

### Hanamiyama Park D-2

This hill's name "Hanamiyama" means Blossom-Viewing. In springtime, the entire hill looks as if dyed in pastel pink with a variety of blossoms and flowers—ume (Japanese apricot), flowering peach, cherry, among others. Reminding us of a flowery paradise, this enchanting place attracts many visitors from all around Japan every year.

Known as Hanamiyama Park, the hill is actually on private land owned by a flowering-tree farming family. It was opened to visitors free of charge around 1959 by its friendly owner.

On a good day, Hanamiyhama Park offers a superb panoramic view. For example, one can view Mt. Azuma-Kofuji where you will see the remains of winter snow in the shape of a rabbit in April. Locals nicknamed it the "Snow Rabbit."



## Hanamiyama is to me "life itself"

Late **Mr. Ichiro Abe** econd-generation owner of Hanamiyama Park

"My family was originally a silk-raising family, but we quit silkworm culture in 1935 and decided to make our living as a flowering-tree grower. So my father and I began cultivating our hill into a flowering-tree farm. It was the beginning of Hanamiyama Park. Indeed, Hanamiyama is to me 'life itself.' Even today, at 93 I still love to work for Hanamiyama." (Interviewed as of Sep. 2013)

Best Time to Visit: Early to late April

Access: Approx. 15 min. by bus from Fukushima Sta.; approx. 30 min. by car after exiting Fukushima nishi IC on Tohoku Expwy. \*Please note that during the peak season, road traffic is restricted around the Hanamiyama area.



Minka-en features a variety of traditional structures that showcase the history of Fukushima City. For example, the former Hirose-za playhouse which was built around 1887; the former "Kakujiken," a famous restaurant/inn that served as a stage for activists involved in the Boshin Civil War and those supporting the Civic Rights/Freedom Movement—two major events that impacted Japan's modernization in the late 19th century; as well as thatch-roofed silk-raising farmhouses.





The former Kakuji-en restaurant/inn

#### Minka-en MAP C-3

Some 20 traditional structures, dating back to the period of mid-18th and late 19th centuries, were transferred and

Access: Approx. 30 min. by bus from Fukushima Sta.; approx. 10 min. by car after exiting Fukushima-nishi IC on Tohoku Expwy.

# Visit the historical sites associated with Matsuo Basho

Matsuo Basho, the great master of haiku poetry in the 17th century, left present-day Tokyo and set out on a 2,400-kilometer journey around northeastern Japan and central Japan Sea coast regions, which took him some 150 days. On his way, in mid-June of 1689, he stayed overnight in Fukushima. The following day he visited both "Shinobu-mochizuri" and "lo-ji Temple" and stayed overnight in lizaka Onsen hotspring resort. In his travelogue entitled "The Narrow Road to the Deep North" are found his haiku poems about these places.





#### Shinobu-mochizuri MAP E-2

The site contains the "Mochizuri-ishi (rock used for ancient grass-dyeing)" related to a tragic love romance in the 9th century, Basho's haiku monument and others.

: Approx. 20 min. by bus from Fukushima Sta.; 20 min. by car after exiting Fukushima-lizaka IC on Tohoku Expwy. Admissions: ¥400 for adults; ¥200 for junior high sch. students and younger



#### lo-ji Temple MAP D-1

The family temple of the Sato clan, a warrior family from the lizaka district who's prosperity reached in the

ons: ¥300 for adults; ¥200 for junior high and

# A castle town that prospered from silk-raising and river transportation

In 1592, warlord Kimura Yoshikiyo renamed a castle in today's Sugitsuma-cho district of Fukushima City as "Fukushima Castle" and constructed a town around it. Hence, this area became known as "Fukushima."

The town of Fukushima was created at the junction of the Abukuma and Arakawa rivers. This location was convenient for transporting silk and rice, the two major local products, on the Abukuma River and allowed Fukushima to thrive as a commercial town.

When Fukushima Prefecture was established in 1876, the prefectural capital was placed on the site of Fukushima Castle. Backed by the flourishing silkworm culture and silk-producing industry, Fukushima City continued to thrive as the hub for the prefecture's commercial and financial activities. This led the Bank of Japan to establish one of its branches in Fukushima in 1899. Even today, the area extending to the southwest of the prefectural office is dotted with a number of historic buildings that are witness to the city's glorious past.



