

Tour Guide: Discover More

A volunteer guide can help you experience Japan's leading historical and cultural assets, such as the Tagajo Castle Ruins and Tagajo Stele, more intimately and gain a deeper understanding.

◆Guidance Hours:

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM (Excluding New Year holidays and Obon)

◆Guide Fee:

Fee applies. (Please check the official website for details.)

Users are responsible for covering the guide's transportation, meals, admission fees, etc.

◆Reservation:

Apply via the Tourism Association website or FAX at least 10 days prior to your desired date.

"Touring Tagajo While Feeling the Breeze" Bicycle Rental

We offer bicycle rentals for those who wish to tour the famous spots and historic sites.

Enjoy Tagajo comfortably at your own pace.

◆ Rates

The fees per hour are: Electric-assist bicycle: ¥300, Sport bicycle: ¥200, City cycle: ¥150

◆ Rental Location and Hours

○Location: Shito Tagajo Tourist Information Center (Inside JR Senseki Line Tagajo Station)

○Hours: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

*Please check the official website for full details.

Tagajo City Hall

Address:
2-1-1 Chuo, Tagajo City,
Miyagi Prefecture 985-8531
Tel (Direct): 022-368-2085
Email (Citizens' Culture and Creation Division):
kanko@city.tagajo.miyagi.jp



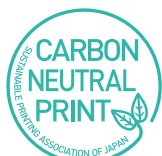
Tagajo City Tourism Association

[Inside JR Senseki Line Tagajo Station]
2-7-1 Chuo, Tagajo City,
Miyagi Prefecture 985-0873
Tel. 022-364-5901 / FAX. 022-364-9905
Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
*Please check the official website for full details.



Tagajo Castle Ruins Information Center

3-2 Tateishi, Ichikawa, Tagajo City,
Miyagi Prefecture 985-0864
Tel. 022-781-8101
Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM



CARBON EMISSION

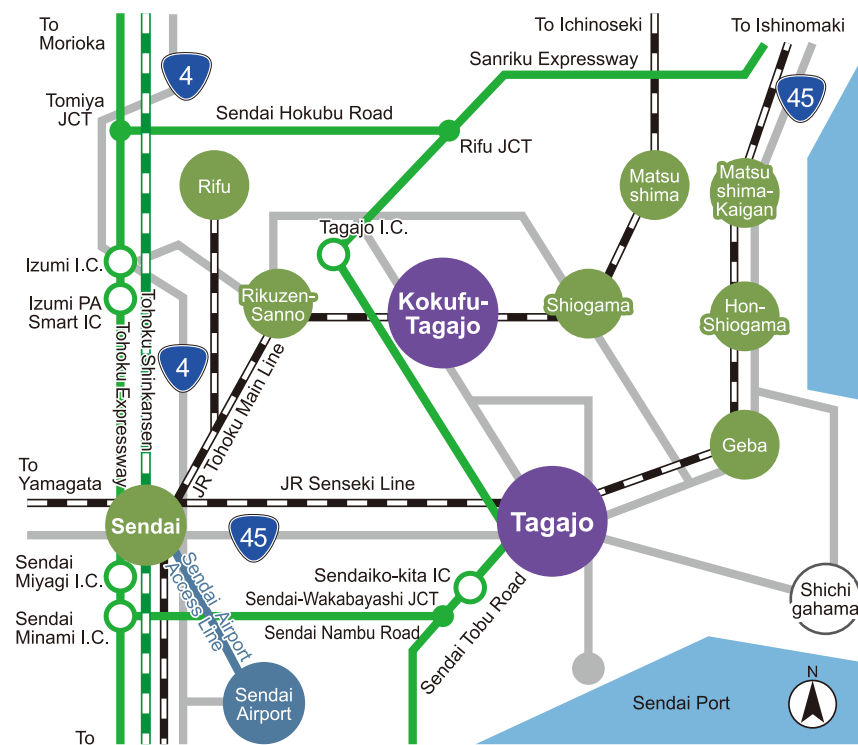
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Access



By Rail (JR)

[Senseki Line]



[Tohoku Main Line]



By Car



Suggested Model Courses

[Touring the Japan Heritage Sites]

