



# Useful sites

### Sightseeing information

Gokujo-no-Aizu http://gokujo-aizu.com/iti

Gokujo-no-Aizu FB

http://www.facebook.com/gokujounoaizu.iti/

### Transportation information

East Japan Railway Company http://www.jreast.co.jp/e (Information by telephone in English, Chinese and Korean) \$\mathbb{T}\$ +81-50-2016-1603

Aizu Railway
http://www.aizutetsudo.jp/

Fukushima Transportation, Inc.

Aizu Bus
https://www.aizubus.com

http://www.fukushima-koutu.co.jp http://www.fks-ab.co.jp/en

# Multilingual sightseeing information

Central Aizuwakamatsu Station
Tourist Information Center (English)

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/spot/tic/aizu-wakamatsu\_sta.html

Central Area Tsurugajo Castle Tourist Information Center (English) T+81-242-29-1151

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/spot/tic/tsurugajo\_castle.html

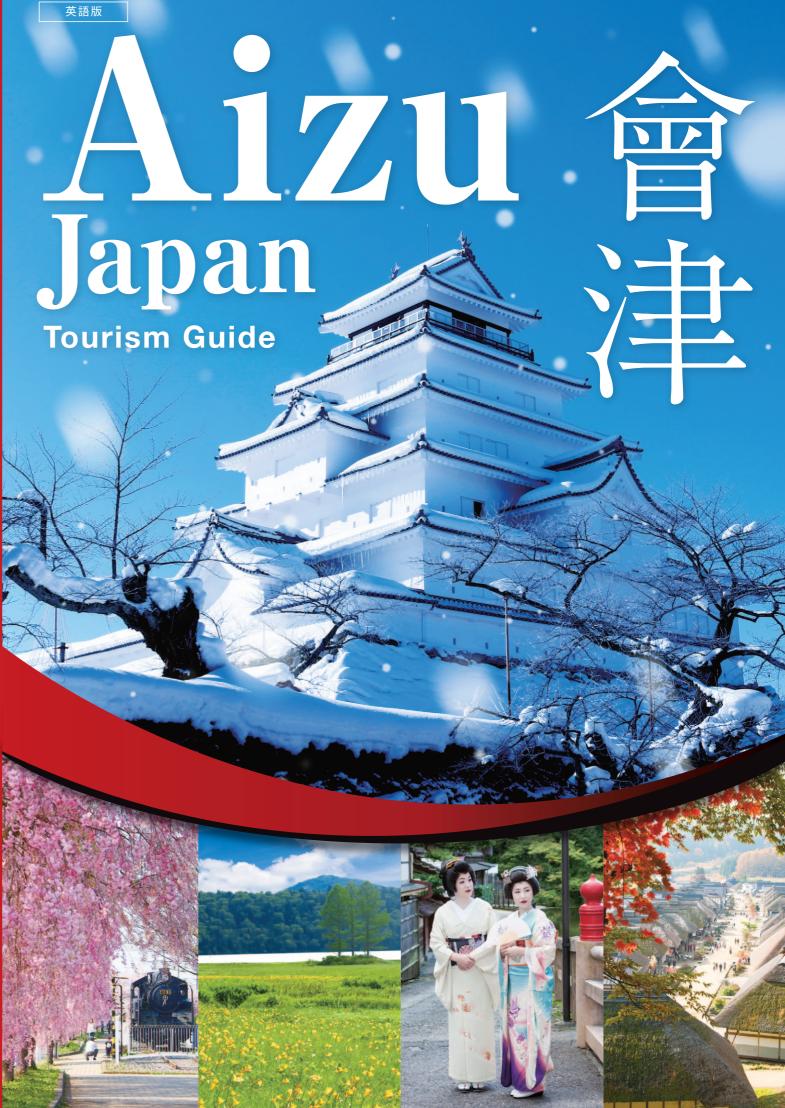
Central Roadside Station Aizu Yugawa/Aizubange(English) # +81-241-2

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/spot/tic/07024740.html

Urabandai Tourist Association (English, Chinese and Korean)

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/spot/tic/urabandai.html

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# Nature's Four Seasons Aizu:Rich in the History and Culture of Japan

Aizu is rich in nature, whose beauty changes with the seasons. The shrines and temples themselves are surrounded by a sacred, tranquil atmosphere. The ancient spirits of the samurai, culture, and food have been preserved. A variety of Japanese styled buildings and onsens are also available. Aizu has plenty of fascinating things to do for all tourists.

