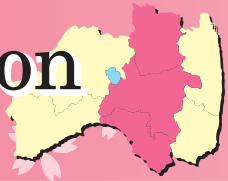


# Central Region (Naka-dori)



The Naka-dori Region boasts a number of highly valued and ancient cherry trees well represented by the famous "Miharu Cherry Tree of Cascading Blossoms(Miharu-no-Takizakura)."

For flowering time information  
<http://www.tif.ne.jp>  
<http://www.tif.ne.jp/eng/index.shtml>

## Fukushima Area



### 14 "Tanemaki-zakura" Cherry Tree at Jitoku-ji Temple

[Fukushima City] MAP E-2

Cherry blossom season: Mid- to late Apr.

This 300-year-old drooping cherry tree inhabits the grounds of the mountainside Jitoku-ji Temple in the suburban Sabara district of Fukushima City. Its blossoms are beautiful when viewed either from inside or outside the temple. Its name "Tanemaki" (meaning "seedtime") was bestowed because local farmers began sowing rice-seeds simultaneously with the blooming of its blossoms. It is a city-designated natural monument.

**[Access]** Approx. 30 min. by bus from Fukushima Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen or Tohoku Shinkansen lines, alighting at Azuma Rikujo Kyogijo stop, then 20 min. walk; or 15 min. drive after exiting Fukushima-nishi I.C. on Tohoku Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Fukushima City Tourism & Products Promotion Association Tel: +81(24)525-3722

### Event

#### Mt. Shinobu Cherry Blossom Festival [Early to late Apr.]

Mt. Shinobu is the best cherry blossom viewing spot in Fukushima City. During the season, it comes alive with a throng of blossom lovers and numerous tea stalls are set up to cater to them. **[Inquiry]** Fukushima City Office (Commerce & Labor Sec.) Tel: +81(24)525-3720

#### Iino Entei Park Cherry Blossom Festival [Mid-Apr.]

Illuminated decoration using paper-covered lamp stands and lanterns, as well as various events and open-air stalls are featured. **[Inquiry]** Executive Committee for Iino Entei Cherry Blossom Festival (c/o Iino Town Commerce & Industry Association) Tel: +81(24)562-2115

#### Beniya-toge Senbon-zakura Festival [Mid-Apr.]

Some 900 blossoming cherry trees enliven Beniya-toge. The local specialty, "Beniya-jiru" soup, dumplings and beverages are on sale. **[Inquiry]** Beniya-toge Senbon-zakura Society Secretariat (c/o Date City Hobaru-machi Hashirazawa Community Hall) Tel: +81(24)575-0860

#### Chausuyama Cherry Blossom Festival [Mid-Apr.]

Chausuyama Park at the foot of Chausuyama Hill is a noted cherry blossom viewing spot. During the season, the whole park turns festive with numerous visitors enjoying events of various kinds in addition to the open-air stalls. **[Inquiry]** Cherry Blossom Festival Executive Committee (c/o Community Revitalization Sec., Date City Office Ryozen Branch) Tel: +81(24)586-3402

### ATI reporter-recommended gourmet venues

#### "sotto cafe"

This café stands modestly beside the Prefectural Art Museum. The interior is charming and cozy. "Today's Special" cake (¥400) made by the shop master himself can be enjoyed along with a soft drink. The cakes and quiches vary from week to week, pleasing customer after customer with their true homemade taste.



2, Kawamae, Moriiai, Fukushima City Tel: +81(24)524-0100  
 [Hours] 12:00 ~ 20:00  
 Closed on Sun. & 1st & 3rd Mon.

#### Fukushima Yatai-mura "Koransho-yokocho"

"Koransho-yokocho" is an alleyway lined with nine eateries ranging from local Fukushima dishes, authentic Japanese cuisine and grilled chicken to Western and multi-ethnic cuisine. Especially popular are dishes made from local ingredients such as Date chicken, Kawamata gamecock and Egoma pork. Just the place for those who love really good cuisine, the motto being "Tasty," "Safe," "Casual," "Reasonable" and "Friendly."



8-6, Okitama-cho, Fukushima City Tel: 024-536-5511  
 [Hours] 17:30 ~ 23:30 (Vary according to shop.)  
 Irregular holidays

#### Shiki Sabo "Yamu"

This elegant "hideaway" restaurant wines and dines guests in an environment unavailable in daily life. Dishes are succulently delicious as well as pleasing to the eye, all enhanced by the staff's hospitality. In spring, guests can enjoy fine cuisine while appreciating cherry trees in bloom surrounding the restaurant. Its "Seasonal Lunch" (¥2,700) is a must.



92, Nakajima, Arai, Fukushima City Tel: +81(24)594-1866  
 [Hours] 11:30 ~ 15:00; 18:00 ~ 21:00 (\*Reservations required)  
 Open year round



### 15 Koori Togenkyo [Koori Town] MAP E-1

Flowering season: Late Apr.

Koori Town is well known as one of the largest producers of peaches in Fukushima Prefecture. Coinciding with the cherry blossom season, an extensive 120-hectare peach orchard turns into a carpet of pink blossoms, reminiscent of the legendary Shangri-La.

