

PG-204

KAKUNODATE and LAKE TAZAWA, AKITA and OGA PEN.

JNTO Website : <http://www.jnto.go.jp>

Tourist Information Center (TIC)

10th Fl., Tokyo Kotsu Kaikan Bldg., 2-10-1,

Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0006

Tel. (03)3201-3331



"YOKOSO" means "welcome"

Lake Tazawa, Kakunodate, Oga Peninsula and Akita City are all included in Akita Prefecture. This district is blessed with natural wonders, which have been left undisturbed to this day. Abundant hot springs are natural blessings of the district, forming relaxing hot spring spas here and there. Most of them are small and unsophisticated, giving you a chance to meet local people and experience real country life. Akita City, the prefectural capital, is

developing fast as a new industrial city.

The surrounding areas are known for their quality rice production and forests of Akita Cedar. A bus network covers all the tourist spots, but service is not very frequent and in some areas it is suspended during the wintertime due to heavy snow and a cold climate. Also bus schedules often change with the season. It is well to remember this if you plan a trip to this district.

Access:

By Air

To	From	Operated by	Time required	One way fare (¥)	Access from / to downtown
Akita	Tokyo (Haneda)	ANA JAL	1 hr. 5 min.	24,200	40 min. from / to Akita Sta. by bus
	Osaka (Kansai/Itami)	JAL	1 hr. 25 min.	31,650	

By Rail (JR)

To	From	Type of train	Time required	Fare (super or limited express charge included) (¥)
Morioka	Tokyo/Ueno	Tohoku Shinkansen "Yamabiko" "Hayate"	2 hrs. 20 min.– 3 hrs. 30 min.	13,640 (from Ueno Sta.) 13,840 (from Tokyo Sta.)
Akita	Tokyo/Ueno	Akita Shinkansen "Komachi"	3 hrs. 50 min.– 4 hrs. 10 min.	16,610 (from Ueno Sta.) 16,810 (from Tokyo Sta.)
	Morioka	Akita Shinkansen "Komachi"	1 hr. 40 min.	4,500
	Niigata	Limited express (Inaho Line) (Niigata-Ueno in 2 hrs. 20 min. by Joetsu Shinkansen)	3 hrs. 40 min.	7,020
	Osaka	Sleeping car "Nihonkai"	11 hrs. 45 min.– 12 hrs. 25 min.	20,270 (berth charge included)

To	From	By	Time required	Fare (¥)
Lake Tazawa	Morioka	Train from Morioka Sta. to Tazawako Sta. (JR Tazawako Line)	33 min. (Akita Shinkansen) or 50 min. (local train)	1,980 or 740
		Bus to Tazawa-kohan bus terminal	15 min.	350
	Morioka	Bus from Morioka Sta. to Hachimantai-chojo (May–Nov.)	2 hrs.	1,320
		Change buses to Tazawako Sta. (Apr.–Nov.)	2 hrs. 20 min.	1,990
	Akita	Train (JR Akita Shinkansen) from Akita Sta. to Tazawako Sta.	1 hr.	3,280
Hachimantai Plateau	Bus from Hachimantai-chojo bus stop to Tazawa-kohan bus terminal (Apr.–Nov.)	2 hrs. 5 min.	1,880	
Kakunodate	Morioka	Train (JR Tazawako Line)	55 min. (Akita Shinkansen) or 1 hr. 55 min. (local train)	2,770 or 1,110
	Lake Tazawa	Bus from Tazawako Sta. to Kakunodate-Eigyosho bus stop	40 min.	490
		Local train (JR Tazawako Line) from Tazawako Sta.	20 min.	320
	Akita	Train (JR Akita Shinkansen "Komachi")	50 min.	2,940
Bus from Akita Sta. to Kakunodate-Eigyosho bus stop		1 hr. 35 min.	1,330	

* As for transportation to and within Oga Peninsula, please see the Oga Peninsula section.

KAKUNODATE AND LAKE TAZAWA

[1] Kakunodate (角館)

A castletown founded by the local Lord Ashina in 1620, is a small, charming town now called "Little Kyoto of Tohoku." The town, just the right size to be explored on foot, preserves many 350-year-old samurai houses. Rental bicycles are available.

