

Tsuruoka Urban and Tsuruoka Park Vicinity



Blue Text:

1. Chido Museum 2. Tsuruoka Park 3. Shonai domain School Chido-kan
4. Kazama's former residence 5. The Garden of Suge 6. Cathedral
7. Dewashonai International Forum: Amazon Folk Museum 8. Nangakuji Temple

Orange Text:

9. Shakitto 10. Tourist Souvenir Shops – Furusato Honpo 11. Togashi Candle Store
12. Ueno School of Goten-ball 13. Yu-kobo 14. Degansu souvenir shop 15. Muraki Folkcraft

Black Text:

16. JR Tsuruoka Station 17. Bicycle Rental 18. Han-nyaji Temple 19. Ryukakuji Temple
20. The remains of Nagayama residence 21. Basho's embarkation spot
22. Original tree of Shonai persimmon 23. Birth place of Chogyu Takayama
24. Tsuruoka Tenmangu Shrine 25. Daitokuji Temple 26. So-onji Temple
27. Nanoka-machi Kannon Temple 28. Inookaji Temple 29. Willow Bend/Deer Bend
30. Komagihara Park 31. Hie Shrine 32. The Birth Memorial for Shuhei Fujisawa
33. Tsuruoka Inter Change 34. Yamagata Highway 35. Old National Route Seven
36. Akagawa River

White Text:

37. to Oyama and Yunohama Hot Springs 38. to Yutagawa Hot Springs 39. to Mt Kimbo
40. to Mt Haguro 41. to Kushibiki, Asahi area and Yamagata City 42. Minden
43. Takasaka

Chido Museum (Chido Hakubutsu-kan)



10-18 Kachushin-machi, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-22-1199

[Open hours] 9.00-16.30 (except 28/Dec – 4/Jan)

[Entry Fees/ 円] Adults: 700, Senior high school/University students: 380, Junior high/Primary school students: 280

[Access] From the Tsuruoka station, 10 minutes by bus on the Yunohama route to the Chido Museum stop, then 5 minutes on foot

Chido Museum, which is located on the west side of Tsuruoka Park, is a must-see spot to learn the history and culture of Tsuruoka City. Open to the public, this museum was originally the resting place for the Sakai Family the Lord of Shonai domain. This museum consists of precious historical buildings, including the former Nishitagawa District Office recognised as an Important Cultural Asset, the historical three-story farmhouse, the former Tsuruoka Police Station, which were transferred here and rebuilt. It also exhibits the 5,350 articles from eight varieties of the Important Tangible Folk Cultural Asset, including the rare style of *shoin-zukuri*, the garden, which is planted with a few shrubs and trees, and the folk crafts, which shows the lifestyle of the Shonai district.



Retirement Residence of the Lord



Garden of Lord Sakai



Historical three story house

Tsuruoka Park (Tsuruoka Koen)



Black Text:

1. Inari Shrine 2. Kita Hiroba 3. Rose Garden 4. Iris Garden
 5. Monument to the song "A town that receives snow fall" 6. Shonai Shrine 7. Sorin Hiroba
 8. Gokoku Shrine (Shrine for the war dead) 9. Taiho-kan 10. University Campuses
 11. Yasuragi Hiroba 12. Tsuruoka Park Restaurant

Gray Text:

13. Chido Museum 14. City hall
 15. Shonai Domain School Chido-kan 16. Public swimming pool 17. Stone monument



[Viewing pond and Rose garden]



[Shonai Shrine]



[Taiho-kan]

Tsuruoka Park is the former site of “Tsurugaoka Castle (Tsurugaoka Jo)” where the Sakai Family, the rulers of the Shonai domain, had lived for 250 years. You can find traces of the old castle in the remains of the moats, stone walls and several hundred year-old Japanese cedars. In the park located in the middle of the city, lovely flowers bloom in unison through all seasons. The 800 cherry blossom trees are selected as one of the top one hundred Sakura Trees in Japan, being the best known place for beautiful cherry blossoms in Yamagata Prefecture. The essence of the old castle town lingers strongly in this area where cultural assets and major historical relics are concentrated. This area is also the fictional locale of the Unasaka clan in ‘Fujisawa Literature’.

