

西川町

In the center of Yamagata Prefecture

Nishikawa – The town with Mt. Gassan



Mt. Gassan

Snow / Outdoors

Edible Wild Plant Cuisine

Hot Springs / Religion

Making it “worth the trip.”



A Journey to Where I Can Return Back to Being Me.



Gassan Asahi Tourism
Association's Mascot
Gassan



The autumn leaves are at the peak of their beauty in the middle of September. They start turning color around the summit, then their new colors appear in the vicinity of the ski lift in the middle of October. The wide variety of hues and tints unique to Mt. Gassan, one of the few areas in Japan with heavy snowfall, create a world like a picture scroll of nature.

Inquiries Gassan Asahi Guide Association
☎0237-74-5130



RECOMMENDED

Mt. Gassan Flower Trekking

While Mt. Gassan stands less than 2,000 meters, there are many alpine plants thriving which are usually found only on mountains higher than 3,000 meters because it receives a full measure of seasonal winds from the Sea of Japan.

The site of them blooming beside the snow is referred to as "snow field vegetation" and is a phenomena of high scientific importance.

Looking at the delicate plants will make your face broaden with a smile before you realize it.

Inquiries Gassan Asahi Guide Association
☎0237-74-5130

Mt. Gassan Summer Skiing

While other ski slopes are closed, skiers can still ski down the Mt. Gassan Ski Slopes which are open from April until July. In the warm climate, enjoy invigorating skiing and snowboarding amid the contrast of the "blues" skies, "white" snow, and new "greenery" of spring.

Inquiries Gassan Asahi Tourism Association
☎0237-74-4119



The natural environment created by one of Japan's few regions of heavy snowfall displays richly diverse appearances. Dive deep into the bosom of it and play to your heart's content.

**Playing in the snow
Mt. Gassan produces is
the ultimate in outdoor fun.**



Trekking through the Lingering Snow and New Greenery of Japanese Beech Trees on Mt. Gassan

There is an expansive virgin forest of Japanese beech trees high up on the mountain. If you stop in the middle of it and take a deep breath, you will feel it deep into your body. Guides will direct you through the Yamagata Prefectural Natural Museum Park for free twice a day, starting at 9:30 and 13:30.

Inquiries Yamagata Prefectural Natural Museum Park (Nature Center) ☎0237-75-2010



Outdoors

Experience Even More of the Nishikawa Outdoors



Canoeing and Rafting

Nishikawa-machi contains Gassan Lake which holds canoe races on a national level.

Inquiries Gassan Asahi Tourism Association
☎0237-74-4119

You will feel like you are melting
into the surrounding natural environment.



Climbing Mt. Gassan

One of the 100 top mountains in Japan, Mt. Gassan is located roughly in the center of Yamagata Prefecture. Of the three Dewa-Sanzan mountains, it has the highest elevation.

Note Convenient, money-saving plans are available which package ski lift fees, guide fees, and insurance premiums into a set according to the season. You must apply three days in advance.

Inquiries Gassan Asahi Guide Association
☎0237-74-5130



Climbing in the Asahi Mountain Range

Running along the prefectural border between Yamagata and Niigata, the Asahi Mountain Range was designated as a national park, the Bandai-Asahi National Park.

Note Transportation access and mountain climbing conditions may vary according to the season. Please obtain detailed information in advance.

Inquiries Gassan Asahi Tourism Association
☎0237-74-4119

Mt. Gassan Backcountry Skiing

Backcountry skiing is where you ski through the undisturbed natural areas of a mountain and not on the ski slopes and has recently become a very popular outdoor sport. The huge, ever-changing courses on Mt. Gassan have an incredible number of enthusiasts visiting each year. Experience that special feeling of making footsteps in the fresh snow that no one else has walked on.

Note You must be accompanied by an instructor, but this policy can be applied in a flexible manner according to climate conditions and the schedule.

Inquiries Gassan Asahi Tourism Association ☎0237-74-4119



Mt. Gassan Autumn Leaves Trekking



Mt. Gassan Snow Trekking

The new snow catches the rays of the morning and evening sun, changing from blue to red. Why not put on a pair of western-style snowshoes and take a look at this fairy-tale-like natural world?

Inquiries Gassan Asahi Guide Association ☎0237-74-5130



The Commitment to Live Together with the Snow on Mt. Gassan and the Joy This Creates

Frolic in the snow, long for the spring, play in the summer... There is a wide variety of events taking place in Nishikawa.

Mt. Gassan Snow Corridor Walking

"Walls of snow" line both sides of the prefectural road Gassan Shizu Line, formed by the clearing of snow in time for opening of the Mt. Gassan Ski Slopes. Portions of the walls reach over 10 meters. Participants all express the same expression of astonishment at the overwhelming impact of the sight.

Inquiries Gassan Asahi Tourism Association
☎ 0237-74-4119



Nishikawa Chrysanthemum Festival

Dating back to the beginning of the Showa period, this is a chrysanthemum festival with the second longest history in Yamagata Prefecture.

Inquiries ☎ 0237-74-4119



Enjoy seeing colorful many dolls that chrysanthemum flower.



Satisfy your hunger with "Hinazen Cuisine" available for a limited period.