**Ogura-tei** MAP F

The former official residence of the Bank of Japan Fukushima Branch managers





#### Waihan

The area behind the prefectural office along the left bank of the Abukuma River is called "Waihan."



#### Itakura Shrine MAP F

This Shinto shrine, located in the Waihan area, was built in 1805 and is dedicated to the feudal lord Itakura Shigemasa, the ancestor of the Itakura family who ruled the Fukushima clan from 1702.

Access: Approx. 20 min. walk from Fukushima Sta.; approx. 10 min. by car after exiting Fukushima-nishi IC on Tohoku Expwy.

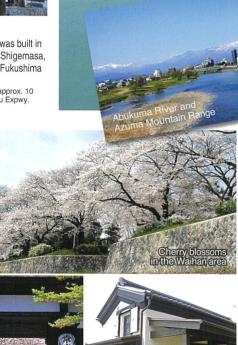




Statue of Hironaka Kohno, the 11th-generation speaker of the House of Representatives



Joko-ji Temple and cherry blossoms





#### Go a bit farther ••••



Iwaya Kannon MAP D-2

Some 60 Kannon and Buddhist images are carved on the rock wall of Mt. Shinobu. These images were first made at the end of the 12th century.

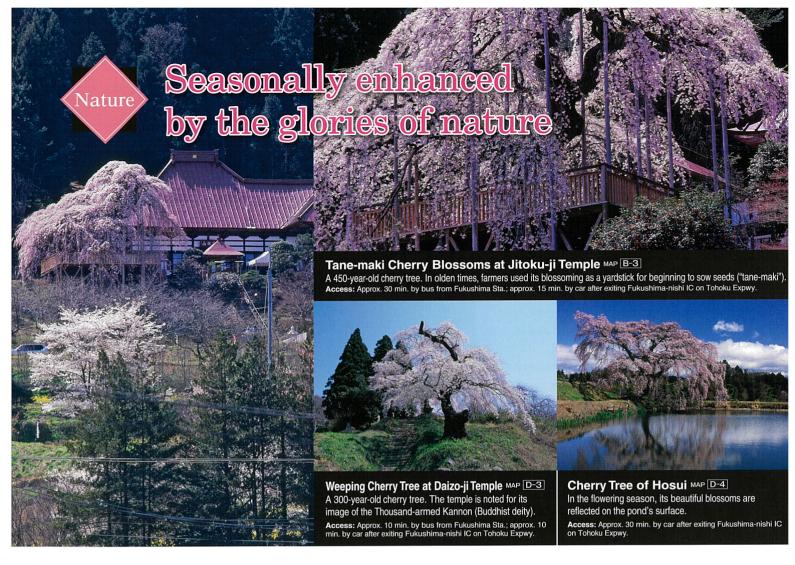


#### Mt. Shinobu MAP F

This 275 meter hill is located in the center of the city, with its observation platform commanding a fine view of downtown. On



the summit is Haguro Shrine, where one can see "Japan's largest straw sandal" which is offered to the shrine's deity in its annual February festival.



How about enjoying seasonal beauty? Pastel pink blossoms of cherry and flowering peach in spring, hydrangeas and river-side landscapes in summer, mountains clad with scarlet and golden leaves in autumn, and snow-clad peaks in winter. Fukushima welcomes you with its many seasonal attractions.





#### Hanamomo-no-Sato MAP D-1

This private property features some 300 flowering peach trees of 40 varieties. Their best season is from April to early May.

Access: Approx. 20 min. walk from Ilzaka-onsen Sta.; approx. 15 min. by car after exiting Fukushima-Ilzaka IC on Tohoku Expwy.



#### Cherry Blossoms at Tatenoyama Park MAP D-1

The park near lizaka Onsen hot-spring town is a noted spot for cherry blossom viewing.

The promenade here offers visitors the chance to stroll under the blossoms.

Access: Approx. 30 min. walk from Ilzaka-onsen Sta.; approx. 15 min. by car after exiting Fukushima-Ilzaka IC on Tohoku Expwy.





#### "Kumagaiso" in Mizuhara MAP C-4

A precious plant designated an endangered species. In the Mizuhara district, open to viewers in their blooming season: mid- to late May.

Access: Approx. 15 min. by car from Matsukawa Sta.; approx. 10 min. by car after exiting Matsukawa Smart IC on Tohoku Expwy.