[Access] From the Tsuruoka Station, 10minutes by bus on the Yunohama route to the City Hall stop, then 2 minutes on foot

[The Shonai Shrine Treasury Museum (Shonai-jinja Homotsu-den)]

The Shonai Shrine situated in the park was built on the site of the former principal compound of Tsurugaoka Castle in 1877 with cooperation from people who lived throughout the Shonai district. The museum exhibits valuable collections such as the soldiers’ historical tools associated with the Lord, and artistic handicrafts. It also displays seasonal exhibits, including *hina* dolls, the set of dolls for the *hinamatsuri* festival, and dolls for the Boy’s Festival.



4-1 Baba-cho, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-22-8100

[Open hours] 9.00-16.30

[Days not open] When preparing of exhibitions

[Entry Fees/ ¥] Adults: 200, High school/Junior high school students: 100,

Primary Students: 50, (¥50 discount for a group of 15 or more)

[Taiho Museum for famous locals (Taiho-kan)]

Another building situated in the park is Taiho Museum. This white western style building with a red roof was built in commemoration of the accession of the Emperor Taisho and creates a beautiful landscape harmonized with the former Nishitagawa District Office in Chido Museum. Tsuruoka, having a cultured atmosphere, brought many remarkable literary eminences, including the Akutagawa Prize winning writer Saichi Maruya, flourishing critical writer Shoichi Watanabe, the Naoki Prize winning writer Ken’ichi Sato. Taiho Museum houses exhibits on famous local personages, celebrating the accomplishments of historical figures and pioneers: the great literary figure of the Meiji Era, Chogyu Takayama; the sad-fated female writer, Inafune Tazawa; Shuhei Fujisawa; the authority on Goethe study, Morio Sagara.



4-7 Baba-cho, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-24-3266

[Open hours] 9.00-16.30 except Mondays and 29/Dec – 3/Jan

[Entry Fees/ ¥] Free

Shonai domain school, Chido-kan (Shonai Hanko)



11-45 Baba-cho, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-23-4672

[Open hours] 9.00-16.30 except Mondays and 29/Dec – 3/Jan

[Entry Fees/ ¥] Free

[Access] From the Tsuruoka Station, 10 minutes by bus on the Yunohama route to the Municipal Office stop, then 1 minutes on foot

This domain school was founded in 1805 by Sakai Tadaari, the ninth Lord of the Sakai Family, aiming at cultivating fresh discipline and superior talent among the samurai in the Shonai domain. The school's educational system focused on encouraging autonomy and cultivating the strengths of the individual students through their natural talent in accordance with the Japanese Confucian principles established by Ogyu Sorai. This created an educational culture of simplicity and fortitude in the Shonai district. Today Chido-kan, a National Historic Relic is open to the public and attracts many visitors. The main gate (*Omote-gomon*), a shrine to Confucius (*Seibyou*), a lecture hall (*Kodo*) and a room used for the Lord's visits (*Oirinoma*) still remain. It is well known that this domain school architecture is historically and culturally valuable, since this is the only existing domain school in the Tohoku area.



[Main gate]



[Lecture hall]



[East side of the school]

*Automated commentary is available for visitors

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Dewa Shonai International Forum

- The Old house of Kazama Family - Heishin-do



1-17 Baba-cho, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-22-0015

[Open hours] 9.30-16.00

[Days not open] 1/Dec to 9/Apr,

Mondays (Tuesday when Mon is public holiday)

[Entry Fees/ ¥]

Adults: 300, Junior / Primary school students: 150

(Combined ticket for both Heishin-do and ‘Infinite light’ Villa(Muryokoen-Shaka-do) /Senior high school students and above:400, Junior/Primary school students:200)

[Access] From Tsuruoka Station, 5 minutes by bus on the Yunohama route to the Ginza Street stop, then 3 minutes on foot

