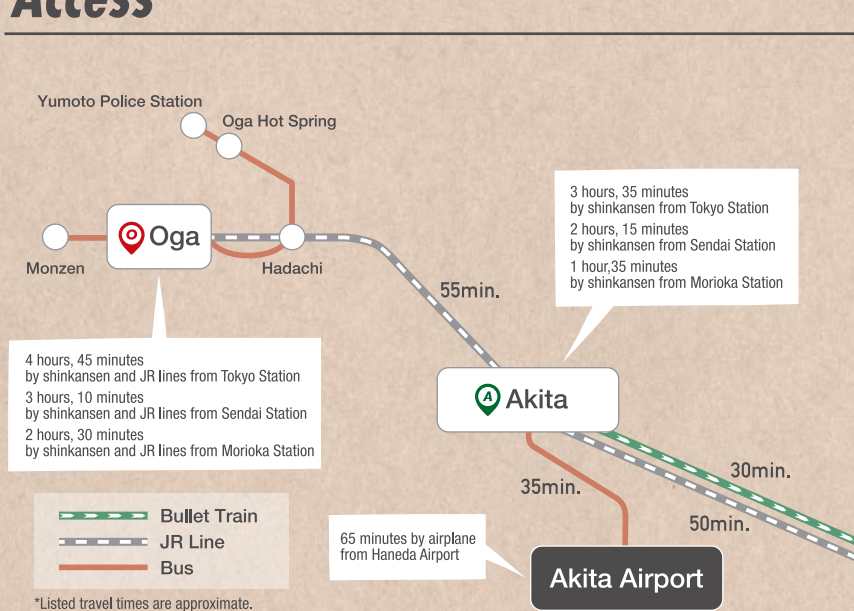
- 📍 Akita City
- 📍 Oga City
- 📍 Daisen City
- 📍 Semboku City



Welcome to AKITA!

Akita Prefecture is located on the coast of the northwestern part of the Tohoku region. It is one of Japan's most renowned areas for hot spring bathing, and also boasts delicious local cuisine and various local traditions and culture. This guidebook introduces in detail the four major cities of Akita: Akita, Oga, Daisen, and Semboku.

Access



Akita Akita Tourism My Taxi

These taxis can be hired in 3 or 4-hour time slots, visiting tourist spots in Akita.

Oga Namahage Shuttle

Fixed time ride-share taxi service connecting the main sights in Oga.

Contact

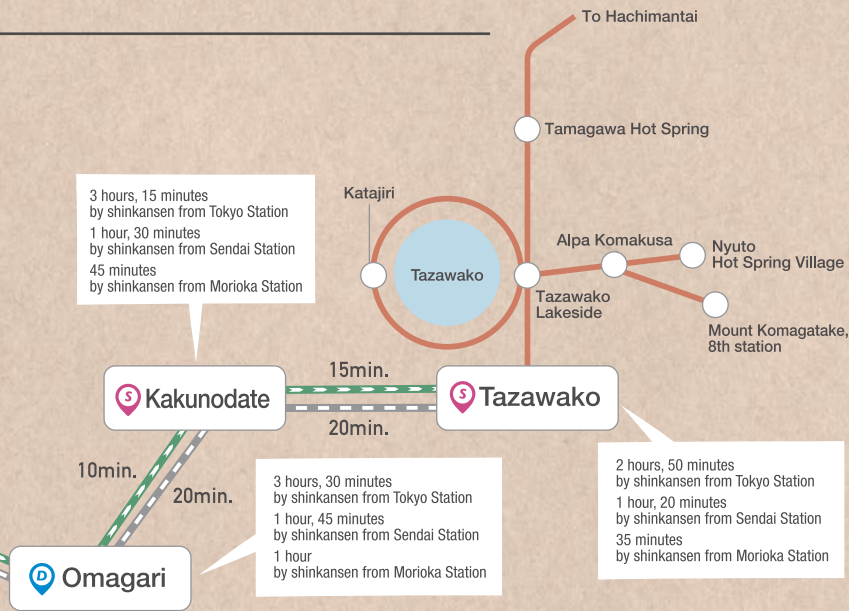
Communication in English can be difficult in Akita. If you need help with making reservations or have questions about a particular service, you can have the staff call the following number for telephone interpretation.

Akita Tourism Support Center
 Phone: **018-838-0225** (9:00-17:00)
 Email: support@akita-kanko.com

English Support is available on weekdays, excluding New Year and public holidays.

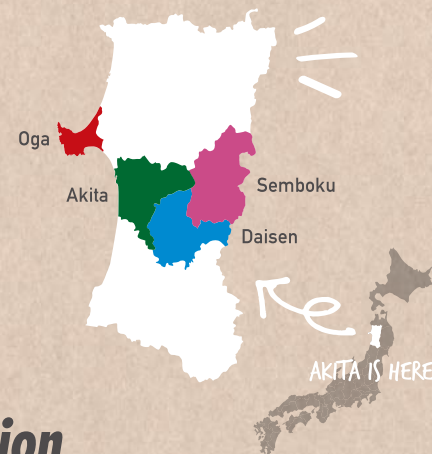
！秋田の皆様へ

海外からのお客様への応対時、英語-日本語の通訳が必要な際は左記電話番号(秋田県観光連盟)までお電話くださいませ。



Semboku Hot spring Touring Bus

This bus loops around the Nyuto Hot Spring Village, and with a reservation offers unlimited rides from any accommodation in the area.



More Information

The land of three beauties: sake, cuisine and scenery

Akita City is blessed with outstanding natural beauty in its mountains, rivers, and sea. Taste the exquisite sake and refined cuisine, pride of the northern lands, and be captivated by the traditional festivals and historical buildings for a true feast for the senses.

A Akita



A Akita



Come and see
the Kanto Festival!



Festival/
Event



Food



Sightseeing
Spot

1 Akita Kanto Festival

秋田竿燈まつり

August 3-6

One of Akita's classic summer festivals. Watch performers balance 12-meter long bamboo poles adorned with a total of 46 paper lanterns using their palms, foreheads, shoulders and waists in an impressive display of skill. The control demonstrated to prevent them falling is truly spectacular.

