To Mito, Kasama, Oarai, Hitachinaka Information

By car to Mito Station area

From Tokyo: Misato JCT → (Joban Expressway, Approx. 60 min.) → Mito IC → (National Route 50, Approx. 20 min.) → Mito Station

By car to Oarai Station area

From Tokyo: Misato JCT → (Joban Expressway, Approx. 50 min.) → Tomobe JCT → (Kita-Kanto Expressway, Approx. 10 min.) → Mito Oarai IC → (National Route 51, etc., Approx. 10 min.) → Oarai Station

By car to Katsuta Station area

From Tokyo: Misato JCT → (Joban Expressway, Approx. 50 min.) → Tomobe JCT → (Kita-Kanto Expressway, Approx. 20 min.) → Hitachinaka JCT → (Approx. 20 min.) → Katsuta Station

By car to Kasama Station area

From Tokyo: Misato JCT → (Joban Expressway, Approx. 50 min.) → Tomobe JCT → (Kita-Kanto Expressway, Approx. 5 min.) → Tomobe IC → (Approx. 10 min.) → Kasama Station

By train to Mito Station

Shinagawa Station, Tokyo Station, Ueno Station → (JR Joban Line (limited express), Approx. 60-80 min.) → Mito Station

By train to Oarai Station

Shinagawa Station, Tokyo Station, Ueno Station → (JR Joban Line (Limited Express), Approx. 60-80 min.) → Mito Station → (Oarai-Kashima Line, Approx. 15 min.) → Oarai Station

By train to Katsuta Station

Shinagawa Station, Tokyo Station, Ueno Station → (JR Joban Line (limited express), Approx. 60-80 min.) → Katsuta Station

By train to Kasama Station

Shinagawa Station, Tokyo Station, Ueno Station → (JR Joban Line (Limited Express), Approx. 60-80 min.) → Tomobe Station → (JR Mito Line, Approx. 10 min.) → Kasama Station

For inquiries and accomodation information

Mito City

Mito City Tourism Division
1-4-1 Chuo, Mito City
TEL.029-224-1111

Mito Tourism and Convention Association
1-5-38 Sannomaru, Mito City
TEL.029-224-0441

Oarai Town

Oarai Town Hall
6881-275 Isohamacho, Oarai, Higashiibaraki District
TEL.029-267-5111

Oarai Tourism Association
301 Sakuramichi, Oarai-machi, Higashiibaraki-gun
TEL.029-266-0788

Accommodation information Contact here for

Kasama City

Kasama City Tourism Division
3-2-1Chuo,KasamaCity
TEL.0296-77-1101

Kasama Tourism Association
1538-2 Kasama, Kasama City
TEL.0296-72-9222

Hitachinaka City

Hitachinaka City Tourism Promotion Section
2-10-1 Higashiishikawa, Hitachinaka City
TEL.029-273-0111

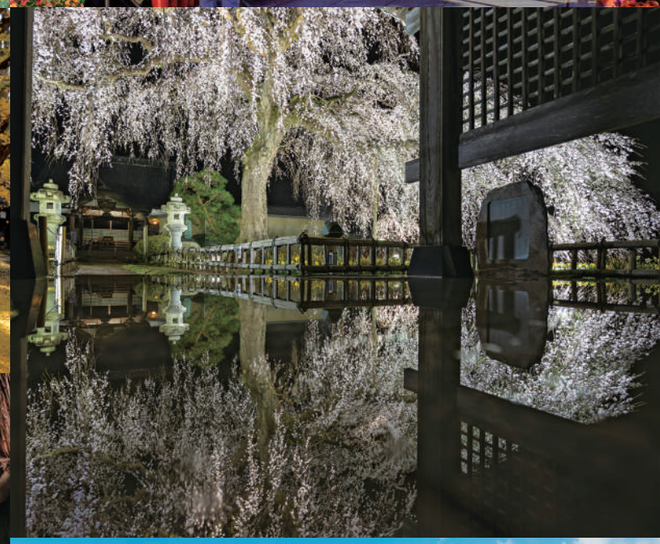
Hitachinaka City Tourism Association
2-10-1 Higashiishikawa, Hitachinaka City
TEL.029-273-0116

