

Getting to Hirosaki City

Airplane

Tokyo Airport (Haneda)	1hr15min	Aomori Airport	Bus 55min	Hirosaki
Nagoya Airport (Komaki)	1hr15min			
Osaka Airport (Itami)	1hr35min			
Kobe Airport	1hr35min			
Sapporo Airport (Shin-Chitose)	45min			

Shinkansen (JR)

Tokyo	Hayabusa	Shin-Aomori	Limited Express Tsugaru	Hirosaki
	Minimum 2hr59min			
Sendai	Hayabusa			
	Minimum 1hr27min		Minimum 30min	
Shin-Hakodate Hokuto	Hayabusa			
	Minimum 1hr1min			

Railway (JR)

Shin-Aomori	Limited Express Tsugaru	Hirosaki
	Minimum 30min	
Akita	Limited Express Tsugaru	Hirosaki
	Minimum 2hr	

Express Bus

Tokyo (Shinagawa and Hamamatsu-cho)	The Nocturne	Hirosaki
	9hr15min	
Yokohama	The Nocturne	
	9hr45min	
Sendai	The Castle	
	4hr20min	
Morioka	The Yodel	Hirosaki
	2hr15min	



Wi-Fi Information

You can use Wi-Fi below facilities.

- Hirosaki City Tourist Center
- Tsugaru-han Neputa Village
- Hirosaki City Machinaka Information Center
- Hirosaki Park



Cycle Net Hirosaki (Rental Bicycle)

A convenient way to explore Hirosaki is by bicycle. A paid bicycle rental service is available at five stations in different parts of the city.



Service period: From mid-May through late-November
Rental hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

(Last pick up 4:00 p.m., drop off by 5:00 p.m. on the same day)

*The rental hours are subject to change depending on the weather.

*The service may be unavailable in the event of stormy weather.



Dotemachi Loop 100-yen Bus

For sightseeing around the city of Hirosaki, the 100-yen bus is convenient. Dotemachi Loop Bus (running at ten-minute intervals)



Operating hours:

April to Nov. 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Dec. to Mar. 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.



Hirosaki Castle has been relocated to repair the stone walls. It is planned to be moved back to the original location by 2026.

Hirosaki is a gateway to the Shirakami-Sanchi World Natural Heritage, located approximately 60 km from the Oirase Stream of Lake Towada. Hirosaki is a castle city. Hirosaki Castle, the only castle in the Tohoku region with a castle tower, three moats, three turrets and five gates still standing, is a symbol of the citizens of Hirosaki. Hirosaki celebrates all four seasons with festivals, including the one in spring, when about 2,600 cherry blossom trees are in bloom. The city is renowned for offering some of the most beautiful cherry blossom viewing spots in Japan. Hirosaki, where an Imperial Army Division was stationed, as with Kyoto, Nara and Kanazawa, was spared from large-scale destruction during World War II. Consequently, it has many Important Cultural Properties designated by the Japanese government, including the Zen Temple Area (*Zenringa*), where 33 Zen Buddhist temples are clustered, a beautiful five-story pagoda and traditional samurai residences where you can feel the history and culture from the Edo period (1603–1868).

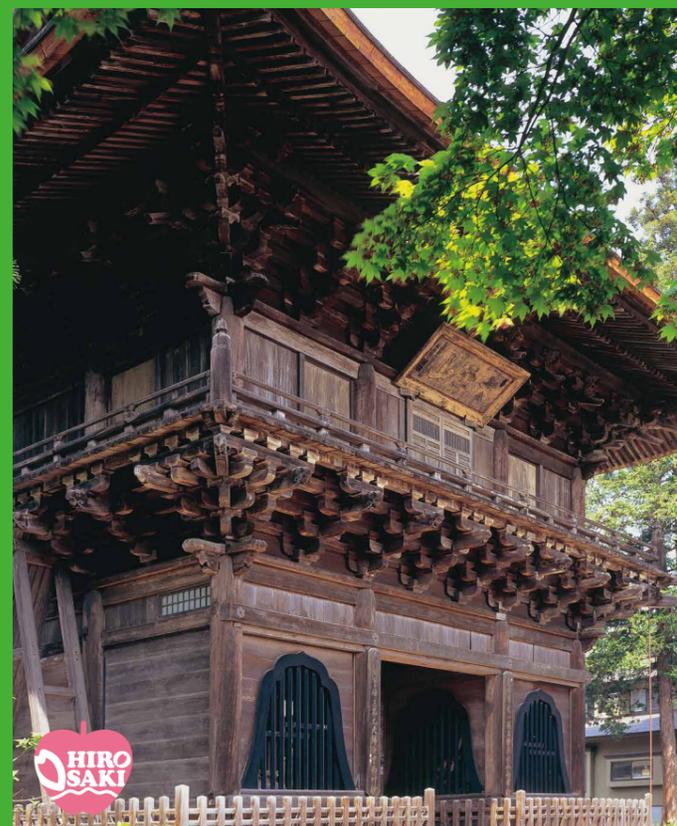
Japan Tohoku Aomori HIROSAKI



Visit Japan Hirosaki



Hirosaki Tourism Information



Recommended Tourist Spots



Hirosaki Castle Park

(National Historic Site and Important Cultural Properties, including the Hirosaki Castle tower)