The "Japan" you've been picturing can be found here in Aizu. Beautiful and amazing encounters await vou  $\sim$ 



Aizu consists of 17 distinctive municipalities.

For the purpose of including general regional / location images, we have separated the entire Aizu area into five parts: the central area, eastern area, western area, southern area, and



### Cover Photo

①Tsurugajo Castle (Aizuwakamatsu City) ②Nicchu Line Memorial Motor/Walkway (Kitakata City)

 ③Oze National Park (Hinoemata Village)
 ④ Karariko in Higashiyama Onsen (Aizuwakamatsu City)
 ⑤Ouchijuku (Shimogo Town)

# Winter

# Breath-taking scenery and the excitement of the snowy landscape

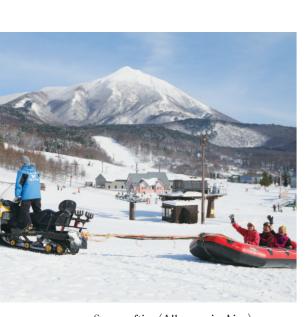
Aizu's four seasons are distinct, so the same place may be enjoyed a variety of ways in each season. Of the seasons, winter is especially recommended. The pure white snow and extreme cold climate produces an a variety of scenery and landscapes which can be found only Aizu. The winter events we offer include not only skiing and snowboarding, but also hands-on activities like ice fishing.

Shibuki Go-ri (Inawashiro Town) Best season:

MAP P.19 D-2 Mid-January to Early February

Shibuki Go-ri refers to the ice on the trees near the shores of the lake, which are made from the strong winds which pass over the water. It is art made by nature itself.





Snow-rafting (All areas in Aizu) Enjoy the thrill of riding in a "rubber boat", as it is pulled by a snowmobile across a field of snow.



Eastern Yellow Fall
Area 〈Inawashiro Town, Kitashiobara Village〉 MAP P.19 D-1 Best Season:

Mid-January to Early February

The icicles resemble stalactites, and their various sizes and shapes are breath-taking.





Ice fishing for pond smelt ⟨Kitashiobara Village⟩

MAP P.19 D-1 Fishing seasons are as follows: Fishing from a Yakata-bune (A domed boat): November to March Fishing on the iced-over lake: January to March

Enjoy ice fishing by drilling a hole into the iced-over lake. Fishing equipment and temporary ice-houses are available for rent.



Takatsue Snowcat Tour (Minamiaizu Town) MAP P.19 B-4 Season: Late-January to Mid-March

On this tour, you will climb the slopes of the ski resort in a snowmobile, for the magnificent winter view from in a mountain peak. Even if you' re not good at winter sports, there is plenty for everyone to enjoy.









Season: Second Saturday of February Snow and Fire Festival (Mishima Town)

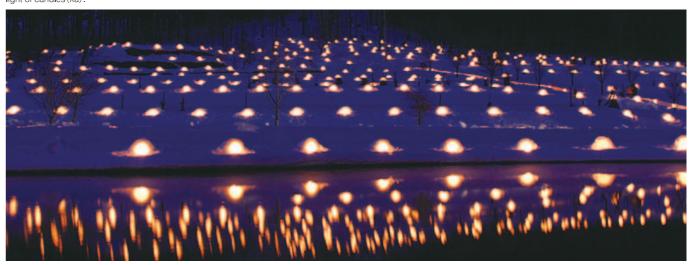
The "Sainokami," is a revival bonfire event to pray for a bountiful harvest. A huge 20 meter bonfire is the center of the event.



Nakayama Setsugetsuka (Shimogo Town) Area Season:Late February

MAP P.19 C-3

A fantastic event that combines the beauty of Aizu's snow(setsu), the glowing moon(getsu), and the light of candles (ka).







