



First Edition: Uncovering the Charms of Fukushima for Foreign Visitors!

Michishirube



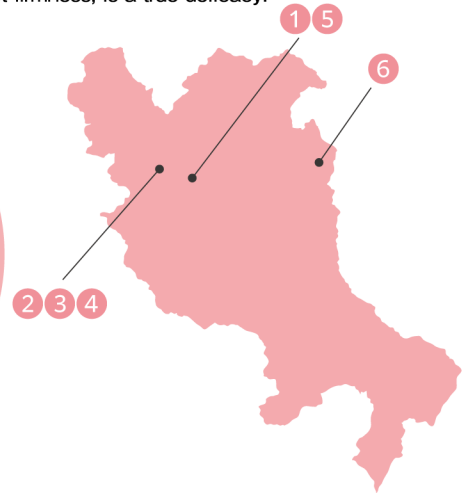
Cosquín is the name of a city in Argentina. Every year, a Latin American music festival called "Cosquín en Japón" is held. At elementary schools, children learn to play the quena, a vertical flute that originated in South America. Kawamata Town is full of attractions, including silk, Kawamata Shamo (a breed of chicken), anthuriums, and the Latin American music festival. It is also known as the town where Yuji Koseki, who gained popularity from the NHK morning drama "Yell," spent his youth. You can also experience weaving and soba noodle making, which adds to the town's charm. The Shamo chicken, with its rich, yet not greasy and perfect firmness, is a true delicacy.



Town Hall



Official
Video



① Cosquín en Japón is held every year around October over the course of three days, with participation from professional musicians both from Japan and abroad. The event takes place at the Central Public Hall.



② Weaving and dyeing experiences are available year-round, where you can make items such as coasters and handkerchiefs. Reservations can be made through the Kawamata Town Textile Museum, "Karariko-kan."



③ At the "Michi-no-Eki Kawamata" roadside station, you'll find the Meihin-kan Silkpia, with a local products market as well as a restaurant called Shamoll where you can enjoy Kawamata Shamo chicken.



④ The "Symbol of Reconstruction" – Kawamata Anthurium. It is grown using a polyester medium instead of soil. You can buy beautiful one flowering in a variety of colors at the "Michi-no-Eki" roadside station.



⑤ Kawamata Shamo Festival – featuring Fukushima's certified brand of premium chicken! The event includes stage shows and various booths. It is held at the Central Public Hall.



⑥ You can experience making soba noodles from April to November. Soba made with your own hands is sure to be delicious. Reservations can be made through the Agricultural Promotion Section of the Kawamata Town Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Included in "The Most Beautiful Villages in Japan" Association- litate Mura

When I reached the Michi-no-Eki, roadside station in litate, a beautiful flower field welcomed me. It was my first time seeing so many yellow cosmos flowers, and I was really impressed. The people taking care of the flowers told me, "That area is fantastic for photos!" litate Village, known as "The Most Beautiful Village in Japan," has lovely flowers, greenery, and starry skies. You can feel the care and love the villagers put into planting and maintaining the flowers. litate Village truly values the spirit of "Madei," which means doing things carefully and with attention to detail.



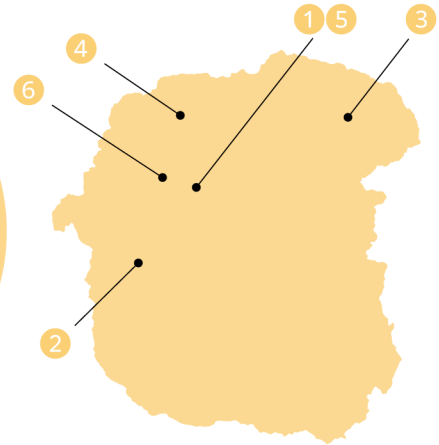
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Tourist
information
site



Official
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❶ Across from the Michi-no-Eki, there is a beautiful field of yellow cosmos flowers. The best time to see them is from August to early September. The members of the Village Promotive Organization take great care in maintaining the flowers.



❷ The cherry blossoms are amazing and symbolic of the revitalization of the area. About 3,000 cherry trees spread across the village road and up the hillside. Volunteers come together to take care of the trees that a couple has cherished and nurtured.



❸ Mano Dam and Hayama Lake are places where you can enjoy nature in all four seasons. The fresh green in spring and the colorful leaves in autumn are breathtaking. You can see a great view of Mano Dam from the Hayama Lake observation deck.



❹ A sunflower field spreads along Prefectural Road 31, the Namie-Kunimi Line. It's a vast area that doesn't seem like a private property, and a welcoming sign says, "Feel free to visit!"