Venue: Night performances at Kanto Odori Street (August 3-6), daytime performances at Area Nakaichi Nigiwai Square (August 4-6)



2 Senshu Park

千秋公園



Site of Kubota Castle built by Lord Satake of the Satake Clan, a renowned military commander in Akita. Lacking stone walls and castle towers, it's an example of the earthen Hirayama style. The park is a popular spot for cherry blossoms in spring, and foliage in autumn.

Access: About 5 minutes on foot from Akita Station to Pocket Park (east side of Senshu Park)



3 Akita Museum of Art

秋田県立美術館



At a height of 3.65 meters and 20.5 meters wide, the mural painting "Annual Events in Akita" depicting Akita's festivals, lifestyles, and industries is a must-see. The spiral staircase in the entrance hall, unsupported by walls or pillars, is also worthy of attention.

Access: About 10 minutes on foot from Akita Station

Opening hours: 10 am - 6 pm (last entry 5:30 pm)

Closed: Irregular Holidays (also temporary closures due to maintenance etc.)

Admission: ¥310 (subject to change during special exhibitions)



Delicious!



4 Kiritampo Nabe

きりたんぼ鍋



Kiritampo are made by applying a layer of lightly crushed rice on skewers and roasting over an open flame. This iconic one pot regional cuisine usually also includes vegetables, mushrooms and local Hinaji Jidori chicken.

Akita Kiritampo-ya

Address: 1st floor, Midoriya Building, 2-7-6 Nakadori, Akita-shi

Opening hours: 4 pm - 1 am (Sundays from 11:30 am)

Closed: Open every day

Also available at other restaurants nearby

5 Akita City Folklore and Performing Art Center

秋田市民俗芸能伝承館

This facility introduces local folk events and performing arts such as kanto bamboo pole-balancing. In the exhibition hall, with its ceiling open to the third floor, visitors can experience the difficulty of the technique by taking up the challenge of balancing bamboo poles.

Access: About 15 minutes on foot from Akita Station
 Opening hours: 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
 Closed: December 29 – January 3
 Admission: ¥100



6 Inaniwa Udon

稲庭うどん



One of Japan's three famous styles of udon. Inaniwa is a hand-stretched, hand-kneaded dried udon with a distinctively smooth consistency, and although relatively thin, has a firm bite.

Mugendo Omachi Honten
 Address: 1-3-2 Omachi, Akita-shi
 Opening hours: 11 am - 2 pm, 5 pm – 10 pm (last orders 9:30 pm)
 Closed: January 1 (lunch only on December 31)
 Also available at other restaurants nearby



7 Izakaya (Toppin Pararinopu)

居酒屋(とっぴんぱらりのぶ)



Enjoy great cuisine, primarily hearth-baked local fish dishes, as well as 50 or 60 kinds of high-quality sake at most times. A sake sommelier is on hand, so just mention your favorite flavor and try some Japanese sake!

Access: About 3 minutes on foot from Akita Station
 Address: 5th floor, Akita Ekimae Building
 116-1 Senshukubotamachi, Akita-shi
 Opening hours: 4:45 pm – midnight (last orders 11 pm)
 Closed: Open every day



8 Akita City Omoriyama Zoo

秋田市大森山動物園



A zoo in a corner of Omoriyama Park, with views of the city of Akita. You can get close to the animals—watch Amur tigers leap and eat their food.

Access: About 3 minutes by car from Araya Station
 Opening hours: 9 am – 4:30 pm *Last admission at 4 pm (10 am – 3 pm (last admission at 2:30 pm) on weekends & public holidays in winter)
 Closed: Winter holiday period
 Admission: ¥720



9 Tsuchizaki Float Festival

土崎港曳山まつり

July 20–21



A traditional festival passed down in the port of Tsuchizaki in Akita City. Featuring about 20 spectacular floats decorated with statues of powerful warriors moving through the streets to traditional music, this summer festival is a celebration of bravery, and is counted among Akita's three major traditional music festivals.

Venue: Honmachi-dori Street, Tsuchizaki port area in Akita City, Tsuchizaki Shinmeisha Shrine



10 Catholic Monastery Seitai Hoshikai

カトリック修道院聖体奉仕会



This cathedral, built by temple carpenters in a purely Japanese hip-and-gable-style, houses a statue of the Virgin Mary that is said to have wept 101 times from 1975 to 1981.

Access: About 20 minutes by car from Akita Station
 Opening hours: 9 am – 11:30 am, 1 pm – 4:30 pm (opens 10 am December–March)
 Closed: Open every day
 Admission: Free
 *Photography prohibited inside the building.



11 Port Tower Selion

秋田市ポートタワーセリオン



The Port Tower, made of 6,272 panels of tempered glass, stands 143 meters high. Situated at a height of 100 meters, its observation deck offers 360-degree views of the cityscape of Akita City. There is also seating for couples.

Access: About 7 minutes by car from Tsuchizaki Station
 Opening hours: 9 am – 9 pm
 Closed: Open every day
 Admission: Free



12 Izakaya (Modern Dining Takeshi)

居酒屋 (MODERN DINNING 武志)



An izakaya restaurant with a menu based on local Akita cuisine and Japanese food. It has many regular customers, and in addition to the pressed sushi with broiled mackerel, the chef's daily recommended courses are also very popular.

Access: About 5 minutes on foot from Akita Station
 Address: 6-19-8 Nakadori, Akita-shi
 Opening hours: 5:30 pm – 11 pm
 Closed: Sunday, public holidays



13 Akita Araya Glass Studio

秋田市新屋ガラス工房



Here you can watch the glass production process up close, including glass-blowing, and then shop for glass artworks. On Saturdays and Sundays, glass-blowing workshops are held. The building also houses a cafe.

Access: About 10 minutes on foot from Araya Station

Opening hours: 9 am – 5 pm

Closed: Tuesdays (or the following day in case of holiday), December 28 – January 4

Admission: Free



17 Akita Black

秋田ブラック



“Akita black” is a style of ramen much loved by Akita residents, characterized by mid-sized straight noodles and a sauce made with a heavy, slow-simmered soy base and unchanged since the stall was first established in 1938.