Kazama family had grown as merchants who enjoyed government patronage from the Shonai domain at the foot of Tsurugaoka Castle. As the wealthiest merchants in Tsuruoka, the Kazama family was later devoted to promoting the development of industry. Heishin-do was built in 1896(Meiji 29) – a year referred to as Heishin in the Chinese calendar – by Kazama Koemon the seventh master of the Kazama family as a residence and the base of their business. The building gives the impression of the prosperity of the merchant family from its *yakui-mon*, the type of gate which normally only samurai (*buke*) were allowed to build; which is why it used to be called *buke-mon* 200 years ago. Heishin-do is characterized by the unique ‘*ishioki-yane*’, the roof laid with 40,000 stones, and consists of a centered main block, four storehouses, the house’s central pillar in a large room with a wooden floor. Designated an Important National Cultural Asset, the historical heritage attracts people and shows them the image of the old wealthy merchant lifestyle. The scene of the reunion of Bunshiro and Ofuku in the movie “*Semishigure* (Chorus of Cicadas)” which was based on the book by Shuhei Fujisawa was filmed in a small Japanese-style room in Heishin-do. Since it was released nation-wide in October 2005, this film location became a popular tourist spot with visitors to see open set and Semishigure museum.



- Kazama Family's - “Infinite light” Villa (Muryoko-en Shaka-do)



6-20 Izumi-machi, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-22-0015

[Open hours] 9.30-16.00

[Days not open] 1/Dec to 9/Apr,

Mondays (Tuesday when Mon is public holiday)

[Entry Fees/ ¥]

Adults: 200, Junior / Primary school students: 100

(Combined ticket for both Heishin-do and ‘Infinite light’ Villa(Muryokoen-Shaka-do)/Senior high school students and above:

¥ 400, Junior/Primary school students: ¥200)

[Access] From the Tsuruoka Station, 5 minutes by bus on the Yunohama route to the Ginza Street stop, then 5 minutes on foot

Kazama archives administration –Heishin-do, ‘Infinite light’ Villa–

Located 50m north of Heishin-do, the outbuilding known as ‘Infinite light’ Villa was built in 1910(Meiji 43) in the style of a tea-ceremony house using quality Japanese cedar. It had been mainly used for the entertaining of visitors. In February 2002, it was designated the National Registered Tangible Cultural Asset, as its superior construction and design are considered as valuable villa architecture in the Yamagata Prefecture. The eighth Lord, Koemon named this villa together with the garden, ‘Muryoko-en’, because the Kazama Family deeply believed in the True Pure Land sect of Buddhism from generation to generation and displayed the picture of ‘Muryoko’ which is also known as Amitabha Tathagata, – which literally means Buddhist image that emits infinite light -since its establishment. The 2,700 square meter garden has many flowers and trees, such as over 200 year-old Yoshino cherry trees, mountain cherry blossoms, weeping cherry blossom trees, azalea, grove of Japanese maple. It is said that the most splendid season is the middle of May when white azalea flourishes beautifully along the risen *tsukiyama*(small hill). You can enjoy the somewhat different charm to Heishin-do.

The Garden of Suge Family (Suge-ke Teien)



2-21 Kachushin-machi, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-25-0925

[Open hours] 10.00-15.00

[Days not open] Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun, 1/Dec to 14/Apr

[Entry Fees/ ¥] Free, bookings essential

* Private residence - groups not permitted

[Access] From Tsuruoka Station, 10 minutes by bus on the Yunohama route to the City Library stop, then 5 minutes on foot

The garden which was handed over by the Sakai Family to Suge Sanehide, who was a leading figure in the former Shonai domain, is distinguished for its good layout following the style established by Kobori Enshu. The garden is planted with a 350 year-old cedar, weeping cherry blossom trees, azalea and has “Suge Mausoleum”, which enshrines the memory of his ancestor Sugawara Michizane, at the corner of the rised *tsukiyama* (small hill).

Tsuruoka Catholic Cathedral (Tenshu-do)



7-19 Baba-cho, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-22-0292

[Open hours] Tuesday to Saturday 7.00-17.00

[Entry Fees/ 料] Free

[Access] From Tsuruoka Station, 10 minutes by bus on the Yunohama route to the Municipal Office stop, then 5 minutes on foot

Tsuruoka Catholic Cathedral is well-known among the local people with its distinguished white building and red roof. Its construction in 1903 on the site formerly occupied by the residence of the Shonai domain chief counsellor was funded by the donation and the assets of the French missionary, Father Dalibert. This 23.7 meter high Three Corridor Basilica Style building was designed by Father Papinot who designed many churches in Japan, including Ryotsu-Church in Sado island, the former Saint Francisco Xavier's cathedral

which was reconstructed in the Museum Meijimura. Tsuruoka Catholic Cathedral is renowned as the masterpiece of Meiji-Romanesque architectural style and recognized as an Important National Cultural Asset.