# Nature/ History

# Exploring the precious nature and history found only in Aizu

Cherry blossoms in spring, greenery in summer, and a multitude of colored leaves in autumn-outside of winter, Aizu has a variety of landscapes visible only during certain seasons. Additionally, Buddhism has prospered here for more than a thousand years. Aizu is therefore known as one of the five biggest Buddhism towns in Japan, and it still hosts a number of historical buildings and Buddhist imagery. You can learn about the history and culture of samurai at Tsurugajo Castle.

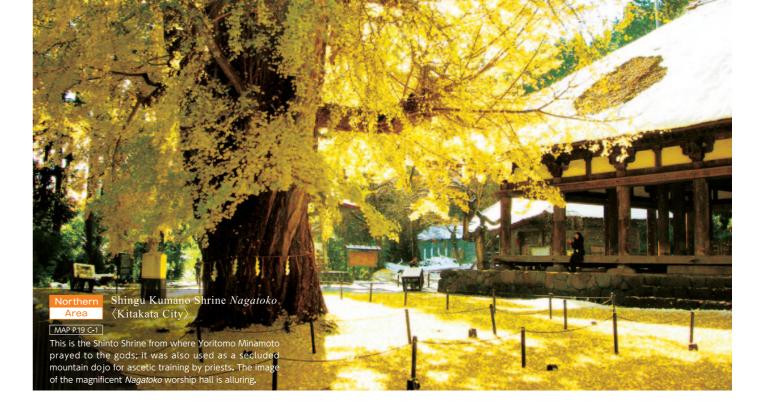


Northern Nicchu Line Memorial Motor/ Area Walkway

MAP P.19 C-1 (Kitakata City)

Approximately 1,000 cherry trees bloom in the area around the closed Nicchu Line, which spans nearly 3 kilometers. A steam locomotive is also on display.

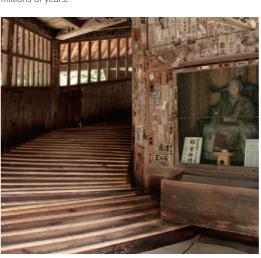






Southern Tou no Hetsuri Area (Shimogo Town)

Hetsuri means "cliff" in Japanese. This art is created naturally through weathering and erosion. You can feel the history of



Sazaedo MAP P.19 C-2 ⟨Aizuwakamatsu City⟩

This Buddhist temple feature unique winding staircases inside. The building itself looks like a turban shell, and hosts two staircases, which allows visitors to climb the stairs without meeting descending visitors.







# **Local Food/** Souvenirs

# Enjoy the local cuisine and traditional techniques of Aizu

All of Aizu's local cuisine is simple yet sophisticated. It was created using the wisdom and resources of people who survived deep snows in winter, and has inherited the spirit of the local samurai. Japanese sake, using pure and delicious water, is also produced to this day. The lacquerware and cotton products of the area are also beautiful and practical, making them very popular as souvenirs.

> Kitakata ramen (Kitakata City)

Kitakata ramen is very good.

love it and eat it every week!

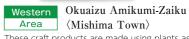






Aizu Hongo originated with the baking of roof

tiles for Tsurugajo castle nearly 400 years ago.



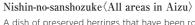
These craft products are made using plants as material. They are designated as a recognized traditional craft of Japan.



### Aizu Hariko (All areas in Aizu)

Aizu Hariko have been made for nearly 400 years. This traditional toy is a lucky charm in the Aizu regions.

en from ramie fiber



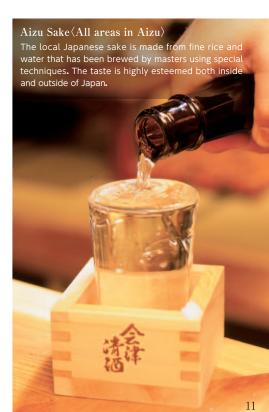
A dish of preserved herrings that have been rolled in Japanese pepper-leaves and pickled with soy sauce, vinegar, sake, and so on-it is a regional preserved dish. It is perfect as a snack served with Japanese sake.