Kokufu-Tagajo Station → (10 min walk) → Tagajo Stele / Tagajo South Gate → (2 min walk) → Tagajo Castle Ruins (Former Government Headquarters Site) → (15 min walk) → Mutsu Sosha-gu Shrine → (20 min walk) → Tohoku History Museum → (10 min walk) → Tagajo Temple Ruins → (10 min walk) → Kokufu-Tagajo Station

[Traveling the Shioyama Kaido]

Rikuzen-Sanno Station → (15 min walk) → Fuseishi → (1 min walk) → Kifune-jinja Shrine → (1 min walk) → Tagajo-jinja Shrine → (2 min walk) → Tagajo Castle Ruins (Former Government Headquarters Site) → (5 min walk) → Taga-jinja Shrine → (3 min walk) → Kotei Kigo Hyo Monument (Elevation Benchmark) → Continue toward Shioyama

[Tracing History and Culture]

Tagajo Station → (15 min walk) → Omowaku Bridge / Noda no Tamagawa River → (15 min walk) → Tagajo Museum of History and Play (Exhibit Room at the Center for Archaeological Research) → (10 min walk) → Tagajo City Library → (1 min walk) → Tagajo Station

[Tracing the Path of Disaster Recovery]

Tagajo Station → (1 min walk) → Tagajo City Library → (1 min walk) → Tagajo City Great East Japan Earthquake Monument → (10 min walk) → Sue-no-Matsuyama / Oki-no-I → (15 min walk) → Kamaboko (Fish Cake) Grilling Experience at Matsushima Kamaboko Honpo Tagajo Factory with in the "Sanmirai Tagajo Reconstruction Complex" → (15 min walk) → Nakanosakae Station

Tagajo, the Historic Capital

Start Your Tohoku Journey in Tagajo



The South Gate of Tagajo Castle

A 1,300-Year-Old Historical Romance Revived in the Modern Era

The restoration of the South Gate of Tagajo Castle and the massive Tsuiji Earthen Wall, faithfully rebuilt using ancient techniques, is now complete. Together with the newly constructed Tagajo Castle Ruins Information Center in the Central Park—serving as the gateway to the Special Historic Site of Tagajo and Temple Ruins—this area celebrated its Grand Opening in April 2025.

Fashion SILK ROAD RUNWAY 2024

Held at the Tagajo South Gate, this event was based on the principle of Fueki Ryuko (Eternal Truth and Ever-Changing Style), which emphasizes embracing new ideas while preserving the essential spirit of tradition. Enjoy the awe-inspiring spectacle of the performance in the video.



Anniversary 1,300th Anniversary Ceremony for the Founding of Tagajo

In 2024, Tagajo celebrated the 1,300th anniversary of its founding. The Tagajo 1,300th Anniversary Founding Ceremony featured a diverse range of programs. Please click here to view the memorable ceremony that connects the past, present, and future.



Sports Tagajo Central Park (Comprehensive Park)

A New Area for Sports and Relaxation Has Arrived

A new comprehensive park, TAGAJŌ CENTRAL PARK, has arrived near JR Tohoku Main Line Kokufu-Tagajo Station, the Sanriku Expressway Tagajo IC, and the Special Historic Site Tagajo Ruins. The park features a Sports Area with indoor and outdoor skate parks and a 3x3 court, as well as a Play Area, community exchange spaces, and a cafe. This facility is designed with a focus on meeting SDGs goals.



Walking trail Enjoy the Miyagi Olle - Tagajo Course!

What is "Olle"

Olle is a term from the Jeju Island dialect in Korea meaning "a narrow alleyway connecting a street to a house." It describes a charming style of trekking where the appeal is walking at your own pace, enjoying a close-up view of the local nature and scenery.



Photo Credit: Miyagi Prefectural Tourism Strategy Division



- START**
- JR Senseki Line Tagajo Station
 - Noda-no-Tamagawa River & Omowaku Bridge
 - Tagajo Temple Ruins
 - Tohoku History Museum
 - Ukishima-jinja Shrine
 - Tagajo Government Headquarters Ruins
 - Tagajo Stele (Tsubo no Ishibumi)
 - Tagajo South Gate
- FINISH**
- Tagajo Castle Ruins Information Center



Tagajo Castle Ruins (Former Government Headquarters Site)

