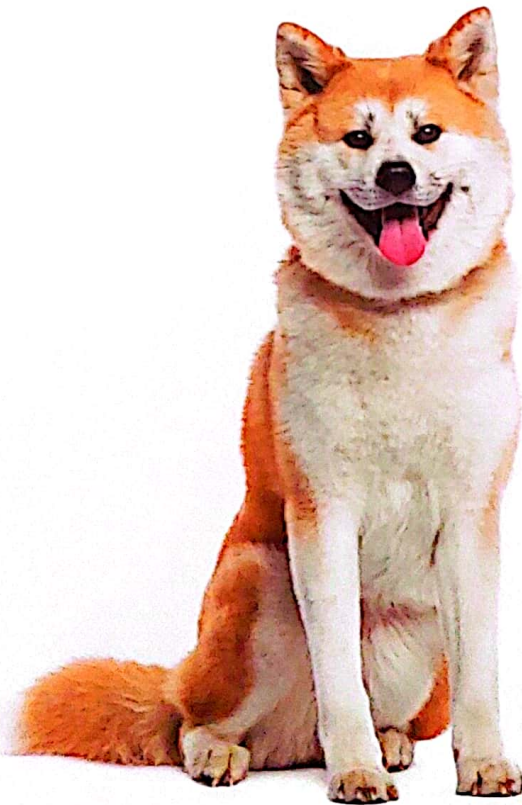


Beautiful

AKITA

GUIDE BOOK



All about
AKITA.

**Introduction
to the sightseeing spots
and Activities of Akita**

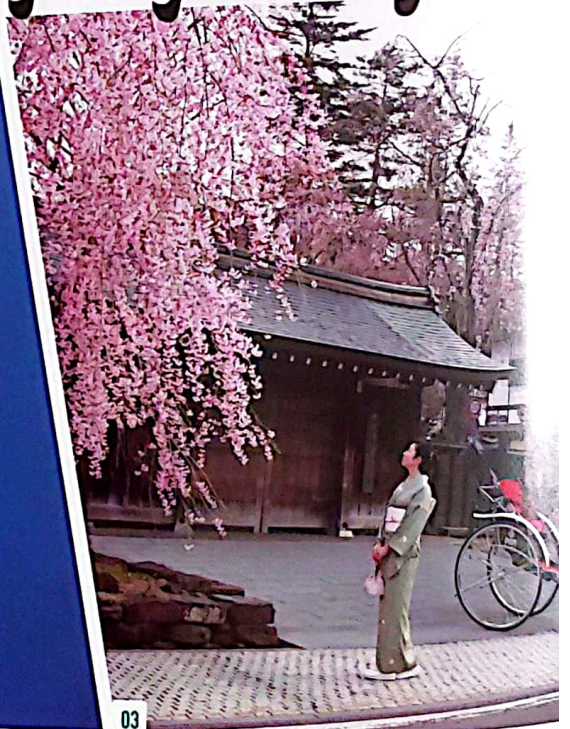
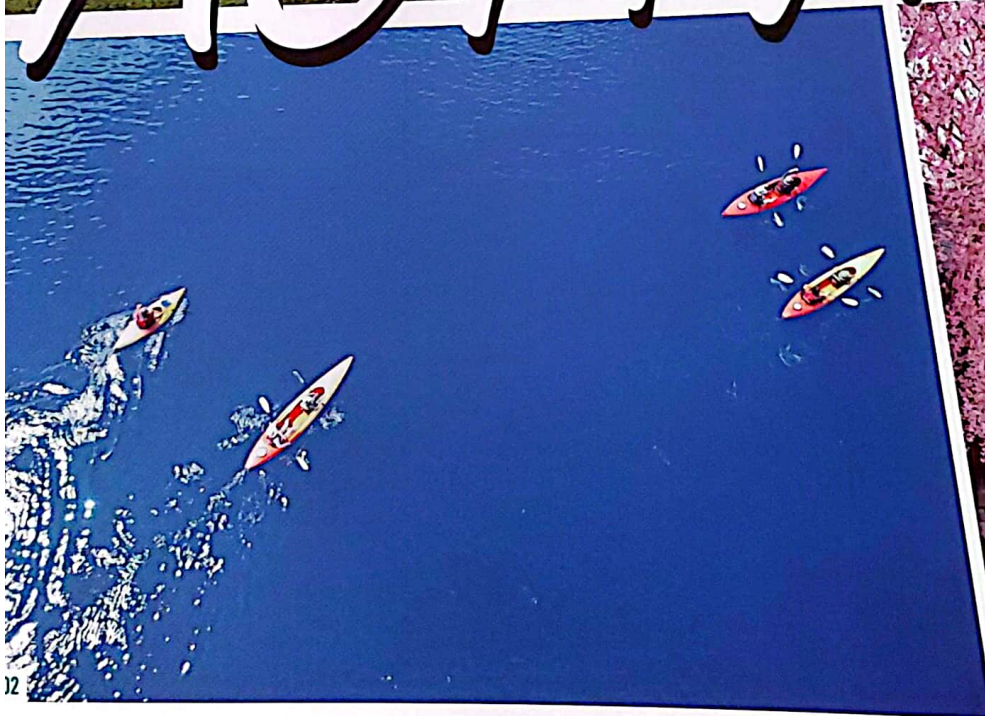


Discover experiences in spring, summer, autumn, and winter, all throughout the year that you can only have in Akita!

Enjoy Japan in Akita!

