

G'-now

Newsletter from Gunma

October 2012 Visit-gunma@pref.gunma.lg.jp

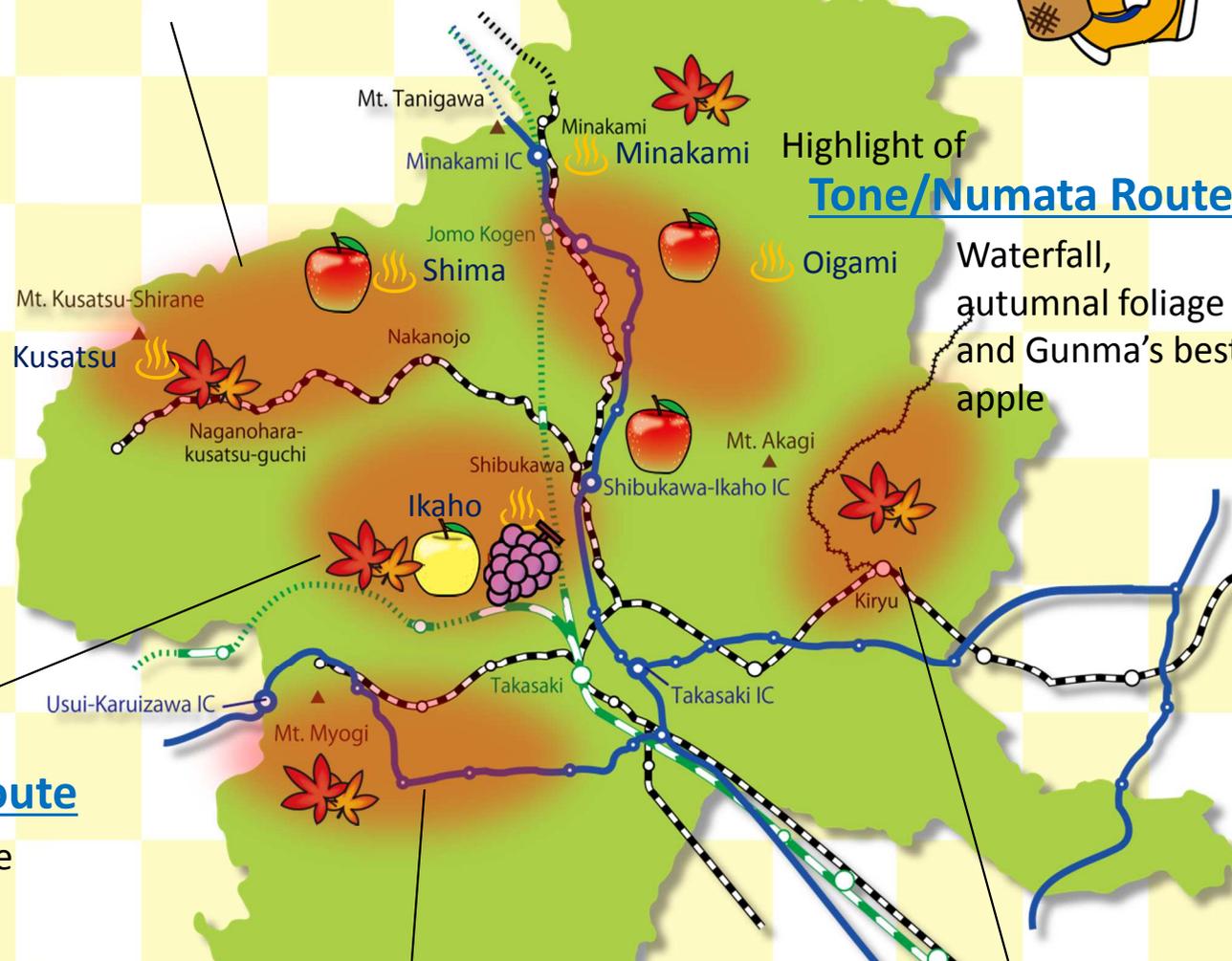
Hello! This is Gunma Prefecture's newsletter on tourism G'-now October 2012.

Here in Japan, season has changed from hot summer into autumn as the temperature has been down gradually. Autumn in Japan is filled with beautiful autumnal foliage and various kinds of harvests. There are spots where you can enjoy autumn in Gunma also.

