

World Natural Heritage Site Shirakami-Sanchi

TREP GUIDE BOOK

Where there's always something exciting to do!



HIROSAKI & NISHIMEYA

# The World Natural Heritage Shirakami-Sanchi

#### What Does It Take to Become a World Heritage Site?

The Shirakami-Sanchi meets one of the four natural criteria of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, which refers to the ecological and biological category. It also meets the conditions of integrity and has an adequate protection and management system to conserve it for a long time. These are why the Shirakami-Sanchi was registered on the World Heritage List. \*The conditions of integrity: the World Natural Heritage Sites should contain elements to demonstrate outstanding universal values, should have a sufficient size and should maintain the natural beauty of the property without any exploitation.

# The Shirakami-Sanchi from the Perspective of SDGs

Beech trees arose near the Arctic Circle about 30 million years ago. Later, they spread southward to escape the cold in the Ice Age. Meanwhile, most of plant species hardly spread southward because a number of mountain ranges around the world ran east-west like a wall. As a result, most of beech forests now you see in the world have fewer varieties of plants. On the other hand, there were not mountain ranges that ran east-west in the Japanese Archipelago, and a number of plant species spread southward as beech trees did. Therefore, beech forests in Japan still form like the ancient vegetation about 30 million years ago, which make them unique and rich.

A giant beech tree called the Mother Tree in this rich beech forest was over 400 years old. Although the trunk of Mother Tree was unfortunately broken, and the upper part of the tree fell because of a typhoon, young trees get more sunshine from the space where the Mother Tree stood and grow bigger instead. You can see this alternation of generations in the beech forest.

# The Value of the Shirakami-Sanchi

The Shirakami-Sanchi became the best-known area where beech trees live on a large scale. Various plant species grow around



beech trees and creatures, mammals like Japanese monkeys, amphibians, reptiles, raptors, and birds, live together in this forest ecosystem with rich biodiversity. It is a paradise for those creatures.

The Shirakami-Sanchi was recognized as a rare natural environment and was named Japan's first



UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site together with Yakushima in Kagoshima Prefecture in 1993.











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[What are SDGs?] Those are development goals designed to help us realize a sustainable society that we can pass down to future generations.

Only three minutes by foot from the Center House to the entrance of the World Natural Heritage area.

To Hirosaki City

To Tsugaru Pass

Center House

Look for the black woodpecker monument of the World Natural Heritage Shirakami-Sanchi!





アクアグリーンビレッジ ANMON

World Natural Heritage Site, Shirakami-Sanchi Monument \*Illustrated image

# Aqua Green Village Aqua Center House ANMON Center House

CENTER HOUSE

Please drop into the Information Center, where the Shirakami-Sanchi World Natural Heritage Site Entry Pass and rental boots are available.

[Contact Information] 417 Okawazoe, Kawaratai, Nishimeya Village/8:30 a.m. (Open: Late April–early November)\*Closing hour is subject to change depending on the season.



#### Souvenir Shop

The Souvenir Shop has delicious sweets and other great souvenir items as well as ready-made food and everything you need for BBQ. Shirakami-Sanchi brand goods are also available here. Take a souvenir home as a reminder of your stay at Shirakami-Sanchi.



#### **ANMON Wanpaku Fortress**

This big playground structure is made of wood and surrounded by nature. It's great fun for the entire family going up and down maze-like stairs and racing down slides.



The three large waterfalls along the Anmon River, a branch of the lwaki River, are called the Anmon-no-taki Falls. Beginning with the lowest fall, they are named the Third Waterfall, Second Waterfall, and the First Waterfall, the inmost of the three.

#### The Second Waterfall

(The second and middle waterfall) Height: 37 m Elevation: Approx. 172 m above sea level Round Trip: Approx. 120 min

## The Third

(The first and lowest waterfall) Height: 26 m Elevation: Approx. 142 m above sea level Round Trip: Approx. 90 min

#### The First iterfal

(The inmost waterfall) Height: 42 m Elevation: Approx. 209 m above sea level Round Trip: Approx. 150 min. For advanced hikers

## mmon-no-talki Falls Anmon Valley Route

Anmon Valley Route Turnaround Point

The Thir

The First Waterfall The ' cond Waterfall

The steep rock walls around the waterfalls are a particularly beautiful sight-

Anmon Rest Area П

ŧŧ

Helmet Renta



MAP J-1

**Donation Collection Point** Check-in point

#### Attention of Anmon Valley Route

• When trekking, submit a check-in form at the donation collection point at the entrance to the Anmon Valley Route. Check-in forms are available at the donation collection point. \*Submission of a check-in form is also required when passing through the Anmon Valley Route via the World Natural Heritage Trail Beech Forest Hiking Course.

• We ask everyone walking the Anmon Valley Route to wear a helmet. \*Rental helmets are available at the donation collection point for 100 yen. • Trail guides are also available for individuals who would like a knowledgeable person to accompany them for detailed explanations and for assistance in case of illness or injury, sudden inclement weather, or other emergencies. (Reservation required)

liking Course

SCAN ME

• Falling rocks are not uncommon and pose a danger in some areas. Please exercise caution while on this route to ensure safety. • Please note that the route is temporarily closed in the case of typhoon, heavy rain, or other weather that may cause flooding.



#### The Shirakami Welcome Tree, Successor of the Mother Tree, Estimated to Be 300 Years Old MAP I - 1

-Shirakami Welcome Tree(succeeding Mother Tree)-



The Mother Tree was a large beech tree estimated to be more than 400 years old, familiar to many for a long time as a symbol of Shirakami-Sanchi.

The Shirakami Welcome Tree has been selected as its successor symbolic tree.

As of 2024 Breast-height diameter: 129 cm Trunk circumference: 405 cm Height: Approx. 27 m

Location: Forest Subdivision 177-Ho-2, Onikawabe National Forest, Nishimeya Village, Nakatsugaru County, Aomori Prefecture

The Mother Tree's trunk snapped at a height of 9 meters above the ground, due to strong winds from Typhoon 21 in September 2018.

The average lifespan of beech trees is around 300 years; however, the Mother Tree was estimated to have been more than 400 years old.



<sup>▲</sup> The Mother Tree before it fell

Encounter this symbolic, imposing

giant beech tree on Takakuramori



#### **Father Tree**



#### **Japanese** Oak Trees

from Tsugaru Pass

Approx, 2,5-3 hours

Approx, 2-2.5 hours

Nature Observation Path.

from Tsugaru Pass

Beyond the Father Tree are two large Japanese oak trees.

Japanese oak trees can reach over 1,000 years of age, and they are commonly referred to as "goshinboku" (sacred trees).





# starry Night Sky in Shirakami

The Shirakami-Sanchi Area of Nishimeya is the perfect place for a carefree and relaxing time enjoying a delicious BBQ and camping while gazing at stars at night. The quiet, mystical beech forests and starry night sky take you away from the hustle and bustle of the workaday world.



#### MAP J-2

# Aqua Green Village ANMON

Aqua Green Village has different types of cottages. Bright, natural sunlight permeating the high-ceiling room and the scent of wood are very relaxing. There are also outdoor BBQ spaces.

Check-in: From 15:00 / Check-out: Until 10:00 <<Number of Cottages>> 9 cottages/ 3 types (Cottage rates include accommodations only.) <<Open>>Please check our website for details.