With its rich natural environment, Akita Prefecture is often known as 'Bi no Kuni (The Country of Beauty)'. Naturally the essential Japanese food and cultural experiences are here in Akita for you. However, you can also enjoy a variety of leisure experiences in the mountains, seas, and lakes here throughout all four seasons.

ACTIVITY



01

A giant canvas! Tambo Art

Tambo art uses rice paddies as a canvas to paint giant pictures with different colored rice plants.

*The art pictured above is alongside the Akita Nairiku Junkan Railway.

📍 MAP A-1

02

The deepest lake in Japan! Lake Tazawa Kayaking Experience

Lake Tazawa is the deepest lake in Japan with a depth of 423.4m. You will love its beautiful blueness that spreads out and fills your field of vision.

📍 MAP A-2

03

Feel the history! Kakunodate Bukeyashiki Street

This sightseeing spot, where the townscape gives you a real sense of the Edo era, attracts 2,000,000 visitors annually. You can try on a kimono and ride rickshaws here.

📍 MAP A-3

04

A food that slips down the throat! Junsai Picking

Enjoy the unique flavor and texture of the luxury food junsai (water shield). This is the only place you can experience maneuvering a small boat and carefully picking these plants one by one!

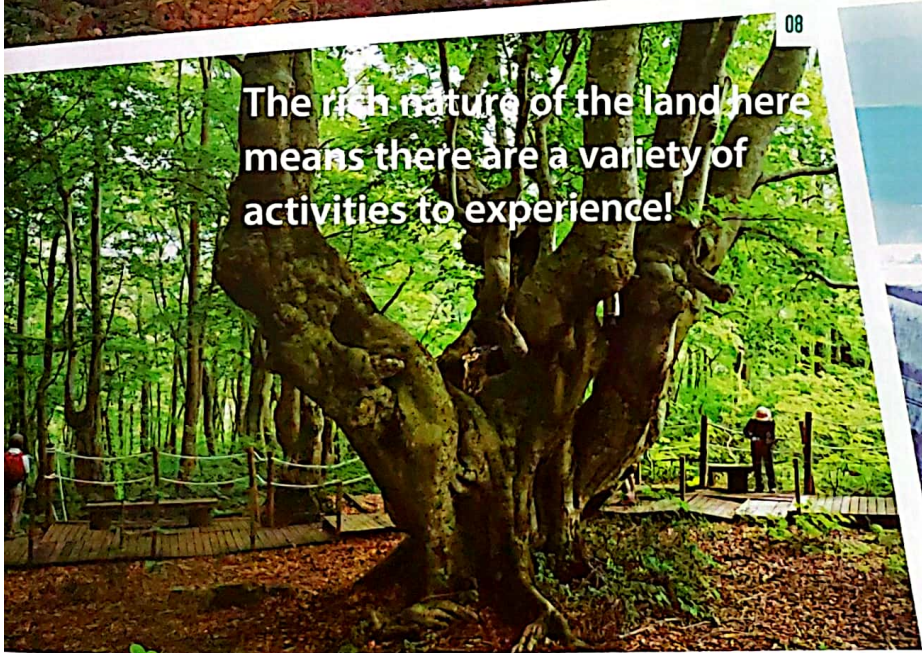
📍 MAP A-4

05

Majestic scenery! Mt. Moriyoshi Gondola

Mt. Moriyoshi is known as one of the hundred best mountains for wild flowers, and also its snow-covered tree scenery of winter.

📍 MAP A-5



The rich nature of the land here means there are a variety of activities to experience!

06

Enjoy a secluded hot spring! Nyuto Hot Spring Village

There are 7 hot springs in this incomparable hot spring area, and each of them has different histories, appearances and spring types. Please try these 'secret springs' of Japan.
*Kuroyu Hot Spring is pictured.

MAP A-6

07

Vivid blueness The Hydrangeas of Unsho-ji Temple

This temple has gained popularity in recent years due to being featured in the media as a beautiful, picturesque spot you'll want to visit at least once. It's a popular spot in Oga during early summer. It is also beautifully illuminated during the nighttime.

MAP A-7

08

Take a walk in Mother Nature Hiking Experience

There are numerous well known places for hiking in Akita with its expanses of natural beauty. One representative example is the huge, strangely shaped Japanese beech tree, the Agariko Daiou, in Shishigahama wetland.

MAP A-8

09

Enjoy a diverse variety of courses! Skiing & Snowboarding

Winter sports are hugely popular in the snow country of Akita. There are a large number of ski resorts and courses around Akita including Tazawako Ski Resort and Mt. Moriyoshi Ani Ski Resort.
*Tazawako Ski Resort is pictured.

MAP A-9

01

Akita Kanto Festival

This is one of the 3 great festivals of Tohoku. The sight of candle-lit paper lanterns attached to countless Kanto poles swaying like ears of rice is breathtaking.

Venue: Akita City

Held: 3rd-6th August annually

MAP B-1

You can also experience holding the Kanto poles!

FESTIVAL

Akita Prefecture is the land of festivals!

