

Enjoy the Sites of the “Visiting 33 Kannon in Aizu” Japan Heritage

# Journey to Aizu 会津ねがいたび

## Experience its Native Buddhist Culture



JAPAN HERITAGE  
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Experience the open-minded faith  
and hospitality of the Aizu people!





# Experience the culture of Take a tour of Aizu



Historic site Enichi-ji Temple ruins Main Hall [Bandai Town]

## Aizu, the center of Buddhist culture

The Buddhist culture spread throughout the Aizu Region in Fukushima Prefecture earlier than any other region in the northeastern part of Japan. This was triggered by the priest Tokuitsu who established Enichi-ji Temple in the early 9th century in present day Bandai Town. Buddhism was linked to the worship of mountains and spread throughout the community because in this community, located at the foot of Mt. Bandai, the nature worship-based deification of mountains was already firmly rooted. To this day the Aizu Region is called the “Buddhist Capital Aizu,” as so many temples and Buddhist statues still remain.



Mt. Bandai and Lake Inawashiro







The cultural assets designated as Japan Heritage listed in this guidebook are indicated with this mark.

## The magnanimous style of faith

It is said the Kannon Bodhisattva can change into 33 different forms and is the savior of all living things. As a result, pilgrimages touring 33 Kannon are now held throughout the country.

In the mid-17th century, the first lord of the Aizu domain established the “Aizu 33 Kannon Pilgrimage.” It was then many residents of the villages, especially women, began taking trips to tour the Kannon sites. In addition, as the roads and lodgings were developed, visitors to the pilgrimage from outside the Aizu domain increased and a pilgrimage style that combined appreciation of the local foods and sights became more widespread.

This magnanimous style of faith and Buddhist culture that ties pilgrimages together with leisure and sightseeing eventually became widely accepted and popularized in the Aizu region.



Ouchi-juku [Shimogo Town]



Takizawa Kannon-do  
[Aizuwakamatsu City]

Since the establishment of the Aizu 33 Kannon Pilgrimage, Buddhist songs in the tanka style called “Goeika” have been sung before the Kannon-do Temples in each area of the Aizu region in this 33 Kannon pilgrimage style.



## Certified Japan Heritage

The Agency for Cultural Affairs aims to revitalize communities by certifying the stories that relate the culture and traditions of a community through its historic attractions and distinctive features as “Japan Heritage.”

“Visiting 33 Kannon in Aizu—Witnessing Old Aizu Culture Through Pilgrimage,” which was certified as Japan Heritage in 2016, is made up of cultural assets scattered throughout the 17 municipalities of the Aizu region and includes a variety of elements that really make you feel the innumerable seasons of Buddhist culture.





# Shimotsuke Kaido Route



The road of feudal lords traveling to Edo  
in the 17th–19th centuries

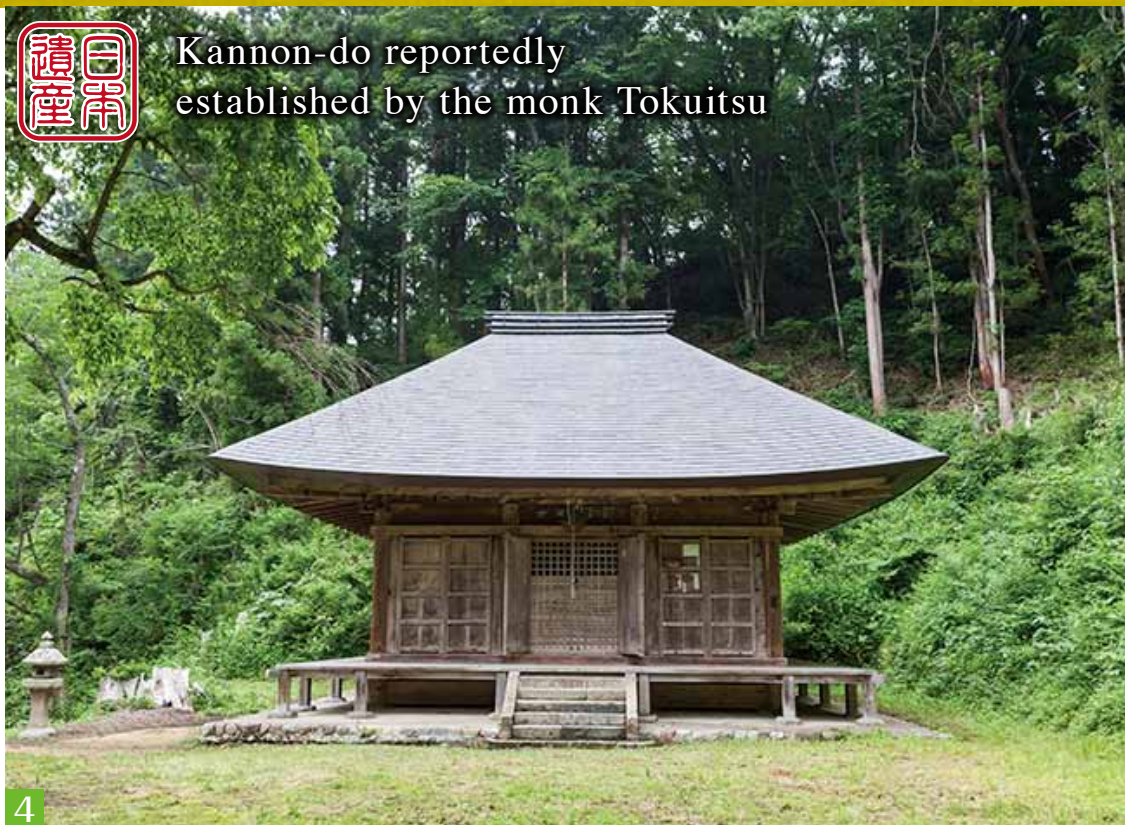
Total  
length  
130 km

The Shimotsuke Kaido, which stretches from Aizuwakamatsu in Fukushima Prefecture to Nikko in Tochigi Prefecture, was mainly used by the feudal lords in the Edo Period (17th–19th centuries) to commute regularly to Edo (present-day Tokyo) under the sankin-kotai (alternate-year residence) policy. For this reason, the route is dotted with post towns for resting and lodging. Ouchi-juku in Shimogo Town is one such post town. Thatched roof buildings still remain here today.

The Aizu-Tajima Gion Festival, with 800 years of history, is held every year in July in the Tajima area of Minamiaizu Town. In this way, tradition still lives on today along the Shimotsuke Kaido.



