

Hirosaki: A Sample Itinerary

After exploring Towada, head to Hirosaki, a city full of beautiful historical buildings and traditional crafts.

Day 4

09:00 Sightseeing around Hirosaki
(100-yen bus available — Apr–Nov, 10:00–18:00; Dec–Feb: 10:00–17:00)
Experience the local culture by painting neputa floats and kokeshi dolls at
⑨ Tsugaru-han Neputa Village. You can also have lunch here.



See well-preserved ancient houses and gardens at the **Hirosaki Samurai District** (⑦ Naka-cho Historical House Preservation Area).



Heal your senses with the natural scenery of nearby Hirosaki Park (some facilities charge for admission).



Visit ⑩ Hirosaki City Museum, which was designed by the famous architect Kunio Maekawa.



Take in the beauty of the Edo-style ⑥ Fujita Memorial Garden. Then, visit the garden's Western-style building to relax at ⑪ Taisho Roman Tea Room or Takumikan, a craft store and cafe.

18:30 Enjoy local delicacies and live shamisen performances at ⑫ Adohadari, an izakaya pub.

20:00 Good night!

Day 5

09:00 ① Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art



Have lunch and buy souvenirs at the museum's cafe, ⑬ CAFE & RESTAURANT BRICK.



13:00 Stroll around Hirosaki



Check out ⑭ Bunaco Show Room Bless's beautifully crafted creations.

At ① Niji no Mart, have your fill of dishes made with local ingredients.

Admire ⑮ Hirosaki Orando's gallery. You might meet some key figures in Hirosaki's arts and culture scene here!

16:15 Return to Tokyo via Shinkansen

20:30 Arrive at Tokyo

Itinerary created by: Hirosaki University, Genbi Supporters, Harappa, Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art, and Towada Art Center

Hirosaki City Guide

Hirosaki Park & Hirosaki Castle
This is one of Japan's best places to see a castle surrounded by cherry blossoms.
1 Shimo-Shiroganecho, Hirosaki City
Closed year-end holidays; there may also be irregular closings
Honmaru area (Apr 1–Nov 23): ¥320 (adults) / ¥100 (children)

Historical Buildings
① **Aomori Bank Memorial Hall**
An Important Cultural Property, this Renaissance-style building was formerly the head office of Japan's 59th national bank.
26 Motonagamachi, Hirosaki City
09:30–16:30 (closed Tuesdays and year-end holidays)
High-school age (15) or older: ¥200
Elementary & junior high school students (ages 6–14): ¥100
② **Former Hirosaki City Library**
Built in 1906, this Renaissance-style building is one of Aomori Prefecture's priceless treasures.
Otemon Square, 2-1 Shimo-Shiroganecho, Hirosaki City
09:00–17:00 (closed year-end holidays)
③ **Former To-o Gijuku Missionary House**
Another of Aomori's treasures, this Western-style building was built in 1900 as a residence for missionaries who taught English.
Otemon Square, 2-1 Shimo-Shiroganecho, Hirosaki City
09:00–18:00
Cafe: 09:30–18:00 (last order: 17:30)
④ **Miniature Structures**
This exhibit features 1:10 scale replicas of actual buildings in Hirosaki from the Meiji to Taisho Eras.
Otemon Square, 2-1 Shimo-Shiroganecho, Hirosaki City
Winter: 07:00–18:00

Hirosaki City Apple Park

Traditional Handicrafts
The castle town of Hirosaki takes pride in its many traditional handicrafts. Shops offer an eclectic variety of items: Tsugaru lacquerware, kogin-zashi embroidery, goldfish-shaped neputa lanterns, and more.

Bike Rentals
There are five places in Hirosaki where you can rent a bike from early May to late November. For ¥500, you can cycle around town until 17:00!

Apple Pie
Hirosaki is Japan's top producer of apples, so apple pie is a must-try here! Try apple pie from different shops to see which you like best.

Dotemachi 100-Yen Loop Bus
This bus runs in a loop around Hirosaki. No matter where you board or get off, the fare is fixed at ¥100!

Mailbox (in front of APPLEIEE)

Hirosaki University School of Medicine & Hospital

Konan Railway Chuo-Hirosaki Station

Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art

Ekidote Promenade
This promenade stretches from Hirosaki Station all the way to Kami-Dotemachi. In summer, a morning market is held here on Sundays.

