

Practical Travel Guide - 205

AIZU-WAKAMATSU

and BANDAI

JNTO

Japan National  
Tourism Organization  
日本政府観光局

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**Aizu-Wakamatsu** (会津若松) is an old castle town and one of Fukushima Prefecture’s most well-known cities. A large part of the city was burnt down during the Boshin Civil War in 1868, when the Aizu clan, in support of the Tokugawa Shogunate, fought against the Emperor’s forces. The Aizu clan was defeated, yet this historical battle made the city famous. The city’s feudal past is still found in its narrow winding streets with historic relics and stone storehouses called “Kura” (蔵). Aizu-Wakamatsu is also the base for visiting the area of Kitakata, Ura-Bandai and Inawashiro.

**Kitakata** (喜多方), “a city of Kura,” contains old storehouses or “Kura” which reflect the tranquil atmosphere of the Edo Period.

**Ura-Bandai** (裏磐梯) covers Bandai-Kogen Plateau with Mt. Bandai in its center and occupies the major parts of the Bandai Asahi National Park. Ura-Bandai means the area behind Mt. Bandai and belongs to the Kitashiobara Village. The area, a very popular mountain resort, has many lakes and ponds that were created by the eruption of Mt. Bandai in 1888.

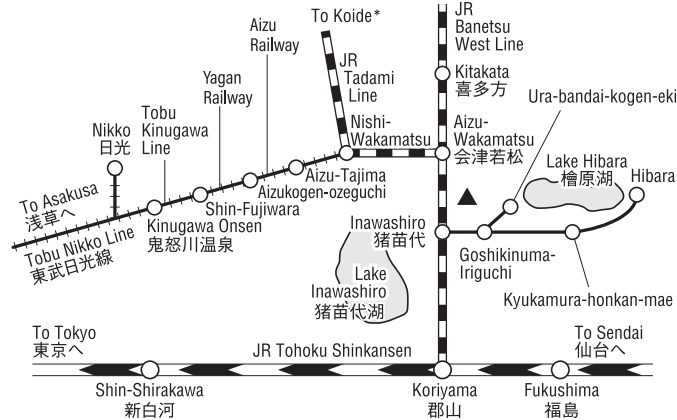
**Inawashiro** (猪苗代), a town at the foot of Mt. Bandai, has Lake Inawashiro, the fourth largest lake in Japan. It is well-known as the birthplace of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi, a world-famous Japanese bacteriologist.

Access:

From	To	By	Approx. Travel Time	Price
Tokyo Sta.	Koriyama Sta.	Train (JR Tohoku Shinkansen “Yamabiko” or “Nasuno”)	1 hr. 25 min.	¥8,340*
Sendai Sta.		Train (JR Tohoku Shinkansen “Yamabiko”)	40 min.	¥5,480*
Koriyama Sta.	Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta.	Train (JR Ban-etsu-West Line)	1 hr. 20 min.	¥1,170
Asakusa Sta. (Tokyo) via Aizu-Tajima		Train (Tobu Line “Riverty Aizu” to Aizu-Tajima, change to Aizu Railway Local Train)	3 hrs. 5 min. to Aizu-Tajima 1 hr 10 min. to Aizu-Wakamatsu	¥6,880**
Shinjuku Bus Terminal (Tokyo)		Bus (JR Bus and Aizu Bus) Japan Expressway Bus Net	4 hrs. 45 min.	¥4,900**
Niigata Sta.		Train (JR Rapid service “Agano”)	2 hrs. 20 min.	¥2,310
Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta.	Kitakata Sta.	Train (JR Ban-etsu-West Line)	25 min.	¥330
Niigata Sta.		Train (JR Rapid service “Agano”)	2 hrs.	¥1,980
Koriyama Sta.	Inawashiro Sta.	Train (JR Ban-etsu-West Line)	45 min.	¥680
Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta.		Train (JR Ban-etsu-West Line)	30 min.	¥510

\*Fare + express charge (with seat reservation, normal season)  
\*\*Reservation required.

