



Kaminoyama Yamagata pref Japan

Kaminoyama

GUIDE BOOK





Photos provided by Yomiuri Shimbun

A city located at the foot of a mountain
with a variety of appealing factors

「Kaminoyama City」

Located at the foot of Zao mountain range, Kaminoyama City has been serving a number of tourists as a popular castle town and a hot spring town. “Kaminoyama Castle” is located on a hill in the city center. “Kaminoyama hot springs” have approximately 550 years of history, and they are widely known for having a rich amount of “silicic acids” and being very good for skin.

Kaminoyama City lies horizontally on Zao mountain range and is the starting point of “Zao Echo Line”, which connects Yamagata and Miyagi. Tourists can take a free shuttle bus that leaves at Kaminoyama Onsen station and enjoy various activities held in the nature. Kaminoyama is often referred to as the “Entrance of Zao.”

In Zao, there are many appealing seasonal factors you don’t want to miss on your trip in Japan, such as Okama, autumn leaves, skiing and snow monsters.

If you want to enjoy nature, food, history, and hot springs, Kaminoyama City is a perfect place for you to visit!



● The View of Kaminoyama City from Zao Mountain Range



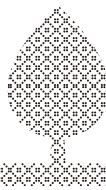
● Kaminoyama Castle and Cherry Blossoms

Nature & Experience

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🚗=Start from Kaminoyama-Onsen Station

★Click on google map link to display the location.



season
Dec. ▶ Mar. **1**

Mysterious Scenes “Jyuhyo Walking”

**Kaminoyama City Tourism and
Products Association** / 上山市観光物産協会

☎ 023-672-0839 ✉ info@kaminoyama-spa.com

※Booking required. ※Interpreter required.



In the winter Zao Bodaira Kogen, “Juhyo (ice covered trees)” are produced by the accretion of ice-snow blown by wind. It’s an unusual phenomenon worldwide, and is called Ice Monster. At Zao Liza World, visitors can walk around Ice Monsters standing snow field with “Kanziki (folk art snow shoes)”. The beauty of mysterious Ice Monsters and panoramic world below the snow field are unforgettable. A special snow walking guide leads the tour, so that even beginners can join easily.

2^{season}
Dec. ▶ Mar.

Enjoy Nature “Ski Resort”

There are three ski resorts in Zao area, each of them has unique characteristics. At Zao Liza World, you can enjoy skiing in the snow field surrounded by snow-covered woods. Tube slides are also available. Snow trekking is popular among middle and old aged generation. You don't need to bring anything as the resort rents all equipment for skiing and snowboarding.

Zao Sarukura Ski Field offers a private ski field plan for night time. You can enjoy snow activities with your family or friends alone.



Snow sports (general)

Zao Liza World MAP① / ZA0ライザワールド

☎ 023-679-2311 ✉ woody@zaoliza.co.jp

📍 Bodaira-kogen, Kaminoyama city

🚗 30min Open 8:30~16:00

★Google Map <https://goo.gl/maps/HuGa6ekRw6p>

Ski and sled only

Zao Sarukura Ski Resort MAP② / 蔵王猿倉スキー場

☎ 023-679-2211 ✉ saru@zao-sarukura.co.jp

📍 2843-1 Aza Zaosan Zao, Kaminoyama city

🚗 20min Open 8:30~21:00

★Google Map <https://goo.gl/maps/cH6c7mu2bCK2>

Snow sports (general)

Zao Hotspring Ski Resort MAP③ / 蔵王温泉スキー場

☎ 023-694-9328 📍 708-1 Zao-onsen, Yamagata city

🚗 35min Open 8:30~21:00

★Google Map <https://goo.gl/maps/GsZRGwqYvU72>





Okama Crater with lake is the most popular place in Zao in summertime, while Ice Monster is the best in wintertime. The present crater was created by the explosion about 800 years ago. The comparison of emerald green-colored surface of the lake and rough crater walls produces a mysterious atmosphere. This lake is also called as “Goshikiko” (lake of five colors) since its surface of emerald green changes its color according to the weather.

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☎ 023-672-0839 ✉ info@kaminoyama-spa.com

※ From early November to late April, Zao Echo Line/ High Line are closed. So you cannot visit there.