Enjoy time away from the hustle and bustle of workaday life!

> BBQ food eaten in nature is especially delicious. You can buy camping equipment (firewood, etc.) needed for BBQ.



Interior of Cottages



#### **Japanese Style**

Recommended for guests with small children



Recommended for guests with children



Different types available to meet guest needs

## Camp Site

There is an auto-camp site. The Satellite House (cooking area, stoves, restrooms) is located in the middle of the area. You can also swim in the river as well as BBQ at the camp sites.





# TSUgaru Dam. (Lake Tsugaru-Shirakamiko) (MAP J-4



Tsugaru Dam is a concrete dam built approximately 60 meters downstream from Meya Dam. It operates to reduce flood damage, maintain the normal function of running water, supply water for irrigation (agriculture), supply drinking water, and supply water and generate electricity for industrial use. Contact/ Iwakigawa Dam Integrated Management Office/

X @mlit\_iwakito Photos provided by Iwakigawa Dam Integrated Management Office, Tohoku Regional Bureau Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport



Visitors are invited to visit the exhibition room (Management Office) and Samusawa observation deck.



Dam Card Photo Spot Visitors can take photos of the dam from Tsugaru Dam Park and Shirakami Ga Furusato Bashi Parki



Tsugaru Dam Illumination The dam is illuminated at night with colors that change regularly. (Seasonal)



Tsugaru Dam Embankment Tour An employee can take you on a tour inside the dam body. Visitors must apply in advance. Reservations can be made for one or more people. For more information, see the website of the twakigawa Dam Integrated Management office.

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Nishimeya Dam Lake Tour



Stand-Up Paddleboarding

Lake Tsugaru-Shirakamiko is an artificial lake created by Tsugaru Dam. The four parks around the dam feature various activities for visitors.



#### MAP **H** - 4

#### Takanosu 🧲

A long time ago, one pair of falcons lived in the cave. Because they never bothered people, animals, or crops, the people of the village respected the pair of birds as gods.

#### (Iwaya Kanzeon MAP 1-4) (Iwaya Buddhist Goddess of Mercy)

Iwaya Kanzeon is a very unique temple located in a cave along the Iwaki River. Passing along a narrow path that follows the river, you will be in the midst of a natural landscape that seems awash in mystical power. The sacred horse with two horns enshrined at the temple has its origin in feudal times in Japan (17th–19th century), and there is a stone horse statue next to the torii gates near the entrance.



#### Frog Stone MAP H - 4

This stone is located along the Iwaki River on the opposite side of Niogataki Fall. It is named because the rock looks like a frog crouching down at the riverside. It is also called the Bikki Stone. (Bikki also means frog.)



#### Mikaeri-zaka MAP I-4 Slope

Looking back on the trail to Anmon along the river, a magnificent view around Mt. Iwaki spreads below our eyes. This is how the slope was named. Uniquely shaped rocks called Futami-iwa extend into the distance.



The fall freeze in winter. From long ago, the size and shape have been used to predict whether the harvest will be rich or poor. Contact: Meya Tourist Association Secretariat (in Nishimeya Industrial Department)







#### Shirakami-Sanchi Yakushima

80 Years of History Since Registration

On June 30, 1992, Japan became the 125th party to the World Heritage Convention, an international convention that protects the Earth's irreplaceable cultural heritage and natural heritage from the threat of damage or destruction as assets for all humanity and stipulates the importance of passing on that heritage to future generations.

Shirakami-Sanchi and Yakushima were registered as the first World Natural Heritage Sites in Japan in 1993, and December 2023 marked the 30th anniversary of that registration. We collected comments from people with ties to the sites to commemorate this 30th anniversary.

#### The History of Shirakami-Sanchiland Vakushima



In addition to Shirakami-Sanchi and Yakushima, Japan boasts other World Natural Heritage Sites enveloped in abundant nature.



Diverse life forms, including precious endemic species, coexist on the group of islands that includes Amani Oshima Island. The subtropical forests and beautiful coral reefs are enchanting.

#### Amami Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Northern Part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island Registered in 2021

Shirakami-Sanchi Registered in 1993

Yakushima Registered in 1993 The Shiretoko Peninsula is located in the northeastern part of Hokkaido and is composed of mountains, steep coastal cliffs, and marshy wetlands.It is home to a rich ecosystem including brown bears, Ezo red foxes, and pink salmon.

The Ogasawara Archipelago

Shiretoko

The Ogasawara Archipelago is located about 1,000 kilometers north of Tokyo. It is a chain of islands enclosed by the beautiful ocean and steep cliffs.The creatures on the Ogasawara Archipelago have adapted to the islands' environment and continue to evolve even now. asa World Natural Heritage Site

Shirakami-Sanchi became a World Natural Heritage Site thanks to its world's greatest distribution of natural, primeval beech forests, largely unimpacted by humans. Their universal value was recognized as a global treasure!



Bunacky and Bunami , Shirakami-Sanchi's mascots

I first visited Shirakami-Sanchi for work in 2020. Since then, the rich nature and mystical views have drawn me to visit Shirakami-Sanchi again in each season.

Shirakami-Sanchi has a variety of looks, and getting to know the people and animals of Shirakami only makes my love for them grow.

"Pay respect to nature, and give thanks to all the gods



and goddesses. Make good use of the blessings of nature handed down from our ancestors; do not pollute or destroy them. Do not be greedy in anything, and take only what you need." Shirakami-Sanchi is an important place that taught me this vital essence as human beings.

#### Rina Kawase, culinary researcher

It feels like the last 30 years went by quickly. Yakushima had all kinds of problems because of the increase in tourists, but it was a really good thing it was registered as a World Heritage Site, now that I think of it. Amid growing hopelessness due to the decline in forestry, it was a big accomplishment that Yakushima was recognized as a global gem, and the residents began to be proud of this place. I'd like to thank the people who poured their efforts into the World Heritage registration at the time and also





pass this nature on to future

Takeshi Matsumoto, Representative Director, YNAC

The world's largest primeval beech forest grows wild in the Shirakami-Sanchi World Heritage Site, and setting foot in that forest truly feels like entering a different world.

It's fun not only in summer but also winter, and you can experience making BUNACO wooden items from beechwood, so the place is enjoyable for people of all ages in any season.



Marin Minamiya, adventurer

It has already been 30 years since Shirakami-Sanchi was registered as a World Natural Heritage Site. A lot has happened in these last 30 years. In particular, there was the establishment of the wildlife sanctuary, the relaxing of climbing restrictions, and the heavy blow to the economy and tourism due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It also seems like some changes have emerged in Shirakami-Sanchi's animals, plants, birds, and insects because of the unprecedented rise in temperatures in recent

years. I hope to consider ways to combat these issues along with everyone in the future.

With the people of Yakushima, which was registered together with Shirakami-Sanchi, let's make use of our status as Natural Heritage Sites to continue protecting these areas.



Shigeki Kudo, Chairperson, the Nishimeya Village Tour Guides' Association



One reason Yakushima became a World Natural Heritage Site is its diverse natural vegetation that remains stretching from the coast to the mountain peaks—in other words, its vertical distribution of vegetation. Rich plant life unique to Yakushima can be found in the western area!

Marurin, the mascot of Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Village Center

# Realts Area

Iwaki Area is located in the former Iwaki Town at the foot of Mt. Iwaki in the northwestern part of Hirosaki City.

