

# Travel on the AKITA NAIRIKU LINE

2023.11 ▶ 2024.3 Winter



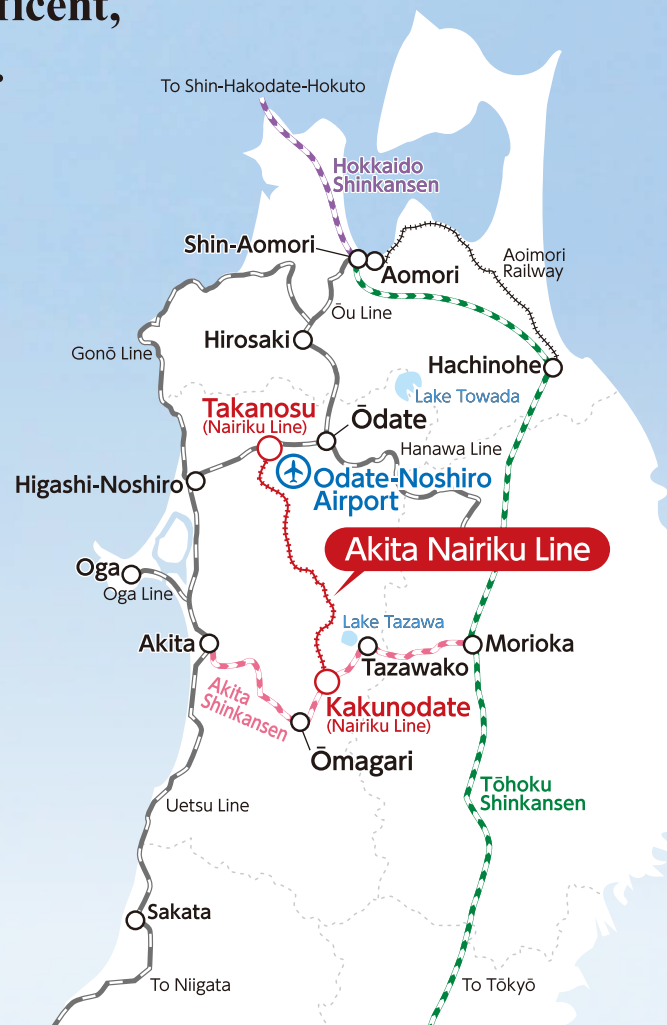
# Mountain Resort Railway: The Akita Nairiku Line

The Akita Nairiku Line runs for 94.2 km through the inland area of Akita Prefecture from Kakunodate Station, a stop on the Akita Shinkansen Line, to Takanosu Station. The area along the railway line is home to countless natural blessings, including Mt. Moriyoshi, and the view from the train window is nothing less than Japan's original landscape. Passengers on this "mountain resort train" have ample opportunity to experience the timeless Japanese landscape.



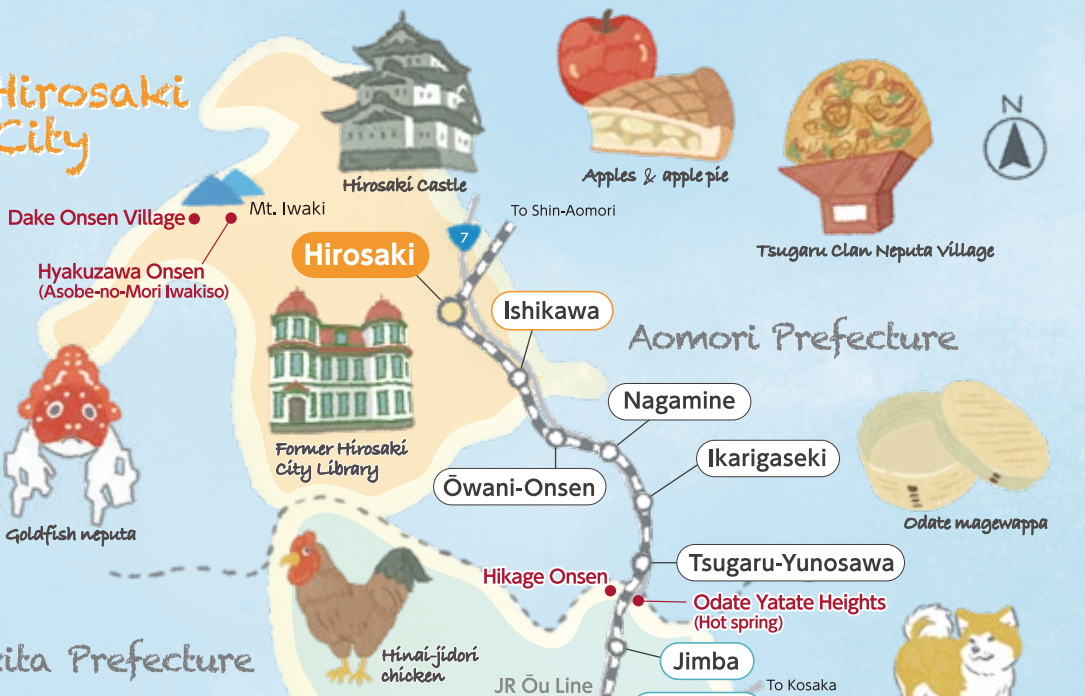
## Take a leisurely trip to enjoy the magnificent, breathtaking snowy landscape of Akita.