Kannon-do reportedly  
established by the monk Tokuitsu



4

## Nakanosawa Kannon-do [Shimogo Town]

The 11th site of the Okurairi 33 Kannon Pilgrimage. The Kannon-do, built in the style of the Heian Period, is a nationally designated important cultural asset. A sacred statue of the Kannon is kept within the hall.

## Tomioka Kannon-do (Fukusho-ji Temple) [Aizumisato Town]

The 26th site of the Aizu 33 Kannon Pilgrimage. Built in the Muromachi Period, this Kannon-do is a nationally designated important cultural asset. There is an 11-headed Kannon statue kept within the hall.



2

## Sakudari Kannon-do [Aizumisato Town]

The 21st site of the Aizu 33 Kannon Pilgrimage. This Kannon-do has a rare three-story design. As it stands on a mountainside, you can enjoy a view of the Aizu Basin from the top floor of the Kannon-do.



1

## Nagata Saigoku 33 Kannon [Minamiaizu Town]

Deep within the Nagata hamlet, 33 stone images of Buddha line a mountain road. The stone Buddhas were dedicated by local benefactors in the Edo period, and it takes approximately 30 minutes to pay respects to all of them.



5

## Aizu-Tajima Gion Festival (Held annually July 22–24) [Minamiaizu Town]

A festival with 800 years of history. On the morning of the second day the lavish Nanahokai-Gyoretsu procession of women dressed as brides is one of the main highlights. At night, children present a kabuki performance.







**Nango Tomato**  
[Minamiaizu Town]

From summer to autumn, the Minamiaizu area is one of the top tomato producing areas in the country. It is distinguished by its rich flavor with its high sugar content perfectly balancing out its tartness.



**Hatto**  
[Hinoemata Village]

This dish is made by boiling dough made from buckwheat flour and glutinous rice flour and coating it with perilla. In the old days, eating it was permitted only on special occasions and was therefore named Hatto for its meaning of "forbidden."



**Ouchi-juku**  
[Shimogo Town]

The post town scenery of the Edo period still remains in this area. Roughly 40 thatched roof houses built 300 years ago still stand here. You can also enjoy dishes such as soba (buckwheat noodles), mochi (rice cake), and the local specialty, Shingoro in an old-fashioned, historical space.



**Local specialty of the Minamiaizu Area—Shingoro**  
[Minamiaizu Town and Shimogo Town]

Lightly pounded rice is rolled into balls and skewered. It is then covered in miso with perilla and grilled over an open flame. You can try tasting it at Ouchi-juku.

## Recommended Course

Depart Aizu-Wakamatsu Station

Approx. 20 min. by car

Experience pottery at the Aizu-Hongo Tojiki Kaikan

Approx. 10 min. by car

Visit Sakudari Kannon-do 1

Approx. 15 min. by car

Visit Tomioka Kannon-do 2

Approx. 40 min. by car

Take a stroll and rest at Ouchi-juku 3

Approx. 20 min. by car

Visit Nakanosawa Kannon-do 4

Approx. 25 min. by car

Visit the Nagata Saigoku 33 Kannon 5

Approx. 5 min. by car

See the Aizu-Tajima Gion Kaikan

Taste Shingoro!



**Minamiaizu Town local sake**  
[Minamiaizu Town]

There are four sake breweries in Minamiaizu Town: Aizu Shuzo Brewery, Kaito Otokoyama Shuzo Brewery, Kokken Shuzo Brewery, and Hanaizumi Shuzo Brewery. You can taste the sake from these four breweries at the restaurant in the Aizu Tajima Gion Kaikan.



Let's Try!

## Experience Aizu-Hongo-yaki Pottery

[Aizumisato Town]

■Participation fee: Draw on ceramics from 684 yen, Hand kneading from 1,000 yen, Pottery wheel from 1,500 yen

Aizu-Hongo-yaki pottery, designated as a national traditional craft, is currently produced and sold at 15 kilns. If you visit one of the kilns, you can try a variety of pottery making experiences. Please inquire with the tourist information center for more details.







# Yonezawa Kaido Route

The road for pilgrimages and commodities  
linking Yonezawa and Aizu

Total  
length  
56 km

The Yonezawa Kaido Route ties Aizuwakamatsu in Fukushima Prefecture to Yonezawa in Yamagata Prefecture. From ancient times, pilgrims have traveled back and forth visiting one another's sacred grounds. Neither Aizu nor Yonezawa are near the sea, making salt an extremely precious commodity. The salt that was brought to Aizu by boat along the Aga River from Niigata was delivered to Yonezawa via the Yonezawa Kaido Route.

Aizu yamajio (mountain salt) has been made at Oshio Urabandai Onsen along the route since ancient times, boiled down from the hot spring water's high salt content. The salt is rare as it is processed by hand, but in recent years it has gained increased popularity.

## Hachiyo-ji Temple [Aizuwakamatsu City]

This temple is said to have been established by a monk called Kuya in the mid-Heian period, and is called the Mt. Koya of Aizu. Its main hall, the Amida-do has a thatched roof and is a nationally designated important cultural asset.

A variety of statues are  
enshrined here symbolizing  
the Buddhist Capital Aizu.



6



3

## Former Residence and Storehouse of the Kai Family [Kitakata City]

Completed in 1924, it is a stately and dignified building with a 51-tatami mat reception room. The exterior is painted in black mortar, which is why it is called the "Crow's Castle."



1



4

## Sugure Kannon-do [Kitakata City]

The 6th site of the Aizu 33 Kannon Pilgrimage, it is a nationally designated important cultural asset. It is the Kannon-do of Shofuku-ji Temple, said to have been built to mourn Sugure-gozen, who died here mid-journey in ancient times.

2

## Shojo-ji Temple Three Statues of Yakushi Nyorai [Yugawa Village]

Shojo-ji Temple is the 10th site of the Aizu 33 Kannon Pilgrimage. Within the grounds, the Yakushi-do enshrines the national treasure, Three Statues of Yakushi Nyorai (Medicine Buddha). The principal Yakushi Nyorai image was carved from one single tree. Various statues designated as national important cultural assets are kept in the treasure house.





## Sakura-toge Onsen [Kitashiobara Village]

■Day trip bathhouse:  
520 yen (730 yen in summer)

At Sakura-toge, where more than 3,000 Sargent's cherry trees have been planted, you can find the day trip bathhouse, Lavie Spa Urabandai. There is also an onsen and pool on the premises.



## Kitakata Retro Yokocho [Kitakata City]

At this festival, you can enjoy the atmosphere of the Showa period with stalls that appear on the main street and classic cars on display. It is held annually in July.