- ① **The House of Aoyagi (青柳家)**, 15-min. walk from Kakunodate Sta., is a well-cared-for samurai house. Its gate, built in 1860, is designated as an Important Cultural Property. A rare species of weeping cherry tree is also in the garden. Open: daily 9:00–17:00 (Apr.–Oct.), 9:00–16:00 (Nov.–Mar.). Admission: ¥500. Other samurai houses those of the Ishiguro, Iwahashi, Matsumoto and Odano families are also open to the public.
- ② **Arcade of Cherry Trees (檜木内川桜のトンネル)**, 15-min. walk from the station along the Hinokinai River flowing through the town, is considered one of the best cherry blossom viewing spots in the district in late Apr.

[2] LAKE TAZAWA (田沢湖)

The deepest lake in Japan (423.4m) and whose waters are the second most transparent after Lake Mashu in Hokkaido, is a classic caldera lake with a mystic atmosphere, surrounded by the wide crest of a crater. The bronze statue of the legendary Princess Tatsuko, standing on the western shore, is a symbol of the lake. It is reached in 25 min. by bus from Tazawa-kohan bus terminal.

Sightseeing of the lake:

By boat: excursion boat leaves from Shirahama (3-min. walk from Tazawa-kohan bus terminal). 4 services a day. Operated from late Apr. to early Nov. Fare: ¥1,170. Time: 40 min. to circle the lake.

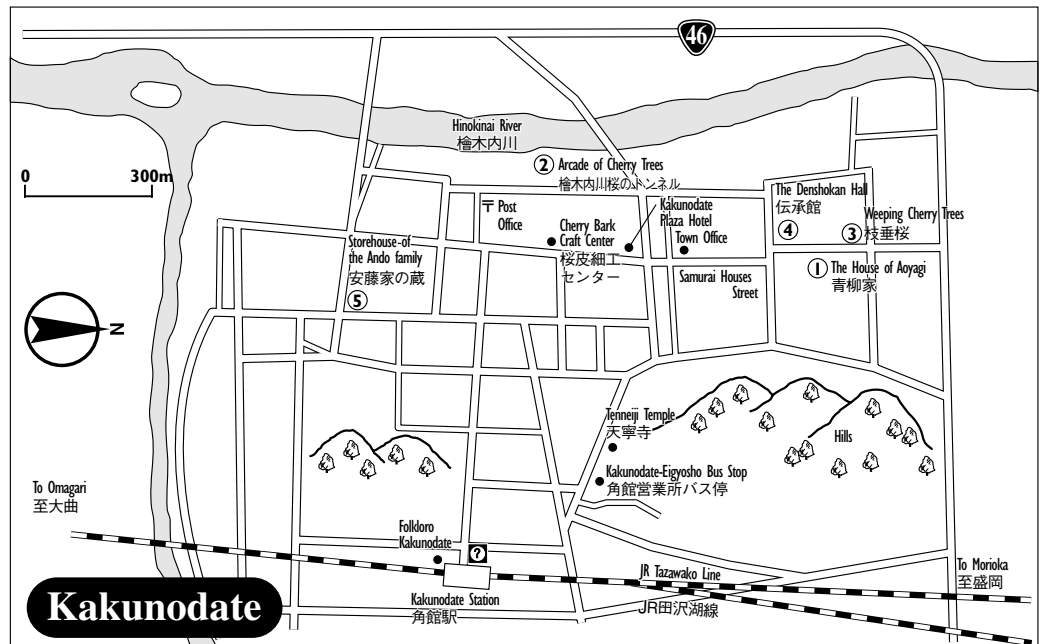
By bus: regular bus goes around the lake from Tazawa-kohan bus terminal. 5 services a day. Fare: ¥1,160.

By bicycle: 200 rental bicycles are available near Tazawa-kohan bus terminal. Fare: ¥400 per hour.

