

50 Tsuruga-jo Castle

[Aizu-Wakamatsu City]

MAP C-3

The imposing Tsuruga-jo Castle is the historical symbol of Aizu. The cherry trees here were planted in 1908 in commemoration of the posting of the Japanese Army's 65th Regiment in Aizu-Wakamatsu. Some 1,000 cherry trees here make the castle the number one blossom viewing attraction in the Aizu region. Somei-Yoshino and other varieties of cherry blossoms harmoniously sing their song of spring in Aizu.

[Access] By Tsuruga-jo-mawari Route bus or "Haikara-san" loop bus from Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta. on JR Ban'etsu-saisen Line, alighting at Tsuruga-jo Kita-guchi stop, then 5 min. walk

[Inquiry] Aizu-Wakamatsu City Tourist Public Corporation
Tel: +81(242)27-4005

Event

Illumination at Tsuruga-jo Park

[Early Apr. to early May]

Tsuruga-jo Castle is a nationally designated historic site and an outstanding blossom viewing spot listed in the register of Japan's Best 100 Cherry Blossom Viewing Venues. The entire castle premises including the main donjon is illuminated during the cherry blossom season, creating a breathtaking night view.

[Inquiry] Aizu-Wakamatsu City Tourist Public Corporation
Tel: +81(242)27-4005



Tsuruga-jo Cherry Blossom Festival

[3rd Sun. in Apr. & preceding Sat.]

In this festival, colorfully clad youngsters in *happi* coats parade throughout the castle grounds carrying a portable shrine.

[Inquiry] Aizu Festival Enthusiasts' Society (Aizu-Saikoukai)
Tel: +81(242)26-0115



ATI reporter-recommended gourmet venues

Ristorante "Papa Cald"

This restaurant moved and reopened in 2007 on Nanuka-machi Street with its nostalgic Taisho-period (early 20th century) atmosphere intact. It is faithfully loyal to locally produced ingredients and cuisine such as Aizu-jidori chicken and Egoma pork. The "Seasonal Lunch" courses (¥1,890 and up; 4 dishes each) feature elaborately cooked selections using the choicest ingredients and never fail to please!

2-39, Nanuka-machi, Aizu-Wakamatsu City Tel: +81(242)93-7887
[Hours] 11:30 ~ 14:00; 17:30 ~ 21:00 Irregular holidays



Warehouse-style Coffee Shop "Kyou"

Situated at a corner of the Suehiro Brewery saké warehouse, this café offers sweets using the finest-quality saké (*Dai-ginjo*). The highly popular "*Dai-ginjo* chiffon cake" is soft and succulent with a fine saké aroma. It goes well with coffee brewed with the same water that is used in the brewing of saké. Saké jelly makes a fine souvenir item.

12-38, Nisshin-machi, Aizu-Wakamatsu City Tel: +81(242)29-0819
[Hours] 10:00 ~ 18:00 Closed on Wed. (Open if Wed. is a national holiday)



51 Drooping Cherry Trees along the Former Nitchu Railway Line

[Kitakata City]

MAP C-2

Cherry blossom season: Mid- to late Apr.

A 3-kilometer-long promenade that was formerly the Nitchu Railway Line is lined with some 1,000 blooming cascading cherry trees.

[Access] 3 min. walk from Kitakata Sta. on JR Ban'etsu-saisen Line
[Inquiry] Kitakata Tourism Association Tel: +81(241)24-5200



Event

Sakura Walk around Kitakata, the Town of Warehouses

[3rd Sat. in Apr.]

With the former Nitchu Line as the main promenade, this walking tour explores the blossoming cherry trees and the historically colorful warehouse town of Kitakata.

[Inquiry] Kitakata City Education Board (Continuing Education Sec.)
Tel: +81(241)23-2116



52 "Nagatoko" at Shingu Kumano Shrine

[Kitakata City]

MAP C-2

Cherry blossom season: Late Apr. to early May

The shrine's "Nagatoko" (worship hall) is designated as a national important cultural property and is characterized by its monumental scale and massive wooden pillars.

[Access] 10 min. drive from Kitakata Sta. on JR Ban'etsu-saisen Line; or 25 min. drive after exiting Aizu-Wakamatsu I.C. on Ban'etsu Expwy

[Inquiry] Shingu District Society for Important Cultural Property Preservation Tel: +81(241)23-0775



53 Fukuman Kokuzo-son Enzo-ji Temple

[Yanaizu Town]

MAP C-3

Cherry blossom season: Early to late Apr

The temple's deity "Fukuman Kokuzo-son" is said to have been carved on a piece of sacred wood by the highly revered priest Kukai (774 ~ 835). The main hall "Kikkodo" where the deity is enshrined was reconstructed in 1830 by the Matsudaira clan of Aizu.

[Access] 10 min. walk from Yanaizu Sta. on JR Tadami Line; or 10 min. drive after exiting Aizu-Bange I.C. on Ban'etsu Expwy

[Inquiry] Yanaizu Town Office (Community Revitalization Sec.) Tel: +81(241)42-2114

ATI reporter-recommended gourmet venues

"Hiro's Confectionery"

If you inquire about the best of sweets in the Ura-Bandai Plateau area, the answer is very likely to be "*Hana-mame* Mont-Blanc." Incorporating *hana-mame* beans as the base, the "Mont-Blanc," as created by the area's top lady pâtissier, is creating a boom.

Recently televised, the "Mont-Blanc" is on its way to becoming famous nationwide.



1095-47, Sohara-yama, Hibara, Kita-Shiobara Village, Yama-gun Tel: +81(241)32-2730
[Hours] 11:00 ~ 16:00 Closed on Tue. & Wed.

Event

Sakura-toge Cherry Blossom Festival

[Kita-Shiobara Village][May 6]

This event was initiated in commemoration of 2,000 cherry trees planted along the Sakura-toge Pass. A variety of events are also staged at La Vie Spa Urabandai.

[Inquiry] Kita-Shiobara Village Office (Tourism Promotion Sec.)
Tel: +81(241)32-2511



Event

Toaka Yama-zakura Festival

[Shimogo Town][Late Apr. to early May]

This festival features a tour of *yama-zakura* (mountain cherry blossoms) together with sales of local specialties. A photo exhibition is also on display.

[Inquiry] Morio Hoshi (Toaka district leader) Tel: +81(241)67-2716

ATI reporter-recommended gourmet venues

Traditional Cuisine Restaurant "Choma-an"

Appreciate traditional, true homemade dishes using a variety of seasonal ingredients from the mountains. "Bande-mochi" rice cake (¥200), using ordinary non-glutinous rice, is very popular. It comes with a special *egoma* (the perilla variety) sauce (a *miso* bean-paste sauce version is available during the village festivals).



1, Uenohara, Sakura, Showa Village, Onuma-gun
Tel: +81(241)58-1455
[Hours] 10:00 ~ 16:00 (Inquiry is required during winter) Closed during year end/New Year holidays, Mon. to Wed. in Dec. through Mar.

Event

Mizubasho Festival at Mt. Hakaseyama

[Showa Village] [Early May]

Enjoy a refreshing nature walk, surrounded by charming Mizubasho flowers and white birches. Tents are set up to sell local specialties and hot soup. Complimentary *amazake* (sweet saké) is served.

[Inquiry] Hakaseyama Mizubasho Festival Executive Committee in Onogawa
Tel: +81(241)57-3100
(Showa Village Commerce & Industry Society)