## Rice flour chiffon cake [Yugawa Village]

A fluffy chiffon cake made from rice flour grown in Yugawa and perilla grown in Kitakata. They are sold every Thursday at Roadside Station Aizu—Yugawa & Aizubange.



## Aizu mead [Kitakata City]

The nectar of the Aizu-produced Japanese horse chestnuts is fermented with Japanese sake yeast to produce a sake that is 11% alcohol. It is popular among women and tastes great served cold.



## Kitayama Urushi Yakushi-do [Kitashiobara Village]

"Futatsugo Mairi" is the custom of visiting a shrine when a child is two years old to pray that he or she will grow up healthy.



## Hanamame beans [Kitashiobara Village]

The runner beans grown in Kitashiobara Village are called "hanamame." The boiled and sweetened beans go well with Japanese tea.



## Aizu Yamajio Ramen [Kitashiobara Village]

This ramen noodle uses the mild-tasting Aizu Yamajio (mountain salt) boiled down from the hot spring water at Oshio Urabandai Onsen. It is offered at locations around the village.



Sites of Aizu 33 Kannon

## Recommended Course

### Depart Aizu-Wakamatsu Station

Approx. 20 min. by car

### Visit Hachiyo-ji Temple 1

Approx. 15 min. by car

### Visit Shoji-ji Temple 2

Approx. 30 min. by car

### Tour the former residence and storehouse of the Kai family 3

Approx. 10 min. by car

### Visit Sugure Kannon-do 4

Approx. 15 min. by car

### Experience bamboo crafts at Oguni-no-Sato

Approx. 25 min. by car

### Visit Kitayama Urushi Yakushi-do 5

Let's Try!

## Oguni Nemagari Bamboo Crafts

[Kitakata City] ■Participation fee: 1,728 yen

In the Oguni area of Kitakata City, sieves and baskets are made from nemagari bamboo, native to the area around Oguni-numa Pond, and are designated Fukushima Prefectural traditional crafts. A group called Oguni-no-Sato holds two-hour workshops on bamboo basket making.







# Nihonmatsu Kaido Route

The road filled with the achievements of the first Aizu lord

Total length  
60 km

Scenic Nihonmatsu Kaido Route, which offers views of Mt. Bandai and Lake Inawashiro, links Nihonmatsu beyond the pass. There are two routes, one which passes near the lake and the other which passes through the foot of the mountain, but it is the mountain route that is more developed. You can still see some of the original pine trees that standing along the route.

Hanitsu Shrine in Inawashiro Town houses the grave of the first Aizu domain lord, Hoshina Masayuki. He left behind various political accomplishments not only in the Aizu domain, but also in the Tokugawa shogunate and a great many people come here to pay their respects in celebration of his achievements.



3

### 33 Stone Kannon Images on Mt. Umayu [Bandai Town]

These are 33 stone images of Buddha scattered along the road approaching Mt. Umayu. These images were dedicated to prayers for the good health of horses in the early Meiji period, when people lived with farm horses.

### Fujikura Nikai-do [Aizuwakamatsu City]

This structure enshrines the Jizo statues at Enmei-ji Temple. It is said the high priest Tokuitsu built this temple in the Fujikura area in 807, and it is a nationally designated important cultural asset. It appears to have two floors, hence its name Nikai-do (two-floor hall).



1



The original site of the Buddhist Capital Aizu established in the early 9th century



2

### Historic site of the Enichi-ji Temple ruins Main Hall [Bandai Town]

Enichi-ji Temple, established in 807 by the high priest Tokuitsu, is the birthplace of Aizu's Buddhist culture. The Main Hall was reconstructed in 2008. At the museum, drawings of the ancient temple, materials related to the mountain worship of Mt. Bandai, and excavated items are on display. (Closed in winter)



5

### Tenkyokaku (Former royal villa) [Inawashiro Town]

This white Western style building overlooks Lake Inawashiro, and was built on the hillside in 1908 as a vacation home for the imperial family. Enjoy tea or sweets here while surrounding yourself with its elegance.



### Kannonji River Cherry Blossom Festival [Inawashiro Town]

Cherry trees line the banks of the Kannonji River for approximately 1 km. At the height of cherry blossom season in late April, many stalls line the path and the flowers are illuminated at night.







Hot Springs



#### Ottate Onsen [Inawashiro Town]

■Day trip bathing: 500–800 yen

This onsen was established in 1856 at the foot of Mt. Bandai. This simple thermal spring with its slightly sulphuric content is recommended as a therapeutic bath.



#### Inawashiro Striped Bear [Inawashiro Town]

The black and brown striped Aizu Momen (cotton), used to make farming wear since ancient times in Inawashiro Town now appears as teddy bears and folk crafts!



#### Kannon-ji Temple [Inawashiro Town]

The first site of the Inawashiro 33 Kannon Pilgrimage. The main hall was built in the first half of the 12th century, and the thatched sanmon gate was built in the early days of the Edo period. It is near the Kannonji River, a well-known spot for viewing cherry blossoms.



#### Bandai Yakushi Water [Bandai Town]

Selected as one of Japan's 100 Remarkable Waters, the water that springs at the foot of Mt. Bandai has been bottled. This soft water has a hardness of 24.7 mg/L and a pH 7.4 ion concentration.



#### Shugen Soba (buckwheat noodles) [Inawashiro Town]

You can try this re-creation of Shugen soba, a dish that has been served at shugen (weddings) since ancient times, at Ekishatei and other restaurants.



#### Tenkyokaku Curry [Inawashiro Town]

This original beef curry is available at the former royal villa Tenkyokaku. Using Fukushima Prefecture-grown vegetables, it is a replication of a recipe from the Meiji period.



#### Recommended Course

##### Depart Aizu-Wakamatsu Station

Approx. 10 min. by car

##### Visit Fujikura Nikai-do 1

Approx. 15 min. by car

##### Stroll through the Enichi-ji Temple ruins 2

Approx. 10 min. by car + Approx. 50 min. on foot

##### 33 Stone Kannon Images on Mt. Umay 3

Approx. 50 min. on foot + Approx. 15 min. by car

##### Lunch at Ekishatei 4

Approx. 15 min. by car

##### Stroll through the pine trees of the former Nihonmatsu Kaido Route

Approx. 20 min. by car

##### Tour Tenkyokaku 5

Approx. 20 min. by car

##### Visit Kannon-ji Temple 6

Let's Try!

## Experience painting Nakanosawa Kokeshi dolls

[Inawashiro Town]

■Participation fee: 800–1,500 yen

The Nakanosawa Kokeshi dolls were first made at Nakanosawa Onsen in the late Taisho period. The Kokeshi doll factories in Inawashiro Town offer a 20-minute hands-on experience where you can paint these white wooden dolls.







