

Road trip at Japan Tohoku.

Let's explore Japan Tohoku by a rental car.

Tohoku Rent-a-Car Guidelines



Traffic Rules in Japan that Differ from Your Own Country

Rent-a-Car Guidelines

/International Driving Permit/Fuel

/Points of Note

/Traffic Rules/Driving/Expressways

/Main Road Signs

/In the Event of an Accident

/What the Customer Pays in the Event of an Accident

Recommended Courses

Aomori/Iwate/Akita/Miyagi/Yamagata/Fukushima

Map

*Let's enjoy
road trip
at
Japan
Tohoku.*



English

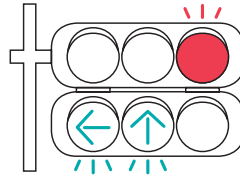


General Roads

1 Always stop at a red light.

In Japan, when approaching a traffic signal that is red, all cars traveling straight ahead, turning left, and turning right must stop and wait until the signal turns green.

*However, if there is an arrow traffic light below or beside the traffic signal, you may proceed in the direction indicated by the arrow when green.



Always stop and wait when turning left.

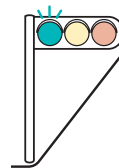
Pedestrians have right of way.

2 Wait when turning right.

In Japan, if there is an oncoming vehicle when turning right at a green traffic light, the oncoming vehicle has right of way.

Turn right after the oncoming vehicle has passed through the intersection or turned left.

*Take care, as there is no rule about giving way to the vehicle turning right.



The vehicle turning right must use the turn signal and wait.

STOP!

Pedestrians have right of way.

3 Always stop at railroad crossings.

In Japan, you must stop before crossing railroad tracks.

Come to a full stop and check that no trains are approaching from the right or left.

Also, make sure the vehicle ahead of you has crossed over the tracks before entering the crossing.

Take care not to stop within the crossing for a long period.



Come to a full stop!

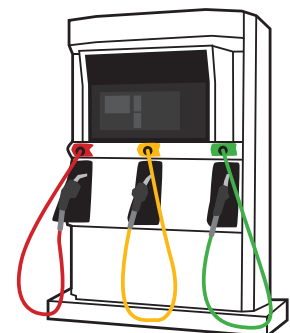
4 Self-service gas stations

In Japan, there are many self-service gas stations.

Filling a vehicle with the wrong type of fuel can cause a breakdown and incur repairs.

If unsure, choose a gas station where staff fills the fuel tank.

*See page 4 for information on types of fuel.



Road Signs

Take care, as there are some road signs that differ from those, or do not exist, in your own country.

1 Signs in Japanese



止まれ = STOP

You must come to a full stop in front of the stop line located on the road just beyond the stop sign.
If there is no stop line, you must stop in front of the stop sign.



徐行 = slow down

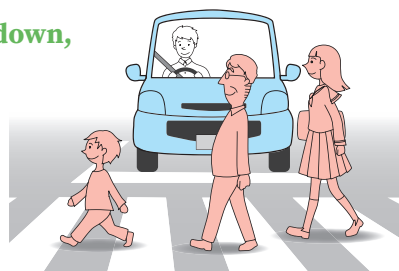
You must slow down beyond this sign.

* "Slow down" means to drive at a speed that allows you to immediately bring the vehicle to a stop.

There are no other road signs indicating you must slow down, but pedestrians have the right of way in Japan.

You should slow down when approaching a crosswalk and stop when a pedestrian is crossing.

You should yield to pedestrians.



2 Examples from Thailand

A road sign that differs in Japan

Different signage indicating no thoroughfare



Japan



Thailand

Road signs that do not exist in Thailand



Beware of cross winds

This sign shows the need to be careful of cross winds.



School zone

This sign shows there is a school, kindergarten, nursery school, etc. ahead.



Quiet

This is not a road sign, but a sign that alerts or instructs travelers, and is placed in locations according to circumstances of roads and traffic.

Information for fully enjoying traveling in a rental car

International Driving Permit

Persons who wish to drive in Japan but are residents of another country and do not have a Japanese driver's license must have a passport and "International Driving Permit" that complies with the Geneva Convention.

If you do not have your passport and International Driving Permit with you, a rental car cannot be leased to you, even if you have a reservation.

*"Convention on International Road Traffic of 1949" will be displayed on International Driving Permits issued by Geneva Convention member countries.

*International licenses issued by the International Automobile Association (IAA) cannot be used in Japan.

*International driving permits of the 1968 Vienna Convention cannot be used in Japan.

*Vehicles that can be driven vary depending on whether the stamp is A, B, C, D, or E. Persons who have a driver's license from Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium, Slovenia, Monaco, or Taiwan must have their license and a Japanese translation of it. The Japanese translation must be issued by the aforementioned country's or region's embassy or consulate in Japan, or by the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF).

*An International Driving Permit will be valid for one year from the date of issue. An expired permit cannot be used.

International Driving Permit that complies with Geneva Convention

(Name of Country) INTERNATIONAL MOTOR TRAFFIC INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT Convention on International Road Traffic of 1949 ----- Issued at ----- Date ----- <div style="text-align: center;">Seal or stamp of of authority</div> Signature or seal of authority or Signature or seal of the Association empowered by the authority
--

Permit displaying
"Convention on International Road Traffic of 1949"

Fuel

There are three types of fuel: regular, high octane, and diesel (light oil).

