

The Birthplace of the Date Clan



Kameoka Hachiman Shrine (Takako-oka Castle Ruins)

When Abukuma Express train approaches Takako Station, passengers can hear an announcement that says, "Takako, the birthplace of Date." Here are the roots of Dokuganryū Masamune, whose name became known during the Warring States period.

In 1189, when Ōshū was defeated by Minamoto no Yoritomo, the Nakamura clan of Hitachi Province, which triumphantly served in the battle, was given Date County for their services and started the Date Clan.

Nearby Takako-oka Castle, built by Date Tomomune, the first head of the Date Clan, the Kameoka Hachiman Shrine was founded as a branch of Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine. A white tori gate still stands there today.

As such, Hobara's neighborhood of Takako is the birthplace of the Date Clan.

Tsutsuko-biki Festival

This festival is held every year on the first Sunday of March at Itsukushima Shrine in Hobara in honor of Matsudaira Izumo Mochiharuko, the feudal lord who helped save the peasants from the famine during the Kyōhō era.



Enjoy the Bounty of Date



Strawberries

Late December to mid-June

Strawberries are cultivated for about half a year from the Christmas season in December to mid-June. The main varieties include 'Tochi-otome' and 'Fuku ayaka', which are very sweet, fresh, and juicy.

Apples

mid-November to mid-December

"San Fuji" is a variety popular for its sweetness, acidity, and excellent texture. The apples grow sweeter as they ripen and have plenty of juice. Grown with ample sunlight, they strike a balance between sweetness and acidity.

Momo (Japanese Peaches)

mid-July to early October

The Japanese peaches from Date are known all over the country for their excellent color, shape, and taste. There are many different varieties, and one of the most popular ones is 'Akatsuki', a Fukushima-born variety with a dense, sweet, and very juicy pulp.

Varieties: Hikawa Hakuho, Gyose, Akatsuki, Kawanakajima Hakuto, Yuzora, and others

History Stroll



Yanagawa Shrine

This shrine has been a place of worship in Yanagawa since ancient times. When the Date Clan came to this land, they installed the clan's tutelary shrine, "Kameoka Hachiman," as a sōja (shrine enshrining several gods) encompassing the sixty-six townships then under the clan's jurisdiction. A young Date Masamune also prayed for victory in battle at this shrine. Along the long path-way to reach this shrine, visitors can still find the corner-stone of a three-storied pagoda, which is said to have been built by Fujiwara no Hidehira.

Yanagawa Castle Ruins

This was used as the base of the Date Clan from the time of the 11th hereditary head to that of the 14th. It is said that the castle garden was designed based on a strong impression of Kyoto's Higashiyama culture.



Traditional Experience



Nagaoka Tennō Festival

The Nagaoka Tenno Festival is held every year on July 24th and 25th in Date Town, and is sometimes called the "Yomeiri" or marriage festival because it ties unites Atsuta Shrine and Yakumo Shrine under the name of "Tenno-sama"

Grapes

from early September to late October



Popular varieties include "Kyoho," and "Takao," which are prized for their size, sweet taste, and fragrant aroma, as well as "Shine Muscat," with its rich flavor and mellow aroma that can be enjoyed without peeling its skin.

