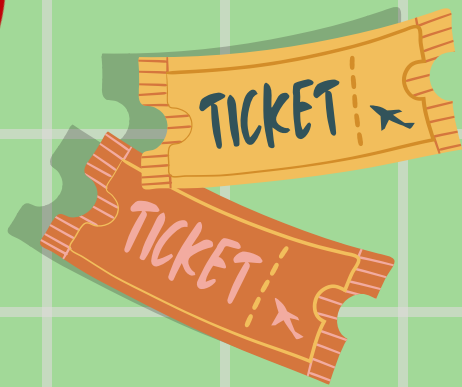


TIME TO *Travel*



**Seiran
English
Journal**



September 2025

Recently, Japan has experienced a lot of foreign tourism. It's becoming a bit of a problem. In particular Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto have too many visitors. This is called over-tourism, and has caused a lot of debate.

Have you heard the idiom '*off the beaten path*'? It refers to remote places, less known, that aren't as popular for travelers. It means something like 秘境 in Japanese. Have you visited somewhere like this that you would recommend to visitors to Japan?



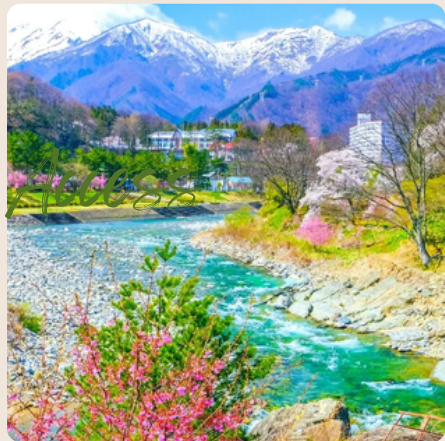
Tourism (名): 観光 Over-tourism (名): 過剰観光 Visitor (名): 来客
Debate (名): 議論 Idiom (名): 慣用語句 Remote (形容): 遠隔

Where do you like to go?

**Recommend a place you
have been that you
really enjoyed!**

Tell us about it!





Lay (動): 位置, にある Haven (名): 避難所
Brewery (名): 醸造所 Crafts (名): 工芸品

Minakami



In Gunma's northern mountains lies Minakami Town, a haven for outdoor activities and relaxation.

By James

Things to do 🚶🚶

- ✓ Beautiful Hot Springs
- ✓ Rafting on the Tone River
- ✓ Winter Sports
- ✓ Hiking Mt. Tanigawa
- ✓ Restaurants, Cafes, & Breweries
- ✓ Traditional Japanese Crafts Village Takumi No Sato

Book Your Trip Today!

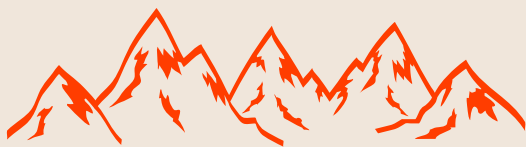
Access 🚆

From Tokyo Station: Take the Joetsu Shinkansen to Jomo-Kogen Station (62mins). You can then get a bus into Minakami Town.

From Takasaki Station: Take the Joetsu Local Train to Minakami Station (67mins).



Minakami



Eat 🍴

- Daruma Izakaya – Japanese pub
- Tanto Kuwassai – Local game restaurant
- OCTONE Brewery – Craft beer bar
- Drips & Drops Coffee – Café
- Stone Oven Pizza La Bier – Pizza restaurant
- Walk on Water – Café

Play 🎿

- Canyons – Lodge & outdoor sports
- Hodaigi Ski Resort
- Okutone Ski Park
- Takaragawa Onsen – Outdoor hot spring & ryokan lodge
- Mantenboshi no Yu – Outdoor hot spring
- Seiryu Park – Riverside park with foot bath & shops
- Minakami St. Turntable – Steam locomotive

