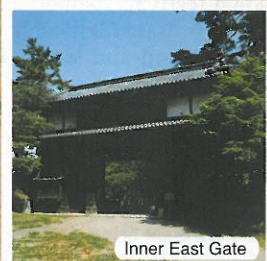


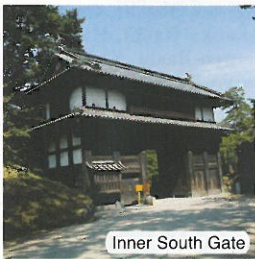


# 史跡 弘前城

## Historical Site Hirosaki Castle



Inner East Gate



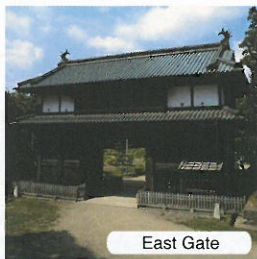
Inner South Gate



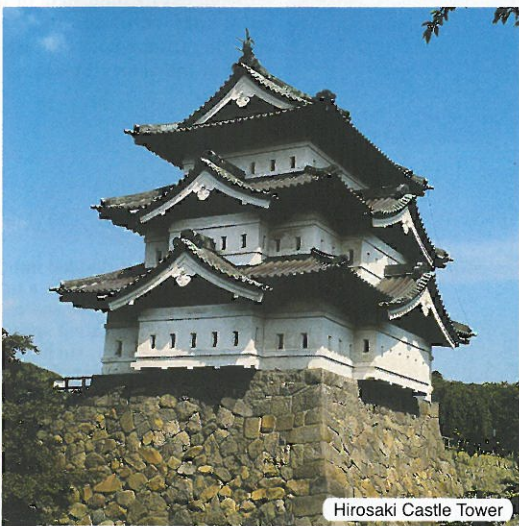
Otemon Gate



North Gate (Kamenokomon Gate)



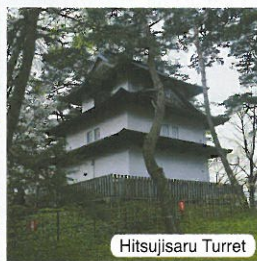
East Gate



Hirosaki Castle Tower



Tatsumi Turret



Hitsujisaru Turret



Ushitora Turret



# Hirosaki Park

(Area designated as Historical Site: around 49.2 ha)



Construction of Hirosaki Castle was originally planned in 1603 by Tsugaru Tamenobu, who had brought the entire Tsugaru region under his control, commenced in 1610 by his successor, Nobuhira, and completed a year later in 1611. From that time, the Lord of Tsugaru and his successors lived in Hirosaki Castle, which remained the center of governance of the region by the Tsugaru feudal clan for around 260 years until the abolition of the feudal clan system.

The castle was opened to the public as Hirosaki Park in 1895 and designated as a Historical Site in 1952.

A large number of Hirosaki citizens began to donate cherry blossom trees to the park in the early 20th century. As a result, today more than 2,600 cherry blossom trees of different varieties, including Somei Yoshino, Japanese Weeping Cherry and Yaezakura, come into bloom throughout the park every spring.

Hirosaki Park plays host to several seasonal festivals, namely the Hirosaki Cherry Blossom Festival in spring, Hirosaki Castle Chrysanthemum and Fall Foliage Festival in autumn and Hirosaki Castle Snow Lantern Festival in winter.

## Gates & Keeps



Five castle gates (the North Gate, Inner South Gate, Inner East Gate, Otemon Gate and East Gate) and three turrets (the Ushitora Turret, Tatsumi Turret and Hitsujisaru Turret) still remain in existence and all are designated to be Important Cultural Properties by the government. Although there are no clear records showing when they were built, they are thought to date back to the early Edo Period (around the 17th century).

## Bridges



There are eight bridges over the water moats in the park, namely Sugi-no-Ohashi, Gejo-Bashi, Takaoka-Bashi, Hane-Bashi, Shunyo-Bashi, Yoshita-Bashi, Ichiyo-Bashi and Kamenoko-Bashi.