#### Hydrangeas in Doaidate Park MAP D-4

The 5-ha spacious park contains some 4,500 hydrangea plants of 40 varieties.

Access: Approx. 30 min. walk from Matsukawa Sta.; approx. 5 min. by car after exiting Matsukawa Smart IC on Tohoku Expwy.



#### Gingko Trees in Azuma Sports Park MAP C-3

The park has a walkway lined with 116 gingko trees. The best season is from late Oct. to early Nov.; at night, their golden leaves are illuminated.

Access: Approx. 30 min. by bus from Fukushima Sta.; approx. 10 min. by car after exiting Fukushima-nishi IC on Tohoku Expwy



#### "Mizubasho" at Nidanuma Marsh MAP B-3

Some 100,000 Mizubasho, or skunk cabbage plants flourish in the marsh.

Access: Approx. 50 min. by car from Fukushima Sta.; approx. 25 min. by car after exiting Fukushima-nishi IC on Tohoku Expwy





#### Goshiki-numa Pond MAP A-2

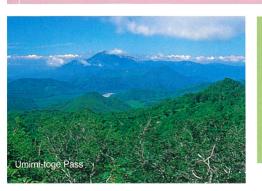
Climb a steep slope toward the summit of Mt. Issaikyo and look down on Goshiki-numa known as the "Witch's Eye" and enjoy the striking view of the changes of color depending on the sunlight.

Access: Approx. 1 hr. 40 min. by bus from Fukushima Sta. to Jodo-daira; approx. 50 min. by car after exiting Fukushima-nishi IC on Tohoku Expwy to Jodo-daira; approx. 1 hr. 40 min. walk from Jodo-daira to Mt. Issaikyo summit. \*Mountaineering equipment is recommended.

Mt. Azuma-Kofuji (alt. 1,707m) soars in the western part of Fukushima City. A scenic highway called "Bandai-Azuma Skyline" winds its way up and around the mountainside. The highway is dotted with a number of breathtaking sights, such as Tsubakuro-dani Valley, Tengu-no-Niwa and Umimi-toge Pass, where you can enjoy yourself en route. Visitors come to enjoy the seasonal scenic attractions created by Mother Nature.

#### Jodo-daira Astronomical Observatory MAP A-3 It has a telescope with a large lens 40 cm in diameter. Access: Approx. 1 hr. 40 min. by bus from Fukushima after exiting Fukushima nishi IC on Tohoku Expwy

<b>建筑的国际的国际</b>	Sep.	alenda	Nov
			1400.
Bandai-Azuma Skyline Jodo-daira			
andai-Azuma Skyline Tengu-no-Niwa	: :		: :
Gingko Trees in Azuma Sports Park			
Area around Surikami River Dam	: :		





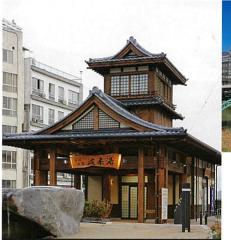


Access: Approx. 1 hr. by car after exiting Fukushima-nishi IC on Tohoku Expwy to Makukawa Onsen; approx. 20 min. walk from Makukawa Onsen to the



This traditional hot spring town boasts a long and rich history and is home to one of Japan's oldest community bathhouse, Sabakoyu. Once enjoyed by famous poet Matsuo Basho, Sabakoyu as well as other communal bathhouses serve both locals and visitors.

Access: Get off the train at Iizaka Onsen Sta.; approx. 10 min. by car after exiting Fukushima-Iizaka IC on Tohoku Expwy. Info: Iizaka Onsen Tourism Association Tel: 024-542-4241



#### Hako-yu

A communal bathhouse. Visitors can enjoy hot water directly from the spring source and moderately warm water. The watchtower on the 2nd floor commands a fine overview of this *onsen* town.











Sabako-yu bathhouse



#### Kyu Horikiri-tei

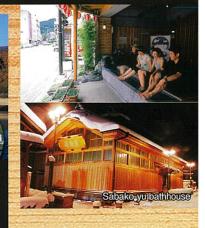
A traditional residence that traced back to the 16th century, Kyu Horikiri-tei (Former Horikiri Residence). The site contains a garden, feet-only and hands-only hot baths



by the dam constructed on the Surikami

River. A campsite is available nearby.

Moniwa-no-yu
An *onsen* bathing facility located near the Surikami River Dam.