Why not come to Gunma to see mountains that beautifully tinted with red and yellow leaves while enjoying nice cool weather. Taste of autumn full in variety await you of course!

Highlight of Agatsuma Route

Kusatsu in color of autumn and beauty of the gorge



Highlight of Tone/Numata Route

Waterfall, autumnal foliage and Gunma's best apple

Highlight of Haruna/Ikaho Route

Kajika bridge and taste of autumn

Highlight of Myogi Route

Autumnal foliage of Mt. Myogi and history of modernization

Highlight of Wa-tetsu Route

Autumnal foliage seen from torokko rail cars and box lunch



Gunma-chan, mascot character of Gunma Prefecture

Agatsuma Route

Spot which represents northwest of the prefecture is of course onsen, including Kusatsu! There are also full of interesting spots on the way to the destination.

◆Shima Onsen

◆◆◆About 40 min. by bus from Nakanojo Station on JR Agatsuma Line



Take a walk around “Lake Okushima” located in the deepest of Shima Onsen. Enjoy lake water in cobalt blue and autumnal foliage around the lake. (Best Time: Mid-Oct. – Early Nov.) (About 10 min. by car from Shima Onsen Central Area)



After the walk, heal your tiring body with the public bath “Seiryu no Yu”. (About 5 min. by car from Shima Onsen Central Area)

◆Agatsuma Gorge

◆◆◆About 5 min. on foot from Kawarayuu Onsen Station on JR Agatsuma Line

The expressive gorge with rocks and waterfalls are decorated by beautiful foliage during late October to early November. Walking the 1.8km of promenade will allow you to get a splendid scenery from close up.



◆Sainokawara Open-Air Bath

◆◆◆About 20 min. on foot from Kusatsu Bus terminal



At Sainokawara Open-Air Bath with the size of 500m² in Kusatsu Onsen, you can enjoy beautiful autumnal foliage while bathing. Have a wonderful healing time. (Best Time: Mid – Late Oct.)

Tone/Numata Route

Northeast of the prefecture with rich forests welcomes you with various spots for autumnal foliage. Enjoy a wonderful combination of tinted leaves and scenic spots while tasting Gunma's best apple.

◆Suwa Gorge◆◆◆About 20 min. on foot from Minakami Station on JR Joetsu Line



This gorge is located near Minakami Onsen. You can enjoy beautiful foliage from the promenade along Tone River or from Suwakyo Bridge. Japan's only bridge bungy jump can also be enjoyed until November. (Best Time: Early Nov.)

◆Teriha Gorge◆◆◆About 60 min. by car from Minakami IC of Kan-Etsu Expressway

Teriha Gorge is located on the way from Minakami to Oze. With clear water and 11 small waterfalls, wonderful autumnal foliage can be enjoyed. (Best Time: Early – Late Oct.)



◆Fukiware Falls◆◆◆About 30 min. by car from Numata IC of Kan-Etsu Expressway



This is the fall with a drop from 7 meters high and 30 meters wide, located in Numata. The contrast of the dynamic waterfall and autumnal foliage is a sight to see. (Best Time: Late Oct. – Early Nov.)

If you have time, why not visit Kashozan Mirokuji Temple in Numata. Giant goblin mask in the temple welcomes you. Autumnal foliage around the mountain is also beautiful.



Haruna/Ikaho Route

Kajika Bridge in Ikaho Onsen is a must-see spot for autumnal foliage. Delicious fruits can also be enjoyed.

◆Shintou Grape Village

•••About 20 min. by car from Shibukawa-Ikaho IC of Kan-Etsu Expressway



Various kinds of fruits can be enjoyed in Gunma. Shintou at the foot of Mt. Haruna produces delicious grape for you to enjoy the fruit picking.

(Season: until October)

◆Kajika Bridge in Ikaho Onsen

•••About 20 min. by car from Shibukawa-Ikaho IC of Kan-Etsu Expressway

Kajika Bridge is located near the source of Ikaho Onsen. The vermilion-lacquered arched bridge and red tinted leaves around create a gorgeous scenery. The bridge is lit up in nighttime in autumn.

(Best Time: Late Oct. – Early Nov.)



◆Lake Haruna •••About 30 min. by car from Ikaho Onsen



Enjoy the scenery of mountains with autumnal foliage from the pleasure boat or rowboat. Scenery from the ropeway is also a sight to see.