See up close the traditional skills passed down through the generations

02

Nishimonai Bon Odori Dance

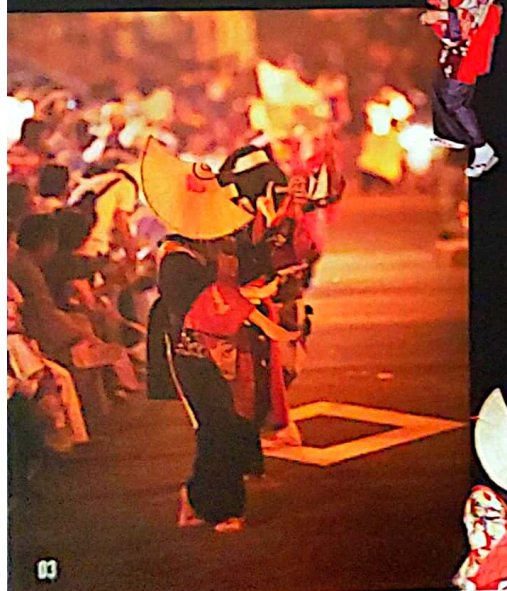
This is one of the three major Bon Odori dances and started around 700 years ago. It is a distinctive mystical dance.

Venue: Ugo

Held: 16th-18th August

MAP B-2

Beautiful



03

Omagari Fireworks

This is Japan's greatest national firework competition, where Japan's best pyrotechnicians gather.

Venue: Daisen

Held: Last Saturday in August annually

You can enjoy fireworks here every month!

Being the Town of Fireworks, fireworks are set off every month in Daisen. Not just in summer, you can enjoy firework shows with the cherry blossoms, the autumn leaves, and the snows of winter.

MAP B-3

04

Noshiro Tanabata Festival Tenku no Fuyajo

This festival of giant castle lanterns was revived in the summer of 2013 after a gap of over a century. The two impressive giant lanterns are paraded down the street of Noshiro accompanied by taiko drums and a traditional hayashi orchestra.

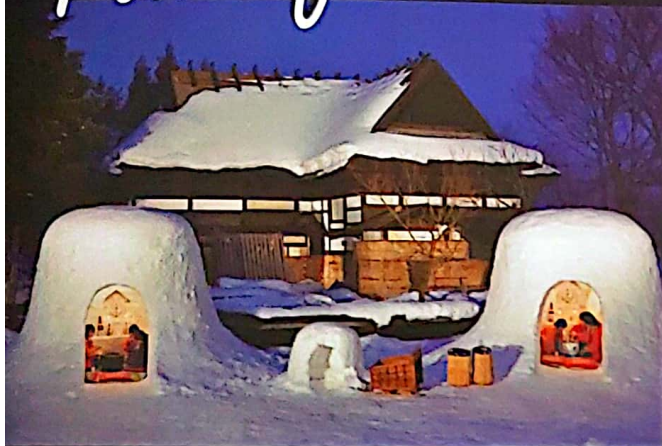
Venue: Noshiro
Held: Early August

MAP B-4



Giant
17.6m and 24.1m
lanterns!

Powerful



Be treated to some
sweet amazake
and mochi!

05

Kamakura Festival

This is a Lunar New Year's event in worship of the God of water. Children give out sweet amazake fermented rice drink and mochi in the kamakura snow houses.

Venue: Yokote Held: 15th-16th February annually

MAP B-5

Fantasy

06

Paper Balloon Festival of Kami-Hinokinai

Over 100 giant paper balloons depicting pictures of warriors and beautiful women soar up into the night sky.

Venue: Semboku

Held: 10th February annually

MAP B-6

You can also try
releasing these
paper balloons!



Oga Namahage

MAP B-7

What are the Namahage?

These are divine joy-bringing spirits that visit the houses of the Oga District on the night of 31st December to caution against idleness. They also bear the blessings of sound health and good harvests from the seas and mountains. They are registered as a UNESCO intangible cultural heritage.

Where can I meet the Namahage?

Namahage Museum

You can see all the Namahage in this museum. The over 150 Namahage masks that are actually in use make an incredible sight here! There is also an excellent video images area and souvenir area here.



Oga Shinzan Folklore Museum

You can experience Namahage performances at Oga Shinzan Folklore Museum, which is located next to the Namahage-Museum.

Business hours, holidays, and entrance fees vary depending on the season so please check the Website.

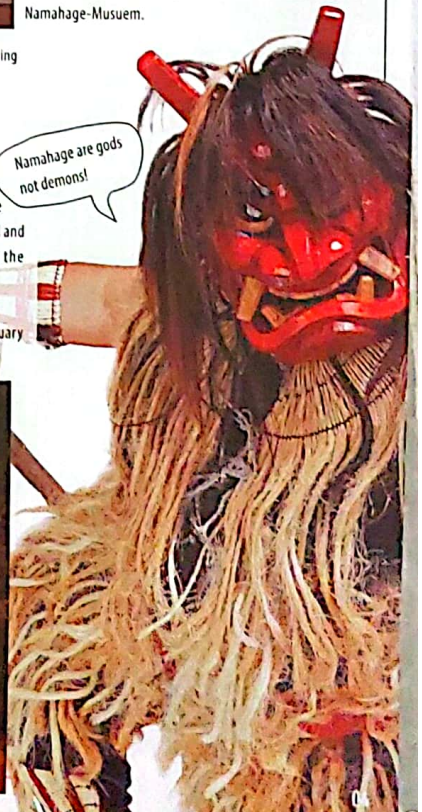
Namahage Sedo Festival

This is a tourist event that combines a Shinzan Shrine of Shinzan Shrine with the Namahage. It's a mystical and soul-stirring winter festival in the snow where the Namahage perform a wild dance.

Venue: Oga

Held: The 2nd Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in February annually

Namahage are gods
not demons!





Motoyu Yuzawa Hot Spring

Japan Association of Secluded Hot Spring Inns

Oga Hot Spring Village

Oga, famous for its Namahage, houses this hot spring village. There are many hot spring facilities here where you can enjoy the nature of the Japan Sea, Oga, and its seasonal foods to the fullest.