★ Google Map <https://goo.gl/maps/kMmpLEMTES2>



Typical Japanese Spring Image “Scenes of Sakura”

Throughout Japan, spring is the season of “Sakura”, or cherry blossom. Kaminoyama has about 30 of cherry blossom viewing places. Some of those are old and precious cherries, ranging from 100 to 500 years old. Not only tourists but also professional photographers visit to see aged trees. Cherry blossom view near Kaminoyama Castle which is famous as one of the best castles is popular. The view of cherry blossom trees in full bloom seen from the prospect point is breathtaking. At night, you can also enjoy the lightening up of cherry blossoms.



5

Relish the Best of Nature “Fruits Kingdom”

Kaminoyama is called “The hub of fruits”, as its rich nature grows sweet, delicious, and big fruits. There are many orchards in the city, and visitors can experience “fruits picking”. Each of four seasons, opportunities are offered.

Mid-May to early June

▶Cherries (greenhouse)

Mid-June to mid-July

▶Cherries

Mid-August to early October

▶Grapes

Mid-September to late November

▶Pears, Apples



Kaminoyama City Tourism Department

／上山市観光課

☎ 023-672-1111 ✉ info@city.kaminoyama.yamagata.jp

🏠 1-1-10 Kawasaki, Kaminoyama city



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Autumn traditional event, “Imoni”

With the arrival of autumn, family and friends who enjoy “Imoni-kai” party are seen at every riverside. Imoni is a simple sake and soy sauce base stew with mainly taro potato, beef, leek and local ingredients. Ingredients and pans are available at local supermarkets. Why don't you gather for “Imoni-kai” with your family and friends to fully enjoy the autumn of Yamagata?



Food in Kaminoyama

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Local Experience
with Grannies

“Naragejuku Local Food of Homemade Cooking”

MAP ❶

1

Naragejuku still remains rural Japan that was already lost in big cities. At a thatched roof old house, local “Ba-chan” (grannies) welcome visitors with rural style warm hospitality. With surrounding a hearth, why don't you taste local cuisine using local ingredients and traditional food such as “Tama konnyaku (ball shaped konnyaku)” and “Natto Aburi Mochi (Natto soy beans mixed tiny rice cake grilled with hearth)”?

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and Products Association** / 上山市観光物産協会

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※Although we are not good at speaking English, we are very hospitable. ※Booking required.

★Google Map <https://goo.gl/maps/rxwbmyrPXAz>





Hidden Kaminoyama Specialty “Ramen”

In Yamagata, the consumption of Ramen is number one in Japan. There are many Ramen restaurants and each shop has its own unique flavor. From old style simple Ramen to voluminous Ramen eating with gusto, tasting Ramen with unique characteristics is very attractive. You can compare different tastes of Ramen while you walk around the town.

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Japanese Grilled Mutton “Jingisukan”

Kaminoyama is famous for Jingisukan, grilled mutton. Carefully chosen lamb is grilled on a convex metal skillet with fresh vegetables. The grilled ingredients are dipped in the house-made sauce before eating. Tender lamb with less odors is highly praised and a lot of Jingisukan fans within and outside of prefecture visit Jingisukan restaurants.

Sarukura Rest House, Jingisukan Ichiyama

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Promising Spots & History & Experience

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MAP ①

Great Castle in Utsu “Kaminoyama Castle”



Kaminoyama Castle marked the southern extent of the Mogami clan territory in the Warring States of period (approx. 1467-1568), where dramatic events of power struggles were occurred. The castle was once torn down in 1692. It was rebuilt in 1982 and is now open for public as a local museum with audio and visual equipment. From the prospect point, the full view of Zao mountain range and the town of Kaminoyama can be seen.

Kaminoyama Castle Local and Folk Museum

／ 上山城 郷土資料館

☎ 023-673-3660 ✉ info@kaminoyama-castle.info

📍 3-7 Motojonai, Kaminoyama city

🚗 3min Open 9:00~16:45

★Google Map <https://goo.gl/maps/5VTHWCm9hXP2>

Impressive Collection of Art and Culture

“Kaisendo Museum”

MAP ②

At the Kaisendo Museum, about 4,000 of traditional handicrafts such as lacquerware crafts from China and traditional Japanese art are exhibited. The highlight is Japanese swords and armors which had been used from about 680 years ago by Samurai warlords and Samurai class families, giving a strong impression to visitors. The building remains the atmosphere of the Taisho Era (1912-1926), and Japanese garden is also worth seeing.