Suehiro Ramen, Akita Ekimae

Address: 4-15-1 Nakadori, Akita-shi

Opening hours: Open 24 hours

Closed: Mondays (or the following day in case of holiday)

Also available at other restaurants nearby



14 Hinai Jidori Oyakodon

比内地鶏の親子丼



Since these chickens are raised free to roam, they have no extra fat content and their flesh gets firm, ensuring rich flavor and aroma with every bite. The soup and eggs of this luxurious oyako-don rice bowl are also made using Hinai-jidori chicken.

Honke Abeya, Akita

Address: 1st floor, Area Nakaichi commercial facility, 1-4-3 Nakadori, Akita-shi

Opening hours: 11 am – 3 pm (last order 2:30 pm),

5 pm – 11 pm (last order 10 pm)

(weekends and public holidays: until 5 pm (last order 4:30 pm))

Closed: Open every day

Also available at other restaurants nearby



15 Akita Akarenga Red Brick Folk Museum

秋田市立赤れんが郷土館



Consists of three buildings—the original red brick building, the new building, and a storage facility. The red brick building was built in 1912 as the former head office of the Akita Bank. It is designated as an Important Cultural Property of Japan.

Access: About 18 minutes on foot from Akita Station

Opening hours: 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Closed: December 29 – January 3, during exhibitions (no fixed times)

Admission: ¥200



19 Akita Citizens Market

秋田市民市場



This market of 80 odd vendors is familiar to locals as Akita's kitchen, and also houses nine eateries including conveyor belt sushi, ramen, and Chinese.

Access: About 3 minutes on foot from Akita Station

Opening hours: Varies by store

Closed: Sundays



16 Tsuchizaki Port History Museum

土崎みなと歴史伝承館



Here visitors can encounter the history and culture of the Tsuchizaki district of Akita City, such as exhibits of actual festival floats (registered as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage) and exhibits of concrete pillars etc. melted by fire during air raids.

Access: About 10 minutes on foot from Tsuchizaki Station

Opening hours: 9 am – 5 pm

Closed: Tuesdays, New Year period

Admission: Free

*Scheduled to open in March 2018

*Photograph is for illustrative purposes only



20 Akita Shurui Seizo

秋田酒類製造



After a warehouse renovation, the Sennin Brewery Warehouse was opened to the public. It displays the actual implements used to convey the history of sake brewing in Akita. After taking the tour, visitors can sample and purchase sake.

Access: About 8 minutes by car from Akita Station

TEL:018-864-7331

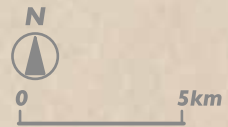
Tour hours: From 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, 3 pm

Closed: Weekends, public holidays

Admission: Free

*Booking required

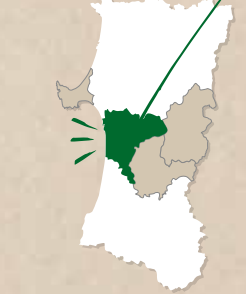
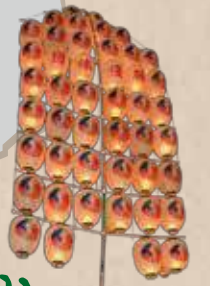




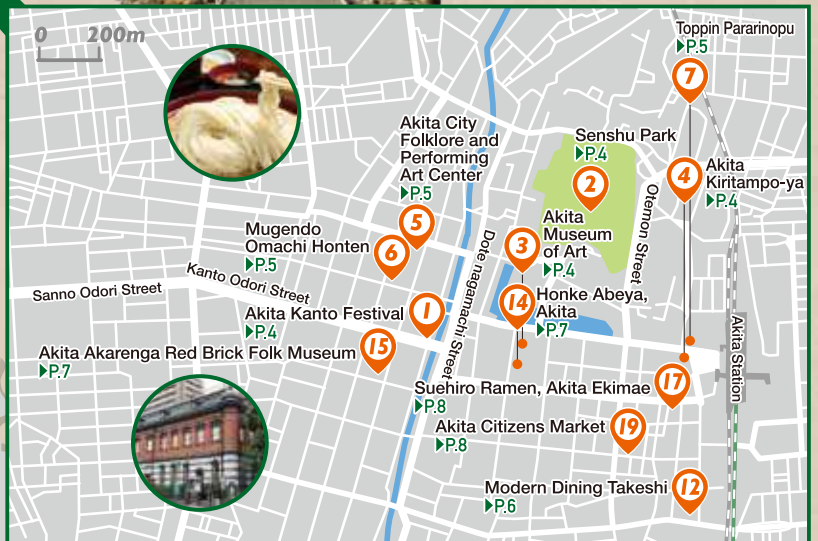
Port Tower Selion



Akita Museum of Art



Catholic Monastery Seitai Hoshikai



Akita Area Map

\\ Welcome! /



Home to the Namahage, among cascading landscapes

Located on the Oga Peninsula, surrounded by the Sea of Japan, Oga is known for its bountiful nature and as the home of the Namahage. Visitors are taken aback at the seamless landscapes connecting mountain to sea.

Oga



Oga

Oga is famous
for Namahage.



1 Gofu Namahage Taiko 五風なまげ太鼓ライブ

Namahage taiko drumming is a local entertainment that blends Oga's nationally designated Intangible Folk Cultural Property of the Namahage with traditional Japanese drums for an impressive performance.

Access: About 25 minutes by car from Oga Station
TEL: 0185-33-3191
Performance hours: From 8:30 pm (opens 8 pm /30-40 minutes required)
Closed: Please check performance dates in advance
Admission: ¥540



2 Hachibodai Observatory 八望台

From the wooden observation deck, visitors can enjoy the scenic views of Toga Bay, Ichinomegata Maar, and Ninomegata Maar, as well as looking out over the Ou Mountains and the border with Aomori Prefecture.

