

## Getting to Hirosaki City

### Airplane

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

### Shinkansen (JR)

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

### Railway (JR)

Shin-Aomori	Limited Express Tsugaru Minimum 35min	Hirosaki
Akita	Limited Express Tsugaru Minimum 2hr	Hirosaki

### Express Bus

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



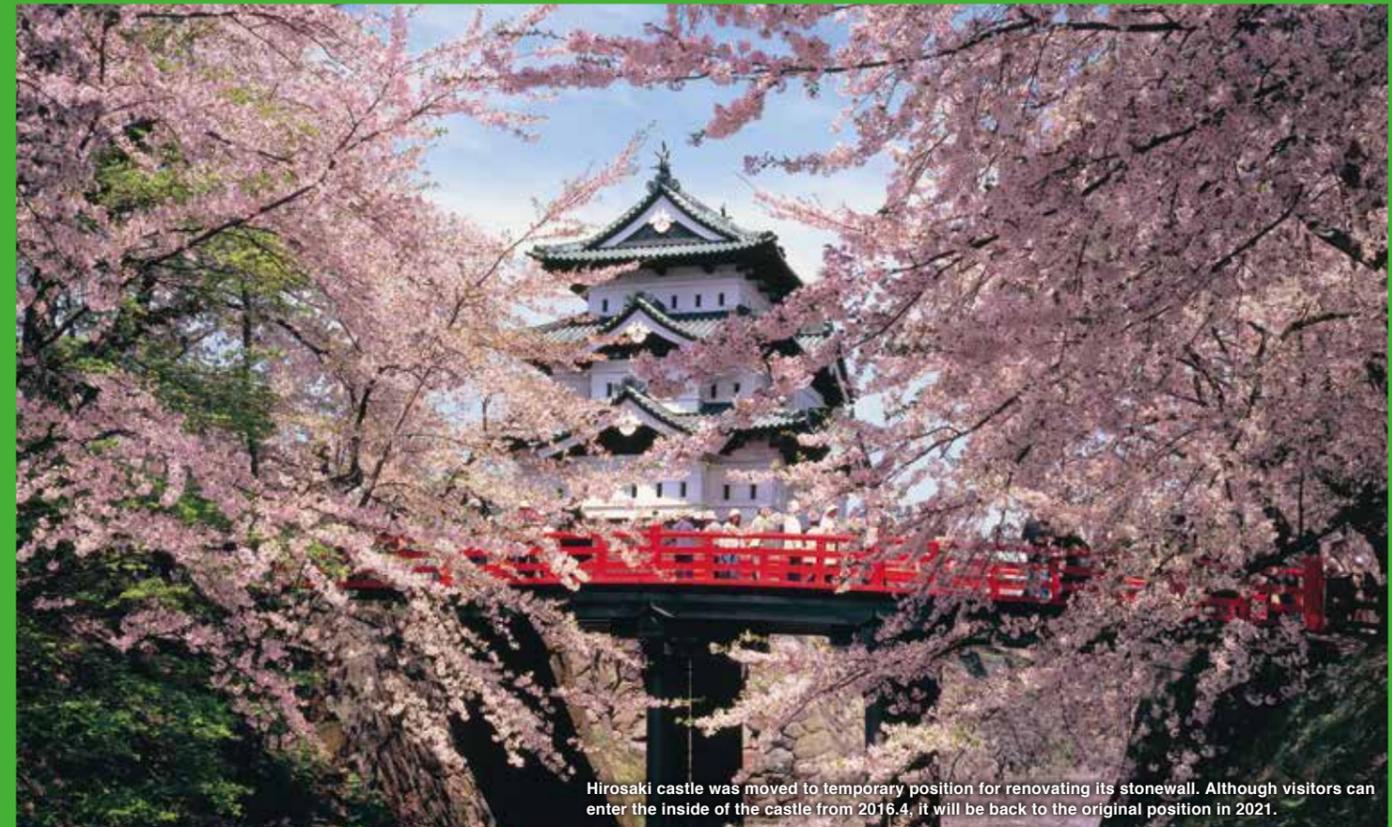
### Cycle Net Hirosaki (Rental Bicycle)

Bicycles are rented out for a fee at five rental stations. Both regular and electric bicycles are available.  
From Middle of May to Middle of November 9:00 AM~5:00 PM  
If the weather is bad, rental services will be suspended.