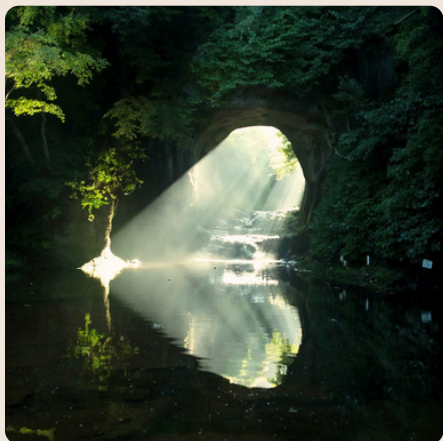
Stay 🏠

- Zazan Minakami – Hot spring hotel
- Oyado Matsubaya – Ryokan lodge with hot spring baths
- Minakami Hotel Juraku – Upscale hotel with hot spring baths



Game (名): 野生(の狩猟肉)
Steam locomotive (名): SL 蒸気機関車
Upscale (形容): 高級





Falls (名): 滝 Pick (動): 摘む

Bousson Peninsula, Chiba

Visit the beautiful Noumizo falls, which looks like a heart when light shines just right. Stay in nearby onsen hotels, such as Kameyama Onsen Hotel, Noumizo Onsen hotel, or Senju no Yu Hotel.

By Krit

Things to do 🚶🚶

- ✓ Hike in Shimizu Keiryu Hiroba National Park to see fireflies
- ✓ Visit Kamogawa Sea World
- ✓ Play golf at Kimitsukagihara country club
- ✓ Eat local ramen, made with mountain vegetables, and Mai Pudding
- ✓ Pick strawberries at Futtsu Farm

Access 🚆

From Tokyo Station: Take the Tokyo to Awa-Kamogawa bus, and get off at Kimitsu Furusato Bussankan (2hr). You can then walk for 30 minutes to the falls.

By Train: Take the Rapid Kazusa-Ichinomiya to Soga Station. Then catch the Kameda-Byoin bus to Kimitsu Furusato Bussankan, (2hr). You can then walk for 30 minutes to the falls.



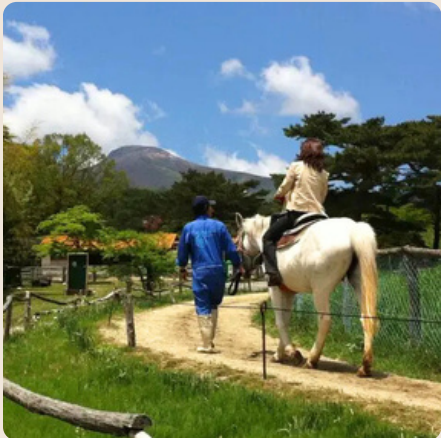


Nasu, Tochigi

I'm going to tell you about two spots to visit in Nasu! First is **Minamigaoka Farm**. I went there this summer vacation. It was awesome! So I am sure that you will enjoy it too! You can ride a horse and walk around the farm. You can eat delicious soft serve cream, and even cook a wiener (you need a reservation).

The other place I want to recommend is **Nasu Orgel Museum**. An orgel is a music box in English. You can enjoy beautiful sounds in a quiet building. You can make your own music box, buy some nice souvenirs, and listen to music boxes from all around the world.

By Mito

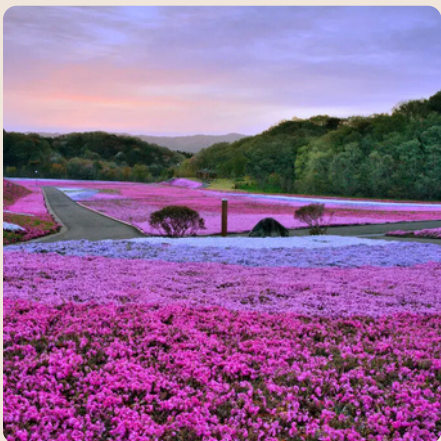


Things to do 🎒🎒

- ✓ Hike the various Nasu mountains
- ✓ Relax at Shikanoyu Hot Spring
- ✓ Get the ropeway to the top of Mt. Chausu, the highest mountain in the area
- ✓ Visit Nasu Flower World
- ✓ Enjoy Nasu Rindo Lake View Park

Access 🚆

From Tokyo Station: Take the Tohoku Shinkansen Nasuno 261 Nasuno Koriyama to Shin-Shirakawa Station. Change to the local Tohoku Line train to Kuroiso. Get off at Kurodahara Station, the main station in Nasu (2hr 14min).



