

Practical Travel Guide - 204

KAKUNODATE, LAKE TAZAWA, AKITA CITY and OGA PENINSULA

Lake Tazawa, Kakunodate, Oga Peninsula and Akita City are all included in Akita Prefecture. This district is blessed with natural wonders which have been left undisturbed until now. Abundant Onsen (hot springs) is the blessings of nature in the area, forming relaxing hot spring spas here and there. You may experience real country life with the locals while bathing at most of hot spring spots. Akita City, the prefectural capital, is known as the host city of Akita Kanto Festival in early August

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Tourist Information Centers in the area



The surrounding areas are known for their quality rice production and forests of Akita Cedar. It is good to know that bus schedule changes with a plenty of seasonal features, such as cherry blossoms in Spring, passionate festivals in Summer, beautiful leaves in Autumn and good snow in Winter. Tourist Information Centers will assist you to make your itinerary.

Access:
By Air

From	To	Operated by	Approx. Travel Time	Access to Downtown
Haneda (Tokyo)	Akita	JAL / ANA	1 hr. 5 min.	[To Akita Sta.] - By Airport Bus 35 min. ¥950
Itami (Osaka)		JAL / ANA	1 hr. 30 min.	
New Chitose (Sapporo)		JAL / ANA	1 hr. 10 min.	
Chubu* (Nagoya)		ANA	1 hr. 25 min.	

By Rail (JR) *Central Japan Int'l Airport (Centrair).

From	To	By	Approx. Travel Time	Price
Tokyo or Sendai(Miyagi)	Tazawako	Akita Shinkansen “Komachi”	2 hrs. 55 min. 1 hr 20 min.	¥16,470* ¥8,360*
	Kakunodate		3 hrs. 5 min. 1 hr 25 min.	¥17,120* ¥9,120*
	Akita		3 hrs. 45 min. 2 hrs. 20 min.	¥18,120* ¥10,560*
Shinhakodate- Hokuto		Hokkaido Shinkansen “Hayabusa”, Ltd. Exp. “Tsugaru” from Shin-Aomori	4 hrs. 40 min.	¥11,940*
Niigata		Ltd. Exp. “Inaho” (3 services / day)	3 hrs. 35 min.	¥7,350
Akita	Oga	JR Oga Line (Local)	1 hr.	¥770

Transportation around Lake Tazawa & Kakunodate:

From	via	To	Approx. Travel Time	Price	Operation Period
Tazawako Sta.	Lake Tazawa & Tamagawa Onsen	Hachimantai Peak	2 hrs. 15 min.	¥2,090	Late Apr.- late Oct.
	Lake Tazawa	Tamagawa Onsen	1 hr. 15 min.	¥1,490	Late Oct.- Late Nov.
	Lake Tazawa	Shin-Tamagawa Onsen	1 hr. 5 min.	¥1,470	Early Dec.- mid Apr.
	Lake Tazawa & Tazawako Kogen Onsen Village	Nyuto Onsen (Ganiba)	50 min.	¥840	All year round
	Lake Tazawa (Loop)	Tazawako Sta.	1 hr. 20 min.*	¥1,210	
	Lake Tazawa	Kakunodate Sta.	40 min.	¥580	

Operated by Ugo Kotsu Bus. Tickets are available at Tourist Information Center in Tazawako Sta.
*Incl. short breaks at 2 scenic spots.

KAKUNODATE AND LAKE TAZAWA

Kakunodate (角館)

A castletown founded by the local Lord Ashina in 1620, is a small, charming town now called “Little Kyoto of Tohoku.” The town, just the right size to be explored on foot, preserves many 390-year-old samurai houses. Rental bicycles are available in the warmer seasons.

