Journey into a Living Culture

The Sights of Morioka

Cherry Tree
Fall Foliage

Cultural Assets and Historical Buildings

Morioka, The Northernmost Land of Natural Monument Sakura Tree.



1 Morioka Weeping Cherry Tree of Ryukokuji Temple B-3

Ryukokuji Temple, located along Kitayama Teramachi-dori Street (selected as one of The 100 Best Roads in Japan), is where famed poet Takuboku Ishikawa's uncle, who spent time introducing him to tanka poetry, served as head monk. Morioka Weeping Cherry Tree designated as National Natural Monument is also located on the temple grounds.



2 Oninotegata (Demons' Hand Prints on the Rocks) (Mitsuishi Shrine) B-3

The three granite rocks on the grounds of Mitsuishi Shrine are said to be the origin of the prefecture's name, Iwate. The legend has it that Oni (demons) were forced to leave its tegata (handprints) on the rocks as a promise to never act evil again. Thus the name Iwate (Iwa= granite, Te= hand). Sansa Odori dance is also said to have originated here.



3 Giboshi Ornament of Kaminohashi Bridge B-3

This bridge features eight decorative bronze knobs called Giboshi, engraved with inscriptions from the year 1609 (Keicho 14), as well as ten with inscriptions from the year 1611 (Keicho 16). As it is uncommon to find so many examples of such preserved works in one place, they have been designated as National Important Works of Art.



4 Morioka Shinkin Bank Main Office C-4

Designed by Morioka native, Manji Kasai. This building was built in 1927 (Showa 2) as the Former Morioka Savings Bank and is still in use as a Credit Union Bank. Linear poles of granite cover the outer wall of this uniquely designed building.



5 Iwate Prefecture Public Hall C-3

This building was constructed in 1927 (Showa 2), in commemoration of then Emperor Showa's marriage, and featured a prefectural council hall, large multipurpose space, a western-style restaurant, and accommodations for the imperial family. The building was designed by Koichi Sato, the same architect that worked on Tokyo Metropolitan Hibiya Public Hall and The Municipal Research Building, as well as Waseda University's Okuma Auditorium.

Morioka, The Northernmost Land of Natural Monument Sakura Tree.



6 Ishiwarizakura (The Rock-Splitting Cherry Tree) C-3

This rare edohiganzakura cherry tree has steadily grown out from a fracture in a granite stone for what's estimated to be over 360 years, and blooms beautiful flowers in spring every year. Before the courthouse was built during the Meiji era there used to be an estate belonging to the Kita family (vassals to the Morioka Clan).



7 Morioka Castle Site Park (Iwate Park) C-4 D-4

Construction started with Nobunao Nanbu, and it became a castle for the successive feudal lords in 1633 (Kan-ei 10). Granite used for the stone walls are from Morioka and is known as one of Japan's Top 100 Castles. It has also been designated as a National Historic Site.



8 Takuboku's Newlywed House D-2

The house where poet Takuboku Ishikawa began married life with his wife, Setsuko Horiai. He went on to describe life as newlyweds in an essay, titled "Waga Yojohan".
■ Open: 9:00am – 5:00pm (10:00am – 4:00pm for Dec - Mar)
■ Closed: Tue., Dec 28 – Jan 4 (also closed Tue, Wed, and Thu for Dec – Mar)
Tel: 019-624-2193



9 Nanshoso Admission Charged D-4

The residence of Yasugoro Segawa, a businessman from Morioka. The site covers approximately 3,600 square meters (1,100 tsubo), and the garden is registered as a National Monument.
■ Open: 10:00am – 5:00pm (summer, Apr 1 – Nov 30), 10:00am – 4:00pm (winter, Dec 1 – Mar 31) ■ Closed: Mon. (open during national holidays), Tue., Dec 26 – Jan 10
Tel: 019-604-6633



10 Bank of Iwate Red Brick Building Group Admission May Be Changed C-4

Built in 1911 (Meiji 44) and currently designated as a National Important Cultural Property. This building was designed by Tatsuno & Kasai Architect Office, that also worked on Tokyo Station.
■ Open: 10:00am – 5:00pm (4:30pm final admission)
■ Closed: Tue., Dec 29 – Jan 3
Tel: 019-622-1236



11 Gozaku (old merchant house and shop) / Moriku Shop C-4

Gozaku was a wealthy merchant between the late Edo period to early Meiji period. This building is a remnant of those days, when low-set buildings with white walls, tiled roofs, and latticed doors were a common sight. The sight of Dozo (mud and plaster wall) on the backside of the building with a flowing river and a stone wall is something that represents Morioka.