Tazawako Kogen Plateau (田沢湖高原), 35 min. by bus from Tazawako Sta. via Tazawa-kohan bus terminal (12 runs daily. ¥580.) is located to the northeast of Lake Tazawa, on the way to Nyuto Spas. In winter, only a few buses go by way of Tazawa-kohan. It is a picturesque lookout which commands an entire view of the lake. In winter the best powdered snow attracts many skiers.

Nyuto Spas (乳頭温泉郷), 50 min. by bus from Tazawako Sta. via Tazawa Kogen Plateau, (11 runs daily. ¥740.) are a series of small, unspoiled mountain hot-spring spas, most of which have only one inn. The followings are included in the Nyuto Spas;

- ③ **Weeping Cherry Trees (枝垂桜)**, combined with old samurai houses, are a symbol of the town. Of more than 400 weeping cherry trees which are descendants of the trees transplanted from Kyoto about 300 years ago, 152 are designated as Natural Monuments.
- ④ **The Denshokan Hall (伝承館)**, situated in front of samurai houses, serves as a museum and training center for cherry bark handicrafts. Visitors can see how handicrafts are made. Open: daily 9:00–17:00 (Apr.–Nov. enter by 16:30), 9:00–16:30 (Dec.–Mar. enter by 16:00). Admission: ¥300.
- ⑤ **Storehouse of the Ando family (安藤家の蔵)**, 15-min. walk from the station, is a merchant storehouse built of brick in 1891.



Numbers ①–⑤ correspond to those on page 2/6

Tsuruno-yu Spa	Tel. (0187)46-2139.
Taeno-yu Spa	Tel. (0187)46-2740.
Ohgama Spa	Tel. (0187)46-2438.
Kaniba Spa	Tel. (0187)46-2021.
Magoroku Spa	Tel. (0187)46-2224.
Kuro-yu Spa	Tel. (0187)46-2214.

(Closed: early Nov.–late Apr.)

Mt. Akita Komagatake (秋田駒ヶ岳), altitude 1,637m, is a active volcano rising east of Lake Tazawa. Though it is the highest mountain in Akita Prefecture, its ascent is easy since a bus is operated to the eighth station on the trail from Tazawako Sta. (1 hr. 5 min. ¥1,000, Operated from Jun. to Oct.) The summit is reached in 1 hr. on foot from the 8th station. The flower fields near the summit, where a rich variety of alpine plants grow in clusters are designated as a Natural Monument.

AKITA CITY AND OGA PENINSULA

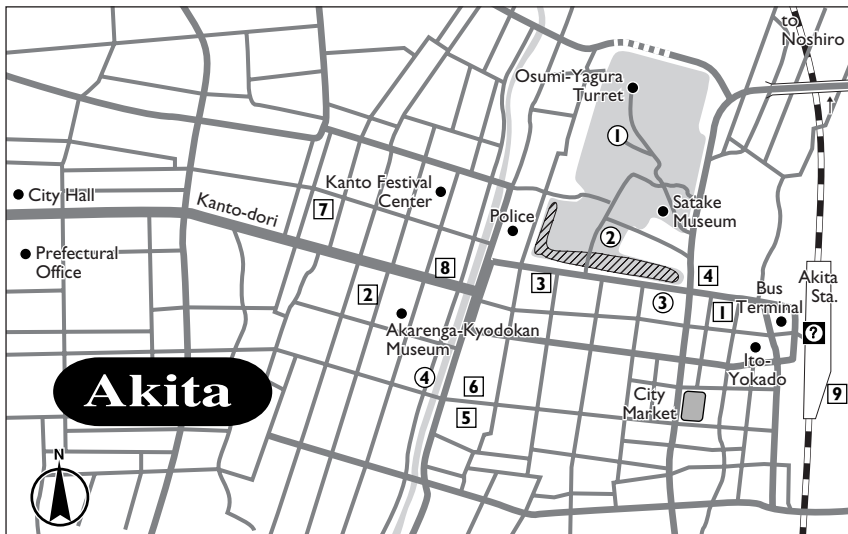
[1] Akita City (秋田市)

The prefectural capital with a population of 331,900, once thrived as a castletown under the reign of the Satake family during the Edo Period. It is now the cultural and industrial center of the northern Tohoku District with fine museums, wooden-ware industry and productive oil fields.