Tamaki Girl's Festival

The highly-developed water transportation system on the Mogami River brought the culture of Kyoto to the region. Even today the precious festival dolls are carefully preserved. With over 400 period Girl's Festival dolls lined up on display, you can savor the refined Heian period.

Inquiries ☎ 0237-74-2364

Website <http://www.sansai-tamaki.com/>

"Illuminated Snow Inns," Gassan-Shizu Hot Spring

Using snow piled over 6 meters high, this is a recreation of the townscape of an inn town on the Rokujuri Pass Highway during its heyday. At night, the soft candlelight creates a fairytale-like world.

Inquiries Gassan Asahi Tourism Association
☎ 0237-74-4119



Mt. Gassan Summer Festa

There are many programs which the family can enjoy, including the special release of water from the nearby dam for the Mt. Gassan Summer Festa Dam and a chance to experience a dragon boat race.

Inquiries ☎ 0237-74-4119

Main Events in Nishikawa-machi

Early February - Mid April	Tamaki Girl's Festival
Early April	Mt. Gassan Snow Corridor Walking
Early April	Mt. Gassan Ski Slopes Opening
Mid - Late April	Mt. Gassan Beech Tree Forest Nature Observation Gatherings
May - June	Trekking Through Mt. Gassan Residual Snow and New Beech Tree Greenery
Mid May	Mt. Gassan Skiing Competition
Late May	Mt. Gassan Edible Wild Plant Market
Early June - Mid August	Mt. Gassan Flower Trekking
Early June	Summer Opening of Asahi Mountain Range to Climbers

Late June - Early July	Mt. Gassan Black Lilly Mountain Climbing
July 1 every year	Summer Opening of Mt. Gassan to Climbers
Late July	Mt. Gassan Summer Festa
Late August - Early September	"Flame-Joining Religious Service and Fire Festival," Gassan-Shizu Hot Spring
Early September - Mid October	Mt. Gassan Autumn Leaves Trekking
Every second Friday - second Sunday Every Year	Iwanezawa Sanzan Shrine "Daidai Kagura," regular large festival
	"Firewalking Ritual," Oisawa-Yudonosan Shrine
	"Goma Prayers," Hondoji Yudonosan Shrine

Mid October	Marugoto Nishikawa Sanzan Festival
Mid October	Oisawa Mushroom Festival
Late October - Early November	Nishikawa Chrysanthemum Festival
Early November - Mid November	Nishikawa Beef Moo-Moo Festival
Early December	Prayer Gong Walking
December - May following year	Mt. Gassan Snow Trekking
Early January - Early April	Mt. Gassan CAT Tour
Late February, Early March	"Illuminated Snow Inns," Gassan-Shizu Hot Spring



Hot Springs

The Snows of Mt. Gassan Have Fallen Since Time Immemorial.

Falling and piling up over long periods of time, the snows of Mt. Gassan have formed natural hot springs which have healing powers for us.



Gassan-Shizu Hot Spring



Surrounded by the virgin beech tree forests at the foot of Mt. Gassan, you can savor the changing scenery of Mt. Gassan, Mt. Yudono, and other picturesque locations.

Bathing Fees "Day Trip" 500 yen - 800 yen
Inquiries ☎0237-74-4119

Inns Located in Gassan-Shizu Hot Spring

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| ● Sanzan Inn | ☎0237-75-2225 | ● Ebisu-ya Inn | ☎0237-75-2021 |
| ● Yukishiro Inn | ☎0237-75-2033 | ● Kashiwa-ya Inn | ☎0237-75-2223 |
| ● Yonezawa-ya Inn | ☎0237-75-2125 | ● Maizuru-ya Inn | ☎0237-75-2063 |
| ● Shimizu-ya Inn | ☎0237-75-2211 | ● Sendai-ya Inn | ☎0237-75-2218 |
| ● Goshikitei Inn | ☎0237-75-2106 | ● Tsutaya Inn | ☎0237-75-2222 |



Mizusawa Hot Spring Resort

Located next to the "Nishikawa Roadside Station," this is a bathing facility that can be visited on a day trip.

Bathing Fees Adults: 300 yen, Children: 100 yen
Inquiries ☎0237-74-4433



Oisawa Hot Spring - Yuttarikan Hot Spring

The warmth and refreshing scent of the wood construction of the inn greets you with a feeling of comfort.

Bathing Fees Adults: 300 yen
Children: 100 yen
Inquiries ☎0237-77-3536



Unagiyu Spring (Kaishu Hot Spring)

This is a chloride spring containing sulphur which warms the body to its core.

Bathing Fees Adults: 200 yen
Children: 100 yen
Inquiries ☎0237-74-3232

History and Culture

A Sense of Reverence of the Snows of Mt. Gassan Gave Birth to the Sacred Grounds of the Ancient Mountain Worship.

The snowscape on Mt. Gassan still persists even in summer. Being one of the few locations with heavy snowfalls in the country, people could not easily access it and the area became a large sacred site for Dewa-Sanzan ancient mountain worship as "the place where gods exist." People's deep sentiments toward mountains (= gods) are still strongly rooted in the region even today.



Iwanesawa Sanzan Shrine

Wider than the 57-meter Great Buddha Hall in Nara, its main entrance boasts an extraordinary scale, measuring 66.9 meters across and the shrine is a Nationally-Designated Important Cultural Property.

