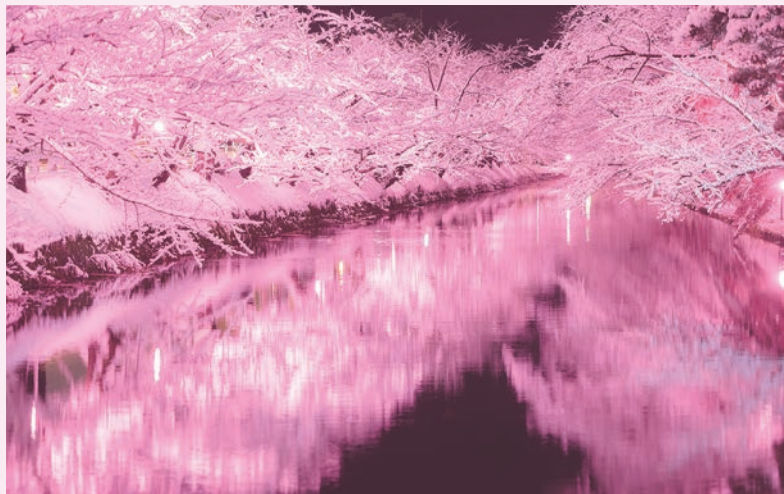


# TOWADA and HIROSAKI Artistic Travel Map



Enjoy Towada and Hirosaki's art-themed attractions!

Hirosaki City / Towada City

## Hirosaki City Guide

### Hirosaki Park & Hirosaki Castle

Hirosaki is one of Japan's best places to see a castle surrounded by cherry blossoms. But in winter, the snow-covered Hirosaki Castle is also a sight to behold — such scenery is rare in Japan!

**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

**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

**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)

**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)

**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 Museum of Contemporary Art



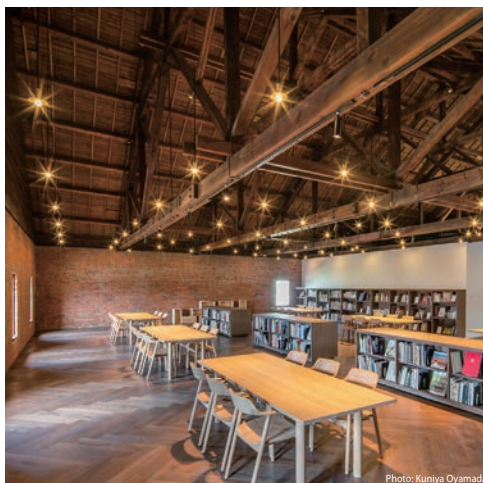
### 1 Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art

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



Nara Yoshitomo, A to Z Memorial Dog, 2007 ©Yoshitomo Nara Photo: Naoyu Hasekuma



### Access

#### From Aomori Airport

Take a Konan Bus for Hirosaki Bus Terminal, and get off at Hirosaki-Ekimaie (approx. 55 mins).

#### From Shin-Aomori 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-jumongi, 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

## Do & See

### 2 Fujita Memorial Garden

Constructed in 1921, this is Aomori Prefecture's largest garden. Its beautiful landscapes have been well preserved to this day. You can experience the Japanese tea ceremony here.

8-1 Kami-Shiroganecho, Hirosaki City  
09:00–17:00 (last entry: 16:30)  
Adults: ¥320; children: ¥100

### 3 Hirosaki City Museum

See exhibits related to Tsugaru's history, arts, and culture at this museum designed by famous architect Kunio Maekawa.

Hirosaki Park, 1-6 Shimo-Shiroganecho, Hirosaki City  
09:30–16:30  
Closed the third Monday of the month (If a public holiday falls on this date, closed on Tuesday instead)

### 4 Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center

Get information about traveling in and around Hirosaki here. The center also has a souvenir shop and restaurant.

2-1 Shimo-Shiroganecho, Hirosaki City  
09:00–18:00 (hours are extended during festivals)

### 5 Saisyoin Fivestreed Pagoda

This Important Cultural Property is considered the Tohoku region's most beautiful tower. People pray here for good harvest, peace, and so on.

63 Doyamachi, Hirosaki City  
Admission fee of ¥300 required during festival season

### 6 Kawasaki Dye Works

(Tsugaru Natural Indigo Dyeing Store)  
This workshop in an old historical building does not use synthetic dyes; instead, it only uses time-honored natural dyeing techniques. Try your hand at Japanese indigo dyeing here!

63 Kamenokomachi, Hirosaki City  
09:00–17:00 (09:00–16:00 in winter)  
Factory tours: ¥200 (adults) / ¥100 (high school students or younger)  
Separate fees apply for the indigo dyeing experience

### 7 Naka-cho Historical House Preservation Area

This is a district where samurai lived in ancient times. The streets here are lined with traditional houses, some of which are open to the public.

