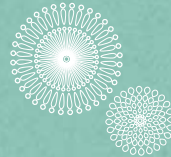
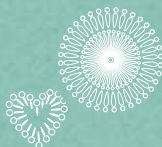




**Tourist Guide Book of
Sightseeing City
Tsuchiura**



**Historic Route, Lakeside Route
Countryside Route
Seasonal Delights, Seasonal flowers,
and Cycling Tour**



What You'll Find in Tsuchiura

Scenically located on the west shore of Lake Kasumigaura, Japan's second-broadest lake, and the southern face of Mt. Tsukuba, one of the most famous peaks in the Kanto region, Tsuchiura is the gateway to Suigo-Tsukuba Quasi-national Park.

As such it is blessed with both the panoramic beauty of Lake Kasumigaura and the abundant natural wonders of the slopes of Mt. Tsukuba.

Tsuchiura arose as a castle town in the early Edo period. Today, particularly in the vicinity of Tsuchiura Castle ruin, Tsuchiura maintains much of the atmosphere of a feudal-era castle town.

The city was ideally located as both a land and sea transportation hub. It lay on the old Mito Highway linking Edo (modern Tokyo) with the city of Mito and was located at the junction for the water-borne traffic on Lake Kasumigaura.

Today Tsuchiura is redolent with the history and culture of a city that prospered as a commercial center.



Tsuchiura City's Mascot
Tsuchimaru

CONTENTS

Access and Route Information	2
Events and Seasonal Delights	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherry Blossom Festival and <i>Yabusame</i> (horseback archery) Festival • Kasumigaura Marathon • Sightseeing <i>Hobikisen</i> • Tsuchiura All Japan Fireworks Competition 	
Historic Route	
A stroll along Historical Paths	6
An out of the way location Manabe District	9
Experiencing history through traditional festivals	10
Map	12
Lakeside Route	
Lake Kasumigaura has it all!	14
Viewing the Flowers that bloom on the water's edge	16
Map	18
Countryside Route	
Rural locations of historical interest	20
Idyllic rural scenery woven by nature, relax with rural mountain scenery	22
Experience the hospitality and culinary culture of this rural community	24
Map	26
Souvenirs of Tsuchiura The pride of our city!	28
Enjoy the refreshing breeze! Cycling Tour	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tsukuba Rin Rin Road • Kasumigaura Cycling Road 	
Recommended Facilities in Tsuchiura	32
INDEX	33

*Unless otherwise specified in the facility data, closing time is based on the time of entry of the last customer/visitor. Also, unless otherwise specified, facilities are closed for Golden Week, Bon holiday, the year-end/New Year holiday and special circumstances.

Legend							
Expressway	Bus station (Kirara-chan Bus)	City Office	Book store	Shrine	Gas station	Kygnus	Convenience store
National road	Bus station (Local Bus)	Local office	Condominium/Dormitory	Temple	Eneos	Mitsui Oil	7-Eleven
Major local road	Cycling Tour	Police station	Parking	Factory	Cosmo	Solato	Lawson
Prefectural road	Famous flower-viewing locations	Fire department	Hospital	Cemetery	Shell	Fast food	Family Mart
Open road		Post office	Supermarket	Bathroom	McDonald's		Sunkus
Walking path		Bank	School	Traffic light	Mobli	Mister Donut	Ministop
		Hotel/Japanese-Style Inn	Kindergarten	Omachi Intersection name	Esso	Mos Burger	Other facility
		Restaurant	Preschool		General		

☎ Telephone ● Map index 🏠 Address 🕒 Business hours 🛏 Holiday 💰 Fee 🚗 Access 🅇 Parking



この地図の作成に当たっては、国土地理院長の承認を得て、同院発行の1万分の1 2万5千分の1 5万分の1地形図を使用した。(承認番号 平22業使、第24-D033998号 平22業使、第25-D033998号 平22業使、第26-D033998号)

Access and Route Information



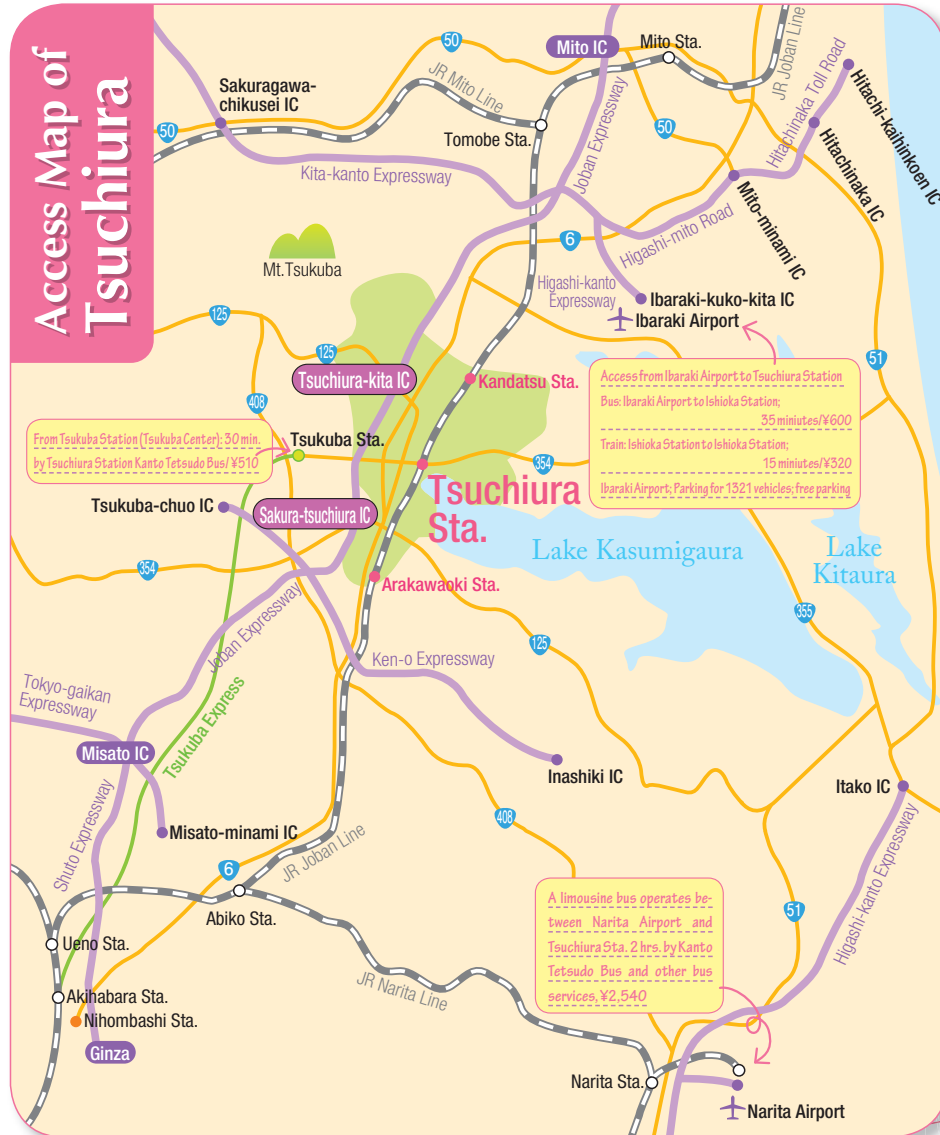
If you're coming by train, the main route to Tsuchiura is the JR Joban line.

This line serves Tsuchiura with three train stations: Tsuchiura Station, Arakawaoki Station, and Kandatsu Station.

For rapid train access, all Fresh Hitachi express trains and some Super Hitachi express trains stop at Tsuchiura Station.

To reach Tsuchiura by car, take the Joban Expressway.

The closest interchanges are Sakura-tsuchiura IC and Tsuchiura-kita IC.