Accommodation information Contact here for

Mito, Kasama, Oarai, Hitachinaka
Wide-area visitors guide

Welcome to Ibaraki

Ibaraki is a tourist resort surrounded by the sea,
mountains, rivers, and other natural features
and is home to various local cultures.
At its center, you will find
Mito, Kasama, Oarai, and Hitachinaka,
each with unique and vibrant characteristics.
These culturally rich places are steeped in the history
of the Tokugawa shogunate
and offer diverse regional cultures.



Mito

Kairakuen Garden, one of Japan's three famous gardens, is situated in Ibaraki, along with many other historical and cultural assets associated with the Mito Tokugawa family, such as the ruins of Mito Castle and Kodokan. Furthermore, Senba Lake, located southeast of Kairakuen Garden with a circumference of 3 kilometers, is adorned with rows of cherry blossom trees, making it a popular relaxation spot for residents and visitors to enjoy leisure activities like boating and cycling using rental bicycles.

Kairakuen

Kairakuen, one of the "Three Great Gardens of Japan" alongside Kenrokuen in Kanazawa and Korakuen in Okayama, was established in 1842 by the 9th lord of the Mito Domain, Tokugawa Nariaki. Lord Nariaki desired to create a space where he and the people of his domain could enjoy together, thus naming it "Kairakuen," which means "a garden to enjoy together." The vast garden is home to approximately 3,000 plum trees of about 100 varieties, attracting numerous visitors during the early spring plum blossom season.

Senba Lake

One lap around the lake is a three km distance, and it is adjacent to Kairakuen Garden. Boats and rental bicycles are available, making it a popular spot for recreation and relaxation for the public and everyone. Visitors can enjoy watching waterfowl while relaxing at the Kobun Café by the lake.

Kodokan

The domain school was established in 1841 by Nariaki Tokugawa, the former lord of the Mito Domain. It was essentially a comprehensive institution where students could study a wide range of studies, such as medicine, pharmacy, astronomy, and martial arts, for training in literary and military arts. It became the center of the development of Mito academic studies.

Howaen

The garden is located adjacent to Keigan-ji (temple) and is designed as a traditional Japanese garden featuring a pond and an artificial hill. Around 6,000 hydrangea plants of about 100 varieties bloom across a 1.5-hectare area in early summer, creating a spectacular display during the "Mito Hydrangea Festival.

Ibaraki Prefectural Museum of History

It is a museum that showcases the history of Ibaraki Prefecture. Within the vast grounds surrounding the facility are lined rows of ginkgo trees, where visitors can see the breathtaking golden foliage during autumn. The area and the trees are illuminated at night.

Art Tower Mito

A cultural complex opened to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Mito City's establishment. Pritzker Prize winner Arata Isozaki designed the facility. Various artistic activities, such as music, theater, and visual arts, are held here in dedicated spaces.

Kasama

Kasama City is located in the central part of Ibaraki Prefecture. Kasama City, blessed with abundant nature, has flourished since ancient times as a temple town to Kasama Inari Shrine, one of Japan's three major Inari shrines.Kasama is a charming town in Japan, known for its Kasama Inari Shrine and is the "Town of Art," famous for its unique Kasama-yaki pottery crafted by skilled artists from all over the country. The town also offers delicious gourmet dishes, seasonal flowers, and lively events that make it an exciting place to visit time and again. Kasama is a place that never gets boring, no matter how often you visit.

Kasama Inari Shrine

A shrine that is considered one of Japan's three great Inari shrines, alongside Fushimi Inari in Kyoto and Toyokawa Inari in Aichi. It has a rich history and legacy of a foundation that dates back to 651. Every year, over 3.5 million people visit the shrine, the busiest time being Hatsumode (New Year's visit) in Ibaraki Prefecture. It is said to bring blessings of abundant harvests, prosperous business, and financial fortune.