The entire Bakurocho area, as well as some parts of Wakadocho and Kobitocho

### 8 Ishiba Ryokan

A Tangible Cultural Property, this historical ryokan inn was established in 1879.

55 Mototeramachi, Hirosaki City  
From ¥4,950 (no meals) per night  
Phone Inquiries (English/French): 0172-32-9118

### 9 Tsugaru-han Neputa Village

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

## 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 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–Thurs: 11:30–14:00, 17:30–23:00  
Closed Sundays and the 25th of the month Note: There may also be irregular closings

### 12 PÂTISSERIE LE CHOCOLAT

This pastry shop serves apple pie and other baked goods.

17-1 Okachimachi, Hirosaki City  
09:00–19:00 (closed Wednesdays)

### 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 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 entry: 16:00)

### 15 Starbucks Coffee (Hirosaki Park Branch)

Right in front of Hirosaki Castle Park is the second Starbucks branch in Japan that's housed in a Tangible Cultural Property.

1-1 Kami-Shiroganecho, Hirosaki City  
07:00–21:00

### 16 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

### 17 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

### 18 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 (last order: 17:30) Winter: 10:00–16:00  
Closed year-end holidays

### 19 Adohadari

Enjoy local specialties and live performances by the owner at this Tsugaru shamisen-themed izakaya.

1F Yamada Building, 60 Dotemachi, Hirosaki City  
17:00–23:00 (last order 22:00) Closed Wednesdays

## 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

### 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

### 5 green

With "goods for people and the environment" as its concept, this shop offers a selection of sustainable, eco-friendly clothes and lifestyle goods, as well as kogin-zashi items.

22 Daikancho, Hirosaki City  
11:00–18:00  
Closed Wednesdays (there may also be irregular closings)

### 7 HOMEWORKS 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

### 9 Hirosaki Kogin Institute

See how kogin-zashi embroidered pieces are created here; buy some if you like!

61 Zaifucho, Hirosaki City  
09:00–16:30  
Closed weekends and holidays

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 8 chicori

This shop presents a well-curated section of natural and simple daily-use items, household goods, and clothes.

2 Sakamotocho, Hirosaki City  
12:00–17:00  
Closed Sundays and Tuesdays

## Enjoy Winter in Hirosaki to the Fullest!

In Hirosaki and Towada, which receive heavy snowfall each year, there are lots of activities that you can only experience in winter. Have fun checking out limited-time events like illuminations in the snow and art on ice. Visit Hirosaki and Towada for a memorable, art-filled winter holiday!

### A Hirosaki Castle Snow Lantern Festival

**When** Mid-Feb (exact dates vary yearly); 16:30–21:00

**Where** Hirosaki Park

A tradition since 1977, this is one of the Five Great Snow Festivals of Michinoku (the Tohoku region's old name). In winter, Hirosaki Park is illuminated by roughly 150 handmade lanterns of varying sizes, brightly lit snow sculptures as tall as over seven meters, and candles left by visitors. During this time, the castle tower is lit up, too, and you can have fun sliding down a huge slide made of snow. **Illuminations: 16:30–21:00**

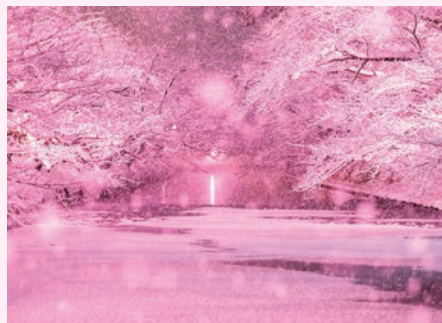


### B Winter Cherry Blossom Illuminations

**When** Dec to Feb (exact dates vary yearly)

**Where** Near the Otemon Gate of Hirosaki Park

This is one of Hirosaki's iconic winter traditions. Near the Otemon Gate of Hirosaki Park, snow-covered cherry blossom trees are lit up in pink, as if they're in full bloom even in the middle of winter. With Hirosaki Electrical Fantasy as the theme, other parts of the city — such as the old Western-style buildings — are lit up, too, making for a magical night walk.



### C Fat Biking Around Hirosaki

**When** 09:00–11:30 or 13:00–15:30 (2.5 hours)

**Where** 9-21 Kuranushicho, Hirosaki City

Cycle a course of about 7.5km around snowy Hirosaki on a fat bike, a skid-proof bike that's suited for riding through snow. In between leisurely rides, stop to admire the city's architectural wonders, and play in the snow at Hirosaki Park. Be sure to dress warmly and wear pants. Rental plans include not only a bike, but also a helmet and insurance.

For inquiries: <https://ca101d.com>



Solo guest	¥20,000
2 guest	¥12,000 per person
3–5 guest	¥8,000 per person