12 Morioka Takuboku & Kenji Museum C-4

Constructed in 1910 (Meiji 43) as the former Ninetieth Bank. This building was preserved and is currently designated as a National Important Cultural Property as well as showcasing Takuboku and Kenji's younger days.
■ Open: 10:00am – 6:00pm (5:30pm final admission)
■ Closed: Every 2nd Tue. (following day if it is a national holiday), Dec 29 – Jan 3
Tel: 019-604-8900



13 Konyacho Banya Watchtower C-4

Built in 1913 (Taisho 2) as a branch of the Morioka Volunteer Fire Department. It is now designated as the structure of landscape importance of Morioka City. In 2022, it was reopened as an experiential exchange facility with a café and weaving studio.
■ Open: 10:00am – 5:00pm
■ Closed: Mon.
Tel: 019-625-6002



14 Morioka Machiya-story Museum D-6

A facility comprised of Hamato Sake Brewery (a Landscape Important Structure of Morioka City) and other renovated buildings, that provides a sprawling recreation of the hustle and bustle of old Morioka townhouse scenery.
■ Open: 9:00am – 7:00pm (6:30pm final admission)
■ Closed: Every 4th Tue. (following day if it is a national holiday), Dec 29 – Jan 3 Tel: 019-654-2911



15 Main Building of the Former Morioka School of Agriculture and Forestry Admission Charged C-1

This building was completed in 1912 (Taisho 1), and was used as Morioka School of Agriculture and Forestry, which was founded in 1902 (Meiji 35). The building currently features many materials related to Kenji Miyazawa, a graduate of the school.
■ Open: 10:00am – 3:00pm weekdays (weekends and national holidays between last Sat. of Apr – Nov 3)
■ Closed: Oboon holiday, New Year's holiday Tel: 019-621-6678



16 Birthplace of Hara Kei Motomiya

Takashi Hara, known as a "Commoner Prime Minister," was born in this Morioka clansman's house. The sprawling residence was constructed in 1850 (Ka-ei 3), and covered around 661 square meters (approximately 250 tsubo). About a fifth of that original space has been preserved, and now sits adjacent to the HARA-KEI Memorial Museum ⓰.
■ Open: 9:00am – 4:00pm on Sat., Sun., national holidays (Apr – Oct) (other days also available, see museum website)



17 Gohyakurakan (500 Arhats) (Ho-onji Temple) Admission Charged B-3

There are currently around 500 of these rakan (arhat) statues enshrined at Ho-onji Temple, which are said to have been crafted over a period of four years by nine Buddhist sculptors from Kyoto starting in 1731 (Kyoho 16).
■ Viewing Hours: 9:00am – 4:00pm (3:30pm final admission)
Tel: 019-651-4415



18 Ichinokuratei C-4

An estate that belonged to Morioka native and late Meiji era politician, Hiroshi Abe. Enjoy the beautiful scenery of Chusonji Lotus flowers between late July and early August.
■ Open: 10:00am – 4:00pm
■ Closed: Mon., Tue., Aug 10 – 20, Dec 25 – Jan 15
Tel: 019-646-1817



19 Takamatsu Park (Takamatsu Pond)

During the Meiji era, over 1,000 Yoshinozakura cherry trees were planted around the pond, and have since been designated as one of Japan's Top 100 Cherry Blossom Viewing Sites. During the winter, swans fly in to rest here and watching the flock have become a winter tradition.



20 Weeping Cherry Trees of Yonai Josuijo (Water Purification Plant)

Usually blooming around early May, this cherry blossom viewing site informs the residence of the end of the hanami (flower viewing) season. The nearby water purification plant is also open to the public during the blooming season.
* For inquiries about public viewing times, as well as museum hours, please contact us. (Tel: 019-667-2280)



21 National Designated Historic Site Shiwa Castle Site / Shiwa Castle Historic Park

At this historic park above the excavated ruins, visitors can see the restored Shiwa Castle south gate, government buildings, and more, which were all originally built by Sakanoueno Tamuramaro during the Heian period (794-1185). Learn about history through films available for viewing at the information center and government office exhibition rooms.
■ Open (Information Center): 9:00am – 5:00pm
■ Closed: New Year's holiday Tel: 019-658-1710

Art Galleries and Museums



1 Morioka Central Public Hall A-3

Former Nakamura Family's Residence, designated as the National Important Cultural Property, was relocated here on the land where Morioka Clan's medical herb garden used to be. It is also a great place to view autumn foliage. ■ Open: 9:00am – 9:00pm (5:00pm on Sun., national holidays) ■ Closed: Mon. (following day if it is a national holiday), Dec 29 – Jan 3 (garden closed in winter, contact for further details) Tel: 019-654-5366