# Echigo Kaido Route

The road that leads to western Aizu's sacred places

Total  
length  
92 km

The Echigo Kaido Route stretches from Aizuwakamatsu City through Aizubange Town and Nishiaizu Town all the way to Niigata.

A great number of historic temples and shrines are scattered throughout the western portion of the Aizu Basin. Eryu-ji Temple in Aizubange, Nyoho-ji Temple in Nishiaizu, and Koan-ji Temple in Aizumisato are known as the “Three Aizu Korori Kannon,” and it is said that if you pray while holding onto one of the pillars in their halls you can leave this world without suffering. The god of water is enshrined at Oyamazumi Shrine in Nishiaizu, and the people from paddy field regions in particular, come to worship here. The Echigo Kaido Route is a prayer route essential to the milestones in the lives of Aizu's people.

## Nyoho-ji Temple Torioi Kannon [Nishiaizu Town]

One of the extra sites added to the Aizu 33 Kannon Pilgrimage, Nyoho-ji Temple, is said to have been established in 807 by the high priest Tokuitsu. The Kannon-do was reconstructed in 1613 and is famous for the three monkeys engraved into its eaves. It is said luck will come to you if you can find all three monkeys.



The Kannon offering prayers  
for fertility and safe delivery



4



3

## Eryu-ji Temple Tachiki Kannon [Aizubange Town]

The 31st site of the Aizu 33 Kannon Pilgrimage. The Kannon-do built in 1190 is a national important cultural asset. A large senju kannon (thousand-armed kannon) is housed within the hall.

## Kozashi-jo Castle Remains [Aizuwakamatsu City]

The remains of the castle the ruling Aizu feudal lord attempted to build in 1600. The castle was never completed, but a Zelkova tree more than 500 years old, stands here quietly.



2

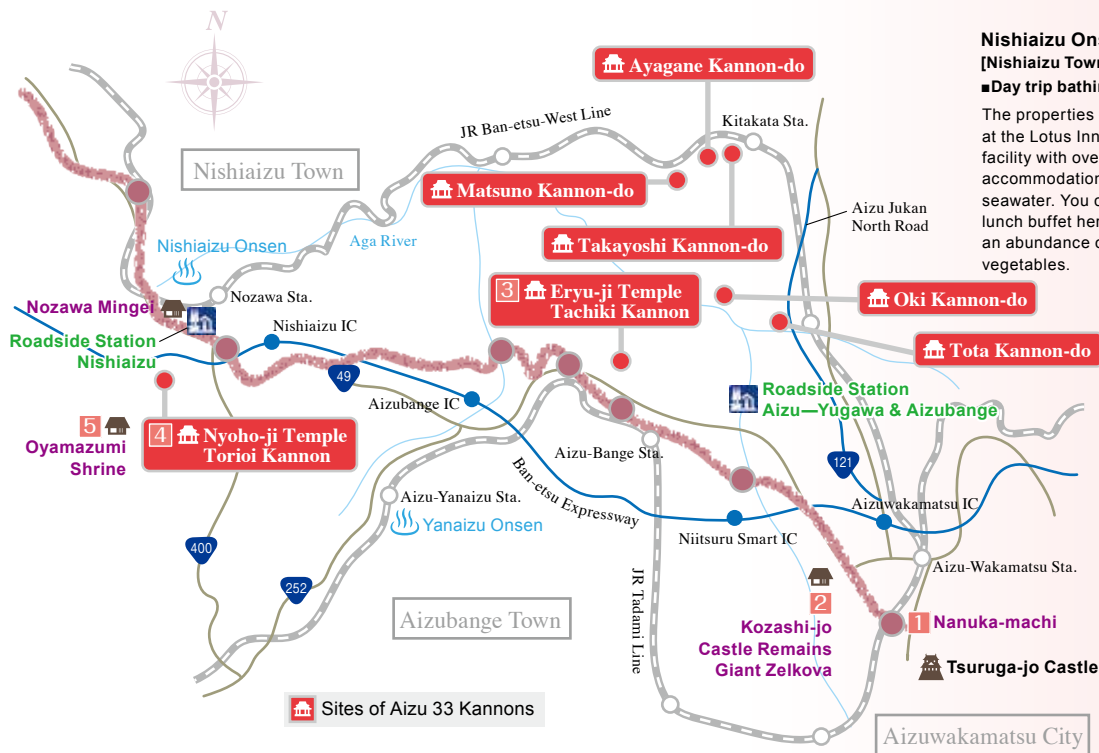


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## Oyamazumi Shrine [Nishiaizu Town]

It is worshipped as the shrine of a mountain god who will grant any wish once in a person's lifetime. The main shrine is roughly one hour up the mountain path.





### Nishiaizu Onsen [Nishiaizu Town]

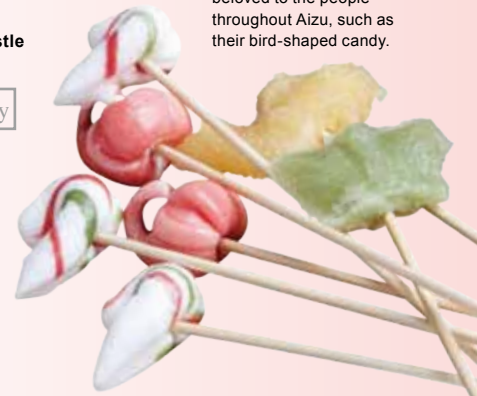
■Day trip bathing: 400 yen

The properties of the hot spring at the Lotus Inn, an onsen facility with overnight accommodations, are similar to seawater. You can also enjoy the lunch buffet here, which features an abundance of locally grown vegetables.



### Aizu Dagashi (confectionery) [Aizuwakamatsu City]

Nagatoya, established in the Edo period, makes sweets beloved to the people throughout Aizu, such as their bird-shaped candy.



### Horse leather goods [Aizubange Town]

Horse leather products are popular for their softness, sturdiness, and lightweight. Card cases, wallets, bags, and other products are manufactured and sold here.



### Sakura-niku (horse) cuisine [Aizubange Town and other locations]

Aizu is famous as a producer of nutritional and low calorie horse meat. It is delicious when served as sashimi dipped in spicy miso!



### Snowdrop [Aizubange Town]

A blend of Japanese sake made with locally grown rice and locally-produced yogurt. This liqueur is popular among women for its refreshing tart flavor with a hint of sweetness.



### Nigiwai Festival [Nishiaizu Town]

In addition to the appearance of teahouses that are re-creations of those that once existed in Nishiaizu's post town, you can also enjoy leisure activities from yesteryear, such as playing with stilts and tops.



