

Journey into a Living Culture The Sights of Morioka

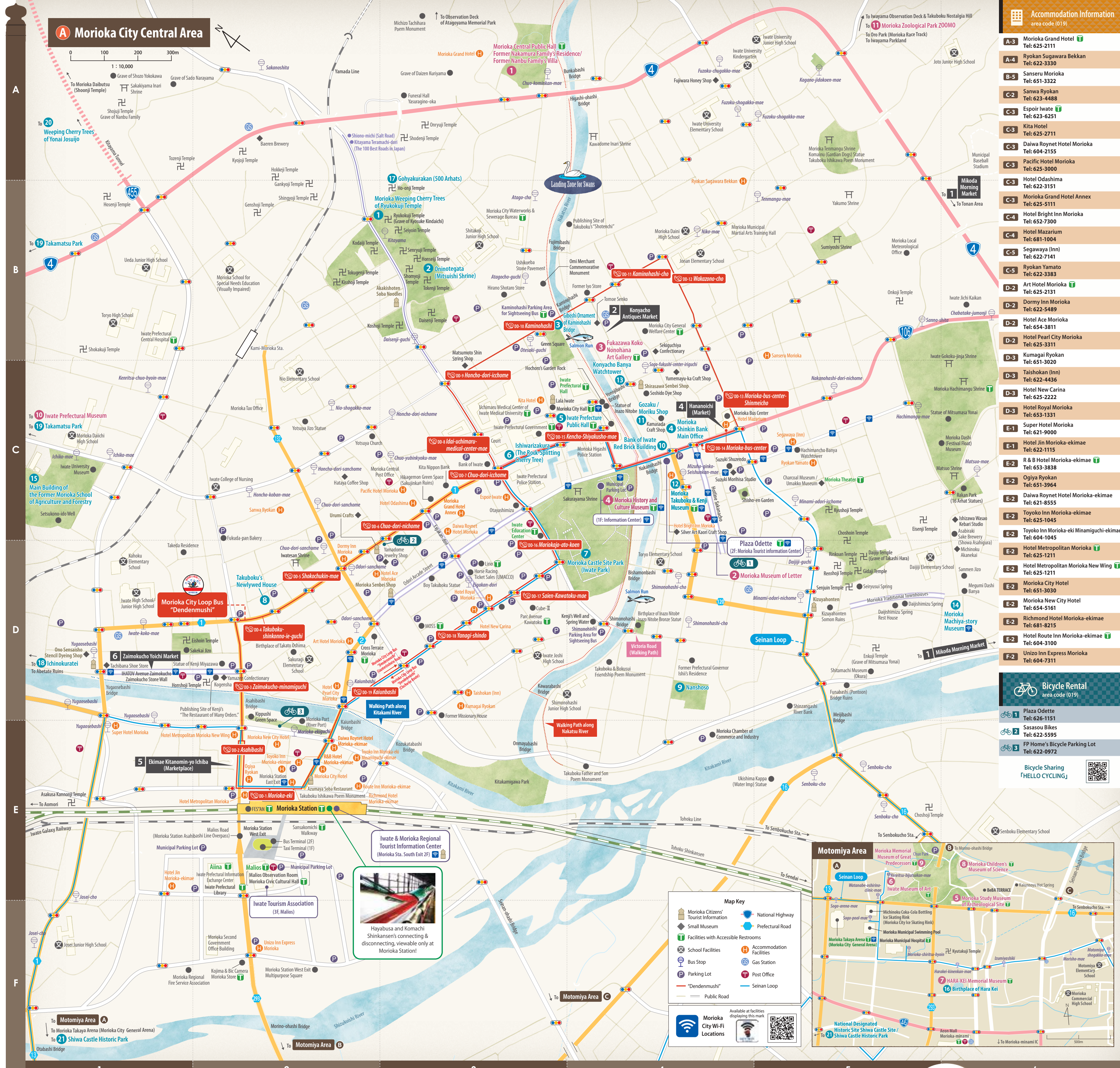
Cultural Assets and Historical Buildings