Awesome (形容): 素晴らしい, 凄い
Reservation (名): 予約





Minamisouma, Fukushima

Minamisouma City is famous for its traditional history. Souma Nomaoui is a festival and horse race there. This 1,000-year-old festival features fully-armored samurai horsemen racing each other in a thrilling horse race!

By Takumi

Things to do 🚗

- ✓ Enjoy the Souma Nomaoui Festival
- ✓ Learn about history at the Minamisouma City Museum
- ✓ Tour Himonoya Sake Brewery
- ✓ Play at Haramachi Seaside Park
- ✓ Relax at Niitagawa Onsen Haramachi Yussa

Access 🚆

From Tokyo Station: Take the HITACHI and TOKIWA 13 Limited Express Sendai train to Haranomachi Station (3hr 25min).

By Bullet Train: Take the Tohoku Shinkansen Hayabusa 23 Hayabusa Shin-Hakodate-Hokuto to Sendai Station. Then change to the Joban Line Local Haranomachi to Haranomachi Station (3hr 40min).



Fully-armored (形容): 完全武装の





Yokohama Chinatown, Kanagawa

I would like to introduce Yokohama Chinatown. You can enjoy buying a lot of delicious foods. For example, bubble tea with brown sugar, fruit candy, dumplings, and more. You can choose from many unique Chinese dishes! I'm sure you'll enjoy it!

By Ayumi

Things to do 🏮

- ✓ Shop and dine at the more than 600 shops and restaurants
- ✓ See the 4 ornate entrance gates
- ✓ When you're done, walk to the seaside park area Minato Mirai
- ✓ Visit the beautiful Kanteibyo & Masobyo Temples

Access 🚆

From Tokyo Station: Take the Keihin-Touhoku Line Rapid Isogo train to Ishikawachou Station (57min).

Or, take the Toukaidou Line Local Hiratsuka train to Yokohama Station. Change to the Minatomirai Line, bound for Motomachi-Chukagai Station, and get off there (60min).



Bubble tea (名): タピオカティー
Dumpling (名): 餃子 Unique (形容): 個性的な
Ornate (形容): 華やかな





Umiterasu Nadachi, Niigata

Umiterasu Nadachi can be found in Jouetsu City. It is a resort located right by the sea. It is also a hotel, so you can stay there if you like!

By Sota

Things to do 🏊🏊

- ✓ Relax in one of the several hot springs & baths
- ✓ Swim in indoor & outdoor pools
- ✓ Sauna & massage service
- ✓ Eat at restaurants specializing in seafood
- ✓ Buy presents from the souvenir shop

Access 🚆

From Tokyo Station: Take the Hokuriku Line Shinkansen Hakutaka 565 Hakutaka Tsuruga to Itoigawa Station. Then take a the local Nihonkai-Hisui Line train heading towards Naoetsu, and get off at Nadachi Station (3hr 5min).



Specializing in (動): 専門とする





Kusatsu Onsen, Gunma

The place I'd like to introduce is Kusatsu Onsen Town, which is well known for its hot springs. It's located the mountains in north-western Gunma.

Of the several hot springs there, the one I especially like is Kamenoi Hotel Kusatsu Yubatake. It's a hotel night near the hot springs in the middle of town. You can eat Gunma's famous foods there, like Okkirikomi and Himokawa udon.

The hot spring has the largest volume of water of any naturally flowing spring in Japan. It is a natural hot spring that flows directly from the source, and it boasts powerful sterilizing properties.