Access: About 25 minutes by car from Oga Station



3 Sashimi Bowl 海鮮丼

Surrounded by the ocean, Oga has access to truly fresh seafood. A wide selection of rice bowls topped with sashimi are popular at the Kaisenya restaurant inside the Oga Seafood Market, also offering a variety of seasonal seafood.

Kaisenya restaurant, Oga Seafood Market
Address: 2-9-10 Kaigandori, Funagawaminato Funagawa, Oga-shi
Opening hours: 11 am - 3 pm
Closed: December 31 - January 4
Also available at other restaurants in Oga City



4 Shinzan Shrine 真山神社

Regarded as a sacred place of mountain worship since ancient times, this historical shrine is shrouded in a dignified atmosphere. In February every year, the Namahage Sedo Festival is held inside the shrine precincts.

Access: About 20 minutes by car from Oga Station



5 Akita Shamisen (Fuku no Ya)



秋田三味線ミニライブ(磯料理 福の家)

Inside the Fuku no Ya of Oga Hot Spring Village, mini live performances of Akita shamisen (Japanese lute) are held. The sound of the Akita shamisen is a refined and soft three-string harmony that resounds gently in the heart.

Access: About 25 minutes by car from Oga Station
 Performance hours: From 8 pm, 9:30 pm
 *On Mondays only from 9:30 pm
 Closed: Tuesdays
 Admission: ¥1,000 (with one drink)



6 Oga Hot Spring Village

男鹿温泉郷



7 hot spring inns are concentrated in this district, making it a great base for sightseeing in Oga City. The Namahage statue at the entrance of Oga Hot Spring Village is a popular spot for commemorative photograph.

Access: About 25 minutes by car from Oga Station



7 Akagami Shrine Goshado

赤神社五社堂



After climbing the 999 stone steps, which legend suggests were built by ogres, you are met with five shrines. They are said to have been built around 1710, each enshrining a Namahage figure.

Access: About 18 minutes by car from Oga Station



8 Ishiyaki

石焼料理



This lively fisherman's cuisine, with all the fragrance of the coast, features Oga seafood and seaweed cooked in a pot by dropping in a red-hot stone. Enjoy this dish at Cape Nyudozaki or Oga Hot Spring Village.

Minoko
 Address: 2-1 Konbuura, Kita-ura Nyudozaki, Oga-shi
 Opening hours: 11 am – 5 pm (Closes when ingredients run out)
 Closed: Irregular holidays

Also available at other restaurants nearby



9 Namahage Museum

なまはげ館



There is an exhibit here where visitors can view 150 various kinds of masks actually used by Namahage and can try on Namahage costumes for free. The Oga Shinzan Folklore Museum, where visitors can see demonstrations of Namahage events up close, is also nearby.

Access: About 20 minutes by car from Oga Station
 Opening hours: 8:30 am – 5 pm
 Closed: Open every day
 Admission: ¥540



10 Dairyu-ji Temple

大龍寺



An ancient temple established about 830 years ago. There is beautiful flora throughout the seasons in the Japanese garden on the temple grounds, including azaleas, water lilies and autumn foliage. English tours, zen meditation and Buddhist tracings and sutra experiences are available with a reservation.

Access: About 8 minutes on foot from Oga Station
 Opening hours: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (until 4 pm from November to March)
 Closed: Open every day
 Admission: ¥500 (includes admission, tea, teacake)



11 Babahera Ice Cream

ババヘラアイス



When the weather begins to warm, elderly woman can be seen outside event venues and along busy roadsides selling ice cream. Babahera is strawberry and banana flavored, with a texture similar to sorbet.



Photo: Shindo Reika, LLC

12 10,000 Buddhas of Shinzan

真山の万体仏



Lingering tradition holds that this hall was erected in 1714. About 12,000 Kshitigarbha statues carved of cedar wood line this hall, arrayed from the walls to the ceiling.

Access: About 20 minutes by car from Oga Station



13 Cape Nyudozaki

入道崎



A scenic spot on the northernmost tip of the Oga Peninsula, located at a northern latitude of 40 degrees overlooking the Sea of Japan. There is also a 28-meter high lighthouse here, selected as one of Japan's top 50 lighthouses.

Access: About 30 minutes by car from Oga Station



14 Oga Shottsuru Yakisoba

男鹿しよつる焼きそば



Based on shottsuru fish sauce, the traditional seasoning of Oga, this regional specialty also features specially-made noodles including powdered wakame seaweed and kelp soup stock. It can be enjoyed at restaurants all over Oga City.

Nyudozaki Kaikan

Address: 2-29 Konbuura, Kitaura Nyudozaki, Oga-shi

Opening hours: 10 am – 3 pm

Closed: Tuesday–Thursday (from April 20 to October 31), November 1 to April 19 (closed in winter)

Also available at other restaurants nearby

15 Mt. Kanpuzan

寒風山



Located on the east side of the Oga Peninsula, this spot affords a 360-degree view. The view from the Mt. Kanpuzan rotating observatory (admission fee applies) is also wonderful, offering a large panoramic view, which rotates completely every 13 minutes.

Access: About 15 minutes by car from Wakimoto Station



16 Namahage

なまはげ行事



Believed to be messengers of the gods, Namahage are visiting spirits that go around family homes on New Year's Eve, preventing evil and bringing harvests and bountiful fishing catches. From the second Friday to the following Sunday in February, the Namahage Sedo Festival is held, in which the Namahage dance in front of burning bonfires.

Venue: 97 Mizukuisawa, Kitaura Shinzan, Oga-shi, (Shinzan Shrine)



Any naughty children here?!

LET'S GO!