Dried Persimmons

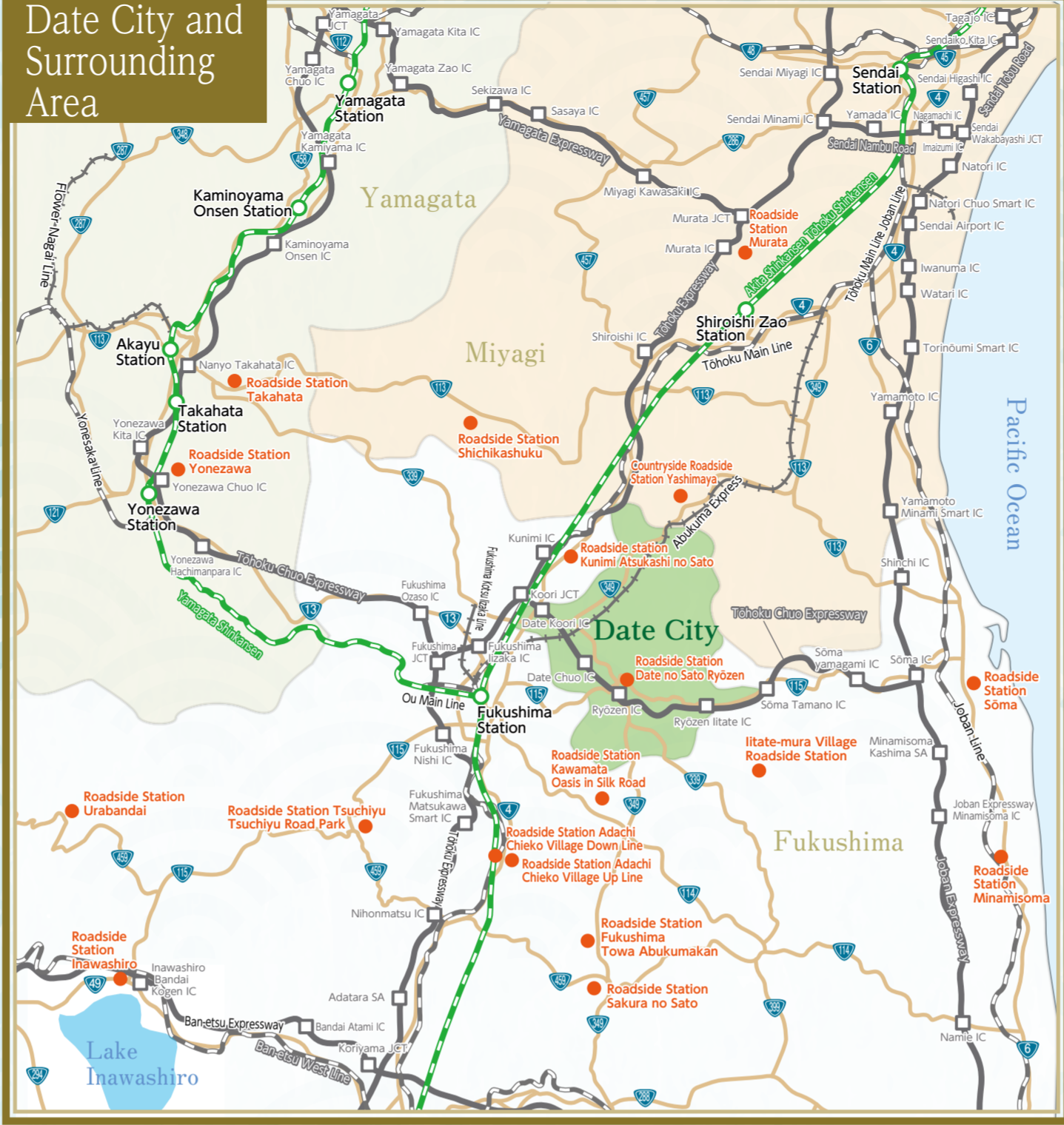
from early December to late February



Persimmon

Dried persimmons, the typical winter fruit in Date City, is grown mainly in Yanagawa's neighborhood of Isazawa. The fruit's surface has a beautiful orange color, and its flesh is soft and thick.

Date City and Surrounding Area



Gourmet Food and Relaxation

Roadside Station Date no Sato Ryōzen



The roadside station that appears to be floating in the mountains is at once a "post town," frequented by both locals and tourists, and a "bistro" serving delicious Date specialties. A selection of Date City's agricultural products and souvenirs are also available here.

Tsukidate Hana Kōbō

From their windows, visitors can fully enjoy the view of an impressive mountain range and bright blue sky. In addition to accommodations, Tsukidate Hana Kōbō also offers lunch and a bath.

On the premises, visitors can enjoy many different types of flowers in different seasons as well as hands-on classes.



Ryōzen Kōsaikan

From the restaurant, guest rooms, and panorama bath, guests can enjoy the beautiful view of the Abukuma mountain range and Mt. Ryōzen, with its unique rock formations. We also recommend the special dinner set, a specialty of the chefs that includes Ryōzen carrots in its ingredients.

Ryōzen Kōsaikan is also used as a base for mountain climbing.



Mt. Ryōzen

Mt. Ryōzen is an iconic peak in the Tōhoku region that has been designated as a national scenic spot and a prefectural natural park. It was settled by Jikaku Daishi during the early Heian period (in the year 859) and flourished as the center of the Nanō culture for more than 480 years.

It is well known that during the Northern and Southern Courts period, Kitabatake Akiie, an official of the Southern Court, assisted Prince Norinaga (later Emperor Go-Murakami) in establishing the province of Mutsu.

However, the castle fell after an intense battle with the Northern Court in 1347. Today, well over six hundred years later, the ruins of both Ryōzen Castle and Ryōzen Temple remain buried.

Ryōzen Shrine

The shrine was founded in 1881 to enshrine the souls of Kitabatake Akiie and others. The "ranjō bugaku" sword dance is performed during a festival held in April.



Climbing Mt. Ryōzen

From the fresh greenery in spring to dark-green trees in summer, and the autumn leaves in fall, this area exhibits the beauty of all four seasons.

