Wonders of Snow and Ice
Hot Spring Haunts
Local Festival Spirit

Aomori in Winter
Aomori Awaits You

**Aomori in a Nutshell**

Aomori prefecture is the northernmost end of the country’s main island, Honshu. Just across the Tsugaru Strait to the north is Hokkaido, Japan’s eighth-largest prefecture, Aomori occupies an area of nearly 9,644.55 square kilometers at the northernmost end of the country’s main island, Honshu. It’s true that people in Aomori don’t soak in the bathtub much at home. They go out to the onsen—the public baths fed by natural hot springs. People know well the power of a good bath to warm the body and console in the best way of restoring health. The hot springs—with sometimes clear, sometimes cloudy, even creamy waters—are diverse. One special pleasure in touring Aomori in winter is the search for just the right spa for you.

**Activities Galore for Enjoying the Snow**

Aomori is a paradise for skiers and snowboarders, with perfect powder snow waiting on its numerous ski slopes. Hiking in the Shirakami mountains and Oirase Gorge, sightseeing by horseback in the woods around Lake Towada, tours of the snow spectacles for which the region is famous are among the various activities to be enjoyed around the prefecture.

**Cold Season Delicacies of Land and Sea**

Aomori is blessed by the bounty of nature, and everything grows on the land and harvested from its seas is delicious. Cattle, scallops, mackerel, and cod, as well as sea urchin and other seafood top the list from the seas. Apples and garlic lead the crops from the land. Such fresh ingredients, simply prepared, are the stuff of the numerous dishes that people know and love. The rice and sake of Aomori are famously delicious, assuring you the most pleasant dining experiences.

**Hot Spring Diversity**

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**Join the Fun of Winter Festivals**

The festivals of winter are occasions of fun, for reveling in the cold and the snow, and at the same time observing traditional beliefs, and celebrating the deities ushering in the coming of spring, and praying for abundant harvest for the year. The festivals combine aspects of the new in the snow, and at the same time observing traditional beliefs, and celebrating the deities ushering in the coming of spring, and praying for abundant harvest for the year. The festivals combine aspects of the new in the snow, and at the same time observing traditional beliefs, and celebrating the deities ushering in the coming of spring, and praying for abundant harvest for the year.

**Wondrous Winterscapes**

Unspoiled natural landscape is Aomori’s greatest treasure. Sometimes, one can experience the natural landscapes of winter offer experiences without parallel anywhere. Best of all, comfortable access by train or automobile takes you directly to enjoying vistas and close-up sights of nature’s winter wonders.

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Winter is harsh at Lake Towada, but in fleeting moments the clouds part, and the encircling snow-covered mountains reflect upon the waters mirroring the deep blue of the sky. Aomori prefecture takes great pride in landscapes like this that display nature’s grandeur. Filling a double caldera created by volcanic activity eons ago, the lake is surrounded by an outer rim rising 600 to 1,000 meters and a vast forested wilderness. Volcanic activity is said to have begun 200,000 years ago and the caldera was formed following a series of six major eruptions that took place between 40,000 and 13,000 years ago. The most recent eruption on record took place in 915, devastating an area 20 kilometers around the volcano and spewing ash that fell as far as Kyoto more than 1,100 kilometers away. Japan’s third deepest lake, Towada’s waters plunge 326.8 meters, so it rarely ices over completely in winter. Its deep waters augment all the more the stunning contrasts of the lake’s surface under clear winter skies and the ancient furrows of the surrounding mountains.

Left: The swan is Aomori prefecture’s symbol bird. The swans migrate to this region from Siberia each year in October and can be seen in various places in Aomori until the latter part of March. Especially famous for flocks of swans are the town of Hiranai on the Natsudomari peninsula, the area around Oirase Gorge and Lake Towada, and the town of Fujisaki in the Tsugaru region. Right: Snow-covered ridges and shifting clouds reflect on the waters of Lake Towada. Sights like this are the special preserve of winter.

Access & Data

To the Yasumiya area at Lake Towada (Page 24, map)

By Tohoku Shinkansen:
From Shichinohe Towada Station about 1 hour 30 minutes by car. * In winter, there is no regular bus service, so transportation is by taxi.