# Mt.Iv

Mt. Iwaki is a volcano and the Prefecture. Included in the the New Best 100 Mountains Quasi-National Park. The from the southern foot of Prefectural Natural Park. similar to Mt. Fuji, it is also

Takateru-jinja Shrine MAP D - 2 Takateru-jinja Shrine was built with funds set as ide in the will of Tsugaru Nobumasa,

the 4th lord of the Hirosaki Domain, who was known as a wise ruler. Because Nobumase had mastered the secrets of Yoshikawa Shinto and had received the Shinto name "Takateru Reisha," the shrine was named Takateru Jinja Shrine. It enshrines Tamenobu, the 1st lord, and the wise ruler Nobumasa, the 4th lord. Contact/ Kuroishi Shrine



The museum exhibits treasures such as swords, armors, and large votive pictures that were dedicated to Takateru-jinja Shrine, where Tsugaru Nobumasa, 4th lord of the Hirosaki Domain, is enshrined. Visitors can learn about the history of Hirosaki Domain and Tsugaru Clan, and the culture in the region. Operation Time/ 9:30 – 16:30/ Closed on the 3rd Monday of the month (If a national holiday, closed on the following day), Year-end and New Year's holidays (December 29 – January 3), and when changing exhibits/ Fees: General 300 yen, High School Students 100 yen.







#### <u>Takaoka no Mori – Traditional Japanese House</u> Café YAMANOKO MAPD-2



Yamanoko is a café in a renovated traditional Japanese house located in front of the gate of Takateru-jinja Shrine. It has tables and a Japanese-style tatami area,

which is perfect for guests with small children. Yamaneko offers delicious food cooked with healthy ingredients. Operation Time/11:00-17:00/ Closed on Tuesdays and the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month





# **waki** 1,624m

highest mountain in Aomori
Best 100 Mountains of Japan and
of Japan, it is part of Tsugaru
2,587-hectare plateau stretching
Mt. Iwaki is named Iwaki Kogen
Because the shape of Mt. Iwaki is
locally known as "Tsugaru Fuji".

Tsugaru-lwaki Skylina is a toll road to the Sth station of ML lwaki. There is a lift going from the parking lotat the Sth station up to the Sth station,"Torf - noumi (ML Cholaisen)." From the Sth station, visitors can walk to the mountain top, which takes about 40 minutes. *Contrat/luckiSkylineGo, Ittl.* 

oumon Gate

Dakekimi Versional and the second sec

Dakekimi is a type of corn grown in Dake Plateau at the foot of Mt. Iwaki. Kimi means corn in Tsugaru dialect. The sweetness of Dakekimi increases with differences between day and night temperatures,

and it is so sweet that it can be eaten uncooked. During Dakekimi season (middle of August – end of September), freshly harvested or boiled Dakekimi is sold at street stalls and farmers' markets.



MAP D - 2 Curdian Dogs Curdian Dogs Commit Fortune Guardian Dogs Commit Fortune Encugation Dogs Encug

With a history stretching back 1,200 years ago and broadly venerated throughout the country, lwakiyama Shrine was built to enshrine Mt. lwaki. People in the area see the shrine as their spiritual home, and Mt. lwaki as the guardian of development in the Mutsu and Tsugaru Regions, the guardian of agricultural and marine products, and of fortune. It is also well-known as the protector of the demon's gate in the north.

Operation Time/ (April – October) 8:00 – 17:00, (November – March) 8:30 – 16:00

### Tsugaru Fuji (Mt. Iwaki) looks different from different directions l?

MAP C

A view from the 8th station

Mt. Iwaki, loved by many people, looks different depending on the direction you see it from. It might be fun to check Mt. Iwaki from different directions and find your favorite view!



#### Traditional Japanese-style Buildings in Hirosaki

Hirosaki City once flourished as a castle town and many traditional and historical structures remain today, including Hirosaki Castle, with the only castle tower remaining in Tohoku, and samurai residences.

#### MAP L-3



#### Hirosaki Park • Hirosaki Castle

Built in the Edo Period, Hirosaki Castle's tower and turrets are designated National Important Cultural Property. In addition to the castle's tower, which shows different aspects from different directions, the moat, stone walls, mounts, and much more remain as links to the past. With approx. 2,600 cherry trees, Hirosaki Park is quite popular. The park is included in the Best 100 Cherry Blossom Sites of Japan, and the Best 100 Natural and Manmade Landscapes of Japan. The Hirosaki Cherry Blossom Festival and many other events are held here each year.

#### Naka-cho Historical House Preservation Area

If you visit Hirosaki Castle, don't miss the castle town (Naka-cho Historical House Preservation Area).

#### MAP K - 4 Former Iwata Family House

Although most of the samurai residences have disappeared from the city, the former Iwata Family Residence remains as it was in feudal times. It is built on a long, narrow plot of land, the main house is built 9 m away from the street, and there is a decorative garden between the main house and the street. There is also a garden for vegetables and herbs behind the main house, and fruit trees are still growing there. This residence features both artistic and practical elements.





#### K - 3 Former Sasamori Family House (Former Hirosaki Domain Samurai House)

This is a small residence; however, layout of major rooms, the simple floors, and the closed wall structures reveal traditional characteristics in the building structure. It is the oldest samurai residence in the Conservation District. Because of its compactness, it is designated an important cultural property representing architectural structures of mid- and low-level samurai in Hirosaki castle town.



#### MAP M-2) Fujita Memorial Garden

#### Japanese House/Craft & Japanese-style Café TAKUMI-KAN

The garden features a lower section and higher section. In the higher section where the Japanese-style building is located, the garden effectively utilizes its surrounding natural scenery with a view of Mt. Iwaki.

The Craft & Japanese-style Café TAKUMI-KAN sells a wide variety of art crafts such as local specialty embroidery (Kogin Sashi) and Tsugaru lacquer products, and offers Japanese-style parfaits, and a lunch menu with Obanzai cooking (Kyoto-style) side dishes. Contact for the Japanese-style Building/Hirosaki City Green Association/9:00 – 17:00/Open all year round Contact for Craft & Japanese-style Café TAKUMI-KAN/9:30–16:30(16:00 last call)/Year-end and New Year holidays

Hirosaki City is a mystical area that was once a castle town, but still contains many retro western-style buildings. Historic buildings in the city are mixed like a mille-feuille that blends Japanese and Western styles. Visitors enjoy the attractiveness of Hirosaki, the nostalgic but new and stylish culture, the integration of Japanese carpenters' skill and the charm of Western style buildings.

#### Starbucks Coffee 📰 📻 Hirosaki Koenmae Store MAP M-3

The Starbucks Coffee shop here is in an old wooden structure built in 1917 as an official residence for divisional commanders. A registered national tangible cultural property, it features a unique design which integrates Japanese and Western styles. The interior features beech (buna) wood craft BUNACO lights, and traditional Tsugaru embroidering (Tsugaru Kogin Sashi) on the benches highlight historic and cultural elements. Operation Time/7:00 – 21:00/No scheduled closed days

# Western-style Buildings in Hirosaki





#### MAP M - 3 Former Hirosaki City Library

This building was used as the City Library until 1931. It is a three-story wooden mortar building with twin octagonal towers constructed in Renaissance style. The frontal dormer window and other elements represent Western-style buildings in Hirosaki City built in the Meiji Period.