View snow-covered rural mountainous countryside from the train window, as far as the eye can see. Alongside the fantastic scenery, the warm, funny announcements by attendants have won many hearts too. Near scenic spots, the train slows to a gentle rattle along the tracks. A deluxe winter trip on the Nairiku Line is a spectacle for the eyes and ears.



# AREA MAP

## Hirosaki City



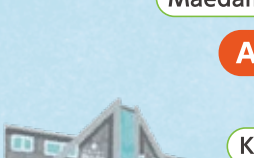
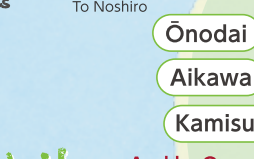
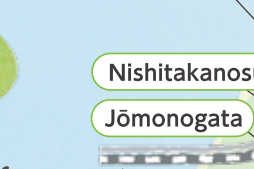
## Akita Prefecture



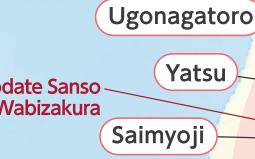
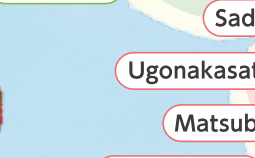
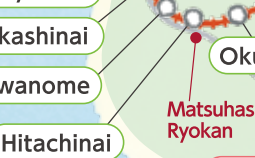
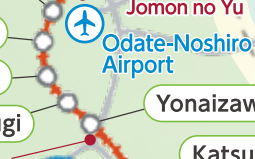
World Heritage cultural site



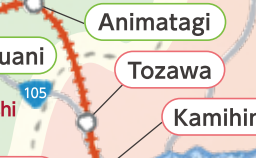
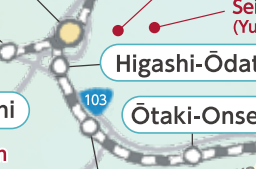
## Nairiku Line Takanosu (JR Takanosu)



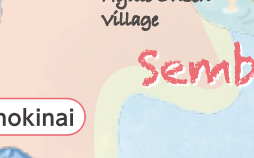
## Ōdate



## Odake City



## Semboku City



### contents

- 1 Mountain Resort Railway: The Akita Nairiku Line
- 2 Area Map
- 3 Semboku Area
- 4 Kitaakita Area
- 5 Ōdate Area
- 6 Hirosaki Area

### Please be sure to read

- \* The information in this pamphlet is current as of October 2023.
- \* For details on each of the events posted, please inquire with the individual contact point. The details and times of the event may be changed, postponed, or canceled depending on various circumstances, such as weather.
- \* Facility information, products, activities, fees, etc. are subject to change, so please make inquiries in advance.
- \* All photographs and illustrations in this pamphlet are for illustrative purposes only.
- \* The maps shown are abbreviated.
- \* Customers are responsible for their own Internet connection costs.

Details may change due to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. Please contact each facility before visiting.

Take the Akita Shinkansen "Komachi" to Akita!



# Semboku Area



Tazawako Kakunodate  
Tourism Association

## Tourist information

[Tazawako] Tourist Information Center Folake ☎ +81-187-43-2111

[Kakunodate] Tourist Information Center "Kakunodate Ekimae Kura" ☎ +81-187-54-2700

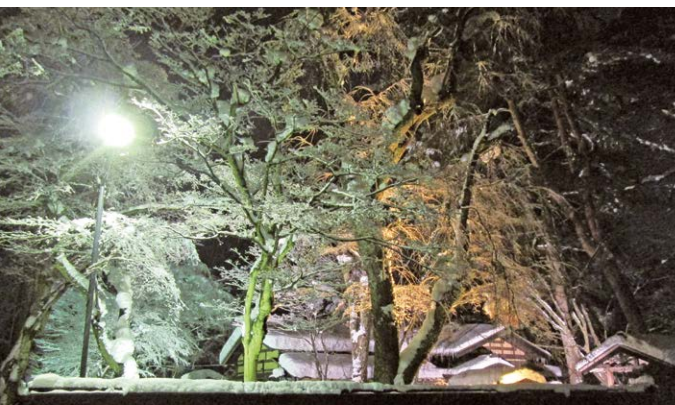
[Nishiki] Nishiki Tourist Information Center ☎ +81-187-42-8480



### Releasing paper balloons at Kami-Hinokinai

This traditional event, in which giant paper balloons with pictures of warriors and beautiful women float off into the night sky, has a long history.