❺ Natsuhaze soft ice cream is popular among the ladies. Natsuhaze Jam, is handmade by the villagers and used in a variety of dishes, including steak sauce. At the Michi-no-Eki "Madei-Kann", you can also enjoy the famous egoma (perilla) ice cream.



❻ Sonmin no Mori Ai no Sawa is a spot in the village where you can feel the beauty of the changing seasons by the water and in the fields. It has a campground and bathing facilities, making it a great place for nature experiences and overnight stays.

Katsurao Mura

Where Connections with People are Warm -Katsurao Mura

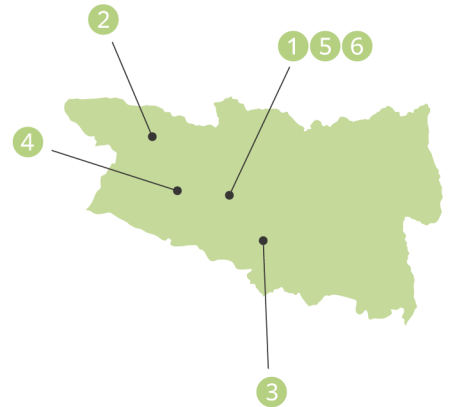
Entering Katsurao Village, surrounded by mountains, you immediately feel a cool and pleasant atmosphere. Everyone at the town hall, dining hall, and shops welcomes you warmly and calmly. The specialty of Ishii Shokudo is the large serving of fried rice, which was so huge I couldn't finish it. They had take-home containers ready and handed them to me with a smile. At Katsurao Orchid, they kindly allowed me to tour their orchid cultivation and explained, "We manage the temperature and sunlight all year round." They also mentioned, "We deliver orchids all over the country." It was my first time seeing so many orchids, and the view was stunning.



Official
website



Tourist
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① The Azelia Revitalization Exchange Center is located in the center of Katsurao Village and serves as a symbol of recovery, promoting connections and bonds among the community. It hosts events, sales of local products, and exhibitions.



② Katsurao Village Forest Park, Morimori Land, offers a relaxing place to enjoy auto camping and regular camping in the woods. It is open from April to November.



③ Katsurao Orchid, Hope White, is carefully grown over six months from seedlings. Its flower meanings are "happiness is coming" and "pure love." Tours are available for visitors.



④ Ishii Restaurant is a long-established diner loved by the village. Their large portion of fried rice uses 3.5 cups of rice! It's full of ingredients and absolutely delicious.



⑤ The traditional preserved food, "Shimi Mochi," can be bought at the Fukko Koryukan Azelia. After soaking it in water, you can cook it in various ways, like grilling, frying, or even making it into pizza.



⑥ The "Tour de Katsurao" is a road race held over two days every April. Many people from outside the prefecture also come to participate.

"Abukuma Cave: A Wonder That Captivates the World" – Tamura shi

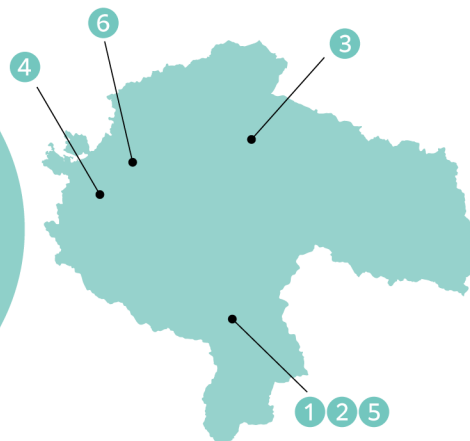
Abukuma Cave is a natural masterpiece shaped over an immense period of time. It offers a mystical world that is a must-visit. A bit further away, you'll find Irimizu Limestone Cave, designated as a national treasure, where you can experience the thrilling adventure of exploring the cave with only a headlamp to guide you. There's also "Mushi Mushi Land," an insect paradise where rare beetles and stag beetles are bred and displayed, making it a must-see for insect lovers. Personally, I had a great time searching for the "dolls" in Tamura City, and when I found one, I was overjoyed!



Tourist site



Promotional
Video



❶ Abukuma Cave is a famous spot in Tamura City, attracting many visitors from outside the prefecture. From June to July, you can enjoy walking through fields of around 50,000 lavender plants.



❷ The circular footbridge "Tenchijin Bridge" connects Abukuma Cave and Hoshi no Mura Observatory. You can go back and forth by crossing the red bridge.



❸ The Kabutomushi Dome at Mushimushi Land. During the summer open season, you can interact with over 1,000 kabutomushi (Japanese rhinoceros beetles) released inside the dome.