These bridges are beautiful in different ways at different times of the year, complementing and being complemented by the water in the moats and the surrounding trees.

## Old & Famous Trees



Hirosaki Park is home to the 120-year-old Oldest Somei Yoshino Cherry Blossom Tree in Japan and the famous Japanese Weeping Cherry Tree that was named Otaki Zakura by the master woodblock printmaker Shiko Munakata.

Besides these, there are also many other old and famous trees in the park, including Nikko Firs in Honmaru and ginkgo trees in Nishi-no-Kuruwa.

## Water moats



The West Moat is overarched, on both sides, by around 300 cherry blossom trees.

On a spring day, one feels a special charm when taking a walk in the long, long tunnel of cherry blossom trees within sight of the calm surface of the moat or enjoying from a boat the reflections of the cherry blossoms in the water.

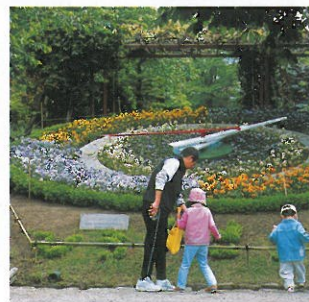
## Gardening Information Center



This offers specialist advice on flowers and other plants. Around 1,000 books on plants are also available.

In addition, it hosts seasonal seminars, exhibitions, gardening classes and other programs.

## Hirosaki Castle Arboretum (Admission charged)



This arboretum is divided into 23 zones, in which there are a total of around 124,000 trees and other plants of 1,500 different species. It has varied zones, such as the Rock Garden, which features alpine plants collected from around the world, and Hana-Goyomi-no-Michi, a pathway where the changes of the seasons can be experienced, allowing visitors to enjoy the sight of beautiful plants throughout the year.







# Map of Charged Admission Area

Approximate time required: 40 minutes

Tower from the Meiji Period



First Cherry Blossom Viewing Festival



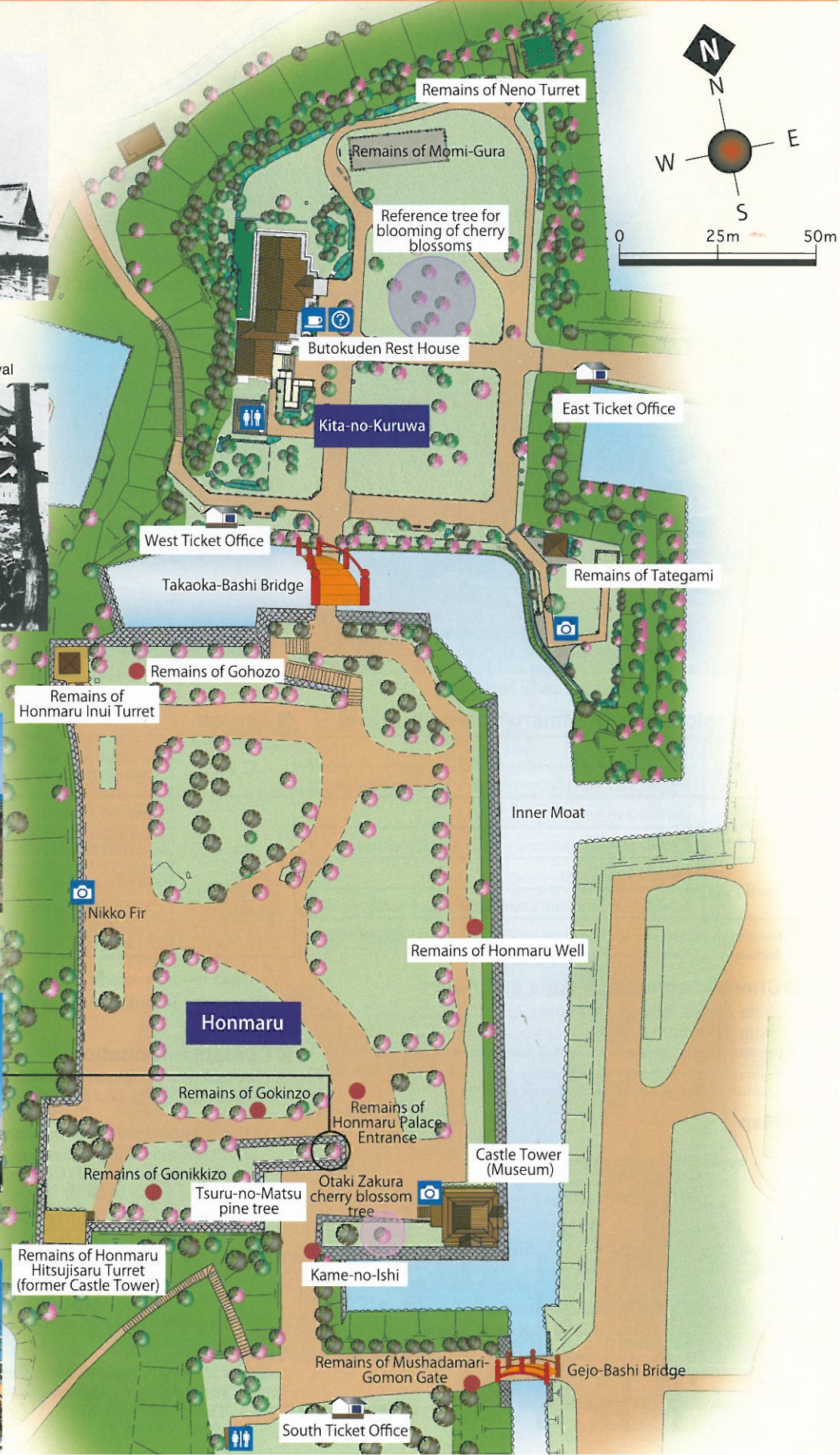
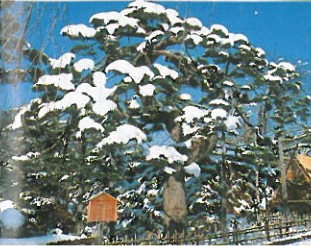
A view of Mount Iwaki from the Castle Tower