Tagajo Castle Ruins is counted among the Three Great Historic Sites of Japan, alongside the Heijo Palace Ruins in Nara and Dazaifu Ruins in Fukuoka. The vast Tagajo Castle Ruins was built in a square, measuring around 900 meters on each side; the square Former Government Headquarters Site was located in the center, measuring around 100 meters on each side. The Former Government Headquarters Site was the most important location in ancient Tagajo, where crucial political affairs and official ceremonies were conducted, and the Mutsu Kokufu (Provincial Office) was also situated here. In the Heian period, nobles in Kyoto often longed for this land, romanticizing it under the name of "Michinoku" (the deep north). Many government officials and renowned poets composed verses about this very place.
(Special Historic Site / Japan Heritage)

Access: Approximately 25 minutes on foot from Kokufu-Tagajo Station



Tagajo Temple Ruins

Situated 1 kilometer southeast of the Former Government Headquarters Site, this temple was established in the early Nara period as an affiliated temple to Tagajo Castle. Its layout is notably similar to the Kanzeon-ji Temple, which was affiliated with Dazaifu in Fukuoka Prefecture. Today, the ruins have been preserved as a historical park.
(Special Historic Site / Japan Heritage)

Access: Approximately 18 minutes on foot from Kokufu-Tagajo Station

The Tagajo Stele (Tsubo-no-Ishibumi Monument)

Established in A.D. 762 and facing west, this stone monument features 141 characters with information including the distance from the capital (Heijo-kyo) to Tagajo, the castle's founding by Ono no Azumahito in A.D. 724, and its repair by Fujiwara no Asakari in A.D. 762. It is currently counted as one of the Three Oldest Steles of Japan.

The monument gained fame as an Utamakura (Poetic Place Name) in the late Heian period, appearing in poems by figures like Saigyō and Minamoto no Yoritomo. Upon its discovery in the early Edo period, it was immediately named the "Tsubo-no-Ishibumi Monument." The famous haiku master, Matsuo Bashō, was so moved upon seeing it that he recorded his emotion in his travelogue, The Narrow Road to the Deep North (Oku no Hosomichi).
(National Treasure / National Place of Scenic Beauty / Japan Heritage)

Access: Approximately 15 minutes on foot from Kokufu-Tagajo Station



Exploring Tagajo's Japan Heritage and Poetic Landscapes (Utamakura)

Tagajo's Scenic Locations Preserved in Classic Poetry (Utamakura)



Sue-no-Matsuyama (Pine Tree Hill)

*Chigirikina katami ni
Sode o shibari tsutsu
Sue no Matsuyama nami kosaji to wa*

We made a solemn promise
While wringing the tears from
Each other's sleeves
That the waves would not wash over
The Pine Hill of Sue

From the Goshui Wakashu by Kiyohara no Motosuke

This site became a celebrated Utamakura across countless poems focusing on the theme of eternal love and unbreakable promises. The hill is located behind the Hokoku-ji Temple in the Hachiman district, and its soaring pine trees remain today as a picturesque reminder of its ancient fame. The great haiku poet Matsuo Bashō also visited this site during his journey. The Narrow Road to the Deep North (Oku no Hosomichi).
(National Place of Scenic Beauty / Japan Heritage)
Access: Approximately 8 minutes by car from Kokufu-Tagajo Station



Noda's Tamagawa River

*Yufu sareba
Shio kaze ko shite Michinoku no
Noda no Tamagawa chidori naku nari*

As evening falls
The salt breeze crosses over
And on the Tamagawa River of Michinoku's Noda, the
plovers cry

From the Shinkokin Wakashu by Noin Hoshi

This small stream originates in Ohinata, Shiogama City, and flows into the Sunaoshi River. It is counted as one of the Six Tamagawa Rivers famous in poetry. The river was carefully maintained by the Sendai Clan during the Edo period, inspired by the poem of Noin Hoshi.

Access: Approximately 5 minutes
by car from Kokufu-Tagajo Station



Omowaku Bridge

*Fumama uki
Momiji no nishiki chiri shikite
Hito mo kayowanu Omowaku no Hashi*

Unwilling to tread
Upon the scarlet brocade
Of scattered maple leaves,
No one crosses
The Bridge of Longing

From the Sankakushu Anthology by Saigyō Hoshi

Spanning the gentle stream of the Noda no Tamagawa River, the Omowaku Bridge is famous for the tragic love story between Abe no Sadato (known from the Early Nine Years' War) and his lover, Omowaku, lending the bridge its name ("Bridge of Longing").