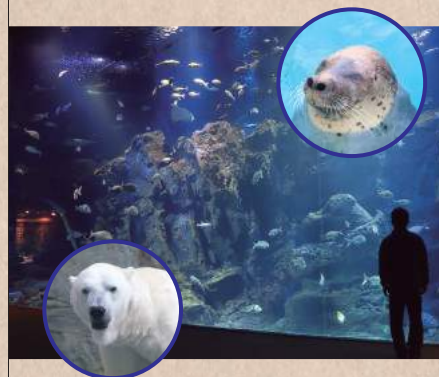
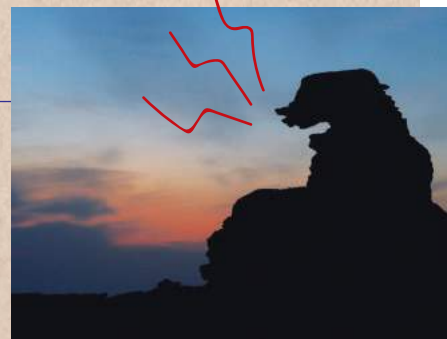
17 Godzilla Rock

ゴジラ岩



This popular spot is named for the rock blown here by an erupting volcano about 30 million years ago and shaped by erosion and weathering into a unique form resembling Japan's famous monster: Godzilla.

Access: About 15 minutes by car from Oga Station



18 Oga Aquarium GAO

男鹿水族館GAO



GAO is home to about 10,000 marine animals across 400 species. The Oga Ocean Aquarium reproducing the surrounding oceans is enchanting. Among the attractions are energetic polar bears and delightful spotted seals.

Access: About 30 minutes by car from Oga Station

Opening hours: 9 am – 5 pm *Varies depending on season

Closed: Open every day (closed for maintenance in winter)

Admission: ¥1,100



19 Oga Sea Cruise

男鹿海上遊覧船



Feel the sea breeze on your skin and experience the dynamic coastal beauty of the Oga Peninsula by boat. Viewed from the sea, the powerful rock and cliff formations are a spectacular sight, bringing out the very best of Oga.

Access: About 30 minutes by car from Oga Station

Cruise period: 4th Saturday in April to 31st October

Opening hours: 9 am – 3 pm

Closed: Open every day during cruise period

*Admission fees vary by route. Depending on weather conditions, routes may be changed or cancelled.



20 Satogurashi School

里暮らし体験塾



This hall houses a Japanese rural earthen-floored space, hearthside, furnace, etc., where visitors can experience traditional farm work, food making, strawcraft making, etc. while chatting with local residents.

Access: About 20 minutes by car from Oga Station

TEL: 0185-22-5050 Opening hours: 8:30 am – 5 pm

Closed: Open every day

Admission: ¥540 (Included in Namahage Museum admission fee)

*Content of courses varies depending on season. Please inquire.





五風NAMA HAGE太鼓表演



NAMA HAGE館



真山神社



Oga Area Map

A town of emotion, colored with history and fireworks

Hanabi Town, Daisen, has a bounty of historical sites, temples, shrines and spectacular regional festivals accentuating each season. Discover the charming traditions passed down over the years.

 **Daisen**

 **Daisen**

There are plenty of sake breweries!



-  Festival/Event
-  Shopping
-  Food
-  Sightseeing Spot
-  Accommodation

1 Omagari Hanabi

全国花火競技大会(大曲の花火)
Last Saturday in August



Hanabi artists from all over the country compete in this overwhelming competition, seeing over 18,000 shells fired, including a daytime fireworks category before dusk unique to Omagari. Fireworks displays are also held in spring, autumn and winter, and August 2018 will see the opening of a fireworks museum.

Venue: Omono Riverbank, Omagari
*Venue varies depending on the season



2 Hotta no Saku

払田柵跡



Constructed approximately 1,200 years ago, the fortification was built to unify the area and functioned as a central base for local government and military, as well as serving as a location for ceremonies. The wooden walls stretch a vast 3.6 kilometres, enclosing an area of 87.8 hectares.

Access: About 15 minutes by car from Omagari Station
Opening hours: 9 am – 4 pm (Hotta no Saku Information Centre)
Open: Hotta no Saku Information Centre is open every day from April 1 to November 30
Admission: Free



3 Yaotome Park

八乙女公園



This sprawling park, well-known for its cherry blossoms, follows the banks of the Sainai River behind rest area Nakasen Michi no Eki and around Mt. Yaotome. Walkways run throughout the park for strolling underneath the blossoms of the 2,000 cherry trees.

Access: About 5 minutes by car from Ugo-Nagano Station



NATTO!!



4 Omagari Natto Soup

大曲納豆汁



Regional miso soup made with fermented soy beans and seasonal ingredients like wild vegetables and mushrooms. A household favorite in Omagari since long ago, this local soul food is packed with natto flavor.

Kitano Suisan, Omagari Ekimae
Address: 3-6 Omagari Torimachi, Daisen
Opening hours: 11 am – 3 pm (last order at 2:30 pm),
5 pm – 11 pm (last order at 10 pm)
Closed: Open every day

Also available at other restaurants nearby

5 Kariwano Giant Tug of War

刈和野の大綱引き
February 10



This festival of strength splits the town in two, each side numbering in the thousands. Participants pull either side of one of the largest ropes in Japan—about 80 centimetres in diameter, 200 meters in length, and weighing roughly 20 tons. While the massive rope strains and creaks, the struggle back and forward seems an endless battle, making for a powerful and spectacular sight.

Venue: Kariwano Omachi-dori, 190-1 Kariwano, Daisen

6 Hideyoshi

秀よし (合名会社鈴木酒造店)



Dating back 320 years, this historic brewery is one of the oldest in the prefecture. Visitors can take a tour through the impressive interior, and sample a number of sake varieties. After finding one you like, bottles are available for purchase.



Access: About 10 minutes on foot from Ugo-Nagano Station
Opening hours: 9 am – 12 pm, 1 pm – 4 pm
Closed: December 31 – January 3
Admission: Free (Requires a reservation via QR code on page 2)



7 Hozo-ji Giant Zelkova

宝蔵寺の大けやき



The giant zelkova standing in the temple precincts of Hozo-ji is said to be at least 950 years old, and boasts a trunk circumference and height of roughly 11 and 38 metres respectively. As one of Akita's most well-known and prestigious trees, its size overwhelms any who stand near it.

Access: About 10 minutes on foot from Jinguji Station
*Please be respectful upon visiting as it is private property



8 Everyday Omagari

毎日大曲



Select shop situated inside an 80-year old renovated pharmacy storehouse selling beautifully crafted Japanese fireworks and local products. Inside is also home to a lifestyle store that stocks regional design and artisan wares.