### Dotemachi Loop 100-yen Bus

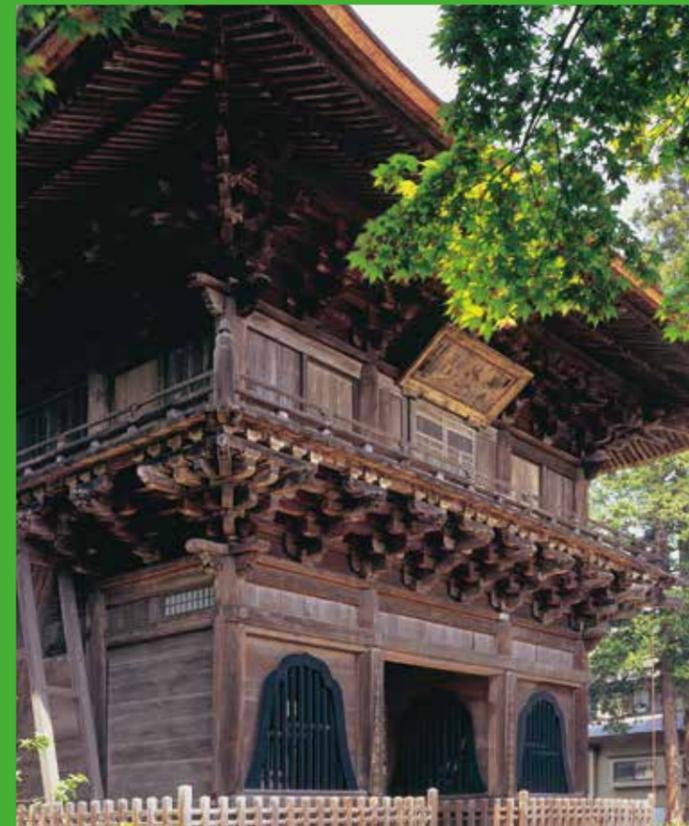
This bus is convenient for sightseeing in Hirosaki. It runs every 10 mins.  
April to Nov. 10:00 AM~6:00 PM  
Dec. to Mar. 10:00 AM~5:00 PM



Hirosaki castle was moved to temporary position for renovating its stonewall. Although visitors can enter the inside of the castle from 2016.4, it will be back to the original position in 2021.

A gateway of World Natural Heritage "Shirakami-sanchi", Hirosaki-City is located 60km from Lake Towada and the Oirase Gorge. Like Kyoto, Nara, Kanazawa, there was a division of army, and it did not suffer war damage. Now, both in name and reality, 2,600 the most beautiful cherry blossom trees in Japan, a castle that is the oldest citadel remains of Japan, triple moats, three turrets and five gates are considered as a symbol of the city. It is only castle town in eastern Japan which retains an air of old history & culture from the Edo Period with Zenrin-gai with 33 temples, Japan's northern most Five-Storeyed Pagoda, Samurai houses and district.

# Japan Tohoku Aomori HIROSAKI



## Recommended Tourist Spots



### Hirosaki Castle Park

The construction of Hirosaki Castle was begun in 1603 by the first Tsugaru lord, Tamenobu, and was completed in 1611 by the second lord, Nobuhira. The 49.2-ha site, which is 10 times larger than the Tokyo Dome, is surrounded by triple moats, earthworks and consists of 6 quarters. The current three-storied structure was rebuilt in 1811, and is open to the public as the Hirosaki Castle Museum. Admission is charged to enter the Honmaru, the kita-no-Kuruwa, and Botanical Garden.