**[Access]** 40 min. walk from Koori Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line; or 10 min. drive after exiting Kunimi I.C. on Tohoku Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Koori Town Office (Industry Promotion Sec.) Tel: +81(24)582-2126



### 16 Yanagawa Kibo-no-Mori Park [Date City] MAP F-1

Cherry blossom season: Early to mid-Apr.

This spacious park contains some 2,000 cherry trees of six varieties, including one with yellowish green blossoms. In addition to cherry blossoms in season, the park is replete with facilities such as a field athletic course and an Industrial Heritage Museum.

**[Access]** 10 min. walk from Yanagawa Kibo-no-mori Koen-mae Sta. on Abukuma Kyuko R.R. Line; or 20 min. drive after exiting Kunimi I.C. on Tohoku Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Yanagawa Kibo-no-mori Koen Management Office Tel: +81(24)577-6100

### Event

#### Yanagawa Furusato-no-Sakura Festival [Mid-Apr.]

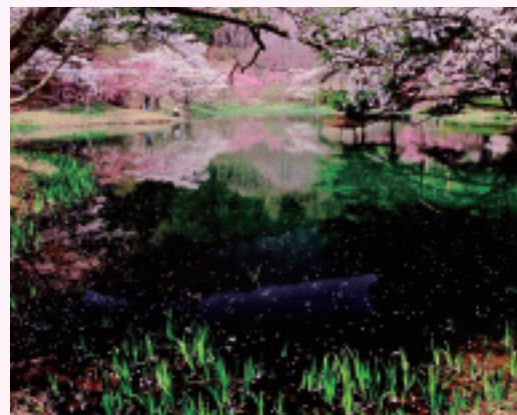
Various events and local specialty sales are featured. **[Inquiry]** Yanagawa Furusato-no Sakura Festival (c/o Community Revitalization Sec., Date City Office Yanagawa Branch) Tel: +81(24)577-7222

### 17 Handayama Nature Park [Koori Town] MAP E-1

Cherry blossom season: Late Apr. to early May

Embracing Mt. Handa (alt. 863m) and Handa Marsh as key design elements, this multi-purpose nature park allows visitors to be immersed in the refreshing world of nature from season to season. Activities include cherry blossom viewing, autumnal foliage viewing, and "bathing" in the fresh forest air. Cottages and a tent site are also available.

**[Access]** 20 min. drive from Koori Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line; or 20 min. drive after exiting Kunimi I.C. on Tohoku Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Handayama Management Center Tel: +81(24)582-4590



## Nihonmatsu Area



### 18 "Koma-zakura" Cherry Tree [Kawamata Town]

Cherry blossom season: Mid-Apr. MAP F-2

This 400-year-old cherry tree is a town-designated natural monument. Also known as "the cherry tree to which Hachiman Taro (an ancient military leader) hitched his horse." In olden days, travelers used to hitch and rest their horses ("koma" in Japanese) here before ascending the steep slope ahead.

**[Access]** 30 min. by bus from Fukushima Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen or Tohoku Shinkansen lines, alighting at Junisha stop, then 40 min. walk; or 30 min. drive after exiting Fukushima-nishi I.C. on Tohoku Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Kawamata Town Office (Industry Sec.) Tel: +81(24)566-2111



### 19 "Kassenba" Drooping Cherry Trees [Nihonmatsu City]

Cherry blossom season: Late Apr. MAP F-3

Here two 200-year-old drooping cherry trees with gorgeous blossoms can be found before a small communal shrine. This area was an ancient battlefield ("kassenba"), hence the name "Kassenba" Drooping Cherry Trees. The pink cherry blossoms offer a beautiful contrast with the bright yellow rape blossoms in the foreground.

**[Access]** 40 min. by bus from Nihonmatsu Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line, alighting at Kassenba stop; or 25 min. drive after exiting Nihonmatsu I.C. on Tohoku Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Nihonmatsu City Office (Tourism Sec.) Tel: +81(243)55-5122

### 20 Kasumiga-jo Castle Park [Nihonmatsu City] MAP E-3

(One of Japan's 100 Best Cherry Blossom Viewing Spots)

Cherry blossom season: Mid-Apr.



Kasumiga-jo Castle was built in the mid-17th century by Lord Niwa Mitsushige of the Nihonmatsu clan. Some 1,700 cherry trees grace and surround the castle walls. From mid- to late April, the blossoms create a spectacular sight. The view from the walls is especially enchanting. Seasonal flowers also grace the castle site - azaleas and wisterias in May and hydrangeas in July, for example.

**[Access]** approx. 20 min. walk from Nihonmatsu Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line; or 5 min. drive after exiting Nihonmatsu I.C. on Tohoku Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Nihonmatsu City Office (Tourism Sec.) Tel: +81(243)55-5122

### Event

#### Cherry Blossom Festivals [Apr. 10 to May 5]

Cherry blossom festivals at Kasumiga-jo Castle Park and Adachigahara Park. The 1,700 cherry trees in bloom at Kasumiga-jo Castle Park are especially impressive. **[Inquiry]** Nihonmatsu Tourism Association Tel: +81(243)55-5122