- Morioka, The Northernmost Land of Natural Monument Sakura Tree.**
1 Morioka Weeping Cherry Tree of Ryukokuj Temple
Ryukokuj Temple, located along Kitayama Teramachi-dori Street (selected as one of the 100 Best Roads in Japan), is where famed poet Takuboku Ishikawa's uncle, who spent time introducing him to tanka poetry, served as head monk. Morioka Weeping Cherry Tree designated as National Natural Monument is also located on the temple grounds.
- Oninotogata (Demons' Hand Prints on the Rocks) (Mitsuiwa Shrine)**
The three granite rocks on the grounds of Mitsuiwa Shrine are said to be the origin of the prefecture's name, Iwate. The legend has it that Oni (demons) were forced to leave its tegata (handprints) on the rocks as a promise to never eat evil again. Thus the name Iwate (Iwa= granite, Te= hand). Sansa Odori dance is also said to have originated here.
- Giboshi Ornament of Kaminohashi Bridge**
This bridge features eight decorative bronze knobs called Giboshi engraved with inscriptions from the year 1609 (Keicho 14), as well as ten with inscriptions from the year 1611 (Keicho 16). As it is uncommon to find so many examples of such preserved works in one place, they have been designated as National Important Works of Art.
- Morioka Shinkin Bank Main Office**
Designed by Morioka native, Manji Kasai. This building was built in 1927 (Showa 2) as the Former Morioka Savings Bank and is still in use as a Credit Union Bank. Linear poles of granite cover the outer wall of this uniquely designed building.
- Iwate Prefecture Public Hall**
This building was constructed in 1927 (Showa 2), in commemoration of then Emperor Showa's marriage, and featured a prefectural council hall, large multipurpose space, a western-style restaurant, and accommodations for the imperial family. The building was designed by Koichi Sato, the same architect that worked on Tokyo Metropolitan Hibiya Public Hall and the Municipal Research Building, as well as Waseda University's Okuma Auditorium.
- Morioka, The Northernmost Land of Natural Monument Sakura Tree.**
6 Ishiwazakura (The Rock-Splitting Cherry Tree)
This rare edohiganzakura cherry tree has steadily grown from a fracture in a granite stone for what's estimated to be over 360 years, and blooms beautifully in spring every year. Before the courthouse was built during the Meiji era there used to be an estate belonging to the Kikawa family (springs to the Morioka Clan).
- Morioka Castle Site Park (Iwate Park)**
Construction started with Nobunano Maru, and it became a castle for the successive feudal lords in 1633 (Kan'ei 10). Granite used for the stone walls are from Morioka and is known as one of Japan's Top 100 Castles. It has also been designated as a National Historic Site.
- Takuboku's Newlywed House**
The house where poet Takuboku Ishikawa began married life with his wife, Setsuko Horita. He went on to describe life as newlyweds in an essay, titled "Waga Yojiban".
Open: 9:00am - 5:00pm (10:00am - 4:00pm for Dec - Mar)
Closed: Tue, Dec 28 - Jan 4 (also closed Tue, Wed, and Thu for Dec - Mar)
Tel: 019-624-2193
- Nanshoso**
The residence of Yasuhiro Segawa, a businessman from Morioka. The site covers approximately 3,600 square meters (1,100 tsubo), and the garden is registered as a National Monument.
Open: 10:00am - 5:00pm (summer, Apr 1 - Nov 30), 10:00am - 4:00pm (winter, Dec 1 - Mar 31) Closed: Mon, (following day if it is a national holiday), Tue, Dec 26 - Jan 10
Tel: 019-604-6633
- Bank of Iwate Red Brick Building**
Built in 1911 (Meiji 44) and currently designated as a National Important Cultural Property. This building was designed by Tatsuno & Kasai Architect Office, that also worked on Tokyo Station.
- Gozaku (old merchant house and shop) / Moriku Shop**
Gozaku was a wealthy merchant between the late Edo period to early Meiji period. This building is a remnant of those days, when low buildings with white walls, tiled roofs, and latticed doors were a common sight. The sight of Dozo (mad and plaster wall) on the backside of the building with a flowing river and a stone wall is something that represents Morioka.
- Morioka Takuboku & Kenji Museum**
Constructed in 1910 (Meiji 43) as the former Nineth Bank. This building was preserved and is currently designated as a National Important Cultural Property as well as showcasing Takuboku and Kenji's younger days.
Open: 10:00am - 6:00pm (last admission)
Closed: Every 2nd Tue, (following day if it is a national holiday), Dec 29 - Jan 3
Tel: 019-604-6900
- Konyachō Banya Watchtower**
Built in 1913 (Taisho 2) as a branch of the Morioka Volunteer Fire Department. It is now designated as the structure of landscape importance of Morioka City. In 2022, it was reopened as an experiential exchange facility with a cafe and viewing studio.
Open: 10:00am - 5:00pm
Closed: Mon.
Tel: 019-625-6002
- Morioka Machiya-story Museum**
A facility comprised of Hamano Sake Brewery (a Landscape Important Structure of Morioka City) and other renovated buildings, that provides a sprawling recreation of the bustle and bustle of old Morioka townhouse scenery.
Open: 9:00am - 7:00pm (6:30pm final admission)
Closed: Every 4th Tue, (following day if it is a national holiday), Dec 29 - Jan 3 Tel: 019-654-2911
- Birthplace of Hara Kei**
Takashi Hara, known as a "Commoner Prime Minister", was born in this Morioka clansman's house. The sprawling residence was constructed in 1850 (Ka-ji 3), and covered around 661 square meters (approximately 250 tsubo). About a fifth of that original space has been preserved, and now sits adjacent to the HARA-KEI Memorial Museum.
Open: 9:00am - 4:00pm on Sat, Sun, national holidays (Apr - Oct) (other days available, see museum website)

