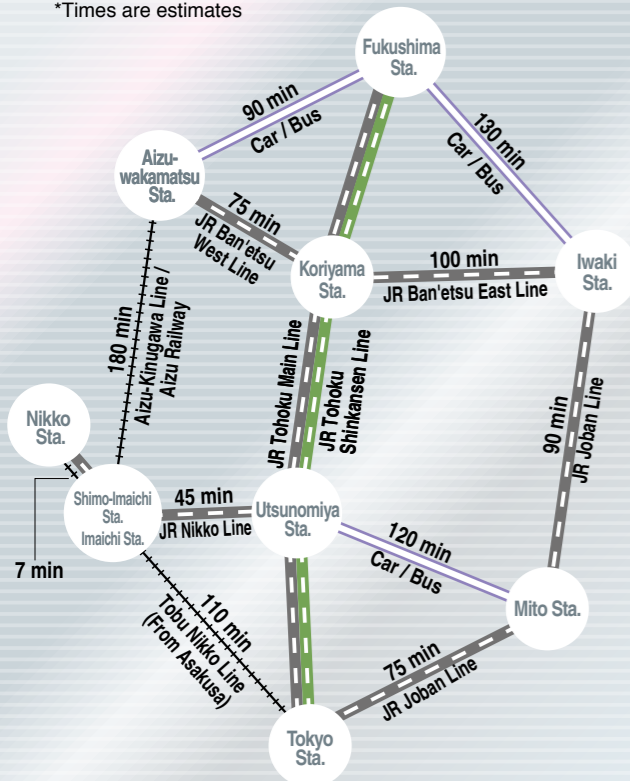


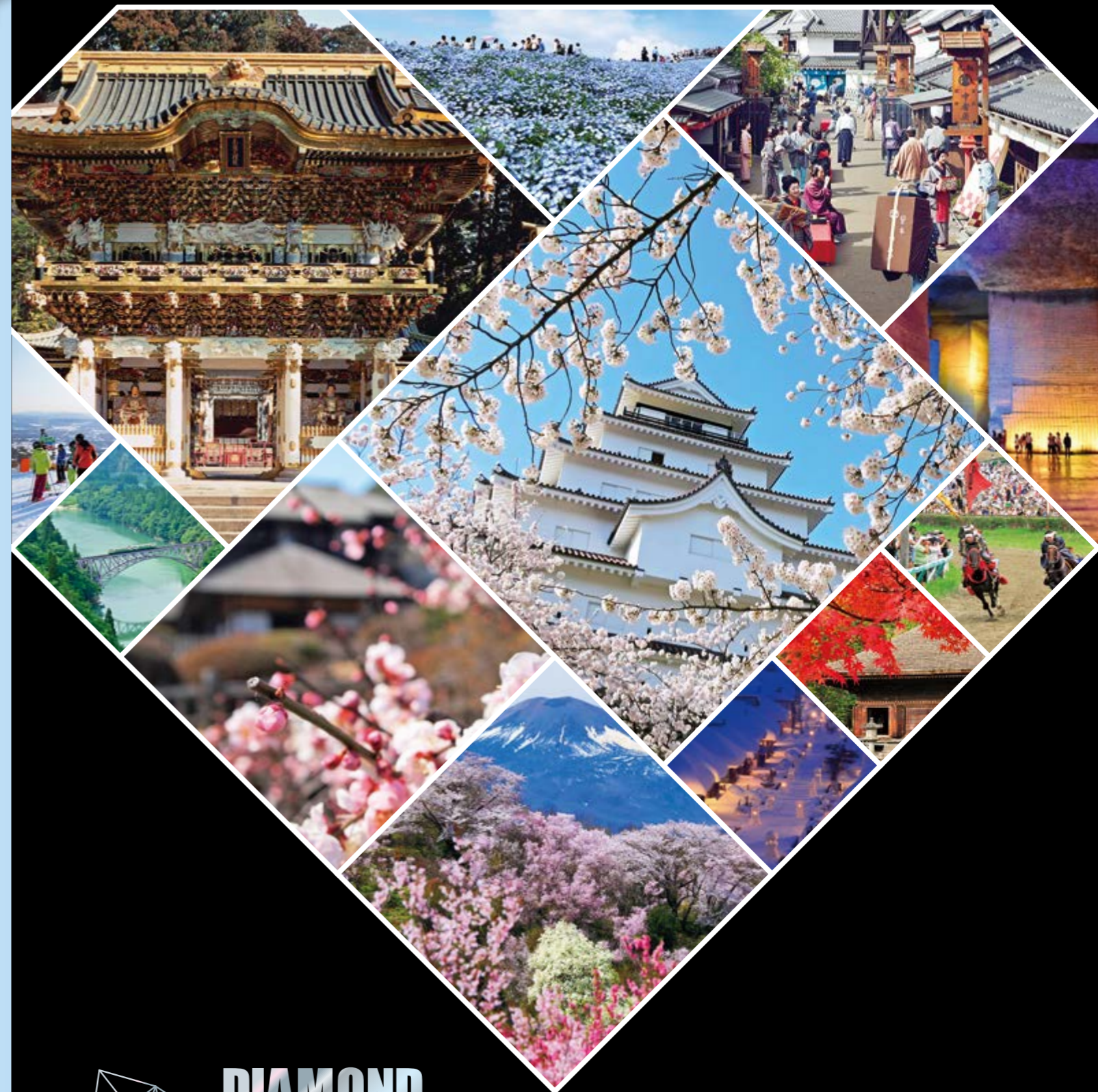