- ① **The House of Aoyagi** (青柳家), 15 min. walk from Kakunodate Sta., is a well-cared-for samurai house. Its gate, built in 1860, is designated as an Important Cultural Property. A rare species of weeping cherry tree is also in the garden. Open: 9:00–17:00, –16:00 (Nov.–Mar.) Admission: ¥500 Other samurai houses those of the Ishiguro, Iwahashi, Matsumoto and Odano families are also open to the public.
- ② **Arcade of Cherry Trees** (檜木内川桜のトンネル), 15 min. walk from the Kakunodate Sta. along the Hinokinai River flowing through the town, is considered one of the best cherry blossom viewing spots in the district in late Apr.

blossom viewing spots in the district in late Apr.

- ③ **Weeping Cherry Trees** (枝垂桜), combined with old samurai houses, are a symbol of the town. Of more than 450 weeping cherry trees which are descendants of the trees transplanted from Kyoto about 350 years ago, 162 are designated as Natural Monuments.
- ④ **The Denshokan Hall** (伝承館), situated in front of samurai houses, serves as a museum and training center for cherry bark handicrafts. Visitors can see how handicrafts are made. Open: 9:00–17:00 (Apr.–Nov. enter by 16:30), –16:00 (Dec.–Mar. enter by 15:30) Admission: ¥300.
- ⑤ **Storehouse of the Ando family** (安藤家の蔵), 15 min. walk from the station, is a merchant storehouse built of brick in 1891.

LAKE TAZAWA (田沢湖)

The deepest lake in Japan (423.4 m), whose water is the second most transparent after Lake Mashu in Hokkaido, is said to have been formed by a caldera eruption. The golden Statue of Tatsuko, a symbol of the lake with a mystic atmosphere, stands on the western shore, 20 min. by bus from Tazawakohan Bus Stop.

Sightseeing Around the Lake:

By sightseeing boat: A 40 min. tour boat that takes you from Shirahama to view the Statue of Tatsuko and Gozanoishi Shrine. 4 services a day. Operated: late Apr. – early Nov. Fare: ¥1,220.

By bus: Regular bus service takes you around the lake from Tazawako Sta. (¥1,210) and from Tazawakohan bus stop (¥830). 3 services in a day.

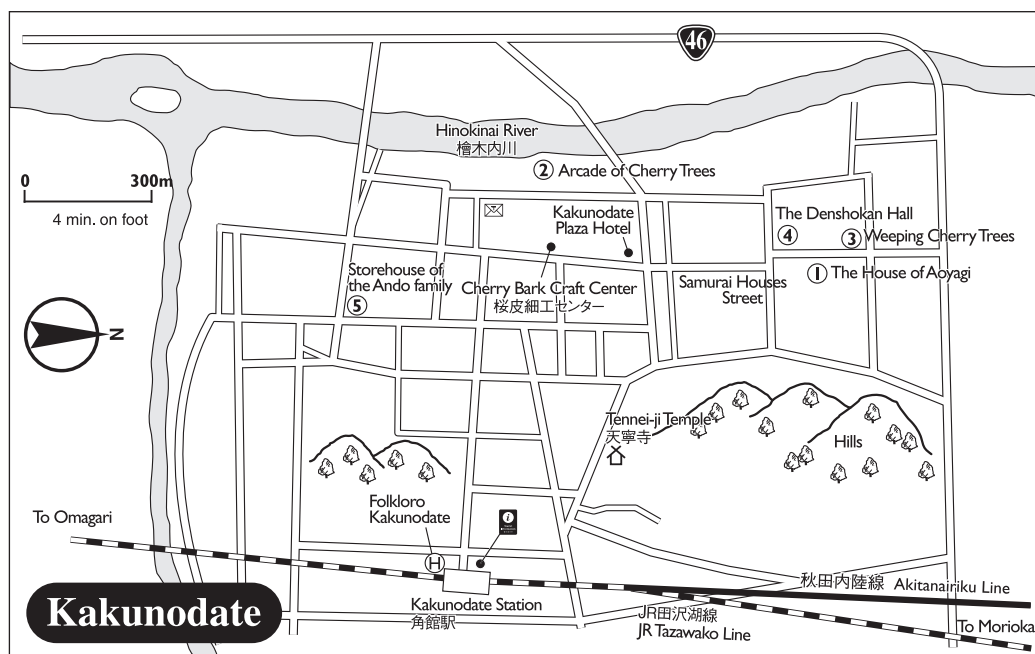
By bicycle: Bicycle rentals are available near Tazawa-kohan bus stop. Fare: ¥500 per hour (varies by types of bicycles; Open between late Apr. and late Oct.)