Access: About 2 minutes on foot from Omagari Station
Opening hours: 10 am – 6:30 pm
Closed: Irregular Holidays



HANABI!!



9 Ota Fire Festival

太田の火まつり

February



A local Lunar New Year festival where giant straw tenpitsu-yaki towers are lit ablaze while around 50 paper balloons of all sizes are cast into the night sky. Ota Fire Festival finishes with a fireworks display.

Venue: 10-5 Sogyo Oyachi, Ota, Otacho, Daisen (Ousanso Plaza)



10 Karamatsu Shrine

唐松神社



A shrine to a deity known for its strong ties to fertility and healthy birth. The space has an air of grandeur, built on stones piled in the center of a circular pond with 300 year-old cedar lining the main approach.

Access: About 10 minutes on foot from Ugo-Sakai Station



11 Dewatsuru

出羽鶴酒造



Based on the principal of rice before sake, the brewmasters pour their energy first into cultivating high-quality rice. Tour the brewery to understand their commitment to process, and see up-close the enormous steaming vats and koji room where mold spores are cultured.

Access: About 25 minutes by car from Omagari Station
Admission: Free (Requires a reservation via QR code on page 2. Tours only operate on weekdays and are unavailable between October 1 – April 30. Sake not available for direct purchase.)



12 Shōhōen

強首温泉 桜峰苑



Built in 1917, this traditional Japanese inn has been nationally designated as a Tangible Cultural Property. Historical construction methods can be seen throughout, such as the natural Akita cedar floorboards in the corridors and spacious 40 tatami banquet hall.

Access: About 6 minutes by car from Mineyoshikawa Station
Closed: Open every day
Accommodation: From ¥14,500 per night (incl. 2 meals)
URL: <http://www.syohoen.net/>
*Reservation required from URL listed above



13 River Crossing Bonden

川を渡るぼんでん

February 11



Bonden are festivals where large decorative poles* are offered to local shrines. Among the many bonden festivals throughout Japan, Daisen has the only one featuring a river-crossing. Teams sing while carrying their bonden around town, then cross the river by boat.

Venue: Hanadate area > Omono River > Mt. Izu Shrine
*These poles, known as bonden, are a ceremonial item made by elaborately wrapping colourful cloth and paper on long wooden rods.

RELAX ♪



14 Nakagawara Community Park

中川原コミュニティ公園

A pleasant spot to relax alongside the calm flow of Omono River backed by the striking Mt. Dake. Cherry blossoms blanket the riverbank in spring, and a 7,000 shell fireworks display is held here every year on September 14.

Access: About 12 minutes on foot from Jinguji Station



15 Kariho

刈穂酒造

Sake here is brewed over a 60 day period at low temperature, developing a delicate flavour by employing the effects of natural yeast and lactic acid bacteria through the traditional yamahai method. The brewery itself is a historical building built in 1850, and visitors are able to take a tour of the brewing areas and fermentation room.

Access: About 8 minutes on foot from Jinguji Station
Admission: Free (Requires a reservation via QR code on page 2. Tours only operate on weekdays and are unavailable between 1 October – 30 April. Sake not available for direct purchase.)



16 Omagari Hanabi Motif

大曲の花火モチーフ

Befitting of Hanabi Town, a giant shell monument stands in front of Omagari Station, and illustrative manhole covers adorn the Hanabi-dori arcade. Large photographs can also be seen lining the walls of the underpass connecting the two areas.



17 Koshio Shrine

古四王神社

Standing without a single nail and adorned with intricate carvings, the shrine employs an exceptionally elegant method of construction. In 1950, it was nationally designated as an Important Cultural Property.

Access: About 10 minutes by car from Omagari Station



18 Kurashi no Rekishikan

大仙市総合民俗資料交流館
くらしの歴史館

A cultural museum housed inside of an old elementary school that gives insight into Japanese life of yesteryear. Among the displays are immersive recreations of village streets and various agricultural, cooking and lifestyle items.

Access: About 18 minutes on foot from Mineyoshikawa Station
Opening period: Late May – mid-June, August (either side of Omagari Hanabi), late October – mid-November
Opening hours: 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
Open: Open every day during opening period
Admission: Free



19 Omagari Curry Umen

大曲カレー旨種

Local specialty made with ramen noodles in a Japanese soup usually found in udon or soba and topped with curry. The rich curry complements the umami in the soup, culminating in an intense flavour unique to Omagari.

Hotel Fuji, Fuji Japanese Dining
Address: 1-28 Omagari Torimachi, Daisen
Opening hours: 11 am – 2 pm, 4 pm – 10 pm
Closed: Sunday

Also available at other restaurants nearby



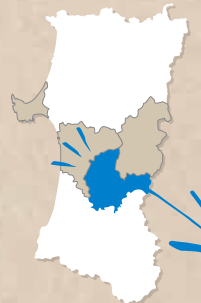
20 Ikeda Family Gardens Hotta Branch Gardens

旧池田氏庭園

Gardens of the Ikeda Family estate, one of Tohoku region's top three former landowners. Each season is painted on the numerous plants and trees, and visitors can also admire the spectacular Yukimi Stone Lantern and Western Manor. The Hotta Branch Gardens are located nearby.

Access: About 15 minutes by car from Omagari Station
Open to the public: Mid-May – mid-November
Opening hours: 9 am – 4 pm (Last entry at 3:30 pm)
Admission: ¥320





Daisen Area Map



Omagari Hanabi



Karamatsu Shrine



A castle town with an air of romance, where the original landscape of Japan lives on

Take a relaxing trip to Semboku, bathed in serenity and historical charm — home to Lake Tazawa, with its lapis waters; Kakunodate, a bustling castle town of old; and Nyuto Hot Springs Village, boasting some of Japan's most popular secluded onsens.

S Semboku



S Semboku



All of the onsens are excellent.