Traffic Network



\*Train operations are suspended between Aizu-Kawaguchi Sta. and Tadami Sta. on JR Tadami Line due to heavy rain. Please check the updates at your nearest Tourist Information Center before you visit.

Transportation in Ura-Bandai:  
Bandai Toto Bus Co., Ltd. (磐梯東都バス): Fare & Duration

Bus Stop	Fare from Inawashiro Sta.	Fare from Goshikinuma-iriguchi
Inawashiro Sta.		
Goshikinuma-iriguchi	¥790 (35 min.)	
Ura-bandai-kogen-eki	—	¥250 (10 min.)
*Transfer at Goshikinuma-iriguchi		
Kyukamura-honkan-mae	¥900 (45 min.)	¥250 (15 min.)
Hibara		
*Transfer at Onogawako-iriguchi	¥1,250 (70 min.)	¥720 (40 min.)

\*See p. 5 for admission and opening times.

## AIZU-WAKAMATSU

### Places of Interest:

**Tsurugajo Castle** (鶴ヶ城), 20 min. by bus from Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta., originally built about 600 years ago, was destroyed after the Boshin Civil War. There is a realistic replica of the castle used as a historical museum. About a thousand cherry blossoms adorn the castle in Apr. The moat and stone walls of the original castle still remain. [Castle tower] Open: 8:30–17:00. Admission: ¥410.

**Oyakuen** (御葉園), 30 min. by bus from Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta., was once the site of the Aizu clan's mansion. It contains lovely ponds, rustic tea arbors, and a medicinal herb garden. This garden is famous for the cultivation of Ginseng or Korean perennial herb. Open: 8:30–17:00. Admission: ¥330.

**Fukushima Prefectural Museum** (福島県立博物館), in the northeast of Tsurugajo Castle, built in 1986, displays many historical materials and cultural legacies unearthed in the district. Visitors can wear traditional clothing in the area and play with folk toys. Open: 9:30–17:00. Closed: Mon. (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. falls on a national holiday), the day following national holidays except Sat., Sun. & Dec. 28–Jan. 4. Admission: ¥280.

**Imoriyama Hill** (飯盛山), 5 min. by bus from Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta., is a hill famous as the burial place of the Byakkotai. The Byakkotai was a group of young warriors, organized in the Aizu domain, who died tragically in defence of Tsurugajo Castle during the Boshin war of 1868. At the foot of the hill is the **Byakkotai Memorial Museum** (白虎隊記念館) displaying their belongings and relics. Its name, which means white tiger, is remembered for the tragic suicide of 20 Byakkotai members at Imori Hills during the war. [Museum] Open: 8:00–17:00 (Apr.–Oct.), 9:00–16:00 (Nov.–Mar.). Admission: ¥400.

**Sazaedo** (さざえ堂) is a temple noted for its unique, turbanshell shape. The inside of the temple is in the shape of a double helix and is also a wonder to behold. Open: 8:15–sundown, 9:00–16:00 (Jan.–Mar.). Admission: ¥400.

**Suehiro Sake Brewery Kaeigura** (末廣酒蔵 嘉永蔵) started its business in 1850, the brewery was the first sake establishment in Fukushima who employed Toji: a sake brewing specialist. Aizu has all of the requirements for fine sake brewing: quality rice and water, and a cold inland climate. The buildings have a solemn and profound atmosphere. Kaeigura allows tours of the facilities, and visitors can taste and purchase sake made by the brewer. Hour: 9:00–17:00 [Brewery Tour] 10:00–16:00. Admission: Free. Also, you may enjoy tasting various kinds of Sake brewed in the area at breweries or Sake shops in the city center.

