Practical Travel Guide - 301

TSUCHIURA, TSUKUBA, KASHIMA and MITO



Japan National Tourism Organization 日本政府観光局



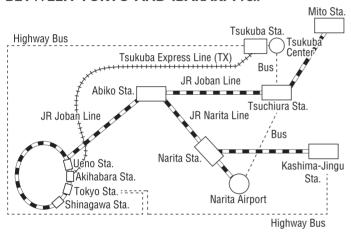
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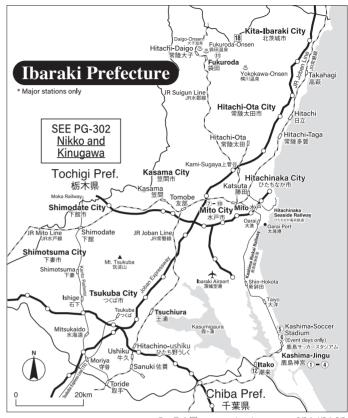
In collaboration with Tourist Information Centers in the area



Ibaraki Prefecture (茨城県) (pop. 2,868,041; Oct. 2019), is located in center of the Honshu (the main land of Japan) and about 40 km away from Tokyo. Facing the Pacific Ocean on the east, Ibaraki is divided into three parts - the mountainous area in the north, the center-to-south stretch of the Kanto Plain and the area containing the Tone-gawa River and its tributary streams. You can enjoy a variety of sightseeing because Ibaraki Pref. has lots of attractions provided with its nature, history and some industries.

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK BETWEEN TOKYO AND IBARAKI Pref.





① - ② & 16 correspond to those on page 3/5 & 4/5 & 5/5.

TSUCHIURA

Tsuchiura (土浦) (pop. 138,517; Oct. 2019), the central city of southern Ibaraki Prefecture, thrived as a castle and post-station town dur-ing the Edo Period (1603–1867). It is now the gateway

to Suigo-Tsukuba Quasi-National Park which includes Tsukuba Science City and Mt. Tsukuba, also a center of transportation by water on Lake Kasumigaura, the second largest lake in Japan.

Access

Tsuchiura from Tokyo via Ueno:

From	То	Ву	Approx. Travel Time	Price
Tokyo Sta.	Tsuchiura Sta.	JR Ltd. Express "Hitachi" / "Tokiwa"	55 min.	¥2,190
Ueno Sta.	i suciliura sta.	JR Ueno-Tokyo Line / JR Joban Line	1 hr. 10 min.	¥1,170

Tsuchiura from Narita via Abiko:

From (via)	То	Ву	Approx. Travel Time	Price	
Narita Sta. – (Abiko Sta.)		JR Narita Line	45 min.	¥1,170	
(Abiko Sta.) – Tsuchiura Sta.	Tsuchiura	JR Joban Line	35 min.		
Narita Airport		Bus	1 hr. 30 min.	¥2,300	

Place of Interest:

Kijo Park (亀城公園), 15 min. walk from Tsuchiura Sta., is the site of former Tsuchiura Castle which is said to have been built by Saburo Wakaizumi in the early part of the 15th Century. A donjon gate and a moat can be seen. The castle was popularly called "Kijo" meaning Turtle Castle because of its resemblance to a turtle floating on the water. Cherry Blossom Festival is held in late Mar. — early Apr.

Rows of historic buildings along the old Mito Avenue (||

水戸街道の古い町並み),10 min. walk from JR Tsuchiura Sta. Historic buildings are concentrated on the street called Nakajo St. In the middle part of the street, two "Kura" traditional storehouses are open to the public. And other old houses, still using a shop or a restaurant, are also worth seeing.

Togakuji Temple (等覚寺), 15 min. walk from Tsuchiura Sta. The temple was founded during the Kamakura Period. Located in the town of Tajuku on the old Mito Avenue. The bronze bell comes from the Tsuchiura Castle.

*See p. 5 for admission and opening times.

Annual Events:

All Japan Fireworks Competition to be held every year on the 1st Sat. in October is said to be one of the biggest firework displays in Japan. The site of the spectacle is on the bank of Sakura River. Firework makers from all over the country gather here to compete.

Other annual events this city has to offer include Hina Doll (for girls' festival on Mar. 3) Festival in Feb.—early Mar., Cherry-Blossom Festival in late Mar.—early Apr., Gion Festival in Jul., Tsuchiura Kirara (Lake and Tanabata) Festival in Aug. and Chrysanthemum Festival in Nov.