"Daidai Kagura," Iwanesawa Sanzan Shrine

A traditional dance ritual presented before Shinto gods, Daidai Kagura is composed of "Sarutahiko-no-mai," "Uga-no-mai," and other dances, performed as prayers to the gods and expressions of gratitude for prayers that have been answered.

Event Date

Second Sunday of September every year



Hondoji Kuchinomiya Yudonosan Shrine

The shrine was founded in 809 deep inside Mt. Yudono when Kukai, the great teacher of Buddhism, visited the area.

"Goma Fire Ritual," Hondoji Kuchinomiya Yudonosan Shrine

Goma is a practice of prayer and austerities where "goma" prayer sticks are burned as firewood for fulfilling a variety of prayers in esoteric Shingon-Mikkyo Buddhism.

Event Date

Second Friday of September every year



RECOMMENDED

Dewa-Sanzan Sankuchi Pilgrimage

For pilgrimages, there are eight directions and seven entrances to Dewa-Sanzan, the Three Mountains of Dewa and the three entrances in Nishikawa-machi on the left are called Sankuchi, meaning the "Three Entrances."

Each of the entrances has an auxiliary shrine dedicated to the main Sanzan Shrine and going through Sankuchi generates the same religious benefits as paying homage at the main shrine. It is said that especially on a night of a full moon, the benefits (power of rebirth) are large, and we recommend a course which makes a pilgrimage to three shines on a full moon night. You might be able to encounter a "new you" through the power of Tsukiyomi-no-Mikoto, the main enshrined deity.

Inquiries

Gassan Asahi Tourism Association
☎0237-74-4119

Further Experience the History and Culture of Nishikawa



Onuma Shrine

A shrine with a very unique construction, it is said that its front shrine and main shrine are enshrined on the shores of Lake Naganuma and the inner sanctuary on Nakanoshima Island.



Naganobori Kannon Temple

The temple is located in Mutsual to the east of the town hall. The "Eleven-faced Bodhisattv" is enshrined as the principle object of worship and is said to have been made by Gyoki Bosatsu.



Rokujurigoe Kaido

It is said that it was constructed 1,200 years ago and that as a pilgrimage route to Dewa-Sanzan during the Muromachi and Edo periods, it was crowded with many pilgrims dressed in white. With moss-covered stone pavements and a variety of historical remains, the highway shows many traces of the appearance of the area at that time. Enjoy trekking as you experience the natural environment with a thick growth of beech trees and the historical character of the area.

Inquiries EcoPro NPO ☎0237-75-2780
Gassan Asahi Tourism Association
☎0237-74-4119



Oisawa Yudonosan Shrine

In ancient times, it was counted as one of the "Seven Great Sacred Grounds of Japan."

"Goma Fire Ritual,"

Hondoji Kuchinomiya Yudonosan Shrine

Firewalking in Japanese is formally referred to as "fire-generating concentration." People walk over the fire which has the power to change the properties of the burned material. The experience can eliminate ambivalence of the soul and fulfill prayers for great power.

Event Date

Second Saturday in September every year



If you stick your head
into the character for "Mt."
good things
might happen to you...



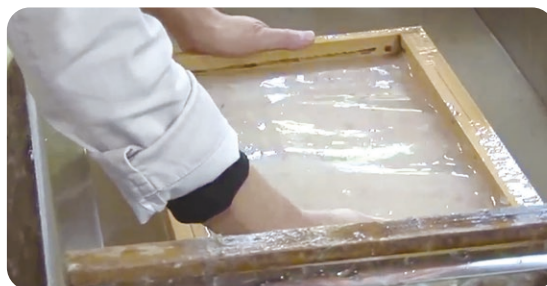
Hands-on Experience Programs

Working with Gassan Agate

Gassan agate was discovered in the upper reaches of the Nekkozawa Marshland and in particular, high quality agate is found in Oisawa. For your hands-on experience, first you select the piece of agate you wish to polish. Next, you think of a design, and then once you have polished the agate, your work of art will be complete.



Even the flowers and fallen leaves from around the Tradition Hall look great infused in the traditional Japanese papermaking!



Gassan Japanese Papermaking

Traditional Japanese papermaking has been handed down through generations since the Edo period when the area was crowded with worshippers of the Dewa-Sanzan faith. Today only a few people follow the methods of long ago to carry on the tradition of using the bark of the mulberry tree to handmake Gassan Japanese papermaking.



Plant Dyeing

Using safflower, dyer's knotweed, gromwell root, madder, Amur cork tree, and other plants of the four seasons, gain hands-on experience from simple tying to tie-dyeing, board dyeing, and other dyeing techniques.



Ceramic Bell Painting

Since ancient times, ceramic bells have been made by baking clay hard and the simple color tones have been their distinctive features.



Kokeshi Doll Painting

This has been restored from the Edo period when it was a familiar art form called "Kikumaro Kokeshi."

Abundant Traditional Handicrafts
Born from the Snows of Mt. Gassan

Traditional handicrafts created from "materials that just happen to be around." Aside from minerals and plants, the "spirit of the craftsman" cultivated through interaction with nature is also a material for making the crafts.

