

Not Your Average Japan

陸前高田

R i k u z e n t a k a t a





Tamanoyu Onsen - 3



Mt. Hikami - 1

Access

Tokyo → Ichinoseki
By bullet train
 2 hours 30 minutes

Ichinoseki → Rikuzentakata
By bus
 1 hour 40 minutes

Iwate Prefecture
 Rikuzentakata
 Ichinoseki
 Tokyo

Kesen River

Tsurukame Sushi - 6

Rikuzentakata City Hall

Fumon-ji Temple - 5

Sanriku Expressway



Mt. Hakone

Riku Café - 8

Capital Hotel 1000

Hakoneyama Terrace - 7

"Abasse Takata" Mall and City Library

Miracle Pine Souvenir Shop



Yagisawa Shoten - 5

Takata By-pass

Reconstruction and Town Development Information Center

Hakoneyama Observation Deck - 9

Kesen Carpentry and Folklore Museum



Mt. Yokote

TAPIC 45 (disaster ruins)

Miracle Pine - 10 (disaster ruins)



Hirota Bay

Kurosaki Senkyo Onsen - 2



Takata Matsubara Tsunami Recovery & Memorial Park



The Takata Matsubara Tsunami Recovery & Memorial Park will open in stages starting from 2019.

Concept drawing

Rikuzentakata's Top Attractions



Chosen by Dylan,
our Concierge!

Events

Tour de Sanriku

Hundreds of cyclists, from professionals to hobbyists to families with children, come to Rikuzentakata each fall for this cycling event. There are multiple courses to match various skill levels, but each course offers a stunning view of the Sanriku coastline.

Kenka and Ugoku Tanabata

These summertime festivals date back 900 years. In Ugoku ("moving") Tanabata, decorative floats are paraded around town. In Kenka ("fighting") Tanabata, decorative floats are crashed into each other in an intense but ultimately friendly contest of wills and strength.



Tanabata

Mt. Hikami (map-1)

Standing at 874 meters above sea level, this mountain has been known as a spiritual location for generations. The greenery can be enjoyed through the hiking course on the mountain, and the coastline-view at the top is second to none.

Onsen

There are two onsens (hot spring baths) in Rikuzentakata. Kurosaki Senkyo Onsen (map-2) offers a coastal view of the sea, and Tamanoyu Onsen (map-3) is situated in the mountains and offers lodging options as well.

Fumon-ji Temple (map-4)

Rikuzentakata's Fumon-ji Temple is a temple of the Soto school of Zen Buddhism with a history dating back more than five hundred years. The temple grounds include a three-story pagoda, elaborate gardens, and hundreds of rakan statues hand-carved by temple visitors in an ongoing project.



Fumon-ji Temple

Nature and Relaxation

Food & Drink

Shoyu ice cream

Shoyu (soy sauce) flavored ice cream may sound odd, but trust us that this shoyu ice cream, made by local soy sauce brewery Yagisawa Shoten (map-5) is absolutely delicious. The award-winning soy sauce lends a subtle yet satisfying saltiness to creamy vanilla soft serve ice cream.

Suisen sake

Suisen Sake Brewery makes several varieties of Japanese sake from locally grown rice. Yukikko ("snow child"), a cloudy and naturally sweet nigorizake, is a particular favorite of the locals.



Yukikko

Hotawaka Gozen

This unique dish was specifically created by local chefs to showcase Rikuzentakata's regional delicacies: scallops, wakame seaweed, and Takata no Yume rice. You can eat it only here in Rikuzentakata, so be sure not to miss it!



Hotawaka Gozen

Fresh shellfish

In addition to scallops, Rikuzentakata's fruitful bays are also famous for other shellfish, such as giant oysters and ezoishikagegai (Bering Sea Cockle), a rare delicacy unique to this region. Tsurukame Sushi (map-6) is one of many places in Rikuzentakata to enjoy fresh seafood.

Local cafés

Rikuzentakata is home to several local cafés that offer a great opportunity to enjoy some coffee or tea and soak in the local atmosphere. Hakoneyama Terrace (map-7) offers a beautiful mountainside view, whereas Riku Café (map-8) is more centrally located and boasts a lively, hub-like ambiance.



Riku Café

How to protect yourself from a tsunami

1. Whether the shaking of an earthquake is severe or mild, if it continues for a long time immediately evacuate for high ground.
2. Do not wait for information to decide whether to evacuate. Get yourself to safety first and then wait for information to follow.
3. Depending on geographical features of the shore, a small wave can suddenly turn into a large tsunami. Tsunami will come in multiple waves.
4. A tsunami can come even if there is no receding wave to warn in advance.
5. Listen to the radio, television, and/or the public emergency alert announcements for the most accurate, up-to-date information.