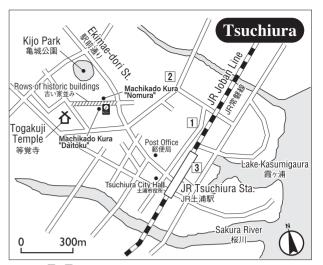
Accommodations:

Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
1 Hotel Kohoku (BH)	(029)824-3711	(029)824-3422	¥
2 Hotel Marroad Tsukuba (H)	(029)822-3000	(029)822-3244	¥
3 Hotel Alpha the Tsuchiura (BH)	(029)824-1211	(029)824-1110	¥

Remarks:

Rate per person. Numbers 1 - 3 correspond to those on the map on page 2/5.

*Standard basis rate (no meals, taxes included)



Numbers 1 - 3 correspond to those on the "Accommodations" list on page 2/5.

TSUKUBA

Tsukuba (つくば) (pop. 236,129; Sep. 2019), located 50 km northeast of Tokyo and 40 km northwest of Narita International Airport, known as the site of the International Science and Technology Exposition in 1985 (Tsukuba Expo '85), is a future-

oriented city of Japan with almost 30 national research centers, universities and over 100 private research institutes.

You can visit eight facilities by "<u>Tsukuba Science Tour Bus</u>" ¥500 (6 runs a day on Sat., Sun, and national holiday).

Access:

From To		Ву	Approx. Travel Time	Price
Akihabara Sta. Tsukuba Sta.		Train (Tsukuba Express Line [TX])	45 min.	¥1,210
Tsuchiura Sta.		Bus (Kanto Railway Bus)	30 min.	¥540
Tokyo Sta. (Yaesu South Exit)	Tsukuba Center	Bus (Kanto Railway Bus / JR Bus)	1 hr. 5 min.	¥1,200
Narita Airport		Bus (Airport Limousine Bus)	60 min.	¥2,300

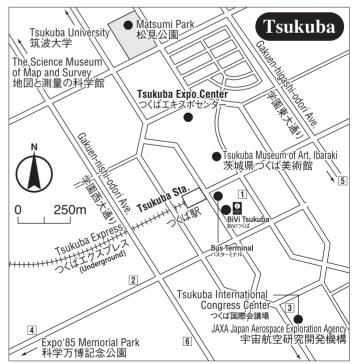
Places of Interest:

Tsukuba Center Bldg. (つくばセンタービル), designed by Arata Isozaki, is a symbolic structure of the city which includes a hotel, a concert hall and open spaces.

Tsukuba Expo Center (つくばエキスポセンター) is a permanent facility constructed in commemoration of the Tsukuba Science Expo. A number of exhibition articles shown at the time of the Expo are displayed here. This center consists of Children's Park, Science Forum and Cosmic Hall with one of the largest planetariums in the world. Open: 9:50–17:00 ,–15:00 (Dec. 28; enter by 14:00). Closed: Mon. (or the follwing day after the holiday when Mon. falls on a national holiday), New Year holiday. Admission: ¥500 (¥1,000 including admission to the Cosmic Hall planetarium).

Mt. Tsukuba (筑波山) is the main peak of the Tsukuba mountains located in the north of the city. The summit consists of 2 peaks, Nantaisan (Male peak, 871 m) and Nyotaisan (Female peak, 877 m). The summit of the mountain commands a panoramic view of the Kanto plain. Tsukuba City is at its foot. Mt. Tsukuba constitutes a part of Suigo-Tsukuba Quasi-National Park. The summit of the mountain can be reached easily by cable car or ropeway (see page 3/5).

Tsukubasan Shrine (筑波山神社), located in middle of Mt. Tsukuba, is one of the most historic shrines in Japan. This shrine is for conjugal harmony and match making and is dedicated to Mt. Tsukuba.



Numbers 1 – 6 correspond to those on the "Accommodations" list on page 3/5.

Accommodations:

Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
1 Okura Frontier Hotel Tsukuba (H)	(029)852-1112	(029)852-5623	¥¥¥
2 Hotel Grand Shinonome (H)	(029)856-2211	(029)852-7422	¥
3 Okura Frontier Hotel Tsukuba Epochal (H)	(029)860-7700	(029)860-7701	¥
4 Tsukuba Sky Hotel (H)	(029)851-0008	(029)856-5116	¥¥
5 Tsukuba Daily Inn (BH)	(029)851-0003	(029)851-1451	¥
6 Hotel Tsukuba Hills (H)	(029)896-3331	(029)896-3332	¥

Remarks:

Numbers 1 - 3 correspond to those on the map on page 2/5. Rate per person.

