



**Yamagata, Miyagi and Iwate – 2 days : Sample Itinerary
By rental car**

Fall foliage period: Mid-October - Mid-November

Best period: Late October - Early November

Early October - Late October (Lake Kinshuko)

Tohoku is well known for its picturesque scenery of the four seasons. However, the most important period is autumn and many travelers visit this region to admire the leaves turning purple, gold and orange. Mogami Gorge, known as one of the most beautiful places in Tohoku in autumn, is particularly impressive when the surface of its white rock contrasts beautifully with the cover of colorful trees and bushes.



Yamadera (Yamagata)



Day 1 : Tokyo / Yamagata / Naruko Onsen

Departure to Yamagata in the morning (about 2h25).

Sightseeing and meals are on your own.

Yamagata City is known as a center of rice and fruit production. This city is a cosmopolitan center that allows visitors to explore a fascinating region of Japan rich in culture, relaxing hot springs, towering mountains and ski slopes.

Rent a car at Yamagata station and drive to Yamadera temple (about 35min).

Suggested visits :

- **Yamadera** is a picturesque temple located in the mountains northeast of Yamagata City. There are 1050 stone steps leading up to the top and the temple gardens extend up a steep mountainside, from where there are beautiful views of the valley. Its popular name, Yamadera, literally means "mountain temple" in Japanese.

Continue to Naruko Onsen (about 2h10min).

Night in a hotel.

Jour 2 : Naruko Onsen / Mogami / Tokyo

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out.

Sightseeing and meals are on your own.

Departure by car to Naruko Gorge (about 22min).

Suggested visits :

- **Naruko Valley**
In the Naruko valley, the trees turn orange from mid-October. The best time to visit the gorge is from mid-October to early November. You can admire the colorful leaves and a beautiful view of the Ofukazawa Bridge and Naruko Gorge from an observation platform. You can also walk along the hiking trail, which will allow you to contemplate the white water of the river framed by its rocky walls.
- Try your hand at painting on Kokeshi (Japanese wooden doll) which originated in Naruko.



Narukokyo (Miyagi)

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Continuation to Mogami (about 1h20min).

Suggested visits :

- **Mogami Gorge**

This valley of about 16 kilometers is one of the three steepest valleys in Japan. It is very popular when the leaves of the trees grow back in spring and when they take their autumn colors. You can also enjoy the autumn scenery by boat with singing boatmen as your guide.

Continuation to Shinjo (about 28min).

Return the rental car at Shinjo station.

In the late afternoon, return to Tokyo (about 3h30).



EXTENSION POSSIBLE : AKITA ET IWATE

After visiting the Mogami Gorge, drive to Oyasukyo (about 2 hours).
Night in a hotel.

Day 3 : Mogami / Akita / Iwate / Tokyo

Breakfast and check-out.

Sightseeing and meals are on your own.

Suggested visits :

- **The Oyasu ravine**

This landscape offers a breathtaking view of V-shaped cliffs four kilometers long and 60 meters high. Autumn is surely the most beautiful season in Oyasu because the surrounding mountains are covered with the contrasting colors of the forest trees.

Transit through Kinshu Lake (about 1h50min).



Oyasukyo (Akita)

And continue in direction of Hiraizumi in Iwate (about 1h45min)



Suggested visits :

- **Chusonji Temple**

This temple was established in 850 as a Buddhist temple of the Tendai sect. The temple gained importance when the northern branch of the Fujiwara clan moved its base to Hiraizumi. At its peak, the temple consisted of a vast network of dozens of buildings.

- **Geibikei Gorge**

This spectacular gorge outside Hiraizumi is enjoyed by taking a quiet 90-minute boat ride. In any season, the pleasant natural landscape with high cliffs is impressive, between blooming trees, autumn colors and frozen waterfall in winter.

Transfer to Ichinoseki station (about 25min).

In the late afternoon, return of the car rental to Ichinoseki station.

Back to Tokyo.

We can shorten or extend your stay, or add other destinations.

Do you enjoy freedom and **lack of constraints**?

We can leave you with a personalized list of interesting activities and locations, giving you the freedom to wander around as you please during your stay.

Do you want a bulletproof plan and **hassle-free getaway**?

We can arrange everything for you in advance, whether it be reserving activities, luggage shipments, car rental or guided tours, and more.

Don't hesitate to contact us for a personalized itinerary.