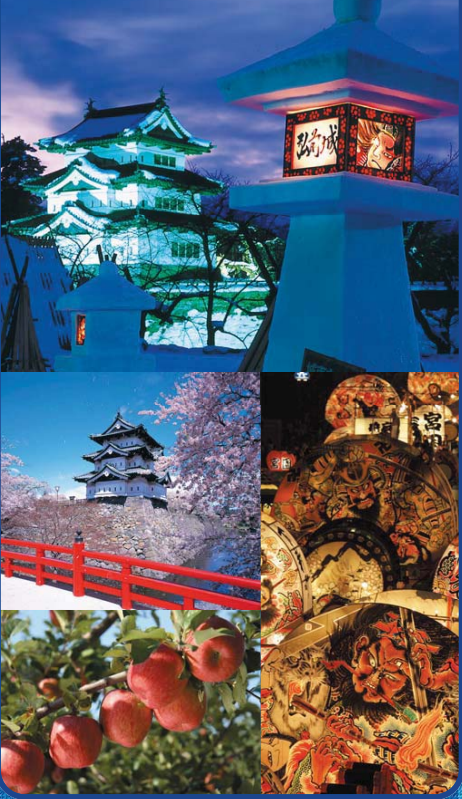


Guidemap to Hirosaki

Experience the Hospitality of Japan's Tohoku Region



Getting there



Aomori Airport → Bus → Hirosaki (55 mins)
Shin-Aomori St. → Tokkyu Tsurugaru → Hirosaki (30 mins)

Shirakami-Sanchi "Shirakami-Sanchi" (Shirakami Mountains) is the collective name for the vast mountainous region at the border between Aomori and Akita prefectures, a region which was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993. The region is home to one of the largest forests of virgin buna beech in the world, and features hiking trails through beautiful natural forests and striking waterfalls.

Hirosaki → Approx. 20 km → **Shirakami-Sanchi (Nishimeya)** (30 mins. by car)

Hot Spring The area around Mt. Iwaki is home to numerous hot spring resorts, such as Dake Onsen and Hyakuzawa Onsen, allowing you to enjoy a variety of hot spring experiences.

Hirosaki → Approx. 22 km → **Hot springs at the foot of Mt. Iwaki** (30 mins. by car)

Beautiful through the four seasons Preserving history and tradition Hirosaki – a rustic and welcoming city

Home to over 400 years of history and culture

Hirosaki was a political and economic center in the Edo Period, including the Tsurugaru District (western Aomori Prefecture). The people of Hirosaki inherited, protected, and conveyed the buildings, culture, entertainment and the like since the Edo Period for over 400 years of history, which can be seen there even today. In addition, the people of Hirosaki have sublimated their own culture and actively incorporated new culture as well. As shipping and trade flourished there is a relationship among Asian and European nations through the ages, and the building and food that were influenced are now the tradition and heritage of Hirosaki, which have become the pride of the people.

Home to rich cultural traditions

Historical traditions and culture can be readily found and experienced throughout the city even today. These range from the Hirosaki Neputa Festival, one of the major festivals of Japan, to the dynamic *Tsugaru-jamisen* performances and delicately beautiful crafts that boast intricate technique.

Home to rich local food culture

Hirosaki is also known for its heavy snows and intensely cold weather. To endure the long winters when food supplies become short, northern areas have their own unique cuisine offerings. For example, some cooking methods resourcefully use ingredients to their fullest and certain dishes warm the body. People are also creative with seasoning, such as simmering ingredients from the mountain and the sea in miso to incorporate lots of salt, which is needed to raise body temperature.

The Apple Capital of Japan

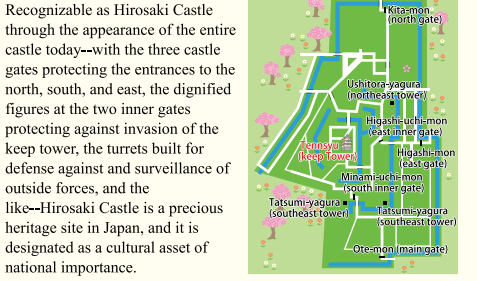
Hirosaki is the top producer of apples in Japan. Hirosaki apples have become a signature Japanese brand and exports are increasing to other Asian countries. Many apple delicacies can also be found throughout Hirosaki, such as juice and baked goods.