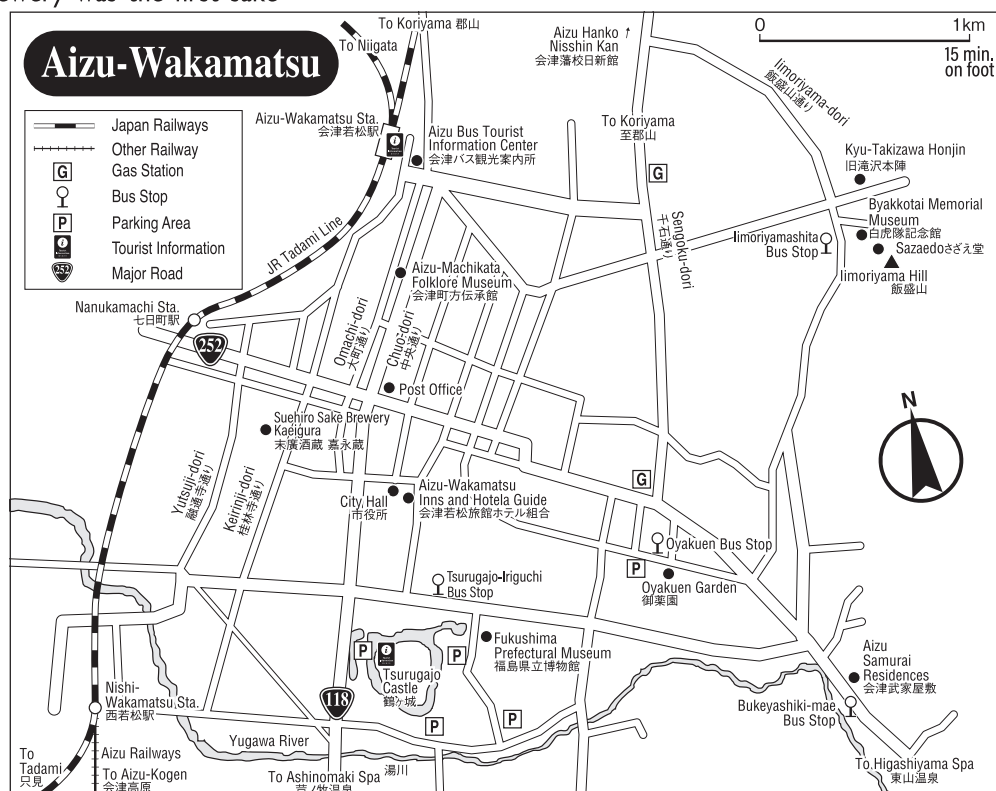
**Aizu Samurai Residences (Aizu Bukeyashiki)** (会津武家屋敷), 35 min. by bus from Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta., shows what the samurai lifestyle used to be like. Ancient martial arms and furniture are on exhibition. Open daily 8:30–17:00 (Apr.–Nov.), 9:00–16:30 (Dec.–Mar.). Admission: ¥850.

**Higashiyama Spa** (東山温泉), 20 min. by bus from Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta., is a quiet hot spring resort with many old ryokans.

**Aizu Hanko Nisshin Kan** (会津藩校日新館), 30 min. by bus to the north from Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta. or 20 min. walk from Hirota Sta., was established in 1803 as an educational institution for the Aizu Clan. With its aim set at the discipline of both scholastic achievements and martial arts, this school was recognized for its very high educational standards. In the school building, visitors can actually experience Japanese traditional archery lesson. Also, by observing the faithfully reproduced classrooms and training facilities, as well as historic materials on display, visitors can learn about the strict lessons of discipline that the “Byakkotai” Boys’ Troop were taught through training. Open: 9:00–17:00 (enter by 16:00). Admission: ¥620.

**Aizumisato town Hongo area** (会津美里町本郷地域), a 35-min. bus ride from Aizu Wakamatsu Sta., is known as the oldest pottery town in the Tohoku region. It developed as a supplier of roof tiles and daily pottery ware to the castle town Aizu-Wakamatsu. There are some 13 kilns in the town and some offer pottery classes. **Aizu-Hongo-yaki Museum** (会津本郷焼資料展示室) exhibits the town's history of pottery-making. Open: 8:30–17:00. Closed: Tue. (or the following day after the holiday when Tue. falls on a national holiday; Dec.–Mar.), New year holiday. Admission: free. A 20-min. walk from Aizu-Hongo Station. In **Aizu-Hongo Pottery Hall** (会津本郷焼陶磁器会館) pottery and porcelain ware from different kilns are on display and sale. Open: 9:00–17:00. Closed: Wed., New year holiday. A 20-min. walk from Aizu-Hongo Station.

