



Shiogama Shrine & Historic Town

Food & Entertainment

Urato Islands

Suggested Routes

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# Shiogama Shrine

Shiogama Shrine boasts a history of over 1200 years and is said to have been the first shrine built in the Tohoku region.







As the most important shrine in north-eastern Japan, it was patronized by the Date Clan of the Sendai Domain and continues to attract crowds of local and visiting worshippers today. The change of the seasons is captured in the beautiful grounds of the shrine, featuring vibrant foliage in Autumn and over 40 different varieties of cherry blossoms in the Spring; including the native 'Shiogama-zakura' variety that blooms exclusively in Shiogama.

Inside the onsite museum visitors can view Japanese swords that have been designated as national important cultural properties, as well as the 'Omikoshi' (portable shrines) used to transport the Gods of the shrine during sacred events and festivals.

Open hours: 05:00-20:00 (all year)

### **Annual Events & Festivals**





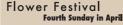


'Moshioyaki' Ritual



Moonlight Festival







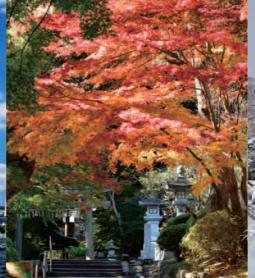
Minato Matsuri
July (Marine Day)



Hote Matsuri











### Shiogama Shrine Museum

Display includes Japanese swords designated as national important cultural properties and 'omikoshi' portable shrines.

Open hours: 08:30-16:00 (until 17:00, April-Sep)

### Shiogama Sugimura Jun Museum of Art

An art museum displaying the works of Jun Sugimura, a still-life artist . The building itself is a locally designated tangible cultural property.



# Former residence 'Kamei-tei'

Over one-hundred years old, 'Kamei-tei' is a unique structure of great historic value featuring rare Japanese and Western fusion architecture.

### Machikado Museum & Café

Formerly a traditional Japanese Ryokan inn dating back 130 years. The second and third floors are open for public viewing.

Open hours: 12:00-15:00 (Sat & Sun only)
\* First floor café open everyday except Wed & Thurs

### Urakasumi Sake Gallery

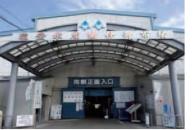
An in-house tasting session of seasonal sake varieties is offered with each sake cup purchase.

#### **Brewery Tour**

Brewery tours (approx 15 min) are also offered (reservation required).
English guidance also available.

Availabilities: Weekdays 11:00 or 14:00











#### 'My Kaisendon': DIY seafood rice-bowl

Purchase a set of rice and soup from the market cafeteria and create your own 'kaisendon' seafood rice-bow with toppings of fresh fish purchased at the market stalls!

Open hours: Weekdays 07:30-12:00 (until 13:00 on weekends/holidays)

Closed: Wednesday

# Shiogama Seafood Wholesale Market



Boasting over 100 market vendors and specialty stores, Shiogama Wholesale Fish Market is among the largest scale local markets in Tohoku.

Visitors can enjoy delicious seafood fresh from the boats unloading at Shiogama Port, as well as a range of locally produced processed goods. There is also a public BBQ corner where you can freely grill the seafood purchased at the market stalls. You can't miss the chance to try some of Shiogama's famous fresh tuna! If you're lucky, you might even time your visit to see a giant tuna being carved up!

Open hours: Weekdays 03:00-13:00 Saturday 03:00-14:00 Sunday 06:00-14:00 Closed: Wednesday

Shiogama Seafood Wholesale Market Website









## Shiogama Fish Market

Shiogama is famous for landing Japan's largest catch of fresh tuna. Rows and rows of freshly caught big-eyed tuna line the market floor everyday.

Observation from the second floor is open to the public.

> Open hours: 07:00-17:00 Closed: Wednesday



### **Auction Viewing**

It is possible to watch the daily market auction from the second floor. Be awed by the jaw-dropping number of varieties of fish lining the market floor.

Open hours: from 8:00am (may open from 07:30am during busy summer period)

## Sushi Kingdom

As the point of convergence for two ocean currents, the waters off the coast of Miyagi Prefecture are some of the best fishing grounds in the world. With literal boat-loads of fresh seafood landing in Shiogama everyday, there are a plethora of delicious sushi restaurants to choose from!









## Urato Islands

The Urato Islands are comprised of the only four inhabited islands, as well as several uninhabited islands, in Matsushima Bay.



Not only is Matsushima Bay one of Japan's top locations of scenic beauty, in 2013 it was also recognized by the 'world's most beautiful bays' club. In addition to the fascinating history of Matsushima's glory days as a feudal port, visitors can enjoy the rugged natural beauty of islands and outdoor activities like hiking.



Local oyster and seaweed production is bountiful in the area which is also well known as a nursery for seed-oysters. These seed-oysters are distributed to oyster farms throughout Japan and have even previously been sent overseas in times of endangerment.

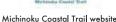




### Michinoku Coastal Trail

The Michinoku Coastal Trail is a long-distance walking trail extending over 1000 km along the coastal areas of Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures which were devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Take your time enjoying a leisurely walk along the section that passes through the Urato Islands.









### 'Tosen' Local Ferry

Visitors can make use of the free local ferries available. Simply make a call and it will come to the wharf to pick you up!

Urato Islands Hopping Map





## Marine Gate Shiogama

The local wharf servicing ferry and sightseeing cruise services to and from Matsushima Waterfront and the Urato Islands. Inside the wharf building are also various fresh produce retailers and restaurants.



#### Matsushima Bay Cruise

Bay cruises offering up-close views of the scenic islands of Matsushima Bay

depart from Marine Gate Shiogama. Between December and March, special 'oyster hot-pot cruises' are available offering passengers the chance to enjoy delicious dishes featuring local oysters from Matsushima Bay, including hot-pot and oyster cutlets.





Marubun-Kisen website







Shiogama is the perfect size to explore on foot! Why not spend the day exploring its historical highlights and delicious local food?











Welcome to Tohoku!

Customised tours also available!

Join one of our guided tours or experience programs culture and people of north-eastern Japan.









Higashi-Shiogama Station





Discover the many great things to see and do in the nearby Sendai and Matsushima Bay areas.



Zuihoden Mausoleum



Sendai

Matsushima



Tagajo



Shobuta Swimming Beach

Higashi-Matsushima

Shichigahama



Rifu







**Iwanuma** 

Natori

Discover the history, culture and natural beauty of nine localities in Miyagi Prefecture.



Sendai-Matsushima Area Guide