- ① **Senshu Park (千秋公園)**, 5-min. walk from Akita Sta., marks the site of the now-ruined Kubota Castle of the Satake family. Noted for the beauty of cherry blossoms and azaleas in season, the park is a favorite relaxing spot for the local people. A number of cultural facilities such as the municipal library, prefectural art museum and the prefectural public hall are located in the park.
- ② **Masakichi Hirano Museum of Fine Art (平野政吉美術館)** in Senshu Park, identified by its particular architectural style—Japanese-palace-style roof covered with copper which

slopes down and rolls outside at the edge. The museum is noted for its rich collection of the paintings of Tsuguharu Fujita (1886–1968), as well as masterpieces by famous Western artists. The building also includes the prefectural art museum. Open: 10:00–17:30 (May–Sep.), 10:00–17:00 (Oct.–Apr.). Closed: Mon. (Open when Mon. falls on a national holiday and closed the following day). Admission: ¥610.

- ③ **Atorion (アトリオン)**, 5-min. walk from Akita Sta., is a good place to see and buy the specialties and folk crafts of Akita Prefecture. Open: 9:30–18:30.
- ④ **Kawabata Street (川反通り)**, 15-min. walk from Akita Sta., is the most lively and bustling quarter in Akita Prefecture. More than 1,000 pubs, bars and restaurants crowd the street where you can enjoy drinking local brand sake and eating local specialties such as Shottsuru and Kiritampo.



Numbers ① - ④ correspond to those on page 3/6
Numbers ① - ⑨ correspond to those in the "Accommodation" list on page 5/6

[2] Oga Quasi-National Park (男鹿国定公園)

Oga Peninsula, jutting about 20km into the Japan Sea, just west of the Hachirogata Lagoon, is blessed with outstanding natural beauty—forests of Akita Cedar, grassy green hills and a varied coastline. Three pleasant roads run along the peninsula. Since regular bus service is not frequent and operated only during the summer, a sightseeing bus may be the most convenient and easiest way of getting to the tourist sites.

How To Go Around Oga Peninsula

	55–70 min.	55 min.	15 min.
1. Akita	Oga Sta.	Yumoto Chuzaijyo	Oga Aquarium
	JR Oga Line *1	bus *2	bus *3
	14 min.	1 hr. 50 min.	
	.....Oga Spa .....	.....Akita Sta.	
	bus *4	bus *5	

- *1 17 runs daily.....Fare: ¥740
- *2+3 9 runs daily.....Fare: ¥940
- *4 10 runs daily.Fare: ¥330
- *5 1 run daily.....Fare: ¥1,080

Oga Peninsula Sightseeing Tour Buses (Japanese only: Reserration Akita Chuo Kotsu tel. 018-823-4890)

Name of the Tour	Time required	Fare (¥)	Major Stopping Spots
"Tsubaki"	Day 1: 4 hrs. 20 min. Day 2: 4 hrs. 10 min.	5,300*	Day 1: Akita Sta. West Exit - Oga Aquarium - Nyudozaki - Oga Spa. Day 2: Oga Spa - Mayamajinjya Shrine - Namahage Museum - Akita Sta. West Exit.
"Nagisa GAO"	8 hrs. 10 min.	5,300	Akita Sta. West Exit - Oga Aquarium - Nyudozaki - Mayamajinjya Shrine - Namahage Museum - Mt. Kampu Overlook - Akita Sta. West Exit.

Tsubaki tour: Not operate Sep 25 to Oct. 9.

Operate only Day 1 course on July 15, Oct 10, only Day 2 course on Sep. 25 and Oct. 28

*Accommodation and lunch are not included.



Mt. Kampu (寒風山), alt. 355m on the foot of the peninsula, is an elegant-looking mountain covered all over with a grassy lawn, devoid of trees. The observatory on the top commands a splendid four directional view.

Nishi Kaigan or West Coast (西海岸), indicating the coast from Monzen to Toga Bay, is a highlight of the Oga tour. The rugged scenery and dynamic beauty of the coast and its rock formations can be best enjoyed by taking a sightseeing boat operated between Monzen and Oga Aquarium. Driving along the coast is also exciting.