When renting a vehicle, confirm the type of fuel that is used for that vehicle.

If you fill it with the wrong fuel, you may damage the vehicle.

Repairs will then have to be made by the rental company.

The cost of such repairs will be borne by you, the customer.



Regular

"Regular" is gasoline with an octane number of about 90.



High octane

"High octane" is gasoline with an octane number of 98 to 100.



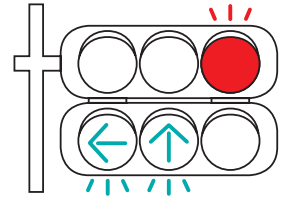
Diesel (light/gas oil)

"Diesel" is fuel that is used exclusively in diesel-powered vehicles.

Notes regarding traffic rules

■ In Japan, vehicles are driven on the left-hand side of the road.

■ A red light means "Stop." When a green arrow appears, cars can proceed in the direction of the green arrow, even if the light is yellow or red.



■ According to the Road Traffic Act, each person in a motor vehicle must wear a seat belt. Whether you are the driver or a passenger, be sure to wear your seat belt.

■ A child seat must be attached and used for children under six years of age.

■ Speed limits are assigned to all roads, including general roads and toll roads. Please observe the speed limit and drive safely. Also, be aware that some roads are monitored by automated speed monitoring systems. Be careful not to speed!



■ The Road Traffic Act prohibits parking in certain areas. When parking, be sure to use a parking lot.

Driving precautions

■ Some models of cars in Japan are equipped with a foot brake or a keyless entry system. For more details, contact our staff.

■ Horn honking is not very customary in Japan. Refrain from frequently using the horn.

■ In principle, park the car in a parking lot. (On-road parking is prohibited on most roads.)

■ When using a car navigation system to search for the route to a destination, the easiest way is to use the MAPCODE* or phone number of the destination.

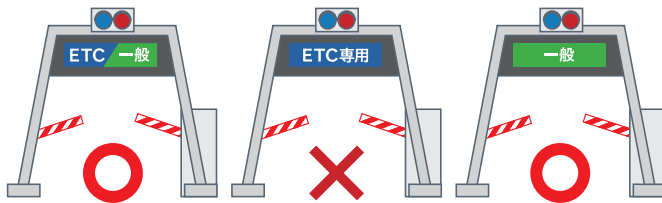
■ Before crossing a railroad crossing, stop the car before the crossing to check for safety.

* MAPCODE is a registered trademark of Denso Corp.



Information for fully enjoying traveling in a rental car

Passing through expressway toll gates



Expressways (toll roads) include a gate marked "ETC 専用" (ETC only).

This indicates that the gate is part of the "Electronic Toll Collection System."

" Vehicles not equipped with dedicated ETC equipment and an ETC card cannot use this gate.

If your vehicle is not equipped with the ETC equipment and card, use the gate marked " 一般 " (General) when using an expressway.

Depending on the location, payment will be made either at the entrance or exit.

Main road signs in Japan

Regulatory signs



No parking



No parking or stopping



Closed to all vehicles



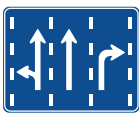
No entry



Speed limit



Arrow direction only



One way



Slow



Stop

Auxiliary signs



End of restricted zone



Time-limited parking

Warning signs



Railroad crossing



Slippery

Guide signs



Traffic lane designations



Bus lane



Crosswalk



Service area



Expressway entrance directions



Expressway exit directions



Emergency telephone



Emergency parking zone

Signs to note when driving in Tohoku



Beware of animals

This sign warns that animals may run onto the road.

* in this instance, deer



Slippery



Beware of falling rock

If an accident occurs



All accidents must be reported to the police, whether they are serious physical injury accidents or just minor accidents (such as a scraped headlight, or stripped paint from a bumper scrape).

If you are involved in an accident, immediately stop your vehicle.

If someone is injured, take action as described in steps 1 to 3.

For all other property damage accidents, take action as described in steps 2 and 3.

1

Aid the injured. (Call 119.)

First, give aid to anyone who is injured. After that, quickly move the rental car to a location where it will not obstruct traffic.



2

Contact the police from the scene. (Call 110.)

Both the person at fault and victim are obligated to report to the police. An accident certificate will be required at a later date, so take the steps necessary for that as well. If you fail to report an accident to the police, a Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) cannot be applied. Be sure that an NOC is issued.



3

Contact the car rental agency (company) from the scene.

Referring to the car rental agreement, contact the agency's customer service representative. Please note that for accurate information exchange, this may take a little time.



Customer responsibility in case of an accident

- In the event of an accident, you must pay the deductible.
- If you enroll in the Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) when using your rental car, you can be compensated for the amount of deductibles for objects and vehicles.
- However, if you violate the rental agreement, or if reasons for exemption of the insurance agreement or the compensation system apply, the insurance / compensation system cannot be used. Be aware that, in that case, you must bear any damages due to an accident.
- A Non Operation Charge (NOC) is assessed as compensation for business interruption in the case of accident, theft, malfunctions and other problems that are not the responsibility of the rental car company.