By air:
From Misawa Airport about 1 hour 30 minutes by car.
From Aomori Airport about 2 hours by car.

By Aomori Railway:
From Aomori Station to Misawa Station about 1 hour 10 minutes and from Misawa Station about 1 hour 30 minutes by car; from Hachinohe Station to Misawa Station 19 minutes and from Misawa Station about 1 hour 30 minutes by car.

Sights like this are the special preserve of winter.
The best place to enjoy strolling around the shores of Lake Towada is the area known as Yamasui. Many of the shops there are closed during the winter season, but from the time of the Lake Towada Winter’s Tale festival (see page 22) held here from early to late February, some of the shops reopen and the area becomes more lively. For a pleasant walk in the clean and breezy air, follow the “Statue of Maidens Path” and enter the “Path to Good Fortune,” which takes you to Towada Shrine.

“Princess Trout” and New Life in the Lake

The Oirase Gorge (pages 8–10) was the result of a rupture in the caldera wall of the volcano. The current flowing into the gorge is very strong, so many attempts to stock the lake with fish had failed, as the fish could not return to the lake to spawn. Former mayor and developer of the region Sadayuki Wainai made a determined effort, however, and finally succeeded in 1905, when fry of a species known as princess trout were released into the lake. Ever since, and particularly since Takamura’s “Statue of Maidens” was unveiled in 1963, the fish have been known as Lake Towada’s pride and a favorite of local cuisine.

Towada Shrine serves as the locus of local festivals tied in each district of water (trout). The original shrine was built here in the Heian period (around 800), and below the shrine are a temple dedicated to Amaterasu, the sun goddess. The shrine can be reached using a side path.

Access & Data

Towada Horseback Riding Club: Page 24, map 3

Access & Data

Experience Art Like Never Before

Arts Towada, a city-wide initiative to rejuvenate Towada’s urban center through art, is unlike any other. Towada’s entire main avenue—home to its city hall as well as a general hospital, fire station, and other public facilities—is transformed into an art museum. At the heart of the initiative is the Towada Art Center, opened in 2008 and designed by Ryue Nishizawa, of the internationally acclaimed architectural firm SANAA. The Center has a permanent collection of 18 artworks created specifically for its indoor and outdoor spaces. Choi Jeong Hwa’s colorful Flower Horse, a one-of-a-kind collaboration between Towada and the artist, and the “Path to Good Fortune” and enter the “Path to Good Fortune,” which takes you to Towada Shrine.

Photography by Kuniya Oyamada
Some 15,000 years ago, the rim of the Towada crater ruptured and the waters inside the caldera flooded forth, creating what is now known as Oirase Gorge, with its waterfalls and rapids of every size and proportion extending over a distance of about 14 kilometers. In winter, ice-crystals form over the falls, creating amazing stalactites, columns, and frozen flows. The early morning after a snowfall is a good time to enjoy the sky’s added touches to nature’s art. Fresh powder dusts the fine branches of the oaks of the forest and softly caps the rocks here and there in the stream. Walking through the woods—in quiet enlivened by the chirping calls of the brown dipper birds (kawagarasu)—you suddenly find yourself gazing up at one of nature’s fantastic ice sculptures. Their powerful forms, glittering blue and white, are symbols of the rigors and the beauty of Aomori in winter.

Access & Data

Route to the Yakeyama entrance to Oirase Gorge from the city of Towada. (Page 24, map)

By Tohoku Shinkansen:
From Hachinohe Station about 1 hour 10 minutes by car; from Shin-Aomori Station about 1 hour 30 minutes by car.

By air:
From Misawa Airport about 1 hour 10 minutes by car; from Aomori Airport about 1 hour 30 minutes by car.
Almost the entire area of Oirase Gorge falls within Towada Hachimantai National Park, a protected zone designated for preservation of the plant and animal life as well as the beautiful landscape of snow and ice. Along the route’s course are famous sights such as Ashura Rapids and the dynamic Choshi Falls, which is approximately 7 meters high and 20 meters across. In some cases you will need to wear snowshoes, please consult your hotel for rental equipment.