Oga Aquarium GAO (県立男鹿水族館), the biggest aquarium in northern Japan, contains more than 400 species of fish and aquatic animals. Admission: ¥1,000. For more information: <http://www.gao-aqua.jp/en/index.html>

Oga Spa (男鹿温泉), on the north coast of the peninsula, serves as a base for peninsula sightseeing, offering a rich choice of overnight accommodations.

Cape Nyudozaki (入道崎), at the northwestern tip, has a gently sloping plateau covered with green lawn which falls 30m sheer into the sea. The black and white striped lighthouse is a symbol of the cape.

Hachibodai (八望台), 15 min. by bus from Cape Nyudozaki, is a grassy plateau from which you can enjoy a marvelous view of the underlying lakes and the bay. Especially at twilight, the panoramic view will fascinate visitors.

Hachirogata-Lagoon (八郎潟干拓地), once the second largest lake in Japan, has been reclaimed and is now a vast farm land of 172km². Highly mechanized modern agriculture in progress can be observed here. Ogamura Village, newly constructed settlement, can be reached in 1 hr. 30 min. from Akita City or 30 min. from Hachirogata Station by taxi.

Annual Events:

Kanto Festival (竿灯祭), held in Akita City on Aug. 3–6 is one of the three grand festivals of Tohoku. A “kanto” is a long bamboo pole with several horizontal “ribs,” from which swing many paper lanterns. Festival clad young men parade in the city, trying their skill at balancing “kanto” with their hands, on their foreheads, shoulders or hips.

Namahage (なまはげ) is a unique annual event observed in various places on Oga Peninsula on New Year’s Eve. At night, groups of young men disguised as ogres wearing angry devil’s masks called “Namahage” visit each house where there are children of the village, roaming and shouting “Any good-for-nothing fellows around here?” Namahages are welcome to the house by the owner and treated to rice cakes and sake on leaving.

Suggested Trip Itinerary

Oga, Kakunodate and Tazawako Route

1st Day:

	4 hrs. 10 min.	1 hr.	50 min.	
Ueno (Tokyo)	.....Akita	.....Oga	.....Oga Onsen	
	Akita Shinkansen	train	bus	
	“Komachi”	(JR Oga line)		

2nd Day:

	15 min.	1 hrs. 10 min.	1 hr.	
Oga Onsen	.....Oga Aquarium	.....Oga	.....Akita	
	bus	*bus	train	
			(JR Oga Line)	

*Change bus at Yumoto Chuzaijyo

3rd Day:

	50 min.	25 min.	15 min.	
Akita	.....Kakunodate	.....Tazawako	.....Lake Tazawa	
	Akita Shinkansen	train	bus	
	“Komachi”	(JR Tazawako Line)		