### Mishirazu-gaki (All areas in Aizu)

It is said that these persimmons were named because they are "too good to stop eating", and are a favorite of the imperial family. These persimmons will melt in your mouth.



# Experiences/ Onsen

# After you have enjoyed experiencing Japanese culture, enjoy the relaxing Onsen(hot springs)

If you have an interest in Japanese culture, such as zen meditation, Japanese archery, and traditional crafts, Aizu is highly recommended. The time spent enjoying these activities will give you something good to remember about your trip. Don't miss the onsens either. Relax in the bath while enjoying the view outside. The experience will make you forget all your stress.





Central

Area MAP P.19 C-2

Zen meditation and Japanese archery experience Aizu Clan School Nisshinkan

(Aizuwakamatsu City)

Learn about the spirit of Japanese zen through zen meditation, and try out Japanese archery with this experience. Your power of concentration will increase. (Aizu Samurai sprits)





akabeko. It's my lucky charm.





Tasting and Tour at Sake Breweries (All areas in Aizu)

You can learn about the process of making sake, take a tour in the brewery, and enjoy tasting the sake, for which Aizu is famous all over the world.







Onsen resort with a taste of a rustic mountain town. Yunokami-Onsen Station has a rare thatched roof and a footbath beside the building.





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# A Castle Town with Plenty of Ancient Tradition

The impregnable Tsurugajo Castle is located in the central area. In this area, there are plenty of places where you can feel and experience the history and culture of Aizu. The geisha performance known as *karariko* is certainly worth seeing. With concern to traditional events, Aizu hosts several festivals and events which are rare and unique even in Japan. You can also enjoy onsen with a great view, and local cuisine.

### Recommended Events

Yugawa Village New Rice Festival ⟨Yugawa Village⟩

Season: Mid-October

MAP P.19 C-2

Yugawa Village is one of the best places in Aizu for rice farming. There are events where you can experience harvesting and tasting new rice. Agricultural produce is also sold.



# Otawarahiki

(Aizubange Town and Aizumisato Town) Season: January 14th (Aizubange Town)

Second Saturday of January

Men in loincloths are divided into red and white teams (east and west) and pull a large rice bale. It is said that the result of the game determines "rich harvest" or "increase in the price of rice."









Tsurugajo Castle

















Aizuwakamatsu City









# Solemn and alluring shrines and temples await

There are a number of monuments in the Northern Area that have been symbols of religious faith, including the sanzon-zo in Ganjou-ji temple, which is unique to the Tohoku region, the hall in the Shingu Kumano Shrine, and the Oyamazumi Shrine, which will grant you one wish in your lifetime. The town which features over 4,000 Japanese warehouses is perfect for a stroll. And don't miss out on Kitakata ramen, one of the three top ramen in Japan.

Aizu Shiokawa Balloon Festival ⟨Kitakata City⟩

Season: Mid-October

MAP P.19 C-1

This event is an autumnal tradition in Aizu, where 30 hot-air balloons gather from all over Japan. The climax of the event occurs as all of the hot-air balloons float into the sky.



# Nishiaizu Snow Festival (Nishiaizu Town)

Season: Early-February

MAP P.19 B-1

Some events only made possible by a snowy environment are available at the festival, including: kiri-geta (Japanese wooden sandals) throwing competition, snow sports competitions. snowmobile driving, and more.



### **Model Course**





















Aizuwakamatsu City: http://e.samurai-city.jp/



http://www.town.aizumisato fukushima.jp/



fukushima.jp/





http://www.town.nishiaizu.fukushima.jp/







Goshikinuma: The mysterious lakes and marshe

# Quality time surrounded by beautiful nature

The Eastern Area of Aizu is surrounded by high mountains, including Mt. Bandai, and the area is well-known for its cool summers and good winter snow. Enjoy the amazing landscapes throughout the year. The volcanic activity of Mt. Bandai provides the area with plenty of onsen water. Furthermore, Mt. Bandai is surrounded by onsen resorts, and located near many beautiful lakes and marshes.