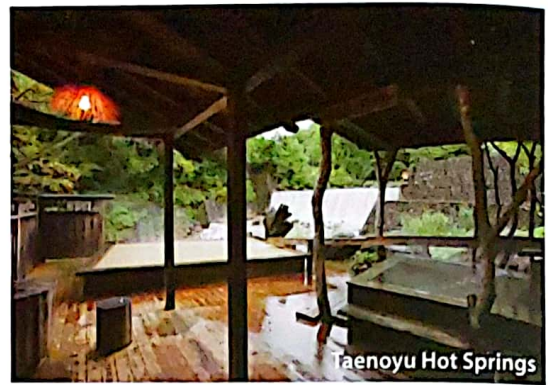
MAP C-1

Nyuto Hot Spring Village

The seven hot springs dotted around the base of Mt. Nyuto are known as Nyuto Hot Spring Village. Each hot spring here has their own unique spring sources and varying qualities. There are over 10 varieties of hot springs in total.

MAP C-2

Let's ride
the 'hot spring tour' bus!



Taenoyu Hot Springs



Some popular hot springs, well known even across Japan, are always ready to welcome you.

Tsurunoyu Hot Springs

Japan Association of Secluded Hot Spring Inns

MAP C-2



Okuyama Ryokan

Japan Association of Secluded Hot Spring Inns

Doroyu Hot Springs

This hot spring accommodation nestles quietly in the valley upstream of the river. It is the most secluded hot spring where you can enjoy gray-white colored and thick hot spring water.

MAP C-3



Takanoyu Hot Springs

Japan Association of Secluded Hot Spring Inns

Akinomiya Hot Spring Village

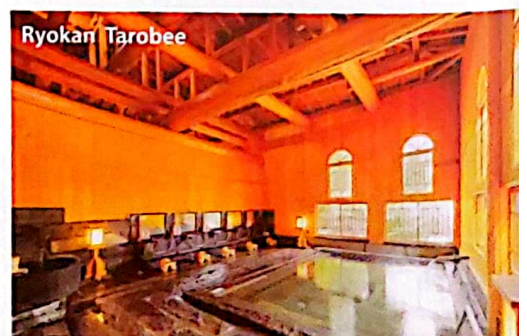
Known as the oldest hot spring area in Akita, there are a number of hot spring inns scattered around here. They all have different sources, qualities, and effects, so you can choose a hot spring based on these factors.

MAP C-4

Oyasukyo Hot Springs

This hot spring inn is located in the beautiful tourist spot of Oyasu Gorge.

MAP C-5



Ryokan Tarobee



Hotel Kazuno

Oyu Hot Spring Village

This hot spring naturally welled up alongside the Oyu River 800 years ago. Located in the middle of the northern Tohoku region, this hot spring is popular as a well situated base for sightseeing.

MAP C-6



Yuze Hotel

Yuze Hot Spring Village

Known as 'bijin no yu' (the spring of beautiful ladies)', this spring has a reputation for your skin getting softer and moister every time you bathe in it.

MAP C-7

A therapeutic hot spring / since the Edo era

Hachimantai Hot Spring Village

This hot spring village wells up in the great natural beauty of 1,000m above sea level. As there are many hot springs effective for various conditions here, they are always bustling with guests for searching for therapeutic bathing.



Fukunoyu Hot Springs

Japan Association of Secluded Hot Spring Inns

MAP C-8



Tamagawa Hot Springs

Spring water gushes out of the source at the largest amount in Japan with around 9000 liters per min. This spring is famous throughout Japan as one of the best therapeutic springs.

MAP C-9

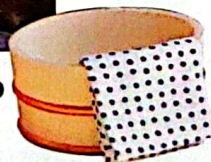
An outdoor bath from which you can get / a superb panoramic view



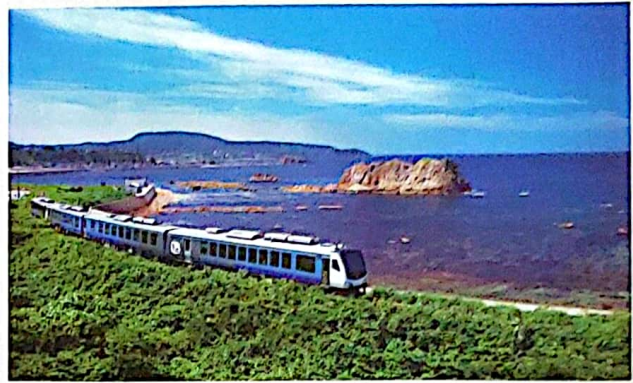
Sukawa Hot Springs Kurikoma-Sanso

This hot spring has a sweeping panoramic view of the natural beauty from the outdoor bath. You can enjoy the changing views of the four seasons from here.

MAP C-10



Enjoy nostalgic scenes of Japan on the local train lines



Gono Line (Resort Shirakami)

This local line that connects Aomori Prefecture with Higashi Noshiro in Akita Prefecture measures 147.2km in length. As the view from the train windows are beautiful, it's popular across Japan as a train line people want to experience riding on at least once.

MAP D-1



Yuri Kogen Railway

It measures 23km in length and connects 12 stations around the base of Mt. Chokai. One of its attractions is the various events they hold inside the train, which vary by season.

MAP D-2



Akita Nairiku Jukan Railway

This train line runs north-south inland and measures 100km in length. Nostalgic, indelible scenes of Japan including tranquil rural landscapes and beautiful gorges spread out in front of you.