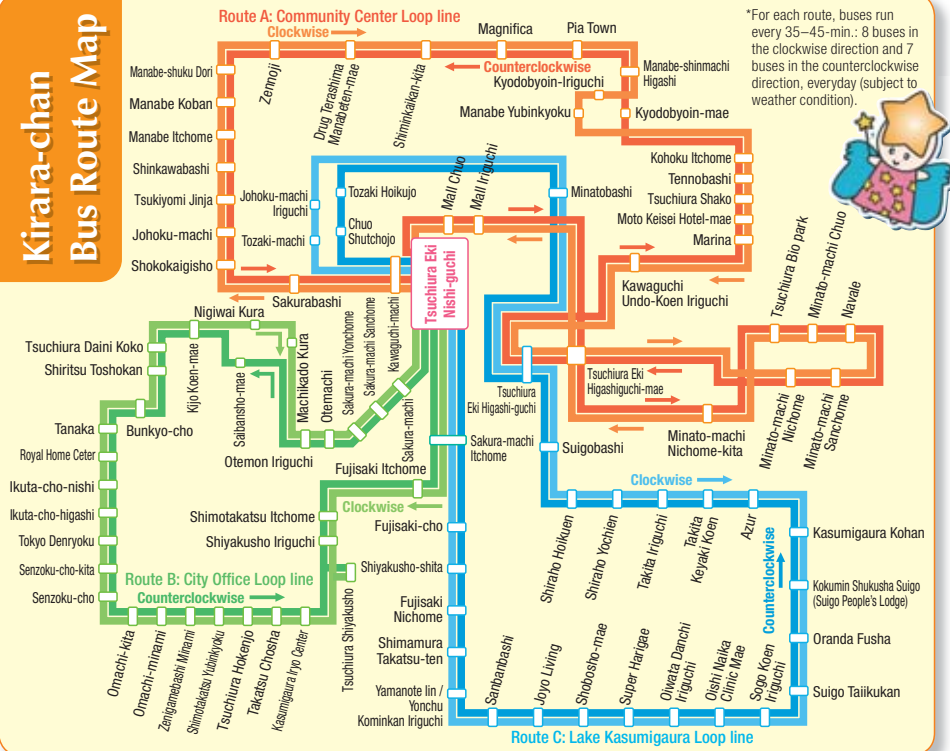
Coming by Train

From Station	Line / Service	Time / Fare	To Station
Ueno Sta.	Limited Express (Tokkyu) Super Hitachi, Fresh Hitachi	45 min./¥2,520 (Reserved seat on local trains, regular season)	Tsuchiura Sta.
	JR Joban line, local train	1 hr. 15 min./¥1,110	
	Kanto Tetsudo Bus	30 min./¥510	
Mito Sta.	Limited Express (Tokkyu) Super Hitachi, Fresh Hitachi	30 min./¥2,360 (Reserved seat on local trains, regular season)	Tsuchiura Sta.
	JR Joban line, local train	45 min./¥950	
	Shuto Expressway	24km/25 min./¥700	

Coming by Car

From Interchange	Expressway	Time / Fare	To Interchange
Ginza	Shuto Expressway	24km/25 min./¥700	Tsuchiura-kita IC
	Joban Expressway	39km/25 min./¥1,300	
Mito IC	Joban Expressway	43km/25 min./¥1,300	Sakura-tsuchiura IC
Ginza	Shuto Expressway	24km/25 min./¥700	Tsuchiura-kita IC
	Joban Expressway	47km/30 min./¥1,500	
Mito IC	Joban Expressway	35km/20 min./¥1,050	Sakura-tsuchiura IC

*Times are estimates.



Kirara-chan, the Urban Renewal bus

Machizukuri Kasseika Tsuchiura, a Non-Profit Organization ☎029-826-1771
 ¥100 per person per ride, primary-school students ¥50
 (fee for each round trip from the west entrance of Tsuchiura Station (Tsuchiura Eki Nishi-guchi) and back again)
 •Day pass ¥300, primary-school students ¥150
 (Sold on the bus. Convenient option for transferring passengers)

For directions, please contact:

Bus	JR Bus Kanto Tsuchiura Branch	☎029-821-5234
	Kanto Railway	☎029-822-3724
	Kantetsu Kanko Bus	☎029-822-3727
Car rental	Toyota Rent Lease Ibaraki	☎029-822-0100
	Toyo Rentacar	☎029-828-6661
Rail	JR Tsuchiura Station	☎029-821-0424
Boat cruises	Lacus Marina	☎029-822-2437
	Joyo Kanko	☎029-823-9708

✿ A Journey of Discovery in Seasonal Festivities ✿

Events

Nationally famous **fireworks displays**, unique **summer events** and **flower competitions** in **each season** vie for the visitor's attention. And don't forget to try the city's distinctive **curry**.

and Seasonal Delights

Late March to early April

Cherry blossom Festival and Yabusame (horseback archery) Festival

●土浦桜まつり・流鏝馬まつり

During the brief flowering of the cherry trees each spring, a wide range of events are held in locations such as Kijo Park, the Sakuragawa and Shinkawa Rivers, Manabe Elementary School, Ottonuma Park and Ryugamine. The *Yabusame* (horseback archery) Festival is one of the three big *yabusame* of the Sanno school in Japan. The festival is intended to rid the area of monkeys and to bring a good harvest and peace.



⬇️ A variety of cultural events



⬇️ Thrilling displays of *Yabusame* (horseback archery) Festival



⬇️ Viewing the cherry blossoms from the deck of a riverboat



Cherry blossom viewing bus
A convenient bus tour of the best cherry blossom viewing sites



⬇️ Many marathoners run the course around Lake Kasumigaura.

Mid-April ●MAP13 F-3

Kasumigaura Marathon and International Blind Marathon

●かすみがうらマラソン兼国際盲人マラソンかすみがうら大会
The largest citizens' marathon in Japan takes place on the shores of Lake Kasumigaura. The beautiful lake view all along the route makes this race an enduring favorite with runners.



Flower Calendar

View the lovely flowers that bloom in each season!

Cherry blossoms

Late March to early April



Kijo Park, Ottonuma Park, the Sakuragawa and Shinkawa Rivers, Manabe Elementary School, and Ryugamine

Tulips

Mid-to-late April



Kasumigaura Comprehensive Park

Lotus flowers

Late July to mid-August



Kidamari, Teno, Tamura, and Okijuku districts, Shishitsukaoike Pond

Buckwheat

Late September to early October



Sakata and Fujisawa districts

Chrysanthemums

Early November



Kijo Park (Tsuchiura Chrysanthemum Festival)



⬇️ The *hobikisen*, a beautifully shaped boat sailed on Lake Kasumigaura

Late July to mid-October ●MAP19 C-3

Sightseeing *Hobikisen*

●観光帆船船運航

One of the pleasures of summertime in Lake Kasumigaura. The boats set sail every Saturday, Sunday and public holiday in the afternoon, from late July to mid-October. A tour boat cruise is especially recommended.



⬇️ Traditional net-fishing by sailboat

Early October ●MAP12 A-3

Tsuchiura All Japan Fireworks Competition

●土浦全国花火競技大会

This competitive event has been lighting up the summer night sky in Tsuchiura since 1925. One of Japan's "three great fireworks festivals," this event attracts fireworks artists from throughout Japan, as the name suggests.



⬇️ Starmine

⬇️ 12-inch shell



⬇️ A truly dazzling fireworks festival

⬇️ Original display

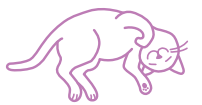
Event Calendar

Mid-February to early March	Hina Doll Festival (Hina-Matsuri) 土浦の雛まつり	View exhibits of hina-ningyo, wooden dolls depicting little girls, and the <i>Karen hina-ningyo</i> dolls, exquisitely crafted from bouquets of lotus flowers, among others.
Late July	Tsuchiura Gion Festival 土浦祇園まつり	Colorful floats, mythical guard dogs called <i>shishi</i> and portable shrines (<i>o-mikoshi</i>) parade through the streets of Tsuchiura, resounding to the tune of a traditional marching band.
First Saturday and Sunday of August	Tsuchiura Kirara Festival 土浦キラキラまつり	Centered on Ekimae-dori Street, this festival includes a wide range of events, including a Tanabata dance and float procession.
August 15	Karakasa-Mando からかせ万灯	To pray for an abundant harvest and a peaceful and prosperous household, every summer fireworks in the shape of a paper umbrella light up the skies. (Designated an intangible cultural property of Ibaraki Prefecture)
Late September	Tsuchiura Takigino (Takigi Noh Play) 土浦薪能 (たきぎのつ)	This fairy-tale-like Noh drama is performed by firelight at night in the ruins of Tsuchiura Castle (Kijo Park).
Late October	Tsuchiura Industrial Festival 土浦市産業祭	This festival offers an introduction to the commerce, industry, agriculture, and tourist attractions of Tsuchiura. The festival is packed with exhibits and wholesale bid sales.
November	Japan's #1 Renkon (Lotus Root) Cooking Fair 日本一のれんこん料理フェア	This gourmet event uses lotus root from the #1 producer in Japan. Held for a month at hotels and restaurants in Tsuchiura city
Late November	Tsuchiura Curry Festival 土浦カレーフェスティバル	Special curries are developed just for this festival, using local delicacies such as lotus root (for which the Tsuchiura region is Japan's largest producer). Enjoy the many flavors of one of Japan's curry capitals.



A breathtaking experience in narrow paths that conjure up feelings of the Edo Period.