*Automated commentary is available for visitors

In the Cathedral, there is a “Black Statue of Virgin Mary” which is rare throughout the world. It also has Japan's only stained glass windows which were beautifully created using a special technique.



Black Statue of Virgin Mary



Stained glass window

Tsuruoka Town Campus (TTCK)



The campus, which is integrated with the Tsuruoka Park, includes the Institute for Advanced Biosciences Keio University, the Tsuruoka Campus of Tohoku University of Community Service and Science and Chido Library. This Town Campus forms a new-style education and research facility and is open to the public. The New Hyakken moat in front of the building was created in the image of the old outer moat around Tsurugaoka castle. It has a device to purify water by plant or microbe called biotope. Enjoy a peaceful view from the restaurant on the open deck.



**- Dewashonai International Forum -
Amazon Folk Museum
(Amazon Minzoku-kan)**



8-32 Isehara-machi, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-25-3600

[Open hours] 9.00-17.00

[Days not open] Mondays,

29/Dec to 3/Jan, 15/Feb to 28/Feb

[Entry Fees/ ¥] Adults: 500,

Senior high school / University students: 300,

Junior high/Primary school students: 200

[Access] From Tsuruoka Station, 10 minutes by bus on the Haguro route to Dewashonai International Forum (Dewashonai Kokusai mura) stop

Five minute drive from Tsuruoka Park in the direction of Haguro Town, this cultural facility is in the Dewashonai International Forum, the centre of Tsuruoka's grassroots international exchanges. There is an exhibition of around 10,000 articles of ethnic material from the Amazon collected by Mr Yoshihiko Yamaguchi, a resident of Tsuruoka.

Nangakuji Temple (Nangaku-ji)



3-6 Sunada-machi, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-23-5054

[Open hours] Daily 9.00-18.00

[Entry Fees/ ¥] Adults: 300, Children: 150

[Access] From Tsuruoka Station, 10 minutes by bus on the Atsumi Hot Springs route to Nangaku Temple stop, then 4 minutes on foot

Ten minute drive from Tsuruoka Park in the direction of Oyama, this Shingon Buddhism temple is known as the lying place for Tetsuryukai that is one of the six mummified remains in Shonai region. The main object of worship and the mummified remains were unharmed even after the whole temple was reduced to ashes by a fire in the Showa era. Even now, many people visit here attracted by this mystery.

Mt Kimbo and Yutagawa Vicinity



Black Text

1. Municipal Yutagawa Hot Springs Rehabilitation Hospital 2. Yuzusame Shrine
 3. Yutagawa primary school, The Memorial Stone of Our Master Shuhei Fujisawa
 4. Yutagawa Hot Springs 5. Japanese Apricot Park 6. Old National Route Seven
 7. Inookaji Temple 8. Tsuruoka Technical College 9. Komagihara Park 10. Hie Shrine
 11. Prefectural Tsuruoka Hospital 12. The Birth Place Memorial of Shuhei Fujisawa
 13. Doshun-in Nanko-kan Hall 14. Yamagata Highway 15. Kogane Primary School
 16. Fomer Kogane Village Office 17. Mt Kimbo 18. Kimbo Shrine 19. Mt Kimbo Museum

White Text

20. Fijisawa 21. Komagi 22. Takasaka 23. Minden 24. Shoryuji

Guideposts to Sites in Shuhei Fujisawa Literary Works (Annaiban)



Tsuruoka, the city loved by Shuhei Fujisawa, appears in various scenes in his novels. The guideposts are set in 18 different places that are associated with Fujisawa's literature in Tsuruoka City which has the atmosphere of a castle town. The guideposts give visitors information about the sites in his novels.

His novels have a style of decisiveness, clearness and grace, and very detailed climate description. Even if you are not a big fan of Fujisawa's literature, your imagination will be stimulated, as if you were in the Unasaka domain often described in his works and believed to actually be Tsuruoka. Although he was praised as a leading historical writer, he claims that his novels are not historical but about adventures, a from spiritual adventure of a writer who found a flash of hope in his life.