### Recommended Events

(Kitashiobara Village)

An evening of lamp light and Buddhist singing Historic site of the Enichiji ruins/Main hall ⟨Bandai Town⟩

Season: Mid to late August MAP P.19 D-2

The world's oldest traditional music, "Buddhist chants," recited by monks echo throughout the fantastically lit-up main hall.



Urabandai Fire Mountain Festival (Kitashiobara Village) Season: July 21st

MAP P.19 D-1

(Inawashiro Town, Kitash

Approximately 500 fireworks are displayed while accompanied by music. The fireworks reflected on the surface of Lake Hibara are magnificent.



Roadside Station Bandai (Bandai Town

# **Model Course**











Aizu Yamajio ramen <u>Kitashiob</u>ara Village



Morohashi Modern Museum



Yokomuki Onsen Village





# Experience the interesting and ancient customs that are connected to the region

In the West area, you can experience Japanese culture associated with daily life including "weaving crafts" using plant materials such as wild vines and silver vines, and "ramie cloth" made from ramie plants that have been cultivated for approximately 250 years. This area is where you can enjoy the stunning view of the Tadami Line which is also very popular overseas. There are many festivals where travelers can socialize with locals. Human contact with simple, warm locals will add color to your trip.

### Recommended Events

Lake Numazawa Festival (Kaneyama Town) Season: First Saturday and Sunday of August

MAP P.19 B-2

■Websites

Yanaizu Town:

fukushima.jp/

http://kankou.town.

Western

Area

In this event, a legendary large snake is recreated. On the first night of the event, a fireworks festival is also held out on the lake. The meeting of the large snake structure and the fireworks are the main event of this festival.



Fukuman Kokuzobosatsu Enzo-ji Temple Nanokadou Hadaka Mairi ⟨Yanaizu Town⟩ Season: January 7th

MAP P.19 B-2

With the ring of the first bell, nearly 300 men begin their rush to the owaniguchi\*. The hall in the temple is filled with the energy of the participating men.



Yanohara Marsh (Showa Village

Aizu Jidori (Local chicken) Loghouse Donguri (Mishima Town)

Awamanju\Yanaizu Town>

MAP P.19 B-2

Owaniguchi : A Buddhist altar equipment that visitors make a sound by shaking an attached rope

### **Model Course**





MAP P.19 B-2



MAP P.19 B-2





Γakizawa River Potholes



Hayato Onsen Village

■Websites

http://www1.bandaisan.or.jp/ib/en/



http://www.town.bandai.fukushima.jp/



Kitashiobara Village: http://www.vill.kitashiobara.fukushima.jp/ docs/2011071200013/





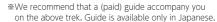
Showa Village http://www.vill.showa fukushima.jp/



Kaneyama Town: http://www.kaneyama kankou.ne.jp/







# Aizu is full of the beautiful scenery for which Japan is famous all over the world.

The South area still enjoys intact nature that shows traditional Japanese scenery such as the beech forest in Tadami Town and Oze. The performance of Hinoemata Kabuki, a traditional performing art with a 270-year tradition, can be enjoyed in this area. You can also experience Kabuki-style make-up here. This area is full of Japan's unique culture including irori fireplaces, footbaths, bent houses and local cuisine.

### Recommended Events

Walking with Cherry Blossoms and the History of Mt. Minami 〈Minamiaizu Town〉

Season:Late-April

Enjoy the hospitality of the area while learning about the history of Mt. Minami, while strolling under the later-blooming cherry trees.



Summer Snow Festival 〈Hinoemata Village〉 Season:First Saturday and Sunday of August

MAP P.19 A-4

Snow which has been saved in a special sheet is used for this event. A beer garden in the snow and a watermelon cracking event are also held, so you can enjoy both the midsummer sunshine and the cold of the snow.





Websites
Shimogo Town:
http://shimogo.jp/



Minamiaizu Town: http://www.kanko-aizu.com/



Hinoemata Village: http://www.oze-info.jp.e.ts.hp. transer.com/



Tadami Town: http://www.tadaminavi.com/