Contact:Hirosaki City Office Cultural Property Department/ 9:00 – 17:00/Free admission

#### Aomori Bank Memorial Hall MAP M - 4

The Former Main Building of the 59th National Bank Head Office was built in 1879. As the first building constructed in Meiji Period (1868-1912), it is designated an important cultural property. Tours give visitors a chance to see its magnificent classical interior, including beautiful Japanese leather paper used for the ceiling. The roof is designed to prevent snow slides, which reminds us of Hirosaki City as a deep-snow region. The building is also impressive in winter covered with snow.

Operation Time/9:30 – 16:30/Closed on Tuesdays (Days closed may change during the festival period.)

Located adjacent to Hirosaki Park, the Fujita Memorial Garden was built in 1921 by a gardener invited from Tokyo by Kenichi Fujita who was from Hirosaki City and became the first president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

#### Western House/ Taisho Roman Tea Room

Many items from the Taisho Period (1912-1926) can be seen here, including stained glass and windows. The octagonal towers are an impressive sight. Visitors can enjoy apple pie and meals at the Taisho Roman Tea Room while taking in the beautiful landscape of each season. The apple pie and beverage set, and galette cooked with buckwheat flour produced in Nishimeya are very popular.

Operation Time/9:30-16:30(16:00 last call)/No scheduled closed days



#### History and Culture in Hirosaki & Nishimeya

MAP 0-4

#### MAP N-2 Zen Temple Area

Tsugaru Nobuhira, the 2nd lord of the Tsugaru Domain, relocated 33 temples of the Soto school of Zen here from their original locations in the Tsugaru Region in 1610 aiming to integrate religious culture and develop a fortress southwest of Hirosaki Castle (an unlucky quarter in feng shui). The atmosphere of the past remains here and there and reminds us of its long history as a castle town. It is a rare sight in Japan with temples of the same Zen Buddhist school gathered together. The view when passing through the entrance is breathtaking.

#### Saisho-in Temple Five-storied Pagoda

The Saisho-in Temple Five-storied Pagoda was built by Tsugaru Nobumasa, the 4th lord of the Tsugaru Domain, to commemorate those who perished in battle during the reunification of the Tsugaru district led by Tsugaru Tamenobu, the 1st lord of the Tsugaru Domain. The five-storied pagoda was built during the Edo Period (1602-1868) with a relatively long metal pinnacle and is considered the most beautiful of its kind in the Tohoku Region. This is an important cultural property located in northernmost Japan.

#### Koka Ninja House (Former Soma Family House) (Hirakawa

Built in the late Edo period (late 18th to early 19th century ), this Koka-school ninja house is the only one among Japan's remaining ninja houses said to have actually been used by ninjas.

It is believed that the Hayamichi-no-Mono ninja troop, who operated in secret in the Hirosaki Domain for around 200 years and whose identities were protected, used this house mainly as a gathering place. Operation Time/9:00 – 17:00

#### Tsugaru Zodiac

The residents of Hirosaki City, Hirakawa City, Owani Town, and other areas of Central and Southern Tsugaru often visit temples and shrines to pray to their guardian deities. These are known collectively as Tsugaru Zodiac.

Shrine

Shirayamahime-jinja Shrine

Rooster

Nonkey

133115

HOG

#### Nishi (West) Kogin

Nishi Kogin is traditional embroidery practiced in the farming area of Naka-Tsugaru, such as Nishimeya Village, located to the west of Hirosaki Castle. Nishi Kogin is fine hemp cloth mesh featuring intricate patterns and reinforced shoulders to increase durability. The pattern on the upper part is called Kutsuwa Tsunagi, which was believed to protect the wearer while passing through the mountains. In addition to Nishi (West) Kogin, there are Higashi (East) Kogin and Mishima (Three Stripes) Kogin.

#### Hirosaki Kogin Institute

Kimura Industrial Research Institute was well-known architect Kunio Maekawa's first project. Currently known as the Hirosaki Kogin Institute, traditional Tsugaru Kogin-Sashi art craft is produced here.

Visitors can actually see Kogin-Sashi products being made, and many of the products are available for purchase at the shop.

Operation Time/ 9:00 – 16:30/ Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays

Gumon-ji

Kongosan Saisho-in

Tenmangu

SCAN ME!

ΠH

Temple

Shrine

Taga-jinja Shrine

0¥

Dragon

Tiger

Rabbit

Rat

Snake





#### Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art (Hirosaki MOCA)

A brick building located in Tsuchibuchigawa Yoshino-cho Park next to Konan Railway Chuo-Hirosaki Station is home to the Hirosaki MOCA. Works of modern art are exhibited in the building, built as a brewery across the eras of Meiji (1868–1912) and Taisho (1912–1926), used as a cider factory after World War II, then refurbished into a museum. Adjacent to the museum is cafe & shop BRICK, which uses the brick walls of the former brewery to a lovely advantage, and where visitors can overlook the tanks of a cider workshop while enjoying dining and shopping.

Operation Time/Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art (Hirosaki MOCA)/9:00–17:00/Closed on Tuesdays cafe & shop BRICK/9:30–17:30/Closed on Tuesdays



# The Traffs to the summit of Mit Iwaki

#### Dake Trail

<4-hour hike>

Dake Trail is an easy hiking trail that is suitable for children and beginner mountaineers. The red torii near the Dake Hot Spring Village is the trail entrance. Submit the hiking registration form to the post before you start to hike.

#### Nagadai Trail

The Endemic Specie of Mt.Iwaki Michinokukozakura

r. heterodonta)

20

(Primula cuneifolia)

<4-hour hike>

Nagadai Trail was a significant road that the locals used to worship at the top of the mountain and to carry firewood and charcoal. The trail is relatively a gentle slope, and you can see the field of Michinokukozakura in summer.

#### Oishi Akakura Trail

<4 hour and a 30-minute hike> Oishi Akakura Trail is a religious trail where you see some stone Buddhist images. This trail is suitable for mountaineers who are interested in mysterious places, stone Buddhist images, history, and shrines.

Hyakużawa Ski Resort

You can see beautiful alpine

plants

Miyamakinbai

(Potentilla matsumurae)

Takateru Shrine

Takaoka no Mor

Hirosaki Domain

Historical Museum

Post to Submit Hiking

Yayoi Ikoi

no Hiroba

Yayoi Trail

<5-hour hike>

You can see Mongolian oak trees, beech trees, and Japanese larch trees. Feel the nature to get refreshed.

#### Hyakuzawa Trail

#### <5-hour hike>

Hyakuzawa Trail is a trail for intermediate and advanced mountaineers, and it has many attractions. It's also the most popular trail in winter. Some kinds of Alpine plants are seen on the trail.



MAP H - 4

#### Nishimeya Dam Lake Tour

An amphibian sightseeing bus runs on Lake Tsugaru-Shirakamiko. Have fun being splashed with water on a sunny day filled with a cooling breeze! Enjoy the view of

Shirakami-Sanchi from the lake. Period:Late April – Late October Closed on Wednesdays

SCAN ME!

> **First-timers** welcome!