Shunpu Banriso

This old private house, which has a thatched roof, was moved from the former residence of the artist Kitaoji Rosanjin in Kamakura. Rosanjin was a multi-disciplinary artist involved in various fields, including pottery, calligraphy, and cooking. In addition to exhibiting furniture made by Rosanjin and his favorite items, visitors can enjoy seasonal scenery in the expansive garden, such as cherry blossoms and autumn leaves.

Kasama Nichido Museum of Art

Masterpieces of paintings ranging from European Impressionism to the École de Paris works, the exhibition includes works by Japanese painters representing Japan since the Meiji era and a collection of palettes.

Michi no Eki Kasama

Michi no Eki Kasama welcomes you and serves as the "gateway" to Kasama. The station features a chestnut specialty cafe and shop, a direct sales outlet offering fresh agricultural products and souvenirs, and a food court where you can enjoy dishes made with local ingredients.

MURASAKI PARK Kasama

One of the largest skate parks in Japan that can host international competitions and events. With a variety of sections, beginners to advanced players can enjoy it. There is also an indoor park and night game facilities, which can be used even on rainy days and at night.

Kasama Private Accomodation

It is also possible to harvest vegetables, take a walk in the satoyama, or try your hand at pottery making with your host. Other activities include BBQ in the garden and pizza baking. Various experiences unique to Kasama are offered.

Oarai

You can enjoy the rich flavors of the sea in every season and the beach, with its gentle sloping seashore that stretch out, making it an ideal location for swimming, surfing, and other marine leisure activities. It's one of the top destinations in the prefecture for marine leisure activities. It is a popular tourist destination where families can enjoy a variety of activities all day long. There are several attractions to visit, including the Aqua World Ibaraki Prefecture Oarai Aquarium, which has the largest variety of sharks in Japan, and the Oarai Marine Tower.

Kamiiso no Torii

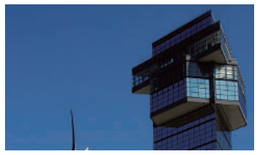
The Shinto rocky shore is a sacred place known as "Kamiso" is said to be where two gods, Onamuchi-no-Mikoto and Sukunahikona-no-Mikoto, who were responsible for the creation of the country, are said to have descended. On top of those rocks stands a torii gate, one of the three torii gates of the Ōarai Isosaki Shrine, known as the "Torii of Kamiso."

Aqua World Ibaraki Oarai Aquarium

The aquarium in Japan has the most extensive collection of shark species in the country, with about 580 species and 68,000 marine species from around the world, including penguins and sunfish. There is a large tank that showcases a variety of fascinating creatures, and visitors can observe the lively swimming of fish.

Reflection Beach

During the transition from high tide to low tide, the sea reflects the sky beautifully, creating a scene where it seems as though the sea and the sky are seamlessly connected. During the time from high to low tide, the ocean beautifully reflects the sky, creating a view as if the sea and sky are connected. Especially before sunset and after sunrise, when the light becomes dim, a fantastic world opens up, and anyone can easily take beautiful pictures if the conditions are right.



Oarai Marine Tower

The Oarai Marine Tower, a symbol of Oarai, offers a stunning panoramic view from its height of 55 meters. Before you, the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean stretches out, while on the landward side, you can glimpse the Nikko and Nasu mountain ranges and Mount Tsukuba. You can see Mount Fuji from this towering observation deck on clear winter days.

Oarai Marine Fireworks

The Oarai Fireworks Festival blends a historic maritime fireworks display over the sea and live music performances by artists.Experience the mesmerizing beauty of fireworks reflecting on the sea; witness a unique spectacle only found at Marine Fireworks.

Tuk tuk・bicycle rental

The "Umimachi Terrace" tourist information center, which opened in 2020, provides tourist information and offers bike rentals and tuk-tuk rentals. Enjoy exploring Oarai along the coast and through the shopping streets with the perfect rental bicycles or tuk-tuks!

