



## 21 “Goma-zakura” Cherry Tree at Aizo-ji Temple [Nihonmatsu City]

Cherry blossom season: Late Apr. **MAP F-3**

Believed to be 400 to 800 years old, this cherry tree of the Beni Higan-zakura variety has its very own legend. The story goes that long ago when a fire broke out at Aizo-ji Temple, a divine amulet mysteriously dropped in from somewhere and stayed attached to this tree, thus protecting the temple from devastation. Its graceful cascading branches are truly impressive.

**[Access]** 50 min. by bus from Nihonmatsu Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line, alighting at Inari-shita stop, then 5 min. walk; or 30 min. drive after exiting Nihonmatsu I.C. on Tohoku Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Nihonmatsu City Office (Tourism Sec.) Tel: +81(243)55-5122



## 22 “Shionosaki-Ohzakura” Cherry Tree [Motomiya City]

Cherry blossom season: Mid-Apr. **MAP E-3**

This huge cherry tree of the Shiro Higan-zakura variety proudly extends its branches to all directions. Local farmers interpret its blooming as a signal to start the year's rice-seeding. It was designated a prefectural natural monument in 2005.

**[Access]** 15 min. drive from Motomiya Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line  
**[Inquiry]** Motomiya City Tourism & Products Promotion Association Tel: +81(243)33-1111

## Koriyama Area



## 23 “Beni-shidare Jizo-zakura” Cascading Cherry Tree [Koriyama City] **MAP E-4**

Cherry blossom season: Mid- to late Apr.

Boasting gorgeous red-pink blossoms, this 400-year-old drooping cherry tree is said to be a daughter of the famed “Cascading Cherry Tree of Miharu.” The Buddhist deity “Jizo” in the small shrine under the tree is worshipped as the guardian of infants.

**[Access]** 30 min. by bus from Koriyama Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen or Tohoku Shinkansen lines, alighting at Asaka High School Mitate Branch stop, then 30 min. walk; or 30 min. drive after exiting Koriyama-higashi I.C. on Ban'etsu Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Koriyama City Office (Tourism & Products Promotion Sec.) Tel: +81(24)924-2621

## 24 “Fudo-zakura” Cherry Tree [Koriyama City] **MAP E-4**

Cherry blossom season: Late Apr.

This 350-year-old cherry tree was given its name because it sits in the precincts of a Buddhist temple dedicated to the deity “Fudo Myo-oh.” A city-designated natural monument, it is believed to be a descendant of the famed “Cascading Cherry Tree of Miharu.” Scribbling on the temple's ceiling reminds us of the fact that it was used as a school in days of old.

**[Access]** 20 min. drive after exiting Funehiki-Miharu I.C. on Ban'etsu Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Koriyama City Office (Tourism & Products Promotion Sec.) Tel: +81(24)924-2621



## 25 Kaiseizan Park [Koriyama City] **MAP E-4**

Cherry blossom season: Mid-Apr.

An oasis for local residents, this park is the symbol of the Asaka Reclamation Project that laid the foundation for the development of Koriyama city. One of the prefecture's best cherry blossom viewing spots, the park contains some 1,300 cherry trees including those planted during the Asaka reclamation period of the late 19th century.

**[Access]** 10 min. by bus from Koriyama Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen or Tohoku Shinkansen lines; or 10 min. drive after exiting Koriyama I.C. on Tohoku Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Koriyama City Office (Tourism & Products Promotion Sec.) Tel: +81(24)924-2621

## Event

### Cherry Blossom Festivals [Mid- to late Apr.]

Cherry blossom festivals take place at various locations in the Koriyama area, such as Kaiseizan Park, “Beni-shidare Jizo-zakura” cherry tree, “Senbon” (1,000) cherry trees on the Sasahara River banks in Mihota-machi, and the Fujita River “Fureai-zakura” cherry trees in Kikuta-machi.  
**[Inquiry]** Koriyama City Office (Tourism & Products Promotion Sec.) Tel: +81(24)924-2621

## ATI reporter-recommended gourmet venues

### Nonbiri Onsen Bekkan “Iwana-no-Sato Soba-dokoro”

On the foothills of Mt. Takahata is a *soba* (buckwheat) noodle shop offering noodles made from stone-mill-ground flour, along with grilled *iwana* (mountain trout) and homemade *tofu*. *Iwana* come directly from the shop's own fishpond, *tofu* is handmade using local soybeans while the *soba* noodles are hand-rolled - all meaning superb natural taste.