Hirosaki Shidare weeping cherry blossoms blooming in Honmaru



Tsuru-no-Matsu pine tree





## Honmaru

Honmaru, which is the main wing of the castle with an area of about 14,200 square meters, is surrounded on all four sides by stonewalls and was the location of a palace and Noh stage in the days of feudal Japan. Today, this area is planted with plentiful Somei Yoshino, Japanese Weeping Cherry and other kinds of cherry blossom trees, and offers magnificent views of Mount Iwaki (1,625 meters high).

## Hirosaki Castle Tower

In 1611, the second lord of the Tsugaru feudal domain, Nobuhira, built a five-storey castle tower, which was struck by lightning and burnt to the ground in 1627. Construction of the present castle tower was started in 1810 by the ninth Lord of Tsugaru, Yasuchika, who had been commended for his successful service in Ezo (Hokkaido) and was allowed to build a new castle tower as part of a reconstruction of the corner turrets. It was completed a year later in 1811.

This is the only castle tower built during the Edo Period in the northeastern part of Japan that remains to this day, and it is designated an Important Cultural Property by the government.

At present, the castle tower is used, as Hirosaki Castle Museum, to exhibit historical items from feudal Japan.



## Kita-no-Kuruwa

Kita-no-Kuruwa, a compound with an area of around 9,300 square meters, stretches from a western to a northerly direction along a cliff that is over six meters in height. The three-storey Neno Turret stood in the northeastern corner, and was about the same size as the three turrets still existing in Ninomaru.

Excavation and research have resulted in identification of the remains of not only the Neno Turret but also the Tategami, Momi-Gura rice granaries and other structures of historical importance, proving that Kita-no-Kuruwa was the second most important area after Honmaru.

### Remains of Momi-Gura

The residence of Kyushoin, the mother of Nobumasa, fourth Lord of Tsugaru, was built in 1672. By the time of the abolition of the feudal clan system, this area had become lined with rice granaries.