Nishikawa-machi Educational Field Trips

Hands-on Learning about the Environment, Nature, and Rural Districts

"The natural environment of the town is the classroom," in other words "living studies" are deeply rooted in the region. There is a long track record of accommodating educational field trips with school children from the city and other children. Once you have learned something from nature, your basic emotions of kindness, tolerance and the spirit of inquiry will manifest themselves on their own. You will truly learn the "power to live."

Inquiries Gassan Asahi Tourism Association ☎0237-74-4119



Nature & Crafts Tradition Hall

This is an atelier for "making things" of many different types using materials in the region. It provides opportunities for various learning experiences, including observation and private and group participation.

Operating Times 9:00 - 16:30 (April - November) / 10:00 - 16:00 (December - March)

Entrance Fee Adults 200 yen, Children 100 yen / Groups (with 20 members or more)
Adults 150 yen, Children 50 yen *Fees for the hands-on experience are separate.

Closed Every Monday (Open when Monday is a public holiday and closed the following Tuesday)
New Year's Holidays: Closed (December 29 - January 3)

Inquiries ☎0237-76-2112

Yamagata Prefectural Natural Museum Park



This is a facility where you can understand such things as the mechanisms of nature and the interaction of nature and human beings while coming into contact with nature in an abundant natural environment centered on beech tree forests.

Operating Times 9:00 - 17:00 (May 1 - October 31)

Entrance Fee free

Closed Every Monday (Open when Monday is a public holiday and closed the following Tuesday)

Inquiries ☎0237-75-2010

Ofurumai Cuisine

"Ofurumai cuisine" is the ultimate in edible wild plant cooking which is served to formally invited guests. There seems to be no other type of cuisine which has developed the art of serving edible wild plants into a distinct form and style. Ofurumai cuisine is considered to be at the pinnacle of edible wild plant cooking which was able to blossom because of its long history of being served to pilgrims.



DINING

Dewaya Edible Mountain Plant Restaurant

Dewaya started as an inn for pilgrims visiting Dewa-Sanzan for mountain worship. While providing meals and baths to the pilgrims, the inn developed cooking made of "mountain things," which only the local folk ate, and over the years it evolved into "edible wild plant cooking." Dewaya became known nationwide as a unique "Inn of Edible Wild Plant Cooking."

As soon as you start eating it, you can sense the fragrance, taste, and mouthfeel which reflect the best culinary methods for edible wild plants whose existence relies on the preservation and freshness of the ingredients which are raised to be able to live in the natural environment of the area. You will really want to savor the inner depth of the taste of the plants.



Inquiries ☎ 0237-74-2323

Website <http://www.dewaya.com/>

DINING

Tamaki Edible Mountain Plant Restaurant

"Tamaki," the Quintessence of "Local Production for Local Consumption"

"Tamaki" serves "four season cuisine," using ingredients of the four seasons which change with the seasons, including edible wild plant cooking, "Hinazen" festive food, "Tanabata Cooking," and cooking using lavish amounts of precious mushrooms produced in Yamagata that are generally difficult to obtain. Standing alongside the clear waters of the Sagae River, it boasts an outstanding location where guests can spend the ultimate time enjoying their meal while viewing the flow of the clear river water.



Inquiries ☎ 0237-74-2364

Website <http://www.sansai-tamaki.com/>



SHOPPING

Market with Freshly-harvested Edible Wild Plants

Edible wild plants have a limited harvest season and among the nearby regions, Nishikawa-machi has the highest harvest volume. The high quality and surprisingly low price of the produce make it very attractive.



The Station sells an abundance of edible wild plants at the start of the season and holds competitive product fairs. After the outstanding edible wild plants are appraised, they are sold to the visitors who have won the right to purchase them through rock, paper, scissors games. Extremely popular, "Char-grilled Bamboo Shoots" are customarily sold out completely in under an hour.

Gassan Edible Wild Plant Market

Open May

Inquiries ☎ 0237-74-2100



Gathered here are products found in the local region, centered on edible wild plants and mushrooms raised in the abundant natural environment of Nishikawa-machi, as well as other delicacies from the mountains and agricultural produce.

Nishikawa Roadside Station

Operating Hours 8:30 - 18:00 (Kiosk, direct sales store)

Inquiries ☎ 0237-74-2100



Gourmet Dining, Souvenirs

**Enjoy the Blessings
the Snows of Mt. Gassan Offer Together with
Memories of Your Trip...**

You took the time and effort to come, you enjoyed conversations with other people, and from the bottom of your heart you are thankful for everything. Take home these memories along with your souvenirs.



RECOMMENDED

Gassan Edible Wild Plant Soba

Nishikawa-machi is famous for this type of food eaten by dipping soba, which has been chilled in cold water to bring out its al dente texture, in piping-hot sauce containing copious amounts of edible wild plants and mushrooms. The soba can be put in the pot and allowed to boil a little bit or it can be served in a small bowl with dipping sauce as "tsukesoba." At the end of the meal, putting the remaining soba in a hat in which soba powder has been dissolved in water and eating it is the "Nishikawa style" of enjoying soba. You can eat this at shops who are members of the town's Gassan Edible Wild Plant Soba Association.