Four seasons of beauty

Hirosaki is a city where you can feel the nature of Japan, filled with the charm of the four seasons. Spring boasts the cherry blossoms that are said to be the number one highlight of Japan. Summer is verdant, and in fall, the virgin forest of the mountainous region of Shirakami—which is designated as a World Natural Heritage Site—and the temple foliage carrying over from days of old come to greet you in the autumn. In winter, the area around Hirosaki Castle is dressed with snow, creating a special landscape that could only be seen in the fantastic and beautiful winter.

Hirosaki Castle

Do you know the structure known as the "keep tower"? This is the name of the symbolic castle structure, and there are only twelve of them in all of Japan today. There is a keep tower in Hirosaki Castle that is the northernmost keep tower extant since the Edo Period, and it has become a symbol of Hirosaki. The keep tower is currently open to the public as a museum. A great many precious cultural properties are on display, including samurai armor and swords as well as the tools of daily life.



Hirosaki, city of coffee aficionados

Hirosaki is a city that has an ancient connection with coffee. This connection is said to have started some 150 years ago, from the moment coffee—which had been unfamiliar in Japan—was used as payment to feudal retainers and warriors. In those days, coffee was not an item of indulgence—taken for taste and stimulant effect—as it is today, but rather it was taken as a prophylactic medicine drink that would keep the feudal retainers and warriors from getting sick due to the cold and lack of vitamins when they went to guard the northern district. There are establishments in Hirosaki where you can experience the methods of preparing and enjoying coffee that were used at that time as well. Point: Establishments featuring the "Coffee experience of feudal retainers and warriors"

Hirosaki city sightseeing course example

3-hour Packed with Charm COURSE		3-hour Exploring History COURSE	
JR Hirosaki station :START	JR Hirosaki station :START	JR Hirosaki station :START	JR Hirosaki station :START
1 Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center :20 min. stay	5 Hirosaki Castle :50 min. stay	5 Hirosaki Castle :50 min. stay	5 Hirosaki Castle :50 min. stay
2 Fujita Kinen Teien :35 min. stay	6 Nakacho Traditional Buildings Preservation District :25 min. stay	6 Nakacho Traditional Buildings Preservation District :25 min. stay	6 Nakacho Traditional Buildings Preservation District :25 min. stay
3 Hirosaki Park :50 min. stay	7 Zenringai :20 min. stay	7 Zenringai :20 min. stay	7 Zenringai :20 min. stay
4 Tsugaru-han Neputa-mura :40 min. stay	8 Saisho-in Goju-no-to (pagoda) :30 min. stay	8 Saisho-in Goju-no-to (pagoda) :30 min. stay	8 Saisho-in Goju-no-to (pagoda) :30 min. stay
JR Hirosaki station :GOAL	JR Hirosaki station :GOAL	JR Hirosaki station :GOAL	JR Hirosaki station :GOAL

Tourist sites are concentrated in a small area in Hirosaki. You can easily combine the two courses introduced here to create your own original course!



1 Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center

Your base for sightseeing in Hirosaki and Tsugaru
 Facilities include an exhibition area including neputa and Tsugaru lacquerware, a factory-direct souvenir shop and a restaurant.
 ●Hours of operation: 9:00AM to 6:00 PM ●Open daily ●Admission: Free of charge
 ●2-1, Shimoshiroganecho, Hirosaki-shi

2 Fujita Kinen Teien

A garden in the traditional Japanese style
 This garden was built in 1919 for the country home of Kenichi Fujita, a Hirosaki-born financier. From the high ground in the garden, Mt. Iwakiyama, a landmark of Hirosaki and its environs, can be seen. This is an example of shakkei, a landscaping technique in which the surrounding natural scenery is incorporated as background. The low ground in the garden features a garden path centered on a large pond (a feature known as chisen-kaiyushiki, or "promenade around the pond"), where visitors can stroll around the park admiring the beautiful scenery.
 ●Viewing season: Early April to November 23 ●Viewing hours: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (park entrance until 4:30 PM) ●Open every day during the viewing season ●Entrance fee: Adults ¥300, public and junior high-school students

3 Hirosaki Park

This popular park is the best cherry-blossom viewing site in Japan.
 Every spring this park is ablaze with the colors of 2,600 cherry trees, of some 50 species including someiyoshino (Cerasus x yedo-nensis). The cherry trees at the western end of the park are so beautiful as to defy description. The park offers magnificent scenery throughout the four seasons. In summertime the park is a vibrant green. In the autumn, the maples are dyed a brilliant crimson, while the winter scene features whimsical hanging snow lanterns.
 ●Key events at the park: Sakura-matsuri (cherry festival), April 23 to May 5; Kiku-to-koyo-matsuri (chrysanthemum and autumn foliage festival), late October to early November; Yuki-toro-matsuri (hanging snow lantern festival), mid-February ●Address: Shimoshiroganecho, Hirosaki-shi
 ●Area requiring admission fee: Hirosaki Castle Botanical Garden (April 1 to November 23)

