TOHOKU
Drive Route

Another Japan
Scenic Drives in Tohoku
—Explore Tohoku’s seasons and history—

Route 01  Tohoku Samurai Culture and Castles
Route 02  Tohoku Sanriku Coast and Marine Adventure
Route 03  Tour of Tohoku Towns and Relaxing Time with Akita Inu
Route 04  Tour of Spectacular Tohoku Scenery Across All Four Seasons
Route 05  Tour of Tohoku Spiritual Culture and Natural World Heritage Sites
Route 06  Tohoku Sunsets and Scenic Coastal Drives
Route 07  Tohoku Traditional Craftsmanship and History

Take a road trip in search of inspiring sights!
Another Japan
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Tohoku’s greatest attraction is the beauty and magnificence of its natural scenery. Driving in Tohoku allows you to fully enjoy the sights you want to see and destinations you want to explore without time restrictions. These scenic drives cover a wide range of seasonal, historical, and other attractions. Which route do you want to take?

Route 01
Samurai Culture and Castles Route
This route focuses on the samurai culture of the Tohoku region. Travel to Aizu-wakamatsu, known as the “Samurai City,” and visit Ouchi-juku, a town that has retained its historical character.

Ininerary
Day 1: Sendai → Sendai Station → Kaminoyama Station → Kaminoyama Castle
Day 2: Kaminoyama Castle → Hachinohe → Aizuwakamatsu

Day 1:
Day 2:

Day 1:
Day 2:
**Towada City, Aomori Pref.**

Flowing along a distance of about 14 km from Lake Towada. This is one of the most beautiful mountain streams in Japan, Oirase Gorge offers spectacular views no matter where you look. Cliffs with unusual rock formations, trees, and the crystal-clear sea. Enjoy marine activities while touring the beautiful ria coast along the Pacific Ocean.

**Tohoku Sanriku Coast and Marine Adventure Route**

Enjoy marine activities while touring the beautiful ria coast along the Pacific Ocean. This route will take you to water front adventures such as a boat cruise, fishing boat ride, and exploration of a refreshing, clear river.

**Kakunodate Samurai District**

Kakunodate preserves its Edo-period (1603–1868) townscape of samurai residences and rows of cherry blossom trees, and is known as the “little Kyoto of Michinoku (Tohoku).”

**Bank of Iwate Red Brick Building**

This Western-style building with striking red bricks was built about 110 years ago, and was designed by the same architect as Tokyo Station.

**Hirosaki Castle**

Hiroshima Hachinohe Yatai Mura

A facility where you can interact with Akita Inu. This breed is a national treasure of Japan and is known as the “little Kyoto of Michinoku (Tohoku).”

**Tour of Tohoku Towns and Relaxing Time with Akita Inu**

This route will take you on a tour of Tohoku cities that preserve historic buildings and samurai residences from times past. Each city evokes a different atmosphere, and exploring its streets on foot adds to the fun. You can also interact with cute Akita Inu dogs.

**For more info:**

[Towada Hachimantai Tourist Information Centre](http://www.hachinohe-towada.jp/towadaen/)

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[Towada Hachimantai Tourist Information Centre](http://www.hachinohe-towada.jp/towadaen/)
Michinoku Coastal Trail (Hachinohe City, Aomori Pref.)
A long trail that stretches along the magnificent Pacific Ocean from Hachinohe City, Aomori Prefecture, to Soma (Hachinohe City, Aomori Pref.).

Route
Day 4: Aomori Station / Aomori Airport → Aomori (Michinoku Coastal Trail)
→ Semboku (Semboku City Folk Performing Arts Heritage Center) → M. Choki (Shirakami River) → Towada (Towada City, Aomori Pref.)
→ Koganezaki Furofushi (Towada City, Aomori Pref.)
→ Akita (Akita City Folk Performing Arts Heritage Center) → Akita Airport

Day 5: Akita Station / Akita Airport → Akita (Michinoku Coastal Trail)
→ Akita (Beech Forest Trail) → Asamushi Onsen (Towada City, Aomori Pref.)
→ Akita (Beech Forest Trail) → Akita Station / Akita Airport

Day 6: Sendai Station / Sendai Airport → Sendai (Senami-ke Park) → Sendai (Senami-ke Park) → Sendai (Senami-ke Park) → Sendai Airport

Day 7: Sendai Station / Sendai Airport → Sendai (Senami-ke Park) → Sendai (Senami-ke Park) → Sendai (Senami-ke Park) → Sendai Airport

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**Getting to Tohoku**

**From Tokyo**

### By Air

- **Haneda Airport**
  - Aomori Airport: 1h15min (6 flights/JAL)
  - Misawa Airport: 1h20min (4 flights/JAL)
  - Odate-Noshiro Airport: 1h10min (3 flights/ANA)
  - Akita Airport: 1h5min (9 flights/JAL, ANA)
  - Shonai Airport: 1h (5 flights/ANA)
  - Yamagata Airport: 1h (2 flights/JAL)

- **Narita Airport** (*Suspended*)
  - Sendai Airport: 1h (2 flights/ANA)
  - Niigata Airport: 1h5min (1 flight/ANA)

### By Train

- **Joetsu Shinkansen**
  - Shin-Hakodate-Hokuto St.: 3h57min
  - Shin-Aomori St.: 2h58min
  - Akita St.: 3h37min
  - Morioka St.: 2h10min
  - Yamagata St.: 2h26min
  - Sendai St.: 1h30min
  - Fukushima St.: 1h21min

Access from Tokyo has gotten easier

Check here for information about convenient tickets that make travelling around Tohoku easy and affordable!

**Tohoku Tourism Promotion Organization**

November 2023