- **Date:** February 10
- **Inquiries:** Nishiki Tourist Information Center ☎ +81-187-42-8480
- **Access:** About 7 minutes' walk from Kamihinokinai Station



### Kakunodate samurai residences street – winter illumination

The town layout of the early Edo period (around 1620) can still be found here. A fantastical world, very different from daytime, is created at night. Enjoy romantic snowy scenes of a samurai residences illuminated by lights.

#### [Kakunodate samurai residences winter illumination]

- **Date & time:** To be determined \* Please contact us for details.
- **Location:** Iwahashi House in Samurai Residences  
\* Please view the illumination from the Bukeyashiki samurai residences street (outside the black panelled walls).
- **Inquiries:** Tourist Information Center "Kakunodate Ekimae Kura"  
☎ +81-187-54-2700
- **Access:** About 20 minutes' walk from Kakunodate Station



### Kakunodate Hifuri Kamakura

A little new year event to invite good health. Come and join this captivating festival with the dancing ring of fire.

- **Date:** February 14
- **Location:** In the town of Kakunodate  
\*See website for venue details
- **Inquiries:** Tourist Information Center  
"Kakunodate Ekimae Kura" ☎ +81-187-54-2700



Kakunodate On-demand Transport Service  
**Yobunoru Kakunodate**

よぶのる角館  
YOBUNORU KAKUNODATE

Operating period April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

- **Time:** 8:30 am - 5:30 pm (Booking hours 8 am - 5 pm)
- **Cost:** 400 yen per person (tax incl.) \*Same fare for both adults and children  
[E-tickets require pre-purchase on the website: 300 yen per person (tax incl.)]
- **Inquiries:** ☎ +81-70-7051-6172



# Kitaakita Area

## Tourist information

Kitaakita City Tourism and Products Association ☎+81-186-62-1851



Kitaakita City  
Tourism and  
Products Association  
(Japanese)



### Frost-covered trees on Mt. Moriyoshi, one of Japan's three major frozen tree viewing sites

The spectacular frost-covered trees of Mt. Moriyoshi represent one of the three major frozen tree viewing sites in Japan, along with Zao in Yamagata Prefecture and Hakkoda in Aomori Prefecture. Among this vast landscape of ice and frost, you can easily enjoy the frost-covered trees from the gondola.

- Website: Mt. Moriyoshi Ani Ski Resort <https://www.aniski.jp>
- Inquiries: Mt. Moriyoshi Ani Ski Resort ☎+81-186-82-3311
- Access: About 25 minutes from Aniai Station by Mt. Moriyoshi Sightseeing Taxi (shared taxi) [Course B]



### Akita Nairiku Line Snow Art

Snow art is made using footprints to draw geometric patterns on snow-covered rice paddies. The only place in the prefecture where visitors can view this art is in front of Jōmonogata Station. The area is illuminated at night, creating a fantastic atmosphere.

- Period: Early to mid - February
- Inquiries: Kitaakita City Nairiku Line Revitalization Support Office ☎+81-186-82-2114
- Access: Opposite the Jōmonogata Station

This Guinness World Record drum has a diameter of 3.71 m!



### Taiko Museum

This exhibit displays drums from around the world, including the world's largest drum as recognized by Guinness World Records. This drum is used in the dedication of the Tsuzureko Shrine Festival, a tradition that dates back over 750 years. Every year, on January 2, a celebration of the new year's first drum beating is held in the exhibition hall.

- Inquiries: ☎+81-186-63-0111
- Access: About 10 minutes from Takanosu Station by Mt. Moriyoshi Sightseeing Taxi (shared taxi) [Course H]



### Snow Candle Street in Ani

A community participation event held around Aniai Station. Warm candle flames illuminating the snowy streets of Ani make for a fantastic sight.

- Period: Early to mid - February
- Inquiries: Snow Candle Street Committee (Kitaakita City Ani Local Culture Preservation and Tradition Hall) ☎+81-186-82-3658
- Access: Around Aniai Station

# Odate Area

## Tourist information

Odate City Tourism Association ☎ +81-186-42-4360  
Odate City Tourism Information Center ☎ +81-186-57-8120



Odate City  
Tourism Association  
"Dodasuka Odate"  
(Japanese)



### Kiritampo

Odate is the home of Akita Prefecture's renowned local specialty, kiritampo. At the Authentic Odate Kiritampo Festival held in October every year, all the restaurants compete to show off their skills.

