



A city of Samurai and the lake of Tazawa

Located in the Tohoku region, Akita Prefecture is considered as one of the sociologically and economically deprived prefectures in Japan. Nevertheless, this unjustly ignored region has a great opportunity thanks to tourism, in terms of responsible tourism, to boost its economy. There are many interesting cultural and natural treasures as well as numerous Onsen (thermal baths), all the ingredients to satisfy the curiosity of visitors. One can also enjoy stays in the countryside, off the beaten track.

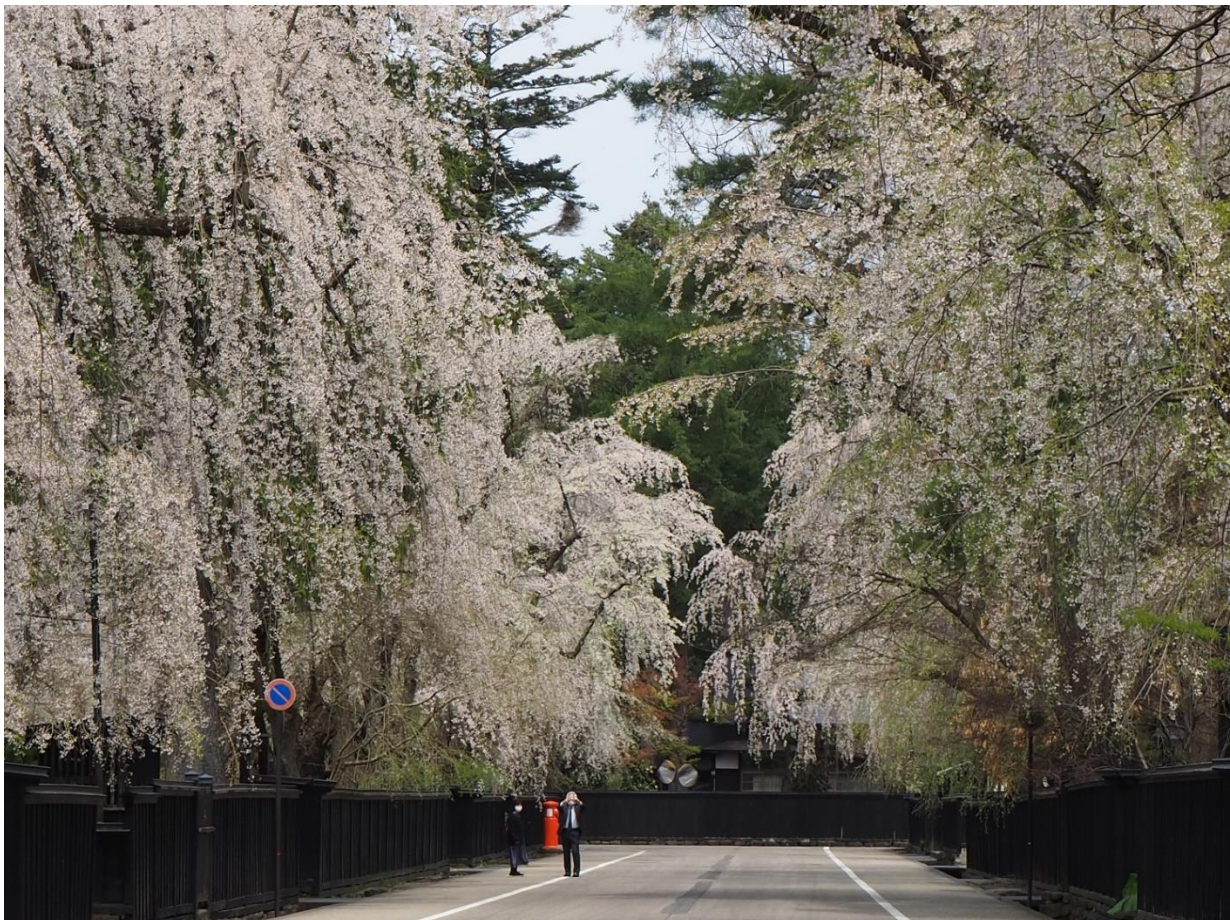
D1 : Tokyo – Kakunodate

Departure to Kakunodate by Shinkansen (about 3 hours)

Kakunodate is an ancient castle town and samurai fortress in the present Akita Prefecture. Although the castle of Kakunodate does not remain any more, the city is famous for its numerous samurai remains.