Inquiries: Ryōzen-do Guide Association
024-587-1255

Hobara Total Park (History and Culture Museum)



This park is flush with greenery and equipped with not only a baseball stadium, but also tennis courts, a playground, and more. The Former Kameoka Residence, also on the premises, has a Western-style exterior and a traditional Japanese interior. It has been designated an important cultural property of Japan, and has been attracting attention due to its unique building materials and carvings.

Yanagawa Kibō no Mori Park

With a mini steam locomotive running at the entrance, this park is a famous cherry blossom viewing spot with 2,000 cherry blossom trees. The park also has a log house for families to enjoy camping and other outdoor activities.



Tsukimodate Forest Park



Tsukimodate Forest Park is great for those who want to enjoy nature at its finest. Visitors can enjoy camping in summer and imoni parties in autumn.

Ryōzen Children's Village

In this facility, parents and children can try out various workshops, play with cycling and athletic equipment, and children can play and learn in a lush and green environment.



English

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DATE City

Sightseeing Guide

だてめがね
DATE MEGANE

Fukushima Prefecture

How to get to Date City, Fukushima



T O K Y O	S E N T A I	DATE CITY	S E N T A I	T O K Y O
From Fukushima Station	Abukuma Express	Date Koori IC	Tohoku Main Line	Tohoku Shinkansen
From Tohoku Expressway Koori JCT	Abukuma Express	Date Chuo IC	Tohoku Main Line	Tohoku Shinkansen

From Fukushima Station
Abukuma Express Hobara Station
(about 20 minutes)
Yanagawa Station
(about 30 minutes)

From Tohoku Expressway Koori JCT
Date Koori IC
(about 9 minutes)
Ryōzen IC
(about 17 minutes)
Date Chuo IC
(about 11 minutes)
Ryōzen Itate IC
(about 26 minutes)

For information about this sightseeing guide, please contact:

Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Department of
Date City, Fukushima Prefecture

180 Funabashi, Hobaramachi, Date, Fukushima 960-0692
TEL : 024-573-5632, FAX : 024-573-5865
Homepage <http://www.city.date.fukushima.jp/>

Sightseeing Information Center

Inside Roadside Station Date no Sato Ryōzen
Date City Sightseeing Information Center

TEL : 080-4409-4978



「Date Sightseeing Map」

伊達市観光 Map 伊达市观光地图

Sakura [Cherry Blossoms]

Sakura
01
Hobara

Beniya Pass Senbonzakura

[Sakura] Best time to see: early April

There are over 600 cherry blossom trees in and around the park overlooking the northern part of the Date region. A cherry blossom festival is held here in early April every year.

Sakura
02
Hobara

Tominari Hanamiyama Forest Park

[Sakura] Best time to see: early April

A "Satoyama" area where cherry trees and azaleas bloom. Visitors can see the northern part of Date from around the summit. The park is also the starting point for climbing Mt. Amagoi.

Sakura
03
Hobara

Yakushido

[Sakura] Best time to see: early April

Yakushido, which has been designated as a cultural property of the city, is a famous place for citizens to relax and view the beautiful cherry blossom in the city center.

Sakura
04
Ryōzen

Chausuyama

[Sakura] Best time to see: early April

The hill overlooking the area is known as a famous cherry blossom spot, and the pink-colored mountain slope can be viewed from the Kakeda city area.

Momo [Peach Blossoms]

Momo
05
Date

Tōgenkyō

[Peach Blossoms] Best time to see: late April

In spring, peach blossoms bloom across Date City to form a dark-pink ocean of flowers.

Momo
06
Hobara

Takako-oka Castle Ruins

[Peach blossom] Best time to see: early April

Takako-oka Castle is said to be the site of the castle of Date Tomomune, the founder of the Date clan.

Town Stations

- 01 Stations where visitors can take a deep breath
- 02 Stations where visitors can feel relaxed
- 03 Stations to enjoy fermentation culture and local food
- 04 Stations where SL runs
- 05 Stations to go to historical places

- 06 Stations to take comfortable bus trips
- 07 Stations with in-station stores
- 08 Town Station Furatto
- 09 Stations that sell Date's original sweets

- 11 Kumogami Station Ryōzen Kosaikan
- 12 Station to be healthy Wakuya Salon
- 13 Come and smile! Eat and be fine! Station where you can become
- 14 Handmade side dish station

Open salons that send various types of local information in Date City

Specialty Products Souvenirs

Ajisai [Hydrangeas]

Ajisai
07
Yanagawa

Yamafunyu Kubota Ajisai Park

[Hydrangeas] Best time to see: early July

In this park, there are more than 10,000 hydrangeas grown by the residents, and the annual hydrangea festival is held here in early July.