**Ashinomaki Spa** (芦ノ牧温泉), 45 min. by bus from Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta., is a hot spring resort resting in a valley. Bus fare: ¥780.



Accommodations:

Name of Facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)	Name of Facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
Shibukawa Tonya (R) (More than 2 persons)	(0242) 28-4000	(0242) 26-6464	¥¥¥	Green Hotel Aizu (BH)	(0242) 24-5181	(0242) 24-5182	¥
Onyado Toho (R)	(0242) 26-4141	(0242) 26-4570	¥¥	Nakamachi Fuji Grand Hotel (BH)	(0242) 28-3111	(0242) 28-3118	¥
Hotel Alpha One (BH)	(0242) 32-6868	(0242) 32-6822	¥	Ashinomaki Spa			
Takaku (M)	(0242) 26-6299	(0242) 26-6116	¥	Fudokan Oyanoyu (R)	(0242) 92-2311	(0242) 92-3570	¥¥

Remarks:

Rate per person

R = Ryokan

M = Minshuku (family-run inn)

BH = Business Hotel

¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen

¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen

¥ = 8,000 yen or less

\*Standard basis rate

(no meals, taxes included)

KITAKATA

Places of Interest:

**Yamatogawa Sake Brewing Museum** (大和川酒蔵北方風土館) A sake brewer founded in 1790 opens part of their factory complex as a museum. Sake tasting is also available. Open: 9:00–16:30. Closed: New Year holiday. Admission: free. A 10-min. walk from Kitakata Station.

**Aizu Lacquer Museum** (会津うるし美術博物館) Lacquerware crafts and art pieces are on display. A variety of lacquerware from furniture to small pieces are on sale. Open: 9:00–17:00, –16:00 (winter). Admission: Free. A 30-min. walk from Kitakata Station.

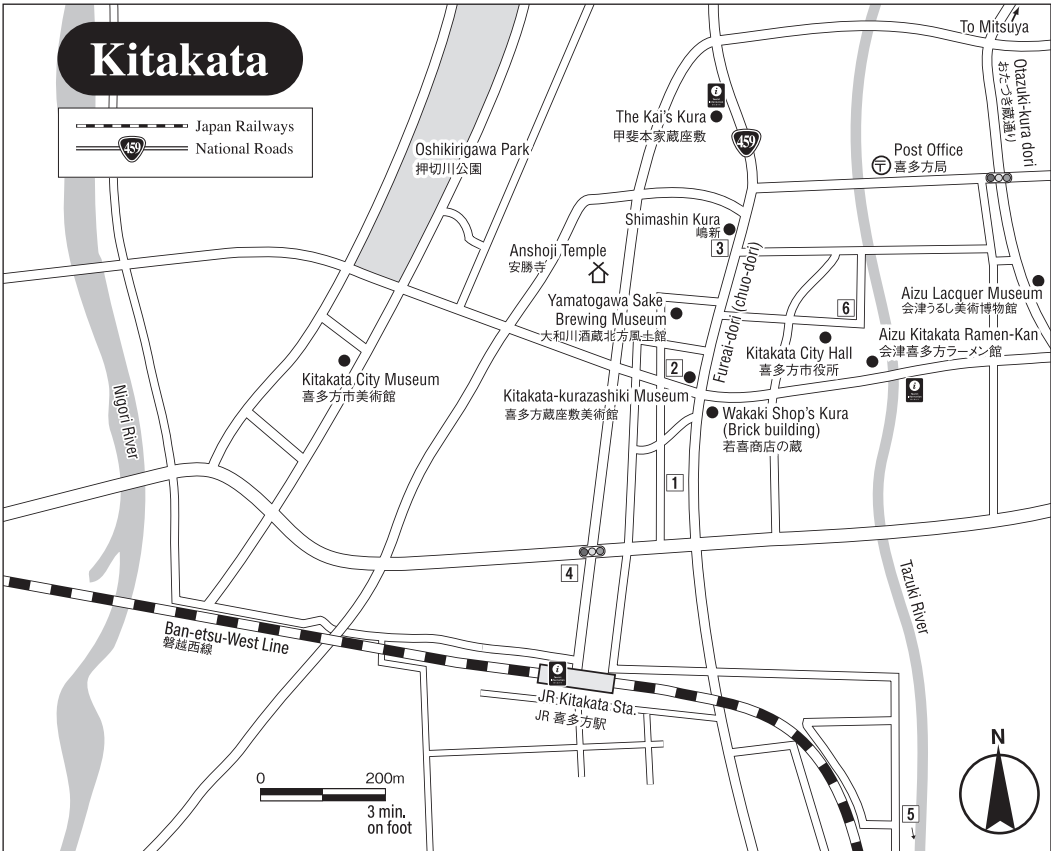
**Anshoji Temple** (安勝寺) An old temple originally founded in 1422. The present beautiful Kura temple was built after a large fire in 1880. The temple compound is open anytime. A 15-min. walk from Kitakata Station.