# Programs & Tours **Stand-up Paddleboarding**

Paddle along and become one with the nature of Shirakami-Sanchi on a stand-up paddleboard. Experience nature firsthand, with vast views you can only see from the water. Period:Late April - early November Time: Approx. 3 hrs. (including explanation and preparation)

Contact:Canoe & Rafting A'GROVE

Shirakami-Sanchi

& Nishimeya Village

#### Photos taken by staff during the tour will be given to visitors as souvenirs.

#### Rafting MAP H - 4

SCAN

ME!

Visitors float slowly down Iwaki River from Shirakami-Sanchi while enjoying the beautiful landscape. It's also nice to swim and dive into the river surrounded by the nature of Nishimeya, the fresh breeze, sparkling water, and the chirping birds.

Open:Late April – Early November Time:3 hrs. (Including reception) Contact:Canoe & Rafting A'GROVE



**Gentle touch** of wood MAP H - 4

#### **Making BUNACO**

Make a bowl or accessory case from beechwood. Try making your own, original BUNACO wooden item.



#### Experience of Making Traditional Meya Dofu

MAP H - 4

You can take soy pulp home.

Meya Dofu is made from organic soybeans with a traditional technique. You can try soy milk and unpressed tofu that are in the process of making Meya Dofu. This workshop takes about 3 hours. You can take your handmade Meya Dofu home. Period: January 10th - April 15th Contact: Shirakami Matagi Sha

# Trekking Tour in Snowy Forest with Wisdom of Matagi

Experience walking in the snowy forest with Japanese old-styled snowshoes called kanjiki that matagi made of woods. Winter is the best season to feel the signs of animals that live in the Shirakami-Sanchi. Let's find animal tracks to imagine how they live in the forest! Period: Middle of January - Early April Contact: Shirakami Matagi Sha

Your guide will carefully and clearly explain about animals and nature! The language used is Japanese only.

#### Matagifrom the Perspective of SDGs

Matagi is a group of people who live with the blessings of mountains. Matagi has lived at the foot of the Shirakami-Sanchi in Nishimeya Village, Aomori Prefecture, over 1,000 years before. They know the nature of the Shirakami-Sanchi well, keep their own rules, conserve natural resources, and live a quiet life.

The basic rule of matagi is that they do not take too many lives of animals and plants or other natural resources and consume them only in the needed amount. That is a promise among those people who live in nature. They consider that the ecosystem in the mountain should be balanced to be coexistent with nature.

The primeval beech forest in the Shirakami-Sanchi has been conserved while matagi has lived with the mountains for over 1,000 years. Wild vegetables and mushrooms grow every year, and wildlife such as Asiatic black bears and hares live in the mountain. Not only matagi but also other local people who live at the foot of the Shirakami-Sanchi wisely utilize the blessings of mountains. Only one thing about matagi's life has changed after the Shirakami-Sanchi was named a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site. Now, they are prohibited to go to the center of the Shirakami-Sanchi even though they used to go hunting everywhere in the mountains.

In the Shirakami-Sanchi, the forest of the primitive beech indigenous to Japan has not been damaged by humans, and the beech forest is on the biggest scale in East Asia. These values were appreciated, and it became a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site. As a result, none of the people are allowed to go to the center of the Shirakami-Sanchi after it became the World Heritage Site. In addition, the Shirakami-Sanchi and other surrounding mountains were designated as a national wildlife protection area in 2004, which made matagi hard to hunt in the mountains.

Matagi is a group of guardians of the mountains, a group of the original inhabitants, or a traditional culture itself. The rules or laws of forest management the government sets aim to prevent nature from excess hunting. However, that also threatens the disappearance of the traditional culture that includes the wisdom and the technique to be coexistence with nature. Now, all people around the world must carefully use the limited natural resources and deeply consider to be coexistence with nature and to develop a sustainable society to pass nature to our next generations.



#### MAP Kozawa Area

Hirosaki City

#### Tsugaru Yumeringo Farm Seasonal Fruit Picking

Visitors enjoy harvesting a wide variety of fruits in different seasons. It offers cherry harvesting from late June, blueberry harvesting from the middle of July, peach harvesting from the middle of August, and apple harvesting from early September. \*Because the fruits except cherry are all grown outdoors, no harvesting takes place on rainy days. A reserva-Operation Time/Reservation required 2 days prior/ tion-only

10:00 - 16:00/Closed on Wednesdays

Programs

&Tours



MAP Shimizu-Tomita Area

program

#### Hirosaki City Apple Park **Apple Harvesting**

While park staff shows how to identify good apples, visitors harvest seasonal fresh apples. Everyone enjoys the unique fun offered by Hirosaki, the apple town. Visitors purchase the apples they harvest at the farm.\*Visitors enjoy harvesting for 30 minutes. Period: Early August - Middle of

November 9:00-17:00/Open all year round

Types of apples harvested differ by season



**Orchard in the Forest** Picking Fruit MAP B-1

This is a tourist farm offering experience programs at the foot of Mt. Iwaki surrounded by forests and apple farms. During operating hours, enjoy the all-you-can-eat option with no time limit for all the fruits you can harvest on the day! It's great fun to harvest fruits at a large farm. Operation Time/Entry 8:30 - 17:00/Middle of June - End of October (Closed in winter from November)



Mt. Iwaki Tourist MAP D-2 Apple Farm **Fruit Harvesting Program** 



It's a large fruit garden where you can enjoy picking fruits.You can pick fruits like peaches, Japanese plums, and apples, and you can purchase corns as well.

Operation Time/Open from late July to the middle of November/ 9:30-17:00(Summer),9:30-16:00(Autumn)/No scheduled closed days

#### **Explore the Botanical Garden** to Your Heart's Content! (Herbarium Workshops and More)

MAP M - 3

Hirosaki Castle Botanical Garden in Hirosaki Park has around 124,000 trees and plants of 1,500 species, and visitors can see different flowers and wild grasses depending on the season.

Workshops are available for making decorative herbariums and wooden crafts using flowers and tree branches from the botanical garden.

Period: May–October (every 2nd and 4th Sunday)

Contact: Fujita Memorial Garden 0172-37-5525 (8:30 a.m. -5:15 p.m.)/Starts at 500 yen Mail:fteien@hirosakipark.or.jp



MAP K-4

The twelve signs of the Chinese zodiac can be made into Shitakawara Pottery.



STATES?

#### Painting **Traditional Art Craft**

Visitors can paint a wide variety of traditional art craft popular in Tsugaru Region such as a goldfish lantern. It's fun to make a one-of-a-kind item. Operation Time/Tsugaru-han Neputa Village/ 9:00 - 17:30/Open all year round



You can make a handkerchief, a scarf

and a bandanna.

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#### **Indigo Dyeing** Program

We welcome visitors to experience about indigo dyeing through the facility tour and this program. Reservation required.

Time: Approx. 30 - 40 min. for 1-2 persons/ Approx. 60 min. for 10 persons

Operation Time/Kawasaki Dye Works/Reservation required/Closed on Thursdays/9:00 - 17:00 (9:00 - 16:00 in winter)



#### Plenty of delicious meals, including sweets and beverages!

# Let's enjoy the delicious food in Shirakami & Tsugaru!



One of the most popular foods, it has a delicious thickmiso-base soup filled with sliced green onions!

#### **Buckwheat Noodles**

These buckwheat noodles are made with ingredients grown in Shirakami-Sanchi, which is blessed with abundant water.