❹ Oningyosama. A protective deity believed to ward off evil, it has been designated as an intangible cultural heritage of the prefecture. It stands about 4 meters tall and can be found in three locations: Horikoshi, Honokibashi, and Yakata



❺ At the Abukuma Cave rest house "Busan," you can enjoy the "Fuku Unadon" and "Jūnen Cold Tare Udon Set." This meal lets you taste both "Fuku Unagi" (eel from Tamura City) and egoma (perilla seeds, known as jūnen) at the same time.



❻ The ham, sausages, and bacon from Ham Koubou, selected for the Tamura City brand certification "Tamura no Kiwami." You can experience these products known for their excellent quality.

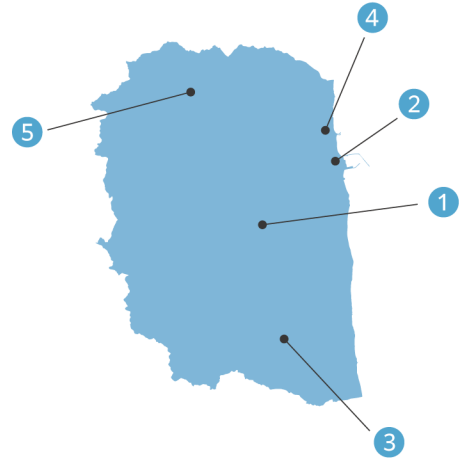
Soma Nomaoui is a traditional sacred ritual with over 1,000 years of history, still alive today. At Meijokan, you can experience wearing samurai armor. As the Soma Nomaoui and the Promotion Horse Racing Festival approach, you can watch horses galloping along the sand at Karasuzaki Beach in the early morning. In the city's ranches, you can enjoy horseback riding, and horses are a familiar part of life here. Minamisoma is also a surfing paradise. Kitaizumi Beach, where a world championship was held, has great waves and is loved by many surfers. Even on weekdays, surfers, locals on walks, and people enjoying the sea gather there. Come to Minamisoma City to be soothed by the sight of horses, the blue sea, the sound of waves, and the refreshing ocean breeze.



Tourist
guidebook



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① Soma Nomaoui. About 400 mounted warriors in armor put on a grand historical display. This world-famous horse festival takes place over three days at the end of May.



② Kitaizumi Beach. The character "Sataja" welcomes visitors. In 2024, surfing competitions were held in July and October.



③ The stone Buddhas of Daihisan in Odaka. They are the largest and oldest group of stone Buddhas in the Tohoku region. In front of the Yakushi Hall, there stands a giant cedar tree, over 45 meters tall and said to be more than 1,000 years old.



⑤ Sedette Kashima, accessible from highways and regular roads, welcomes you with horsemen from the Soma Nomaoui festival. You can buy souvenirs, eat, and rest here. The famous Yotsuwari bread and Maitake mushroom rice are delicious



④ The lone pine tree of Kashima stood strong, even against a great tsunami. Although it withered due to seawater, it remains here to be seen by future generations. It is located between Karasuzaki Beach and the Manyo-no-Sato Wind Power Station.

" Moving Toward the Future" - Namie machi

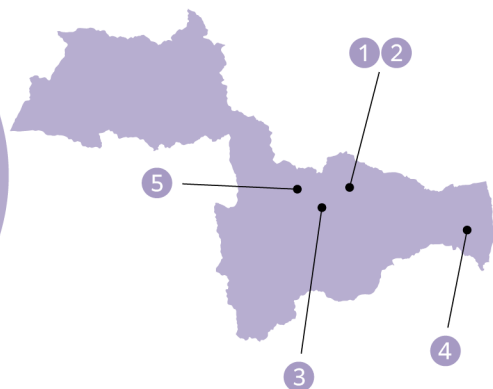
"Michi-no-Eki Namie," a symbol of its recovery and a hub for the new Namie. This spot has many attractions, like the first-ever "Lucky Park in Namie Town," a food terrace where you can enjoy local dishes, a corner for Oborisona pottery, sake brewery tours, and a farmers' market. Near the Ukedo Fishing Port is the Namie Town Ukedo Elementary School, preserved as it was after the disaster. Known as the "Miracle School" where all staff and students survived, it offers a chance to reflect and learn important lessons. Namie Town, which recently held its first beach festival since the disaster, continues to grow and evolve—definitely worth keeping an eye on!



Namie
Marumie



Tourism
Brochure



① Lucky Park in Namie Town is the first of its kind in Japan. It has six pieces of Pokémon themed playground equipment and a Pikachu bench, making it enjoyable for both kids and adults.