Inquiries

Gassan Edible Wild Plant Soba Association Office
(inside Nishikawa-machi Chamber of Commerce) ☎0237-74-3135



Tamaya Noodle Factory

The factory produces noodles paying particular attention to taste and where ingredients are produced, while making full use of the many blessings Mt. Gassan has to offer. Passionate about researching and developing new products, the factory has won Good Design Awards and other prizes in various contests and has also entered international food competitions and won awards.



Inquiries

Tsuoro no Mise Direct Sales Store
☎0120-77-5308



▲"Japanese Wing Nuts," in the right size to be bite-size.
◀"Japanese Walnut," jellied dessert filled with domestic walnuts.

Shogetsu Confectionery Shop

A long-established Japanese confectionery shop frequented by large numbers of fans going back as far as three generations and many repeat customers who make the effort to come all the way from neighboring cities and towns.

Inquiries ☎0237-74-2286



▲3 Popular Manju Varieties (miso soybean paste / mugwort / brown sugar)
◀"Chestnut Paste Shells" modelled after the large chestnuts of Oisawa.

Wakatsuki Confectionery Shop

The shop's manju (sweet bean paste-filled buns) are extremely popular for the rice cake-like mouthfeel of the crust and refined sweetness. They are produced in bite-size portions and we recommend that you do comparative eating of the different varieties.

Inquiries ☎0237-74-2121

Only Nishikawa-machi has all three kinds of local spirits – local beer, local wine, and local saké. Guess that's how outstanding the quality of the water is!



What you will want to eat and buy LIST



Edible Wild Plant Croquettes
Original croquettes filled with edible wild plants grown in the town.

Soft Ice Cream

"Zunda Soft" made from a secret bean paste recipe produced in the town and the Oisawa District and "Yamabudo (wild vine) Soft" ice cream are so tasty they attract lines of people to buy them.

Soft Beef Stewed in Local Beer

Beef raised in the prefecture is slowly stewed in Gassan local beer. The flavorful brown sauce provides the finishing touch.



Local Beer

The local beer uses carefully selected raw ingredients from Germany, the home of beer brewing, and Gassan natural water. Two versions are available - pilsner with its refreshing taste and Weizen featuring a full-bodied flavor created from roasted malt.



Local Wine

Made using only fruit grown in the prefecture, the local wine features a high-quality taste utilizing the blessings Mt. Gassan offers.

Local Saké

The local saké made from Gassan spring water, one of the Selected 100 Exquisite and Well-Conserved Waters, and brewer's rice which has undergone multiple enhancements.



Fruit Juice

Enjoy the fragrance of the mountains and deep rich taste of "Kokuwa (hardy kiwifruit)," "Yamabudo (wild vine)," and other flavors.



Mt. Gassan Natural Water

The soft water contains a moderate amount of minerals and its clear and mild quality bring out the flavor of raw ingredients, making it suitable for both drinking and any kind of cooking.



Baked Doughnuts
(Gassan and Kokuwa Local Beer)

These moist doughnuts are available for your enjoyment in two flavors, Local Beer created in Nishikawa-machi and Kokuwa (hardy kiwifruit), a specialty product.*

*Also called "Sarunashi" (Actinidia arguta), this is a "super fruit" which improves beauty.



Yamagata Beer Fragrance Shortbread

The shortbread is made by kneading the grains mixed with white rice. It uses two types of rice, "Tsuyahime" and "Haenuki," raised on spring water from Mt. Gassan.



Gassan Manma White Sprouted Rice Germ

The delicious healthy rice is made by cooking the grains mixed with white rice. It uses two types of rice, "Tsuyahime" and "Haenuki," raised on spring water from Mt. Gassan.



Rokujo Tofu

This is dried tofu introduced by Kyoto monks who led an ascetic life in the mountains and came on pilgrimages to Dewa-Sanzan. It goes well with soup and pot cooking.



Traditional Handicrafts

These traditional handicrafts enable you to feel the warmth of the handiwork involved in making Kokeshi dolls, agate cutting and polishing, clay bells, hanging ornaments, lampshades made from Gassan Japanese paper, and other handiwork.



Nishikawa Roadside Station



Available here are specialty products produced both in and outside the town, such as processed goods made by local processing groups, and Gassan natural water and local beer produced by the owners of the station.

Inquiries ☎0237-74-2100

Seki-no-Chaya Restaurant, Gassan Lake Shop



Made using a secret recipe for Oisawa-grown beans, "Zunda Soft Cream" is superb. The shop is on a mountain pass which offers views of the Gassan Lake Large Water Fountain right in front of you.

Inquiries ☎0237-75-2354

Oisawa Direct Sales Store



The direct sales store has rows of seasonal vegetables, edible wild plants and mushrooms harvested in the local area. It offers an abundant amount of produce to accommodate the local residents who shop at the store daily.