免責額

Deductible + NOC*

*You will still be responsible even if you have Collision Damage Waiver (CDW).

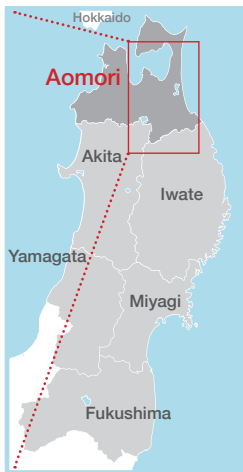
*Charges may vary, depending on whether the vehicle is (or can be) returned to the originally designated location.

Reference for Pages 4–7: "Car Rental Guide" (2015English edition), ALL JAPAN RENT-A-CAR ASSOCIATION

Recommended Courses **Aomori** / Iwate / Akita / Miyagi / Yamagata / Fukushima

Douse yourself with a streak of nature's magnificence as you drive along Lake Towada-ko and coastal regions bordering the Pacific Ocean

This route goes from the area around Lake Towada, one of the best places in Japan to see autumn foliage, to the Pacific Ocean areas.



A-4 Lake Towada

Lake Towada, a well-known scenic spot in northern Japan with a beautiful azure blue surface, is the 3rd deepest lake in Japan at 326.8 m. The best time for autumn leaves is mid to late October.

Day 1

A-1 Shin-Aomori Sta.

↓ about 50min.

A-2 Hakkoda Mountains

↓ about 50min.

A-3 Oirase Stream

↓ about 20min.

A-4 Lake Towada

↓ about 55min.

A-5 Tsuta Onsen

Day 2

A-6 Michi-no-Eki Oirase Roman Park

↓ about 1H 20min.

A-7 Tanesashi Coast

↓ about 30min.

A-8 Hasshoku Center

↓ about 15min.

A-9 Hachinohe Portal Museum "hacchi"

↓ about 1H 55min.

A-1 Shin-Aomori Sta.



A-3 Oirase Stream

A stream that extends for about 14 km between Nenokuchi on the shore of Lake Towada and Yakeyama. The stream runs through richly forested areas and you can enjoy stunningly beautiful scenery such as waterfalls, strangely shaped rocks and more.



A-2 Hakkoda Mountains

Hakkoda Mountains are listed among Japan's 100 famous mountains. You can take the ropeway and enjoy the autumn colors from late September until late October. The place is also famous for frost-covered trees called "snow monsters" in winter.



A-7 Tanesashi Coast

A Sanriku Fukko National Park that offers natural sceneries such as rocky reefs and nakisuna (singing sand). One of Tanesashi Coast's best known sights is the Tanesashi Natural Lawn where the natural grass grows to the water's edge.



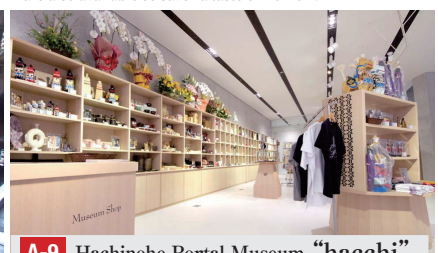
A-8 Hasshoku Center

The center houses about 60 shops selling freshly caught fish, dried seafood, delicacies, and the like. A variety of restaurants that offer sushi, ramen, etc. are also available so savor a taste of Aomori!



A-5 Tsuta Onsen

A hot spring that has been loved by people from about a thousand years ago. The beech wood bathtubs are placed directly above the water source, so the spring water flows straight from the bottom of the bath without coming into contact with the outside air. Here you can enjoy the pure, real spring.



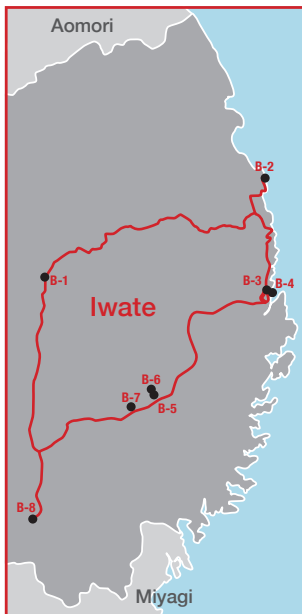
A-9 Hachinohe Portal Museum "hacchi"

Start your tour of Hachinohe here. The culture, tourism and exchange facility serves as a new city attraction while invigorating the local culture. You can learn about Hachinohe culture and find a variety of local souvenirs.

The time required is approximate and may change due to weather or traffic conditions.

Exhilarating drive from Chuson-ji Temple towards the coastal areas of Sanriku-kaigan

Enjoy an exhilarating drive to Chuson-ji Temple, a World Heritage Site famous for autumn foliage, the picturesque Sanriku Coast, and other places.



Photograph: Chuson-ji Temple

B-8 Konjikido (Golden Hall), Chuson-ji Temple

A Buddhist hall within a temple that is listed as a World Heritage Site. Covered with gold leaf both inside and out, the decoration and ornament will captivate you and take your breath away. In autumn, it is a spectacular sight surrounded by autumn leaves.