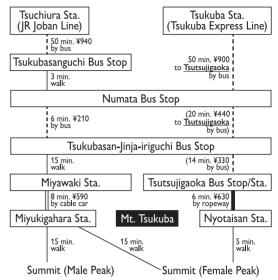
H = Hotel

BH = Business Hotel

¥ = 8,000 yen or less *Standard basis rate (no meals, taxes included)



TRANSPORTATION NETWORK AROUND TSUKUBA & MT. TSUKUBA



KASHIMA

Access:

From	То	Ву	Approx. Travel Time	Price
Narita Airport	JR Narita Sta.	Train (JR Rapid "Airport Narita")	15 min. (10 min. from Terminal 2. Sta.)	¥240
JR Narita Sta. (via Sawara Sta.)		Train (JR Narita Line & Kashima Line)	55 min.	¥860
Tokyo Sta.	Kashima lingu Sta	Bus (JR Bus, Kanto Railway Bus & Keisei Bus)	2 hrs.	¥2,000
(via Sawara and Chiba Sta.)	Kashima Jingu Sta.	Train (JR Sobu Line, Narita Line & Kashima Line)	3 hrs. 15 min.	¥1.980

Kashima (鹿嶋) is a city with a population of 67,448 (Oct. 2019) on the Pacific coast in the east south of Ibaraki Prefecture. It's known for Kashima Jingu Shrine dedicated to a god of martial arts.

$\bigcirc 1$ – $\bigcirc 2$ correspond to those on the map on page 3/5 & 4/5. **Places of Interest:**

- ①Kashima Jingu Shrine (鹿島神宮), 10 min. walk from JR Kashima Jingu Sta., is one of the three great shrines of the eastern domains. The sacred trees behind the main sanctuary are estimated to be 1,200 years old. The shrine has been designated as an Important Cultual Property.
- ②Kashima Port Sightseeing (鹿島港遊覧) 15 min. by taxi from Kashima Jingu Sta. Sightseeing boats of Kashimako Port operate on weekends and holidays. Departure at 13:30. 45 min. cruise (¥1,240).
- ③Kashima Shiroyama Park (鹿島城山公園), 5 min. walk from JR Kashima Jingu Sta., is filled with cherry blossoms and mountain azaleas in spring, and a number of events are held here, including a Cherry Blossom Festival in early April.
- ④Shiosai-Hamanasu Park (Observation Tower) (潮騒はまなす公園・宇宙展望塔) 10-min. walk from Chojagahama Shiosai Hamanasu Koenmae Sta. on Oarai Kashima Line (Kashima Rinkai Railway). Approximately 7,000 sweet briers bloom in this seaside park during the months of May and Jun. Its symbol is the Observation Tower (展望塔) (45 m high), where you can enjoy a 360-degree panoramic view. It is linked with a variety of facilities, including a planetarium, local history museum, art gallery, a spot for rope climbing, a thrilling 154 m-long jumbo slide and a mechanical clock. [Observation Tower] Open: 9:00–16:30.

Closed: Mon. (or the follwing day after the holiday when Mon. falls on a national holiday), Year-end period. Admission: ¥300.

(5) Kashima Soccer Stadium (カシマサッカースタジアム), 10 min. by bus from JR Kashima Jingu Sta. or in front of the Kashima Soccer Stadium Sta. on Kashima Rinkai Tetsudo Line opening only on the dates of games, is a home of The Kashima Antlers, professional soccer team, formed in 1991 with the full support of the city's political and business circles. They boast the country's first genuine soccer stadium.



① — ⑤ & ⑪ correspond to those on page 3/5 & 4/5.
① — ⑥ & ⑰ — ⑥ correspond to those in the accommodations list on page 5/5.
*Through train service between JR Kashima Jingu Sta.
and Kashima Rinkai Railway section bound for Mito.

*See p. 5 for admission and opening times.