Inquiries ☎090-2360-6566

Nishikawa Information Map

East Area

- Dining
- Souvenirs
- Hot Springs
- Accommodation
- Hands-on Experience Programs

- 1 Itobo Inn TEL: 74-2834
- 2 Chojinbo Inn TEL: 74-3413
- 3 Gassan Pension Karube TEL: 74-2707
- 4 Sakuranbo Pension TEL: 74-2454
- 5 Kaerunoko Soba Shop TEL: 74-4649
- 6 Seimon Soba TEL: 74-2363
- 7 Onuma Camping Grounds TEL: 74-4119
- 8 Shogetsu Confectionary Shop TEL: 74-2286
- 9 Oishinbo Akiba Tavern TEL: 74-3162
- 10 Ichimatsu Soba Shop TEL: 74-3360
- 11 Yamaroku Restaurant TEL: 74-2169
- 12 Dewaya Inn (Okay to order only a meal) TEL: 74-2323
- 13 Midoritei Ramen Shop TEL: 74-2273
- 14 Tamaki Restaurant TEL: 74-2364
- 15 Kadoya Restaurant TEL: 74-3011
- 16 Shibuya Fresh Mart TEL: 74-3210
- 17 Rokujuri Restaurant TEL: 74-3069
- 18 Kaishu Hot Spring (Senior Citizen's Center) TEL: 74-3232
- 19 Wakatsuki Confectionary Main Shop TEL: 74-2121
- 20 Gassan Saké Brewery Museum - Shitara Saké Brewery TEL: 74-2020
- 21 Buhei Soba Restaurant TEL: 74-3860
- 22 Marukiya Soba Restaurant TEL: 74-3722

Maruyama Kaoru Memorial Hall Iwanasawa



A poet of the Shiki school of poetry. He was forced to evacuate during World War Two and wrote many poetry collections describing the life and scenery of Iwanasawa. The Memorial hall preserves and displays many precious documents, including manuscripts written in his own hand and first editions of his works.

Open: 4/25 – 11/15
Entrance Fees: Adults ¥200
Children ¥100

Access: approx. 15 mins. from the Nishikawa IC on the Yamagata Expressway
Inquiries: TEL: 0237-74-2965

Mizusawa Hot Spring Mizusawa

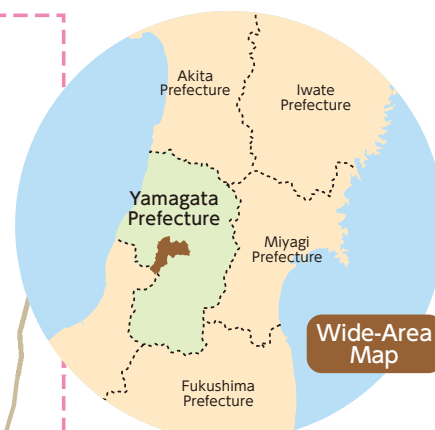


Hot spring type: sodium chloride hot spring
Efficacy: cuts, burns, chronic dermatosis, anemic children, chronic female disorders, etc.

Entrance Fees: Adults ¥300
Children ¥100

Access: approx. 8 mins. from the Nishikawa IC on the Yamagata Expressway
Inquiries: TEL: 0237-74-4433

East Area P11-12



- Iwanasawa Sanzan Shrine TEL: 74-4732
- Ganshoji Temple TEL: 74-4767
- Hashshozan Kaneyama Shrine TEL: 74-3606
- Naganobori Kannon TEL: 74-3853
- Shishinokuchi Suwa Shrine TEL: 74-2483
- Nishikawa Gassan Post Office TEL: 74-2391
- Mazawa Post Office TEL: 74-3071
- Nishikawa Post Office TEL: 74-2390
- Mizusawa Police Substation TEL: 74-2205
- Nishikawa Police Substation TEL: 74-2203
- Fire Department Nishikawa Substation TEL: 74-2101
- Kurosaka Shoten Gas Station TEL: 74-2154
- JA Nishikawa Gas Station TEL: 74-2351
- Gassan Tourist Taxi TEL: 74-2310
- Kirayaka Bank Mazawa Branch
Nishikawa Branch TEL: 74-4321
- Yamagata Bank Nishikawa Branch TEL: 74-2161

Hondoji Fishing Grounds Hondoji



Located upstream in the Sagae River, these are managed fishing grounds where anyone can experience the real pleasure of fishing. The river is regularly stocked with fish and fish can be seen swimming in the water. When you are amusing yourself fishing leisurely on a country side river surrounded by mountains, night falls before you know it. Fishing rods (with bait) can be rented.

Access: approx. 20 mins. from the Nishikawa IC on the Yamagata Expressway;
approx. 15 mins. from Gassan IC.

Inquiries: Nishikawa-machi Hondoji District Association Office TEL: 0237-75-2001
Gassan Asahi Tourism Association Secretariat TEL: 0237-74-4119

Mt. Gassan Toraya Winery Yoshikawa



Since its establishment, the winery has been providing wine focused on the fruit grown in Yamagata Prefecture, based on the concept of creating "Genuine wine produced using local fruit and made by workers living in the area and that can be enjoyed with our spirit of 'hospitality.'" The winemaking is managed in an integrated process from grape growing to fermenting, and while maintaining high product quality, it allows a "Yamagata quality" to its flavor to be savored.

Access: approx. 3 mins. from the Nishikawa IC on the Yamagata Expressway
Inquiries: TEL: 0237-74-4315

Tamaya Noodle Factory Tsuoro no Mise Direct Sales Store Mutsuai



Serving ramen, pasta, and other dishes, the establishment has received widespread backing as it inherited the food culture of Nishikawa-machi which developed as "buckwheat hospitality" by which food is served with the spirit of entertaining a valued guest. It is famous for the large number of repeat customers who buy through mail order its quality noodles which feature great taste, mouthfeel, and sensation of the noodles passing smoothly down through the throat.