Tazawako Kogen (Plateau) Onsen-kyo (田沢湖高原温泉郷), is located to the northeast of Lake Tazawa, 30 min. by bus from Tazawako Sta. bound for Nyuto Onsen Village. Along with the neighboring Mizusawa Onsen Village, it offers a spectacular view of the entire Lake Tazawa, while accommodating hikers and skiers all around the seasons.

Nyuto Onsen-kyo (乳頭温泉郷), is an area with 7 unspoiled hot spring inns, all of which feature independent head-springs with different healing properties.

Yumeguri Map (湯めぐりマップ) is available for 600 yen and provides access to all ryokan in Nyuto Area. Valid for the day of issue only. (can be purchased even on a day trip).

Yumeguri-cho (湯めぐり帖, Yumeguri pass) is available for 1,800 yen and includes rides and admission to all seven hot spring



Numbers ①–⑤ correspond to those on page 2/6

inns in Nyuto Area. Valid for a year once purchased. (overnight guests can purchase).

Tsuruno-yu Onsen Tel. (0187)46-2139
 Taeno-yu Onsen Tel. (0187)46-2740
 Ogama Onsen Tel. (0187)46-2438
 Ganiba Onsen Tel. (0187)46-2021
 Magoroku Onsen Tel. (0187)46-2224
 Kyukamura Nyuto Onsenkyo ... Tel. (0187)46-2244
 Kuro-yu Onsen* Tel. (0187)46-2214

*Closed between early Nov. and late Apr.

Mt. Akita Komagatake (秋田駒ヶ岳), is a collective name for 3 mountain peaks—Odake, Medake, and Onamedake—whose highest altitude is of Onamedake (1,637 m). Akita Komagatake Alpine Zone (above 1,300 m) is where a rich variety of alpine plants are observed and designated as the special natural monument. A 60 min. bus ride from Tazawako Sta. is available to 8th Sta. trailhead (¥1,050; Jun.–Oct.), from which the summit area is within 90 min. hike.

AKITA CITY

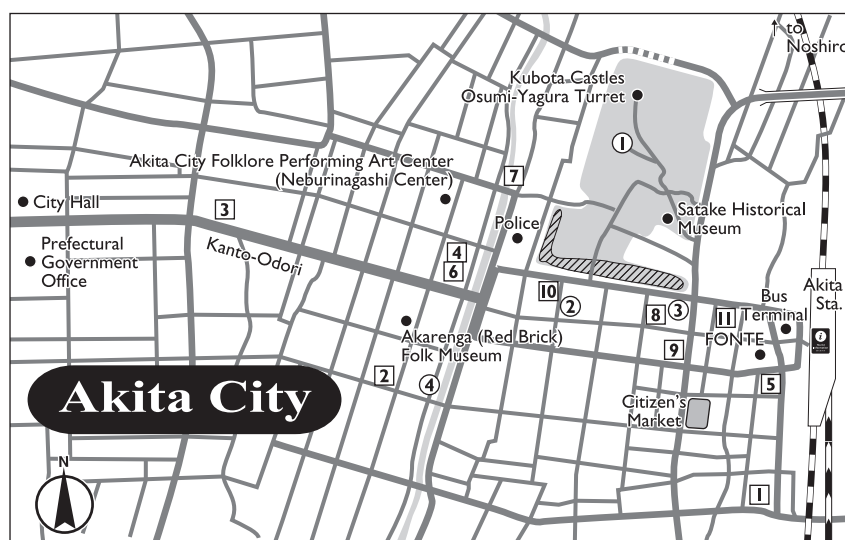
Akita City (秋田市)

The prefectural capital with a population of 306,178 (Oct. 2019), once thrived as a castletown under the reign of the Satake family during the Edo Period. It is now the cultural and industrial center of the northern Tohoku District with fine museums, wooden-ware industry and productive oil fields.