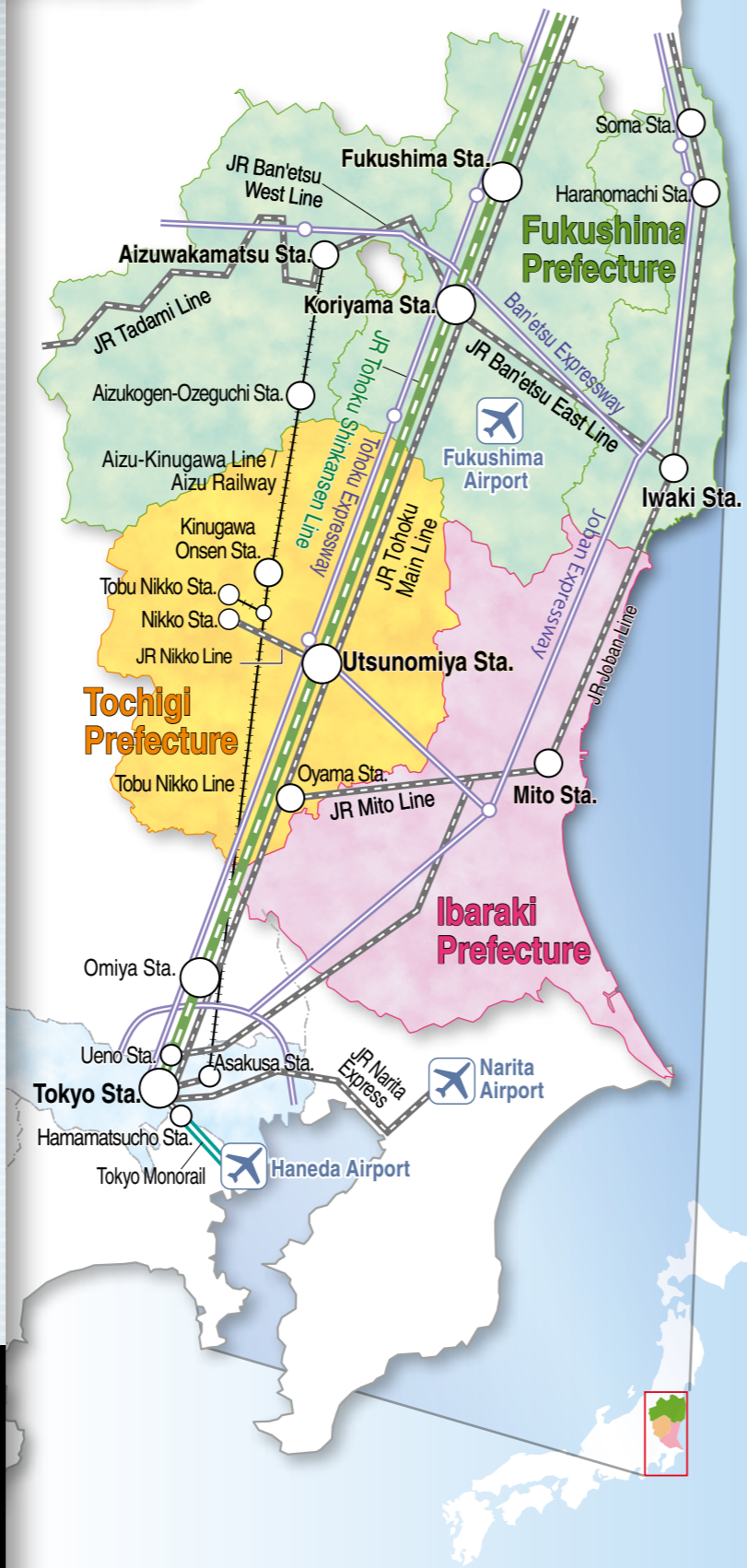
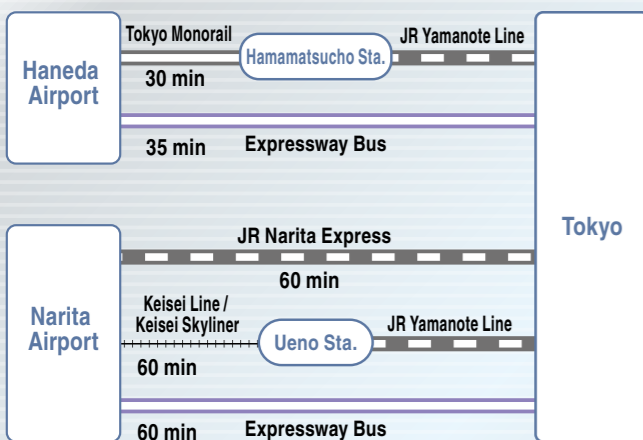
ACCESS