Access: approx. 5 mins. from the Nishikawa IC on the Yamagata Expressway
Inquiries: TEL: 0120-77-5308



Gassan Shizu Area



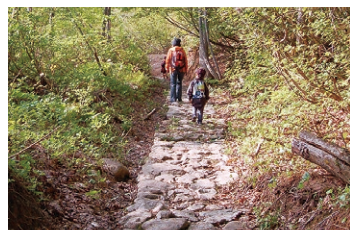
Fresh air!
Feel the joy
of being alive.

Yamagata Prefectural Natural Museum Park



This is a facility where you can learn through programs such as "The Mechanism of Nature" and "Interaction of Nature and Humans," while interacting with nature. Inside the park there are a Nature Center, various spaces for outdoor observation along the outdoor promenade, hands-on experience zones, observation decks, and outdoor observation huts. Try walking among the beech trees of Mt. Gassan which are remarkably adapted to the heavy snow environment.

Access: approx. 10 mins. from the Gassan IC on the Yamagata Expressway
Inquiries: TEL: 0237-75-2010



Long ago, this was a historical road taken by ancestors who went on pilgrimages to Dewa-Sanzan and daimyo entourages when going back and forth between their original and Edo residences.



- 4 Gassan - Yumiharidaira Auto-Camping Grounds (Operating June - October) TEL: 75-2003
- 5 Mt. Gassan Yumiharidaira Park Plaza (Gymnasium) TEL: 75-2040
- 6 EcoPro NPO TEL: 75-2780
- 7 Gassan Pole Pole Farm TEL: 75-2240
- 8 Yumihari Chaya (closed during winter season) TEL: 76-2962



- 9 Sagae Dam Drive-in TEL: 75-2339
- 10 Hanagasa Inn (Okay to order only meals) TEL: 75-2045

Mt. Yudono



Mt. Ubagatake

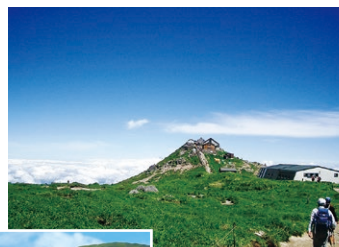
Mt. Gassan Ski Lift Station

Mt. Gassan Ski Lifts

Ubasawa Parking Lot
300-vehicle parking capacity

- 1 Gassan Resort Inn TEL: 75-2316
- 2 Kashiwaya Lodge TEL: 75-2241
- 3 Yatsunami Lodge TEL: 75-2533

Mt. Gassan



There is something deeply emotional that only those who have made it to the summit can experience.

- Dining
- Souvenirs
- Hot Springs
- Accommodation
- Hands-on Experience Programs

Gassan-Shizu Hot Springs

Shizu



- Goshikitei Inn TEL: 75-2106
- Sendaiya Inn TEL: 75-2218
- Shimizuya Inn TEL: 75-2211
- Sanzan TEL: 75-2225
- Maizuruya Inn TEL: 75-2063
- Ochimizu No Yu Tsutaya Inn TEL: 75-2222
- Yukishiro Inn TEL: 75-2033
- Kashiwaya Restaurant TEL: 75-2223
- Yonezawayama Inn TEL: 75-2125
- Ebisuya Inn TEL: 75-2021

Highest in Japan

Large Water Fountain, Gassan Lake

Sunagoseki



Japan's highest water fountain throwing water up to 112 meters into the air from late April to November.
※The fountain sprays water for about 10 minutes each time.

Access: approx. 25 mins. from the Gassan IC on the Yamagata Expressway.
Inquiries: Construction and Water Works Section, Nishikawa-machi Town Hall
TEL: 0237-74-4411
Gassan Lake Store, Sagae Dam Observation Area
TEL: 0237-75-2354

- 11 Sagae Dam Sports Area (Operating June - October) TEL: 75-2002

There is an area where visitors can play mini golf putting, tennis, and other light sports as well as barbecue. Highly recommended for children's clubs and company excursions and events.

To Oisawa

Yamagata Expressway

Gassan PA

To Yamagata



Oisawa Area

- 1 Keiseian Soba Shop TEL: 76-2103
- 2 R Rise Pension TEL: 77-3880
- 3 Asahi Yama-no-le Inn TEL: 76-2031
- 4 Sakuo Inn TEL: 76-2215
- 5 Ohara Inn TEL: 76-2147
- 6 Hashimoto-so Inn TEL: 76-2353
- 7 Edoyaryokan Inn TEL: 76-2110
- 8 Koan Inn TEL: 76-2307
- 9 Mugiwara Private House Gallery TEL: 76-2962

Oisawa Post Office TEL: 76-2050
 Dainichiji Yudonosan Shrine TEL: 76-2416
 (head priest's residence)
 Tsuchida Fish Hatchery TEL: 76-2436

Kikumaro Kokeshi Doll Workshop, Kikumaro Café



With their origins in the late Meiji period, the traditional Kikumaro kokeshi dolls here are the unique "Yamagata type" which reflect the influence of the Zao and Naruko types. Enjoy coffee, pasta, or other light meals surrounded by these cute kokeshi dolls.