Day 1

B-1 Morioka Sta.

↓ about 2H 30min.

B-2 Kitayamazaki Coast

↓ about 1H 25min.

B-3 Miyako Fresh Foods Market

↓ about 17min.

B-4 Jodogahama

Day 2

B-5 Kappabuchi Pool

↓ about 3min.

B-6 Denshoen Park (Tono, Iwate)

↓ about 15min.

B-7 Michi-no-Eki Tono Kaze no Oka

↓ about 1H 20min.

B-8 Konjikido (Golden Hall), Chuson-ji Temple

↓ about 1H 15min.

B-1 Morioka Sta.



B-2 Kitayamazaki Coast

A spectacular scenic site of 200-meter-high cliffs extending about 8 km along the coast. You can enjoy picturesque views of strangely shaped rocks, sea caves of various sizes, and other sights.



B-4 Jodogahama

The landscape representative of Sanriku Fukko National Park. There is a forest of white rocks, some with evergreen trees growing on them. The vivid contrast of the white rocks and green pines is breathtaking.



B-6 Denshoen Park (Tono, Iwate)

Denshoen recreates the lifestyle and culture of Tono region's farmers in olden times. You can try various activities such as traditional events as well as arts and crafts. A restaurant where you can savor the local cuisine is also available.



B-3 Miyako Fresh Foods Market

The market sells seafood caught off the Sanriku Coast, known as one of the best fishing spots in Japan. A variety of processed seafood and fresh vegetables from local farms are also available here.



B-5 Kappabuchi Pool

It is said that many kappa (legendary creatures in Japanese folklore) once lived in the small pool behind Jokenji Temple. There is a small shrine dedicated to Kappa by the pool.



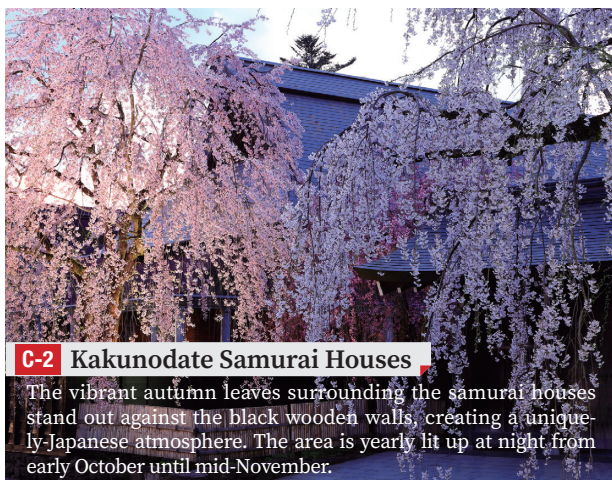
B-7 Michi-no-Eki Tono Kaze no Oka

The roadside station's landmark is a big windmill. As well as road information and sightseeing information, you can savor a variety of foods and local dishes at the restaurant.

The time required is approximate and may change due to weather or traffic conditions.

Go for a drive with picturesque sceneries of the Sea of Japan and Oga Peninsula as a backdrop

A route that tours through the Oga Peninsula, surrounded by sea on three sides. Each spot has unique and stunning views of the Sea of Japan.



C-2 Kakunodate Samurai Houses

The vibrant autumn leaves surrounding the samurai houses stand out against the black wooden walls, creating a uniquely-Japanese atmosphere. The area is yearly lit up at night from early October until mid-November.

Day 1

C-1 Akita Airport

↓ about 45min.

C-2 Kakunodate Samurai Houses

↓ about 15min.

C-3 Dakigaeri Gorge

↓ about 30min.

C-4 Lake Tazawa

↓ about 30min.

C-5 Nyuto Onsenkyo

Day 2

C-6 Kanpuzan (Mt. Kanpu)

↓ about 30min.

C-7 Cape Nyudozaki

↓ about 15min.

C-8 Namahage Museum

↓ about 50min.

C-9 Michi-no-Eki Akita Port Tower Selion

↓ about 40min.

C-1 Akita Airport



C-4 Lake Tazawa

An almost circular lake with a circumference of approximately 20 km, Lake Tazawa is Japan's deepest lake with a depth of 423.4 m. The azure blue color of the surface gives it a mystic atmosphere.



C-5 Nyuto Onsenkyo

The hot spring resort is a popular spot for both well-known and secret hot springs. There are seven hot spring baths dotted near the foot of Mt. Nyuto, each with its own water source. Enjoy going round all seven baths.



C-3 Dakigaeri Gorge

With Mikaeri Falls and a unique blue river surrounded by virgin forest, Dakigaeri Gorge is a popular destination for autumn foliage. Dakigaeri Autumn Leaves Festival is held from early October until mid-November.



C-6 Kanpuzan (Mt. Kanpu)

Mt. Kanpu is a 355-m-high, approximately 20,000-year-old stratovolcano. Roads conditions are good so the area is well suited for driving. There is a revolving observatory at the top.



C-7 Cape Nyudozaki

Located at the northernmost tip of the Oga Peninsula, the cape features grass-covered cliffs jutting out into the sea. From here, you can enjoy panoramic views of the Sea of Japan and the contrast between the blue sky and the green slopes.