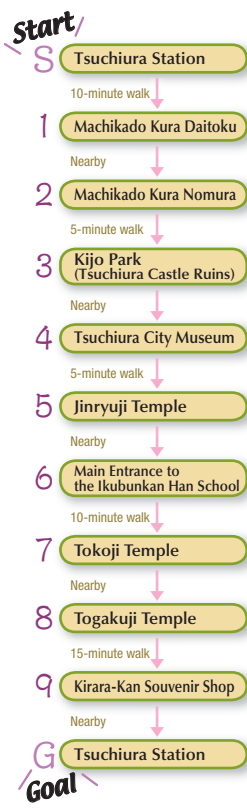
A Stroll along Historical Paths



Experience the ruins of Tsuchiura Castle, the town's old storehouses, and other historical sites located along nostalgic stone pathways. During your walk, take a look at the seasonal flowers and taste the local delicacy, Tsuchiura Zeppelin Curry, along with many other fun discoveries.

An excursion with rental bicycle is also recommended on a fine sunny day.

Historic Route / A stroll along historical paths



1 Tsuchiura Machikado Kura Daitoku
●土浦まちかど蔵「大徳」

1 Drop by to pick up some information 2 The Daitoku storehouses, which were originally a merchant's house and a drapery store, are now used to distribute information on local sightseeing and culture.



2 Tsuchiura Machikado Kura Nomura
●土浦まちかど蔵「野村」

3 Enjoy popular local curry at the Kura coffee shop 4 The Nomura storehouses contain archive exhibitions on folklore and naval aviation cadet training.



3 Kijo Park (Tsuchiura Castle Ruins)
●亀城公園(土浦城址)

5 Approximately 70 cherry blossom trees brighten the ruins of the castle in the spring

6 The Turret Gate is the first registered historical ruin of Ibaraki Prefecture.

The castle resembles a turtle floating on the surface of the moat

3 Kijo Park (Tsuchiura Castle Ruins)

A park containing the Hon-maru (castle keep) and Nino-maru (surrounding castle walls). The East and West Turrets have been restored. The gate to the turrets remains intact and is the only turret gate in the Hon-maru (castle keep) to remain standing in the Kanto region.

☎029-826-1111 (Tsuchiura Commerce and Tourism Department) ●MAP13 D-2 ㉒1-13 Chuo, Tsuchiura ㊚ Entrance free of charge



4 Tsuchiura City Museum ●土浦市立博物館

㊚ The museum stores 83 artifacts such as short swords originally belonging to the Tsuchiya Clan and designated as national treasures.

Acquiring a knowledge of Tsuchiura's history and culture

4 Tsuchiura City Museum

The museum details information on the history and characteristics of the Tsuchiura castle town. This includes information on the Tsuchiya Family's culture based on a main theme of "Daily Life of People Raised near Lake Kasumigaura".

☎029-824-2928 ●MAP12 C-2 ㉒1-15-18 Chuo, Tsuchiura ㊚ 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM ㊛ Mondays and national holidays (also closed the following day if a national holiday falls on a Monday) ㊜ Adults ¥105, elementary/junior high/high school students ¥50. Entrance fee also includes admittance to the east turret of Tsuchiura Castle.



5 Jinryuji Temple ●神龍寺

㊚ The Jinryuji Temple which started the All Japan Fireworks Competition.

Let's visit late Edo storehouses

1 Tsuchiura Machikado Kura Daitoku (old storehouses)

These four storehouses, the Mise Kura, the Sode Kura, the Moto Kura, and the Mukai Kura were built at the end of the Edo Period (mid 19th century) and renovated into facilities providing information on sightseeing. Rental bicycles are also available.

☎029-824-2810 (Tsuchiura Tourist Association) ●MAP13 D-2 ㉒1-3-16 Chuo, Tsuchiura ㊚ 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM ㊛ Dec. 29 to Jan. 3 ㊜ Entrance free of charge

Get your sightseeing information and taste our exclusive curry

2 Tsuchiura Machikado Kura Nomura (old storehouses)

The main storehouse of the Nomura merchant family, which has history dating back to the Edo Period (1603- 1868), the Sode, the Bunko, and the Renga storehouses have been renovated. They now provide exhibitions and lectures on local folklore, as well as offer sightseeing information, etc. Tsuchiura's local curry is also available in the Kura coffee shop.

☎029-824-2810 (Tsuchiura Tourist Association) ●MAP13 D-2 ㉒1-12-5 Chuo, Tsuchiura ㊚ 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM (coffee shop opens at 10:00 AM) ㊛ Dec. 29 to Jan. 3 ㊜ Entrance free of charge, Tsuchiura Zeppelin Curry (served with a drink) ¥850

Birthplace of Tsuchiura Fireworks

5 Jinryuji Temple

Built in 1532, The Jinryuji Temple became the family temple of the Tsuchiya Clan, who were the domain lords of Tsuchiura during the Edo Period. The temple provided them with sanctuary. The Tsuchiura National Firework Competition was first held here by Akimoto Baiho, a resident priest, to commemorate the memory of those who died in the Kasumigaura Navy Air Service.

☎029-821-0231 ●MAP12 C-2 ㉒1-27 Bunkyo-cho, Tsuchiura ㊚ Entrance free of charge



To the next page



During your walk

Map of Must-see Spots

Historical paths

Castle town vistas that still remain today

歴史の小径

Historical paths

Walking courses surrounding the ruins of Tsuchiura Castle and the Machikado Kura old storehouses that pass various types of historical buildings. Japanese-style street lamps are located along the carved granite paving stones of Nakajo-dori Street where all electric cables are buried underground. This evokes sentimental scenes of the old town.

☎029-826-1111 (Tsuchiura City Town Planning Department) ●MAP13 D-2



➡The area around Nakajo-dori Street, which prospered as a post town along the old Mito Kaido route.



Historical paths

歴史の小径

- 1 Scenery that remains unchanged from the castle town days and the Maekawaguchi Gate
- 2 Enjoy a walk along the paths

An important building constructed in the rectangular long-house style

●都文館正門

6 Main Entrance to the Ikubunkan Han School

The gate to Ikubunkan Han School, which was built in 1839. The word 'Ikubun' is taken from the writings of Confucius, referring to the joy of academics and education.

☎029-826-1111 (Tsuchiura City Board of Education and Culture Department) ●MAP12 C-2
〒3-8 Bunkyo-cho, Tsuchiura
🚪Entrance free of charge

The carvings in the Ruriko-Den building

●東光寺

7 Tokoji Temple

Established in 1607. It is said that the Ruriko-Den building within the temple precinct is beneficial for people suffering from eye trouble. The openwork design of the twelve Oriental Zodiac animals are a must see. The Karajishi and Amanojaku carvings are also worth seeing.

☎029-821-5077 ●MAP12 C-3
〒3-14 Otemachi, Tsuchiura
🚪Entrance free of charge

The Copper Bell, one of the three ancient bells from Hitachi Province

●尊覚寺

8 Togakuji Temple

The copper bell has been designated as a national important cultural property, and it was donated to the Gokurakuji Temple by Hatta Tomoie during Ken'ei (1206 - 1207). It was later moved to Tsuchiura Castle and finally returned in 1884. The rich sound of the bell can be heard on New Year's eve.

☎029-824-2810 (Tsuchiura Tourist Association) ●MAP12 C-3
〒4-16 Otemachi, Tsuchiura
🚪Entrance free of charge

Kofuku Inari Shrine 幸福稲荷

The Kofuku Inari Shrine was based on the Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto when the Gion district (Tsuchiura's first contemporary shopping area) was established in 1935.

●MAP13 D-3



The Yaguchi Family Residence

矢口家住宅

A two-story family house boasting a tiled roof that tells a story about Tsuchiura's history. It was built after the Great Fire of 1841 using Machiya-style architecture along with the Sode Kura storehouse. One of its main features is the fire-resistant Nurigome plaster finish.



Ryotei Kagetsuro 料亭 霞月楼

An old Japanese restaurant established in 1889 and an important part of Tsuchiura's history, which has been visited by many famous people, including Isoroku Yamamoto, Charles Lindbergh and his wife, and former prime minister Shigeru Yoshida. It contains many must-see items, such as documentation on the Graf Zeppelin and many important documents from World War II.



●MAP13 D-3



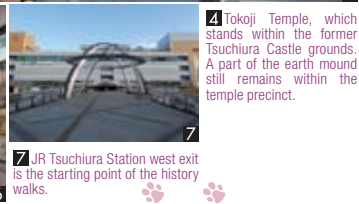
3 The gate to Ikubunkan Han School, the only remaining structure related to the Tsuchiura Han School.



5 The copper bell of Togakuji Temple.



6 The Kirara-Kan conveniently has direct access from Tsuchiura Station.



4 Tokoji Temple, which stands within the former Tsuchiura Castle grounds. A part of the earth mound still remains within the temple precinct.

