



## 28 Cherry Tree at Ozawa [Tamura City]

MAP F-3

Cherry blossom season: Late Apr. to early May

This lone cherry tree elegantly stands amid a tobacco field gracing the view of Mt. Utsuri-gatake in the distance. Nestled beside the tree are a small Buddhist shrine and stone Buddhist images - a typical attractive scene of peaceful rural Japan. A scene of a blossom viewing party was filmed around this tree (as a cherry tree that grants your wish) for the hit Japanese movie "First Love."  
**[Access]** 10 min. drive from Funehiki Sta. on JR Ban'etsu-tosen Line; or 20 min. drive after exiting Funehiki/Miharu I.C. on Ban'etsu Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Tamura City Funehiki Administration Bureau (Agriculture, Forestry, Commerce & Industry Sec.) Tel: +81(247)82-1113



## 30 Cherry Trees along the Kitasu and Imade Rivers [Ishikawa Town]

MAP E-5

Cherry blossom season: Early to mid-Apr.

Ishikawa Town is said to be the birthplace of Izumi Shikibu, an early 11th century court lady and an outstanding poet. The Kitase and Imade rivers flow through the town area and their banks are graced by gorgeous cherry blossoms in April. Another highlight is the town's 500-year-old "Takada-zakura" cherry tree, a prefectural natural monument, that bursts into bloom in mid-April.

**[Access]** 10 min. walk from Iwaki-Ishikawa Sta. on JR Suigun Line; or 15 min. drive after exiting Tamakawa I.C. on Abukuma Kogen-doro Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Ishikawa Town Office (Industrial Promotion Sec.) / Ishikawa Town Tourism & Products Promotion Association Tel: +81(247)26-9113

### Event

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

Throughout April, cherry trees along the Imade River banks and at Asahi Park are illuminated in the evening. A variety of events are staged in mid-April.

**[Inquiry]** Ishikawa Town Office (Industrial Promotion Sec.) / Ishikawa Town Tourism & Products Promotion Association Tel: +81(247)26-9113



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

## 29 Cherry Tree at Eisen-ji Temple [Tamura City]

Cherry blossom season: Late Apr. to early May MAP F-4



This 400-year-old drooping cherry tree is a prefecture-designated natural monument. It is believed to be a sister of the renowned "Cascading Cherry Tree of Miharu." When in full bloom, blossoms cascade from a height of some 12 meters - simply breathtaking!  
**[Access]** 15 min. drive from Ogoe Sta. on JR Ban'etsu-tosen Line; or 10 min. drive after exiting Ono I.C. on Ban'etsu Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Tamura City Ogoe Administration Bureau (Agriculture, Forestry, Commerce & Industry Sec.) Tel: +81(247)79-2193



## 31 Cherry Tree at Koshidai [Furudono Town]

MAP F-5

Cherry blossom season: Late Apr. to early May

This huge 400-year-old drooping cherry tree, some 20 meters high and 8.7 meters in circumference at breast height, is one of Japan's 100 largest trees and a prefecture-designated natural monument. Its best blossoms can be viewed from late April to early May (the Golden Week holidays), just a little bit later than other blossom viewing spots in Fukushima Prefecture.

**[Access]** 50 min. drive after exiting Tamakawa I.C. on Abukuma Kogen-doro Expwy; or 50 min. drive after exiting Yumoto I.C. on Joban Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Furudono Town Office (Industrial Promotion Sec.) Tel: +81(247)53-4620

### Event

#### Cherry Blossom Festival at Koshidai [May 3]

A variety of events take place around the Cherry Trees at Koshidai, a prefectural natural monument. Many open-air stalls cater to the throngs of flower lovers.

**[Inquiry]** Furudono Town Office (Industrial Promotion Sec.) Tel: +81(247)53-4620

## 32 Cascading Cherry Tree of Miharu [Miharu Town]

MAP E-3

Cherry blossom season: Mid- to late Apr.