100-Yen Bus Route

Chuo Street (Chuo-dori)

Kita Avenue (Kita-dori)

Sakura Avenue (Sakura-dori)

Diogenes Street (Dotemachi-dori)

Hirosaki Park & Hirosaki Castle

Oldest cherry blossom tree

Exchange

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Popular Photo Spots

Hirosaki

Magnificent structures that were featured in manga comics at Fujita Memorial Garden

How many apple mailboxes can you find?

Hirosaki Park's hidden gem: branches that form a heart

A heart surrounded by cherry blossoms makes for an adorable sight

Horse-themed art pieces everywhere you look

Beautiful moss grows all over Oirase Gorge. Enjoy the microscopic world of moss!

Try looking for this at the museum!

Towada

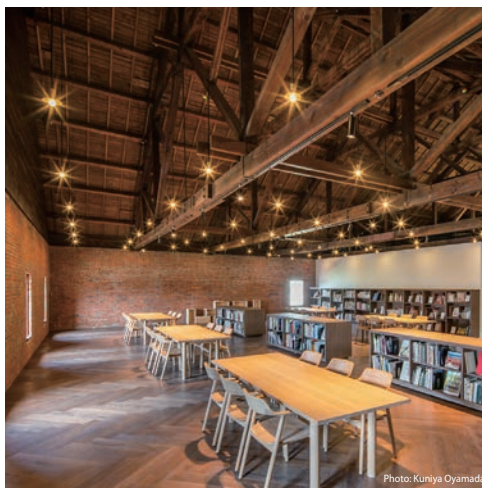
Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art



① Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art

With the concept of "preserving a memory" in mind, a 100-year-old brick warehouse has been reborn as the Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art. As one of Aomori's art hubs, this museum showcases works from the same time period to shed light on the history and culture of Hirosaki and the Tohoku region.

2-1 Yoshinocho, Hirosaki City
0172-32-8950 09:00–17:00
Closed Tuesdays and year-end holidays
Note: If a holiday falls on a Tuesday, the museum will close on Wednesday instead



Access

- From Aomori Airport**
Take a Konan Bus for Hirosaki Bus Terminal, and get off at Hirosaki-Ekimaie (approx. 55 mins).
- From Hachinohe Station**
• Take the JR Ou Main Line, get off at Hirosaki Station (40 mins), then walk for 20 minutes, or take a taxi for 7 minutes.
• Take a Konan Bus. Get off at Dotemachi-jumonji, then walk for 4 minutes. Or, get off at Sumiyoshi-iriguchi, and walk for 2 minutes.
* Note: A drive or taxi ride from Shin-Aomori Station will take approx. 1 hour

Eat & Drink

⑩ **CAFE & RESTAURANT BRICK**
This cafe and restaurant is next to the Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art. You can buy museum souvenirs and local artists' creations here.
Cafe/Shop Building, Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art
2-11 Yoshinocho, Hirosaki City
09:00–22:00 (last order: 21:00)

⑪ **Taisho Roman Tea Room**
This cafe can be found in Fujita Memorial Garden's Western building. Here, you can try six different apple pies from some of Hirosaki's best-loved pastry shops.
8-1 Kami-Shiroganecho, Hirosaki City
09:00–16:30 (last order: 16:00)

⑫ **Dode no Meheyakko**
This retro restaurant and izakaya pub has the Showa era as its theme. Its name means "a Dotemachi shop" in the local dialect.
101 Dotemachi, Hirosaki City
Mon–Thu: 11:30–14:00, 17:30–23:00
Closed Sundays and the 25th of the month
Note: There may also be irregular closings

⑬ **Tsugaru Shamisen Live House Anzu**
You'll be treated to live shamisen performances as you drink and dine at this izakaya pub.
44-1 Oyakatamachi, Hirosaki City
18:00–22:00; irregular closing dates

⑭ **Salon de Café Ange**
This is the Former To-o Gijuku Missionary Residence's in-house cafe.
2-1 Shimo-Shiroganecho, Hirosaki City
09:30–18:00 (09:00–16:00 in winter)
Factory tours: ¥200 (adults) / ¥100 (high school students or younger)
Separate fees apply for the indigo dyeing experience

