

# Visitor Information

## Kakunodate

# 角館

# Historical Japanese Town

The castle town of Kakunodate was established in 1620 according to a plan designed by the feudal lord, Yoshikatsu Ashina, then ruler of the area. The town was formerly located to the north of Mt. Furushiro on which the castle stood, but it was beset by floods, fires and other disasters. The new town was designed to take advantage of the natural terrain, surrounded by mountains on three sides and open to the south. The kakunodate branch of the city office presently stands in the square, formerly called Hiyoke (fire shield), in the center of the town, which divided the samurai district to the north from the merchant district to the south. The samurai district in particular, with its narrow streets and corners, has remained unchanged for over 400 years, and its dense groves and dignified architecture have an air of history and tradition.



**Hirafuku Memorial Art Museum** (admission fee)  
The museum contains many Japanese-style paintings by Suian Hirafuku and his son, Hyakusui. It also exhibits works by Naotake Odano and other local artists.

**Kyu-ishigurokeike** (free entry)  
This prestigious samurai house was once the residence of the Ishiguro family, who served as retainers to the Northern Satake Clan.

**2-km Cherry Blossom Tunnel** (Nationally designated scenic spot)

**Ishiguro Samurai House** (admission fee)  
The main house, gate, storehouse and surrounding walls provide a fine example of traditional samurai house architecture.

**Heritage Center** (admission fee to some areas)  
Visitors can see tea canisters, writing boxes and other kabazaiiku (cherry bark work) products, a traditional craftwork of Kakunodate.

**Aoyagi Samurai House** (admission fee)  
**Omura Art Museum** (admission fee)

**Matsumoto Samurai House** (free entry)  
The Matsumotos were a family of assiduous scholars. The house is thought to date from the end of the Edo period. Visitors can watch demonstrations of traditional itaya-maple craftwork.

**Iwahashi Samurai House** (free entry)  
The layout of the rooms is typical of a middle-class samurai house.

**Kawarada Samurai House** (admission fee)  
**Odano Samurai House** (free entry)

**Goi House** (not open to public)  
Dating from the Edo period, this building is typical of the shoin-zukuri style of this region.

**Tatetsu House** (seasonally open to public/free entry)  
Yakushido

**Monument to Naotake Odano**  
**General Information Center**  
**Shinchosha Memorial Literature Museum** (admission fee)

**Ando House** (free entry)

**Senboku Tourist Information Center "Kakunodate Ekimae-Gura"**  
**JR Kakunodate Station**  
Station Police box

**Shinmeisya**

**Kakunodate Cultural Exchange Center**

**Monument to Masumi Sugae's Place of Death**

**Legend**  
Taxi  
Bank  
Post Office  
Parking  
Public lavatory  
Traffic lights  
One-way street (For car)  
Shrine  
Temple  
Tourist attractions/facilities  
Public offices/facilities

**Distance and time from Kakunodate Station**

**Access**  
**By Akita Shinkansen [JR]**  
Tokyo ⇄ Kakunodate (3 hr)  
Sendai ⇄ Kakunodate (1 hr 30 min)  
Morioka ⇄ Kakunodate (45 min)  
Akita ⇄ Kakunodate (45 min)  
Omagari ⇄ Kakunodate (10 min)

Distances and times to destinations are approximate.

**By Akita Nairiku Line**  
Takanosu ⇄ Kakunodate by "Moriyoshi" express train (2 hr)

**By Car**  
Sendai ⇄ Kakunodate via Akita Expressway (2 hr 30 min)  
Morioka ⇄ Kakunodate via Route 46 (1 hr 10 min)  
Akita ⇄ Kakunodate via Route 13 & 46 (1 hr)  
Akita Airport ⇄ Kakunodate via Route 13 & 46 (50 min)  
Lake Tazawa/Statue of Tatsuko ⇄ Kakunodate via Route 105 (30 min)  
Lake Tazawa/Shirahama ⇄ Kakunodate via Route 341 & 46 (40 min)

**Inquiries**  
**"Kakunodate Ekimae-Gura" Kakunodate Tourist Association**  
394-2 Kami-Sugasawa, Kakunodate-machi, Senboku-shi, Akita  
TEL0187(54)2700 FAX0187(54)1755  
URL <http://tazawako-kakunodate.com/>  
E-mail [info@tazawako-kakunodate.com](mailto:info@tazawako-kakunodate.com)

**Tourism Section, Industry & Tourism Department, Senboku-shi**  
36 Nakamachi, Kakunodate-machi, Senboku-shi, Akita  
TEL0187(43)3352 FAX0187(54)4102

Published by Tazawako-Kakunodate Tourist Association

2019-10