Scheduling of sightseeing and meals are at your convenience.

- The **Kakunodate samurai district**, which once housed about 80 families, is one of the best examples of samurai architecture and housing in the country. Its wide streets and large courtyards are shaded by many weeping cherry trees (shidarezakura) which bloom in early May.



The samurai district



- **The Aoyagi House** (Aoyagi-ke) is an impressive complex with its museum whose collections are spread over several buildings. The exhibits provide interesting information in English and Japanese about the traditions of the samurai, the way of life and the historical background of Japan in relation to Kakunodate. This place is a must for anyone interested in samurai history. There are also restaurants and souvenir stores.
- The second samurai house that deserves special attention is the **Ishiguro house** (Ishiguro-ke). The area open to visitors is much smaller than that of the Aoyagi house, largely because the family still resides in the rest of the house. A collection of samurai armor and clothing is on display, as well as drawings and anatomical studies. The Ishiguro house also has a well-preserved cellar.
- **The private Omura Museum** is dedicated to René Lalique, considered a master of Art Deco. The museum's rotating collection of some 400 pieces includes Lalique's glass artworks, Art Deco pieces from the same period as his life. To fully display the beauty of his glass works, the museum uses small exhibition spaces and careful lighting. In addition, the museum chooses a special theme every two or three months and presents pieces selected for the exhibition accordingly.
- **The Denshokan Museum** introduces the history of Kakunodate and traditional handicrafts. The most important craft in Kakunodate is cherry bark woodworking (kabazaiku), which is used to make tea caddies, dishes and large furniture.
- **Warabi Theatre**, established in 1951, performs and preserves traditional Japanese dances and folk songs. In addition to traditional songs, the theater also presents a variety of contemporary arts, such as musicals. Warabi Theater is located in Akita Art Village where you can fully experience the appeal of Akita Prefecture and rural Japan through performances, hot springs, restaurants serving local Akita food and craft beer. They offer cultural experiences such as taiko (drum) classes held by professionals.

Overnight stay at an hotel.

FTC will recommend accommodation that fits your budget. However, we recommend the Wanoi Kakunodate, which is a bit expensive but exceptional, incorporated in renovated historical warehouses. Once you enter, you will feel like you are traveling back in time to the living quarters of the time.



D2 : Kakunodate – Tazawako - Tokyo

Train to Tazawako.

Kakunodate 10h00 – Tazawako 10h13 Shinkansen Komachi

*Located just south of Towada-Hachimantai National Park, **Tazawa Lake** is a picturesque caldera lake which has not been overdeveloped and retains a natural and rustic atmosphere. The lake is often visited in collaboration with nearby sites such as Nyuto Onsen or Akita-Komagatake Mountain, which also offer rustic scenes typical of the Tohoku region.*



Lac Tazawa

- **Tazawa Lake Cruise** (duration 40min): the deepest lake in Japan with a Persian blue color. You can see picturesque sites such as Gozanoishi Shrine and the statue of Tatsuko, goddess of the lake, while touring Tazawa Lake.

Lunch on your own.

Possible activities in the afternoon:

✧ Stand up paddle: 2h course (non-privatized session) *
Activity possible from June to October

✧ Kayak: 2 to 3 hours course depending on the season (not privatized session) *
Activity possible from April to October

✧ Bike rental: 20km for a tour of the lake, average duration 1h-1h30
Activity possible from April to October



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◇ Tazawako Ski Station: 30min by bus from Tazawako station
Activity possible from December to March

**Reservations are required, we can take care of the reservations.*

Return to Tokyo at the end of the day.

Tazawako 16h08 – Tokyo 19h04 Shinkansen Komachi

This program can be combined with Nyuto Onsen and the night at the farm to build stays with activities from 3 days to a week.

We are here to help you plan and **achieve your wishes**.
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.

Feel free to contact us for a **personalized itinerary**