MITO

Access:

From	То	Ву	Approx. Travel Time	Price
Tokyo Sta.		JR Limited Express "Hitachi" / "Tokiwa"	1 hr. 25 min.	¥3,890
Tokyo Sta.	Mito Sta.	bus (JR Bus, Ibaraki Kotsu Bus and Kanto Railway Bus)	1 hr. 55 min.	¥2,120
Narita Airport		bus (Chiba Kotsu Bus, Ibaraki Kotsu Bus and Hitachi Kotsu Bus)	2 hrs. 5 min.	¥3,200

Places of Interest:

⑥Kairakuen Park, Mito City (偕楽園), 20 min. by bus from JR Mito Sta., is one of the three great Japanese gardens in Japan and is famous for 3,000 plum trees which are full in bloom in Feb. You can catch a glimpse of the elegant lifestyle of the daimyo (feudal lords) of the time at the Tokugawa Shogunate Nariaki's second home "Kobuntei" built in 1842. Open: 6:00–19:00, 7:00–18:00 (Oct.–Feb. 19). [Kobuntei] 9:00–17:00, –16:30 (Oct.–Feb. 19). Closed: Dec. 29–31. Admission: ¥200.

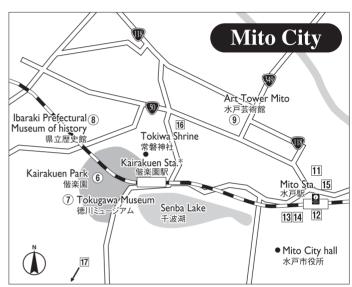
(徳川ミュージアム) 10 min. by taxi from JR Mito Sta., on Joban Line, the museum exhibits varieties of expensive holdings over 30,000 collections left by the first Shogun "leyasu Tokugawa" and his son Yorifusa. Open: 9:00–17:00. Closed: Mon.(except national holiday). Admission: General exhibitions: ¥1,300–1,500 (depends on a season.).

⑧Ibaraki Prefectural Museum of History (茨城県立歴史館) 15 min. by bus from JR Mito Sta., was established in 1974 in order to display the history of Ibaraki Prefecture. In the main building, exhibitions and historical records are mainly displayed. Open: 9:30–17:00. Closed: Mon. (or the follwing day after the holiday when Mon. falls on a national holiday), maintenance period and Dec.29–Jan. 1. Admission: ¥160, Special exhibitions: ¥610.

⑨Art Tower Mito (水戸芸術館), 10 min. by bus from JR Mito Sta. is a cultural complex that includes a concert hall, theater, art gallery, shops and restaurants. You can also enjoy wonderful

view of the city from the 100-meter high observatory (¥200). Open: 9:30–18:00 (Art Tower: –19:00 on Sat., Sun. & national holidays) Closed: Mon. (or the follwing day after the holiday when Mon. falls on a national holiday).

URL: http://www.arttowermito.or.jp/english/



*Some designated trains bound for Mito stop at this station during plum trees festival.

(a) - (b) correspond to those on page 4/5. [1] - [15] correspond to those on page 5/5.

Suggested Sightseeing Route in Mito 10 min. 20 min. 2 min. Mito Sta. north exit Ibaraki Prefectual Museum of History Kairakuen Park ······ Tokiwa Shrine/Giretsu-kan 水戸駅北口 茨城県立歴史館 walk walk 常磐神社·義烈館 bus 偕楽園 15 min. 35 min. 20 min. 4 min. 8 min. Tokugawa Museum … 徳川ミュージアム ················· Art Tower Mito · walk 水戸芸術館 Kodokan ··· walk walk walk 弘道館 アートタワー水戸

OUTSIDE MITO

⑩Fukuroda no Taki Waterfall (袋田の滝) 10 min. by car from JR Fukuroda Sta. One of the three largest waterfalls in Japan. Because of its seasonal changes in appearance, the waterfall is also known as the Four Seasons Waterfall. Passing through the Kanbaku Tunnel, you'll have a great view of the waterfall from the observation platform, Kanbakudai. The area around the waterfall has many specialties, including gamecocks and freshwater trout. Kanbaku Tunnel passage costs ¥300. Open: Daily. 9:00–17:00, 8:00–18:00 (May.– Oct.).

①Suigo Itako Ayame Matsuri (Iris Festival) (水郷・潮来あやめ祭) 5 min. walk from JR Kashima Line Itako Sta. In June, the Suigo Itako Ayame Festival which is held over a period of one month. The whole town of Itako, will be decorated with 1,000,000 purple and yellow bloom irises. A number of traditional Japanese events are to be held at the three iris gardens in the city (Maekawa, Hitachi-tonegawa and Sengenshita). Admission: Free.