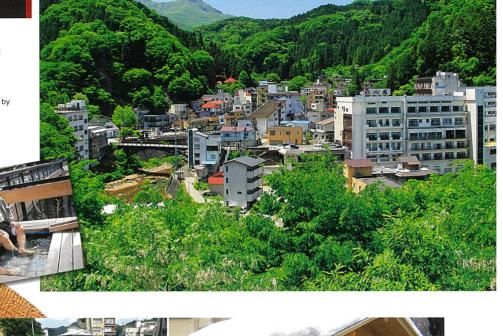


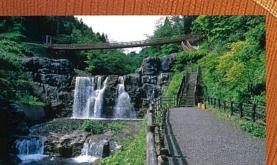


This Onsen resort has ten types of waters directly from the spring sources. Inns stand along the river. In the Tsuchiyu-toge Pass area, you can appreciate the atmosphere of a "truly secluded" onsen.

Access: Approx. 40 min. by bus from Fukushima Sta., approx. 15 min. by car after exiting Fukushima-nishi IC on Tohoku Expwy.

Info: Tsuchiyu Onsen Tourism Association Tel: 024-595-2217









Ashi-yu Four ashi-yu (feet-only hot-spring baths) can be found in Tsuchiyu Onsen town.



"Konnyaku"—jelly-like food which is a specialty of Tsuchiyu

# MAP B-2

Sitting atop a 750m high mountain plateau, the all-natural hot spring town features warm, soothing sulfuric waters that are known for their healing effects, and loved by many visitors.

Access: Approx. 40 min. by bus from Fukushima Sta.; approx. 30 min. by car after exiting Fukushima-nishi IC on Tohoku Expwy.

Info: Takayu Onsen Tourism Association Tel: 024-591-1125

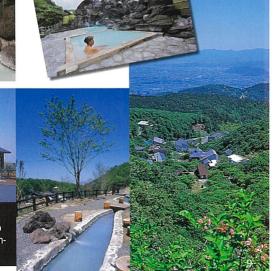








A communal bathhouse for day bathing. It also has an open-air bath available on a reservationonly basis.



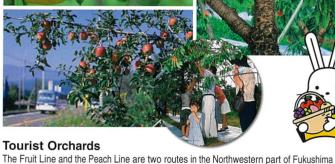


## Mouthwatering fruit and hand-made craft Be amazed by the exquisite flavors and unique art of Fukushima

Fukushima City is widely known as a "Kingdom of Fruit". With a wide variety of fruits coming into season from the beginning of summer right up until winter, fruit picking is the best way to enjoy them at their freshest. Local dishes such as enban gyoza









## Get your souvenirs here!



Tourism &Specialties Center MAP F On the 1st floor of Corasse Fukushima, located near the Western exit of Fukushima Station, this center offers fruit products, sake and handicrafts from all across the prefecture. Different events are also held each week.

Azuma-no-Eki Kokora MAP C-2 This rest area provides tourism information etc. as well as housing a farmers market offering local grown fruit and veg.





Michi-no-Eki Tsuchivu MAP B-4 Located at Tsuchiyu-touge on National Route 115, this rest area sells local specialties as well as offering light meals.

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Fruit-Picking Calendar (Average seasons)										
	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.			
Cherries		Sato-nish	iki							
Peaches			Gyosei Akats							
	All and a second			Kawanakajin	na Hakuto					
Asian Pears	A			Kosui	Hosui Nijusseiki					
Grapes				Ta	kao Kyoh	10				
Apples			1		Fuji		Ohrin			

City and are lined with orchards where a variety of fruit can be picked fresh. Beginning with cherries in the summer and followed by peaches, pears, grapes and apples, these succulent fruits are exceptionally sweet and juicy, and are on a whole new level of deliciousness.

#### **Hands-on Experiences**





#### Shiki-no-Sato MAP C-3

Shiki-no-Sato is a farm village-style park, with quaint buildings and colorful manicured gardens set in the backdrop of the rural Japanese countryside. While you're here, why not try your hand at glass making or kokeshi doll painting?



#### St. Anna's Garden MAP C-3

The Nishida Kokeshi Doll Memorial Museum stands at the center and a beer factory, restaurant, café, store and facility and a UFO mountain



## UFO Fureai-kan

This museum houses a collection of around 3,000 UFOrelated exhibits with a bathing path located nearby.