Kaisendo Museum

／ 博物館 蟹仙洞

☎ 023-672-0155 ✉ info@kaminoyama-castle.info

📍 4-6-8 Yarai, Kaminoyama city 🚗 3min Open 9:00~17:00

※Ask closing day of each facility before you visit.

★Google Map <https://goo.gl/maps/WXJE79K6HdE2>

Unique Folk Event “Kase-dori Festival” 3

Kase-dori Festival (parade for fire prevention) is a folk festival originating from about 400 years ago in Kaminoyama. Young people wearing bird-shaped straw coats dance and parade, and audience showers cold water to Kase-dori in the freezing temperature to wish household safety and prosperous business. Kase-dori maniac photographers from all over Japan come to take photos of unique Kase-dori costume.



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Contest to Choose No.1 Kakashi in Japan

“Japan Kakashi Festival (scarecrow festival)” MAP⑧

A “Kakashi (scarecrow)” is placed in the rice field to protect seeds and growing crops from birds. More than 500 of unique handmade Kakashi from across the nation are displayed during the festival. From traditional Kakashi to cartoon character Kakashi, visitors experience the field filled with a variety of scarecrows.



- February 11th ... **Kase-dori Festival** (parade for fire prevention)
- From early March to late April...**Kaminoyama Doll's Festival**
- Early May...**Kaminoyama Castle Festival**
- July 2nd ...**Nishiyama Firefly Festival**
- Early July...**Yamagata Wine Bal**
- Late July...**Smile project Kaminoyama** (Local summer festival)
- From middle to the late of September...**Japan Kakashi Festival** (scarecrow festival)
- Middle of September...**Furusato Autumn festival**



Hot Springs



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Kaminoyama Hot Spring is a historical hot spring resort celebrating 555 years since its opening. Among thousands of hot springs in Japan, water quality of Kaminoyama is famous for skin beauty, warming, and moisturizing. Visitors can also enjoy outdoor bath with open atmosphere to feel the change of seasons, relaxing at a room with accompanies, and walking around the town with Yukata (cotton Kimono) .

How to Use Hot Spring Baths

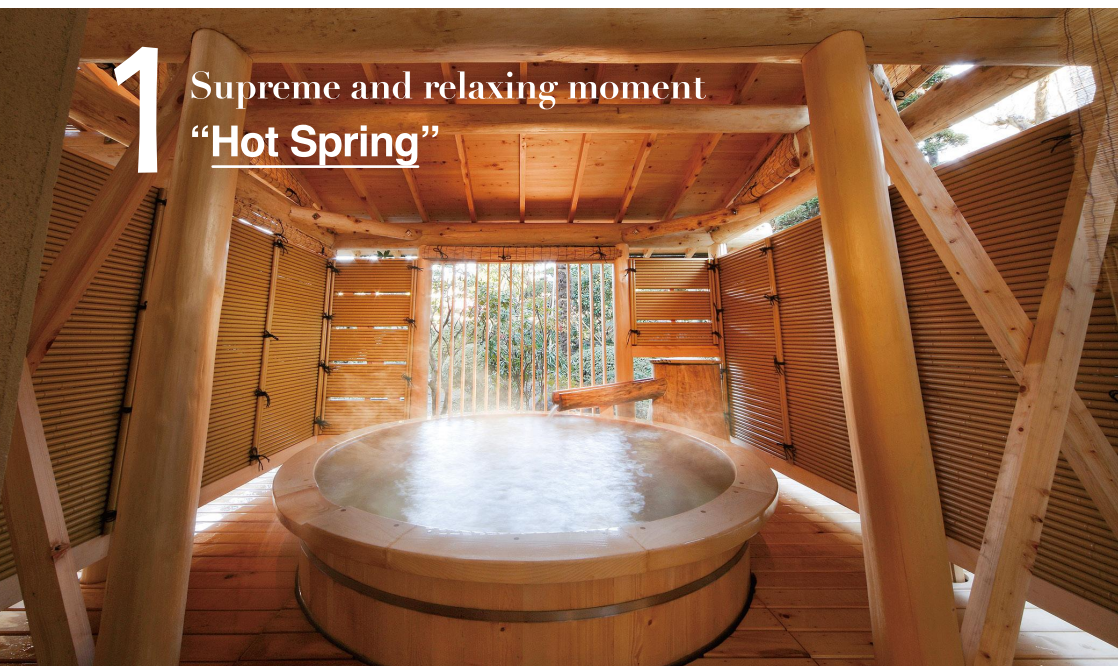


- ① First, splashing yourself with hot water before entering the bath.
- ② Cleanse your body with soap out of the bath and rinse completely.
- ③ Enter the bath and warm your body.