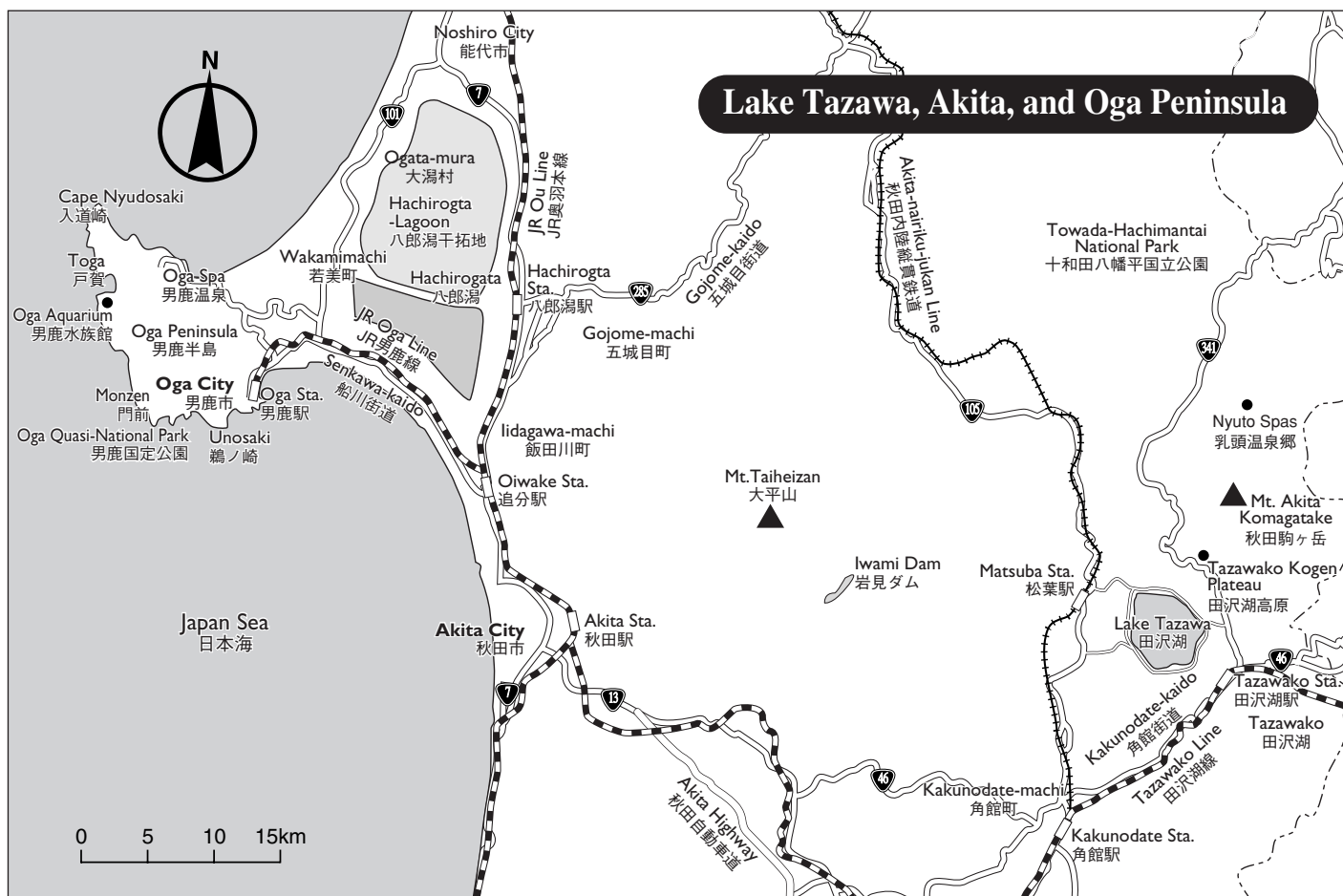
	15 min.	3 hrs. 15 min.	
.....Tazawako	.....Tokyo (Ueno)		
bus	Akita Shinkansen		
	“Komachi”		

Accommodations:

Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)	Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)
Kakunodate:			Akita City:		
Kakunodate Plaza Hotel (BH)	(0187)54-2727	¥	① Akita View Hotel (H)	(018)832-1111	¥¥¥
Folkloro Kakunodate (H)	(0187)53-2070	¥¥	② Hotel Pearl City Akita (BH)	(018)865-2111	¥
Lake Tazawa:			③ Akita Castle Hotel (H)	(018)834-1141	¥¥
Tazawako Youth Hostel (Y)	(0187)43-1281	¥	④ Hotel Hawaii Ekimaeten (BH)	(018)833-1111	¥
Tazawako Sunrise Hotel (R)	(0187)43-0052	¥¥	⑤ Hotel Hawaii Shin-honten (BH)	(018)833-1110	¥
Tazawako Prince Hotel (H)	(0120)5489-45 Toll free	¥¥¥	⑥ Hotel Hawaii Lagoon (BH)	(018)833-1112	¥
Tazawako Kogen Plateau:			⑦ Akita City Hotel (BH)	(018)863-2525	¥
Komagatake Kanko Hotel (R)	(0187)46-2211	¥¥	⑧ Akita Sky Hotel (H)	(018)862-0501	¥¥
Highland Hotel Sanso (R)	(0187)46-2121	¥¥	⑨ Toyoko Inn Akitaeki Higashiguchi (BH)	(018)889-1045	¥
Kyukamura Tazawako Kogen (NV)	(0187)46-2244	¥¥	Oga Spa:		
			Oga Kanko Hotel (R)	(0185)33-2121	¥¥¥
			Seiko Grand Hotel (R)	(0185)33-2131	¥¥¥
			Oga Hotel (R)	(0185)33-3101	¥¥
			Oga Grand Hotel (R)	(0185)33-2151	¥¥
			People's Lodge Oga (PL)	(0185)33-3181	¥

