

Lake Towada & Oirase Map & Area Guide

5. Yakeyama & Tsuta Area



The Seven Ponds of Tsuta & Tsuta Bird Sanctuary

The Seven Ponds of Tsuta (Tsuta *Nana-numa*) dot the landscape in the lush beech forests that surround Tsuta Onsen. A nature trail provides access to six of the ponds, which vary in size, with the seventh, Aka-numa Pond, just a short hike off the beaten track. The forests around the trail are known as the Tsuta Bird Sanctuary and are a haven for wild birds, whose chirping can be heard as you stroll through this pristine natural environment.

Tsuta-numa Pond, the largest of the seven, is located about a 10-minute walk from Tsuta Onsen and is best known for its autumnal beauty, when the morning sun sets the mountainside ablaze with fiery reds and browns.

Aka-numa Pond, located in the forest about 3 km northwest of Tsuta Onsen, is another hidden treasure and well worth the trip. The pond reflects a perfect mirror image of Mt. Akakura and Hakkoda's natural beech forests. The paths can be confusing, so visiting with a local guide is recommended.

1 Hakkoda Snow Corridor

Route 103, commonly known as the Hakkoda-Towada Gold Line, connects Aomori City and Lake Towada and is closed during winter from Hakkoda Hotel/Sukayu Onsen to Yachi Onsen. Every year in March the road is plowed and cleared of snow ahead of its reopening on April 1. The snow removal carves out a spectacular corridor of snow up to ten meters high.

2 Motoyu Sarukura Onsen

The source of the Oirase Gorge Onsen. The name supposedly comes from a hunter who once saw a monkey (*saru* in Japanese) bathing in these waters long ago. The open-air baths sit just on the edge of nature, nestled deep in the Hakkoda mountain range.

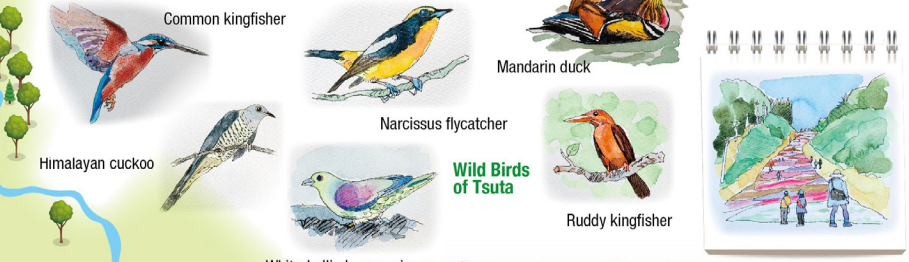
3 Yachi Onsen

Opened more than 400 years ago, this hot spring is one of Japan's top-three secret baths. Yachi has two baths that you can enjoy. The upper bath is hot and milky, gushing out from a crevice beneath the bath, while the 38° lower bath is clear and mild.

4 Tsuta Onsen

A hidden hot spring with around one thousand years of history and a favorite of Keigetsu Omachi. Tsuta Onsen still bubbles up from directly beneath the Aomori-sourced Japanese *hiba* cypress bathtub. The restaurant inside the hotel is a convenient lunch spot when out for a stroll along Tsuta-numa Pond.

Walking Paths
Around Tsuta Onsen Pond Path (2.9km / approx. 90 minutes)
Bird Path (0.9km / approx. 30 minutes)