With imagery rich in Japanese atmosphere, the Unasaka domain which often appears in Fujisawa's novels is set in Tsuruoka. In his book, scenery, climate and even local dishes actually reflect Tsuruoka. Moreover, he praises his hometown with his own aesthetic and a touch of humility. For those who have been away from their home at least once, hometown is the place of their roots and yearning. He describes his strong affection for his hometown in his novels without exaggeration, though they are full of his confidence in the beautiful scenery and climate of his hometown, Tsuruoka.

《The Birth Place Memorial for Shuhei Fujisawa》



Fujisawa was born in the Takasaka area, the farming village at the foot of Mt Kimbo, in Tsuruoka City. The Birth Memorial stone was built on the former site of the house where he was born.

《The Memorial of Our Master Shuhei Fujisawa》



He started his teaching job in Yutagawa junior high school after he graduated from Yamagata teachers' training school. It is said that he went to the school by bicycle dressed in a tight-collared school uniform, as he did not own a suit. Although it seemed that his life went very smoothly, in his second year teaching, he had to take leave after being diagnosed with tuberculosis. This was the dawn of writer, Shuhei Fujisawa. In those days, Yutagawa junior high school was in the same building as Yutagawa primary school, then the junior high school was moved to another place and only the primary school still remains. His students and others established the Memorial Stone at Yutagawa primary school.

[Access] From Tsuruoka Station, 20 minutes by bus on the Yutagawa Hot Springs route

- Yutagawa Hot Springs - The Japanese Apricot Park (Bairin Koen)



Twenty minute drive from Tsuruoka Park, the Yutagawa Hot Spring area boasts a splendid display of 'Japanese apricot' and 'bamboo' in spring. There are around 300 red and white Japanese apricots that bloom profusely in the recess of Mt Kimbo, as if they are looking down on the spa town of Yutagawa. Between late March and early May, the Japanese apricot festival is held and an open air tea-ceremony is performed on the weekend when blooming is at its peak. This park, which is surrounded by bamboo groves and is famous for its beauty, will

delight visitors with not only Japanese apricots, but also with peony, azalea, iris and narcissus. The great natural environment with a high quality of mineral water at Yutagawa Hot Springs won official title of "National recuperation spa town" in 2001 from the Ministry of Environment, in fact as well as in name.

[Access] From Tsuruoka Station, 20 minutes by bus on the Yutagawa Hot Springs route



1. Peony Garden 2. Pond 3. Sacred guardian of children, *Jizo-son* 4. Small arbor
5. Drinking fountain 6. Kiosk 7. Konpira Shrine 8. Toilet

Yuzusame Shrine (Yuzusame-jinja)



The Yuzusame Shrine is straight ahead down the narrow street from the community spa ‘Shomen-yu’. Along the stone steps to the approach to the shrine, there is an avenue of massive large-leaved ginkgo tree, a Prefectural protected plant species, showing us their best features. There are some monuments inscribed with poems in the shrine, as Yutagawa hot springs had many visitors who were writers and artists, such as Kunio Yanagida, Santoka Taneda, Mokichi Saito, Yumeji Takehisa and Riichi Yokomitsu.

Established in 650 AD, the highly formal shrine appears in *Nihon sandai jitsuroku*, the history book compiled in 901 AD and in *Engishiki jinmyocho*, the list of shrines edited in 927 AD. Deeply respected by the local aristocracy and town’s people for generations, the shrine was supported by donations from Mogami Yoshiaki and the Sakai Family. The current outer shrine was completed in about 1775 and enshrines an Eleven-Headed Kannon statue. The shrine has also been known as Takikura Gongen, a flat-structured building that was common in Esoteric Buddhism Temples in the time of the mixture of Buddhism and Shinto. The main sanctuary was built in 1882 by Kenkichi Takahashi, the great master carpenter of the Shonai district.

In the spring of 2002, Yoji Yamada directed the movie ‘Twilight Samurai’ based on the work of Shuhei Fujisawa, a writer who also had strong connections with Yutagawa Hot Springs. The comical *kagura*, the general performance of sacred Shinto music and dance, appeared in the scene at the festival attended by Tomoe, portrayed by Rie Miyazawa, and Seibei, portrayed by Hiroyuki Sanada. This *kagura*, called ‘yutagawa *kagura*’, has been performed for generations in Yutagawa since the Edo Era. It is performed on specified midsummer days or as part of a special Japanese style banquet at an inn.