**Ganjoji Temple** (願成寺), 20 min. by taxi from Kitakata Sta., is famous for the image of Buddha over 2.4m in height.

**Shingu Kumano-jinja Shrine** (新宮熊野神社), 25 min. by taxi or bus (weekends & holidays from Apr. to Nov.) from Kitakata Sta., was said to be built originally in 1055. 44 wooden columns stand on the long and wide worship hall (called Nagatoko 長床) with no wall. Open: 8:30–17:00. Closed: Weekday (Dec.–Mar.). Admission: ¥300.

**Kitakata Specialty**  
Kitakata, a city of Kura, is also known nationwide as a city of Ramen. There are more than 120 Ramen shops in a town with a population of little about 47,000, and they all compete each other to produce delicious Kitakata Ramen (喜多方ラーメン) which is characterized by thick, chewy boiled noodles in a rich soup. Kitakata's good water famous for producing great quality sake contributes to produce good ramen as well. A visit to a Ramen shop is a must to all the visitors to Kitakata.

**Rental Bicycles** (貸自転車) There are a few rental bike shops near the station.



Numbers 1 – 6 correspond to those in the Accommodations list for Kitakata on page 4/6.

Name of Facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)	Name of Facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
① Tawarayaya (R)	(0241) 22-0036	(0241) 22-7755	¥	④ Garden Hotel kitakata (BH)	(0241) 23-2222	(0241) 24-3939	¥
② Sasaya Ryokan (R)	(0241) 22-0008	(0241) 22-0238	¥	⑤ Shigure-Tei (R)	(0241) 24-4905	(024) 505-4815	¥¥
③ Kitakata Green Hotel (BH)	(0241) 22-0011	(0241) 22-0116	¥	⑥ Azuma Ryokan (R)	(0241) 22-5141	(0241) 22-9888	¥

## Remarks:

1 – 6 correspond to those on the map on page 3/5. Rate per person.

R = Ryokan

¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen

M = Minshuku (family-run inn)

$$\yen\yen = 8,001 \text{ yen} - 15,000 \text{ yen}$$

BH = Business Hotel

¥ = 8,000 yen or less

\*Standard basis rate (no meals, taxes included)