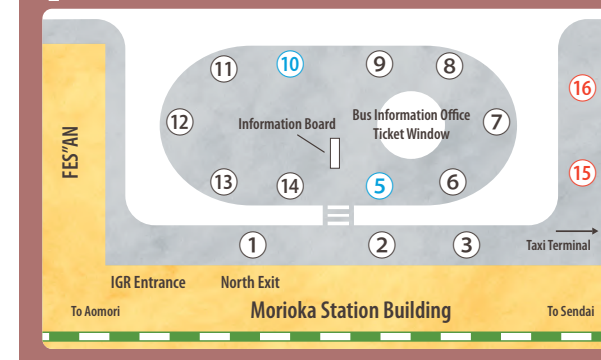
- Gohyakurakan (500 Arhats) (Ito-onji Temple)**
There are currently around 500 of these rakan (arhat) statues enshrined at Ito-onji Temple, which are said to have been crafted over a period of four years by nine Buddhist sculptors from Kyoto starting in 1731 (Kyoho 16).
Viewing Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm (3:30pm final admission)
Tel: 019-651-4415
- Ichinokuratsi**
An estate that belonged to Morioka native and late Meiji era politician, Hiroshi Abe. Enjoy the beautiful scenery of Chusonji Lotus flowers between late July and early August.
Open: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Closed: Mon, Tue, Aug 10 - 20, Dec 25 - Jan 15
Tel: 019-646-1817
- Takamatsu Park (Takamatsu Pond)**
During the Meiji era, over 1,000 Toshihizakura cherry trees were planted around the pond, and have since been designated as one of Japan's Top 100 Cherry Blossom Viewing Sites. During the winter, swans fly in to rest here and watching the flock have become a winter tradition.
- Weeping Cherry Trees of Yonai Josujo**
(Water Purification Plant)
Usually blooming around early May, this cherry blossom viewing site informs the residence of the end of the hanami (flower viewing) season. The nearby water purification plant is also open to the public during the blooming season.
For inquiries about public viewing times, as well as museum hours, please contact us. (Tel: 019-667-6280)
- National Designated Historic Site Shiba Castle Site**
At this historic park above the excavated ruins, visitors can see the restored Shiba Castle south gate, government buildings, and more, which were all originally built by Sakonno Tamamaro during the Heian period (794-1185). Learn about history through films available for viewing at the information center and government office exhibition rooms.
Open (Information Center): 9:00am - 5:00pm
Closed: New Year's holiday. Tel: 019-658-1710