- ④ After staying the bath for a short period, get out of the bath and take a rest. Then, enter the bath again and warm your body.
- ⑤ Dry your body with a towel before getting out of the bathing area.

1

Supreme and relaxing moment “Hot Spring”





Hot Spring-of-Relaxation

2

“Foot Bath”

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In the city, there are five foot baths and seven public bathhouses. Each foot bath is unique, such as the one with wall painted the history of Kaminoyama, and the one with the view of cherry trees and riverside. The public bathhouse is old style casual bath. Visitors can take a bath with local people, which is incomparable to the bath in Ryokan (inn).

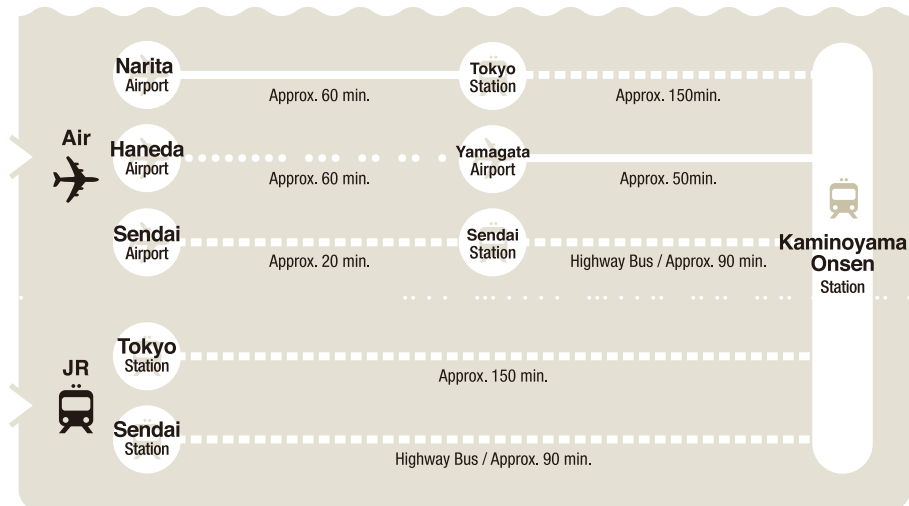
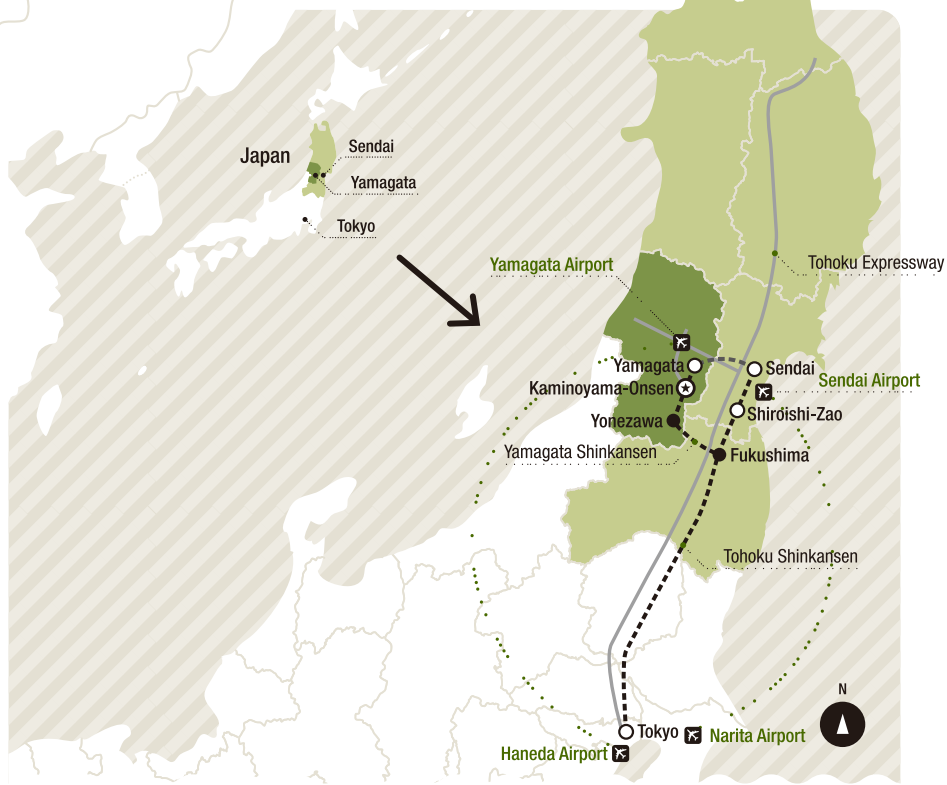
Shimo-oyu Public bath MAP① / 下大湯共同浴場
🏠 9-30 Tokamachi, Kaminoyama city
🚗 5min Open 6:00~22:00
★Google Map <https://goo.gl/maps/MJh1oPdZHY22>