- ① **Senshu Park** (千秋公園), 10 min. walk from Akita Sta., marks the site of the now-ruined Kubota Castle of the Satake family. Noted for the beauty of cherry blossoms and azaleas in season, the park is a favorite relaxing spot for the local people. Cultural facilities such as the municipal library and the prefectural public hall (scheduled to reopen in 2022) are located in the park.
- ② **Akita Museum of Art** (秋田県立美術館), 10 min. walk from Akita Sta. The main feature of the collection is “The Events of Akita” by Tsuguharu Fujita (Léonard Foujita): a mural measuring

more than 20 meters wide that depicts various traditional events in Akita. Also, the building with spacious view commanding Senshu Park was designed by Tadao Ando. Open: 10:00–18:00 Admission: ¥310. (subject to change during special exhibitions)

- ③ **Atorion** (アトリオン), 5 min. walk from Akita Sta., is a good place to see and buy the specialties and folk crafts of Akita Prefecture. Open: 9:30–22:00.
- ④ **Kawabata Street** (川反通り), 15 min. walk from Akita Sta., is the most lively and bustling quarter in Akita Prefecture. More than 500 pubs, bars and restaurants crowd the street where you can enjoy drinking local brand Sake and eating local specialties such as a hot pot cooked with Shottsuru (fish sauce made from sand fish) or dishes cooked with Kiritampo (a rice stick).



Numbers ①–④ correspond to those on page 3/6
Numbers ①–⑪ correspond to those in the “Accommodation” list on page 5/6

OGA PENINSULA

Oga Quasi-National Park (男鹿国定公園)

Oga Peninsula, jutting about 20 km into the Japan Sea, just west of the Hachirogata Lagoon, is blessed with outstanding natural beauty—forests of Akita Cedar, grassy green hills and a varied coastline. Three pleasant roads run along the peninsula. Since regular bus service is not frequent and operated only during the summer, a sightseeing bus may be the most convenient and easiest way of getting to the tourist sites.