### Aizu E-rosoku (painted candles) [Aizuwakamatsu City]

This traditional craft once held the position of being the main industry of the Aizu domain. Each seasonal flower is carefully hand painted one at a time.



### Strolling around Nanuka-machi [Aizuwakamatsu City]

In ancient times this area bustled as the center of commercial activity. It is perfect for a stroll as the retro Western-style buildings still stand along with the stone marker indicating the starting point of the Kaido Route.

Let's Try!

## Aizu Hariko Decorating Experience

[Nishiaizu Town]

■Participation fee: 800 yen

Experience decorating various hariko dolls, such as the local Aizu toy, "Akabeko," the lucky charm, "Okiagari Koboshi," and "Aizu Tenjin," a charm to wish for the healthy growth of a boy at Nozawa Mingei. It takes approximately 1.5 hours.



### Recommended Course

#### Depart Aizu-Wakamatsu Station

Approx. 5 min. by car

#### Stroll around Nanuka-machi 1

Approx. 15 min. by car

#### Tour the Kozashi-jo Castle Remains 2

Approx. 25 min. by car

#### Visit Eryu-ji Temple 3

Approx. 25 min. by car

#### Visit Nyoho-ji Temple 4

Approx. 10 min. by car

#### Visit Oyamazumi Shrine's lower shrine 5

Approx. 15 min. by car

Experience decorating folk crafts at Nozawa Mingei





# Numata Kaido Route

The arterial route of the shogunate's territories

Total  
length  
160 km

The Numata Kaido travels south along the Tadami River from Yanaizu Town to Mishima Town and Kaneyama Town, then follows the route along the Ina River from Tadami Town continuing on to the present day city of Numata in Gunma Prefecture. The Numata Kaido was used as a trade route for the horses, sake, rice, and salt produced in the Aizu domain and supplies from Numata Castle's surrounding town.

The Minamiaizu region was part of the Minamiyama Okurairi territory controlled directly by the shogunate in the Edo period. You can still sense the lifestyles of the people who lived here with their strong faith in the 33 Okurairi Kannon, also established in the Edo period, scattered along main roads.



## The Kokuzo Bosatsu worshipped by generations of Aizu lords



**1**  
**Fukuman Kokuzo Bosatsu at Enzo-ji Temple [Yanaizu Town]**

One of the extra sites added to the Aizu 33 Kannon Pilgrimage, it is said this temple was established in 807 by the high priest, Tokuitsu. Built on a crag elevated along the banks of the Tadami River, worshippers enjoy the views of the scenery here as it changes with the seasons.

**Joho-ji Temple Kannon-do [Tadami Town]**

The first site of the Okurairi 33 Kannon Pilgrimage. The coloring of the Sho-Kannon statue housed here is close to that of human flesh, and it is therefore also known as the "Hitohada Kannon (flesh-toned Kannon)."

If you wish to visit the Sho-Kannon statue, please inquire with the Tadami Town Board of Education.



**5**



**6**

**Hinoemata Kabuki [Hinoemata Village]**

This style of kabuki has been passed down from generation to generation since the Edo period. It is performed at spring and autumn festivals in dedication to the gods and to the delight of the villagers.



**4**

**Miyazaki Daihi-do Sho-Kannon Statue [Kaneyama Town]**

This statue seems to have been created in the mid-Kamakura period. The position of its fingers resembles those playing the traditional Japanese game, "Ohajiki," and it is therefore also called the Ohajiki Kannon.





### Kubota 33 Kannon [Yanaizu Town]

These are 33 stone Buddhist images in the Kubota area. It is said the Maria Kannon, which holds a cross, was worshipped in secret after being prohibited in the Edo period.



### Sairyu-ji Temple Otome 33 Kannon [Mishima Town]

These 33 Kannon images with charming facial features can be found on the grounds of Sairyu-ji Temple. They were created in the 1970's by stonemason sisters who were in their 20's at the time.



### Aizu-grown chicken dishes [Mishima Town]

The local Aizu chickens grown in Mishima Town are known for their quality meat and full flavor. You can try locally-grown chicken cuisine at the restaurants in Mishima Town.

### Awa Manju cakes [Yanaizu Town]

This Yanaizu specialty is distinguished by its grainy and chewy texture. There are several manju shops dotting the road to the temple.



### Akakabocha (red pumpkin) Madeleines [Kaneyama Town]

Madeleines made with the Oku-Aizu Kaneyama red pumpkins. These confections highlight the pumpkin's sweet flavor.



### Taguri Ame (Millet jelly) [Tadami Town]

During winter in Tadami Town, the custom is to eat homemade sweet syrup made from glutinous rice and malt. Taguri Ame is also sold at Yamasa Shoten.



### Oze Hinoemata Onsen [Hinoemata Village] ■Day trip bathing: 500 yen

In addition to public bathhouses like Koma-no-Yu and Hiuchi-no-Yu, various bathing facilities can also be found, such as Alza Oze-no-Sato, with its large open-air bath within the forest.

### Recommended Course

#### Depart Aizu-Wakamatsu Station

Approx. 45 min. by car

#### Visit the Fukuman Kokuzo Bosatsu at Enzo-ji Temple 1

Approx. 25 min. by car

#### Visit the Kubota 33 Kannon 2

Approx. 30 min. by car

#### Experience Amikumi weaving crafts at the Mishima-machi Seikatsu Kogeikan

Approx. 15 min. by car

#### Visit the Sairyu-ji Temple Otome 33 Kannon 3

Approx. 25 min. by car

#### Visit the Miyazaki Daihi-do 4

Approx. 90 min. by car

#### Visit Joho-ji Temple Kannon-do 5

Approx. 50 min. by car

#### Tour the Hinoemata stage 6

### Let's Try!

## Amikumi Weaving experience

[Mishima Town] ■Participation fee: 700 yen

The Mishima Town woven goods that weave together vines and grasses are a national traditional craft. Aizu has a heavy snowfall, and making baskets and sieves is traditional winter work. You can weave together your own coaster or phone strap using traditional weaving methods at the Mishima-machi Seikatsu Kogeikan.







# Shirakawa Kaido Route

The road to Edo also used by shogunate officials

Total  
length  
68 km

The Shirakawa Kaido Route travels from Aizuwakamatsu City passing Lake Inawashiro to the southwest and continuing on to the city of Shirakawa. It is known as an important route as it links to the Oshu Kaido Route, which runs from Shirakawa to Edo, and the Echigo Kaido Route, running from Aizu to Niigata.