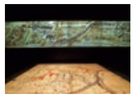
2 Morioka Museum of Letter Admission Charged C-4

A rare facility throughout the country that features various letters.
■ Open: 9:00am – 6:00pm (5:30pm final admission)
■ Closed: Every 2nd Tue. (following day if it is a national holiday), Dec 29 – Jan 3
Tel: 019-604-3302



3 Fukazawa Koko Nonohana Art Gallery Admission Charged B-4

A museum featuring the works of a Morioka native painter, Koko Fukazawa. Located by Nakatsu River.
■ Open: 10:00am – 5:00pm (4:30pm final admission, 3:00pm on last day of exhibition) ■ Closed: Mon. (following day if it is a national holiday), New Year's holiday, and temporary closures for exhibition changes Tel: 019-625-6541



4 Morioka History and Culture Museum Group Admission May Be Changed C-4

Documents of Nanbu Clan family of Morioka, and traditional culture of Morioka are in display. Tourist information is also available.
■ Open: 9:00am – 7:00pm (Apr – Oct) (closes at 6:00pm Nov – Mar) *2F final admission is 30min before closing
■ Closed: Every 3rd Tue. (following day if it is a national holiday), Dec 31, Jan 1 Tel: 019-681-2100



5 Morioka Study Museum of Archaeological Site Admission Charged Motomiya

A replica of a dig-out that had mid-Jomon period remains, as well as various archeological discoveries are displayed.
■ Open: 9:00am – 5:00pm (4:30pm final admission)
■ Closed: Mon. (following day if it is a national holiday), every last Tue., Dec 29 – Jan 3
Tel: 019-635-6600



6 Iwate Museum of Art Admission Charged Motomiya

Exhibiting the works of local artists, centered mainly on those of Tetsugoro Yorozu, Shunsuke Matsumoto, and Yasutake Funakoshi.
■ Open: 9:30am – 6:00pm (5:30pm final admission)
■ Closed: Mon. (following weekday if it is a national holiday), New Year's holiday
Tel: 019-658-1711



7 HARA-KEI Memorial Museum Admission Charged Motomiya

A museum built next to the house where politician and Morioka native, Takashi Hara, was born. A room from his mansion in Koshigoe has also been relocated to the premise.
■ Open: 9:00am – 5:00pm (4:30pm final admission)
■ Closed: Mon. (following weekday if it is a national holiday), Dec 29 – Jan 3
Tel: 019-636-1192



8 Morioka Children's Museum of Science Admission Charged Motomiya

Featuring a planetarium, an exhibition room for visitors to experience science and technology, science workshops, and more—a place for both children and adults to have a great time.
■ Open: 9:00am – 4:30pm (4:00pm final admission)
■ Closed: Mon., every last Tue., New Year's holiday
Tel: 019-634-1171



9 Morioka Memorial Museum of Great Predecessors Admission Charged Motomiya

Featuring materials relating to local historical predecessors, such as Inazo Nitobe, Mitsumasa Yonai, and Kyosuke Kindaichi.
■ Open: 9:00am – 5:00pm (4:30pm final admission)
■ Closed: Mon. (following weekday if it is a national holiday), every last Tue., Dec 29 – Jan 3
Tel: 019-659-3338



10 Iwate Prefectural Museum Admission Charged

Featuring exhibits about nature, culture, and history of Iwate, from ancient to modern times.
■ Open: 9:30am – 4:30pm (4:00pm final admission)
■ Closed: Mon. (following weekday if it is a national holiday), Around Sept 1 - 11, New Year's holiday
Tel: 019-661-2831



11 Morioka Zoological Park ZOOMO Admission Charged

A zoological park featuring over 300 mammals and birds, spanning over 65 different species. Events also held.
■ Open: 9:30am – 4:30pm (4:00pm final admission) (10:00am – 4:00pm for Dec – Mar (3:30pm final admission))
■ Closed: Wed. (Wed. & Thu. for Dec – Mar) and New Year's holiday
Tel: 019-654-8266

*Hours may vary depending on circumstances. See website for further details on each facility before visiting.