Oirase Gorge Walking Map

Secluded Hot Spring Retreats

Aomori is one country—home to many different types of hot springs available in ample supply in different parts of the prefecture. Some areas are well-developed spa towns with numerous inns and baths clustered together; others are quiet lodges to be found deep in remote valleys where electric power lines stay just out extended. Soaking in a hot bath in the midst of a snow-covered landscape is one of the special treats of the winter season. Aomori invites you to tour its hot springs, where the exotic enjoyments of winter await you.

Lake Towada Hot Spring Village

This cluster of hot spring baths is located at the Towada city end of Oirase Gorge. Open to the Towada Green ski and snowboard resort, convenient for sightseeing and recreation.

Tsuta Hot Spring

This has been a hot spring bathing spot for more than a thousand years. The Tsuta Green Resort, an inn built here 180 years ago, has been serving customers ever since. The elevated bath is located directly over the hot spring source, and the water flows freely through side is the bathtub floor.

Access & Data

For more information, contact Tsuta Onsen, 1-7 Aonisawa Taki-no-ue, Okiura, Towada 022-850-1233 (Japanese only).

Lake Towada

Deep in the snowy mountains is Aoni Onsen, a secluded inn known as “Lamp Light Lodge.” As the name suggests, this inn offers guests the experience of lodging by lamplight. Dining on local cuisine served in the warm glow of lamps and soaking in any of four different baths, you can find an Aomori-style break from the always-online life.

Access & Data

Information: Oirase Keiryukan, tel. 0176-74-1233

Lake Towada

Oirase Keiryu Hotel

Hoshino Resorts

Ouse

Towada Onsen ski and snowboard resort, convenient for sightseeing and recreation.

Tsuta Onsen Hotel, 1-7 Aonisawa Taki-no-ue, Okiura, Towada 022-850-1233 (Japanese only).

Aoni Onsen, 1-7 Aonisawa Taki-no-ue, Okiura, Towada; tel. 0176-84-0808

From Hachinohe Station: about 1 hour by Tohoku Shinkansen.

From Aomori Airport: about 1 hour by Tohoku Shinkansen.

www.yo.rim.or.jp/~aoni/)

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The snow-inspired world of Oirase Keiryu Hotel is filled with the soft sounds of flowing water. In the lounge area, two large hot spring baths include one out of doors. Above, the guests experience comfort with warm Hoshino services, quiet, private times to complement your schedule of outdoor activities.

Amenities to Augment Your Enjoyment of the Snow and Ice

Located near the Yakeyama end of Oirase Gorge within the boundaries of the Towada Hachimantai National Park, Hoshino Resorts Oirase Keiryu Hotel presents lodgings for “the slow life on the riverbank.” Perfectly situated for exploring the Lake Towada and Oirase Gorge area, the hotel opened its doors for the winter season for the first time in 2017. Dedicated to showing guests the many beauties and pleasures that can only be enjoyed in winter, the hotel operates a shuttle bus supporting walks along a 14-kilometer stretch of the beautiful Oirase stream. With an activity staff to help guests enjoy the attractions of the surrounding area to their fullest, the hotel offers a range of services including advice about the weather and snow conditions, rental footwear, “Mori no Gakko” nature appreciation classes (in Japanese), and guided nature walks along the stream.

From 2017, moreover, a new outdoor hot spring bath (rotenburo) was opened. Built right within view of one of the frozen cascades for which Oirase is famous, the new bath joins together hot spring amenities and attractions of the landscape that cannot be found anywhere else in Japan. Also extraordinary are the newly added Japanese-style and Western-style twin rooms on the mountain-stream side, each with a private outdoor bath on their terraces.

The hotel’s Seiyo Zensho Oirase restaurant serves French-style meals, but with the added attraction of Japanese-inspired elements. Guests will enjoy excellent dining all year around, along with plentiful choices of high-quality sake and wine.