Hitachinaka

Hitachinaka City, known for its thriving agriculture and fisheries industries, ranks first in Japan in hoshi-imo production (sweet potatoes) and processed octopus in Japan.Hitachi Seaside Park, Naka Minato Fish Market, and Hitachinaka Seaside Railway are popular among tourists, and national events like the "Katsuta National Marathon" are also held here, attracting visitors from across the country.

Hitachi Seaside Park

It is a nationally renowned scenic spot known for its scenic beauty and flower landscapes that visitors can enjoy throughout the year. The spring season is particularly beautiful, with the blooming of nemophila. In contrast, the autumn season sees the entire hillside of Miharashi no Oka (Miharashi Hill) covered in kokia, attracting numerous visitors from both Japan and abroad. The park also features cafes, bicycle rentals, an amusement park, and other facilities, making it a place where visitors can enjoy themselves all day long.

Nakaminato Fish Market

Located next to Naka Minato Fishing Port, this market offers reasonably priced fresh and delicious seafood. It is a well-known fish market in Kanto and tends to get crowded with tourists from inside and outside the prefecture.

Sakatsura Isozaki Shrine

The tree tunnel (jusou) consists of a natural camellia tree forest and a dense thicket of other trees within the shrine grounds and on both sides of the approach leading from the torii gate to the main hall of worship. This tunnel of trees has been designated by the prefecture as a natural monument. This picturesque spot, resembling something from a movie, has garnered attention as a photogenic location.

Hoshiimo Shrine

The shrine is famous for its golden torii gate. The shrine's deity is "Hoshii mono (everything you want) will come to you. Hitachinaka City, which boasts the largest production of hoshi-imo in Japan, is attracting attention as a SNS-worthy spot.

Fashion cruise Newport Hitachinaka

Fashion Cruise is a large shopping center with around 100 stores, including popular brands like Uniqlo, Muji, Mitsukoshi Shop, and Daiso. You can find a variety of Japanese restaurants serving ramen, tonkatsu, sushi, and steak, as well as shops selling anime merchandise and Japanese stationery.

Hitachinaka seaside railway

The local train line connecting Katsuta Station to Ajigaura Station is a beloved city symbol. The retro charming train cars that travel through the picturesque countryside have been known to serve as a filming location for various movies and TV programs. The train slowly rolls by, and the scenery outside the windows enhances the mood of the trip.

Lots of delicious food!
Let's indulge in the taste of gourmet cuisine

Waratsuto Natto

It is said that natto (fermented soybeans) was originated in ancient times when Lord Minamoto no Yoshiie put boiled soybeans and straws together to feed his horses.When the Plum Viewing Train arrived at Mito Station, it became nationally famous for selling "waratsuto natto" through the train windows.

Anglerfish Hot Pot

The anglerfish (anko) of the east and the blowfish (fugu) of the west are two well-known seafood ingredients used in hot pots. Anko, a high-end fish, is a famous winter delicacy in Ibaraki.There is a rich miso soup based on dobujiru (dubu soup) and an elegant light soup based on shoyu (soy sauce), allowing customers to enjoy the restaurant's unique flavor.

Hoshiimo

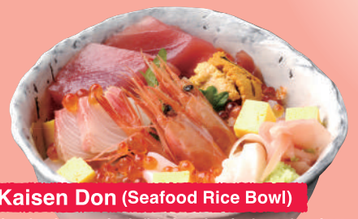
The sweet potatoes, known as "hoshimo", are locally harvested, steamed, and sun-dried. They are a delicious and healthy food with plenty of dietary fiber and no additives.Each variety has a different flavor, such as "Tamayutaka," which has a simple sweetness that has been popular since ancient times, and "Beniharuka," which has a strong sweetness and a sticky texture.