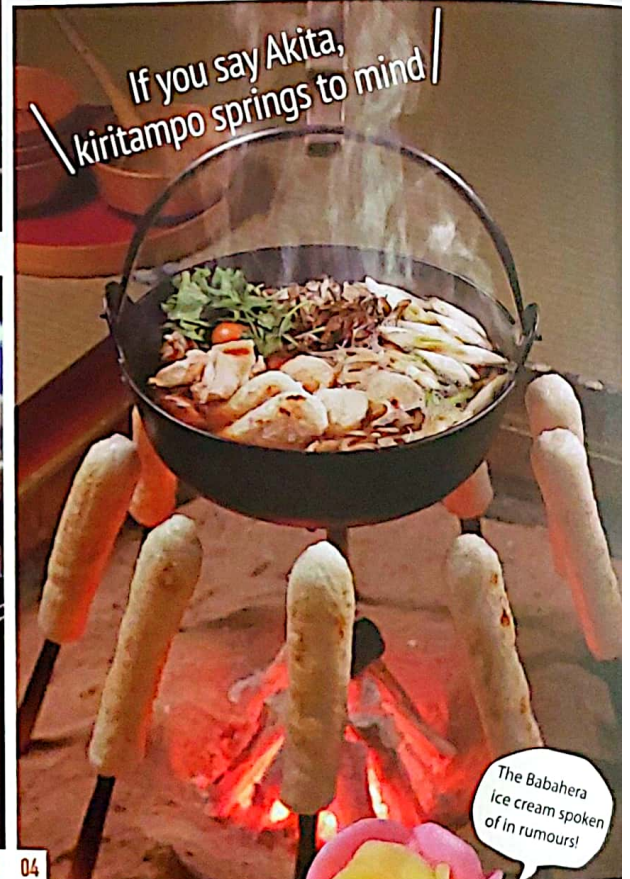
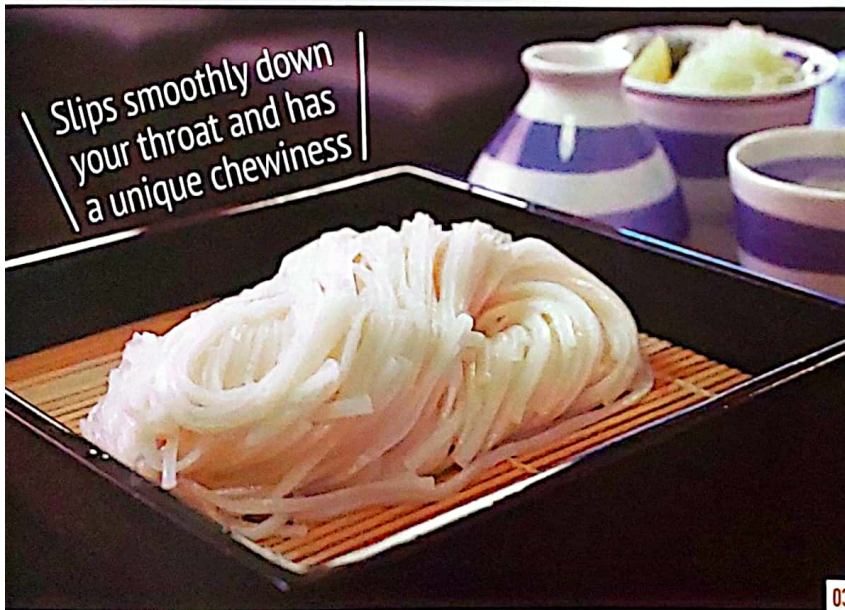
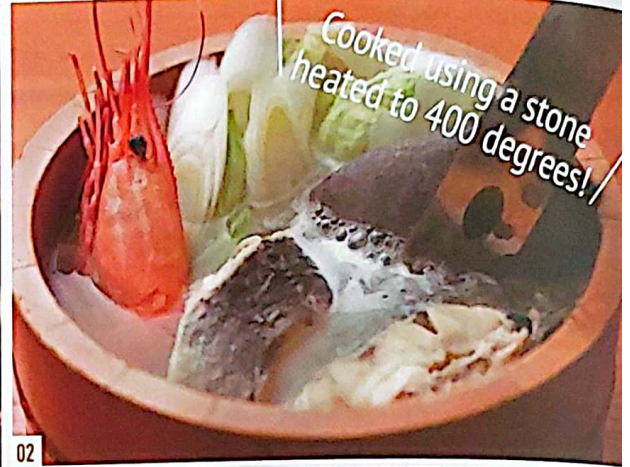
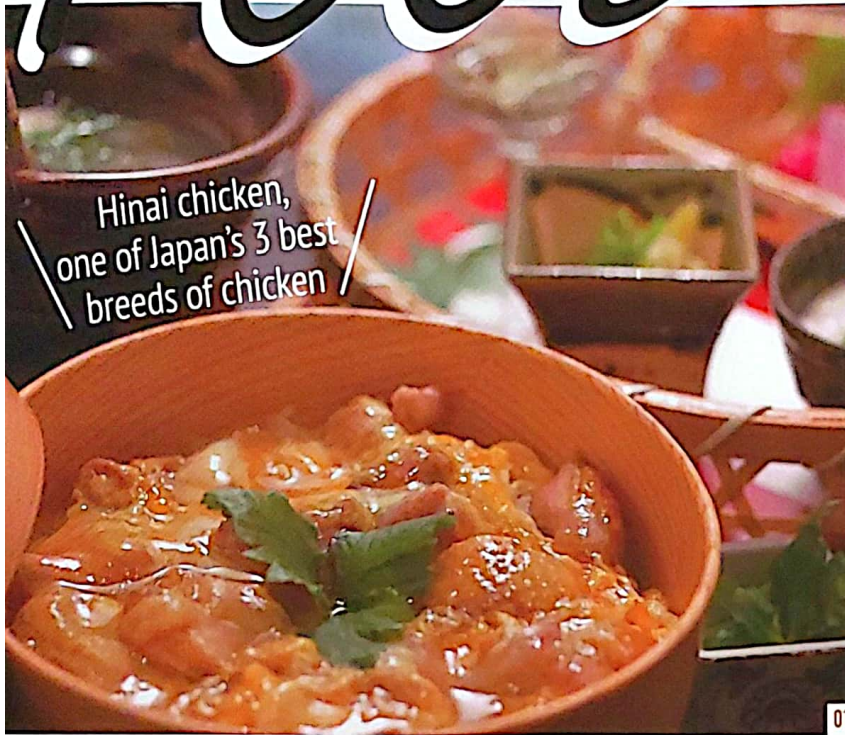
MAP D-3