Access: approx. 10 mins. from the Gassan IC on the Yamagata Expressway
 Inquiries: TEL: 0237-76-2416

Largest trunk girth in Japan

Oisawa-no-Oguri Large Chestnut Tree



This was examined by a private group, "Kyoju-no-Kai," and verified to be the largest chestnut tree in Japan. It was designated a Natural Monument of Yamagata Prefecture in 2011. The area cannot usually be accessed by car until the end of May when the snow disappears.

Inquiries: Nishikawa-machi - Gassan Asahi Tourism Association
 TEL: 0237-74-4119

Oisawa-no-Oguri

To Tengu Mountain Trailhead to Asahi Mountain Range

Chosetsugama Pottery Shop



The pottery here was created from clay, fire, water, and the human hand by the kiln owner who was born and raised in Kyoto but later moved to this area. Like trees growing in the forest, no two of the items are identical. The pottery can be called one of the blessings of the nature of Oisawa.

Access: approx. 15 mins. from the Gassan IC on the Yamagata Expressway
 Inquiries: TEL: 0237-76-2505

Oisawa

Nature and Crafts Tradition Hall
 Oisawa Natural Museum Park
 Nishikawa-machi Town Hall
 Oisawa Branch

Gassan Menou

Komamori Shrine
 Chosetsugama Pottery Shop



- Dining
- Souvenirs
- Hot Springs
- Accommodation
- Hands-on Experience Programs



Oisawa Hot Spring - Yuttarikan Hot Spring

Oisawa



Hot spring type: sodium chloride; sulfate hot spring

Efficacy: cuts, burns, chronic dermatitis, anemic children, chronic female disorders, nerve pain, muscle pain, joint pain, cold sensitivity, stiff shoulders, stiff joints, bruising, sprains, chronic peptic ulcers, hemorrhoids, post illness convalescence, recovery from exhaustion, health promotion, etc.

Bathing Fees: Adults ¥300
 Children ¥100

Access: approx. 10 mins. from the Gassan IC on the Yamagata Expressway
 Inquiries: TEL: 0237-77-3536

Nature and Crafts Tradition Hall Oisawa Natural Museum Park

Oisawa



From animal and plant specimens to depictions of children of long ago studying, the museum displays data and materials from nature research in the region conducted as part of the Oisawa Junior High School curriculum since 1951. In addition, the Tradition Hall next to it is an atelier for "making things" of many different types using materials in the region. There is also a corner where visitors can experience making Japanese paper and other handicrafts.

Access: approx. 10 mins. from the Gassan IC on Yamagata Expressway
 Inquiries: TEL: 0237-76-2112

Oisawa Tunnel

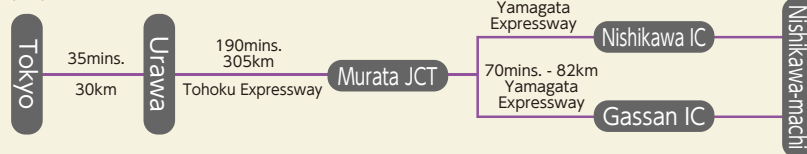
To Higurezawa Mountain Trailhead to Asahi Mountain Range

To Aterazawa

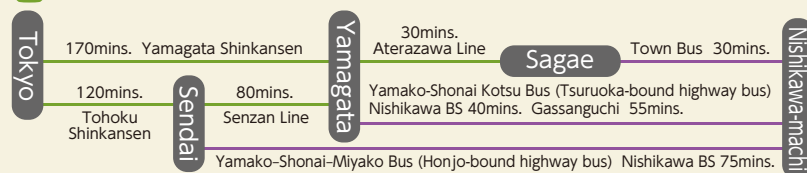
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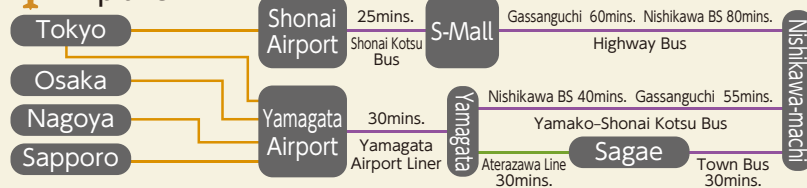
Automobile



Shinkansen



Airplane



Bus



※Nishikawa BS is the abbreviation for the "Nishikawa Bus Stop" (bus stop for highway buses)

Transportation Company Information

Bus	Yamako Bus ☎023-632-7272	Train	View Plaza Yamagata ☎023-641-3404
	Shonai Kotsu ☎0235-24-7600	Airlines	ANA ☎0570-029-222
	Miyagi Kotsu ☎022-261-5333		JAL ☎0570-025-071
	Tohoku Kyuko Bus ☎03-3529-0321	Taxi	Gassan Sightseeing Taxis ☎0237-74-2310
	Town Bus ☎0237-74-4118		

Inquiries

Nishikawa-machi Commerce, Industry and Tourism Section, Gassan Asahi Tourism Association
 Nishikawa-machi Farmstay Promotion Association

510 Kaishu, Nishikawa-machi, Nishi-Murayama-gun, Yamagata Prefecture 990-0792 TEL: 0237-74-4119 FAX: 0237-74-2601 e-mail: k-kyokai@town.nishikawa.yamagata.jp