A Morioka City Central Area
0 100 200 300m
1 : 10,000
Morioka Central Public Hall / Former Nakamura Family's Residence/ Former Nanbu Family's Villa
Morioka Weeping Cherry Trees of Ryukokuji Temple
Gohyakurakan (500 Arhats)
Landing Zone for Swans
Oninotegata (Mitsuishi Shrine)
Konyacho Antiques Market
Kaminohashi Parking Area for Sightseeing Bus
Giboshi Ornament of Kaminohashi Bridge
Fukazawa Koko Nonohana Art Gallery
Konyacho Banya Watchtower
Gozaku / Moriku Shop
Kananoshi (Market)
Morioka Shinkin Bank Main Office
Bank of Iwate Red Brick Building
Iwate Prefecture Public Hall
Ishiwarizakura (The Rock-Splitting Cherry Tree)
Morioka History and Culture Museum
(1F: Information Center)
Morioka Takuboku & Kenji Museum
Morioka Castle Site Park (Iwate Park)
Takuboku's Newlywed House
Morioka City Loop Bus "Dendenmushi"
Zaimokucho Yoichi Market
Ichinokuratei
Weeping Cherry Trees of Yonai Josuijo
Takamatsu Park
Main Building of the Former Morioka School of Agriculture and Forestry
Iwate Prefectural Museum
Iwate Tourism Association (3F, Malios)
Iwate & Morioka Regional Tourist Information Center (Morioka Sta. South Exit 2F)
Hayabusa and Komachi Shinkansen's connecting & disconnecting, viewable only at Morioka Station!
Morioka Station
Morioka Station East Exit
Morioka Station West Exit
Motomiya Area A
Motomiya Area B
Motomiya Area C
Plaza Odette (2F: Morioka Tourist information Center)
Morioka Museum of Letter
Seinan Loop
Nanshoso
Victoria Road (Walking Path)
Walking Path along Nakatsu River
Walking Path along Kitakami River
Shiwa Castle Historic Park
Morioka Hachimangu Shrine
Morioka Children's Museum of Science
Iwate Museum of Art
Morioka Study Museum of Archaeological Site
Morioka Memorial Museum of Great Predecessors
Morioka Takayama Arena (Morioka City General Arena)
Morioka Municipal Hospital
Morioka Municipal Swimming Pool
Morioka Ice Skating Rink
Morioka City Ice Skating Rink
Michinoku Coka-Cola Bottling Ice Skating Rink
Hotel Metropolitan Morioka
Hotel Metropolitan Morioka New Wing
Hotel Route Inn Morioka-ekimae
Richmond Hotel Morioka-ekimae
Toyoko Inn Morioka-ekimae
Daiwa Roynet Hotel Morioka-ekimae
R&B Hotel Morioka-ekimae
Hotel Morioka City Hotel
Hotel Ace Morioka
Hotel Royal Morioka
Hotel Pearl City Morioka
Art Hotel Morioka
Hotel Bright Inn Morioka
Hotel New Carina
Dormy Inn Morioka
Unizo Inn Express Morioka
Map Key
Morioka Citizens' Tourist Information
Small Museum
Facilities with Accessible Restrooms
School Facilities
Bus Stop
Parking Lot
"Dendenmushi"
Public Road
National Highway
Prefectural Road
Accommodation Facilities
Gas Station
Post Office
Seinan Loop
Spots introduced when Morioka was chosen as one of "52 Places to Go in 2023" by the New York Times.
Morioka City Wi-Fi Locations
Available at facilities displaying this mark
Motomiya Area
Morioka Station East Exit Bus Terminal
Information Board
Bus Information Office Ticket Window
IGR Entrance
North Exit
Morioka Station Building
To Aomori
To Sendai
Taxi Terminal
Morioka Station West Exit Bus Terminal (2F)
Ticket Vending Machine
Waiting Area
(Opening) 1F Taxi Terminal
Sansakomichi Walkway
Malios Road (Morioka Station Asahibashi Line Overpass)
Morioka Station Building (FES'AN (2F))
Aiina
Malios (3F)
Sendai
Joboji / Kunohe / Kuji / Karumai / Hachinohe / Hanawa / Odate
Hirosaki / Aomori / Towada / Misawa
Takizawa Office (via Yutorigaoka) / Takizawa City Hall (via Nagahashidai) / Morioka Bus Center / Shizukuishi Ski Resort (limited service)
Aeon (Motomiya) / Ueda /Hakoshimizu / Mitake / Kuriyagawa Station