FOOD

Akita Prefecture, a treasure trove of beautiful foods
The origin of some Japanese foods can be found here

From long ago Akita has had fertile land and pristine water.
Of course you can enjoy great rice, but also enjoy the seasonal foods
harvested in Akita's mountains and sea to your heart's content.



01

Hinai Chicken Oyako-Don

Hinai chicken is one of the three best breeds of chicken in Japan. Oyako-don made with Hinai chicken and eggs which are raised under strict standards has an exquisite taste.

02

Ishiyaki Hot Stone Cooking

After putting some Oga sea bream or seaweed in a wooden tub, it is cooked by the sizzling stone placed inside. It's a hearty fisherman's style of cooking to enjoy fresh seafood.

03

Inaniwa Udon Noodles

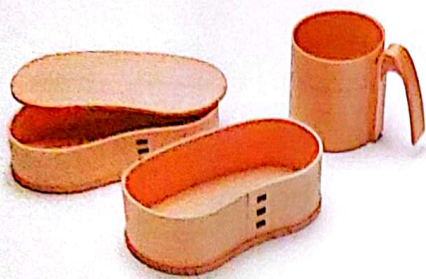
These are one of the three best udon noodles of Japan. They have a distinctive smooth texture, strong chewiness and an elegant flavor. They can be enjoyed hot or cold.

04

Kiritampo Nabe

This is made by boiling Hinai chicken and vegetables together with Kiritampo, which are made by pounding cooked rice, wrapping this rice around cedar skewers and then toasting it. Kiritampo nabe is the prime representative of Akita's regional dishes.





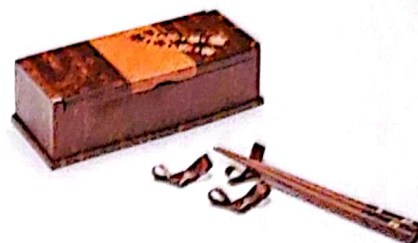
Odate Magewappa

These are made by bending sheets of Akita cedar wood. The great aroma of Akita cedar and the beautiful wood grain and natural color tone enhance the deliciousness of the food.



Kawatsura Lacquerware

This is a traditional handcraft with an 800 year history. These lacquerware products, including owan wooden bowls and smaller kobachi bowls, are both beautiful and strong.



Kabazaiku

These wood products are made using the bark of cherry trees. They are a popular handcraft.



Akita Confectionery

There are many kinds of confectionery in Akita long traditions. Recently confectioneries with the popular Akita dog as a motif are on sale, too.



Japanese Sake

Japanese sake in Akita is made with excellent sake rice and pristine water. The taste of real Akita sake has fans throughout the world.

SOUVENIR

Souvenirs

Akita is the home of natural beauty. Take home some souvenirs along with its natural blessings.



Goods with the cute Akita dog are available.

From T-shirts to small gifts like stationery.



Souvenir Shops

Akita Products Plaza

1st Floor basement, Atorion, 2-3-8 Nagadori, Akita
Tel: 018-836-7830
Open: 9:30-18:30
<http://www.a-bussan.jp>



Akita Station Building Topico

7-2-1 Nakadori, Akita
Tel: 018-834-1911
Open: 9:30-18:30
<https://www.caoca.net>



Akita Airport Souvenir Plaza A-eru

49 Yamagomori, Yuwatsubakigawa, Akita
Tel: 018-886-3367
Open: 7:00-20:30
<https://www.omiyageakita.com>

Popular even within Japan!