C-8 Namahage Museum

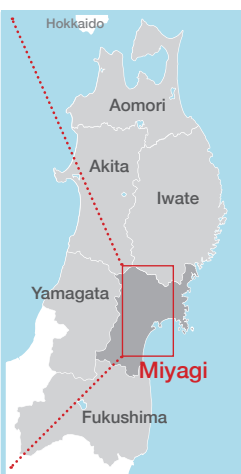
As well as displays of Namahage masks, costumes, and valuable documents from Oga's traditional event, you can also watch a video about the Namahage tradition and the people who pass it down from generation to generation.

The time required is approximate and may change due to weather or traffic conditions.

Recommended Courses Aomori / Iwate / Akita / **Miyagi** / Yamagata / Fukushima

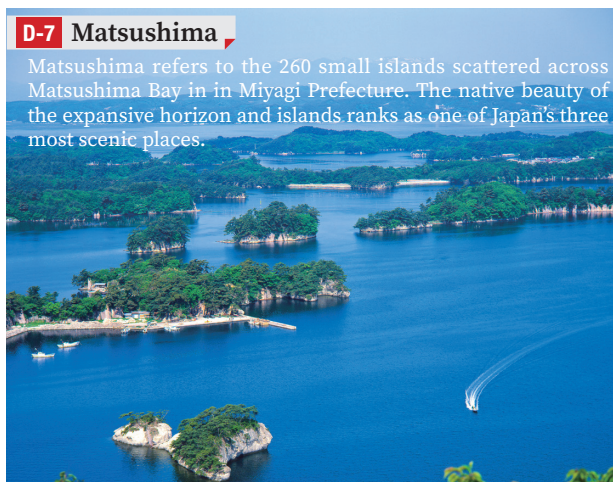
Experience the stunning scenery of Matsushima, the cultural sights of Sendai

Explore the stunning vista that represents Japan, as well as culture and atmosphere of Sendai, one of the biggest cities of Tohoku region.



D-7 Matsushima

Matsushima refers to the 260 small islands scattered across Matsushima Bay in Miyagi Prefecture. The native beauty of the expansive horizon and islands ranks as one of Japan's three most scenic places.



Day 1

D-1 Sendai Airport

↓ about 25min.

D-2 Sendai Umino-Mori Aquarium

↓ about 55min.

D-3 A La Date na Michi-no-Eki

↓ about 20min.

D-4 Naruko Gorge

↓ about 6min.

D-5 Naruko Onsenkyo

Day 2

D-6 Michi-no-Eki Jobon-no-Sato

↓ about 30min.

D-7 Matsushima

↓ about 6min.

D-8 Entsu-in Temple

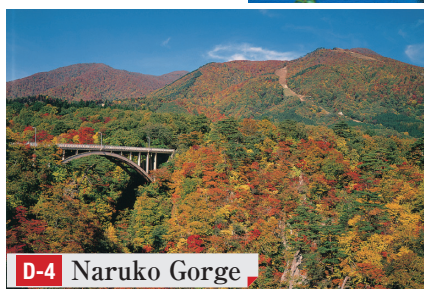
↓ about 45min.

D-9 Sendai-jo Castle

↓ about 40min.

D-1 Sendai Airport

The time required is approximate and may change due to weather or traffic conditions.



D-4 Naruko Gorge

From mid-October to early November, the leaves on the trees in the large 100m-deep ravine turn brilliant reds and yellows, creating a beautiful contrast with the river.



D-5 Naruko Onsenkyo

Located in central Tohoku, this hot spring resort consists of five hot spring areas. Go around the hot springs and try the nine different kinds of water.



D-2 Sendai Umino-Mori Aquarium

Come and enjoy the large tanks showcasing marine life in the Sanriku area. Also see unique creatures from all over the world and enjoy the performance by dolphins and sea lions.



D-6 Michi-no-Eki Jobon-no-Sato

This roadside station is a good place to rest and get information. It has a market that sells local vegetables, rice cakes, and ready-to-eat foods, as well as a restaurant and hot spring facilities.



D-8 Entsu-in Temple

The temple houses the mausoleum of Date Mitsumune, second son of Date Tadamune (the second lord of the Sendai Domain). The scenery is beautiful in any season, but especially in autumn when the trees are lit up. You can also try your hand at making a Buddhist rosary.

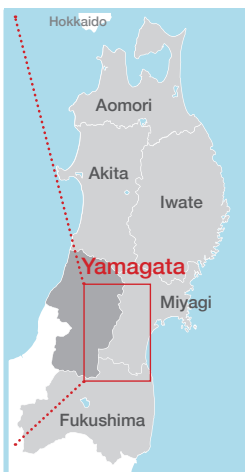
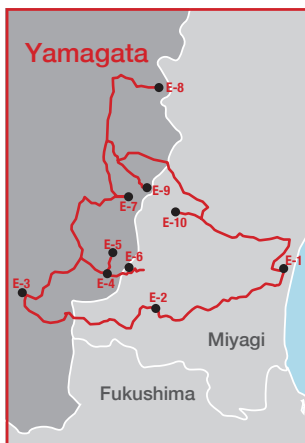


D-9 Sendai-jo Castle

The ruins of the castle built by the powerful feudal lord Date Masamune offer grandstand views over the city. The statue of Masamune on horseback and the northern wall of the keep are lit up from sunset until 11 pm.