Tokyo Yaesu
Appi Highlands (limited service) / Morioka South Park Stadium
Tokyo / Yokohama
Rent out (Hot Spring Shuttles)
The West Exit Bus Terminal is connected directly to the 2nd floor of Morioka Station, a convenient stop if you're going to Malios (3F), Aiina (3F), or the taxi terminal. (1F)
Seinan Loop
Starting / Final Stop
Morioka Station East Exit [Stops: Clockwise No. 5, Counterclockwise No. 10]
See blue line (—) on map for routes
Timetable ●Closed Sat., Sun., holidays ●Closed weekdays)
Clockwise
10:30/◆11:30/●13:30/●15:30/●17:00
Counterclockwise
◆8:00/◆9:20/●10:00/●11:00/12:00/●13:00/◆14:00/●15:00/●16:30
Fare
Single Ride: 150 Yen – 200 Yen (children are half the price of adults)
Motomiya Area
Morioka Memorial Museum of Great Predecessors
Seinan Loop
Iwate Museum of Art
Morioka Study Museum of Archaeological Site
BeBA TERRACE
Sago-arena-mae
Sago-pool-mae
Morioka Takayama Arena (Morioka City General Arena)
Morioka Municipal Hospital
Morioka Municipal Swimming Pool
Michinoku Coka-Cola Bottling Ice Skating Rink (Morioka City Ice Skating Rink)
Kyutakuji Temple
Morioka-shinbun-dori
Izumiyoshi
Karakuri-kimekan-mae
HARA-KEI Memorial Museum
Birthplace of Hara Kei
Morioka Commercial High School
Aeon Mall Morioka-minami
National Designated Historic Site Shiwa Castle Site / Shiwa Castle Historic Park
To Morioka-minami IC
To Senbokucho Sta.
Tohoku Shinkansen
Tohoku Line
Iwate Galaxy Railway
Kitakami River
Kitakamigawa Park
Senbokucho Bridge
Senbokucho Sta.
Senboku-cho
Choshoji Temple
Shiwa-okashi Bridge
Shiwa-okashi Ridge
Shinkansen Bridge
Shinkansen Viaduct
Morino-ohashi Bridge
Otabashi Bridge
Josei-cho
Asahibashi Bridge
Kitakami River
Kitakami Tenryo Canal
Nakatsu River
Takuboku Ishikawa Poem Monument
Takuboku Father and Son Poem Monument
Takuboku & Bokurei Friendship Poem Monument
Takuboku Statue
Kenji's Well and Spring Water
Shimonohashi Parking Area for Sightseeing Bus
Shimonohashi Bridge
Shimonohashi Junior High School
Shimonohashi-cho
Kawarabashi Bridge
Kawarabashi Bridge Bank
Shinzangashi River Bank
Meijibashi Bridge
Ohmoyabashi Bridge
Kokuzatabashi Bridge
Fujimibashi Bridge
Kawasaki Bridge
Kawasaki Bridge Bank
Kaminohashi Bridge
Kaminohashi Bridge Bank
Bunkabashi Bridge
Higuchi-ohashi Bridge
Hoshoji Temple
Kaminoshi Walkway
Sansakomichi Walkway
Nakanoshashi Walkway
Nakanoshashi Bridge
Nakanoshashi-dori-nichome
Hachimangu-mae
Matsuo-mae
Matsuo Shrine
Hachimangu Shrine
Hachimangu Baniya Watchtower
Ryokan Yamato
Ryokan Sugawara Bekkan
Ryokan Tenmagu-mae
Ryokan Fujiwara Honey Shop
Ryokan Kamaguchi Ryokan
Ryokan Tashokan (Inn)
Ryokan Kamagai Ryokan
Ryokan Kaminoshi Ryokan
Ryokan Ogiya Ryokan
Ryokan Hotel Pearl City Morioka
Ryokan Hotel Royal Morioka
Ryokan Hotel Morioka
Ryokan Hotel Bright Inn Morioka
Ryokan Hotel New Carina
Ryokan Art Hotel Morioka
Ryokan Dormy Inn Morioka
Ryokan Unizo Inn Express Morioka
Ryokan Hotel Metropolitan Morioka New Wing
Ryokan Hotel Morioka City Hotel
Ryokan Hotel Ace Morioka
Ryokan Daiwa Roynet Hotel Morioka-ekimae
Ryokan R&B Hotel Morioka-ekimae
Ryokan Toyoko Inn Morioka-ekimae
Ryokan Hotel Route Inn Morioka-ekimae
Ryokan Richmond Hotel Morioka-ekimae
Ryokan Toyoko Inn Morioka-eki Minamiguchi-ekimae
Ryokan Hotel Metropolitan Morioka
Ryokan Hotel Morioka New Wing
Ryokan Hotel Morioka City Hotel
Ryokan Hotel Ace Morioka
Ryokan Hotel Royal Morioka
Ryokan Hotel Pearl City Morioka
Ryokan Art Hotel Morioka
Ryokan Hotel Bright Inn Morioka
Ryokan Hotel New Carina
Ryokan Dormy Inn Morioka
Ryokan Unizo Inn Express Morioka
Ryokan Hotel Metropolitan