1 Kakunodate Cherry Blossom Festival

角館の桜まつり April 20 - May 5

Kakunodate is known as one of the top three cherry blossom spots in the Michinoku region of Tohoku. Cherry trees colour the town pink, running along the Hinokinai River and drooping gracefully either side of the main road through the Samurai District. The illuminated blossoms at night are also spectacular.

Venue: In Kakunodate-machi, Semboku-shi

*Festival period is subject to change, depending on the flowering of cherry blossoms.



2 Shin Tamagawa Onsen

新玉川温泉

A rare onsen with a high concentration of hydrochloric acid, its spring producing the largest amount of water in Japan from a single source. There are a variety of baths including a completely pure, and half diluted bath, as well as waterfall-style, steam, and wooden box baths.

Access: About 60 minutes by car from Tazawako Station
Accommodation: From ¥12,030 per night (incl. 2 meals)



3 Kimono Experience (Kimono no Tabi Shanari)

着物体験(きもの旅 しゃなり)

Choose a favorite kimono, and the veteran staff will dress you in it. Dressed up in a kimono, you will enjoy taking a stroll around Kakunodate even more. Since you can also rent small accessories bags, you don't need to bring anything.

Access: About 10 minutes on foot from Kakunodate Station (Tatetsuke)

TEL: 0187-63-6751 Opening hours: 10 am - 5 pm

Closed: Open every day Fee: ¥4,000

*Booking required 1 day in advance



4 Statue of Tatsuko

たつこ像

The deepest lake in Japan with a depth of 423.4 meters. Near the shore of the nearly circular Lake Tazawa, measuring about 20 kilometers around, is situated a bronze statue of Princess Tatsuko, who legend suggests turned into a lake spirit in hopes of eternal youth and good looks.

Access: About 25 minutes by car from Tazawako Station



Come to see me!



5 The Yama Event of Kakunodate Festival

角館祭りのやま行事 September 7 to 9



This festival commenced about 400 years ago to pray for local prosperity and freedom from disease and disaster, featuring festival floats pulled through the streets carrying samurai dolls and kabuki dolls. The brilliant hand gesture dances accompanying the festival music are also a wonderful sight.

Venue: In Kakunodate-machi, Semboku City



6 Kaba Craft Densho-kan

角館榎細工伝承館



The cultural and historical traditions of Kakunodate are exhibited here, with a focus on kabaizuku woodcraft items made of cherry bark. Demonstrations of kabaizuku craft are also available, allowing visitors to view fine craftsmanship up close. Purchase of kabaizuku craft is also possible at the shop.

Access: About 20 minutes on foot from Kakunodate Station

TEL:0187-54-1700

Opening hours: 9 am – 5 pm

(until 4:30 pm from December to March)

Closed: December 28 – January 4 (please make inquiries)

Admission: ¥300



7 Ando Fermentation

安藤醸造 本店



Since its founding in 1853, this long-established store has maintained the traditional flavors of miso and soy sauce. Featuring no additives and an all-natural brewing process, the quality here is strictly controlled by experienced master brewers. Visitors can also see the kura-zashiki, the oldest brick building in Tohoku, free of charge.

Access: About 13 minutes on foot from Kakunodate Station

Opening hours: 8:30 am – 6 pm

Closed: Open every day



8 Aoyagi Samurai Mayor Museum

角館歴史村 青柳家



Inside the roughly 1,000m² estate there are six museums housing various historical artefacts of Kakunodate. There are also costumes available to try on including swords, helmets and traditional winter wear. Overlooking the garden is a retro cafe where visitors can relax.

Access: About 20 minutes on foot from Kakunodate Station

Opening hours: 9 am – 5 pm (until 4:30 pm from December to March)

Closed: Open every day Admission: ¥500



Japanese Armor

9 Nyuto Hot Spring Village

乳頭温泉郷



One of the most popular hot spring villages in Japan, Nyuto is home to seven Onsen dotted around the base of Mount Nyuto in Towada Hachimantai National Park. Each has its own separate source, leading to distinct differences in water. The area has a majestic feeling of old, with iconic thatched roofs.

Access: About 25 minutes by car from Tazawako Station



Photo: Tsuru no Yu Onsen

10 Ishiguro House

石黒家



Lingering traces of the lifestyles of samurai dating back 200 years can be seen first-hand in the oldest existing dwelling in Kakunodate. The main residence and renovated storehouse are both open to the public, and is the only place in the district where audio commentary is available.

Access: About 25 minutes on foot from Kakunodate Station

Opening hours: 9 am – 5 pm

Closed: Open every day

Admission: ¥400



11 Dakigaeri Gorge

抱返り渓谷



Dakigaeri Gorge is characterized by its deep valley and distinctive blue river. The well-maintained walking trail offers great views of strange rock formations and waterfalls both large and small. The views from the red suspension bridge at the gorge's entrance—the “Stone Bridge of the Gods,” about 80 meters in length—are outstanding.

Access: About 5 minutes by car from Jindai Station

*The walking trail is closed from the end of November to the end of April (scheduled)



12 Parfait (Fruit Parlor Sakaiya)

パフェ(フルーツパーラーさかい屋)



A popular local fruit parlor operated by a fruit and vegetable shop. Because it's a fruit shop, it offers delicious parfait at reasonably prices made with an abundance of seasonal fresh fruit.

Access: About 5 minutes on foot from Kakunodate Station

Opening hours: 9 am – 6:30 pm (parfait served from 10 am – 5 pm)

Closed: Irregular Holidays



13 Paper Balloon Festival of Kamihinokinai

上松木内の紙風船上げ February 10

During this event, wishes are attached to huge paper balloons bearing painted depictions of samurai and beautiful women, which are then launched into the night sky so that the wishes might reach the heavens. The sight of 100 paper balloons being launched into the winter night sky is truly fantastic.

Venue: Ochida, Kamihinokinai, Nishiki-cho, Semboku-shi (Paper Balloon Square)



14 Kinpo Shrine

金峰神社

This ancient shrine was founded in 718. The shrine approach is an avenue of cedar trees over 350 to 800 years old and has been designated a natural treasure of the prefecture. The Nio guardian statue sculpted from a single massive cedar tree at the Niomon gate is a sight to see.

