

ENCOUNTER ISHINOMAKI

MAGICAL ISLANDS, MANGA & SEA

SPOTS TO SEE IN ISHINOMAKI, HIGASHI-MATSUSHIMA AND ONAGAWA

1. TASHIROJIMA (CAT ISLAND)

Tashirojima (Cat Island) is a quaint island off the beautiful Oshika Peninsula. Tashirojima is a barely inhabited island full of wild moggies which are said to be a source of good luck. Visitors will also find a cat shrine near the center of the island.

Tashirohama, Ishinomaki

2. KINKASAN (ISLAND)

The picturesque Kinkasan can be found just off the coast of Miyagi Prefecture. Deer roam freely here and the island hosts the spiritual Koganeyama Shrine where visitors can stay. Isolated, magnificently tranquil and sacred, Kinkasan is the perfect spot for some sanctuary.

Kinkasan Ayukawahama, Ishinomaki

3. HIYORIYAMA PARK (CHERRY BLOSSOM)

If you're looking for some super-scenic cherry blossoms in Tohoku then look no further than Hiyoriyama Park. With an abundance of nature the park, located at the peak of the petite Mount Hiyoriyama, also hosts Kashimamiko Shrine which is a source of luck for the local fishermen.

2 Chome-2 Hiyorigaoka, Ishinomaki

4. OKU-MATSUSHIMA TRAIL COURSE

For hikers and outdoor enthusiasts the Oku-Matsushima trail is an absolute must. The 10km looped hike gives adventurers some of the most majestic views in northern Japan.

Kawahara-5 Miyato, Higashimatsushima

5. MT. OTAKAMORI

The views from Mount Otakamori are renowned all over Japan. With a panorama which takes in Mount Kurikoma, Kinka Island and Matsushima Bay, it's a sight that visitors will never forget.

Otakamori Miyato, Higashimatsushima

5.1 SAGAKEI GORGE

One of the three great gorges of Japan, Sagakei (located in Higashi-Matsushima) spans 2km & includes some intimidating 40-meter cliffs and can be enjoyed, up close, by pleasure boat (regular tours are available).

5-1 Kawahara, Miyato, Higashimatsushima City

6. AJISHIMA (ISLAND)

Ajishima has a moderate climate all year round which helps boost the island's flourishing tropical plants and agriculture. Visitors often flock to the island's vaunted Aji-Shirahama Beach.

Ajihama, Ishinomaki















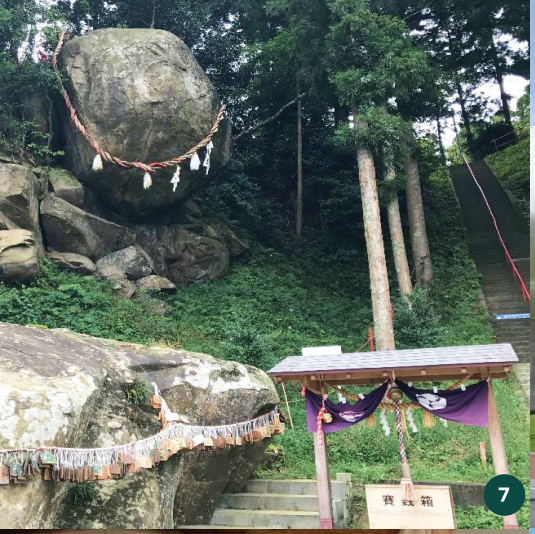





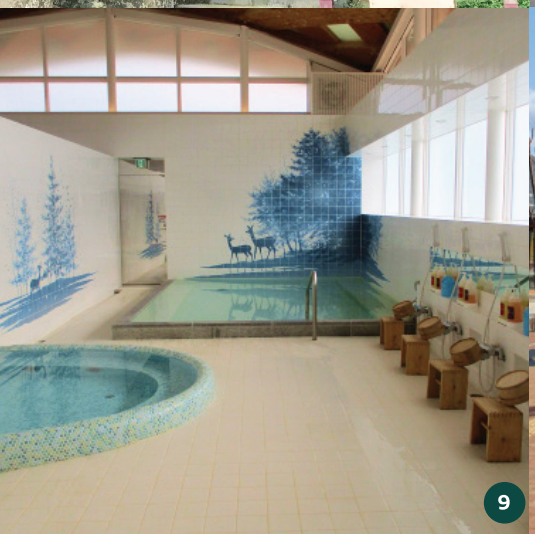





7. TSURI-ISHI SHRINE

Tsuri-ishi Shrine is said to bring luck to students taking exams and entrepreneurs looking for an upturn in business. The name Tsuri-ishi comes from *tsuri* (good catch) and *ishi* (stone) due to the enormous boulder that sits on a ledge and has never fallen even during the area's largest earthquakes. Not far from Kitakami River the shrine is a perfect spot for self-reflection and relaxation.

Shobuta-305 Kitakamicho Jusanhama, Ishinomaki

8. ISHINOMORI MANGA MUSEUM

This museum is dedicated to the life and works of much-loved manga artist Shotaro Ishinomori who was born in this region. It hosts screenings of his work, original drawings in 3D and events throughout the year. It's a must for any manga *otaku*.

2-7 Nakaze, Ishinomaki

8.1 ISHINOMAKI MANGA ROAD

Manga Road is another tribute to the great works of local manga superstar Shotaro Ishinomori. The road leads from Ishinomaki Station to the manga museum and is full of installations of some of Ishinomori's most-loved creations such as the lauded Kamen Rider.

14-1 Kokucho, Ishinomaki

9. ONAGAWA ONSEN YUPOPPO

Part of the Onagawa Station complex, designed by renowned architect Shigeru Ban, this hot spring is decorated with beautiful murals depicting scenes from the nearby Kinkasan island area. It's a lovely way to start or complete a thoroughly relaxing experience in Onagawa.

2-3-2 Onagawa, Onagawa

9.1 SEAPAL-PIER SHOPPING STREET

The street acts as a fascinating thoroughfare between Onagawa Station and the seafront. Some of the retail opportunities include local restaurants, handicrafts, craft beer, coffee and local souvenirs. Visitors can easily feel the tight bond that connects the townspeople here.

2-60 Onagawa, Onagawa

10. MIYAGI SANT JUAN BAUTISTA MUSEUM

Not long before the introduction of *sakoku* (closed country) Japan was open for trade with the west. In the early 1600s one the country's first Japanese-built Western-style sailing ships, Sant Juan Bautista, crossed the oceans on various missions. The ship was crafted by Date Masamune in Ishinomaki and this museum hosts a replica and documents and artefacts from the period. An essential for history buffs.

Omori-30-2 Watanoha, Ishinomaki



Spots to See

- Tashirojima (Cat Island)
- Kinkasan (Island)
- Hiyoriyama Park
- Oku-Matsushima Trail Course
- Mt. Otakamori & Sagakei Gorge
- Ajishima (Island)
- Tsuri-ishi Shrine
- Ishinomori Manga Museum
- Ishinomaki Manga Road
- Onagawa Onsen Yupoppo
- Seapal-Pier Shopping Street
- Miyagi Sant Juan Bautista Museum

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