7 JR Tsuchiura Station west exit is the starting point of the history walks.

An out of the way location

Manabe District 真鍋地区

The Manabe district contains the Manabe cherry blossoms, which exceed 100 years in age and are designated as Ibaraki Prefecture natural treasures, as well as other structures designated as national important cultural properties. The Kirara-chan Bus is a convenient transportation method.

●旧制土浦中学校本館

Main Building of the Old Tsuchiura Junior High School

A modern, timber-built Western building.

This is located within the present-day Tsuchiura First High School, built in 1904. This gothic building with its refined design and decorations exudes a sense of beauty and has been designated as a national important cultural property. Open to the public on the second weekend of each month.

☎029-822-0137 (Tsuchiura First High School)
●MAP12 A-1 所4-4-2 Manabe, Tsuchiura
🚪Entrance free of charge



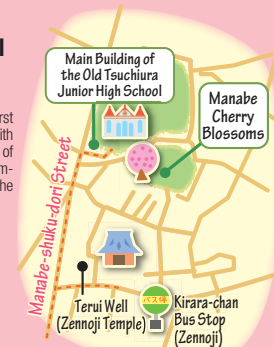
●真鍋宿通り

Manabe-shuku-dori Street

The old town panorama can still be seen today.

This old street with its rich atmosphere of a post town for travelers is faithfully preserved today.

●MAP12 A-2



●照井の井戸 (善応寺)

Terui Well (Zenkoji Temple)

A well that has not dried up in over 300 years

The water from this well was channeled to Tsuchiura Castle by the head of the Tsuchiura Clan during the Edo Period. There is also the legend that the water originally gushed from the ground where the Buddhist monk Kobo-Daishi started a monk staff.

●MAP12 A-2



I help people get in touch with history while walking around the town.

Volunteer Guide

ボランティアガイド



Toshio Sato

Tsuchiura City Association of Volunteer Sightseeing Guides

The scenes of prosperity of the old castle town are still apparent today in the area around Kijo Park. Why not take a walk around the town together with a volunteer guide to make sure you do not miss any historical ruins, famous places, or other sightseeing locations? Volunteer guides are available at the Machikado Kura Nomura storehouses on Saturdays and Sundays.

☎029-824-2810 (Tsuchiura City Tourist Association)

A place for Tsuchiura souvenirs

●観光物産館 きらら館

9 Kirara-Kan Souvenir Shop

The House of Tourism and Commerce is situated by the east exit of Tsuchiura station, and it features a full range of Tsuchiura specialties. Extremely convenient for purchasing local delicacies, such as lotus roots and wakasagi fish.

☎029-824-6110 ●MAP13 E-4
〒2-35 Ariake-cho, Tsuchiura
🕒9:00 AM to 6:00 PM ※December 29 to Jan 3 🍷Lotus root sablé cookies ¥685 (8 pieces)



The Warm Human Spirit of Tsuchiura's Traditional Events

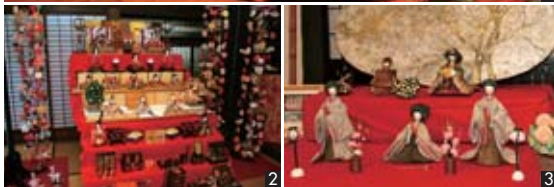
Experiencing history through traditional festivals

Tsuchiura's social calendar is filled with festivals in traditional styles.

The Doll Festival (*hina-matsuri*) and other festivals impart a sense of the ancient customs of Tsuchiura.

In addition, many shops in Tsuchiura offer a taste of the traditional foods of the region.

Come and immerse yourself in the traditions of this fascinating land.



1, 2 Hina-ningyo, handed down from ancient tradition; adorable tsurushi-ningyo add some glamour to this antique home. 3 Karen-bina doll made from lotus leaves

A Taste of Tsuchiura's History

Just steps from Tsuchiura Station are shops selling a wide range of foods in a traditional ambience. Stroll around and enjoy the sights, aromas, and flavors of this historic district.



Tsuchiura City Association of Volunteer Sightseeing Guides President

Customs dating from the 19th and 20th centuries are alive here today.

Tempura Hotate



Founded in: 1869
This long-serving restaurant retains many traces of the Meiji period (1868–1912).
Location: Chuo 1-chome, Tsuchiura ●MAP13 D-2 ☎029-821-0151

Soba Azumaan Sohonten



Founded in: 1905
Delicious soba noodles drift in the atmosphere of the Meiji period.
Location: Chuo 1-chome, Tsuchiura ●MAP13 D-3 ☎029-821-0161

Tsukudani, eel Komatsuya



Founded in: 1916
Kasumigaura's best-known delicacies: lake fish preserved in soy (*tsukudani*), and eel.
Location: Yamato-cho, Tsuchiura ●MAP13 E-3 ☎029-821-0373

Tsukudani Minowa Meisanten



Founded in: 1920
One of Kasumigaura's most renowned stores for tsukudani.
Location: Yamato-cho, Tsuchiura ●MAP13 E-3 ☎029-821-0329

Baked goods Kobayashi Bakery



Founded in: Late Meiji era
Tsuchiura's oldest bakery.
Location: Otemachi, Tsuchiura ●MAP12 C-3 ☎029-821-0149

Baked goods (made with lotus root) Chikatsudo Honten



Founded in: 1920
A Tsuchiura favorite: lotus-root curry doughnuts.
Location: Yamato-cho, Tsuchiura ●MAP13 E-3 ☎029-821-0896

Karinto (95,000-koku*) Maejima Seika



Founded in: 1903
Fried-dough cakes and black candy goods.
Location: Manabe 3-chome, Tsuchiura ●MAP12 A-2 ☎029-821-0702

Japanese baked goods Tanaka Seigetsudo



Founded in: 1927
A veteran of Japanese baked goods.
Location: Sakura-machi 4-chome, Tsuchiura ●MAP13 D-3 ☎029-821-1087

刻の大鼓 June 10

Toki-no-Taiko ("Time Drum")

Tsuchiura Castle Ruin (Kijo Park)

Toki-no-Taiko ("Time Drum") is a drum installed in 1656 by Kutsuki, the feudal lord before Tsuchiya, when an opportunity arose due to repairs to the turret gate. The drum was used to indicate the time of day to the people of the castle town below. The installation of the drum is commemorated every year on June 10, "Time Day."

☎029-824-2810 (Tsuchiura Tourism Association) ●MAP13 D-2



☞ This drum from the mid-Edo Period was used to inform time. It is a Designated Municipal Cultural Treasure.

土浦薪能 Late September

Tsuchiura Takigino (Takigi Noh Play)

Tsuchiura Castle Ruin (Kijo Park)

Takigino, the performance of Noh drama by firelight at night, is offered every year on the anniversary of the 1998 restoration of the castle's east tower. The reflections of the performers' masks in the bonfire light on a pitch-black stage make the performance a truly magical event.

☎029-862-1941 (Tsuchiura Takigino Club Secretariat) ●MAP13 D-2



☞ Bonfire flickering on the stage

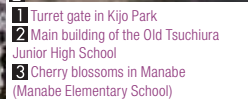
土浦桜まつり Late March to early April

Cherry blossom Festival

Cherry blossoms in Tsuchiura Castle Ruin (Kijo Park) and Manabe

At this time of year the cherry trees bloom a brilliant pink at Tsuchiura Castle ruin and a old Tsuchiura Junior High School. With some trees over 100 years old, the cherry trees at Manabe are Designated Prefectural Natural Monuments.

☎029-824-2810 (Tsuchiura Tourism Association) ●MAP12 B-1 · 13 D-2



1 Turret gate in Kijo Park
2 Main building of the Old Tsuchiura Junior High School
3 Cherry blossoms in Manabe (Manabe Elementary School)

土浦キララまつり First Saturday and Sunday in August

Tsuchiura Kirara Festival

Ekimae-dori Street, Tsuchiura Port

The Tsuchiura Kirara Festival is an event unique to summer in Tsuchiura. Watch the Tanabata ("Star Festival") dance and cruise the bay in a sightseeing boat.

☎029-824-2810 (Tsuchiura Tourism Association) ●MAP13 D-3



☞ Kirara-chan, the festival mascot

A glimpse of History

There is the saying "the Toki-no-Taiko and the Seki-no-teppo are renowned in Tsuchiura". Seki-no-teppo refers to the Sekiryu school of firearm use of the Tsuchiura clan that established the harquebus technique.

Toki-no-Taiko ("Time Drum") was installed in the Edo period at the turret gate of Tsuchiura Castle and had been used to indicate the time of day to the castle town. While the teaching of the Sekiryu school today forms an unbroken tradition, examples of a turret gate with a drum are rare. The two articles that represent the Tsuchiura clan in the Edo period further adds charm to the castle town.