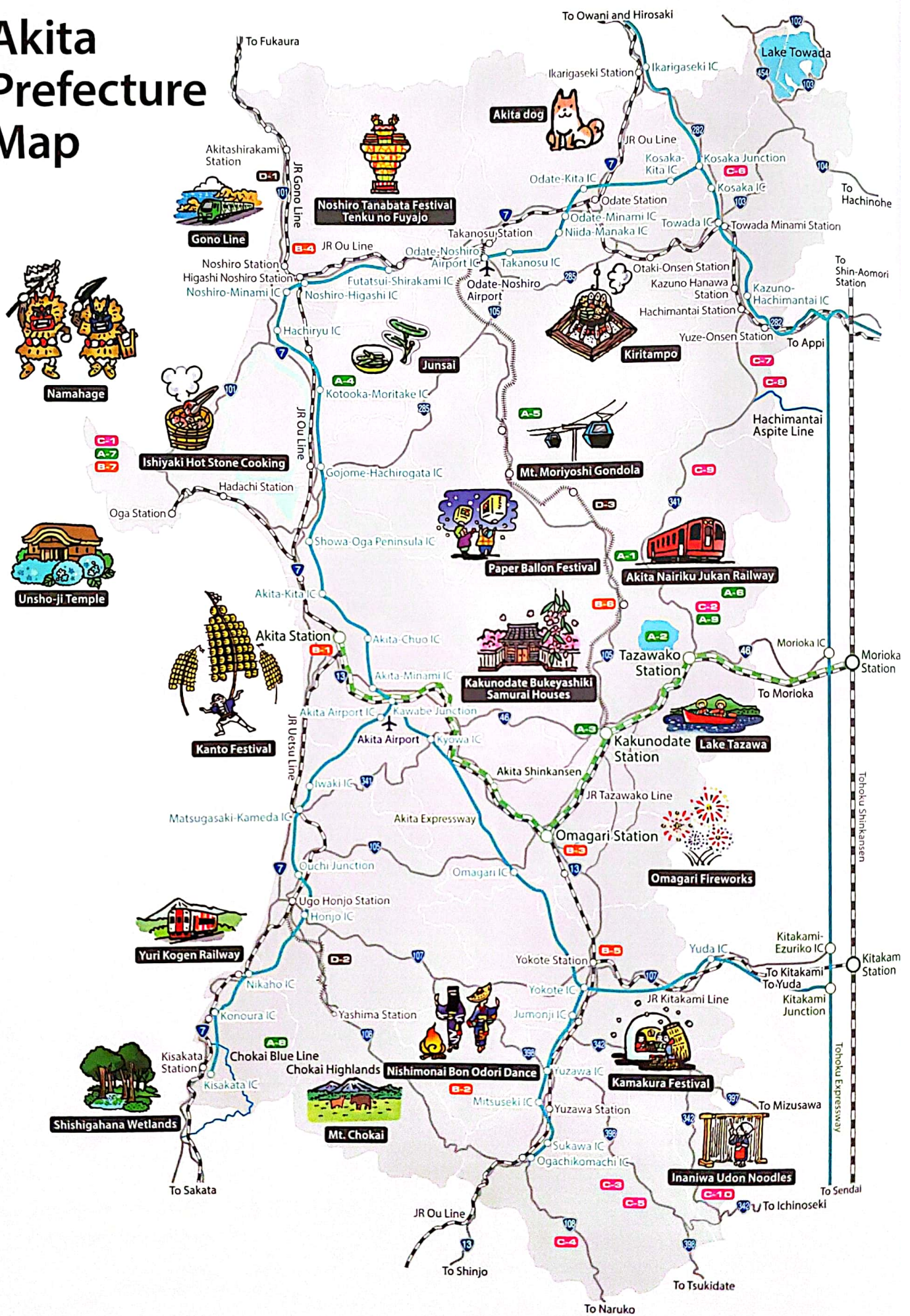
Pick UP!

Akita Dog Stuffed Animals

These are very popular as souvenirs including models of Masaru, the Akita dog presented to the figure skater Alina Zagitova, and limited edition designs that can only be bought at airports in Akita Prefecture.



Akita Prefecture Map





Getting to Akita

JR Line (Bullet train)

Akita Shinkansen

Tokyo Station ⇒ Akita Station...About 3hrs 37mins
Sendai Station ⇒ Akita Station...About 2hrs

Time taken from Akita Station to the closest stations of major sightseeing spots

Odate Station1hr 25mins
Kazuno Hanawa Station2hrs 17mins
Higashi Noshiro Station1hr 20mins
Akita Shirakami Station1hr 48mins
Omagari Station30mins
Kakunodate Station45mins
Tazawako Station57mins
Oga Station1hr
Ugo Honjo Station40mins
Kisakata Station1hr 4mins
Yokote Station47mins
Yuzawa Station1hr 6mins

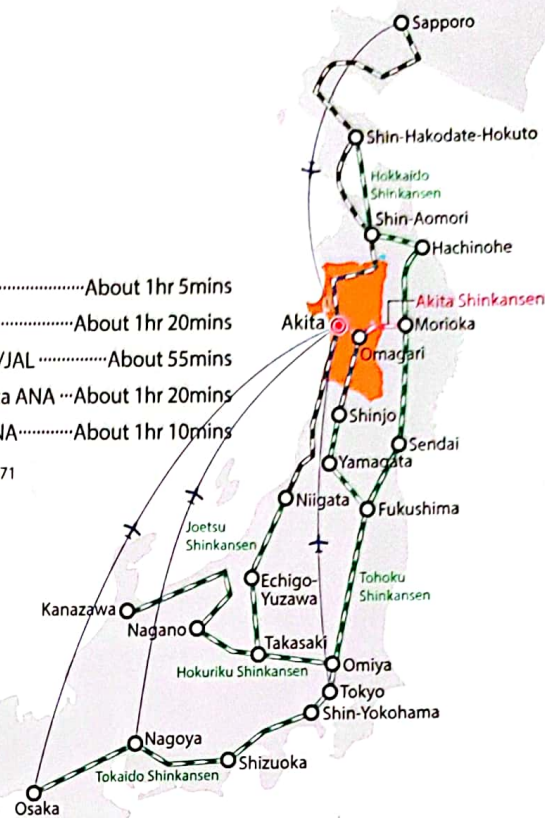
(JR East Japan Enquiries Center)
Tel: 050-2016-1600

*Time required may be changed

By Air

Tokyo (Haneda) ⇒ Akita ANA/JALAbout 1hr 5mins
Osaka (Itami) ⇒ Akita ANA/JALAbout 1hr 20mins
Sapporo (Shin-Chitose) ⇒ Akita ANA/JALAbout 55mins
Nagoya (Chubu International) ⇒ Akita ANAAbout 1hr 20mins
Tokyo (Haneda) ⇒ Odate-Noshiro ANAAbout 1hr 10mins

(ANA) Tel: 0570-029-222 (JAL) Tel: 0570-025-071



Ferry *It is necessary to confirm service days by individual port.