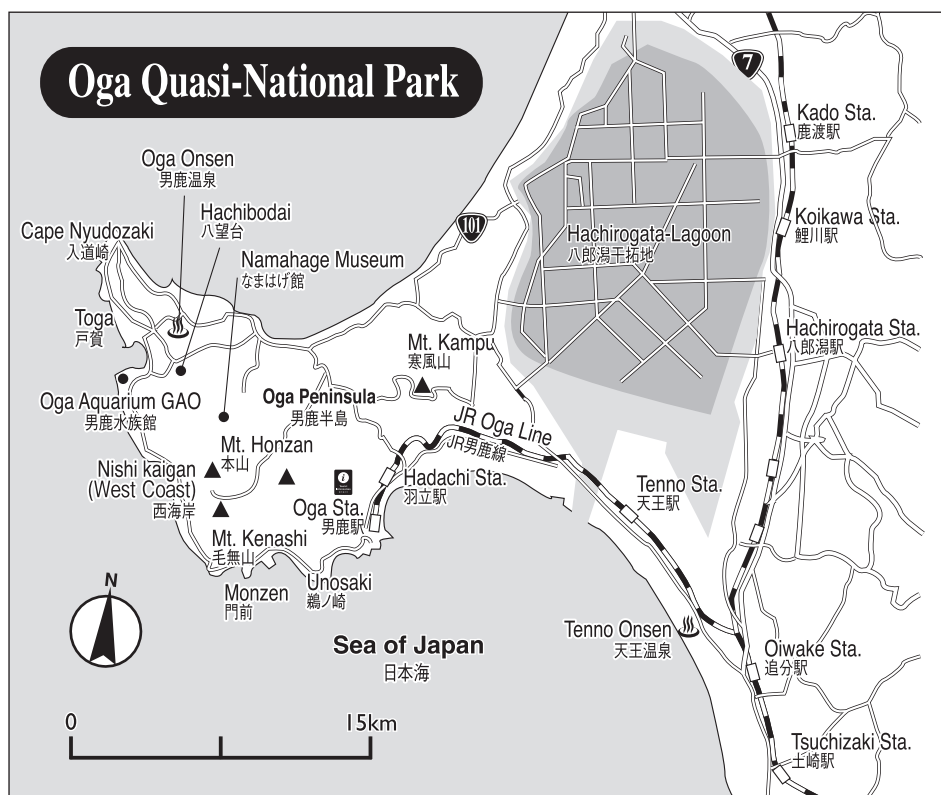
How To Go Around Oga Peninsula

50 min.	45 min.	15 min.
Akita Sta. Hadachi Sta. “Yumoto Chuzaijyo”		
JR Oga Line *1	bus *2	bus stop
5 min.	35 min.	55 min.
.... Oga Aquarium Oga Onsen Hadachi Sta. Akita Sta.		
bus *3	bus *4	JR Oga Line *1

- *1 15 runs daily Fare: ¥680
 *2 5 runs daily Fare: ¥760
 *3 5 runs daily Fare: ¥200
 *4 5 runs daily Fare: ¥740

[Note] To fully enjoy Oga peninsula along the coastal area, traveling with a share taxi “**Namahage Shuttle**” (なまはげシャトル) would be more enjoyable and flexible. Advance reservation is necessary. Please visit the following website for further details.

https://oganavi.com/namahage_shuttle/en/



Mt. Kampo (寒風山), alt. 355 m on the foot of the peninsula, is an elegant-looking mountain covered all over with a grassy lawn, devoid of trees. The observatory on the top commands a splendid four directional view.

Nishi Kaigan or West Coast (西海岸), indicating the coast from Monzen to Toga Bay, is a highlight of the Oga tour. The rugged scenery and dynamic beauty of the coast and its rock formations can be best enjoyed by taking a sightseeing boat operated between Monzen and Oga Aquarium. Driving along the coast is also exciting.

Oga Aquarium GAO (男鹿水族館), the biggest aquarium in northern Japan, contains more than 400 species of fish and aquatic animals. Admission: ¥1,100.

URL: <http://www.gao-aqua.jp/index.html>

Oga Onsen (男鹿温泉), on the north coast of the peninsula, serves as a base for peninsula sightseeing, offering a rich choice of overnight accommodations.

Cape Nyudozaki (入道崎), at the northwestern tip, has a gently sloping plateau covered with green lawn which falls 30 m sheer into the sea. The black and white striped lighthouse is a symbol of the cape.

Hachibodai (八望台), 15 min. by bus from Cape Nyudozaki, is a grassy plateau from which you can enjoy a marvelous view of the underlying lakes and the bay. Especially at twilight, the panoramic view will fascinate visitors.

Hachirogata Lagoon (八郎潟干拓地), once the second largest lake in Japan, has been reclaimed and is now a vast farm land of 172 km². Highly mechanized modern agriculture in progress can be observed here. Ogamura Village, newly constructed settlement, can be reached in 1 hr. 30 min. from Akita City or 30 min. from Hachirogata Sta. by taxi.

Annual Events:

Kanto Festival (竿燈まつり), held in Akita City on Aug. 3–6 is one of the three grand festivals of Tohoku. A “kanto” is a long bamboo pole with several horizontal “ribs,” from which swing many paper lanterns. Festival clad performers parade in the city, trying their skill at balancing “kanto” on their palms, foreheads, shoulders or hips.

Namahage is a unique annual event observed in various places on Oga Peninsula on New Year’s Eve. At night, groups of young men disguised as ogres wearing angry devil’s masks called “Namahage” visit each house where there are children of the village, roaming and shouting “Any good-for-nothing fellows around here?” Namahages are welcome to the house by the owner and treated to rice cakes and sake on leaving.