Access: Approximately 6 minutes by car from Kokufu-Tagajo Station



The Tagajo Utamakura Tour: The Journey that Moved Matsuo Basho

During the Nara and Heian periods, officials dispatched to Tagajo from the capital often composed poetry inspired by the region's stunning natural beauty. These verses drew the admiration of Kyoto's aristocracy, making Tagajo widely recognized and longed for. The scenic spots mentioned in this classical Japanese poetry (waka) became known nationwide as Utamakura (Poetic Place Names). Later, during the Edo period, the Sendai Clan undertook significant efforts to preserve and maintain these poetic sites.

The great haiku master, Matsuo Bashō, chronicled his visit to the Tsubo Stele during his journey, The Narrow Road to the Deep North (Oku no Hosomichi). He recorded being so deeply moved by encountering the ancient monument, which had survived for over a thousand years, that he was nearly moved to tears.



Omoi Spring (also known as the Oki-no-I Well and Oki-no-Ishi Stone)



*Waga sode wa
Shiohi ni mienu oki no ishi no
Hito koso shiranu kawaku ma mo nashi*

My sleeves are like
The rock in the offing that
Can't be seen even at low tide
Unknown to anyone, but
There's not a moment they are dry

From the Ogura Hyakunin Isshu by Nijoin no Sanuki

Located in a corner surrounded by residential areas, just south of Sue no Matsuyama, this quiet spot features a pond with a striking large stone. In the Edo period, the Sendai Clan appointed an official (Okunoi-mori) to protect this site. Today, local residents continue the tradition of carefully preserving it.

(National Place of Scenic Beauty / Japan Heritage)

Access: Approximately 8 minutes by car from Kokufu-Tagajo Station



What is Japan Heritage?

The Agency for Cultural Affairs recognizes stories that convey Japan's culture and traditions through unique regional histories and characteristics as "Japan Heritage."

The objective of this initiative is to promote regional revitalization and tourism by comprehensively utilizing the appealing, indispensable groups of both tangible and intangible cultural properties that are essential to the story, and by strategically promoting them both domestically and overseas.



Experience Hands-on Crafts While Exploring Tagajo's History

1 Tagajo Museum of History and Play (Tagajo Shiyukan)

The permanent exhibition introduces the history of Tagajo from the Jomon period to the Edo period, including farm life up to the Showa era. In the hands-on learning room, you can try various activities (some require a fee) such as making magatama (comma-shaped beads) or Jomon baskets.

2-25-5 Chuo, Tagajo City TEL. 022-368-3127
Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Closed: Mondays, the day after a public holiday, and New Year holidays
Access: Approximately 3 minutes by car from Tagajo Station

Historical Experiences

《Magatama》

Create a magatama strap by carving and polishing steatite (soapstone).

《Mother-of-Pearl Magnet》

Make an original magnet by embedding pieces of colorful paper and iridescent shell in the magnet base.



《Transverse Flute》

Create a bamboo flute by drilling holes, modeled after ancient flutes excavated in Tagajo City.

《Jomon Basket》

Weave a three-dimensional container using a four-eye weave with two colors of craft tape.

Dive Deeper into Tagajo's History with Our Videos

2 Tagajo Castle Ruins Information Center

This facility uses the latest digital technology to showcase Tagajo's history, appeal, key city spots, and tourist information.

The indoor, 200-inch, high-resolution LED screen is one of the largest in the Tohoku region. Photography is permitted inside, allowing you to take commemorative photos with the scenery of ancient Tagajo and its generals.



◆Address 3-2 Tateishi, Ichikawa, Tagajo City
◆Hours 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM (Closed December 28 to January 4)
◆Phone 022-781-8101

Discover More! Learn More! Be Inspired!



A Popular Destination Boasting the Largest Number of Varieties in Tohoku

5 Tagajo Castle Ruins Iris Garden

Located in a corner of the Tagajo Castle Ruins, this garden delights visitors with 3 million irises and flag irises of over 800 varieties in full bloom. The annual "Tagajo Castle Ruins Iris Festival" is held here, and the area is a popular photo spot.