Futsukamachi Public bath MAP② / 二日町共同浴場
☎ 023-672-3501
🏠 5-21-6 Futsukamachi, Kaminoyama city
🚗 5min Open 6:00~22:00
★Google Map <https://goo.gl/maps/eDBfoH2TaCp>



while walking around the street
“Public bath”

Traffic information



Simple MAP

♣ = foot bath



458

• Takeda Winery

↑ To Yamagata city

• Lina World

• Saito Mokichi Kinenkan
(memorial museum)
Mokichi Kinenkan
Station

12

To Zao →

13

Bukeyashiki
(samurai residences)
Street

Yumachinoyu Public bath

• Shincho-Tsurunoyu Public bath

Shin-yu Sawanoyu Public bath
Harusame-an (tea house)

① Shimo-oyu Public bath

• Kaminoyama Castle

①

Kaminoyama City
Library

Tourist Information Center

• Kaminoyama Post Office

• Rent-a-cycle

• Kaminoyama
Meishinkan
High School

② Futsukamachi
Public Bathhouse

• Kaminoyama Police Station

• Kaminoyama City Hall

Kaminoyama-Onsen
Station

Hayama Public
Bathhouse
Kotobuki-so

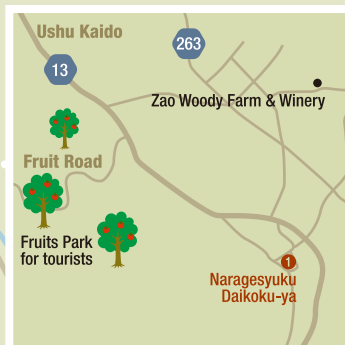
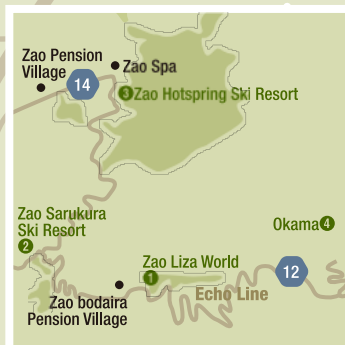
③ Kaminoyama Citizen Park
(venue of Kakashi Festival)

② Kaisendo Museum

458

← To Nanyo city

↓ To Naragesyuku



Secondary traffic information

Welcome!!



Taxi

● **Tour Taxi** / 観光タクシー ☎023-672-2323

● **Kaminoyama Taxi** / かみのやまタクシー ☎023-672-1122

- Fare : Minimum / 690 yen (for the first 1.5 km)
Additional fare / 90 yen (every 278 m)



Rent-a-cycle

● **Kagami Cycle** / カガミサイクル

🏠 1-7-22 Yarai, Kaminoyama city ☎023-672-0382

- Closed on Sundays • Fees : One hour 100 yen / One day 500 yen
- Pay when you get a bike. Return the bike to the shop.
- Language : Only Japanese



Free Shuttle Bus

● **Zao Liza World Green Echo** / **White Echo**

蔵王ライザワールドグリーンエコー号 / ホワイトエコー号

▶ Ask the operation period ☎023-679-2311

The free shuttle bus runs through Kaminoyama-Onsen Station, Japanese inns to Katta Chusyajo / Parking Area (summertime) where you can access the lift to Okama. (In wintertime, the bus goes to Zao Liza World).

【Main Bus Stops】

- Hayama Onsen Bus Stop • JR Kaminoyama-Onsen Station mae Koban mae (In front of a police box)
- Zao Sarukura • Zao Liza Restaurant • Katta Chusyajo (Katta Parking Area)



◀ Mobile

Find out your current location
by connecting
your Google Map application!

Issued by Kaminoyama City
Tourism Department

Contact (about this leaflet) : 023-672-1111
info@city.kaminoyama.yamagata.jp