1 Cannon "Kokushin" (1843), Cannon "Bassan gun" (Early Edo period) (below)
2 Drum



Manabe Area
1 : 10,000

Historic Route Map



- Bus station (Kirara-chan Bus)
- Bus station (Local Bus)
- Cycling road
- Cherry blossom



Drifting on a tranquil lake, caressed by the wind, surrounded by majestic scenery...

Lake Kasumigaura has it all!

Boating and water sports are available.



A pleasure craft sets out on the lake.

Lake Kasumigaura is Japan's second-largest lake in terms of area. The lakeside scenery lends this sightseeing area a special charm. Whether you cruise the lake on any of a variety of pleasure craft, charter a fishing boat, or go waterskiing, Lake Kasumigaura has leisure options that are right for you.



The placid surface of Lake Kasumigaura reflects the moon.
A sunrise colors Lake Kasumigaura.

From behind Lake Kasumigaura, the setting sun dyes the city crimson.



Cherry blossoms Herald the Spring

●桜川
The Sakuragawa River ●MAP12 C-4

Along the river basin formed by the Tone River, the river flows through southwest Ibaraki Prefecture, passing through Tsuchiura and next to JR Tsuchiura Station before emptying into Lake Kasumigaura. In the spring, the cherry and rapeseed blossoms bloom.

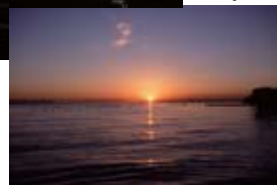
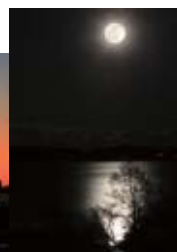


Fishing
There are many excellent fishing spots within Tsuchiura City. Sites on Lake Kasumigaura and the Sakuragawa, Shinkawa, and Bizen rivers attract fishers from every corner of Japan.

A Lake That Seems to Extend Forever

●霞ヶ浦
●MAP19 C-3
Lake Kasumigaura

With an area of 220 square kilometers and a length that stretches from south-eastern Ibaraki Prefecture to northeastern Chiba Prefecture, Lake Kasumigaura is Japan's second-largest lake. Pleasure craft can be seen on its gentle waters from summer to autumn.



Migratory birds arrive with the winter.

Get in touch with nature for a holiday you'll never forget!

●霞ヶ浦総合公園

Kasumigaura Comprehensive Park

Kasumigaura Comprehensive Park is a spacious all-purpose leisure facility on the shores of Lake Kasumigaura. Amenities include a pool, a gymnasium, a restaurant, a hotel run by the government, the Nature Center, and a tennis court.

☎029-826-4829 (Nature Center) ●MAP19 B-3 1051 Olwata, Tsuchiura ☎9:00 AM to 4:30 PM (Pool: to 5:00 PM; Tennis courts: to 9:00 PM; Gymnasium: 8:30 AM to 9:00 PM) ☎Every Mon. (the following day if Mon. is a public holiday. Pool is open every day from July 19 to August 31.) ☎Park admission is free. Pool: Adults ¥800, high school students ¥400, elementary and junior high school students ¥200, preschool children free. Tennis courts (2 hours on weekdays): ¥1,640 Sat., Sun., holidays: ¥2,040 ☎15 min. from JR Tsuchiura Station by Kanto Tetsudo Bus bound for Ami, get off at Kasumigaura Sogo Koen (Kasumigaura Comprehensive Park). ☎Parking is available for 850 vehicles.



Want to study Lake Kasumigaura in greater depth? Come to:

●茨城県霞ヶ浦環境科学センター

Ibaraki Kasumigaura Environmental Science Center

This center is packed with fun and engaging exhibits on the history of Lake Kasumigaura, water environments, and the Earth's environment, as well as offers fascinating nature-observation tours and seminars year-round. Training rooms, discussion rooms, and conference rooms are also available.

☎029-828-0960 ●MAP19 D-3 1853 Okijuku-machi, Tsuchiura ☎Exhibits: Daily 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM Discussion rooms: Wed. to Sat. 9:30 am to 8:00 pm, Tues. and Sun. 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, ☎Mon. (following day if Mon. is a holiday) ☎Admission is free (fees apply for use of the multipurpose halls and training rooms). ☎20 min. from JR Tsuchiura Station by Kanto Tetsudo Bus on the Otsuya loop line, get off at Takano Iriguchi (Takano entrance) and walk 10 minutes. ☎Parking is available for 120 vehicles.



Kasumigaura Nature Cruise

●観光遊覧船(ホワイトアイリス号・ジェットホールつくば号)

Sightseeing boat

●White Iris
●Jetfoil Tsukuba

Experience the natural beauty of Lake Kasumigaura, Japan's second-largest lake, in an enjoyable 30-40-minute cruise. The boats operate as observation boats on Sat., Sun., and holidays from late July to mid-October.

☎029-822-2437 (Lux Marina) ☎029-823-9708 (Joyo Travel) ●MAP18 A-2 1 Tsuchiura Port (Kawaguchi 2-chome) ☎9:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Departs approx. once an hour, subject to change by season) ☎Adults ¥1,500, children ¥750 ☎10 min. walk from JR Tsuchiura Station. ☎Parking is available for 100 vehicles.



Studying History and Contemplating Peace

●予科練平和記念館

Yokaren Peace Memorial Museum

This museum stands on the former base of the Kasumigaura Naval Air Group, which by the 1920s had become East Asia's largest air base. In 1939 the Tsuchiura Navy Air Service, a dedicated naval aviation cadet training (yokaren in Japanese) facility, was established here. The Yokaren Peace Memorial Museum inherited the Navy Air Service's historical records, and today uses them to reflect deeply on the meaning of peace.

☎029-891-3344 ●MAP19 B-4 51 Hasamado, Ami-machi ☎9:00 AM to 4:30 PM ☎Mon. (the following day if Mon. is a holiday) ☎Adults ¥500 Elementary, junior high, and high school students ¥300 ☎15 min. by bus for Ami Chuo Kominkan from JR Tsuchiura Station, get off at Amizaka-shita and walk 3 min. ☎Parking is available for 56 vehicles.



Viewing the Flowers

that bloom on the water's edge



Lovely flowers surround Dutch-style windmills

As you would expect in a city whose official flower is the cherry, Tsuchiura has many popular spots for viewing cherry blossoms. There are also fields of lotus blossoms which are a scene unique to Tsuchiura, Japan's #1 producer of lotuses.



This public hotel offers a beautiful panoramic view of Lake Kasumigaura.

Recommendation from Koichi Okawa

General manager, Suigo People's Lodge

Cuisine center of Tsuchiura

At Suigo, guests can admire a sweeping view of Lake Kasumigaura while dining on the local delicacies. All rooms offer a lake view. Always mesmerizing, the lake shimmers in the morning sun at dawn and in the moonlight at night.

Your home for great food in Tsuchiura Suigo People's Lodge

●国民宿舎「水郷」

With a location on the shores of Lake Kasumigaura in Kasumigaura Comprehensive Park, Suigo offers dishes made with local ingredients such as lotus root and freshwater fish.

- ☎029-823-1631 ●MAP19 B-3 ☎255 Oiwata.
- Tsuchiura ☎Check-in: 3:00 PM Check-out: 10:00 AM
- ☎Accommodations per person with two meals: ¥6,825
- ☎Zappelin curry: ¥730
- ☎From JR Tsuchiura Station, take the Kirara-chan bus and get off at Kokumin Shukusha Suigo.
- ☎Parking is available for 50 vehicles.



Mid-to-late April

●霞ヶ浦総合公園のチューリップ

Tulips in Kasumigaura Comprehensive Park

●MAP19 B-3

Each spring this spacious park fills with 30,000 tulip blooms. The display of colors makes a wonderful spectacle.

Lotus root makes the perfect gift from Kasumigaura

●JA Tsuchiura "Sanfure Hasunosato"

●JA土浦～さんふれ はずの里～

In addition to plum lotus root, onions and cucumbers are also picked fresh every morning. Fresh eggplant and persimmon are available in season. Unique local products include noodles and cakes made with lotus root.

- ☎029-846-7933 ●MAP18 A-1 ☎3140 Kidamari, Tsuchiura
- ☎9:30 AM to 6:00 PM every day
- ☎Vegetables at market price, lotus-root noodles ¥231 per package
- ☎From JR Tsuchiura Station, take the Kanto Tetsudo bus and get off at Otsuya loop line Kidamari-chuo, then walk 5 minutes. ☎Parking is available for 24 vehicles.