#### Mailake Ten Soba Noodles

950 yen

This popular hot soba is topped with plenty of maitake mushroom tempura.

#### Shirakami) Honey Pizza 1,000 yen

MAP H-4

A fluffy, sticky dough is topped with tomato sauce, cheese, and honey harvested in Nishimeya Village. It's the perfect blend of delicious salty-sweet honey flavor.

BUNACO CAFÉ/ BUNACO Factory 17, 196 Inamoto, Tashiro, Nishimeya Village/ 11:00~15:30 (L.0.15:00)/ No scheduled closing days



5

#### Tsugaru Dam Curry 1,200 yen

Curry dish inspired by Lake Tsugaru-Shirakamiko. The presentation evokes Tsugaru dam. Topped with a large pork cutlet, it looks and tastes delicious. The scoop shaped spoon is also fun.

PLEASE

#### Cold-brew Coffee-Yukidoke 650 yen

Coffee brewed using a special technique and mild natural water from Shirakami-Sanchi has a first-class aroma and taste. (Served in a paper cup)

#### Soft Served Ice Cream Topped with Honey

#### 400 yen

Shirakami so

zaru soba

750 yen

Lightly sweetened soft served ice cream can be topped with fresh Shirakami honey made at the Road Station rooftop.

#### <u>RINGO</u>

This new style of cider is made by brewing natural yeast collected in Shirakami-Sanchi to bring out a body and depth not possible with apples alone, then adding grapes.





MAP H - 5



Road Station Tsugaru-Shirakami – Beech Nishimeya/219-1 Kanda, Tashiro, Nishimeya Village/ Restaurant Mori-no-Door/ 11:00 – 14:00 (Changed for Golden Week)/ Closed on Year-end and New Year's holidays

Shirakami Roasting House/ Shirakami winery & Fresh honeyBeFavo/ \*Business days are different for each shop or restaurant in the road station. Please visit the websites for more details.

stone mortar in-house.



#### 26

#### From the of Viewpoint of SDGs

Tsugaru Akatsuki Association promotes the passing down of traditional Tsugaru food in the Ishikawa Area, Hirosaki City. It offers an assortment of Japanese cuisine featuring fresh seasonal vegetables that are dried or pickled with salt.

MAP **Ishikawa Area** 







#### 1,500 yen French Cuisine

Hirosaki has actively adopted a Western cultural influence since the Meiji period (1868–1912) and is said to have the most French restaurants per capita in all Japan.



One hors d'oeuvre and one fish or meat dish Bread, dessert, coffee Chez Ange/2-7-1 Tonosaki, Hirosaki City/0172-28-1307/11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (last order 2:00 p.m.) 5:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. (last order 9:00 p.m.)/Closed Sundays



IAP Tonosaki Area



▼Restaurants offering these items display the logo below.



▲List of Restaurants offering Shirakami no Sakana



ТШ

# Pie

With the top apple production in Japan, Hirosaki City has many restaurants and cafés that offers apple pies. Enjoy the great taste!

This galette is made from fragrant buckwheat flour produced in Shirakami and apples from Hirosaki.





Taisho Roman Tea Room (Fujita Memorial Japanese Garden)/ 8-1 Kami-Shirogane-cho, Hirosaki City/ 9:30 - 16:30 (Last Order 16:00)/ Open all year round

asuki-no-Oy





#### 1,500 yen MAP D - 2

The YAMANOKO special lunch includes a soup with minced root vegetables that is a local specialty of Tsugaru and fermented foods, with special attention to using ingredients from the area and avoiding additives.

Takaoka no Mori – Traditional Japanese House Café YAMANOKO/ 202 Shishizawa, Takaoka, Hirosaki City/11:00 - 17:00/ Closed on Tuesdays, 1st and 3rd Mondays



vegetables or fruit. The Tasuki-no-Oyaki Gift Box for sampling several types comes highly recommended.

MAP **G-6** 

Tasuki/ 61-9 Shimizunagare, Sakuraba, Hirosaki City/ 0172-40-2824/ 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m./ No scheduled closing days





### Kogane-Yaki 70 yen

This is Hirosaki soul food. It features a white bean jam filling. The dough of the soft, sticky surface is made without milk or eggs. Kawagoe Kogane-yaki Store/ 21-3 Dote-machi, Hirosaki City/ 9:00 - / led closed days No scheduled closed days

Zam

Niji-no-Mart has been offering a wide variety of seafood and daily dishes in Hirosaki since 1956. A popular local dish known as Igamenchi is like a taste of mother's home cooking! Niji-no-Mart/ 12-1 Ekimae-cho, Hirosaki City/ 8:00 -18:00/ Closed on Sundays

\*Prices shown here include tax. \*Cohtent posted here may change.

#### Accommodations & Onsen (Hot Spring) Inns

Have a relaxing time while enjoying the delicious local food and warm culture of Tsugaru at a comfortable inn surrounded by nature! Hot Spring

#### Bathe in Comfort at a Hot Spring Inn



The hot spring water here contains alkali (pH8.5) and hydrogen carbonate, making it great for fatigue, neuralgia, muscular pain, and poor circulation. Also known as the "hot spring for beauty," it will make your skin smooth and shiny.



#### Buna no Sato Shirakami-Kan

This is the best location for sightseeing in Shirakami-Sanchi and Hirosaki City.

It's just 25 minutes by car to Aqua Green Village ANMON, the entrance to Shirakami-Sanchi. It's also only 30 minutes by car to Hirosaki Station. Enjoy the seasonal nature in Shirakami and downtown Hirosaki.

Address/60-1 Kanda, Tashiro, Nishimeya Village.

Hot Spring Muraichi

SCAN ME!

The hot spring here contains sodium and calcium (expansive high-temperature alkaline hot spring), which is great for neuralgia, muscular pain, arthralgia, frozen shoulders, cuts, burns, chronic dermatitis, physically weak children, and chronic women's diseases.





This is a condominium-type accommodation that's great as a base for sightseeing in Shirakami-Sanchi. Each room has a kitchen with a refrigerator, which makes it easy for guests to cook by themselves and perfect for long stays.

Address/213-1 Inaba, Muraichi, Nishimeya,

Welcoming guests with a wonderful hot spring and warm hospitality!

> Guest rooms featuring three Kogin patterns on one wall are available now!



#### A Resort with Starry Sky that Bathes Your Senses

#### Romantopia

Den

#### <u>– A Romantic U</u>topia in a Forest and under a Starry Sky

AAP Soma Area) 🛜

Nestled in a beautiful forest with fresh air that makes you want to fill your lungs with every breath. You'll enjoy the sight of Mt. Iwaki standing in front of you and the apple farms at its foot. You'll be entranced at night by the stars shining from tens of thousands of light years away. This resort hotel in Tsugaru offers an escape from the hustle and bustle of workaday life throughout the year. Address/113-2 Sakurai, Mizuki-Zaike, Hirosaki City,

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#### GOOD OLD HOTEL - Street of Bars Offering Accommodations

This building was created in the 1960s and was a place where young people gathered and danced.

Those times have passed now, but the atmosphere and culture from when the bar area in Kaji-machi Street was the popular spot for young people to meet and have a good time remains in this building that was refurbished and opened as a hotel. The hotel offers a nostalgic time surrounded by fond memories from the past.