Art Galleries and Museums

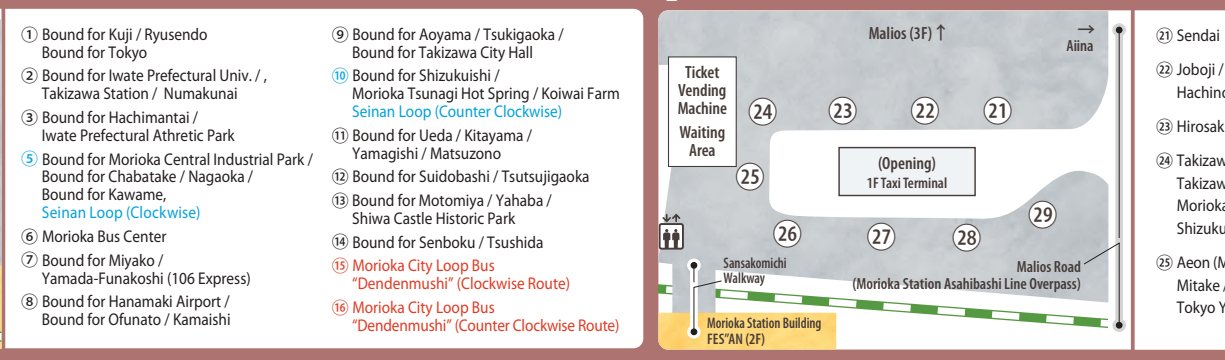
- Morioka Central Public Hall**
Former Nakamura Family's Residence, designated as the National Important Cultural Property, was relocated here on the land where Morioka Clan's medical herb garden used to be. It is also a great place to view autumn foliage. Open: 9:00am - 5:00pm (5:00pm on Sun, national holidays) Closed: Mon, (following day if it is a national holiday), Dec 29 - Jan 3 (garden closed in winter, contact for further details) Tel: 019-654-5366
- Morioka Museum of Letter**
A rare facility throughout the country that features various letters.
Open: 9:00am - 6:00pm (5:30pm final admission)
Closed: Every 2nd Tue, (following day if it is a national holiday), Dec 29 - Jan 3
Tel: 019-604-3302
- Fukazawa Koko Nonohana Art Gallery**
A museum featuring the works of a Morioka native painter, Koko Fukazawa. Located by Nakatsu River.
Open: 10:00am - 5:00pm (last admission)
Closed: Mon, (following day if it is a national holiday), Dec 29 - Jan 3
Tel: 019-625-6541
- Morioka History and Culture Museum**
Documents of Nanbu Clan family of Morioka, and traditional culture of Morioka are on display. Tourist information is also available.
Open: 9:00am - 7:00pm (Apr - Oct) (closes at 6:00pm on Sun, national holidays) Closed: Mon, (following day if it is a national holiday), Dec 31, Jan 1
Tel: 019-681-2100
- Morioka Study Museum of Archaeological Site**
A replica of a dig-out that had mid-Jomon period remains, as well as various archaeological discoveries are displayed.
Open: 9:00am - 5:00pm (4:30pm final admission)
Closed: Mon, (following day if it is a national holiday), every last Tue, Dec 29 - Jan 3
Tel: 019-635-6600
- Iwate Museum of Art**
Exhibiting the works of local artists, centered mainly on those of Tetsuzo Yozou, Shunsuke Matsumoto, and Yasutake Funakoshi.
Open: 9:00am - 4:30pm (last admission)
Closed: Mon, (following weekday if it is a national holiday), New Year's holiday
Tel: 019-658-1711
- HARA-KEI Memorial Museum**
A museum built next to the house where politician and Morioka native, Takashi Hara, was born. A room from his mansion in Koshigo has also been relocated to the premise.
Open: 9:00am - 5:00pm (4:30pm final admission)
Closed: Mon, (following weekday if it is a national holiday), Dec 29 - Jan 3
Tel: 019-636-1192
- Morioka Children's Museum of Science**
Featuring a planetarium, an exhibition room for visitors to experience science and technology, science workshops, and more—a place for both children and adults to have a great time.
Open: 9:00am - 4:30pm (last admission)
Closed: Mon, every last Tue, New Year's holiday
Tel: 019-634-1171
- Morioka Memorial Museum of Great Predecessors**
Featuring materials relating to local historical predecessors, such as Iza no Niobe, Mitsumasa Yonai, and Kiyosuke Kindachi.
Open: 9:30am - 4:30pm (4:00pm final admission)
Closed: Mon, (following weekday if it is a national holiday), every last Tue, Dec 29 - Jan 3
Tel: 019-659-3338
- Morioka Zoological Park ZOOMO**
A zoological park featuring over 300 mammals and birds, spanning over 65 different species. Events also held.
Open: 9:30am - 4:30pm (4:00pm final admission)
Closed: Mon, (following weekday if it is a national holiday), every last Tue, Dec 29 - Jan 3
Tel: 019-654-8266