Lake Side Area



View of Lake Kasumigaura and its fields of flowers from the windmill's observation deck



Sports and Recreation Park

Manabe District

●真鍋地区

Cherry trees of the Shinkawa River

●MAP12 C-1

When these approximately 200 Yoshino cherry trees (*Prunus yedoensis*) are in full bloom, the branches hang low over the water, forming an unforgettable tunnel of cherry blossoms. The reflection of the blossoms in the water is a magical sight.



Approximately 200 cherry trees line the river on both sides.



Mushikake District: Hasukawara District

●虫掛地区～蓮河原地区

Cherry trees of the Sakuragawa River

●MAP12 C-4

The road from the Kasumigaura river mouth to Mushikake is lined with approximately 500 cherry trees. A leisurely walk alongside the riverbed is highly recommended.



1 A walking path lined with gorgeous cherry trees 2 Cherry trees of Mushikake 3 Many people gather during the blooming season.



Visit in summer, when the lotuses are in bloom

Unique to Japan's #1 producer of lotuses

●ハス田

Lotus fields

●MAP19 B-2, D-3

Amid the green foliage of lotus leaves, blossoms of bright white and pink stand out in vivid contrast. Don't miss the large panorama provided courtesy of the Ibaraki Kasumigaura Environmental Science Center.



"Renkon-kun"

Calendar of Lakeside Events

There are many lively events such as a culinary fair featuring Tsuchiura's famous lotus root and a curry festival that attracts the whole city!

July Kasumigaura Swimming Citizens' Festival

●泳げる霞ヶ浦市民フェスティバル

Suigo People's Lodge

This event is held every Ocean Day, a national holiday, to raise awareness of the current condition of Lake Kasumigaura and efforts to improve its water quality while bringing local people closer together.

- ☎029-821-0552 (Kasumigaura Citizens' Association)
- MAP19 B-3



November Japan's #1 Renkon (Lotus Root) Cooking Fair

●日本一のれんこん料理フェア

Hotels and restaurants throughout the city

This gourmet event uses lotus root from the #1 producer in Japan. Held for a period of month, the festival was inaugurated to familiarize people with the delicious taste of lotus root, which had long been thought to offer beauty and health benefits.

- ☎029-830-4444 (JA Zen-Noh Ibaraki Kennan Vegetable Fruits Station)



November Tsuchiura Curry Festival

●土浦カレー フェスティバル

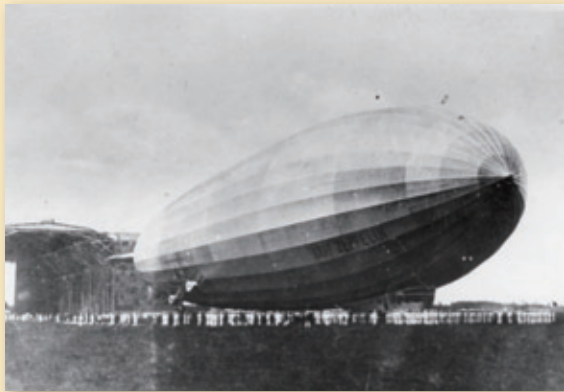
Kawaguchi Sports Park

To present Tsuchiura as a curry capital, the restaurants and hotels of this city compete to create original curries made using lotus root and other local ingredients. Sample and compare the various tastes.

- ☎029-826-1111 (City of Tsuchiura Department of Commerce and Tourism)
- MAP13 F-3



The Story of Tsuchiura Curry



The Tsuchiura Navy Air Service and the relation of Tsuchiura Curry to the Graf Zeppelin

In the 1920s, the Tsuchiura Navy Air Service was established for naval aviation cadet training. At the time the Japanese Navy's organization was modeled after the British Royal Navy, even including the British tradition of having curry every Friday. One function of this weekly curry night was to keep sailors from losing a sense of the days of the week during long spells at sea. It was also highly popular with the crewmen.

About 80 years ago, Kasumigaura received a remarkable visitor: the Graf Zeppelin landed here during its historic world-first round-the-world flight. The crew of the 236.6m airship was treated to curry made with the local potatoes, which were renowned for their flavor.

The city later explored ideas to raise Tsuchiura's domestic profile that culminated in the "Tsuchiura Curry Tales". Tsuchiura now has 26 locations in and around the city for enjoying the original curry .



Tasting Tsuchiura Zeppelin Curry at Kura, a restaurant in Tsuchiura Machikado Kura Nomura, an old storehouse in the center of Tsuchiura





Rural areas of natural beauty

Rural locations of historical interest

Blessed with a bountiful natural environment, the rural areas around Tsuchiura offer intriguing traces of human activity in the past. Many rural sites are home to cultural treasures, or recall events celebrated in legend. A journey through these many historical landmarks is a highly recommended experience.

See, touch and experience Japan's Neolithic past

Kamitakatsu Shell Midden History Plaza

● 上高津貝塚 ふるさと歴史の広場

The Kamitakatsu Shell Midden is the largest ancient mound of discarded shells on the shores of Lake Kasumigaura, built about 3000 to 4000 years ago. Declared a National Historical Relic in 1977, in 1997 it was opened to the public as Kamitakatsu Shell Midden History Plaza, a 5-hectare historical-artifact museum. This plaza includes an exhibit of a cross-section of the shell midden and a recreation of a pit dwelling of the era. In the archeological archive, visitors can view artifacts unearthed at excavation sites around Tsuchiura, such as kitchen middens and warrior burial mounds. The scenery blends with the neighboring Shishizuka wetlands, creating an ideal vantage point for reflecting on both history and nature.

☎029-826-7111 ●MAP27 E-2
〒1843 Kamitakatsu, Tsuchiura

🕒9:00 AM to 4:30 PM 🗓Mon. and holidays (open during special exhibitions and on Culture Day) 🎫Adults ¥105 Elementary, junior, and high school students ¥50 (Elementary, junior, and high school students are admitted free on Sat.)



Column
Introduction by Monta-kun
See the hair styles (Mizura) of ancient times!
The mizura hairstyle discovered in ancient warrior burial mounds allowed Japanese researchers to confirm for the first time how these ancient warriors wore their hair. This is the only place where these actual hairstyles can be seen by the public. Viewing these precious artifacts provides a vivid image of the daily lives of the people of Japan's Neolithic Jomon era (16,500–3,000 years ago).

📍Recreated pit dwelling at the Shell Midden Plaza

A gateway to history and myth on the south face of Mt. Tsukuba Kiyotakiji Temple

● 清滝寺

Japanese myth tells that this spot was visited by Izanagi-no-Mikoto, the father of the Sun and the Moon. It is said that when Izanagi raised his spear, a waterfall burst from this point. The story gives rise to this temple's name, meaning "temple of the pure waterfall." Also known as the poet Ono-no-Komachi's pilgrimage site and the 26th amulet-issuing temple of the Kanto region, shrine visitors have been coming ever since.

☎029-862-4576 ●MAP26 B-2 〒1151 Ono, Tsuchiura



📍Kiyotakiji Temple, founded in 706

A temple built by a disciple of Saicho by order of the Emperor Kanmu Tojoji Temple

● 東城寺

This temple was constructed in 796 by Saisen, a disciple of Saicho (a monk and founder of the Tendai school of Buddhism), by order of the Emperor Kanmu. Located on the southeast face of Mt. Tsukuba, Tojoji and its related temple buildings are designated as Prefectural Cultural Treasures. ☎029-862-3013

●MAP26 A-2 🗺650 Tojoji, Tsuchiura



📍Stairway leading to Tojoji Temple
📍Taking the path from the temple gate leads to the Tojoji temple precinct



Touch the legend of Komachi in a peaceful mountain village



A visit to a place of legend Komachi-no-Sato

● 小町の里

The legend of Ono-no-Komachi, a great poet and reputed peerless beauty of the Heian period (794–1185), lives on in this village, whose landmark is a 7m-wide waterwheel. Points of interest include Komachi-no-Yakata, the visitor center where materials about Komachi are exhibited, a farmer's market, and a soba shop. Don't leave without trying the Hitachi-aki-soba. Around this village you'll also find Komachi's gravesite and a stone on which she is said to have sat. Enjoy the atmosphere of history along with the tranquility of the countryside.

☎029-862-1002 (Komachi-no-Yakata)
●MAP26 B-2
〒491 Ono, Tsuchiura

📍The rural tranquility of Komachi-no-Sato
📍Visitor center "Komachi-no-Yakata"



Column

The legend of Komachi, a poet of the Heian period

The legend of Komachi lives on in Tsuchiura's Komachi district. Here you will find a spot reputed to be Komachi's gravesite. Locals and others still come here regularly to tend the grave and remember Komachi.