(North bound) _____
Tsuruga ⇒ Niigata (about 12hrs) ⇒ Akita (about 6hrs 40mins) ⇒ Tomakomai-Higashi (about 12hrs)

(South bound) _____
Tomakomai-Higashi ⇒ Akita (about 12hrs) ⇒ Niigata (about 8hrs) ⇒ Tsuruga (about 14hrs)

● It's about 30mins by car from Akita Port to Akita city center. (You can also catch an Akita Chuo Kotsu Bus)
(Akita Ferry Terminal) Tel: 018-880-2600 Be sure to enquire about the operating schedule of the ferry routes.



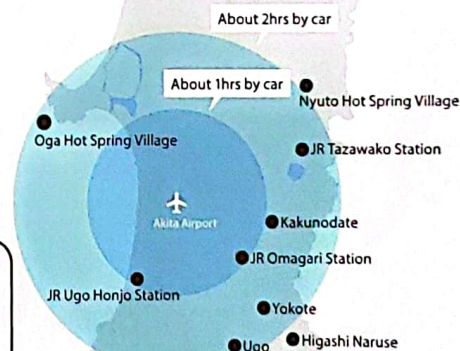
Airport Liner (Reservation necessary)

A shared taxi that connects Akita Airport to areas across Akita Prefecture without the need for bus or train transfers. Convenient and cheap. Can be used by one person or more. Further information here! <http://akita.airportliner.net/en/>



Drive from Akita Airport!

Time taken to main tourist areas



Tourist Information

*All the information centers below are free to use

If you're visiting Akita for the first time and are worried about being understood, please visit the tourist information centers throughout Akita Prefecture!

Tourist Information Offices

▶Akita Tourist Information Office

Tel: 018-832-7941 Available language: English

▶Oga Tourist Information Office

Tel: 0185-24-4700 Available language: English

▶Semboku Tourist Information Center (Kakunodate Ekimaegura)

Tel: 0187-54-2700 Available language: English

▶Semboku Tazawa Tourist Information Center Folake

Tel: 0187-43-2111 Available languages: English and Korean

Further details here!

<https://www.akitafan.com/en/first>

Phone support when you need help!

▶Akita Tourism Support Center

Available language: English

E-mail: support@akita-kanko.com

Address: 3-1-1 Sanno, Akita Tel: 018-838-0225

Open: 9:00-17:00 (Closed Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays and New Year Holidays)

This app is useful for trips around Akita Prefecture!

App for tourist and transport information for Akita Prefecture

Akita's NAVI



You can search for the route to where you want to go, the time it will take and how much it will cost.



Event information and the route to where the event will be held is provided.



You can search for tourist attraction information by area, category or keyword.

How to download

On App Store or Google Play

Akita's NAVI Search

For iPhone
Download on the
App Store



For Android
GET IT ON
Google Play



Soft and Fluffy Let's meet the Akita dogs!

Akita Prefecture is home to the well-known Akita breed of Japanese dogs. The bronze statue of the loyal dog Hachiko, well-known as the meeting spot in front of Shibuya Station, is an Akita. Akita Dogs are characterized triangular-shaped ears, curled tails, large bodies, and gentle personalities. Come and meet them here in Akita!

* There are cases when the Akita dogs cannot appear as scheduled in consideration of their physical condition. For further information, please check the websites or social media of the tourist facilities on this page, or contact them directly.



Namahage no Sato Ogare

Address: 1-19 Shinham, Funagawa, Funagawa Minato, Oga, Akita Prefecture
Tel. 0185-47-7515
Dogs present: Around 10:00 on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays
<http://michinoekioga.co.jp/>



Akita Dog Station

Address: 1st Floor Area Nakaichi, 1-4-1 Nakadori, Akita City, Akita Prefecture
Tel: 018-807-2535 (General incorporated association ONE FOR AKITA)
Dogs present: 11:00-15:00 on Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays (Break time: 11:20-12:00 & 14:05-14:45)
Closed: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays *Open Thursdays just for sale of products
<http://www.saveakita.or.jp/>



Akita Dog Visitor Center

Address: 1-13-1 Onari, Odate, Akita Prefecture
Tel: 0186-59-4649 (Akita Inu no Sato)
Dogs present: 9:00-18:00 April-October & 9:00-17:00 November-March
Closed: 31st December & 1st January
<https://akitainunosato.jp/>



Akita Inu Kaikan

Address: 13-1 Sannomaru, Odate, Akita Prefecture
Tel: 018-824-8686
Dogs present: 9:00-16:00
Closed: Saturday afternoons 21st November-21st April, Sundays & national holidays, New Year Holidays (28th December-3rd January), and afternoon of 13th August
<http://akitainu.sakura.ne.jp/>



Mt. Moriyoshi Ani Ski Resort

Address: 79-5 Anikaginodaki, Kitaakita, Akita Prefecture
Tel: 0186-82-3311
Dogs present: Please contact us to enquire or check our homepage.
<http://www.aniski.jp/>