# MAP D - 1 💽 🚥

Iwaki-So



#### SCAN ME!

Relax in your guest room as you enjoy the view of Mt. Iwaki, which has nurtured Tsugaru culture from ancient times. After a refreshing stay here at Iwaki-So, you'll return home with good memories. (See page 31 for more details about the inn.)



MAP N - 6 Available in English



Blossom Hotel Hirosaki

Our wide range of guest rooms include our standard double, deluxe twin, and suite. Our standard double is part of the hospitality we offer for single or double occupancy.

Address/7-3 Ekimae-cho, Hirosaki City,/+81-172-32-4151



#### Before enjoying your hot spring bath



#### The Pass for Hot Spring Sites (Yumeguri Tegata) is valid here.

The Pass for Hot Spring Sites (Yumeguri Tegata) is for hot spring lovers who enjoy visiting different hot springs around Mt. Iwaki. The Pass is 1,000 yen and valid in three partner hot spring areas around Mt. Iwaki.

\*The Pass for Hot Springs is available at Iwakisan Tourism Association, and Pass partner facilities.

\*Please refrain from visiting the same hot spring facility twice. One pass is only good for one person.

\*Bath time for non-stay visitors may differ between hot spring facilities.



SCAN ME!









#### Asobe-no-Mori Iwaki-So

Hot springs to warm your body after bathing

Asobe-no-Mori Iwaki-So Netsu-no-Yu This hot spring is in the Hyakuzawa Hot Spring area, and is a favorite among local people. The comfort of the hot spring is very appealing. It's good for neuralgia, muscular pain, anthralgia, and frozen shoulders.

Address/28-29 Terasawa, Hyakuzawa, Hirosaki City,/7:00~21:00 (Last reception is one hour before closing)/Adults 700 yen, Children 400 yen, Children under elementary school age free



#### Bring memory of your trip home with you! Souvenirs from Shirakami & Tsugaru



BUNACO wood crafts are made from beech wood processed with a uniquely-develop technique. They are all designed stylishly and are highly regarded globally.

Baumkuchen made with honey harvested 100% in Nishimeya Village, the smallest village in A **Aomori Prefecture** 

This Baumkuchen is made with honey harvested 100% in Nishimeya Village. Its great flavor and gentle sweetness make it a special treat

西目屋村の 百花蜜でつくった バウムクーヘン GSHIMEYA HONEY

**Bunacky** 

A wide variety of products featuring Bunacky, the

Shirakami-Sanchi mascot.

Goods

B

# B

SUMMER

Shirakami Honey is harvested at the rooftop of the road station. Its color and taste will change depending on the harvest seasons (spring, summer, and autumn). Feel the seasons of the Shirakami-Sanchi

Shirakami Honey

AUTUMN

B

Product tie up with Mont-bell

Nishimeya Village partners with Mont-bell, a manufacturer of outdoor products, to make goods uniquely designed with Nishi-Kogin patterns.

(B)

#### Shirakami **Roasted Coffee** Beans

SPRING

through this honey!

Shirakami brand coffee is roasted with pruned apple tree branches and locally produced charcoal. The roasted beans are fluffy and have a mild taste that produce an aromatic experience that's very delicious.

32

#### Kogin Embroidering (Kogin Sashi)

Kogin is traditional embroidering passed down from generation to generation in Tsugaru Region. Currently, many accessories and small items in the styles are very popular.

С

לריוש אדושבסטאלבאדרים



#### Apple Stick made by a Pastry Chef

Apples from Aomori Prefecture are preserved in syrup, cut into pieces, wrapped with sponge cake dough and pie pastry, and baked into a delicious treat.

#### Tsugaru Lacquerware

Lacquerware made in Hirosaki City is called Tsugaru Lacquerware. The already impressive range of products has been expanded to include smartphone cases and other small items.

#### Hirosaki Souvenir T-shirt

Soup with Dakekimi

to make a delicious soup.

Wrapped with Wafers

Dakekimi is grown on the Dake Plateau, located at the south foot of Mt. Iwaki in Hirosaki City. Its sweetness and flavor, and the pleasant aroma of the wafers blend

ATTA

There are unique designed t-shirts that represent Hirosaki City such as a t-shirt the mascot character of Hirosaki City, Takamaru-kun, printed and a t-shirt printed with a traditional pattern, Kogin-Sashi.

#### Zodiac Neputa Dolls

Inspired by the goldfish neputa, twelve/zodiac/animals are made into dolls as lucky charms. Available in small, medium, and large sizes, they also make great accents for room decoration.

#### Takamaru-kun Items

Takamaru-kun is Hirosaki City's mascot. We have a wide range of Takamaru-kun items, including stuffed dolls.







TEKIKAKA

APPLE

SODA

#### Nawa Karinto 🛛

These popular cookies are a Hirosaki specialty.

Slightly sweet and crunchy, they will keep you going back for another bite.

**Apple Juice** 

Hirosaki City boasts the largest harvest of apples in Japan. The wide variety of apples produces a lovely range of juice, and it's great fun to compare the different tastes.

> **TEKIKAKA** Apple Soda (H)

BIIH

Apple soda made with 100% Aomori apples tastes great. The gentle sweetness makes it a great match with anything.

#### Tsugaru Vidro

Tsugaru vidro is handmade by craftsmen inspired by cherry blossoms in spring, festivals in summer, the colorful foliage in autumn, and snowy landscapes in winter. They are beautiful and relaxing.



R D S D S D our Seasons akam

has beautifu nature dant abun Shirakami Area surrounded by scenery of each season



#### Lighted up Niogataki Fall

Frozen Niogataki Fall is mystically decorated with illumination. Period: February\*The period of illumination may change depending on the state of the fall.



#### Hirosaki Castle Snow Lantern Festival

A group of illuminated snow huts and snow statues invites visitors to a profoundly subtle world around the illuminated Hirosaki Castle. Large snow statues inspired from historical buildings and large slides are created for a wide variety of events. Period: Middle of February



Highest Temperature Lowest Temperature Number of Snowy Days	Average Temperature in Winter		
	Hirosaki City	Nishimeya Village	
Dec.	3° -1° 21 <sub>Days</sub>	5° -1° 18 Days	
Jan.	0° -4° 21 Days	2° -4° 17 Days	
Feb.	1° -3° 17 Days	2° -3° 14 Days	
Mar.	5° 0° 14 Days	6° -1° 13 Days	
Source of Data: NOAA			

WINTER Dec. - Mar.

> AUTUMI Sep. - Nov.

Late November – Closed ANMON – Tsugaru Passo Early November – Closed

Lake Tsugaru

Shirakamiko - ANMON•



#### Hirosaki Castle Chrysanthemum & Autumn Foliage Festival

The old castle at Hirosaki Park enters autumn with a gentle charm and grace. With a history stretching back more than 400 years, the turrets and gates have been designated important cultural properties. The approx. 1,000 maple and cherry trees changing into their autumn colors create a beautiful landscape with the old castle and its long history. Period: Late October – Early November


**Best Cherry Blossom** <Hirosaki Castle> Around April 18 – May 5 <Nishimeya & Iwaki> Late April - Early May

### Hirosaki III Cherry Blossom Festival

There are more than 400 Yoshino cherry trees at Hirosaki Park that are more than 100 years old. The trees are nurtured with loving care by Sakuramori as the tree doctor throughout the year, and they produce healthy, full flowers. Period: April 16 - May 5

Hirosaki **Apple Blossom Festival** cute apple flowers are in full bloom. Period: Early May Lake Tsugaru-Shirakamiko – ANMON Beech Forest Hiking Course ANMON – Tsugaru Pass •Mt.Takakuramori End of May - Opened SPRING Apr. - Jun.