<p>🌸 Bursting with flowers in the spring</p>	<p>🌿 Brilliant green in summertime</p>	<p>🍎 Bearing fruit in the fall</p>	<p>☁ A stroll in the sky</p>
<p>🍜 An abundance of delicious food</p>	<p>🏠 Komachi-no-Yakata</p>	<p>🪨 Stone where Komachi once sat</p>	<p>🪦 Grave of Komachi*</p>

*The grave of Komachi is currently not open to the public.



An Unbeatable Location With a Sweeping View Under a Blue Sky

Idyllic rural scenery woven

The countryside blooms in a tapestry of beautiful flowers.

by nature, relax with

rural mountain scenery



The countryside around Tsuchiura is deeply imbued with the colors of each passing season. Viewing the cherry blossoms, lotus, and rapeseed blossoms while listening to the songs of wild birds is a highly recommended experience.

Asahi-toge Observation Park is a magnet for paragliders thanks to its magnificent panoramic views of Mt. Tsukuba, Lake Kasumigaura, and the entire broad sweep of the Kanto Plain.

Looking across the Kanto Plain from a scenic observation park

☞ Stroll among the gorgeous rhododendrons in bloom.

Asahi-toge Observation Park

●朝日峠展望公園

This park lies on the Purple Line, a scenic stretch of Ibaraki's Route 236 and selected as one of the 100 Scenic Views. From the observation deck, the broad expanse of the Kanto Plain and majestic Mt. Tsukuba can be taken in at a glance. A bento (box lunch) is the perfect companion for this visual treat.

☎029-862-1002 (Komachi-no-Yakata)
●MAP26 B-1 所 Ono, Tsuchiura
🎫 Admission free 40 min. by taxi from JR Tsuchiura Station

☞ Perfect for a picnic and stroll



Take to the skies!

For the adventurous, Asahi-toge Observation Park offers the chance to experience the panoramic view of the Kanto Plain on an entirely new level. Or take a more leisurely approach and watch the paragliders from the ground as they trace their gentle arcs in the sky.

☎029-862-5355 (Komachi paraglider school)

☞ The colorful spectacle of the paragliders



Launch yourself into the park's panoramic view!

Column: Flowers

Flower Exhibition (mid-February)

(花の展覧会)

This exhibition is the culmination of countless hours of painstaking flower cultivation. Events include flower competitions, distribution of charity bouquets, display and sale of new flowers, and lessons in flower arrangement. Get an early start on the springtime.

Niihari Shopping Center San Aipo

☎029-826-1111 (Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Division, City of Tsuchiura)
●MAP26 C-4 所 1611 Obatake, Tsuchiura



☞Astroemeria (Lily of the Incas)

Keep an eye out for:

Famous flower-viewing locations in season

Tsuchiura, whose city flower is the cherry blossom, is surrounded by countryside dotted with excellent locations for flower-season. When the cherry-blossom season reaches Ryugamine (mountain cherries), Ottonuma Park, and Rinrin Road, the land is filled with the fiery pink and fragrance of cherry blossoms. During other seasons, there are also locations famous for lotus, rapeseed blossoms, and cosmos flower in season.



Spring
Mountain cherries

Ryugamine

●MAP26 C-2

竜ヶ峰

From late March to mid April, some 700 cherry trees planted along the roadside are in full bloom, creating a magnificent tunnel of cherry trees.



Spring
Rapeseed blossoms

Ottonuma Park

●MAP27 F-4

乙戸沼公園

This 13ha park sits on what was once a long, narrow pond in the shape of a fishhook. Every spring the park's wonderful stock of some 900 Yoshino and Japanese cherries attracts throngs of admirers.



Spring
Cherry trees

Shishitsukaoike Pond

●MAP27 E-1

穴塚大池

Throughout the seasons, this pond is alive with the chirping of wild birds, insects, and the emerald green of water plants. Try to be here from late July to mid-August, when the lotus flowers are in bloom.



Summer
Lotus



Spring
Cherry trees



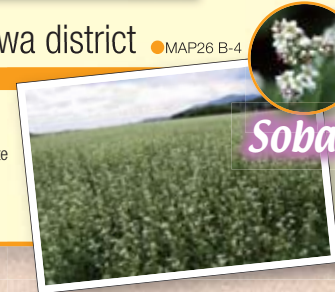
Autumn
Cosmos

Sakata/Fujisawa district

●MAP26 B-4

坂田・藤沢地区

The pale white flowers of Hitachi-aki-soba, a type of buckwheat, burst forth from late September to early October.



Autumn
Soba

Tsukuba Rin Rin Road

●MAP26 A-4

つくばりんりんロード

The view from this scenic route is spectacular both in spring, when the cherry trees bloom, and in the fall, when the sulfur cosmos bloom into lovely yellows and oranges.



Abundant blessings from the bounty of nature

Experience the hospitality and culinary culture of this rural community

Encircled by mountains, this small community is surrounded by natural beauty. In such a rural setting, one can feel the warmth of the local people and the abundance of nature's gifts.

The many tastes of the Ibaraki countryside!

Orchard

With glorious nature stretching out in all directions, each new season in the countryside brings new flavors. Here we will introduce some of them.

In this village, the gifts of nature are many.



Farmers' market

Persimmons

Komachi-no-Sato is surrounded by persimmon orchards. No autumn would be complete in Ibaraki without this sweet, pulpy fruit, which can be purchased at any of the numerous farmers' markets.



Pears

Grown in a natural environment using organic fertilizers and as little agricultural chemical as possible, the region's pears are prized for their fragrance and delicious aftertaste.

Mandarin oranges

The Niihari district marks the northern limit of the mandarin orange growing range. Most homes in the area have at least one orange tree. Though small, these oranges are rich and bursting with sweetness, making them a perennial favorite. A variant called the Fukure mandarin orange is also available.



Rural events

The rural areas around Tsuchiura offer many points of great historical interest.

Yabusame (horseback archery) Festival 流鏑馬まつり

Hie-jinja Shrine: On the commons of Tojoji, near Onozawa in Tsuchiura City ●MAP26 B-2

Held every year at Hie-jinja on the first Sunday in April, this festival is designated an Intangible Folk Cultural Property of Ibaraki Prefecture and is counted as one of the three big *yabusame* of the Sanno school in Japan. Said to have originated in the legend of the death of Hanuman the Monkey King, this traditional festival is held to pray for an abundant harvest and peace in the region. On horseback, the armored warriors aim special whistling arrows at targets representing monkeys. This stirring and awe-inspiring scene attracts excited spectators every year.



First Sunday in April

Karakasa-Mando からかさ万灯

August 15

Washi-jinja Shrine: 1890 Obatake, Tsuchiura ●MAP26 B-4

This traditional festival dating from the Edo Period features offerings of fireworks to pray for a good harvest, peace on Earth, and a harmonious household. The spectacle of fireworks with 6-meter-high, 5-meter-long umbrellas descending like a waterfall is surely one of the most electrifying sights of Tsuchiura summers. The festival has won national commendation and is designated an Intangible Folk Cultural Property of Ibaraki Prefecture.



A treasure house of fresh local foods

JA Tsuchiura "Sun Fresh Niihari"

●JA土浦 サンフレッシュ新治

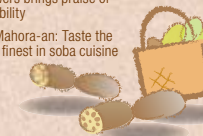
This store is filled with fresh local produce, whose quality and reliability is guaranteed by the name of the producing farmer displayed right on the box. Excellent fruit, vegetables, and flowers are on hand. At the establishment Mahora-an, you can also try the taste of Hitachi-aki-soba noodles.

☎029-862-3573 ●MAP26 B-4 ㉔514-1 Fujisawa, Tsuchiura



➡ Being able to meet the growers brings praise of reliability

➡ Mahora-an: Taste the very finest in soba cuisine



➡ A perfect stop during a drive

Tsuchiura Wholesale Market

Ikappe Ichi Market いっかっぺ市

Third Sat. of every month

This wholesale market is open to the general public, offering an opportunity to see a wholesale market at work and interact with the local community. Local merchants sell delicious fresh and processed foods, in a spirit of gratitude for the good things of the land and sea.



☎029-843-2191 ●MAP27 F-4 ㉔1-10-1 Oroshi-machi, Tsuchiura

Recommendation

from Takashi Hasumi
Chairman, Nature Subcommittee
Tsuchiura Tourism Strategy
Promotion Committee



The beauty and feel of a hospitable, friendly rural community

● Hitachi-aki-soba

Komachi-an 小町庵

Handmade soba noodles made with plenty of ingredients from the land, topped with crisp, flavorful tempura

This soba shop is run by a friendly local ladies. Each day they produce only enough hand-made noodles for that day's servings of the fragrant and delicious local specialty, Hitachi-aki -soba. The *tenmori-soba*, served with generous portions of tempura in a separate bowl, is another popular dish; or try the *kakiage*, made with river shrimp and seasonal vegetables such as lotus and sweet potatoes.