● Inquiries: Authentic Odate Kiritampo Association ☎ +81-186-43-7072

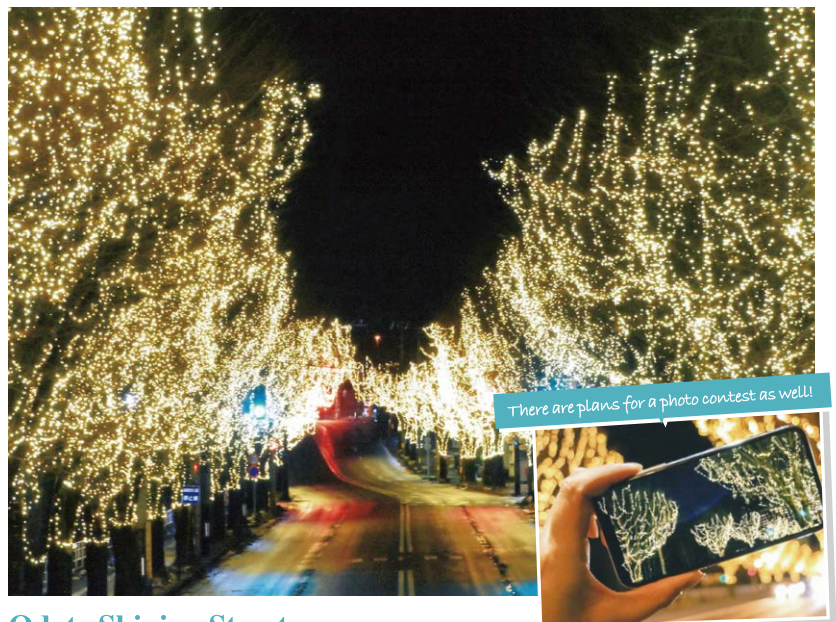
©Odate City



### Odate Amekko Fair

A festival where it is said that "if you eat the sweet on this day, you will not catch a cold." There are plenty of stalls that sell lollipops and sweets which attract tourists from in and out of Akita prefecture.

- **Date:** February 10 and 11
- **Inquiries:** Odate Amekko Fair Executive Committee Office ☎ +81-186-42-4360  
\*Main office on the day ☎ +81-90-6623-7671
- **Access:** About 10 minutes by bus from JR Odate Station



### Odate Shining Street

An illumination event that brightly lights up the severe winters of Odate with about 250,000 decorative lights.

- **Period:** December 9 – January 8
- **Time:** 4:30 pm – 1 am
- **Location:** Odate Municipal General Hospital – Akita University of Nursing and Welfare
- **Inquiries:** Odate Shining Street Executive Committee ☎ +81-90-3368-2085
- **Access:** About 10 minutes' walk from JR Odate Station

# Hirosaki Area

## Tourist information

Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center ☎+81-172-37-5501



Hirosaki Tourism and  
Convention Bureau



### Cherry trees illuminated in winter

The outer moat of Hirosaki Park is illuminated in winter. The sight of snow built up on the branches, resembling cherry blossoms in bloom, is captivating.  
\*Visibility may vary depending on weather and snowfall conditions.

- Location: Outer moat near Otemon Gate, Hirosaki Park
- Inquiries: Hirosaki City Tourism Department ☎+81-172-40-0236
- Access: About 15 minutes by bus from JR Hirosaki Station

- **Illumination period:** Early December to late February  
\* Time: Sunset – 9 pm (Times may be extended)



### Hyakuzawa Onsen Asobe-no-Mori Iwakiso

Hyakuzawa Onsen, the “HOT hot springs,” is a famous hot spring beloved by locals.

- **Time:** Day-trip bathing reception  
7 am - 9 am, and 6 pm - 8 pm
- **Inquiries:** ☎+81-172-83-2215
- **Access:** About a 50-minute bus ride on the Konan Bus bound for Karekitai departing from JR Hirosaki Station, then a 10-minute walk from Hyakuzawa Onsen-Mae



Hirosaki Castle Tower

### Hirosaki Castle Snow Lantern Festival

Enjoy the fantastic winter scenery of snow lanterns and snow sculptures of various sizes made by hand by local residents.



Tsugaru Nishiki-e Woodprint Passageway

- **Period:** February 9-12
- **Time:** 10 am – 9 pm (scheduled)
- **Location:** Hirosaki Park (Hirosaki Castle Ruins national historic site)
- **Inquiries:** Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center ☎+81-172-37-5501
- **Access:** About 15 minutes by bus from JR Hirosaki Station