Hirosaki Castle was built in 1611 as the seat of the Tsugaru clan, who ruled the Hirosaki domain. The 49.2-ha site is ten times larger than Tokyo Dome. Surrounded by three moats and earthwork, the castle consists of six quarters. The present tower was rebuilt in 1811 and its interior is open to the public. Visitors require an admission ticket to enter Honmaru, Kita no Kuruwa and Hirosaki Castle Botanical Garden.

- Dates when admission is charged: April 1st to November 23rd
- Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. during April 23rd to May 5th)
- Admission 320-yen; 100-yen (Junior high and elementary school students); group discount available.
- Triple-attraction ticket to Hirosaki Castle, Hirosaki Castle Botanical Garden and Fujita Memorial Garden: 520-yen (adults); 160-yen (Junior and elementary school students); group discount available.



Zen Temple Area

The second lord of the domain, Tsugaru Nobuhira, moved Soto-school Zen temples to this district to create a protective fortress on the southwest of Hirosaki Castle to ward off evil spirits. A district with a cluster of Buddhist temples of the same school is a rare sight in Japan. It is called *Zenringai*, which directly translates as "Zen Forest Town."



Choshoji Temple

(Important Cultural Properties: nine buildings and one gate, including the main hall and the San-mon gate)

A temple supported by people related to the Tsugaru clan. It was first built in Ajigasawa and then relocated to the present location to create a protective fortress on the southwest of Hirosaki Castle to ward off evil spirits. The temple has many features that are worth looking at, such as the San-mon gate, Bonsho bell, mausoleum, wooden statues of the 500 disciples of Buddha and the main hall.

- Opening period (exterior only): April–November (Advance inquiry required during winter)
- Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- No closing days



Hirosaki City Apple Park

The 9.7-ha site has about 2,300 apple trees of 80 different varieties. Visitors can experience harvesting apples (for a fee) from early August through early November. The park also has a souvenir shop, a cafe and a snack area, each featuring apple-themed products.

- Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- No closing days

Ishiba Family Residence

(Important Cultural Property)

The Ishiba were dealers in household goods and straw products in the Tsugaru Domain. This structure was built at the end of the Edo Period.

- Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Closed: Irregular holidays
- Admission: 100-yen (Junior high school students and older)



Tsugaru-han Neputa Village

Neputa is Hirosaki's summer festival and has been designated as a national important intangible cultural asset. In the museum, you can see Neputa floats traditional tsugaru crafts, and listen to live performances of Tsugaru Shamisen.

- Opening hours: April–November (9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.), December–March (performance ends at 4:00 p.m., while open to visitors until 5:00 p.m.)
- No closing days
- Admission: 600-yen (adults); 400-yen (High & Junior high school students); 300-yen (elementary school); 100-yen (children 3 & older); Group discount available for 25 or more.



Saishoin Temple Five Storied Pagoda

(Important Cultural Property)

A pagoda built for the repose of the souls of all warriors who died in battles during the unification of the Tsugaru domain. It was completed when the fourth lord, Nobumasa, ruled the domain. It is 31.2 meters high and is known as the most beautiful tower in the Tohoku region.

- Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (subject to change depending on the season)
- No closing days
- Free admission

Iwakiyama Shrine

(Important Cultural Properties: main shrine, hall of worship, back gate and tower gate)

Iwakiyama Shrine is said to have originated in 780, when shrine was built on the peak of Mt. Iwaki. In the feudal days, the Tsugaru lords professed great faith in the shrine, was reconstructed in the early Edo period. The carvings, painted in vivid colors, are worth a visit.



Former Hirosaki City Library

(Aomori Prefectural Treasure)

This Renaissance-style building was built by the great architect Sakichi Horie. Features such as the octagonal dome-shaped twin towers and the stonework foundation suggest a high standard of European-style architectural technique. The building has also been used in the past as a boarding house and a cafe.

- Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Closed during the year-end and New Year's holidays
- Admission: Free



UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site Shirakami Sanchi

Shirakami Mountains is the collective name given to an extensive mountainous area of 130,000 hectares ranging from the southwest part of Aomori Prefecture to the northwest part of Akita Prefecture. This area contains one of the world's largest communities of Japanese beech-oak trees and is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna despite its high latitude, earning it the title of World Natural Heritage Site in December 1993.

Local Craft in Hirosaki



Tsugaru Lacquerware

The Tsugaru region has been known for its quality lacquer since ancient times. *Kara Nuri* is the most popular style of *Tsugaru-nuri* lacquerware and its crafting process involves 48 steps of lacquer-painting and polishing. Traditional lacquerware is characterized by its sophisticated luster, flower design, robust quality and elegant color.



Bunaco

Bunaco is a modern wood craft that works the wood of the beech tree (*buna*) into various shapes, including bowls, vases, and lamps. It is known as one of the crafts unique to the Tsugaru region.



Kogin Embroidery

Kogin-zashi embroidery is a traditional handicraft of Tsugaru that has been nurtured through people's lives in this snowy region over a long period of time. It started as a kind of *sashiko*, a form of embroidery, which farmers who were restricted from wearing luxurious clothes at that time used as a means of keeping warm by stitching patterns on their hemp working clothes in cotton thread. *Kogin-zashi* is characterized by geometric patterns.



Mt. Iwaki

Mt. Iwaki is a double volcano with an altitude of 1,625m. There are three peaks; the two flanking peaks are Mt. Ganki and Mt. Chokai, and the central peaks is Mt. Iwaki. The mountain greatly varies in appearance depending on where you look at it; each town claims that it has the best view of the mountain.



Fujita Memorial Garden

(Tangible Cultural Properties of Japan, including the Western-style and Japanese-style buildings)

Fujita Kenichi, a native of Hirosaki and the first president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, had the villa built in 1921. The garden, approximately 21,800 m², includes a garden on a hill, from which you can see Mt. Iwaki, and low-lying garden with beautiful pond and irises.

- Dates: Early April to November 23rd
- Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Admission: 320-yen; 100-yen (Junior high school and elementary students); Group discount available.



Four Seasons of Hirosaki

Spring

The snow melt season coincides with the start of spring outing season in Hirosaki. Cherry Blossoms and Flowers of apples break into buds all at once as snow melts away after April in Hirosaki. Hirosaki Cherry Blossom Festival was selected for "The breathtaking sights in the world".



Summer

Summer in Hirosaki is cooler than Tokyo, and it will make your stay pleasant. During the summer, many events are scheduled. Hirosaki Neputa Festival is a historical and traditional festival that features the large fan-shaped Neputa lanterns with the paintings designed after the scenes from warrior legends and history.



Autumn

Autumn in Hirosaki is a huge bounty of tasty apples to harvest. Hirosaki Castle Chrysanthemum and Autumn Foliage Festival is held at the Hirosaki Castle Arboretum and the colorful and fragrant flowers create a gorgeous autumn atmosphere in the old castle.



Winter

Winter in Hirosaki will be covered with white snow. Hirosaki Castle Snow Lantern Festival During the festival, 150 or so snow lanterns and about 300 snow statues beckon visitors into this fantasy winter world.



Delicious Food in Hirosaki

Apple·Apple Juice

Hirosaki City is Japan's leading producer of apples and it has rich in vitamins, minerals, and fiber, are both good and good for you.



Apple Pie

Apple pie is made with fresh Hirosaki Apples are baked and sold at various pastry shops in the Apple City, Hirosaki.



Tsugaru Ramen

It is characterized by its soup, made of soy sauce and soup stock from grilled dried sardines and is often combined with fine, wavy noodles. The most popular toppings are green onions, char siu pork, bamboo shoots and dried wheat gluten.

Kaiyaki-Miso

Kaiyaki-Miso is a home style cooking with a big scallop shell used as a pan to grill a beated egg with miso and stock. Depending on the area, fish or scallops are added in it. It was a nutritional food to eat when sick. It is a very simple dish but used to be a delicacy at the time eggs were precious. Scallop shells bring out the flavor of stock as using repeatedly as pans. People in Tsugaru and Shimokita area enjoy this dish.



Kenoshiru

The word Kenoshiru is originated from "kayushiru (porridge)", Kenoshiru is a miso soup cooked with root vegetables such as daikon radish, carrots and burdock, edible wild plants, and deep-fried tofu which are thoroughly diced into bite-size pieces. The soup tastes better after aging and repeatedly reheated. People used to eat the soup from Jan 15 (Little New Year's Day) praying for good health.