Access & Data

Hoshino Resorts Oirase Keiryu Hotel

231 Tochikubo, Okuse, Towada; tel. 050-3786-1144 (International call; Hoshino Resorts reservations center), www.oirase-keiryuu.jp

By Tohoku Shinkansen:

- From Hachinohe Station 1 hour 30 minutes by car (courtesy bus pick-up by advance reservation); from Shin Aomori Station 1 hour 30 minutes by car; from Shichinohe Towada Station about 50 minutes by car.

By air:

- From Aomori Airport about 1 hour 30 minutes by car; from Misawa Airport 1 hour 20 minutes by car.

By car:

- From Hachinohe Station 1 hour 30 minutes by car (courtesy bus pick-up by advance reservation); from Shin Aomori Station 1 hour 30 minutes by car; from Shichinohe Towada Station about 50 minutes by car.

Oirase Keiryu Hot Spring

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Hakkoda is a wilderness mountain area covered with deciduous and evergreen forests in the Towada Hachimantai National Park. In winter the average temperature on its peaks (the highest over 1,500 meters or 5,000 feet) falls to between -10 and -15°C (14 –5°F). In the frigid air of the upper elevations of Hakkoda’s peaks, the trees covered in frost and snow turn into breathtaking “snow monsters” marching across the snow-white dunes. One of the peaks, Tamoyachi, has several downhill ski courses covering 3.5 to 6.3 kilometers and tour routes through the mountains. Skiers and snowboarders gather here from not only all over Japan but other countries for the thrill of sliding in such an exotic winterscape. Attractions of many kinds await you on Hakkoda, with its long winter sports season extending from late November to mid-May.

Above: From mid-slope to near the ridges are vast forests of Aomori todomatsu or Maries’ fir, designated as the symbol tree of the city of Aomori. Here skiers slalom through the exotic scenery of “snow monsters” coated with frost and snow.

Right: Deciduous forest of beech and other trees covers the mountains from the foothills to mid-slope.

Towada Hachimantai National Park Hakkoda (Page 14, map...
Ropeway into the Snowbound Forest

The frost-covered trees (juhyo) of Hakkoda are created when snow blown by strong winds blankets the fir trees and freezes in place. These “snow monsters” bring you face to face with nature’s overwhelming power. Located as they are near the high ridges of the mountains, they would ordinarily be out of reach for most sightseers. The Hakkoda ropeway operates all year round, lifting visitors to snow-covered heights even during the deep winter months. You don’t have to be a skier to see these winter wonders up close.

Snow piled up from ploughing to clear the roads forms corridors, creating sights like the one pictured here in the Hakkoda area during the winter. The route between Hakkoda Sukayu to the Yachi Hot Springs, closed during the winter season, is reopened in April. The “Hakkoda Walk” is organized to traverse the route, extending about 8 kilometers, with walls like this up to 7 meters high on both sides of the route. For information, contact the Aomori City Tourist Information Center, tel. 017-723-4670; www.atca.info (page 24, map).

Corridors through the Snow

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Sukayu Onsen Ryokan

Sukayu is a hot spring first established here more than 300 years ago. The legend of the spa goes that a woodcutter in the mountains discovered it when he observed a deer soothing its injuries in the waters. In 1954, Sukayu became the first spa to be designated as a National Hot Spring Health Resort. The Sukayu Onsen Ryokan inn is in the simple, old-fashioned style of hot spring spa. Its huge 264.5-square meter bath is famous as the Hiba Senninburo (“1,000-person” Cypress Bath). The massive roof, skillfully constructed without supporting posts interrupting the space, covers bathtubs featuring four different hot spring types, their cloudy waters offering deep relaxation for mind and body. Entry to the baths is not restricted to guests at the inn, so visitors to Hakkoda are urged to drop by after an exciting day seeing the Aomori winter on the mountain. The main baths are mixed bathing; for separate gender bathing, look for the “Tama no yu” sign.

Healing Waters Tapped for 300 Years Await You in the Deep Snows of Hakkoda

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Hoshino Resorts Aomoriya

The Aomoriya’s Ukiyu (above) is an outdoor bath built, as if “floating,” out into the water of a natural pond. On sunny afternoons, visitors watch lanterns project their dynamic lights and colors over the pond, creating a magical scene. The chance to experience attractions from all over Aomori prefecture. Stalls provide spaces for eating and drinking around the periphery of a room decorated in a festive atmosphere, and every evening performances of ohayashi music, shamisen music, and other special events offer guests lively entertainments within the hotel. Such are the sounds, smells, tastes, and hospitality that make an Aomori journey memorable.