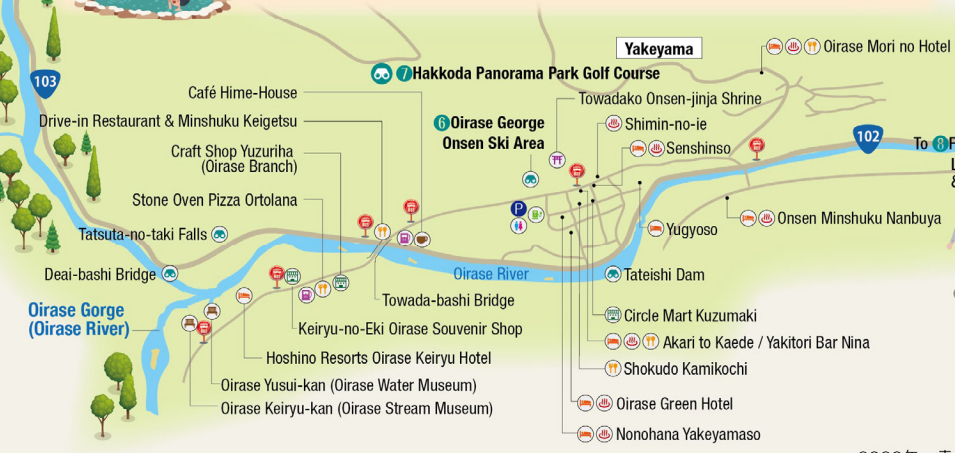
5 Keigetsu Omachi Museum

Inside of Tsuta Onsen, there is a museum dedicated to the life of writer Keigetsu Omachi (1869-1925), who spent the final years of his life at Tsuta. Overnight guests and daytime visitors can visit the museum for free.

Contact: Foundation for the Revitalization of Lake Towada
 ☎ 0176-72-3201



A popular spot for many years, Lake Towada Onsen has been renamed Oirase Gorge Onsen as of April 2020! Nestled at the entrance of the Oirase Gorge near Tsuta-numa Pond, Oirase Gorge Onsen enjoys the same thermal waters that flow from Sarukura Onsen just 12km away in the heart of the Hakkoda Mountains. It's just a 30-minute drive from Towada City, making it an ideal base for sightseeing in the Lake Towada/Oirase area.



8 Former Kasaishi Residence / Lake Towada Museum of History & Folklore

The Former Kasaishi Residence is a typical farmhouse of the area, estimated to have been built during the Edo period in the late 18th century. Because of its use of traditional architectural styles throughout, it has been designated an important cultural property of Japan and, after repairs and restoration, is now open to the public.

The adjacent Lake Towada Museum of History & Folklore exhibits a number of valuable folk materials on the history of the region.



Contact: Lake Towada Museum of History & Folklore
 ☎ 0176-74-2547

Horyo Ginkgo

Planted around 1,100 years ago, this ginkgo is one of Japan's largest.

To Horyo Ginkgo
 Central Towada
 Hachinohe City

Keigetsu Omachi: The Man Behind Towada's Fame

Keigetsu Omachi, a literary figure from Kochi Prefecture, visited Lake Towada for the first time in 1908. Fascinated by the majestic scenery of the area around Lake Towada, Keigetsu wrote an article about its charm in the magazine *Taiyo* (The Sun), which is how Towada first became known to the wider world. He also had a major hand in drafting a petition for Lake Towada's designation as a national park. Keigetsu came to Aomori Prefecture almost a dozen times and especially loved staying at Tsuta Onsen. In his later years, he moved his official residence to Tsuta, where he would spend the rest of his life. Today Keigetsu's tomb stands quietly in the forest nearby.

Local Guide

Exploring Tsuta with a guide is the perfect way to learn about this very special place, which possesses a unique charm independent of Lake Towada and Oirase Gorge.

NPO Towada Oirase Kunizukuri Daigaku
 Learn more at <http://www.npo-oirase.com/>
 Contact ☎ 0176-72-2780

ESARIO Co., Ltd.
 Learn more at <https://foreston.jp>
 Contact ☎ 0176-23-5866
 ☎ tour@foreston.jp

Towadako Guidehouse KAI
 Learn more at <https://tgkai.jp>
 Contact ☎ 080-1681-1036
 ☎ info@tgkai.jp

- Map凡例
- ☕ Café
- 📶 Free Wi-Fi
- 🚗 Electric Vehicle Charging Station
- 🛍️ Shop & Souvenirs
- 🔒 Coin Locker
- 🛎️ Rental Bicycles
- 📍 Tourist Information Center
- 🛏️ Shrine or Temple
- 👁️ View Point
- 🏠 Accommodation
- 🚻 Restroom
- 🚰 Sightseeing Cruise / Rental Boats
- 🛖 Rest Area
- 🔥 Hot Springs (Day trips allowed)
- 🍽️ Restaurant
- ♿ Accessible Restroom
- 🛢️ Gas Station
- 📍 Point of Interest
- 🚏 Bus Stop