4 Tsugaru-han Neputa-mura

Experience traditional Tsugaru culture
 The dynamic Neputa, traditional craft demonstrations, and Tsugaru-jamisen performances can be seen close up. Visitors can also enjoy traditional Tsugaru cuisine and purchase Aomori regional specialties.
 ●Hours – April to November: 9:00 – 17:00 December to March: Performances until 16:00, viewing until 17:00
 ●Closed December 31 ●Admission: ¥500; junior high/high school students ¥300; elementary students ¥200, young children (3 and up) ¥100 ●Address: 61 Kamenoko-machi, Hirosaki

5 Hirosaki Castle (In Hirosaki Park)

The symbol of Hirosaki, this castle boasts a tower from the Edo period (1603–1868).
 The current structure of Hirosaki Castle dates from 1811. The tower, or tenshu, is an architectural treasure, one of only 12 extant in all of Japan. Currently the tower is open to the public as Hirosaki Castle Historical Museum, where visitors can view the tower's structure and several cultural treasures within the building (including warriors' armor and swords).
 ●Viewing season: April 1 to November 23 ●Hours of operation: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (7:00 AM to 9:00 PM from April 23 to May 5). ●Admission: Adults ¥300, primary and junior high-school students ¥100 ●Address: Shimoshiroganecho, Hirosaki-shi ●The Castle is closed from November 24 to March 31.

6 Nakacho Traditional Buildings Preservation District

An area that preserves the mood and scenery of an Edo-period town
 This district preserves the residences of the warriors who once guarded the gates of Hirosaki. A traditional townscape is preserved, including ancient gates, fences and hedges. The interiors of some residences can be viewed, as well as the Kawasaki Dyeing Plant, where dyeing was performed using natural indigo.
 ●Viewing hours: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (facilities available for viewing only) ●Closed: Differs for each facility (all facilities closed August 13 and from December 29 to January 3) ●Admission: Free of charge ●Address: Wakadocho, Kabutocho and Bakurocho, Hirosaki-shi

7 Zenringai

A district packed with fascinating temples
 This area is highly unusual for the large number of Shinto shrine structures that can be viewed in one area. These Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples date from the time of the construction of Hirosaki Castle, and their required orientation and topography were carefully planned. Thanks to this careful planning, some 33 temples of the Soto school of Zen were once located here. ●Address: Nishishigemori, Hirosaki-shi

8 Saisho-in Goju-no-to (pagoda)

The Tohoku region's most beautiful pagoda
 Built some 350 years ago and standing 31.2m tall, Saishoin is said to be Tohoku's most beautiful pagoda.
 ●Viewing hours: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM ●Open daily ●Admission: Free of charge ●Address: 63 Doyamachi, Hirosaki-shi

Hirosaki Apple Park

An apple-themed park
 Visitors can learn about apples, taste apple cuisine, and pick apples from trees.
 ●Open from January 4 to December 28 ●Hours: 9:00 – 17:00 ●Viewing time: approx. 60–120 minutes
 ●Admission: free ●Address: 125 Aza Terasawa, Oaza Shimizu-Tomita, Hirosaki



Things to Do

Traditional Aizome indigo dyeing

Kawasaki Some-kojo
 Items such as handkerchiefs and bandanas can be used to experience traditional indigo dyeing. The finished items can be taken home and will make wonderful souvenirs of your trip.
 ●Hours: 9:00 – 17:00 (Winter hours: 9:00 – 16:00)
 ●Closed Thursdays
 ●Cost: Handkerchief – ¥900 (same-day reservations OK)
 ●Address: 63 Kamenoko-machi, Hirosaki
 ●Approximate time: 30-40 mins (up to 2 persons)

Hanshi Coffee Workshop

Fujita Kinen Teien, Taisho Roman Kissashitsu
 Visitors can brew and taste for themselves the coffee drunk by feudal warriors as medicine. How does it taste?
 ●Open: March 1 to November 23
 Winter: Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays in November to February
 ●Hours: 9:00 – 16:30
 ●Closed Mondays (or Tuesdays if Monday is a holiday)
 ●Cost: ¥500
 ●Address: 8-1 Kamishirogane-cho, Hirosaki
 ●Approximate time: 30 mins to 60 mins