Admired as one of Japan's three greatest cherry trees, this awe-inspiring "cascading" cherry tree is over 1,000 years old. It is 13.5 meters tall and measures 11.3 meters in circumference at its base. No wonder, it has been designated a national natural monument. It served as the model for the blooming cherry tree painted (by Meiji Hashimoto) on a cedar-panel door at the New Imperial Palace. At its blossoming height, countless blossoms form a "cascade" and overwhelm the viewer.

**[Access]** (Early to late Apr.) Blossom viewers' bus (fee charged) operates from Miharu Sta. on JR Ban'etsu-tosen Line; or 15 min. drive after exiting Funehiki/Miharu I.C. on Ban'etsu Expwy \*Traffic control during high season. (Confirm in advance.)  
**[Inquiry]** Miharu Town Tourism Association Tel: +81(247)62-3690



## 33 Cherry Tree at Fukuju-ji Temple [Miharu Town]

MAP E-3

Cherry blossom season: Mid- to late Apr.

This drooping cherry tree graces the precincts of Fukuju-ji, the family temple of the Tamura clan (15th to 16th centuries) in Miharu Castle. The temple's principal deity is Shakyamuni. The temple's annex, dedicated to Kannon (the Goddess of Mercy), is the second stop in the pilgrimage of 33 Kannon-associated temples in Tamura.

**[Access]** 10 min. drive from Miharu Sta. on JR Ban'etsu-tosen Line; or 10 min. drive after exiting Funehiki/Miharu I.C. on Ban'etsu Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Miharu Town Tourism Association Tel: +81(247)62-3690



## 34 Drooping Cherry Tree at Oshiro-zaka Slope [Miharu Town]

MAP E-3

Cherry blossom season: Mid- to late Apr.

This cascading cherry tree can be found in the garden of the Namioka family residence (a Miharu clan retainer in days of old) which is located halfway up the Oshiro-zaka slope within the Miharu Castle grounds. The tree is said to be witness to the history of the early Meiji Restoration period. The blossoms gently swaying in the spring breezes are more than elegant.

**[Access]** 10 min. drive from Miharu Sta. on JR Ban'etsu-tosen Line; or 10 min. drive after exiting Funehiki/Miharu I.C. on Ban'etsu Expwy  
**[Inquiry]** Miharu Town Tourism Association Tel: +81(247)62-3690

### Event

#### Miharu Festival [Early to late Apr.]

During the cherry blossom season, the seven blossom viewing spots around Miharu Town are attractively illuminated in the evening.  
**[Inquiry]** Miharu Town Tourism Association Tel: +81(247)62-3690

### ATI reporter-recommended gourmet venues

#### TO-FU café "Oohata-ya"

This café for the health-conscious was opened three years ago by Oohata-ya, a local *tofu* maker with a long 70-year history. Its offerings include "Today's Lunch" (¥1,260), sweets and drinks created from the day's freshly made *tofu* and soy milk. In spring, guests can enjoy soy milk-based chiffon cake (¥450) or soy milk-based almond jelly, both mixed with cherry petals.

253, Ishihata, Nishikata, Miharu Town, Tamura-gun Tel: +81(247)62-1113  
 [Hours] 9:00 - 17:30  
 Open year round



#### Garden Restaurant "Sarara"

A buffet-style restaurant within the Miharu Herb Garden features ¥1,575 plates for junior high school student and up; ¥735 for 5-year-olds through elementary school students. Available selections number 50 to 60 at all times, from rice, bread and pasta to a diversity of dishes and sweets - each identified as to sources of ingredients. The restaurant itself exudes a warm woody atmosphere. Even the plates are all made of wood. Great for lunch or tea time!

126, Niimichi, Saito, Miharu Town, Tamura-gun Tel: +81(24)942-1465  
 [Hours] 11:00 - 16:00  
 Closed on Tue.