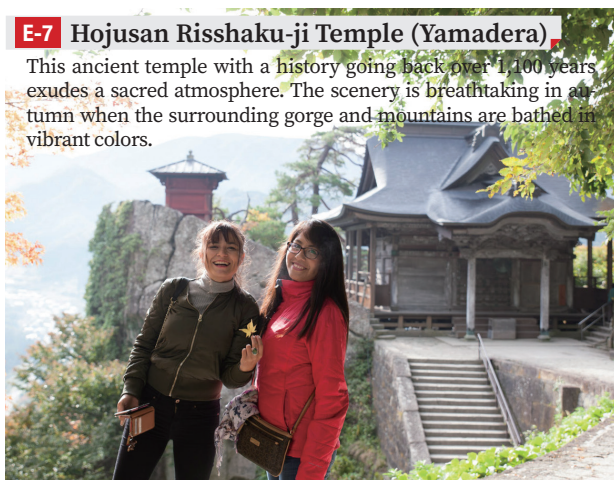
Relish in the autumn splendour of the Zao mountain range

Fully enjoy the enchantments of autumn in the Zao Mountain Range, one of the most picturesque places in Tohoku that straddles Miyagi and Yamagata prefectures.



E-7 Hojusan Risshaku-ji Temple (Yamadera)

This ancient temple with a history going back over 1,400 years exudes a sacred atmosphere. The scenery is breathtaking in autumn when the surrounding gorge and mountains are bathed in vibrant colors.



Day 1

E-1 Sendai Airport

↓ about 1H 10min.

E-2 Miyagi Zao Fox Village

↓ about 1H 10min.

E-3 Kumano Taisha

↓ about 1H 10min.

E-4 Zao Echo Line

↓ about 40min.

E-5 Zao Onsen

Day 2

E-6 Okama

↓ about 1H 15 min.

E-7 Hojusan Risshaku-ji Temple (Yamadera)

↓ about 1H 15 min.

E-8 Ginzan Onsen

Day 3

E-9 Omoshiroyama Momijigawa Gorge

↓ about 1H 50 min.

E-10 Akiu Falls

↓ about 60min.

E-1 Sendai Airport

The time required is approximate and may change due to weather or traffic conditions.



E-3 Kumano Taisha

The shrine has long been a place of worship for local residents. It is said that your wish will be granted if you can find the three rabbit sculptures hidden behind the main sanctuary. Don't miss the approximately 900-year-old ginkgo tree (prefectural natural monument).



E-5 Zao Onsen

Located on the mountainside, Zao Onsen dates back over 1,900 years. The hot spring resort offers accommodation, public baths, footbaths, and bathing facilities for day visitors too.



E-6 Okama

The circular crater lake surrounded by three of Zao's peaks, namely Kattadake, Kumanodake, and Goshikidake. The emerald green water and the rough crater walls create a romantic contrast.



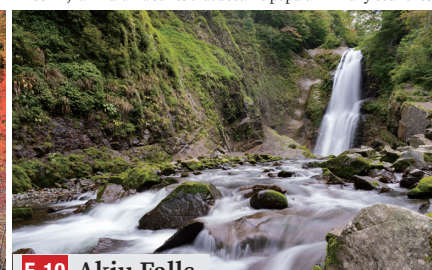
E-8 Ginzan Onsen

The hot spring village with its wooden inns setting a nostalgic ambience. Enjoy strolling around the village, stopping at the footbaths, souvenir shops, and more. The village gained fame as the setting of "Oshin," a TV drama series that became popular in many countries.



E-9 Omoshiroyama Momijigawa Gorge

The gorge is located at the foot of Mt. Omoshiro in Yamagata Prefecture. You can enjoy hiking amid superb scenery created by the brilliant autumn colors of broadleaf trees and the dark green of evergreens.

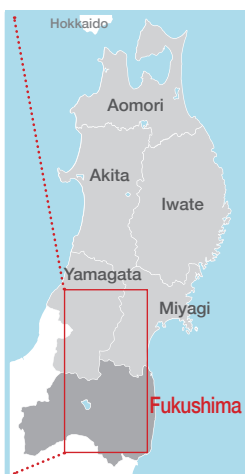
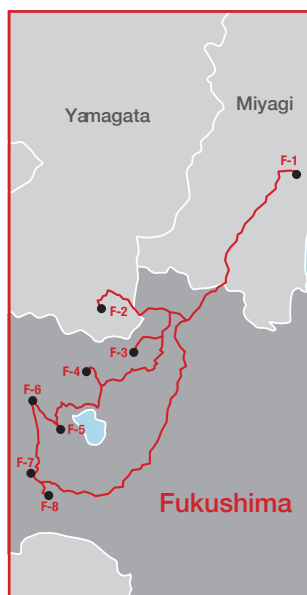


E-10 Akiu Falls

The 55-m-high, 6-m-wide waterfall ranks among the three most beautiful waterfalls in Japan. Enjoy the combination of dynamic waterfall and autumn foliage.