#### Fruit Juices "Momo-biyori," Nashi-biyori" and "Ringo-biyori"

Momo-biyori, nashi-biyori, and ringo-biyori juices are made from locally harvested peaches, pears, and apples.



Fukushima is known for yakitori barbeque, where bite-sized pieces of free range chicken from nearby Date and Kawamata are grilled on a skewer over charcoal.



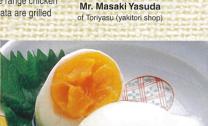
#### Mugi-sembei Japanese Crackers

Made by mixing and kneading crushed peanuts with wheat flour, these cracker are popular for their simple, traditional flavor and are a typical gift from Fukushima.



#### Shimi-dofu Dried Tofu

Shimi-dofu is a traditional preserved food made of thin slices of tofu hung with strings to freeze-dry in the mid-winter cold. Exposed to icy winds and natural sunlight, they are packed with nutrients and rich flavor. The Tatsugo-yama area in the South East of Fukushima City is celebrated as the birth place of shimidofu, and the noren (curtains) of tofu hanging from the eaves of farming houses remind passers-by that winter has come to Fukushima City.



#### Radium Eggs

Boiled in the hot-spring water of lizaka Onsen, radium eggs are half-boiled, with a gooey white outer and a creamy yolk center. They are named after the element radium, which was discovered for the first time in Japan in Iizaka Onsen, and many places in lizaka offer opportunities to make your own radium eggs.



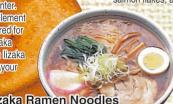
#### Abukuma Yakisoba Firied Noodles

A new local cuisine of Fukushima City, Abukuma yakisoba is a stir-fried noodle dish with salmon roe, salmon flakes, and yuzu citrus peels.



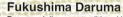
#### Ika-ninjin

Slices of surume (dried squid) and carrots are mixed together to make this regional cuisine of Fukushima.



#### lizaka Ramen Noodles

A pork bone broth is the soup base for thinly sliced flat noodles, famous for their smooth and chewy texture.



Daruma dolls are a traditional lucky charm found all across Japan. They are typically red, depicting a beard man with both eyes missing: the owners adding one when they make a wish and the other when it comes true. Unlike their eyeless cousins however. Fukushima daruma dolls are distinctive for having both eyes painted on. They are protectors, whose terrifying glare frightens away demons and brings good luck.



Healthy and juicy, enban gyoza make go great with beer!

#### Enban-Gyoza

Crescent shaped dumplings containing ground meat and vegetables, are arranged in the shape of an *enban* (disk) and pan-fified. While they definitely deliver on size, these *gyoza* have a light texture that will keep you coming back for more. There are a number of stores within the city that have a history of almost 50 years and some are so popular that lines form outside.



#### Yatai-mura 'Koransho Yokocho" MAP F

row of small restaurant bars with a retro atmosphere, whose menus make use of ingredients from Fukushima.

#### Tsuchiyu Kokeshi Dolls

Kokeshi dolls are a traditional wood-craft of the Tohoku region, with the three most famous Kokeshi towns being Naruko (Miyagi Pref.), Togatta (Miyagi Pref.), and Fukushima's own Tsuchiyu Onsen. Made by local artisans, Tsuchiyu Kokeshi are distinguished by the ringed pattern

on their head, crescentmoon shaped evebrows. gracefully curved eyes and small mouths, and are popular for their sweet expressions.





Kotori-no-Mori MAP D-2

provide plenty of bird watching

opportunities, and there is even

a change to learn about how charcoal is made

Three walking courses

#### **Festivals**

#### Kuroiwa Kokuzoson Annual Festival

Date: Lunar calendar Jan. 12-13 Venue: Mangan-ji Temple Tel: 024-546-0096 13-year-old boys and girls pay homage to the Buddhist deity.