Komaki Hot Springs

The Komaki hot springs of Misawa are known for silky textured, cloudy waters. On the grounds of the Hoshino Resorts Aomoriya is the area’s original spring, called the Motosu, which is open to visitors and local residents alike (page 24, map). For local people, who “go to the onsen,” Komaki is an extension of their homes. One of the pleasures of these baths is not only warming your body, but also the chance to get a feel for the local dialect through the cadences of speech in the local dialect echoing through the steam. Whether hot or cold, bathing here is associated with the Ukiyu (“Floating”) Bath and the Hitaburi ( Cypress Bath), and the Ichigo (First Bath), later reserved for the exclusive use of Aomoriya guests.

Aomoriya Winter Adventure Tours

Winter Obaru Gorge Tour
Nature guide-led, half-day tour of the Obaru Gorge introduced on pages 50 to 55. Adults ¥1,500, children ¥750 (3 years and under no charge).

Hakkoda Jiyuu (Snow Monster) Tour
Guided waterfall, wintry nature, and the snow bowl bath at Ayase Onsen introduced on pages 53 to 57. Available from January to March. Adults ¥1,200, children ¥600. Note: Includes lunch and bath fees.

Stove Wagon
The Tsugaru Railway has been the northernmost private train company in Japan since its opening in 1915. Trains traveling through this region of heavy snows and bitter cold are routinely equipped with potbelly stoves, their fires kept burning as the trains travel through the star-filled skies. The chance to see these stoves in action as the train travels through the winter landscape known as Japan’s last“Stove Wagon.”

Stove Train Tour
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Stove Train Tour
The Tsugaru Railway has been the northernmost private train company in Japan since its opening in 1915. Trains traveling through this region of heavy snows and bitter cold are routinely equipped with potbelly stoves, their fires kept burning as the trains travel through the star-filled skies. The chance to see these stoves in action as the train travels through the winter landscape known as Japan’s last“Stove Wagon.”

Winter Oirase Gorge Tour
Nature guide-led, half-day tour of the Obaru Gorge introduced on pages 50 to 55. Adults ¥1,500, children ¥750 (3 years and under no charge).

Hakkoda Jiyuu (Snow Monster) Tour
Guided waterfall, wintry nature, and the snow bowl bath at Ayase Onsen introduced on pages 53 to 57. Available from January to March. Adults ¥1,200, children ¥600. Note: Includes lunch and bath fees.

Other Tours Organized by Aomoriya

Note: Includes lunch and bath fees.
Winter Exclusive: “Sake no Ade” (Sake and Snacks) Snowscape Train Tour

This tour featuring enjoyment of sake, local snacks, and the scenery along the route charts a two-car Aomori Railway train running between five stops on the line between Minami and Aomori stations. Three Aomori brands of sake are offered, accompanied by one or two local specialty snacks (and, pronounced “ah day” in the Aomori dialect) served at each station for a total of four new snacks. Live flominal flute and drum music played in the cars adds to the merriment of the party. The sight of the wintry scene of Mutsu Bay coming into view adds yet another treat to the tasty snacks along the way. Held once a week in January and February.

Fee: Adults ¥8,640; children ¥4,320; children under 3 years free of charge

Page 24 map

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Page 24 map

Aomori Trademark Tastes

Each area of Aomori is known for specialty products, some grown on the land, others the harvest of seas and lakes. Here is a sample of items perfect for gifts and souvenirs, as we find them at Aomori Prefecture Tourist Center—known as “Aspam”—on the bayside in the city of Aomori.

Access & Data

Aomori Prefecture Tourist Center (Aspam) (map) pgs. 22, 23 1-1-40 Yasukata, Aomori; tel. 017-735-5311 (Japanese and English)

Located a 10-minute walk from Aomori Station; Hours vary for the on-street image and lobbies in the building, so be sure to check the website for details. Opened December 21, and Monday through Wednesday during the first week of January. The image introduced here are on the 19th floor; the historic rice mill and walkway on the 18th floor; the observatory on the 17th floor; the tea shop at the 16th floor; the animal-friendly park, the resolution in the 15th floor, the Bussan building, the kiosks on the 14th floor; and souvenirs to the 11th floor.