◆"Tagajo Castle Ruins Iris Festival" runs around Mid-June

6 Tateishi, Ichikawa, Tagajo City
TEL. 022-368-2085
Access: Approximately 5 minutes on foot from Kokufu-Tagajo Station

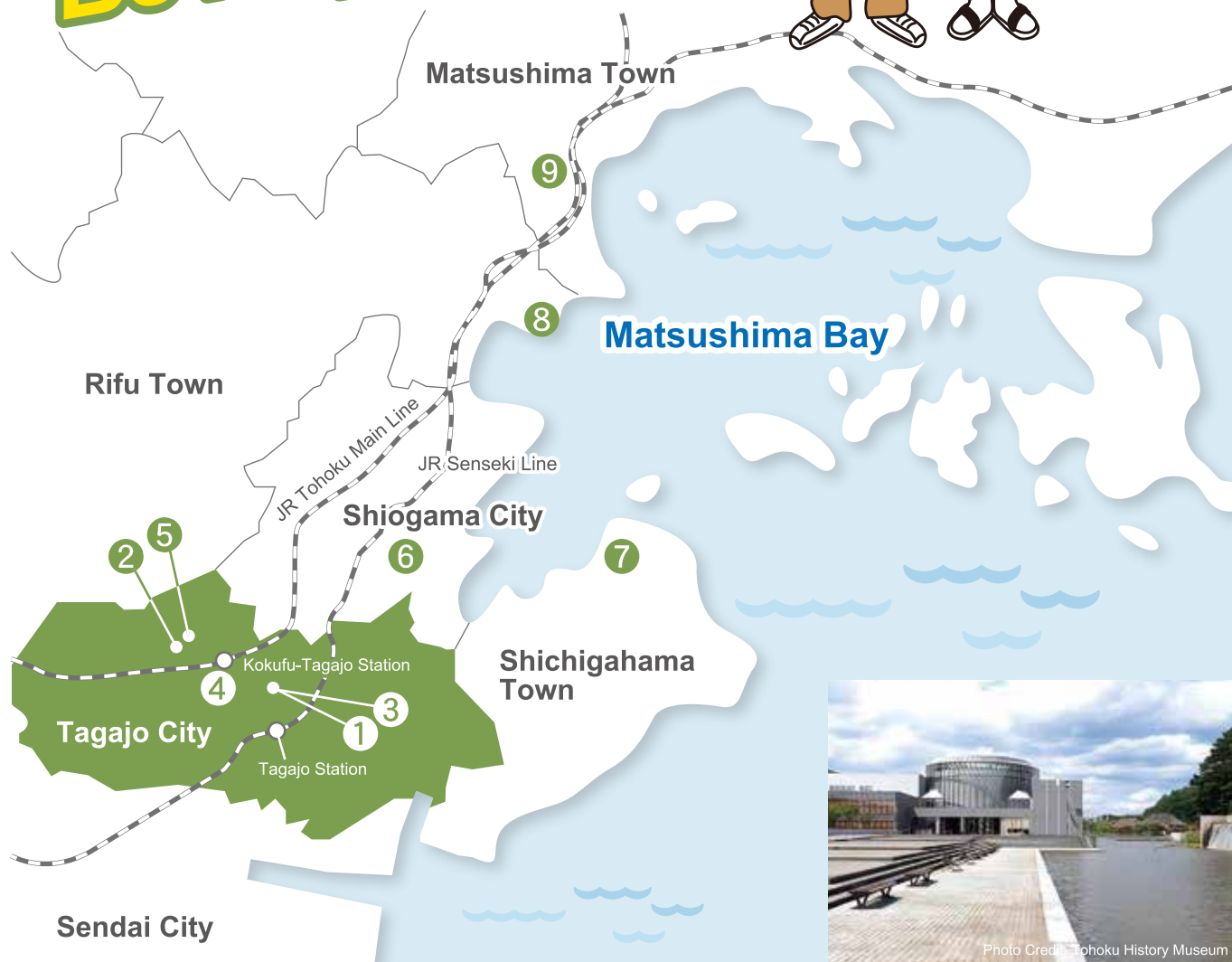


Photo Credit: Shiwahiko-jinja Shrine / Shiohama-jinja Shrine

A Sacred Place Where Tohoku's History Blends with Natural Beauty

6 Siwahiko-jinja Shrine & Shiohama-jinja Shrine (Shiohama City)

One of Tohoku's most important and historic shrines, famous for its magnificent buildings and the 202-step stone staircase known as the "Omotezaka" (Main Slope). The grounds are beautiful throughout the year, with cherry blossoms in spring and autumn foliage. The heroic Hote Matsuri festival held 3 times a year is another highlight, making it a perfect spot to enjoy history and nature.