Apple picking

Hirosaki Apple Park
 Freshly picked apples are juicy and really delicious.
 ●Availability: August 1 to late November
 ●Hours: 9:00 – 16:20
 ●Cost: ¥200/kg (up to 2 kg per person)
 ●Address: 125 Aza Terasawa, Oaza Shimizu-Tomita, Hirosaki
 ●Approximate time: 15 minutes (starts every 20 minutes)

Hirosaki Handcrafts

Hirosaki crafts can be bought at "Sakura House" in the Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center

"Sakura House" in Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center
 ●Hours 9:00-18:00 (regular)
 8:00-21:00 (During cherry blossom festival April 23-April 5)
 9:00-17:00 (During New Year holidays December 29-January 3)
 ●Address: Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center, 2-1 Shimoshirogane-cho, Hirosaki
 ●Phone: 0172-33-7002

Tsugaru-nuri
 Cypress is repeatedly painted with lacquer and polished in a lengthy 48-step procedure to yield this lacquerware, in a craft dating from the Edo period.

Kogin-zashi
 This craft from the Edo period features hemp cloth embroidered with cotton thread as reinforcement and extra warmth for the kimonos of farmers. It is characterized by simple, beautiful geometrical patterns hand-stitched on indigo-dyed hemp.

Akebi vine work
 Akebi vines from the nearby mountains have been used to make traditional woven baskets since Japan's Edo period. The entire process is performed by hand to yield an understated, natural finish.

Bunaco woodwork
 This wood craft features the natural beautiful grain and strength of Japanese buna beech, the most common deciduous tree in Aomori.

Recommended by international students

Hirosaki's regional specialty dishes

NO.1 I've never seen a shell used as a pot!!

Kaiyaki miso
 This traditional dish features dashi soup, miso, green onions, scallops and egg served in large scallop shells. In the past, it was served as a special dish for strengthening weak constitutions.

NO.2 Such a unique name and shape. But it looks delicious!

Hirosaki igamench
 A home-style dish featuring minced squid tentacles mixed with seasonal vegetables and flour, then fried or grilled.

NO.3 Tsugaru dishes are the best for eating in the cold winter!!

Ke-no-shiru
 Traditionally served on the 15th day of the first month of the new year, this traditional preserved dish is made by boiling diced daikon, carrots, freeze-dried tofu, and other ingredients in red miso.

Other attractions include Hirosaki's specialty sweets

Jappa-jiru
 "Jappa" means "offal" or "pluck" in the local Tsugaru dialect. This warming winter dish is made by stewing mainly cod heads and innards in miso.

Tsugaru soba
 This soba noodle is made with a rare production method that makes the noodle knead by kneading "sobagaki," solidified buckwheat powder, and grained soy beans.

Apple pie
 Everywhere around Hirosaki City, Japan's largest apple producer, you can enjoy apples using good-taste apples made in this "city of apple".

Recommended by international students

Hirosaki's regional specialty restaurants

NO.1 Creative regional cuisine Kikufuji

The regional cuisine is delicious and there are many offerings. Has the Tsugaru atmosphere.

●Hours: 11:00-15:00, 17:00-22:00 (last order 21:00)
 ●Closed: no scheduled holidays
 ●Address: 1 Sakamoto-cho, Hirosaki-shi

NO.2 Tsugaru pub Waiwai

Welcoming to family vacationers and business travelers.