28-1, Bushizawa, Tomioka, Mihota-machi, Koriyama City  
 Tel: +81(24)953-2681  
 [Hours] (Grilled fish) 10:00 ~ 16:00; (noodles) 11:00 ~ 15:00  
 \*Reservations required for groups of 10 or more. Closed on Mon.

### Atelier “Sato-to Vanilla-to”

Located in Koriyama's suburbs, this confectionery is known for being highly particular about every ingredient that goes into each and every cake. Its cakes and gelatos are perfectly balanced in every aspect, ensuring their oh-so elegant sweetness that melts in your mouth. Coffee, blended by the pâtissier himself, perfectly complements the sweets.



18-6, Shin'ike-shita, Tadano, Ouse-machi, Koriyama City  
 Tel: +81(24)967-1511  
 [Hours] 10:00 ~ 19:00  
 Closed on Tue. (the following day if Tue. falls on a holiday.)

### Café Terrasse “Shiki”

Specializing in fruits of the season, this café offers as many as 30 different kinds of crêpe to choose from. In addition, the menu also includes a variety of dishes such as pasta and doria. Seating in the terrace section assures you a relaxing tea or lunch time.



Ice-cream crêpe topped with orange (¥750)  
 3-15-22, Kuwano, Koriyama City Tel: +81(24)923-9379  
 [Hours] 10:00 ~ 22:00  
 Open year round



## 26 Cherry Trees along the Shakado River Banks [Sukagawa City] **MAP E-4**

Cherry blossom season: Mid-Apr.

Known as “Fureai Road,” the 2-kilometer-long Shakado River banks are lined with some 350 cherry trees. When illuminated at night, the blossoms reflecting on the river surface are truly fantastic. A variety of other flowers along the river bank also please the visitor.

**[Access]** 10 min. drive from Sukagawa Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line; or 1 min. drive after exiting Sukagawa I.C. on Tohoku Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Sukagawa City Tourism Association Tel: +81(248)88-9144



## 27 Sukagawa Peony Garden [Sukagawa City] **MAP E-4**

Admission charged; Flowering season: Late Apr. to end Jun.

A local drug merchant, Yurin Ito by name, introduced peony seedlings from Settsu Province (today's Hyogo Prefecture) in 1766 and planted them here for medicinal use. It subsequently developed into this peony garden. The 7,000 peonies of 290 varieties that bloom in this 10-hectare garden are overwhelming. It is also home to trees over 200 years old and other rare indigenous varieties.

**[Access]** 10 min. by bus from Sukagawa Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line, alighting at Botan-en stop; or 10 min. drive after exiting Sukagawa I.C. on Tohoku Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Sukagawa City Office (Commerce, Industry & Tourism Sec.) Tel: +81(248)88-9144  
 Sukagawa Botan-en (Peony Garden) Tel: +81(248)73-2422

## ATI reporter-recommended gourmet venues

### Restaurant “d'Argent”

Just behind the main street of Sukagawa, this restful restaurant offers Western-style cuisine. Specials in its 25-year-long menu are a stewed hamburger steak set (¥1,470) and an elaborately cooked beef stew set (¥2,100). A “Daily Lunch” set is also available (¥800). For dessert, try the creamy cheese cake with limited sweetness at ¥400.



17-5, Naka-machi, Sukagawa City Tel: +81(248)76-6760  
 [Hours] 11:30 ~ 14:00; 17:00 ~ 21:00  
 Closed on Sun. evening; other holidays are irregular  
 \*No preschool children please.

## Event

### Cherry Blossom Festivals in Sukagawa [Early to late Apr.]

Some 200 cherry trees line the Sukagawa River banks (1 kilometer) and 350 cherry trees along the Shakado River banks (2 kilometers).

**[Inquiry]** Sukagawa Cherry Blossom Festival Executive Committee Tel: +81(248)88-9144