(Best Time: Late Oct. – Early Nov.)



Mizusawa Udon for lunch would be the best choice.

Myogi Route

Mt. Myogi and areas around in the west of the prefecture provide you autumnal foliage and history of modernization.

◆Tomioka Silk Mill

•••About 10 min. by car from Tomioka IC of Joshin-Etsu Expressway

This was the first model factory in Japan built by the Meiji government in 1872 to modernize raw silk production. With other three silk industrial heritages in the prefecture, in 2012, it was selected to be the one which will be nationally nominated to the World Heritage List.



◆Mt. Myogi

•••About 5 min. by car from Matsuida-Myogi IC of Joshin-Etsu Expressway



This is one of Japan's Three Scenic Spots decorated by strange-shaped rocks. In autumn, these rocks are colored with autumnal foliage and a wonderful scenery appears.

(Best Time: Early – Late Nov.)

◆Megane Bashi (Usui 3rd Bridge)

•••About 15 min. by car from Matsuida-Myogi IC of Joshin-Etsu Expressway

This is the bridge with four arches used as the railway in late 19th Century.

In present, this is a part of "Abt Promenade" and visitors can walk on the bridge. In autumn, fantastic scenery can be seen from the tunnel besides the bridge.

(Best Time: Early – Mid Nov.)



Wa-tetsu Route

Let's take a trip to see autumnal foliage by Watarase Keikoku Railway! Don't forget to take box lunch, too.

◆ Watarase Keikoku Railway (Wa-tetsu)



This is the local line that connects Kiryu in Gunma and Nikko in Tochigi. The train passes through amid a rich nature and beautiful autumnal foliage can be enjoyed in autumn.

◆ Takatsudo Gorge

... About 10 min. on foot from Omama Station on Watarase Keikoku Railway

This gorge is located at the middle reaches of Watarase River. Take a relax walk and enjoy autumnal foliage on the both sides of the gorge.
(Best Time: Early – Mid Nov.)



◆ Konaka Waterfall

... About 120 min. on foot from Konaka Station on Watarase Keikoku Railway



Leaves that turned red and yellow spread around the waterfall and create a gorgeous scenery. (Best Time: Late Oct. – Early Nov.)



To see Konaka Waterfall, visitors have to cross this thrilling suspension bridge.

Gunma's Gourmet of This Month

#8

Apple

りんご



In autumn, various kinds of food celebrate their harvest time and delicious dishes spread over the table. Among them, we would like you to taste apples in Gunma.



Hilly and mountainous areas in Gunma has characteristics of remarkable difference of temperature of the night and the day and long period of sunlight. Utilizing such characteristics, apple are popularly grown in the area. Sweet apples can be enjoyed through early September to late November as it represents the taste of autumn.

Famous area of apple growing is Numata. Other areas such as Nakanojo and Shibukawa also grow delicious apples. You can enjoy apple picking at many orchards. Or you can get it from shops selling local agricultural produces on the roadside stations in the area. Let's try the apple in Gunma!

<Other Fruits in Autumn>



Nashi (Japanese pear) is another popular fruit in Gunma. The harvest season of nashi is in August to November. Main growing area in Gunma is an area at the southern foot of Mt. Haruna in Takasaki and areas in Maebashi, Meiwa and so on. Juicy and sweet nashi are collected in the morning and sold at the orchard.

*For more about fruit picking in Gunma... <http://www.visitgunma.jp/en/fruits/>

Did you know?

We have opened the website of tourist guide of Gunma Prefecture since July 2012! The website is full of tourist information of Gunma.

Main Topics:

- ◆ About Gunma
- ◆ Onsen in Gunma
- ◆ Gunma's Food
- ◆ Sightseeing Spots in Gunma
- ◆ Access Guide

...and more!

This website will help you to ask the question, such as "where is Gunma in Japan?", "Where is the famous tourist spot in Gunma?", "What kind of onsen does Gunma have?" and so on.

As it is connected with our facebook, you can also get the seasonal tourist information in Gunma.

Moreover, we have the website for smartphone user for you to collect useful information while travelling.

For detail, please visit the website:

Tourist Guide of Gunma Prefecture <http://www.visitgunma.jp/en/>

Follow the latest tourist information in Gunma with our facebook page, too!

<http://www.facebook.com/visitgunma.En>