Stamina Ramen

Local ramen noodles are soaked in cold water and served with a sweet and salty starchy sauce, cabbage, pumpkin, liver, and other toppings, creating a unique culinary experience.

Shirasu-don

Fresh, raw baby sardines landed at local fishing ports offer a unique flavor characteristic of their origin. Additionally, whitebait boiled in a large pot with salt and then drained is called "kama-age shirasu," offering a plump texture and delicious taste.



Kaisen Don (Seafood Rice Bowl)

Kaisendon is a seafood dish featuring fresh catches from Nakaminato and Oarai ports.You can savor the delicious flavors of seasonal seafood throughout the year.

Kasama Chestnuts

Kasama City is the top-ranked area in Japan for growing chestnuts and has the most significant number of chestnut growers. The chestnuts grown here are known for their sweetness and fragrance, and the city offers a wide variety of gourmet foods made from chestnuts, such as fresh and roasted chestnuts, chestnut cuisine, and chestnut delicious sweets.

Kasama Inari Sushi

The new specialty dish "Kasama Inari Sushi," named after Kasama Inari Shrine, features a unique combination of soba, walnuts, shiitake mushrooms, seasonal vegetables, and other delicious ingredients are stuffed inside fried tofu pouches.

Let's Enjoy Nature! Art! Food too!
Experience and explore!

Suzuki Mohei Shoten

Mito has been a center for traditional Suifu chōchin lantern production since the Edo period and is one of Japan's three major production centers.Please inquire at any of the lantern stores in the city for a hands-on experience of making lanterns.

Besshunkan Museum of Umeshu (Plum Wine) & Sake

Ibaraki boasts the largest number of sake breweries in the Kanto region. Mito, which prospered as the castle town of the Mito Tokugawa family, is home to two long-established sake breweries. There is also a museum where visitors can learn about sake and plum wine's history and production process.

Kurosawa Soy Sauce Shop

Kurosawa Soy Sauce Store in Hitachinaka City offers a tour of the brewery where soy sauce is made. Inside the shop, you can also enjoy sweets made with soy sauce.

Daimaruya hoshiimo shop

Hitachinaka City's specialty is hoshiimo, dried sweet potato, which is widely available to enjoy and compare different flavors. Popular products include gelato, baked goods, shochu, and more made from hoshiimo. We are committed to producing safe and trustworthy food products with no additives.

Ume Sonare oarai

This facility was opened by Yoshidaya, a long-established company founded in 1830 that manufactures and sells ume-related products. In addition to ume syrup, ume sake, and umeboshi (pickled plums) making, visitors Yoshidaya, a company which has been in existence since 1830 and specializes in making and selling products related to ume, opened this facility. Visitors can participate in various activities like trying their hand in ume dyeing, touring a factory where products like pickled plums are manufactured, and making ume syrup, ume sake, and umeboshi (pickled plums).

Oarai camp

Oarai, rich in nature, has three campgrounds: "Oarai Sun Beach Campground" for seaside camping, "Oarai Campground" surrounded by pine trees, and "Sunset Town Matsukawa" where you can watch the beautiful sunset, all of which are well-equipped.

ETOWA KASAMA

A glamping facility opened in July 2020 as an outdoor resort nestled in a forest close to the sky.You can enjoy high-quality, extraordinary time while relaxing in the midst of nature.

Kasama Craft Hills

There is a pottery experience class for Kasama-yaki, a permanent exhibition of ceramic art, a craft café where you can enjoy coffee, cakes, and meals, and a souvenir corner. On the first floor gallery, seasonal exhibitions by various artists are held, adding color to the spacious indoor space.

Spring

Beginning with cherry blossoms, then tulips, azaleas, nemophila, wisteria, and so on
A relay of colorful flowers continues

Nemophila

Location Hitachi Seaside Park

From mid-April to early May

About 5.3 million nemophila flowers dye the entire 'Miharashi no Oka hillside, turning the entire area blue. The panoramic scene where the sky, sea, and hills become one is breathtaking.