⑫Kasama-yaki Pottery (笠間焼) The history of Kasama-yaki pottery is said to have begun from the middle of the 18th century. It has been designated as a traditional Japanese handicraft. Kasama-yaki pottery can especially be found in Yakimono-dori (Pottery Avenue). Pottey classes are also available.

Accommodations:

Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)	Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)
Kashima:			Mito City:		
1 Kashima Heights (H)	(0299)82-7941	¥¥	11 Mito Keisei Hotel (H)	(029)226-3111	¥¥
2 Hotel Ganke (R)	(0299)82-3451	¥	12 HOTEL TERRACE the GARDEN MITO (H)	(029)300-2500	¥¥
3 Jingu Hotel (H)	(0299)83-2211	¥¥	13 Hotel Lake View Mito (H)	(029)224-2727	¥¥
4 Yoshimiya Ryokan (R)	(0299)82-1306	¥	14 Daiwa Roynet Hotel Mito (H)	(029)303-3311	¥
5 Hotel Kobori (R)	(0299)82-1311	¥	15 SANNOMARU HOTEL (H)	(029)221-3011	¥
6 Business Hotel Suzusho (BH)	(0299)84-6611	¥	16 Hotel the West Hills mito (H)	(029)303-5111	¥
7 Ikedaya Ryokan (R)	(0299)82-5391	¥	17 MITO PLAZA HOTEL (H)	(029)305-8520	¥¥
Kamisu:			Daigo-machi:		
8 Kashima Central Hotel (H)	(0299)95-5511	¥	18 Kajikaen (R)	(0295)72-5151	¥
9 Aton Palace Hotel (BH)	(0299)92-4411	¥	Itako City:		
10 Kashima Park Hotel (BH)	(0299)90-0500	¥	19 Itako Hotel (R)	(0299)62-3130	¥¥
			20 Ayame Ryokan (R)	(0299)62-2127	¥

Remarks:

1 - 20 correspond to those on the map on page 1/5 & 3/5 & 4/5. Rate per person.

H = Hotel

= Ryokan more than 15,000 yen ¥¥ 8,001 yen - 15,000 yen = Pension YH = Youth Hostel 8,000 yen or less BH = Business Hotel *Standard basis rate (no meals, taxes included)









[Good to know] Admission and opening times at tourist attractions:

- Last entry to the most of attractions is 30 min. before the closing time.
- In general, if their weekly closing day (most are on Mon.) falls on a national holiday, they are open on the day and are closed on the following day after the holiday(s).
- Most are closed throughout / a part of New Year holiday period (especially Dec. 29-Jan. 3).
- Please visit the official website of each place / your nearest tourist information center for the updates.

JNTO TIC (Tourist Information Center)

TIC of Japan National Tourism Organization is your helping hand while in Japan. Its main services are providing travel information and free literature on Japan such as tourist spots, transportation, and suggesting tour itineraries, etc.

1F, Shin-Tokyo Bldg., 3-3-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005 Tel. 03-3201-3331 (in Japan) Open daily from 9:00 to 18:00 (Closed on Jan. 1)

https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/tic/

Goodwill Guide Groups offer tourists from overseas local tours guided in English or other languages. The guides are registered with JNTO and display the badge shown. As they are volunteers, there is no charge for their service. You are only expected to pay for their transportaion, admission to tourist

JNTO Website

https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/list-of-volunteer-guides/

facilities if you visit any and their meals if you eat with them.



TOURIST INFORMATION in the area

Tsuchiura City Tourist Information Center (JR Tsuchiura Sta.):

1-30 Ariake-cho, Tsuchiura City, Ibaraki

Hours: 9:00-18:00. (Closed: Dec. 29-Jan. 3.) Tel. (029) 821-4166

Tsukuba Tourist Information Center (near TX Tsukuba Sta.):

BiVi TSUKUBA First floor,1-8-10 Azuma, Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Tel. (029) 879-5298 Hours: 8:30-18:30.

Mito Tourist Information Center (JR Mito Sta.):

1-1-1 Miyamachi, Mito City, Ibaraki

Hours: 9:00-19:00. (Closed: Dec. 30-an. 3.) Tel. (029) 221-6456

To find other Tourist Information Centers. visit https://tic.jnto.go.jp/



JNTO Website: https://www.jnto.go.jp

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of November 2019, and is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, regrettably errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, you should check with organizations concerned for updated and accurate information on your chosen destination. JNTO shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature that may arise as a result, directly or indirectly, from the use of any of the information or material contained in this leaflet.