Ajisai
08
Ryōzen

Ryōzen Tokugamori Hydrangeas

[Hydrangeas] Best time to see: early July

About 30 kinds of colorful hydrangeas bloom along the promenade surrounding the mountain wetlands. A hydrangea festival is held at the entrance of the Tokuga Forest in early July every year.

Ajisai
09
Tsukidate

Tsukidate Nukada Hydrangea Path

[Hydrangeas] Best time to see: early July

About 4,000 hydrangeas are planted along the Nagata Line City Road, where the annual "Hydrangea Path Festival" is held in early July.

Sōma Town

Fuji [Wisteria]

Fuji
10
Yanagawa

Ninobukuro Park

[Wisteria] Best time to see: early May

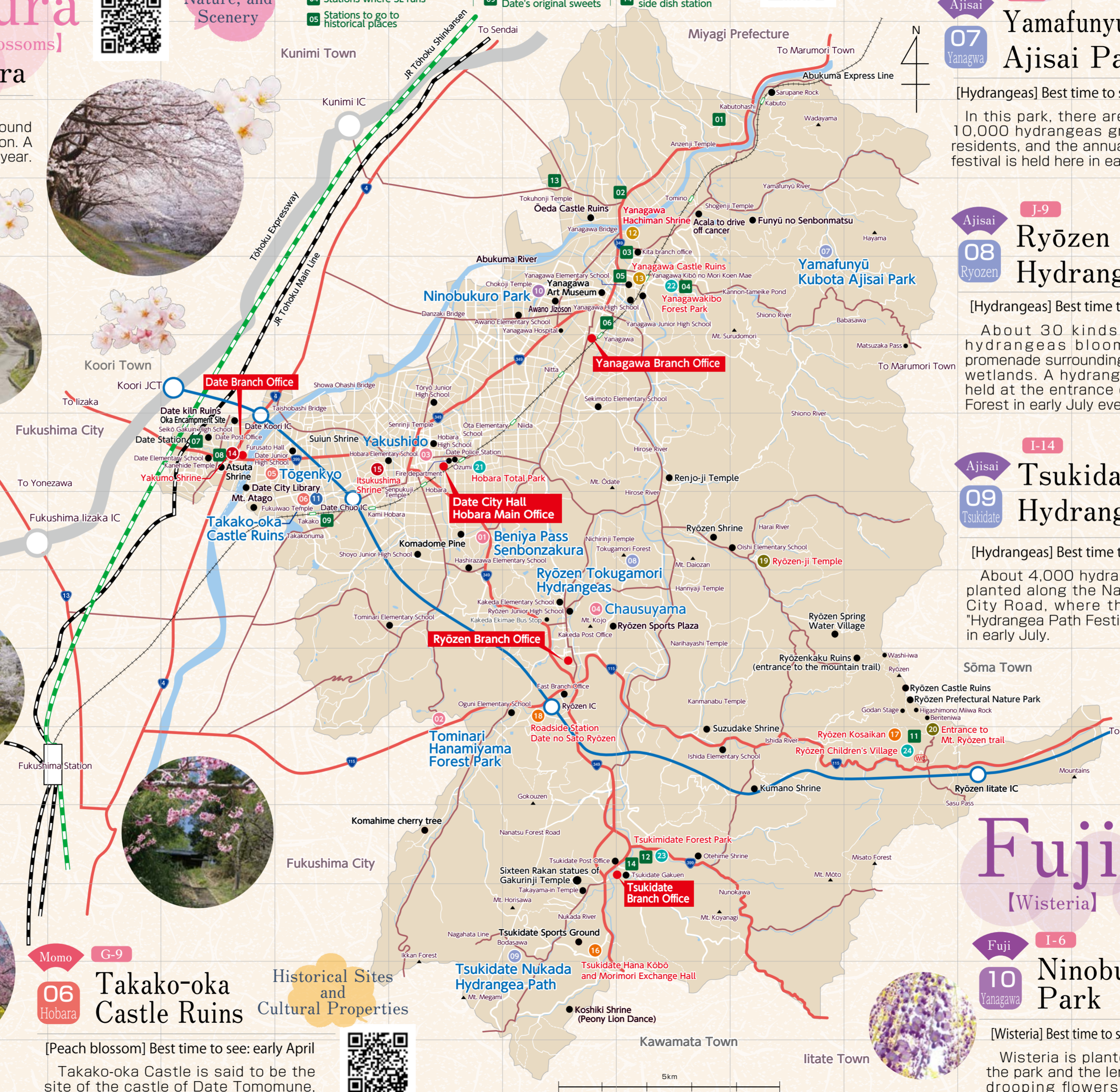
Wisteria is planted around the park and the length of its drooping flowers is about 1 meter.



Flowers, Nature, and Scenery



Historical Sites and Cultural Properties



5km