Kasama Azalea Festival

Location Kasama Azalea Park

From mid-April to early May

Kasama Azalea Park, which spans about 7 hectares, will be dyed red. The park will be in full bloom with various types of azaleas, and visitors can explore the park while enjoying the contrast of red and blue flowers with the visit to Hitachi Seaside Park. At the same time, the blue nemophila in Hitachi-Kaihin Park will also be at its best, making it the perfect opportunity for visitors to tour both parks.

Kasama Pottery Festival

Location Kasama Geijutsunomori Park

April 29~May 5

During the festival, you will find the largest pottery market in the prefecture. Around 200 potters and ceramic artists from Kasama gather here to showcase their unique creations. From artistic works to daily necessities, you can browse and purchase various items. Don't miss the potters' food and beverage booths.

Summer

A treasure trove of outdoor activities with mountains and oceans.
Summer festivals, fireworksand swimming in the ocean, etc.
You can experience fun events.

Mito Komon Festival

Location Lake Senba · Central city area

From late July-early August

Approximately 7,000 fireworks will illuminate Senba Lake, the fantastic "Mito Komon Lantern Procession" at night, and the parade of the "Furusato Mikoshi," one of Japan's largest portable community shrines.

Mito Hydrangea Festival

Location Romantic zone of Mito

Early June~

The event will be in the "Mito Romantic Zone" near the Kairakuen Garden. Approximately 6,000 hydrangea plants of about 100 varieties will bloom vividly in Howaen Park, and approximately 5,000 hydrangea plants of about 60 varieties will also bloom in vibrant colors at the Mito Hachimangu Shrine.

Ajigaura Beach

Location Ajigaura Beach

From late July to late August

One of the best beaches in the prefecture with a beautiful 1.2-kilometer arc-shaped coastline. Nearby are Hitachi-Kaihin Park, a shopping mall, and a day spa, making it an enjoyable trip.

Autumn

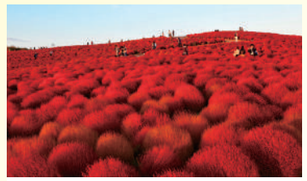
Historic shrines and temples, and seafood, etc.
Autumn: A Season of Art and Gastronomy
You can fully enjoy

Kasama Chrysanthemum Festival

Location Kasama Inari Shrine and more

From late October to late November

Japan's oldest chrysanthemum festival began in 1908. The precincts of Inari Shrine and the entire city are adorned with various colorful chrysanthemums, creating a beautiful sight. The Kasama Historical Exchange Center, Izutsuya, is also decorated with chrysanthemums.



Kochia (autumn leaves)

Location Hitachi Seaside Park

From mid-October

The view of the entire hillside dyed red by the autumn leaves of the Kochia is genuinely a world-class spectacle. Visitors can enjoy the contrast between the red of the Kochia and the autumn sky's blue.

Oarai Maritime Fireworks

Location Oarai Sunbeach

From early September

Approximately 12,000 bullets will decorate the night sky, including ten consecutive shakudama, Big Star Mines, and Music Star Mines. The finale is an awe-inspiring masterpiece with a 500-meter diameter two-shaku ball.

Winter

Power spots that purify the body and mind and there are also many popular photo spots, and plum blossoms begin blooming early in February.

The Mito Plum Blossom Festival

Location Kairakuen · Kodokan

From mid-February to late March

The Kairakuen Garden boasts around 3,000 ume trees of nearly 100 varieties, which blossom at different times - early, mid, and late, thus making it possible for visitors to appreciate the garden's beauty over an extended period.

Yukkura Health Center

Location Yukkura Health Center

From January

The facility include various hot springs with sodium chloride springs, as well as saunas, hot spring pools, and a training gym.

Kamiiso no Torii

Location Kamiiso no Torii

From January

The area where the Oarai Isosaki Shrine and the Sakatsura Isozaki Shrine are enshrined is said to be where two gods descended, making it a popular photo spot.