Remarks: Numbers ① - ⑨ correspond to those on the map on page 3/6

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| H = Hotel | Rate for a twin room. | ¥¥¥ more than 15,000 yen |
| BH = Business Hotel | Rate per person. | ¥¥ 8,001 yen - 15,000 yen |
| R = Ryokan | Rate per person. | ¥ 8,000 yen or less |
| Y = Youth Hostel | Rate per person. | |
| M = Minshuku (family-run inn) | Rate per person. | |
| PL = People's Lodge | Rate per person. | |
| NV = National Vacation Village | Rate per person. | |



W **Welcome Inn Reservation Center (WIRC)** is here to help you book economical accommodations at participating inns throughout the country. Our participating establishments, called "Welcome Inns", comprise a range of accommodations from hotels, business hotels, Ryokan, minshuku, pensions and Shukubo (temple lodgings) to youth hostels. Most of them have guest rooms at rates which do not exceed ¥8,000 yen per night (excluding tax and service charges) for a single room.

Reservation over the Internet

Visit our website at <http://www.itcj.jp> and apply through our system.

Application deadline – generally 5 days ahead of your check-in date

Reservation at booking counters in Japan

To take advantage of our service, you must appear in person at any of the Welcome Inn reservation counters located at the Tourist Information Centers (at Narita International Airport and Kansai International Airport) and Kyoto Tourist Information (on the 9th Fl. of JR Kyoto Sta. Bldg.).

Welcome Inn Reservation Center

c/o International Tourism Center of Japan

Kinseisha-Kanda Bldg. 3F, 3-15 Kanda-Nishikicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0054

Tel:03-3233-3303 Fax:03-3233-3305

Welcome Card enables all overseas visitors to specific areas to receive benefit of discounted fees (10 – 20 % discount) at tourist facilities, accommodations, restaurants, souvenir shops and more.

Northern Tohoku Welcome Card

(Valid users)

All non-Japanese visiting or living in Japan for less than 1 year and foreign students living in the Northern Tohoku area.

(Area of use)

The Northern Tohoku region (Aomori, Iwate and Akita Prefecture)

(Type)

Card printed out from website

(Availability)

Card printed out from website:

<http://www.northern-tohoku.gr.jp/welcome/english/index.html>

(Use)

This card may be used in 187 affiliated facilities throughout the region.

The service varies per shop.



TOURIST INFORMATION

(Visit Japan Information Network)

Tazawako Tourist Information Center:

JR Tazawako Station, Senboku City, Akita Pref.

Open: 8:30-18:30 (-17:30 irregularly). Tel. (0187)43-2111

Kakunodate Tourist Information Center:

397-2, Kami-sugazawa, Kakunodate-machi, Senboku City, Akita Pref. Tel. (0187)52-1170

Open: 9:00-18:00 (Apr.- Sep.), 9:00-17:30 (Oct.-Mar.)

Akita City Tourist Information

JR Akita Station, 7-1-2, Nakadori, Akita City,

Akita Pref. Tel. (018)832-7941

Open: 9:00-19:00. Closed: Dec. 31-Jan. 2.

Akita Airport Information Desk

49, Yamagomori, Tsubakigawa, Yuuwa, Akita City, Akita Pref.

Open: 8:30-21:15 Tel. (018)886-3366

Oga Tourist Information

1-1, Shinhama-cho, Funakawaminato, Oga City,

Akita Pref. Tel. (0185)24-4700

Open: 8:30-17:00.

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges, which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of July 2007, and is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, regrettably errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, you should check with organizations concerned for updated and accurate information on your chosen destination. JNTO shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature that may arise as a result, directly or indirectly, from the use of any of the information or material contained in this leaflet.