**URA-BANDAI**

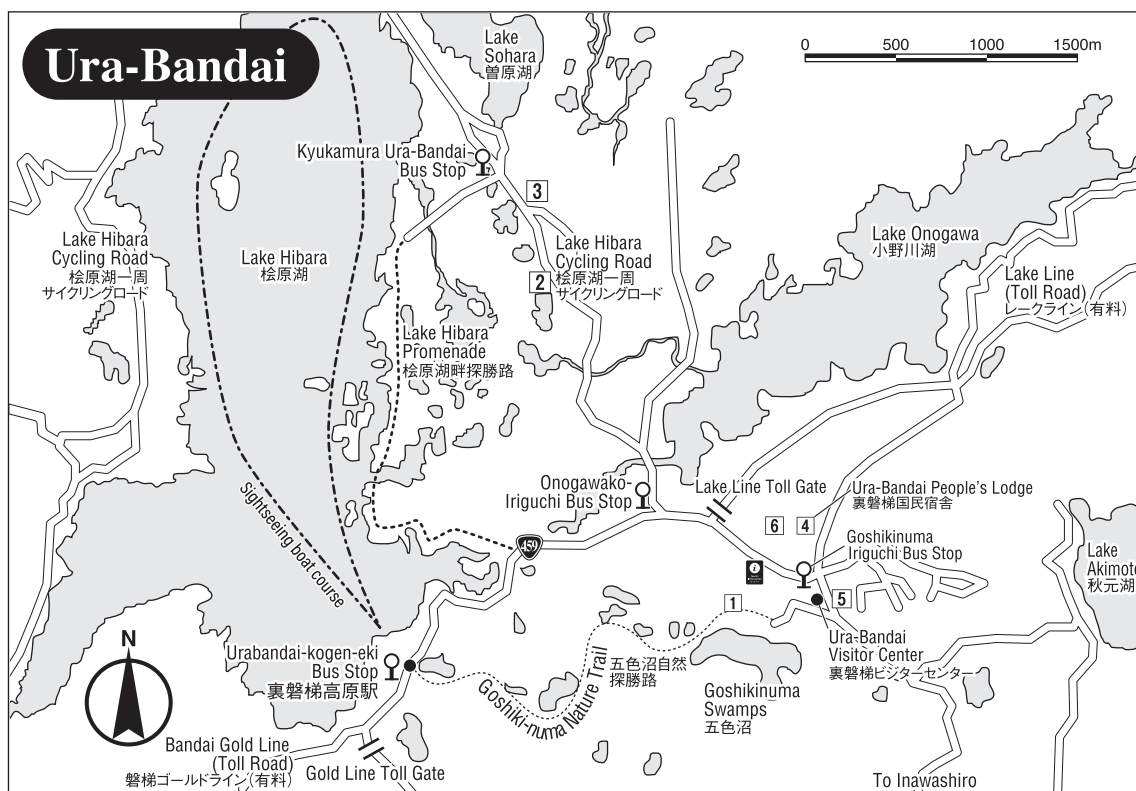
Inawashiro Sta. on JR Ban-etsu-West Line is the entrance to the Ura-Bandai area. The area can be reached by bus from the station. Also, it is accessible by bus from Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta.

lakeshore are many campgrounds and bungalows. There is a circuitous road along the lake. Sightseeing boats and rental bicycles are available except in winter.

### Places of Interest:

**Lake Hibara** (桧原湖), near Urabandai-kogen-eki Bus Stop, 50 min. by bus from Inawashiro Sta. (transfer at Goshikinuma-iriguchi), is the largest of Ura-Bandai's many lakes. The lake is picturesque with jagged shorelines and numerous islets. On the

**Goshikinuma Swamps** (五色沼) or five-colored swamps, about 35 min. by bus from Inawashiro Sta., are so named because each of the several swamps shows a delicately different color. The one-hour-walk around the swamps (Goshiki-numa Nature Trail), is a highlight of the area.



Numbers 1 – 6 correspond to those in the Accommodations list for Ura-Bandai on page 5/6.

**Accommodations:**

Name of Facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)	Name of Facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
① Ura-Bandai YH (Y) (Closed mid Nov.–late Apr.)	(0241) 32-2811	(0241) 32-2813	¥	④ Ura-Bandai (PL)	(0241) 32-2923	(0241) 32-3288	¥
② Urabandai Rising Sun Hotel (R)	(0241) 32-2311	(0241) 32-2314	¥¥	⑤ Active Resorts Urabandai (H)	(0241) 32-3111	(0241) 32-3130	¥¥
③ Kyukamura URA-BANDAI (NV)	(0241) 32-2421	(0241) 32-2422	¥¥	⑥ Gast-hof Nijjinouta (P)	(0241) 32-2144	(0241) 32-2702	¥¥

Contact: Urabandai Tourist Association (裏磐梯観光協会) Tel. (0241) 32-2349

## Remarks:

1 – 6 correspond to those on the Ura-Bandai map on page 4/5. Rate per person.