Rikuzentakata Concierge

For more detailed access information, recommendations, or reservation assistance, please contact our Rikuzentakata Concierge.

E-mail: visit@city.rikuzentakata.iwate.jp

TEL: +81-90-5597-4238 (JST 8am-8pm)

090-5597-4238 (from within Japan)

Web Site

For more information, please visit our website.

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<http://visit-takata.jp/>



Rikuzentakata. Not Your Average Japan

With all of Japan to choose from why should you come to Rikuzentakata? Our rural, off-the beaten-path, difficult-to-get-to city, almost completely destroyed by the tsunami of 2011...is it worth the bother? Yes, it is.

We in Rikuzentakata take pride in offering the real Japan.

Our oceans and mountains exist side-by-side so you can go out on a boat and hike a mountain trail on the same day. Help oystermen by seeding or shucking oysters while learning about this area's rich maritime culture and history. Then, harvest apples bursting with sweetness from our unique seaside orchards.

Stay with a local family—the best way to see and experience real Japan. Eat their homemade food, have them show you the city through their eyes, play games with their children, and sleep on their futons.

Learn first-hand what it means to experience and survive a disaster. Tour the city with a guide who will tell you what worked—and what didn't—in the aftermath of the tsunami that nearly wiped out the city in 2011.

We guarantee the gratitude we show you will be second to none. Now, all of Japan is known for its hospitality. Here, because our very survival depended on the aid we received from strangers from far away, we raise the bar on gratitude. We truly want to say "thank you," and show you what that assistance meant to us, then and now.

This is why we are real. This is why we are worth the trip. Come to Rikuzentakata. Let us change your life.



Home stay (Please contact the Rikuzentakata Concierge.)

Live the Local Lifestyle

Rikuzentakata is a small town in rural Iwate Prefecture. While it may not offer big city sights and sophistication, it offers a unique opportunity to experience a different kind of "hometown" Japan.

Instead of fine dining, Rikuzentakata is full of quaint cafes, small restaurants, and Japanese pubs called izakayas serving Japanese comfort food, fresh seafood, and farm-raised vegetables.

There are also cozy hot spring baths (called onsens) where families often visit on weekends to relax. Feel the tightness in your body release as you soak in the hot water. You'll emerge a new person.

For those who wish to fully integrate into the local lifestyle even for a day, our city offers a robust homestay program that lets you spend the night with a local family. Eat what they do for dinner and breakfast. Sit around their dining room table hearing their stories, playing games, sharing.

Experience zen meditation with a local monk at a Buddhist temple. Inhale and breathe out to the rhythm of his calming voice. You can also stay in a temple overnight. Hear the crickets outside lull you to sleep as you breathe in the spirit of calm.

Our city is different. We are not your typical Japanese small town. There is something special about this city—the breezes, water, hills, our people—we're different. The spirit of our city will cleanse you. We're sure of it.



Local Fishing Experience (Please contact the Rikuzentakata Concierge.)

Surround Yourself With Nature

Our city is surrounded by peaceful and abundant nature. The ocean and mountains exist in close proximity here and it is not rare to come across animals—deer, badgers, foxes, and more—do watch out for bears!

Go for a trek along the coastline. You can admire the dynamic landscape of rock formations over three hundred million years old. Our wide, scenic bay is polka-dotted with aquaculture rafts where oysters and scallops are cultivated. If your homestay is with a local fishing family, they will likely take you out on their boat. Help with their harvest. Seed oysters. Rikuzentakata's oysters are known throughout Japan as huge, juicy, and incredibly tasty. Brag to your friends back home that you have eaten one of Japan's largest oysters fresh out of the ocean.

Apple harvesting is another way to help a farmer. The numerous orchards are close to the ocean, a true rarity seen nowhere else in Japan. The bright red orbs are filled with honey and are known for their sweetness.

Enjoy and appreciate the gifts nature has given us. Just another reason to visit.



Tour de Sanriku



Hakoneyama Observation Deck (map-⑨)



Witness true recovery

Our city is one of the hardest hit in the tsunami of March 11, 2011. The massive damage destroyed the once-famous and beautiful Takata Matsubara, a coastal pine grove of around seventy thousand pine trees. Only one remained, the Miracle Pine, a symbol of rootedness, stubbornness, and a local source of pride.

A new Takata Matsubara will be planted and a national memorial park will be constructed by the sea. We see this as our version of the memorial park like the ones in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We are determined to share with future generations for perpetuity the need for a clear and well-thought out plan to live in the aftermath of a disaster. The park and surrounding pine grove will be a place of hope and remembrance.

Please contact our concierge to plan your visit around one of our tree-planting events.



Takata Matsubara before the tsunami
(Photo provided by the Rikuzentakata Tourism Association)



Miracle pine (map-⑩)

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