Immerse yourself in the greatness of Southern Tohoku's Nature

Impressive and exciting route that travels the southern part of Tohoku.
This route us an introduction to nature's mystery and power.



F-7 Ouchi-Juku

This old post town was established around 1640. The street is lined with traditional thatched-roof houses, preserving the original village scenery.

Day 1

F-1 Sendai Sta.

↓ about 2H.

F-2 Totoro's Forest

↓ about 1H 35min.

F-3 Bandai-Azuma Skyline

↓ about 55min.

F-4 Goshiki-numa Ponds

↓ about 60min.

F-5 Aizu Higashiyama Onsen

Day 2

F-6 Michi-no-Eki Aizu Yugawa Aizubange

↓ about 55min.

F-7 Ouchi-Juku

↓ about 20min.

F-8 To-no-Hetsuri

↓ about 2H 40min.

F-1 Sendai Sta.

The time required is approximate and may change due to weather or traffic conditions.



F-2 Totoro's Forest

In the Minamihara district of Yonezawa City in Yamagata Prefecture, there is a small forest called Totoro's Forest after the character in the animated film, My Neighbor Totoro.



F-4 Goshiki-numa Ponds

Located on the northern side of Mt. Bandai, Fukushima's symbol, the cluster of lakes and ponds is a picturesque spot where each pond has a different color, such as azure, blue, or green.



F-3 Bandai-Azuma Skyline

The sightseeing road connecting Takayu Onsen and Tsuchiyu Onsen in Fukushima Prefecture. The road is called the "road in the sky" due to its average altitude of 1,350 m. You can enjoy the "snow corridor" in spring and colorful foliage in autumn.



F-5 Aizu Higashiyama Onsen

Said to have been discovered by Buddhist priest Gyoki about 1,300 years ago, the historic hot spring resort was loved by many literally figures, poets, and artists such as Akiko Yosano. Japanese inns line both sides of the river that flows through the village, creating a special resort atmosphere.



F-6 Michi-no-Eki Aizu Yugawa Aizubange

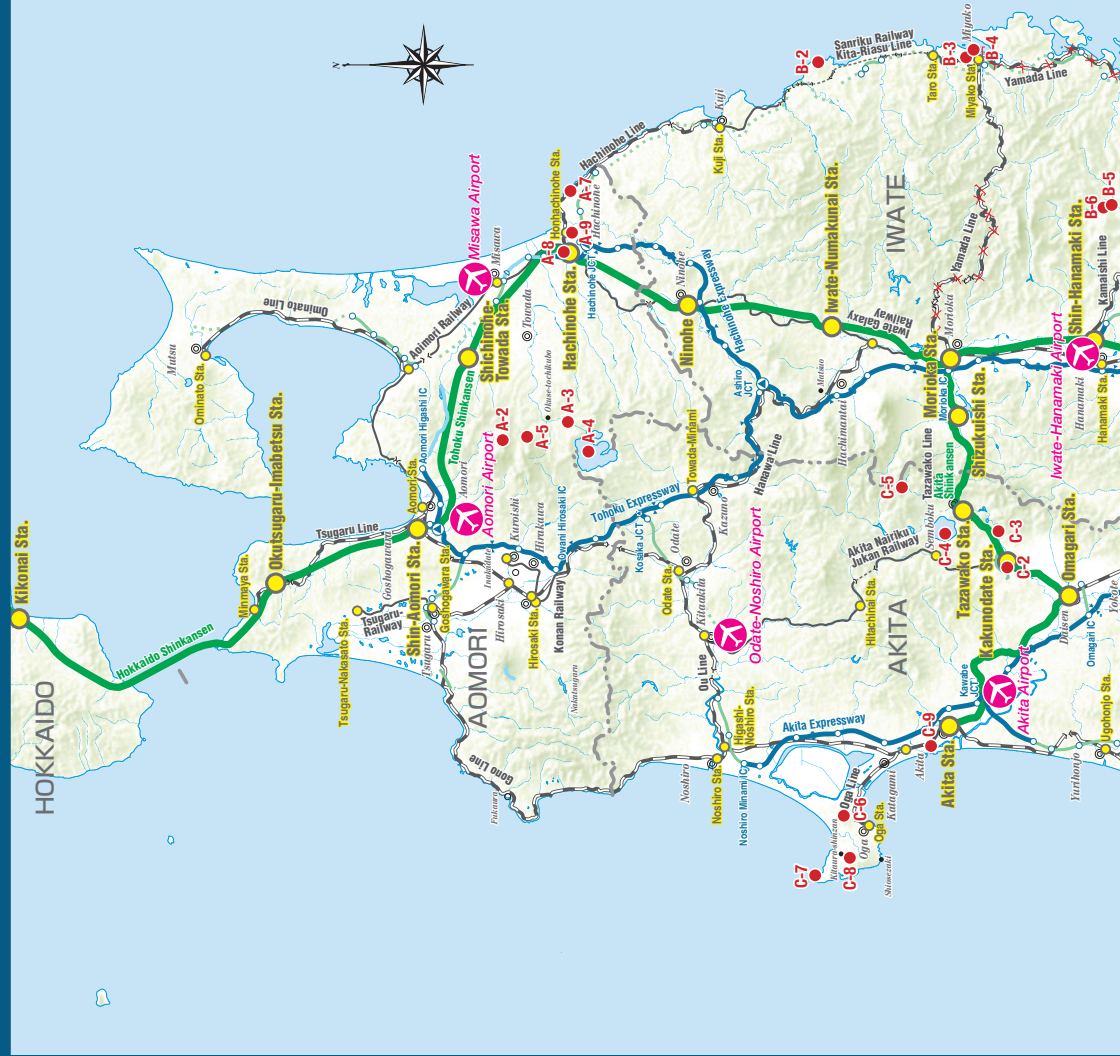
Located in the Aizu Basin, the roadside station sells a variety of products ranging from locally grown fruit and vegetables to souvenirs. There is also a restaurant where you can discover some local dishes.