② At the Michi-no-Eki Namie food terrace, you can enjoy the Namie yakisoba (topped with garlic and chili pepper for an amazing taste), a shirasu fish bowl set, and the Japan's national teams curry.



③ "Onigiri Specialty Shop En," located along Shinmachi Street, offers rice balls with flavors like shirasu (whitebait) from Namie Town, jaco (dried fish) with sansho pepper and chili, and garlic miso.

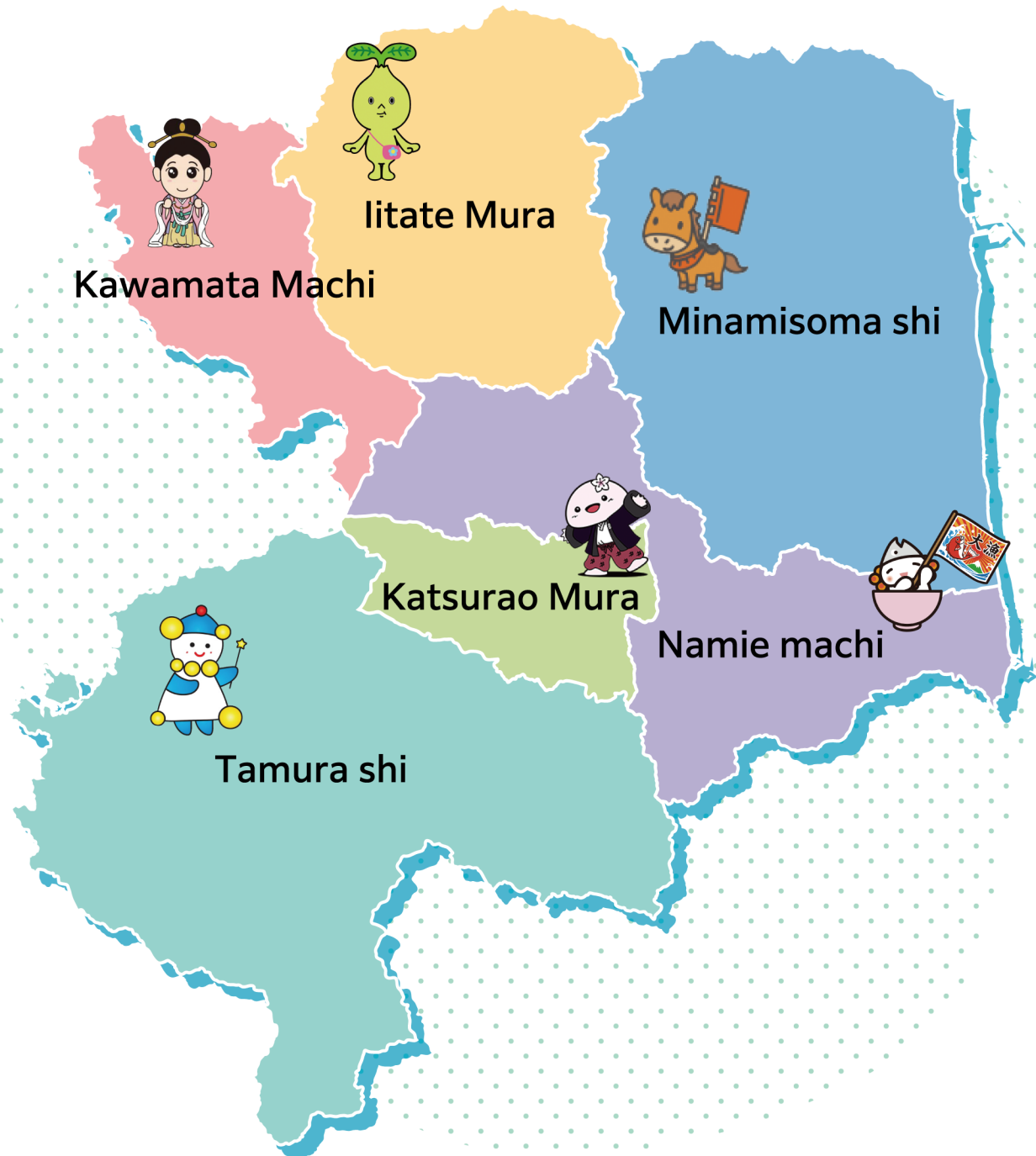


④ The Namie Town Ukedo Elementary School, preserved as a disaster memorial, is open to the public and shows the full extent of the damage caused by the tsunami.



⑤ The Ukedo River Riverline is one of Fukushima's top 50 walking paths. About 1.5 km of beautiful Somei Yoshino cherry blossoms bloom along the way, with the best time to see them from late March to mid-April.

Six Cities and Towns in Fukushima



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