Traveling Between Different Areas

*Times are estimates



Reaching Tokyo from Nearby Airports



DIAMOND ROUTE JAPAN

Diamond Route Japan: An Introduction

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/>



DIAMOND ROUTE JAPAN

Sightseeing Guide

Fukushima | Tochigi | Ibaraki

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



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

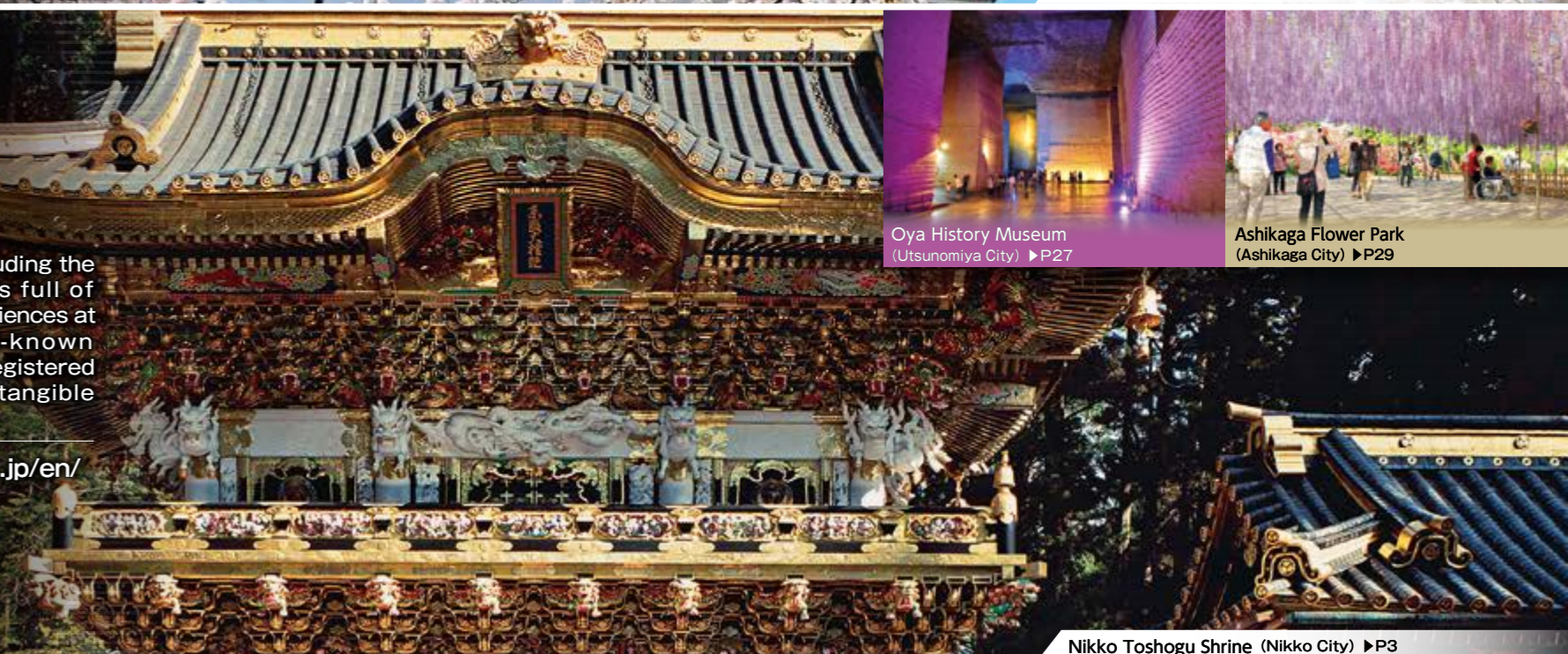
Tsurugajo Castle (Aizu-Wakamatsu City) ▶P5 · P13