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Page 24 map

At the Nishimura restaurant on the 10th floor of the Aspam building, with its floor-to-ceiling windows, you can sample diverse choice of the local cuisine made with seasonal ingredients. Set lunches make it easy to order a quick meal and enjoy the view of Mutsu Bay. A set lunch with a selection of local dishes costs ¥1,980, ¥2,970, or ¥3,960.

At the Aspam Art Gallery on the 13th floor offers fine vistas of Mutsu Bay, the Aomori Bay Bridge, and the Hakkoda Mountains on the inland side of the bay.

This top-quality Aomori rice, rated “special A” class, is the product of prefectoral-wide efforts in all aspects of rice farming from soil improvement to selective cultivation. With its sturdy yet light texture and refined sweetness, this rice goes well with any course and is a must-try for travelers on their first visit. (Photo: Mutsu no Osato). Price ¥1,750 (1 kg), ¥3,500 (2 kg), ¥5,250 (5 kg)

Note: The tours described on pages 18 to 20 are exclusively for Aomoriya guests. Reservations required 3 days in advance. Please also note that the information provided here is for winter 2014.

Reo no tsuyu with ginger and miso

Left: Great bottle of three types of sake served in the Asahi-Doaima Classic, made by Hachimotsu Shuzo; “Gekkeikan” Jetti; and “Hanasu Japan” by Benkei Shuzo. Enjoy eating these dishes of the local cuisine made with seasonal ingredients. Set lunches make it easy to order a quick meal and enjoy the view of Mutsu Bay. A set lunch with a selection of local dishes costs ¥1,980, ¥2,970, or ¥3,960.

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Winter Festivals and Attractions

Aomori’s winter attractions embrace nature’s cold while overflowing with human warmth. The festivals are held in venues featuring snow and ice, with paths set up inside them serving piping hot sake and food. At night, the snowy surroundings are lit up with beautiful illuminations and dramatic displays of fireworks. In solemn rituals rooted in Shinto traditions going back to ancient times, the magical candlelight and dynamic movements of dancers transmit the veneration and devotion of people who live amid the rigor of winter.

Lake Towada Winter’s Tale

The “Winter’s Tale” festival takes place over a period of about three weeks in a specially built venue on the shore of Lake Towada. Attractions include: A series of shows are presented on a stage built of snow, heart foods are served in a snow-lit tavern, and the venue is part of a trail of nationally significant assets. Visitors can experience various local products, like the snow slide and hokkuri, countryside trekking around the venue, and the “Sawada Candle Festival”. Visitors can view the teahouse and enjoy a meal with a view of the lake. The highlight of each day of the festival is the finale, comprised of displays of fireworks from 8:00 to 9:00 PM, their colors brilliant against the clear night sky. Admission free of charge. For more information, visit: Lake Towada Visitors’ Office, tel. 0174-79-2155 (Japanese only), www.sawadailace.jp

Access & Data

By train: Within walking distance of Aomori Station. (Page 24, map)

Sawada Candle Festival

This festival has been celebrated for some 450 years in a small community of about ten households in the Sawada district in the foothills of the Shirakami Mountains in the western part of Aomori. At this festival, the ethereal light of several hundred candles gives a sense of being transported back to times long before the next day the luck of the harvest is divined from the way the wax has run down from the candles. The festival has been celebrated in the Sawada district in the foothills of the Shirakami Mountains in the western part of Aomori.