Access: About 10 minutes by car from Jindai Station



15 Tazawako Ski Resort

たざわ湖スキー場

Known for the variety of courses and superior powder snow, the ski area offers sweeping panoramic views over Lake Tazawa. Mizusawa Hot Spring Village is located nearby, where you can warm your cold body in an onsen.

Access: About 20 minutes by car from Tazawako Station, about 30 minutes by regular bus service (12 round trips a day)

Opening hours: 9 am – 4 pm (8:30 am – 4 pm on weekends & public holidays)

Open: Every day during season (December 15 – April 8)

Lift pass: ¥4,000 per day

*Please confirm details on official website



16 Okaribayaki

御狩場焼

Okaribayaki is a dish of grilled meat and vegetables seasoned with Japanese pepper miso, which is served at restaurants in the town of Kakunodate. At the Kakunodate Shichibe restaurant, diners can enjoy the taste of okaribayaki with miso-baked Hinai-jidori chicken and seasonal vegetables served on hoba leaves.

Kakunodate Shichibe

Address: 15 Yokomachi, Kakunodate-machi, Semboku-shi

Opening hours: 11 am – 8 pm (last orders 6:30 pm, or 5 pm on Sundays)

Closed: Tuesdays Also available at other restaurants nearby



17 Mizusawa Hot Spring Village

水沢温泉郷

Situated nearby Mount Akita Komagatake, Mizusawa is rich in natural beauty with views over the distant Lake Tazawa. Close to Tazawako Ski Resort, it's dotted with natural hot spring bathhouses, hotels, ryokan and guest houses.

Access: About 15 minutes by car from Tazawako Station



Photo: Mizusawa Onsen

18 Seisetsukan Farm Inn

農家の宿 星雪館

At this cosy inn run by a farming family, the sky is full of stars in summer, and pure white snow blankets the land in winter. Guests can pick their own vegetables and enjoy home-cooked meals with fresh produce collected in the fields and nearby mountains.

Access: About 15 minutes on foot from Ugo-nagatoro Station on the Akita Nairiku Jukan Railway line

Closed: Irregular Holidays

Accommodation: ¥7,000 per night (incl. 2 meals)

Email: seise2kan@gmail.com

*Reservations required—please use the email address listed above



19 Mount Akita Komagatake

秋田駒ヶ岳

With an altitude of 1,637 meters, Komagatake is said to be Tohoku's most notable treasure trove of alpine flora, with countless flowers blooming in the first half of summer. The summit offers magnificent views of nearby mountain ranges, as well as the shining lapis waters of Lake Tazawa.

Access: About 25 minutes by car from Tazawako Station



20 Warabi Theater Akita Art Village

あきた芸術村 劇団わらび座

A theatrical group founded in 1951, currently producing and performing original musicals incorporating Japanese cultural themes and folk performing arts. The group has set up a theater within Akita Art Village where regular performances are held.

Access: About 7 minutes by free shuttle bus from Kakunodate Station

TEL: 0187-44-3311

*Please inquire about performance hours, admission fees

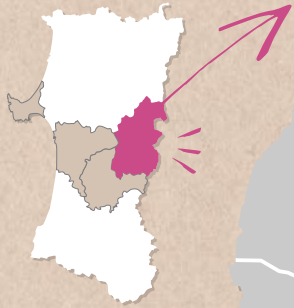




Paper Balloon Festival of Kamihinokinai



Aoyagi Samurai Mayor Museum



Semboku Area Map



Shin Tamagawa Onsen
▶P.28



Tozawa Station

Paper Balloon Festival of Kamihinokinai
▶P.31

Kamihinokinai Station

Sadoori Station

Seisetsukan Farm Inn
▶P.32

Matsuba Station

Ugo-nagatoro Station

Yatsu Station

Saimyoji Station

Ugo-ota Station

Kakunodate Station

Stature of Tatsuko
▶P.28



Tazawako Station

Kinpo Shrine
▶P.31

Jindai Station

Shoden Station

Warabi Theater
▶P.32

Shoden Station

Shoden Station

Shoden Station

Shoden Station

Shoden Station

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Shoden Station

Shoden Station

Shoden Station

Sashimaki Station

Dakigaeri Gorge
▶P.30

Dakigaeri Gorge

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Mizusawa Hot Spring Village
▶P.32

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Nyuto Hot Spring Village
▶P.30

Nyuto Hot Spring Village

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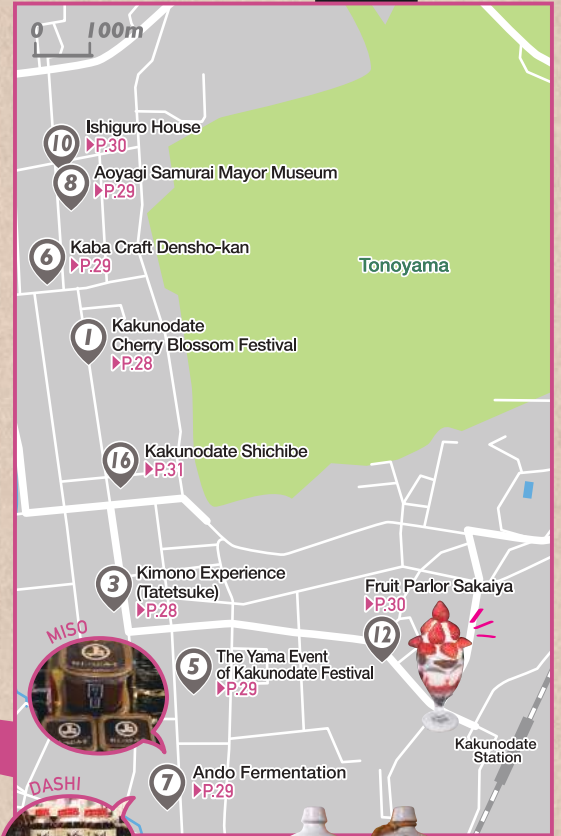
Nyuto Hot Spring Village

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Semboku







It was I who drew the pictures in the New Text on Anatomy.

Statue of Naotake Odano



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