The cornerstones of these granaries remain to this day.

### Remains of Neno Turret

Remains still exist of this three-storey turret, which was used to store weapons and other items. From the viewing deck, you can see the cornerstones of the central pillar and other remains that have been left as they were when excavated. The Neno Turret was burnt to the ground in a fire caused by fireworks in 1906.



### Remains of Tategami

Tategami was the place where a wooden figure of Toyotomi Hideyoshi was enshrined. Entrance was granted to only a few select people.

Today, the cornerstones of a tori-gate, the pillars of the main hall and other remains can still be seen.

### Butokuden Rest House

This building was originally built in 1911 as a martial arts training hall and afterwards restored as a rest house, where goods and refreshments are sold. Articles unearthed in Kita-no-Kuruwa are also on display here.





Hirosaki Cherry Blossom Festival April 23 – May 5



Hirosaki Neputa Festival August 1 – 7



Hirosaki Castle Chrysanthemum and Fall Foliage Festival  
Mid October – Early November



Hirosaki Castle Snow Lantern Festival Early February

● **Admission Fees (Honmaru/Kita-no-Kuruwa)**

Individual	Adult: 300 yen
	Child: 100 yen (elementary/junior high school student)
Group (10 people or more)	Adult: 240 yen
	Child: 80 yen (elementary/junior high school student)
Annual Pass	Adult: 1,000 yen
	Child: 300 yen (elementary/junior high school student)

\* The Annual Pass is not valid during the period from April 23 through May 5 (Includes admission to the Hirosaki Castle Museum).

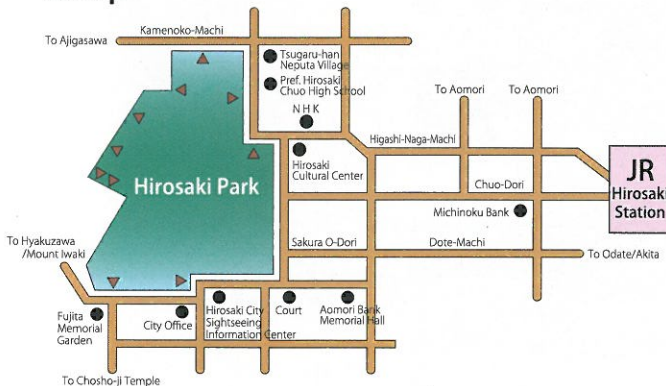
● **Charged admission days and hours**

- From April 1 through November 23
- From 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

\* However, hours for the period from April 23 through May 5 are 7:00 am to 9:00 pm.

(Admission free on the last Sunday of May  
Admission free, except for the above days and hours)

● **Map**



● **Access**

<b>C a r</b>	Around 30-minutes' drive from the Tohoku Expressway Owani-Hirosaki I.C.
<b>B u s</b> (From JR Hirosaki Station)	Around 15 minutes Bound for Fujishiro Service Office via Komagoshi Get off at Shiyakusho Mae Koen Iriguchi bus stop Bound for Fujishiro Service Office via Hama-no-Machi Get off at Bunka Center Mae or Chuo Koko Mae bus stop ※ A 100-yen circuit bus service is also available. (Get off at Bunka Center Mae, Mutsu Shimpo Mae or Shiyakusho Mae bus stop)

※ Subject to traffic conditions.

※ No parking is available inside the park.

● **Contact Information**

Hirosaki City Gardening Information Center  
(Shimo Shirogane-cho 1, Hirosaki City, Aomori Prefecture)

☆ For information about the management of Hirosaki Park  
Parks and Greening Section,  
Hirosaki Division of Commerce, Industry and Tourism  
TEL : 0172-33-8739  
<http://www.city.hirosaki.aomori.jp>

☆ For information about Hirosaki Castle Museum/Arboretum  
Hirosaki City Parks and Greening Association  
TEL : 0172-33-8733  
<http://www.hirosakipark.or.jp>

☆ For information about trees, flowers and other plants  
Hirosaki City Gardening Information Center  
TEL : 0172-33-8737