F-8 To-no-Hetsuri

The gorge was created through repeated erosion and weathering over the course of a million years. The tower-shaped cliffs make a picturesque sight.

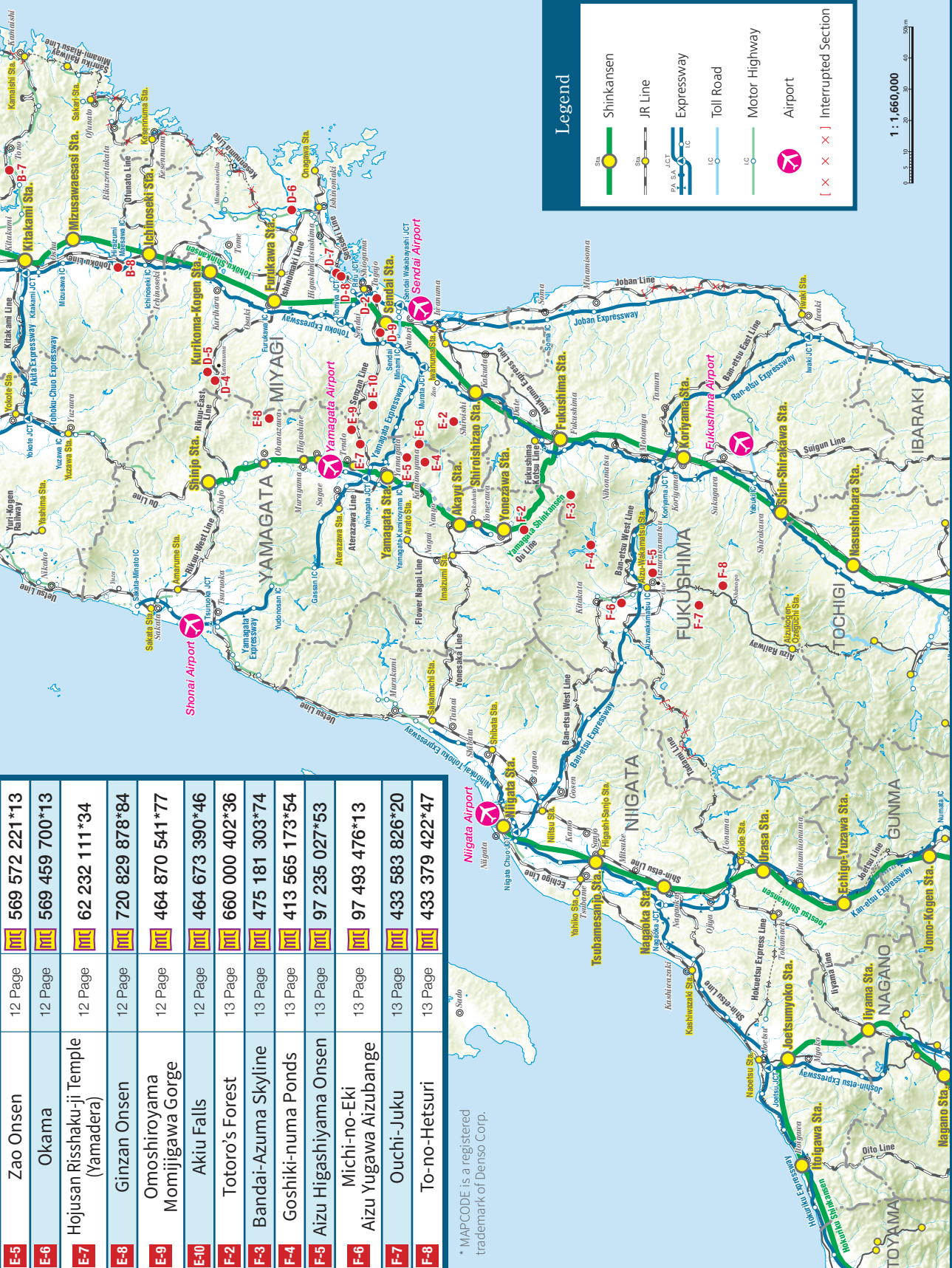
Northern HONSHU, TOHOKU MAP



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