In the days before the Aizu domain was established, the road that passes Higashiyama Onsen and passes over Mt. Seaburi was called the Shirakawa Kaido, and it is said the famous warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi may have passed through here himself. The pass at Mt. Seaburi is extremely steep, so a succeeding lord ordered a route passing through the Takizawa pass be opened, and this became the main route in the days of the Aizu domain.

## Sazae-do [Aizuwakamatsu City]

This hexagon-shaped, wooden building standing on Mt. Iimoriyama is a national important cultural asset. Its official name is Entsusanso-do. It was built by the head priest at Shoso-ji Temple in 1796. It has a two-tiered spiral structure that prevents visitors from ever passing one another.



2

## Takizawa Honjin [Aizuwakamatsu City]

This Aizu lord rest stop is located near the entrance to the Shirakawa Kaido Route. It is a national important cultural asset. The sword marks and bullet holes from the Boshin War in the latter half of the 19th century are still there today.



3

## Ishibe Cherry Tree [Aizuwakamatsu City]

This giant cherry blossom tree was made famous by its appearance in the popular TV serial drama, "Yae no Sakura." It is an estimated 650 years old. Its majestic figure standing against the country landscape is quite a popular site to see.



## Takizawa Kannon-do [Aizuwakamatsu City]

The 18th site of the Aizu 33 Kannon Pilgrimage. Further back on the temple grounds, which houses a Fudojin and shrine, you can also enjoy views of the waterfall.

4

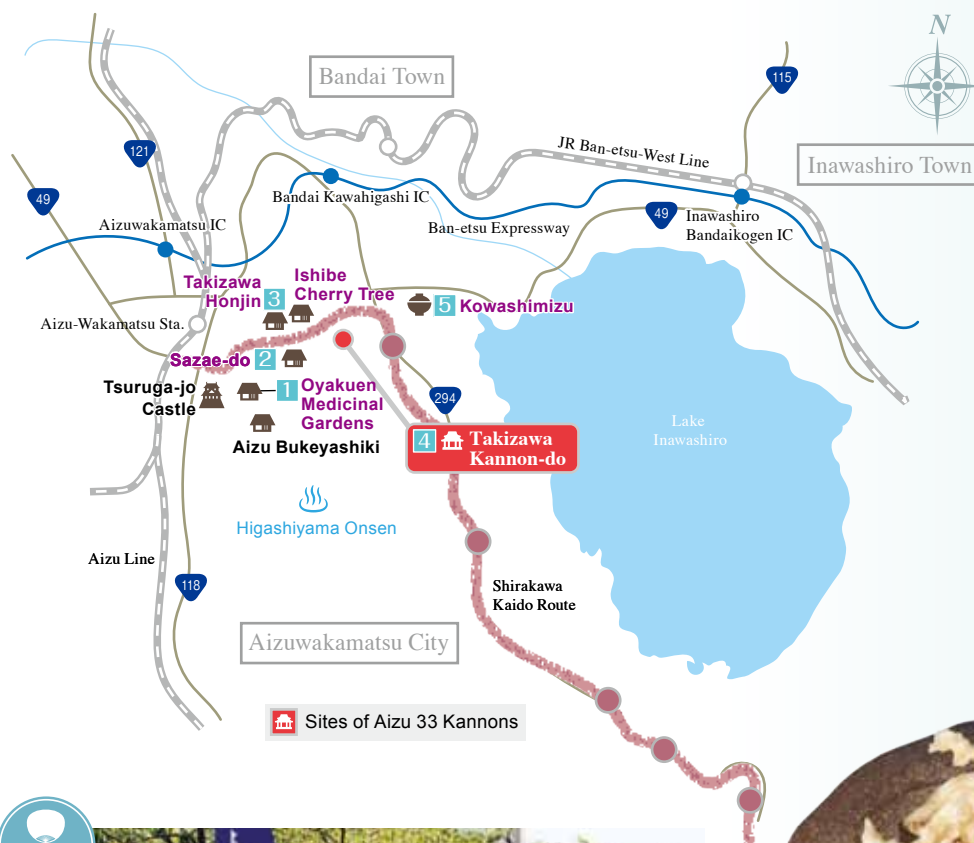
## Oyakuen Medicinal Gardens [Aizuwakamatsu City]

A resting area for generations of domain lords. Various medicinal herbs have been grown here since the Muromachi period. Seasonal flowers bloom throughout the year in the garden, and the lotus pond in early summer is particularly breathtaking.



1





Hot Springs



### Higashiyama Onsen

[Aizuwakamatsu City]

■Day trip bathing: Starting at 400 yen

This historic hot spring village was established approximately 1300 years ago. Surrounded by mountains, onsen-equipped inns line the valley.



### 5 Tempura Manju cakes at Kowashimizu

[Aizuwakamatsu City]

This sweet bean-filled manju fried in oil is beloved by the locals. Sometimes dried herring or squid are also fried.



### Aizu Matsuri [Aizuwakamatsu City]

This event is held annually over three days at the end of September. The highlight is the Aizu Hango Gyoretsu, a parade of roughly 500 people dressed as historical characters.



### Aizu Paulownia geta (footwear)

[Aizuwakamatsu City and other locations]

Aizu-grown Paulownia is well-known for its high quality. At Aizu-Matsumoto Tozaikan, a shop that carries Paulownia goods, the Paulownia geta are an especially popular product.



### Urushinuri (lacquered) glass

[Aizuwakamatsu City]

Glass sake cups featuring the Aizu-nuri lacquer technique are very popular. They are available for purchase at Kokon, the shop on the premises of the Aizu Bukeyashiki—Samurai Residence.



### Recommended Course

#### Depart Aizu-Wakamatsu Station

Approx. 10 min. by car

#### Stroll around

#### Oyakuen Medicinal Gardens 1

Approx. 5 min. by car

#### Visit Sazae-do 2

Approx. 5 min. by car

#### Tour the Takizawa Honjin 3

Approx. 10 min. by car + Approx. 10 min. on foot

#### Visit Takizawa Kannon-do 4

Approx. 10 min. on foot + Approx. 25 min. by car

#### Take a break at Kowashimizu 5

Let's Try!

## Maki-e Experience (decorating Aizu lacquerware)

[Aizuwakamatsu City] ■Participation fee: Starting at 1,080 yen

From the middle of the 16th century, the lacquer industry favored by generations of Aizu lords became one of Aizu's major products. You can try your hand at the maki-e style of lacquerware at one of the factories in Aizuwakamatsu or other areas.



### Restaurant serving Aizu grown vegetables

[Aizuwakamatsu City]

The menu at the Italian restaurant, Potager, located near Mt. Iimoriyama is full of dishes that use Aizu grown vegetables. Their reasonably priced lunch menu is especially popular.