Access & Data

By train: within walking distance of Aomori Station. (Page 24, map)

Hachinohe Enburi

One of Aomori’s three major winter festivals designated by the national government as Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property. Aomori’s annual Enburi is a unique traditional dance featuring horse costumes that has been performed annually between February 17 and 28 in various venues such as on the plaza in front of the main building of the Aomori Prefectural Government Household Office, in the Civic Square of the city of Hachinohe, and in the garden of the Hikosan Shrine, a heritage house built by a wealthy businessman. The costumed dancers, wearing plaited happiness dances movements of horse’s head, perform a dance mimicking the movements of a horse running from the front of rice fields to the harvest of rice, and then to the harvest of rice. The warm, flickering light of some-3,000 snow lanterns made by hand by Aomori citizens creates a magical scene that delights visitors and locals alike. Information: Aomori City Tourist Information Center, tel. 0173-38-1070, www.atca.info

Access & Data

By train: Within walking distance of Aomori Station. (Page 24, map)

Hirosaki Snow Light Festival

This festival is held annually in late January in the plaza on the west side of the Nebuta House Hirosaki, the building at the bypase near Aomori Station that exhibits the history and attractions of the Nebuta Festival. The works, “floating light of some 3,000 snow lanterns made by hand by Aomori citizens” creates a magical scene that delights visitors and locals alike. Information: Aomori City Tourist Information Center, tel. 0173-38-1070, www.atca.info

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Access & Data

By train: Within walking distance of Aomori Station. (Page 24, map)
Welcome to Aomori

Access to Aomori

By Train

- **Tokyo**: Tohoku Shinkansen “Hayabusa” to Shin-Aomori about 3 hours
- **Sapporo**: Limited Express Super Hakuto to Shin-Aomori about 4 hours 40 minutes
- **Shin-Itako**: Takadate Shinkansen “Harima” to Tokyo about 6 hours

By Air (as of May 2017)

- **Tokyo (Haneda)**: about 1 hour 15 minutes
- **Osaka (Itami)**: about 1 hour 30 minutes
- **Osaka (Itami)**: about 1 hour 30 minutes
- **Sapporo (Shin-Chitose)**: about 45 minutes
- **Nagoya (Komaki)**: about 1 hour 20 minutes
- **Tokyo (Haneda)**: about 1 hour 20 minutes
- **Osaka (Itami)**: about 1 hour 30 minutes
- **Sapporo (Okanazawa)**: about 1 hour
- **Seoul (Incheon)**: about 2 hours 35 minutes (Flights on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays)
- **Tianjin (Binhai)**: about 3 hours 20 minutes (Flights on Wednesdays and Sundays)

Note: Flights may be changed or cancelled on short notice. Be sure to check flight information at each airline website.

Access within Aomori

By Train

- **JR**:
  - World Heritage Site of the Snow Monkeys
  - Lake Towada
  - Statue of Maidens
  - Towada Shrine
  - Towada Horseback Riding Club
  - Towada Art Center
  - Girase Gorge
  - Lake Towada Hot Spring Village
  - Isuta Hot Spring
  - Aoni Hot Spring
  - Hoshino Resorts Girase Keiryu Hotel
  - Towada Hachimantai National Park Hakkoda
  - Hakkoda Ropeway
  - Hakkoda Walk
  - Sukayu Onsen Ryokan
  - Komaki Hot Springs
  - Hoshino Resorts Aomoriya
  - Stove Wagon
  - Stove Train Tour
  - Goshogawara Tachineputa Museum
  - “Sake no Ade” Snowscape Train Tour
  - Aomori Prefecture Tourist Center (Aspam)
  - Michinoku Ryori Nishimura
  - Lake Towada Winter’s Tale
  - Sawada Candle Festival
  - Art in the Rice Fields
  - Aomori Snow Light Festival
  - Hachinohe Enburi
  - Hirosaki Castle Snow Lantern Festival

By Taxi

- Aomori Prefecture Taxi Association
  - aomori-taxi@chu.jp
  - Aomori Taxi Association

Aomori Tour Information

- JAL domestic flight reservations / information
  - Tel. 0570-025-121 (English)
  - Tel. 03-5460-0522 (International call)
  - www.jal.co.jp

- FTA call center
  - Tel. 0570-55-0489 (Japanese only)
  - Tel. 054-903-3110 (International call)
  - www.ana.co.jp

- Korean Air international flight reservations / information
  - Tel. 03-5741-8800 (International call)
  - www.koreanair.com

- Okay Air international flight reservations / information
  - www.okayair.net

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