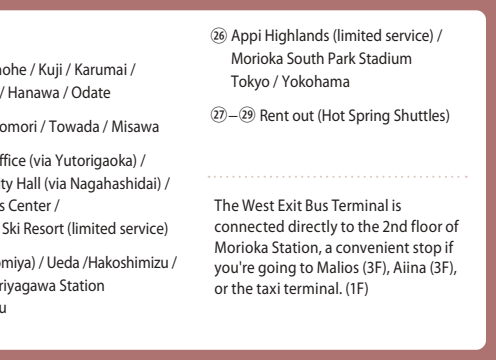
Morioka Station East Exit Bus Terminal



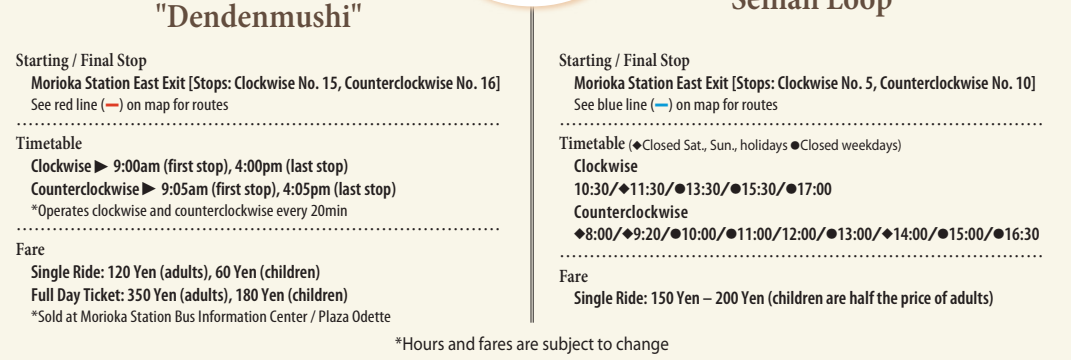
Morioka Station West Exit Bus Terminal (2F)



Morioka City Loop Bus "Dendenmushi"



Morioka Station East Exit Bus Terminal



Accommodation Information

- A-3 Morioka Grand Hotel Tel: 623-3330
- A-4 Ryokan Sugawara Bekkan Tel: 623-3330
- B-5 Sansuru Morioka Tel: 651-3322
- C-2 Sanwa Ryokan Tel: 623-4488
- C-3 Espoir Iwate Tel: 623-6251
- C-3 Kita Hotel Tel: 625-2711
- C-3 Daiwa Roynet Hotel Morioka Tel: 604-2155
- C-3 Pacific Hotel Morioka Tel: 625-3000
- C-3 Hotel Odashima Tel: 623-3151
- C-3 Morioka Grand Hotel Annex Tel: 625-5111
- C-4 Hotel Bright Inn Morioka Tel: 625-2700
- C-4 Hotel Mazarium Tel: 611-1004
- C-5 Segawaya (Inn) Tel: 622-7141
- D-2 Ryokan Yamato Tel: 623-3383
- D-2 Art Hotel Morioka Tel: 625-2131
- D-2 Dormy Inn Morioka Tel: 622-5489
- D-2 Hotel Ace Morioka Tel: 654-3811
- D-2 Hotel Pearl City Morioka Tel: 625-3311
- D-3 Kumagai Ryokan Tel: 651-3020
- D-3 Taishokan (Inn) Tel: 622-4436
- D-3 Hotel New Carina Tel: 625-2700
- D-3 Hotel Royal Morioka Tel: 653-1331
- D-3 Super Hotel Morioka Tel: 621-9000
- E-1 Hotel Jin Morioka-ekimae Tel: 622-1115
- E-2 R & B Morioka-ekimae Tel: 653-3838
- E-2 Ogiya Ryokan Tel: 651-3964
- E-2 Daiwa Roynet Hotel Morioka-ekimae Tel: 621-8555
- E-2 Toyou Inn Morioka-ekimae Tel: 625-1045
- E-2 Toyou Inn Morioka-eki Minamiguchi-ekimae Tel: 604-1045
- E-2 Hotel Metropolitan Morioka Tel: 651-3030
- E-2 Morioka City Hotel Tel: 654-5161
- E-2 Richmond Hotel Morioka-ekimae Tel: 681-8215
- E-2 Hotel Route Inn Morioka-ekimae Tel: 604-3100
- E-2 Unizo Inn Express Morioka Tel: 604-7311

Bicycle Rental

- 1 Plaza Odette Tel: 626-1151
- 2 Sasasou Bikes Tel: 622-5595
- 3 FP Home's Bicycle Parking Lot Tel: 622-0972

Bicycle Sharing

HELLO CYCLING

*Hours may vary depending on circumstances. See website for further details on each facility before visiting.