# Aizu Buddhism Tour

## Ancient Shugen Road

The ancient road walked by mountain worshippers

Total length  
77 km

The road stretching from the west to the south of the Aizu Basin is a historic route dotted with ancient ruins and other sites. In an effort to continue telling the stories of its history, the road has been named “Aizu Mahoroba Kaido” and maintained in recent years.

In the 6th century, Isasumi Shrine and Hoyo-ji Temple in Aizumisato Town were built near this road.

Only 10 years after the Boshin War in the 19th century, the British writer Isabella Bird visited Japan just as it opened its doors to the rest of the world, and traveled this road from Aizu to Niigata writing about her journey.

If you continue even further south, you will encounter the temples housing the Aizu 33 Kannon and the Okurairi 33 Kannon.



**Monju Bosatsu statue (left)**  
**Nagatoko in Shingu-Kumano Shrine (right)**  
[Kitakata City]

This prayer hall supported by 44 thick pillars is a national important cultural asset. In late autumn, the leaves of the giant, sacred ginkgo trees turn yellow and the fallen leaves carpet the grounds.



**Kitakata Kura-no-Sato**  
[Kitakata City]

There are more than 4,200 kura (storehouses) scattered throughout the city of Kitakata, known as storehouse town. There is an open-air museum in a nearby suburb with various transplanted storehouses on display.



**Ganjo-ji Temple Great Buddha**  
[Kitakata City]

This temple was established in 1227. A statue of Amida Nyorai and two attendant figures, collectively known as “Aizu’s Great Buddha” is housed in the Great Buddha Hall. The Great Buddha is a national important cultural asset.



**Kamiunai Yakushi-do**  
[Aizubange Town]

There is a statue of Yakushi Nyorai (Medicine Buddha) in the hall said to have been made in the first half of the Heian period. It can be viewed if you contact the town’s tourist association prior to your visit.







# Aizu Buddhism Tour

## Route Map



### What is Goshuin?

When you visit a shrine or temple, you can receive a stamp or handwritten proof of your visit called "Goshuin." Some people collect these goshuin.







### Manners for Visiting Places of Worship

The following is an explanation of general manners to follow when visiting a temple or shrine. The method differs depending on the religion so please follow the instructions at the each location.

1. Use the ladle to scoop up water and wash both hands as an act of purification at the hand washing well along the road to the temple or shrine. Then use the water in one hand (scooped with the ladle) to purify your mouth. Return the ladle to its original position.
2. Stand before the main hall and collect your thoughts.
3. Ring the bell in front of the offering box.
4. Make an offering.
5. At a temple, bring your hands together before your chest and pray quietly. At a shrine, bow in reverence twice, clap your hands twice, and offer a prayer with your hands held together before your chest. Bow once more in reverence.



## Aizu 33 Kannon



- 1 Oki Kannon-do
- 2 Matsuno Kannon-do
- 3 Ayagane Kannon-do
- 4 Takayoshi Kannon-do
- 5 Atsushio Kannon-do
- 6 Sugure Kannon-do
- 7 Kumagura Kannon-do
- 8 Takeya Kannon-do
- 9 Tota Kannon-do
- 10 Shoji Kannon-do
- 11 Tsukahara Kannon-do
- 12 Tamurayama Kannon-do
- 13 Tate Kannon-do
- 14 Shimoarai Kannon-do
- 15 Takase Kannon-do
- 16 Hirasawa Kannon-do
- 17 Nakanomyo Kannon-do
- 18 Takizawa Kannon-do
- 19 Ishizuka Kannon-do
- 20 Oyama Kannon-do
- 21 Sakudari Kannon-do
- 22 Aikawa Kannon-do
- 23 Takakura Kannon-do
- 24 Sekiyama Kannon-do
- 25 Ryoike Kannon-do
- 26 Tomioka Kannon-do
- 27 Oiwa Kannon-do
- 28 Takada Kannon-do
- 29 Suzumebayashi Kannon-do
- 30 Nakada Kannon-do
- 31 Tachiki Kannon-do
- 32 Aotsu Kannon-do
- 33 Oike Kannon-do
- Extra 1 Ukimi Kannon-do
- Extra 2 Yanaizu Kannon-do
- Extra 3 Torioi Kannon-do

## Inawashiro 33 Kannon



- 1 Kannon-ji Temple
- 2 Annon-ji Temple
- 3 Saisho-ji Temple
- 4 Numanokura Amida-do
- 5 Imaizumi Kannon-do
- 6 Horikiri Taishi-do
- 7 Tentoku-ji Temple
- 8 Ogikubo Jizo-do
- 9 Utsuno Kannon-do
- 10 Shimodate Kannon-do
- 11 Sekiwaki Uba-do
- 12 Yamagata Daiho-in Temple
- 13 Hoshio-ji Temple
- 14 Kobiragata Kannon-do
- 15 Nakanome Atago Shrine
- 16 Nyue Bikuni-do
- 17 Hachiyashiki Kannon-do
- 18 Ainame Jizo-do
- 19 Anyo-ji Temple
- 20 Doumeki Jizo-do
- 21 Shimada Jizo-do
- 22 Kamai Gyoya
- 23 Eboshi Joko-in Temple
- 24 Higashimayuki Gyoya
- 25 Ozaike Gyoya
- 26 Nishimayuki Gyoya
- 27 Shinzaike Kannon-do
- 28 Gojukken Kannon-do
- 29 Namezu Daihi-do
- 30 Tonokuchi Kannon-do
- 31 Kanisawa Kannon-do
- 32 Nishikubo Jizodaibosatsu-do
- 33 Chosho-ji Temple
- Extra 1 Nagasaka Kannon-do
- Extra 2 Ohara Kannon-do
- Extra 3 Shizumonju-do
- Extra 4 Enichi-ji Umayasan Bato Kannon-do
- Extra 5 Noman-ji Kannon-do
- Extra 6 Sanjogata Kannon-do
- Extra 7 Hinokuchi Kannon-do
- Extra 8 Nishidate Kannon-do