Suggested Trip Itinerary:

Oga, Kakunodate and Tazawako Route

1st Day:

3 hrs. 45 min.	1 hr.	50 min.	
Tokyo.....	Akita	Oga.....	Oga Onsen
Akita Shinkansen	train	bus	
“Komachi”	(JR Oga line)		

2nd Day:

15 min.	45 min.	1 hr.	
Oga Onsen.....	Oga Aquarium	Oga.....	Akita
bus	bus	train	
		(JR Oga Line)	

3rd Day:

45 min.	20 min.	15 min.	
Akita.....	Kakunodate.....	Tazawako.....	Lake Tazawa
Akita Shinkansen	train	bus	
“Komachi”	(JR Tazawako Line)		
15 min.	2 hrs. 55 min.		
.....Tazawako.....	Tokyo		
bus	Akita Shinkansen		
	“Komachi”		

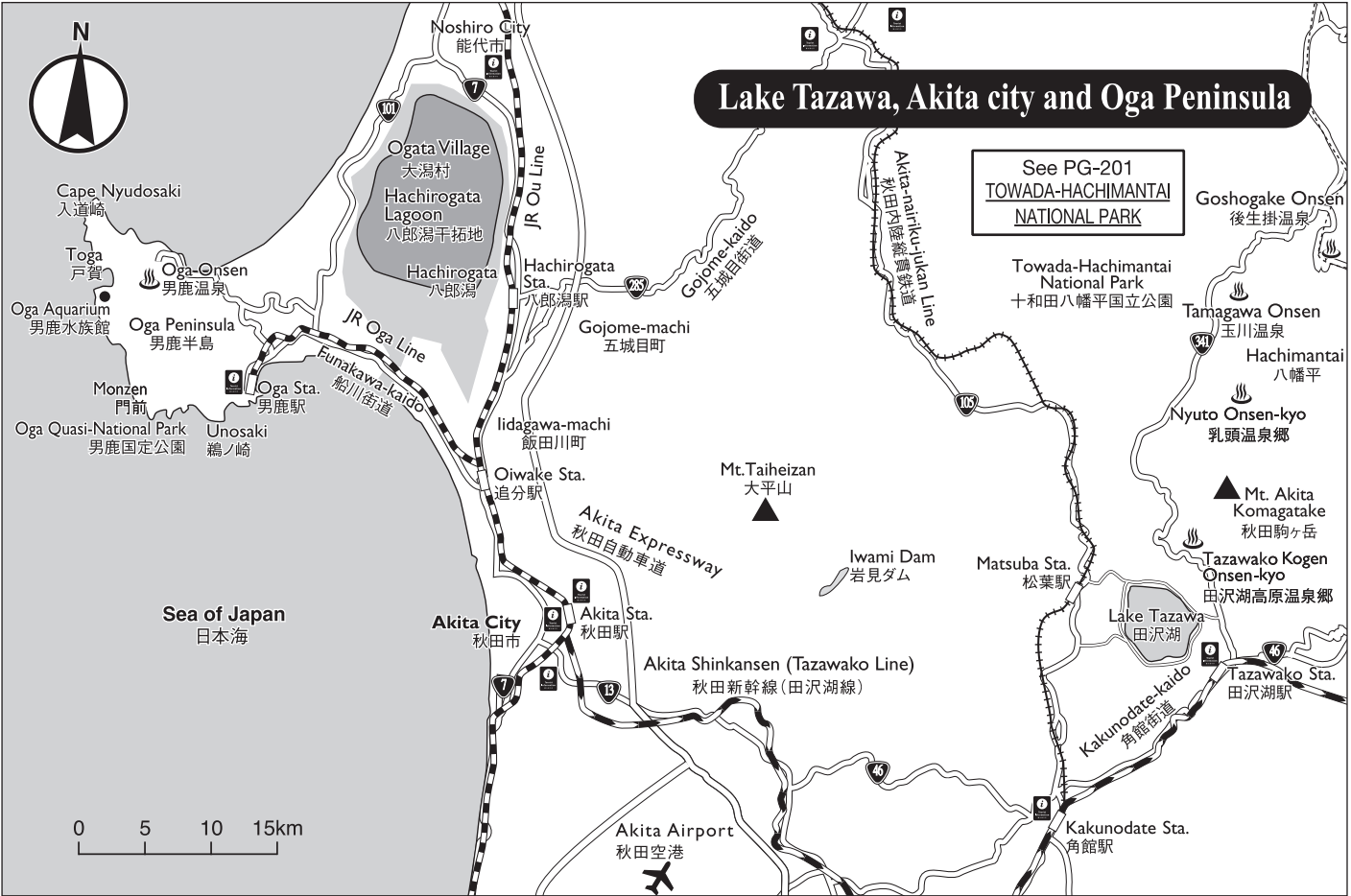
Accommodations:

Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)	Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)
Kakunodate: Folkloro Kakunodate (H)	(0187)53-2070	¥¥	Akita City: 1 Hotel Naniwa (R) 2 Albert Hotel Akita (BH) 3 Hotel Alpha Inn Akita (BH) 4 E-Hotel Akita (BH) 5 Hotel Alpha-one Akita (BH) 6 Daiwa Roynet Hotel Akita (BH) 7 Apa Hotel Akita Senshu Koen (BH) 8 Dormy Inn Akita (BH) 9 Richmond Hotel Akita Ekimae (BH) 10 Akita Castle Hotel (H) 11 Akita View Hotel (H)	(018)832-4570 (018)888-3333 (018)866-3355 (018)865-7111 (018)836-5800 (018)883-0500 (018)835-3311 (018)835-6777 (018)884-0055 (018)834-1141 (018)832-1111	¥ ¥¥ ¥ ¥ ¥ ¥ ¥ ¥ ¥ ¥¥ ¥¥
Lake Tazawa: Tazawako Youth Hostel (Y) Tazawako Rose Park Hotel (H)	(0187)43-1281 (0120)5489-45 Toll free	¥ ¥	Oga Onsen: Oga Grand Hotel (R) Bettei Tsubaki (R) Seiko Grand Hotel (R) Oga Kanko Hotel (R)	(0185)33-2151 (0185)33-3101 (0185)33-2131 (0185)33-2121	¥¥ ¥¥ ¥¥ ¥¥
Tazawako Plateau Onsen Village: Komagatake Grand Hotel (R) Highland Hotel Sanso (R) Kyukamura Nyuto Onsenkyo (NV)	(0187)46-2211 (0187)46-2121 (0187)46-2244	¥¥ ¥ ¥¥			

Remarks:

Numbers 1 – 11 correspond to those on the map on page 3/6. Rate per person
H = Hotel
BH = Business Hotel
R = Ryokan
Y = Youth Hostel
NV = National Vacation Village

¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen
¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen
¥ = 8,000 yen or less
*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.





Japan Official Travel App






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 transportation, admission to tourist facilities if you visit any and their meals if you eat with them.

JNTO Website
<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/list-of-volunteer-guides/>

**TOURIST INFORMATION in the area****Kakunodate Tourist Information Center:**

In front of JR Kakunodate Sta.
 394-2 Kami-sugazawa Kakunodate-machi, Semboku city, Akita
 Hours: 9:00-17:30, -18:00 (late Apr. - Sep.)
 Closed: Dec. 31

Tel.: 0187-54-2700

Tazawako Tourist Information Center (JR Tazawako Sta.):

68 Osaka, Tazawako Obonai, Semboku city, Akita
 Hours: 8:30-17:15

Tel.: 0187-43-2111

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

7-1-2 Nakadori, Akita city, Akita
 Hours: 9:00-18:00, -19:00 (Apr. - Oct.)
 Closed: Dec.31 - Jan. 2

Tel.: 018-832-7941

Oga Tourist Information:

1 Shinhamacho, Funakawaminato, Oga city, Akita
 Hours: 9:00-17:00

Tel.: 0185-24-2100

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.

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