A monument to commemorate filming was established in the entrance of an approach to the shrine so that both writer and director can be appreciated by future generations. The stainless steel stand 150 centimeters by 90 centimeters has a copper plaque in it inscribed with: ‘To Shuheï Fujisawa for his kind heart and generosity’ signed by Mayor Yoichi Tomizuka with a group photo of 50 local people who appeared in the film as extras.

[Access] From Tsuruoka Station, 20 minutes by bus on the Yutagawa Hot Springs route



The Mt Kimbo Museum (Kimbo-zan Hakubutsu-kan)



1 Aza-Kimbo, Shoryu-ji, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-23-7863

[Open hours] Apr-Sep 9.00-17.00,
Oct-Mar 8.30-17.30

[Entry Fees/ ¥] Adults: 200,

Senior high school /University students: 100,

Junior high/Primary school students: 50

[Access] From Tsuruoka Station, 20 minutes by bus
on the Kimbo and Tsukue route to the Kimbo Climb
Point stop, then 30 minutes on foot

Mt Kimbo Shrine

The Kimbo Shrine main sanctuary, an Important National Cultural Asset, and Kimbo Museum are on the middle of Mt Kimbo, looking down over the Tsuruoka cityscape. The museum's exhibits include a copper pot, designated as an Important National Cultural Asset, which has long been a part of the shrine's heritage. Also on display are specimens of birds and plants that inhabit the mountain.

Zempoji Temple and Oyama vicinity



- 1, Shonai Seashore (The Sea of Japan) 2. Yunohama Hot Springs 3. Zempoji Temple
 4. Shonai Airport 5. Kamo Port 6. Kamo primary school 7. Television Tower 8. Sugio Shrine
 9. Myojoji Temple 10. Mt Takadate (274m) 11. Atago Shrine 12. Shimoike pond
 13. Oyama Park 14. . Kamiike pond 15. Fuji Sake Brewery 16. Oyama primary school
 17. Tsuruoka Junior High School 18 Oyama Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 19. Kato Kihachihiro Sake Brewery 20. Haneda Sake Brewery
 21. Dewanoyuki Sake Brewery Education Centre 22. Honcho 23. Yamagata Highway
 24. Tsuruoka Urban Area 25. Uzen Oyama Station 26. Tsuruoka Station 27. Kamozaka Tunnel
 28. Hiuchizaki Hot Springs

Zempoji Temple (Zempo-ji)



100 Shimokawa, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-33-3303

[Access] From the Tsuruoka Station, 30 minutes
by bus on the Yunohama route to the Zempo
Temple stop

Zempoji Temple is well known nation-wide as the temple of the dragon god, the guardian of the sea, and has many visitors all year around. In the precinct of the temple, there is a five storied pagoda and other buildings, and Kaibami pond is believed to be the abode of two dragon gods -- they produce a mysterious atmosphere in the deep green trees.

Dewanoyuki Sake Brewery Education Centre (Dewanoyuki Shuzo Shiryo-kan)



2-2-8 Oyama, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-33-3262

[Open hours] 8.45 – 16.30 / Sun, Holidays from 8.30

[Closed] 1/Jan - 3/Jan

[Entry Fees/ ¥] Adults: 100,

[Access] From the Tsuruoka Station, 20 minutes by bus on the Yunohama route to the Shonai Bank Oyama Branch stop, then 3 minutes on foot

Since the time of the Shogun governed feudal domain, the Oyama area was developed as a Sake brewery town. They exhibit the valuable resources and artistic works of sake brewery. Enjoy the sake tasting at Dewanoyuki Sake Brewery.

- Japanese pickled vegetable maker - **Honcho** (Tsukemono-dokoro Honcho)



1-7-7 Oyama, Tsuruoka City

TEL 0235-33-2023

[Open hours] 8.30 – 16.30 (Bookings are essential)

[Entry fees/¥] Free

[Access] From the Tsuruoka Station, 20 minutes by bus on the Yunohama route to the Shonai Bank Oyama Branch stop, then 10 minutes on foot

Honcho is an old Japanese pickled vegetable house established since 1908. Widely and highly reputed for the authentic taste produced by the traditional recipe for preserving vegetables in *hontaru*, huge wooden containers. Detailed demonstrations of the process of making the pickles are given.