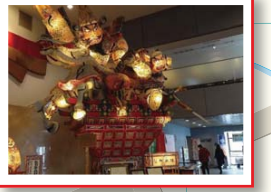
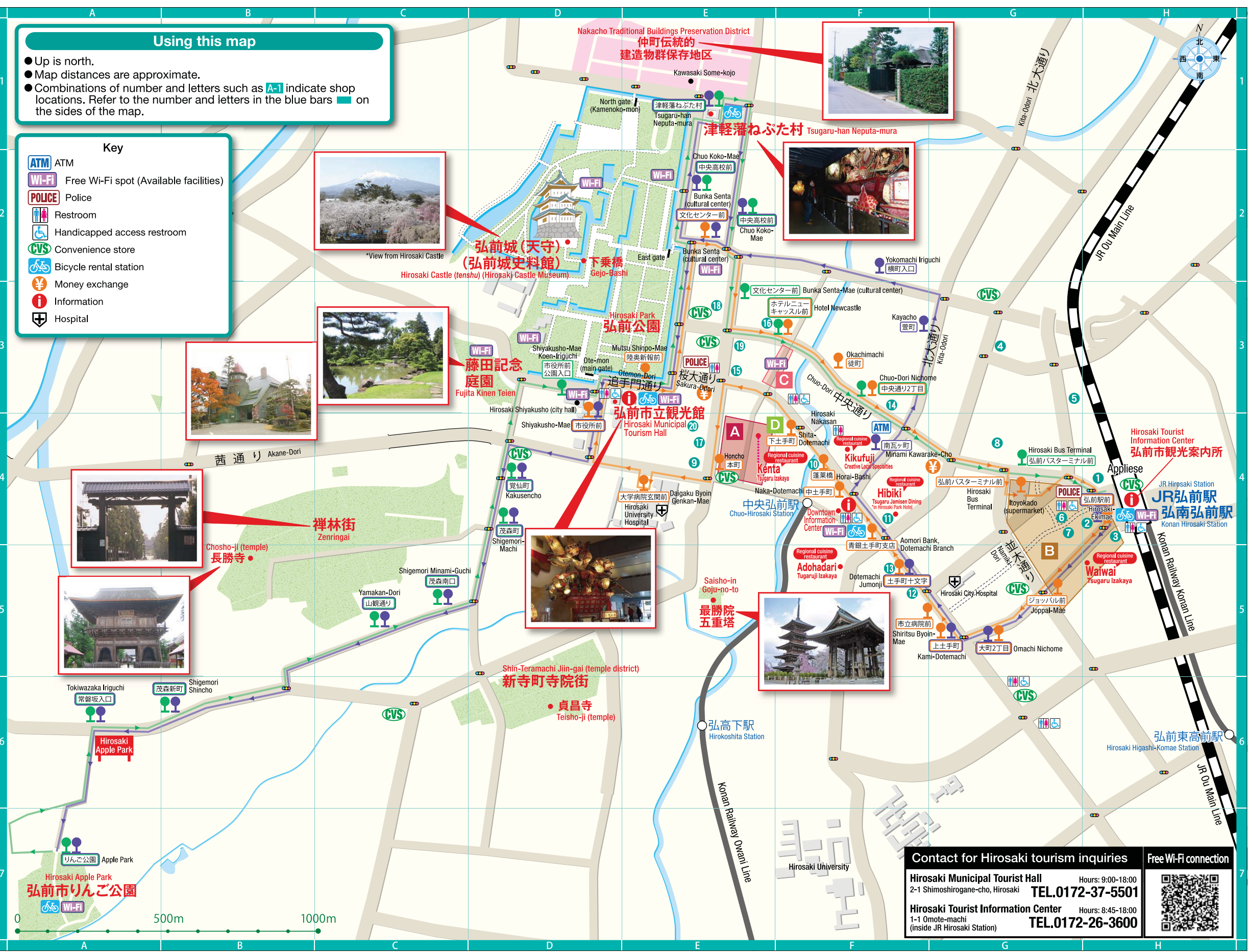
●Hours: Sun-Thu 17:00-24:00 (last order 23:30) Fri-Sat 17:00-1:00 (last order 24:30)
 ●Closed: Irregular
 ●Address: Ekimae Kaneyo Bldg. 1F, 1-3-15 Omachi, Hirosaki-shi

Using this map

- Up is north.
- Map distances are approximate.
- Combinations of number and letters such as **A-1** indicate shop locations. Refer to the number and letters in the blue bars on the sides of the map.

Key

- ATM
- Free Wi-Fi spot (Available facilities)
- Police
- Restroom
- Handicapped access restroom
- Convenience store
- Bicycle rental station
- Money exchange
- Information
- Hospital



¥100 bus station

The ¥100 bus is convenient for sightseeing in Hirosaki.
*Excludes some Tamenobu bus routes.

Look for this mark on the map

- Dotemachi loop bus route
- Tamenobu bus route (outbound)
- Tamenobu bus route (inbound) (operates from April through November)

Dotemachi loop bus
10:00-18:00
(December-March 10:00-17:00)

Tamenobu bus (operates from April through November) 9:15-18:00

*Times subject to change; check timetable.

- Board at bus stops on the map, through the door in front.
- Push the button located next to the seat when your stop is announced.
- Pay the fare using the fare box by the driver's seat before getting off.

*Stops announced in Japanese only.
*Drivers cannot make change. Use the change machine.