R = Ryokan

¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen

Y = Youth Hostel

¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen

P = Pension

¥ = 8,000 yen or less

PL = People's Lodge

NV = National Park Resort Villages

\*Standard basis rate (no meals, taxes included)



## INAWASHIRO

## Places of Interest:

**Lake Inawashiro** (猪苗代湖), in the south of Inawashiro Sta., is a popular summer resort with several fine beaches. Many swans come to the lake in the winter. Pleasure boats and ferries operate from Nagahama (長浜), on the northwest side of the lake.

**The Dr. Noguchi Memorial Hall** (野口英世記念館), 10 min. by bus from Inawashiro Sta., is located in the northeast part of Lake Inawashiro. Dr. Hideyo Noguchi was an internationally-famed medical scholar as well as a man of great character. He devoted himself to the research of yellow fever in Africa. The hall, displaying materials about him, is next to the house where he was born. Open: 9:00–17:30 (Apr.–Oct.), –16:30 (Nov.–Mar.). Closed: Dec. 29–Jan. 3. Admission: ¥600.

**Aizu Folk Museum** (会津民俗館), next to the Dr. Noguchi Memorial Hall, displays articles and tools used by the local people of pre-modern days which had been preserved in old

farmhouses. Hour: 9:00–17:00 (Apr.–Oct.), –16:30 (enter by 16:15; Nov.–Mar.). Close: Tue. (Mar. 21–Nov. 19), Tue.–Fri. (except national holiday; Nov. 20–Mar. 20). Admission: ¥500.

**Tenkyokaku** (天鏡閣), 15 min. by bus from Inawashiro Sta., is located in the northwest part of Lake Inawashiro. It was once a villa of the Imperial Family, built in the Renaissance architectural style. Open: 8:30–17:00 (May.–Oct.), 9:00–16:30 (Nov.–Apr.). Admission: ¥370.

**The World Glassware Hall** (世界のガラス館), 10 min. by bus from Inawashiro Sta. on JR Ban-etsu-West Line, displays over 25,000 items of the finest world glass collection, including Bohemian glass and Venetian glass. Many of these items are available for sale. Visitors can try making original glass at the Glassware Studio located inside this museum. Open: 9:30–17:00 (depends on season). Admission: free. A local beer shop and its restaurant are on the same premises.

## Accommodations:

Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)	Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
Villa Inawashiro (R)	(0242) 62-4111	(0242) 62-4124	¥¥	Yamakiya (M)	(0242) 62-3554	(0242) 62-4855	¥
Hotel Mount Bandai (R)	(0242) 64-3911	(0242) 64-2013	¥	Lake Side Hotel Minatoya (R)	(0242) 65-2111	(0242) 65-2114	¥
Hotel de Premiere Minowa (H)	(0242) 64-3300	(0242) 64-3842	¥				

In Inawashiro, there are about 150 Minshuku. (¥6,000 and up with 2 meals per person)

Contact: Bandai Inawashiro Minshuku Association (磐梯猪苗代民宿組合) Tel. (0242) 62-3412

## Remarks:

Rate per person.

H = Hostel

R = Ryokan

PL = People's Lodge

M = Minshuku (family-run inn)

¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen

¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen

¥ = 8,000 yen or less

\*Standard basis rate

(no meals, taxes included)



 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/>

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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## [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.



## TOURIST INFORMATION in the area

## Aizuwakamatsu Station Tourist Information Center:

1-1 Ekimaemachi, Aizuwakamatsu city, Fukushima

Hours: 9:00–17:30

Tel.: 0242-32-0688

## Urabandai Tourist Association:

1093-1055 Kengamine, Hibara, Kitashiobara-mura, Yama-gun, Fukushima

Hours: 9:00–17:00

Tel.: 0241-32-2349

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