Mt.Takadate -the nature grove for recreation - (Takadate-yama)



The low mountain with an altitude of 274m is appointed as a natural recreation forest by the Forest Agency for its many plants including substantive beech and oaks. The walking trail has been reconditioned and the mountain was selected as one of the top one hundred forests for “forest bathing”, with its reconditioned walking trail and the character as a place of recreation and relaxation. The mountain is a popular spot for hiking and bird watching. The must-see attraction is Kamiike pond at the foot of the mountain in June, when it is covered and coloured by lotus flowers.

[Access] From the Tsuruoka Station, 25 minutes by bus on the Yunohama route, then 10 minutes on foot

- To Yunohama via Kamo
Tsuruoka Station – Oyama – The entrance of TV tower in Mt Takadate – Summit
- To Yunohama via Zempoji Temple
Tsuruoka station – The entrance of Oyama Park – Oyama Park

Nature and Walking trails in Mt Takadate



1. 高館山 Mt Takadate 2. 大山公園 Oyama Park 3. 八森山 Mt Hachimori
4. 五輪塔 Five storied pagoda 5. 原敬記念碑 Monument of Takashi Hara
6. 榎尾神社 Sugio Shrine 7. 正法寺 Shoboji Temple
8. おうら愛鳥館（野鳥観察小屋）Oura Wild Bird Watching Hut
9. 駐車場 Car Park 10. 大山市街 Oyama Urban
11. 旧加茂トンネル（通行止）The old Kamo Tunnel (Road closed)
12. 至善宝寺 to Zempoji Temple 13. 五中 Tsuruoka Junior High School 5
14. 至鶴岡 to Tsuruoka 15. 中ノ池 Nakanoike Pond 16. 十ノ沢池 Tonosawa pond
17. 下池 Shimoike Pond 18. 上池 Kamiike Pond

19. 宮沢コース Miyazawa Trail 20. 金沢コース Kanazawa Trail
21. 大沢コース Osawa Trail
22. 新奥の細道コース The New Narrow Road to the Deep North Trail
23. 岩倉コース Iwakura Trail 24. 瀬ヶ沢コース Segasawa Trail
25. 城山コース Shiroyama Trail 26. 内山コース Uchiyama Trail
27. 上池コース Kamiike Trail 28. 城山コース Shiroyama Trail

29. 赤松・杉・コナラ Japanese red pine, Japanese cedar, Konara oak
30. ヤブツバキ Wild camellia 31. コナラ林 Konara oak grove 32. 赤松 Japanese red pine
33. ブナ原生林 Beech primeval forest 34. ヤブツバキ Wild camellia
35. ブナ林 Beech grove
36. ミズバショウ Asian skunk-cabbage
37. 庄内海浜県立自然公園 Prefectural Shonai Seashore Nature Park

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Dewa Shonai International Forum

Major Plants and Animals *Picking of wild vegetation in Mt Takadate is prohibited by the law.



Giant beech tree



Asian skunk-cabbage



Northeastern salamander



Whistling swan



Northern goshawk

《Trees》

beech, Japanese chestnut, horse chestnut, Japanese zelkova

《Plants》

dogtooth violet, Nippon bells, altai anemone, Asian skunk-cabbage, oriental swamp pink, sacred lotus, water chestnut, water lily, loosestrife,

《Mushrooms》

Nameko mushrooms, honey mushroom, blewit, oyster mushroom

《Fauna》

wild rabbit, raccoon dog, large Japanese field mouse, giant flying squirrel, dormouse

《Fish》

crucian carp, carp, catfish

《Amphibian reptiles》

Japanese grass lizard, Japanese ratsnake, tiger keelback, Northeastern salamander, toad

《Insects》

Gifu butterfly, swallowtail butterfly, black swallow butterfly, small capper, Japanese golden ringed dragonfly, butterfly skimmer, common skimmer

《Birds》

Whistling swan, white-fronted goose, northern goshawk, narcissus flycatcher, blue-and-white flycatcher, great spotted woodpecker, pigmy woodpecker, bean goose

Oyama Park (Oyama Koen)



In the early Showa Era, Kihachiro Kato, a sake brewer, spent his own money to establish this park at the former Oyama Castle site. The Oyama Park is famous for cherry blossoms. There is a wonderful view of the Shonai plain and Mt Gassan from Mt Taihei, where the park is situated.

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Translated by Waki Sato
Edited by Dewa Shonai international Forum