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!

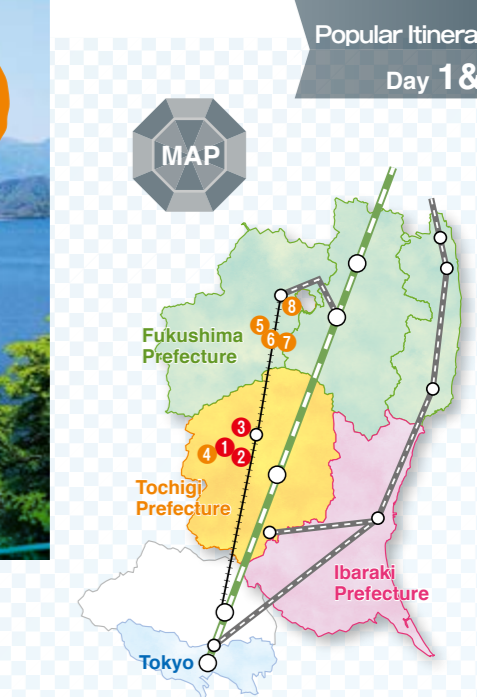
7 To-no-hetsuri Crags Shimogo Town

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



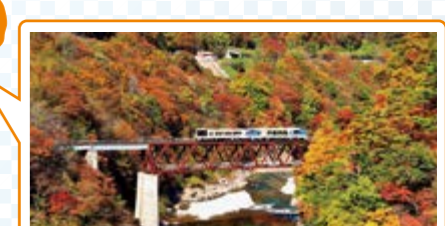
6 Yunokami Onsen Sta. Shimogo Town

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.

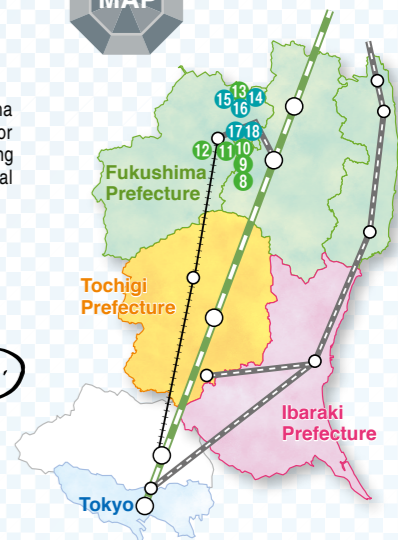
Access: 15 min by bus from Inawashiro Sta. on the JR Ban'etsu West Line. By Car: 10 min from Inawashiro Bandaikogen I.C. on the Ban'etsu Expressway
Business Hours: 8:30 am - 5 pm (Subject to change during the winter months)
Mapcode: 413 080 169*25
<https://www.tif.ne.jp/tenkyokaku/en/>

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

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>

Inawashiro Town 1 hour 40 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

15 min

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

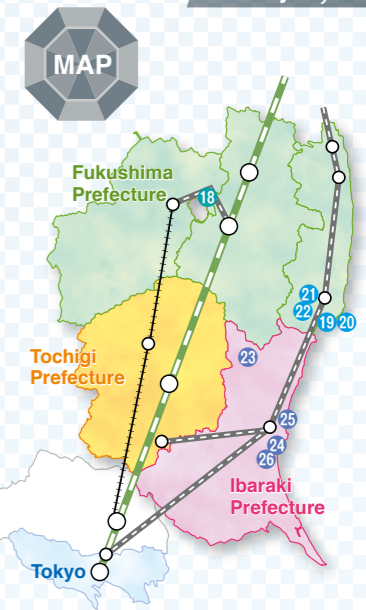
3 hours 15 min



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