SUMMER Jul. - Aug. ΜN lov.

ion-no-taki Falls Anr Early July - Opened

Average Temperature Temperati Hirosaki Nishimeya mber of Citv Village 25° 25° Jul. 20° 18°

## Hirosaki Neputa Festival

Designated a national important intangible folk-cultural property, the festival features floats painted with pictures of warriors that are paraded in the city. The beautiful pictures painted on the floats and sublime festival music light up the summer night sky in Hirosaki.

Period: August 1 – August 7



## Common Things in Tsugaru!?



### Ginger Miso for Oden

Sweet miso sauce with ginger warms your body nicely! Ginger miso is great for cold climates.



Variety of Apple Juice! and sour in a wide variety of juice made from different types of apples to find the ones you like the most.

#### ★Cooling Beer in Snow

Snow is a natural refrigerator. We enjoy chilled beer and snacks in winter.





★Onsen Set is Always in Our Car!

Aomori has the largest ratio of public baths per capita. People here love hot spring baths, even in the morning! We usually have everything we need on hand to hop over to a hot spring for a

#### ★Great Shape of Mt. Iwaki

range of features.

(See page 14 for more details.)





# Shirakami-Sanchi> Middle of October – Late October <Hirosaki Castle> Late October – Early November



## **Yellow Leaves at** Shirakami-Sanchi

Leaves on the beech and maple trees at Shirakami-Sanchi beautifully change into vellow in autumn and decorate the mountain with a golden color. It's pleasant to walk on fluffy fallen leaves while viewing beautiful nature changed into autumn colors.

Best Season for Autumn Foliage





## 21° 19°

Fresh Green Leaves

with green as far as the eye can see.

Hirosaki

City

13°

18

12

22°

16

6°

Highest

noerature Lowest Temperature

Number of Rainy Days

Apr.

Mav

Jun.

of Shirakami-Sanchi When winter ends. Shirakami-Sanchi is adorned

Average Temperature in Spring

Nishimeva

Village

12

17

21

13°

8

3°



I A L Minis



## My Travel Plan Date \*\*\*\* X Х

Travel at our own pace with a rental car!

Travelers: Dad, Mom, Shi, and Hiro

## Have fun in Shirakami and Nishimeya! Nature Enjoyment Day

- Prepare a rental car (Travel by 8:45 a.m. Hirosaki Station 9:45 a.m. Aqua Green Village ANMON
- 10:00 a.m. Hike the Anmon-no-taki Falls Anmon Valley Route (with a guide)
- 12:30 p.m. Road Station Tsugaru Shirakami Beech Nishimeya Have lunch of Shirakami soba and charcoal-roasted
  - coffee at Restaurant Mori-no-Door
- 1:30 p.m. Rafting: Reception/Change clothes
- 2:30 p.m. Start rafting
- 4:30 p.m. Finish rafting



There's a hot spring too!

Accommodations

Kogin-patterned room at Green Park Mori-no-Izumi Check-in 5:00 p.m./Checkout 8:30 a.m.

Enjoy Hirosaki!

## DAY2 Eating and Workshop Day

Travel by	Rental car 8:30 a.m. Green Park Mori-no-Izumi → 9:00 a.m. Hirosaki City Apple Park
9:00 a.m.	Tour Hirosaki City Apple Park
Travel by	Rental car   10:15 a.m. Hirosaki City Apple Park     →   10:30 a.m. Fujita Memorial Garden
10:30 a.m.	Stroll through Fujita Memorial Garden
12:00 p.m.	Lunch at Taisho Roman Tea Room (Eat lunch and apple pie!)
Travel by	Rental car   1:00 p.m. Fujita Memorial Garden     →   1:10 p.m. Tsugaru-han Neputa Village
1:10 p.m.	Tsugaru-han Neputa Village
	Tsugaru lacquer: Goldfish lantern painting workshop
3:00 p.m.	Buy souvenirs at Neputa Village
3:40 p.m.	Stroll through Hirosaki Park
Travel by	5:00 p.m. Tsugaru-han Neputa Village → 5:15 p.m. Hirosaki Station Return rental car



XXXX

Х

Х





een Park Mori-no-Izumi 0172-85-3113

igaru-han Neputa Village 0172-39-1511

JI-II

# My Travel Plan Date



# Nishimeya Village/ Hosali City Area Dap

🍳 Police box 🔤 Post office 🔟 Financial institution • ATM 🙆 Hospital 📻 Shrine 🛢 Temple 🚹 Church 🜆 Road station 🌔 Information 🙆 Convenience store 文 School 😭 Gas station 🛋 Hotel • Ryokan 🕓 Hot spring 🚹 Restaurant 📟 Souvenir shop









41

**T**ÊU











## Transportation Information for Tourists

## 0 - - - - -



## **Hirosaki Route Bus**

#### Cash fare: Adults 150 yen/Children 80 yen With a transportation IC card: Adults 130 yen/Children 70 yen

This bus operates within Hirosaki and costs 150 yen to board. The Dotemachi Route Bus runs downtown, and the Joto Loop Bus provides a convenient way to shop in the suburbs.

Use a transportation IC card for an even better price!

\*Please check the official Konan Bus website for more details about bus stops and operating hours.

1

Hirosaki Route Bus



1-Day Pass: Ride the Dotemachi Route Bus and Joto Loop Bus as much as you want for one day. Fees: Adults 500 yen/Children 250 yen

★ When getting off the bus, tell staff that you would like to purchase a 1-Day Pass. You can then purchase and pay for your pass. \*Only sold onboard

★ You will be asked to pay using an IC card such as MegolCa.

 $\bigstar$  See "How to Start Using MegoICa" on the Konan Bus website (Japanese only ) for more information on how to use the card.

Contact : Hirosaki Bus Terminal TEL: 0172-36-5061 (5:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m. \*Business hours are subject to change.)



Cycle Net Hirosaki (Rental Bicycle)

### Bicycles are convenient for sightseeing in Hirosaki!

Rental season : Rental season: Early May-late November

- \*The rental period may change due to weather conditions.
  - \*The rental season begins in early April at Hirosaki Tourist Information Center, Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center, and Hirosaki City Machinaka Information Center.

Rental locations : Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center, Hirosaki Tourist Information Center (IF, JR Hirosaki Station), Hirosaki City Machinaka Information Center, Hirosaki City Apple Park, Tsugaru-han Neputa Village

Rental hours : 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

(Return deadline: 5:00 p.m. on the same day for all locations) Fees : 1 regular bicycle 500 yen/1 electric bicycle 1,000 yen/1

 h registal biocycle 30.000 yen (Reservation required)
\*Electric bicycles can be rented and returned only at Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center and Hirosaki Tourist Information Center; hybrid bicycles can only be rented and returned at Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center.
\*Electric bicycles cannot be rented during the Cherry Blossom Festival

Contact : Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center TEL: 0172-37-5501

More information here:









Sapporo

New Chitose Airport 🛃 🎽





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