How to use tourist taxis

The Hirosaki Tourist Information Center in JR Hirosaki station H-4 will make arrangements for visitors who come to the Center.

The tourist course and route can be adjusted, as you like. Please contact the taxi company for more information.
*Hirosaki is very crowded during festival periods.

Rental Bicycles

Available from mid-May to mid-November

Using rental bicycles:

- Please go to one of the cycle stations among the: "Hirosaki Tourist Information Center (Hirosaki Station)," "Tsuugaru-han Neputa-mura," "Hirosaki Municipal Tourism Hall," "Downtown Information Center," or the "Hirosaki City Apple Orchard."
- Please show identification and fill out a simple acceptance of the votes at the reception.
- Pay the rental fee.
(regular bicycle, single use: ¥500/bicycle; electric bicycle, single use: ¥1,000/bicycle)
- Please obtain a copy of the vote and a bicycle and key reception.

Returning rental bicycles:

Bicycles may be returned to locations other than where they were rented. Please return a copy of the card key to acceptance and acceptance of the rental cycle each station. (As to power-assisted bicycles, you can only rent/return them at tourist centers/information offices.)

Free Wi-Fi spot

For first time usage, the settings in ① and ② are required.

- Set the name of the network and password in the Wi-Fi device.
*Once the settings are completed, they do not need to be set again.
•Network name: **hirosaki-wireless** (SSID or ESSID)
•Security key : **wi-fi&hirosaki**
- User registration is required (the following methods of registration are available).
*Valid for 30 days from the date of registration
•Registration at a facility with free Wi-Fi connection
•Pre-registration (at the URL below)

Sign up or QR code following URL, check the method of usage time, etc.
http://www.city.hirosaki.aomori.jp/kanko/wi-fi/index_e.html

Free Wi-Fi connection

Outdoor Wi-Fi available areas

Contact for Hirosaki tourism inquiries

Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Hall Hours: 9:00-18:00
2-1 Shimoshirogane-cho, Hirosaki TEL.0172-37-5501

Hirosaki Tourist Information Center Hours: 8:45-18:00
1-1 Omote-machi (inside JR Hirosaki Station) TEL.0172-26-3600

A Kajimachi [E-4]

This entertainment district, one of the Tohoku region's most famous, is home to numerous bars, restaurants, and night spots. This used to be a town of blacksmiths.

B Ekimae/Omachi [G-4,5,H-4,5]

Located just outside JR Hirosaki Station, this area features both daytime lunch spots and nighttime bars and izakaya. It's a very inviting area.

C Tsugaru Hirosaki Yatai Mura: Kadare Yokocho [F-3]

A unique spot lined with food stands where you can enjoy a variety of foods using local Tsugaru ingredients. Live music shows etc. are also held at the multi-purpose hall next to this.

D Dotemachi Community Park: "Gochiso" Plaza [F-4]

You can take a break here with a sweet snack or reminisce about the trip over drinks. It's open from morning to late night.

Accommodation

JR Hirosaki Station area	8 Townhotel-Hamatyo TEL.0172-32-5128 G-4	15 Hirosaki Grand Hotel TEL.0172-32-1515 E-3
1 Toyoko Inn Hirosaki Ekimae TEL.0172-31-2045 H-4	9 Hirosaki Park (Hirosaki Castle) area	16 Hotel New castle TEL.0172-36-1211 E-3
2 Hotel Route Inn Hirosaki Ekimae TEL.0172-31-0010 H-4	10 Dormy Inn Hirosaki TEL.0172-37-5489 E-4	17 Kobori Ryokan TEL.0172-32-5111 E-4
3 Best Western Hotel Newcity Hirosaki TEL.0172-37-0700 H-4	11 Hirosaki Park Hotel TEL.0172-37-5550 F-4	18 Ishiba Ryokan TEL.0172-32-9118 E-3
4 Hirosaki Plaza Hotel TEL.0172-35-0345 G-3	12 Hirosaki Toei Hotel TEL.0172-31-0089 F-4	19 Saiei Ryokan TEL.0172-32-1511 E-3
5 Hirosaki Prince Hotel TEL.0172-33-5000 G-3	13 Super Hotel Hirosaki TEL.0172-35-9000 F-5	20 Ryokan Edogawa TEL.0172-32-4092 E-4
6 Ekimae Hotel New Rest TEL.0172-33-5300 G-4	14 Hotel Hyper Hills Hirosaki TEL.0172-39-6653 F-3	
7 Blossom Hotel Hirosaki TEL.0172-32-4151 G-4		