#### Shinobu-sanzan Akatsuki Mairi

Date: Feb. 10-11 Venue: Haguro Shrine on Mt. Shinobu Offering a huge straw sandal (12m long and weighing 2 tons) to the shrine. Info: Commerce & Labor Administration Sec. in City Office Tel: 024-525-3720

#### Tsuchiyu Onsen Kokeshi Festival

Date: Mid-April Venue: Tsuchiyu Onsen town A variety of activities take place, including a Kokeshi doll painting contest. Info: Tsuchiyu Onsen Tourism Association Tel: 024-595-2217

#### **Fireworks Display**

Date: Late July Venue: Junction of Abukuma and Matsukawa rivers
The summer highlight of Fukushima City.
Info: Commerce & Labor Administration Sec. in City Office Tel: 024-525-3720

#### Waraji Festival

Date: Early August
Venue: Urban center of Fukushima City
Many participants join forces to carry a huge straw sandal.
Info: Fukushima Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Tel: 024-536-5511

#### lizaka Kenka Matsuri

Date: 1st Fri., Sat. & Sun. of Oct. Venue: Hachiman Shrine in lizaka-machi Tel: 024-542-2560 Floats decorated with lanterns collide aggressively against each other.

#### Inari Shrine Autumn Festival

Date: Sat., Sun. & Mon. (including Health & Sports Day) in Oct Venue: Inari Shrine in Miya-machi Tel: 024–522–2702 The town comes alive with festival floats and many street stalls

#### Dance of 3 Lions of Ohnami

**Date:** Early October **Venue:** Ohnami Sumiyoshi Shrine Tel: 024–588–1551 Boys perform a lion dance.

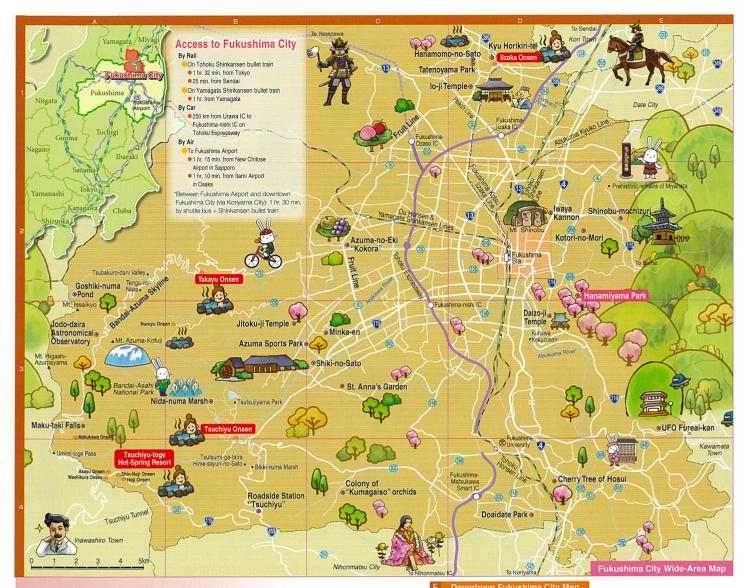
#### Omiya Shrine Annual Festival

Date: 3rd Sat. & Sun. of Oct. Venue: Omiya Shrine in lino-machi Portable shrines parade through the streets.

#### Mizukake Matsuri of Okayama

Date: 4th Sun, of Oct.

Date: 4th Sun. of Oct. Venue: Okayama Kashima Shrine Local married men expel evil spirits by splashing water on each other





#### Fukushima City's Tourism Promotional Character

#### MOMORIN

In spring snow remaining on the mountainside of Mt. Azuma-Kofuji is shaped like a rabbit. We created "Momorin" using the rabbit as the design motif.

## Music Composer

#### Koseki Yuji

He, a music composer representing the 1900s, is a native of Fukushima City. His monument stands in the square of the East Exit of Fukushima Sta.



#### **Fukushima Barrier-Free Tour Center**

The staff serves handicapped or elderly visitors according to the level of disability to ensure that they can enjoy Fukushima. For requiring services, please visit or contact the center housed in the Tourist Information Center (2F) at the Wet Exit of Fukushima Sta. Wheelchairs are also available.

Hours: 10:00-18:00

Closed: Thurs. and Year End/New Year holidays

Tel/Fax: 024-531-7382

Please feel free to ask any question about tourism in Fukushima!

Ms. Yukari Sato





At Hanamiyama Park, wheelchair supportion available upon prior application.



For Inquiries

Fukushima City

Tel: 024-522-3265

Tourist Information Center in JR Fukushima Sta.

East Exit Office
Next to the front-entrance or

West Exit Office
In front of the Shinkansen ticket gate on 2F
Tel: 024-531-6428

GESTRESCHI CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR

Fukushima City
Tourism & Convention Association

Tel: 024-531-6432 Fax: 024-531-8165

Email: kankou@f-kankou.jp http://fukushima-guide.jp