By Melissa

Things to do 🏠

- ✓ Eat manju buns or soft boiled eggs cooked in the onsen
- ✓ Watch a traditional Yumomi show, where onsen workers cool the water
- ✓ Hike Mount Shirane, the active volcano above Kusatsu town
- ✓ Walk in beautiful Sainokawara Park
- ✓ Visit the town's Kosenji Temple and Shirane Shrine

Access 🚆

From Tokyo Station: Take the Hokuriku Shinkansen Asama 611 Asama Nagano to Karuizawa Station. From there you can take a bus to Kusatsu Onsen Bus Terminal (3hr 5min).



Volume (名): 量(水の) Flow (動): 流れる
Boasts (動): を自慢にする Sterilize (動): 滅菌する
Soft-boiled egg (名): 半熟卵





Nasu, Tochigi

Nasu doesn't get that many tourists, but it's a wonderful place where you can feel close to nature. It's about three hours from Tokyo. I think it would be a good idea to hire a car, because Nasu is a rural area, with many outdoor activities.

I personally recommend Nasu Highland Park, and Hotel Epinard Nasu. Nasu Highland Park is a dog-friendly theme park. There are over 40 different rides and attractions, some of which dogs can ride too! Hotel Epinard Nasu is a luxurious onsen-resort hotel. It is surrounded by an oak forest that guests can walk around.

By Anri

Things to do 🚗

- ✔ Visit Nasu Stained Glass Museum
- ✔ In early October, you can enjoy the Kanuma Autumn Festival
- ✔ See monkeys at Nasu World Monkey Park
- ✔ Visit one of Nasu's many museums: Fujishiro Seiji Art Museum, the Teddy Bear Museum, or the Trick Art Museum