- Dates when admission is charged: 4/1~11/23
- Hours: 9:00 AM~5:00 PM (7:00 AM~9:00 PM during 4/23~5/5)
- Admission: 310-yen; 100-yen (Junior high and elementary school students); group discount available.
- One-year pass: 1,020-yen (adults); 300-yen (junior high and elementary school students) \*Pass can be used during 4/23~5/5
- Park Common Ticket: 510-yen (adults); 160-yen (Junior and elementary school students); Group discount available. \*Free admission on the last Sunday of May



### 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

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 21,000m<sup>2</sup>, 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 11/23
- Hours: 9:00 AM~5:00 PM
- Admission: 310-yen; 100-yen (Junior high school and elementary students); Group discount available.



### Zen Temple Area

The Second feudal lord Tsugaru Nobuhira moved Zen temples from the entire Tsugaru region to this site in 1610 to serve as a protective fortress on the southwest flank of the castle.



### Ishiba Family Residence

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.

- Hours: 9:00 AM~5:00 PM
- Closed: Irregular holidays
- Admission: 100-yen (Junior high school students and older)



### Iwakiyama Shrine

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.

## Local Craft in Hirosaki



### Tsugaru Lacquerware

The Tsugaru region is known for its lacquerware. Kara lacquerware requires 40 applications of lacquer before it is finished. It is considered one of the most elegant lacquerware styles in Japan.



### 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

Embroidery was one of the tasks of women during the long winter months. The women of poor farm families mended and reinforced the fabric of family members' work clothes by stitching in cotton thread in geometric patterns. Lately, this method of embroidery is used for such items as business card holders, wall hangings, and table centers.



### Choshoji Temple

This family temple of the Tsugaru clan was originally built in Ajigasawa, but was moved to the present location upon the construction of Hirosaki Castle, to serve as its southwestern guardian.

- Date: April to November (From December, confirm before visiting)
- Hours: 9:00 AM~4:00 PM
- Admission: 300-yen (adults); 250-yen (Junior high school students and under)



### 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.

- Hours: 9:00 AM~5:00 PM (Jan~Dec)
- (※Dec~Mar. Performance until 4:00 PM)
- Closed: 12/31
- Admission: 550-yen (adults); 350-yen (High & Junior high school students); 200-yen (elementary school); 100-yen (children 3 & older); Group discount available for 25 or more.



### Former Hirosaki City Library

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 café.

- Hours: 9:00 AM~5:00 PM
- Admission: Free



### Hirosaki City Apple Park

Hirosaki is the center of apple production in Japan. Apple Park is located near Mt. Iwaki, and if it is clear you can get a spectacular view of it. This park features 1,000 trees and 60 varieties of apples. You can learn about apple cultivation, marketing and nutrition as well as the history of apple production. Throughout the year there are various events to enjoy, and it has something to offer to every member of the family!



### Saishoin Temple Five Storied Pagoda

This pagoda was built about 350 years ago by Nobuyoshi, the third lord of the Tsugaru clan, to commemorate those who died in battle, friends, and enemies alike, during the unification of Tsugaru. The five-storied pagoda, which stands 31.2 meters high, is considered the most beautiful of its kind in Tohoku.



### UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site Shirakami Sanchi

With one of the largest virgin beech forests in the world, the mountainous Shirakami-Sanchi area covers over 130,000 ha of southern Aomori and northeastern Akita. It became Japan's first world Heritage Site in December 1993. The natural ecosystem is well-preserved, and a great variety of animals and plants can be found here.

## 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, 50 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

The uniqueness of Tsugaru ramen is in the recipe of its soup of dried small sardines or sun dried sardines. Not only soup, but also thin noodles make Tsugaru Ramen delicious. The variety of ramen fish soups is one of the Tsugaru Ramen characteristics. You can try a lot of toppings as well; green onion, roast pork, fermented bamboo shoots and dried wheat gluten. Especially in Tsugaru Region you can try ramen with roast pork in it, which is more popular here than naruto.

### 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.