⑮ **Hirosaki Orando**
This is a gallery, cafe, and bar all in one. It also houses a shop selling local handicrafts, and a guesthouse is set to be built on the second floor.
47-2 Hyakkokumachi, Hirosaki City
12:00–21:00 Mon–Wed Closed Sundays

⑯ **POMME/MARCHÉ**
Also in Hirosaki Orando is POMME/MARCHÉ, which specializes in ciders. Enjoy a glass of cider for ¥500. Try their coffee as well!
47-2 Hyakkokumachi, Hirosaki City
11:00–19:00 (last order: 18:30) Closed Wed–Sat

⑰ **Adohadari**
This is a one-stop facility for experiencing Tsugaru culture: shamisen performances, neputa exhibits, and more. It also has a restaurant and a souvenir shop for Aomori specialties.
61 Kamenokomachi, Hirosaki City
09:00–17:30 Experience area: ¥550 Separate fees apply for experiences

Shop

① **Niji no Mart**
Buy fresh seafood and local delicacies at affordable prices at this grocery and market combined. It's like a kitchen for the locals!
12-1 Ekimaecho, Hirosaki City
08:00–18:00 Closed Sundays

② **PPP**
This is a traditional building that has been reborn as a shop for interior goods and decor.
3 Hyakkokumachi-koji, Hirosaki City
11:00–18:00 Closed Thursdays

③ **Tsugaru Kobosha**
This shop showcases handmade local creations: Tsugaru lacquerware, kogin-zashi embroidered items, and more.
52 Mototeramachi, Hirosaki City
10:00–17:00 Closed Tuesdays

④ **Ao to Mizutama**
This shop offers a selection of lovely items that will enrich your life. It also holds seasonal exhibits and other events.
1F, 21 Mototeramachi, Hirosaki City
11:00–18:00 Closed Thursdays

⑤ **Yumeya**
Rent kimono and yukata here — locals and visitors alike are all welcome!
1-1 Motodakumachi, Hirosaki City
10:00–18:00 Closed Sundays
(There may also be irregular closings)
Kimono rentals: from ¥15,000 Yukata rentals (summer only): ¥3,780

⑥ **Bunaco Show Room Bless**
This shop exhibits and sells Bunaco products — sustainable natural handicrafts made with buna (Japanese beech), considered the mother of the woods.
2F Moriya Building, 100-1 Dotemachi, Hirosaki City
11:00–17:00 Closed Thursdays

⑦ **Home Works Main Shop**
Aside from stylish daily-use items, this variety goods shop sells kogin-zashi embroidered pieces and Tsugaru Vidro glassware.
77-10 Dotemachi, Hirosaki City
10:00–19:00
Closed New Year's Day, Aug. 13, and Dec. 31

⑧ **Hirosaki Kogin Institute**
See how kogin-zashi embroidered pieces are created here; buy some if you like!
61 Zaijicho, Hirosaki City
09:00–16:30 Closed weekends and holidays

Hirosaki–Towada Sightseeing Bus

On weekends and holidays from late April to early November, a sightseeing bus directly links Hirosaki and Towada. It stops at both cities' popular attractions, so you can get a lot out of this tour! Prices start at ¥3,000 (one-way) and ¥5,000 (round-trip). For the route and other details, please scan the following QR code.

Minimum	2 people
How to Reserve (required)	Reservations are required; please fill out the request form on Tsugaru Navi's English website
Reservation Cut-Off	7 days before departure *Note: If departure is guaranteed, walk-ins may be accepted depending on seat availability
Reservations Start	1 month in advance
Price	From ¥3,000 (one-way) / ¥5,000 (round-trip)

For more details:

Tsugaru Navi



- Admission fees are not included in the price
- The route, time spent at each stop, and total tour duration may vary depending on the weather, traffic, COVID-19-related restrictions, and/or other conditions

COVID-19 Prevention Measures

- Temperature checks
- Mask-wearing requirements for guests and staff
- Adequate ventilation
- No boarding allowed for guests with a fever (refunds provided)
- Provision of hand sanitizers
- Regular disinfection of buses