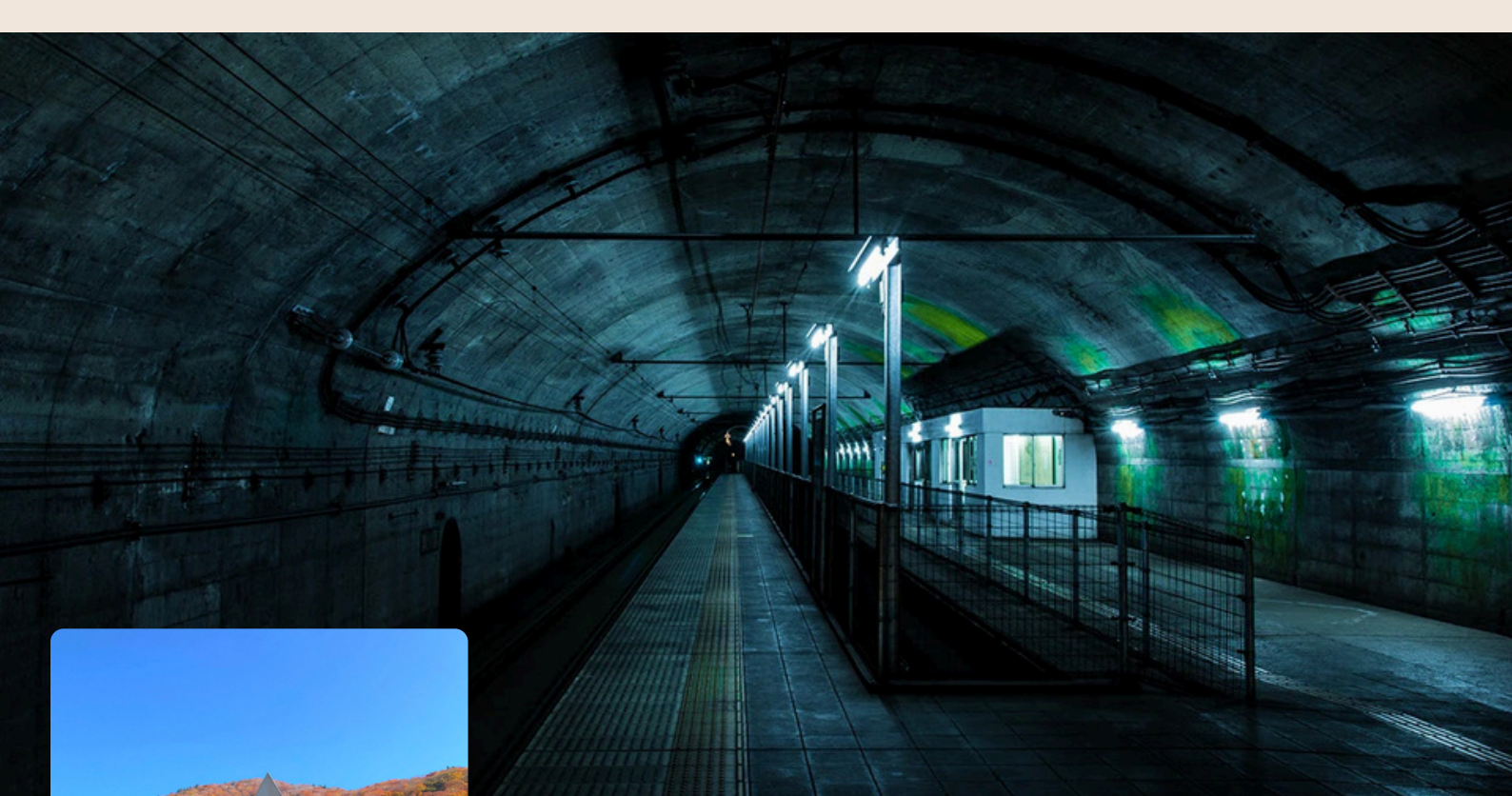
Access 🚆

From Tokyo Station: Take the Tohoku Shinkansen Nasuno 261 Nasuno Koriyama to Shin-Shirakawa Station. Change to the local Tohoku Line train to Kuroiso. Get off at Kurodahara Station, the main station in Nasu (2hr 14 min).



Hire (動): 借りる Oak (名): 柏
Dog-friendly (形容): 犬が入場できる,
犬 OK





Doai Station, Gunma

The place I'd like to introduce is Doai Station, located to the north of Minakami town, Gunma. It is known as Japan's deepest train station. It's an unmanned station, but there is a cafe above it.

The platform for the transfer line is located about 70 meters underground, so passengers must climb up a long staircase of 462 steps to get to the surface. I went there before and it was a little bit scary but really amazing! I'm sure that you will enjoy it as well.

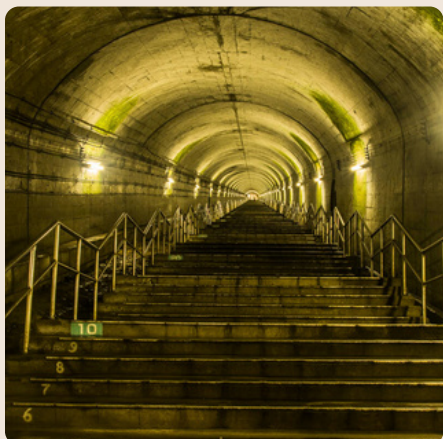
By Haruto

Things to do 🚶🚶

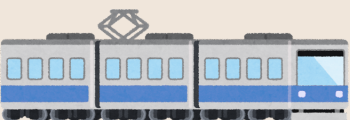
- ✓ Get a tea or coffee at the Station Tearoom Mogura
- ✓ Camp, picnic, and hike around Yubiso Park, and enjoy the many onsen around Minakami
- ✓ Climb Mount Tanigawa, or take the ropeway
- ✓ Stay at the nearby Tenjin Lodge, Doaiyama Guest House, or Doai Village Glamping Hotel

Access 🚆

From Tokyo Station: Take the Hokuriku Shinkansen Hakutaka 569 to Takasaki Station. Change to a local train on the Joetsu Line bound for Minakami. At Minakami, stay on the train for another two stops, and get off at Doai Station (2hr 5min).



Unmanned (形容): 無人 surface (名): 表面





**I hope you get a chance to
visit these amazing destinations
'off the beaten path'.**



**Where is the best
place you have
visited?**



**Where would you like
to go to next?**