1-1 Ichimoriyama, Shiohama City
Access: Approximately 10 minutes by car from Tagajo Station



Photo Credit: Rifu Town

A Photo Spot for Breathtaking Natural Landscapes

8 Uma-no-Se Ridge (Rifu Town)

This is a natural land bridge that juts out about 250 meters into the sea due to wave erosion. It's a popular photo spot with scenic views over Matsushima Bay. Adjacent to the main ridge, you can also see the "Kouma" (Colt), which, together with Uma-no-Se, resembles a parent and child.

Akagama Hitsugazawa, Rifu Town, Miyagi District
Access: Approximately 25 minutes by car from Tagajo Station



Photo Credit: Shichigahama Town

A Stunning Viewpoint Overlooking Matsushima, One of Japan's Three Great Views

7 Tamon-yama Hill (Shichigahama Town)

A scenic location on Hachigamori Hill (5.6 meters elevation) that houses the Bishamon-do Hall, which enshrines a statue of Tamonten (Vaisravana). The islands dotting the beautiful Matsushima Bay, such as Mahanashijima and Jizojima, spread out below, resembling the carefully placed stones of a traditional Japanese garden. It is celebrated as the "Ikan" (Grand View) of the Four Great Views of Matsushima.

56 Hachigamori, Daigasaki-hama, Shichigahama Town, Miyagi District
Access: Approximately 20 minutes by car from Tagajo Station

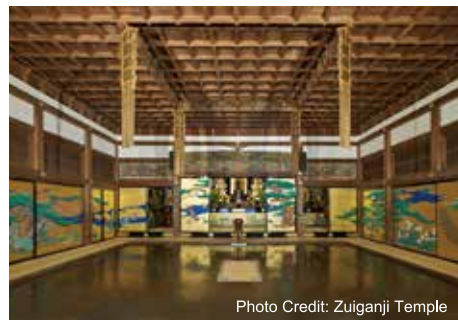


Photo Credit: Zuiganji Temple

Matsushima's Pride: A Scenic Temple Connected to Lord Date Masamune

9 Zuiganji Temple (Matsushima Town)

Zuiganji Temple is a National Treasure Zen temple that was rebuilt by Lord Date Masamune. The interior of the magnificent Main Hall is decorated with brilliant and luxurious painted screens and intricate carvings. Along with the Garyubai (Couching Dragon Plum) trees associated with Masamune and the impressive cedar avenue, visitors can enjoy both history and nature.

91 Machinai, Matsushima, Matsushima Town, Miyagi District
Access: Approximately 21 minutes by car from Kokufu-Tagajo Station

An Educational Museum: Get Up Close with the Lives of Ancient People

3 Exhibit Room at the Center for Archaeological Research

The permanent exhibition, "Ancient City Tagajo," uses various excavated materials to showcase the townscape that spread out to the south of the Tagajo Castle Ruins.

2-27-1 Chuo, Tagajo City
TEL. 022-368-0134
Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Closed: Mondays, the day after a public holiday, and New Year holidays
Access: Approximately 3 minutes by car from Tagajo Station



Learn About the History, Culture, and Traditions of Tohoku and Miyagi

4 Tohoku History Museum

This history museum focuses on the entire Tohoku region. It features exhibitions and video screenings covering the history from the Paleolithic era to the present day. Reconstructed and relocated traditional houses showcase the region's diverse folk culture.

1-22-1 Takasaki, Tagajo City
TEL. 022-368-0106
Hours: 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM (Last entry at 4:30 PM)
Admission: Adults ¥460 (Groups ¥360 for 20+); Children (Elementary/Junior High/High School) Free
Closed: Mondays (or the next day if Monday is a holiday) and New Year holidays
Access: Approximately 5 minutes by car from Tagajo Station



Photo Credit: Tohoku History Museum