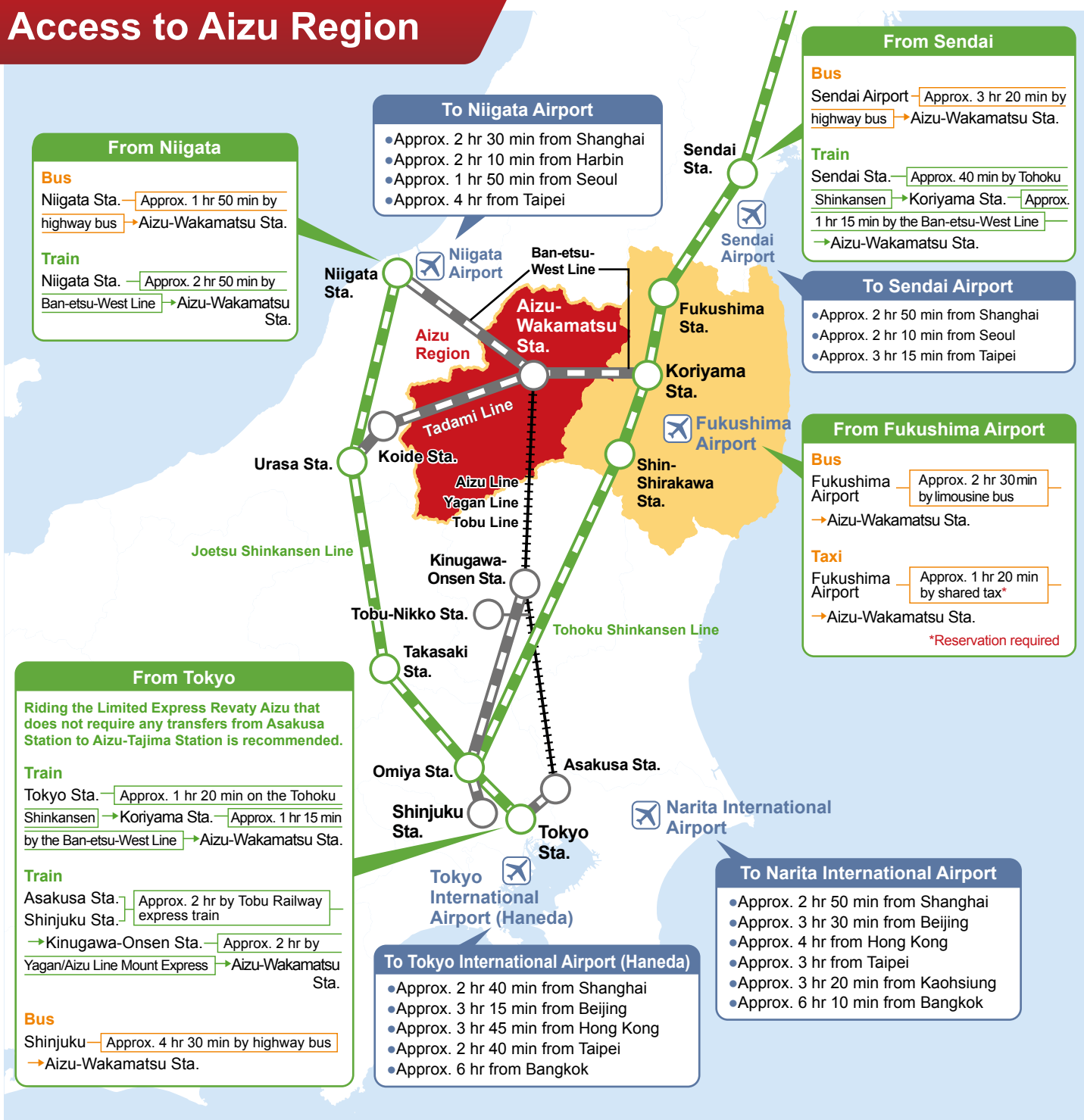
## Okurairi 33 Kannon



- 1 Joho-ji Temple Kannon-do
- 2 Yaotome-do
- 3 Shinpuku-ji Temple
- 4 Ryusen-ji Temple
- 5 Narado-do
- 6 Ukishima-do
- 7 Sakura Kannon-do
- 8 Higashiomata Kannon-do
- 9 Nagaino Kannon-do
- 10 Ono Kannon-do
- 11 Nakanosawa Kannon-do
- 12 Shionou Kannon-do
- 13 Dake Kannon-do
- 14 Tajima Yakushi-ji Temple
- 15 Tajima Tokusho-ji Temple
- 16 Tajima Jion-ji Temple
- 17 Koya Kannon-do
- 18 Obisawa Kannon-do
- 19 Omamewata Nansen-ji Temple Kannon-do
- 20 Kawashima Iwato-do
- 21 Itozawa Ryufuku-ji Temple
- 22 Shionohara Senko-ji Temple
- 23 Koshio Kannon-do
- 24 Furumachi Zendo-ji Temple Eiyo-do
- 25 Furumachi Shokoku-ji Temple
- 26 Aoyagi Kannon-do
- 27 Ohashi Shimizu-do
- 28 Yamazaki-do
- 29 Tonosu Matsuyo-do
- 30 Onoshima Iwato-do
- 31 Tomiyama-do
- 32 Shimoyama Kannon-do
- 33 Izumida Senko-do



# Access to Aizu Region



## Sightseeing Information Websites

**Gokujo-no-Aizu**  
<http://gokujo-aizu.com/iti>

**Gokujo-no-Aizu Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/gokujojounoauzu>



## Public Transportation Inquiries

◆ **JR East** ..... Guidance is provided in English, Chinese, and Korean  
Phone +81-50-2016-1603 <https://www.jreast.co.jp/e>

◆ **Aizu Railway Co., Ltd.**  
<http://www.aizutetsudo.jp>

◆ **Aizu Bus Co., Ltd.**  
<https://www.aizubus.com>

◆ **Fukushima Transportation, Inc.**  
<http://www.fukushima-koutu.co.jp>

◆ **Fukushima Airport**  
<http://www.fks-ab.co.jp/en/>

## Multilingual Tourist Information Centers

◆ **Aizu-Wakamatsu Station Tourist Information** ...English available  
Phone +81-242-32-0688  
<http://tic.jnto.go.jp/detail.php?id=1042>

◆ **Tsuruga-jo Castle Tourist Information** ...English available  
Phone +81-242-29-1151  
<http://tic.jnto.go.jp/detail.php?id=1043>

◆ **Roadside Station Aizu—Yugawa & Aizubange** ...English available  
Phone +81-241-27-8853

◆ **Urabandai Tourist Information** ...English, Chinese, and Korean available  
Phone +81-241-32-2348  
<http://tic.jnto.go.jp/detail.php?id=1451>

◆ **Kitakata Station Tourist Information** ...English available  
Phone +81-241-24-2633  
<http://tic.jnto.go.jp/detail.php?id=3264>

Gokujo-no-Aizu Project Council (Tourism Division, Aizuwakamatsu City Office)

3-46, Higashisakae-machi, Aizuwakamatsu-shi, Fukushima 965-8601, Japan

Phone +81-242-39-1251 Fax +81-242-39-1433

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