🕒 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, or until the soba runs out.

🍽️ *Tenmori-soba* ¥850, *kenchin-soba* ¥900 (winter only)



● Farmers' market

Komachi Mentei / Farmer's market 小町麵亭・農産物直売所

This market sells Komachi rice, Komachi miso, mandarin oranges, and fresh local vegetables direct from the farmers. You may find some unusual local products on sale. At Komachi Mentei, delicious meals made with soba, udon noodles, or rice are available.

● Making soba noodles

Komachi-no-Yakata 小町の館

Try some delicious soba or make your own!

Komachi-no-Yakata was established to tell visitors about the legend of Komachi, which is an integral part of this community. The building houses exhibits illustrating the Komachi legend, as well as a cooking studio and Komachi-an. Moreover, for ¥1,500 you can try making soba noodles by hand (reservation required). In November, a festival is held to celebrate the buckwheat harvest, from which soba is made.



☎029-862-1002 (Komachi-no-Yakata) ●MAP26 B-2 ㉔491 Ono, Tsuchiura 休 Mon. ㉔30 min. by taxi from JR Tsuchiura Station. 🅐 Parking is available for 50 vehicles.

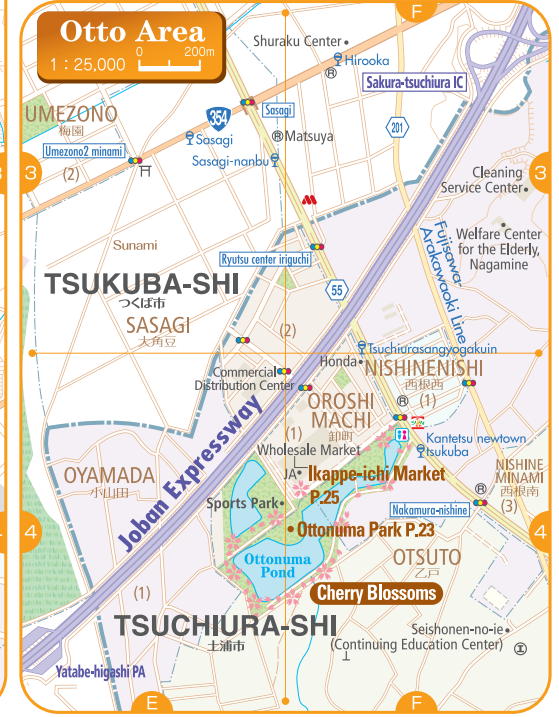
● Refresh yourself in a soothing space surrounded by lush greenery.

Hotel Iyashi-no-Sato ホテルいやしのみ

Come for the sweeping view of Tsuchiura from the open-air bath. If the air is clear, you can see Mt. Fuji in the distance.

☎029-862-2400 ●MAP26 C-2 ㉔2141-2 Hongo, Tsuchiura 🅑 Bath is open to non-guests weekdays from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM (admission closes at 9:00 PM), Sat., Sun., and holidays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 AM (admission closes at 11:00 PM). 🅑 Accommodation from ¥7,350 per person per night, entry to the bath for non-guests is ¥700 on weekdays and ¥1,000 on Sat., Sun., and holidays.





The pride of our city!

Tsuchiura, the city by the lake, is a treasure trove of fresh and processed marine products, including wakasagi fish and eel.

Another highly acclaimed food is curry made from lotus root, a specialty in this curry capital.

Traditional confectioneries are another favorite in Tsuchiura, which retains the historic atmosphere of a Japanese castle town.

Tsukudani (佃煮)



Tsukudani, which consists of fish preserves boiled in soy sauce, is a tasty local dish that reflects the lake-fishing traditions of Tsuchiura, a treasure-trove of excellent marine products. Wakasagi, *kanroni* (sweetened boiled fish), and dried shrimp are also available.

Baked goods of Tsuchiura (土浦の銘菓)



Karinto (fried dough cake), named during the era of the Tsuchiura Clan (95,000-koku), as well as sweets related to famous sightseeing spots such as Lake Kasumigaura and Kijo are available here.

Fireworks-related goods (花火グッズ)



A wide selection of neckties, T-shirts, and cookies themed on the All-Japan Fireworks Competition are available.

Komachi-related goods (小町グッズ)



Postcards, handkerchiefs, and other products depicting the legend of Komachi are popular souvenirs.

To order: Komachi-no-Yakata (see p. 25) ☎029-862-1002 491 Ono, Tsuchiura

Lotus root, the local specialty (レンコン関連商品)



Tsuchiura is Japan's leading producer of lotus root. This crop thrives in abundant warm water and rich soil.

To order:
JA Tsuchiura, "Sanfure Hasunosato"
(See p. 16) ☎029-846-7933, 3140
Kidamari, Tsuchiura)

Tsuchiura bakeries produce a unique sablé biscuit shaped like lotus root rings. This cute shape makes sablé biscuits a cute souvenir.

Many of the processed goods are made from lotus root, a food with a high nutritional value that is even thought to contribute to long life.

A wide variety of nutritious and tasty salad dressings are made with shaved lotus root.

Hitachi-aki-soba (常陸秋そば)



The unique aroma, flavor, and sweetness of the local soba is excellent. Dried noodles packed in soba powder are also available.

Natto (納豆)



Natto, fermented soybeans, is virtually synonymous with Ibaraki. Tsuchiura's famous natto is sold here.

Soy sauce (醤油)



With its abundance of soybeans and wheat, the Tsuchiura area is an ideal location for fermenting soy sauce. The unique flavor of the local soy sauce has been a continuing tradition since the region's first soy-sauce distiller was founded in 1688.

Where to buy souvenirs of Tsuchiura

Kirara-Kan souvenir shop (きらら館)

Located near the east exit of Tsuchiura Station, this shop offers a wide range of well-known and unique local products.

☎029-824-6110 ☎2-35 Ariake-machi, Tsuchiura
●MAP13 E-4



Tsuchiura Machikado Kura Daitoku (土浦まちかど蔵「大徳」)

☎029-824-2810 ☎1-3-16 Chu, Tsuchiura ●MAP13 D-2

Suigo People's Lodge (国民宿舎「水郷」)

☎029-823-1631 ☎255 Oiwata, Tsuchiura ●MAP19 B-3

Take the great flavors of Tsuchiura home with you! Tsuchiura Curry Tales

Tsuchiura's famous Zeppelin Curry is made with a vegetable base and features a mild taste. It is available in a sealed plastic pouch, ideal for a souvenir or gift.



Enjoy the refreshing breeze!

Cycling Tour

The purple peak of Mt. Tsukuba overlooks Tsukuba Rin Rin Road, and you can enjoy the refreshing wind of Lake Kasumigaura along Kasumigaura Cycling Road.

We'll introduce you to these two routes, both of which are relaxing and fun.

Tsukuba Rin Rin Road

MAP26A-4

Filled with history and natural beauty, Mt. Tsukuba provides the focus for this rewarding cycling tour. Putting a discarded stretch of the Tsukuba Railroad to new use, this dedicated cycling trail extends 40.1km from Tsuchiura city's Kawaguchi district to Inuta in Sakuragawa. The entire route is fairly flat and paved throughout, offering a comfortable cycling experience.

The path keeps on running straight and easy.

After you pass Fujisawa Rest Area, Mt. Tsukuba gradually looms larger. Admire the many faces of this mountain while viewing it from continually changing angles.

Be sure to watch your speed!

START Tsuchiura Station

- 4.6km 30min. Iwase Rest Area
- 5.3km 30min. Amabiki Rest Area
- 9.9km 50min. Makabe Rest Area
- 12.8km 60min. Tsukuba Rest Area
- 3.8km 20min. Fujisawa Rest Area
- 3.7km 20min. Mushikake Rest Area
- 3.7km 20min. Tsuchiura

GOAL Iwase Station

Rest Areas: Iwase, Amabiki, Makabe, Tsukuba, Fujisawa, Mushikake

Facilities: WC, washrooms, sheltered benches, parking for 7 vehicles, parking for 10 vehicles

Bicycle Rentals: Komachi-no-Yakata, Tsuchiura Machikado Kura Daitoku, Hot one

Kasumigaura Cycling Road

MAP19B-2

This route offers captivating views of Lake Kasumigaura, Japan's second broadest lake, to enjoy as you cycle. The Kasumigaura Cycling Road runs a total of 40 km, from Tsuchiura via the cities of Kasumigaura and Namekata to the final destination, Itako. Plenty of interesting stops line the route, including several farmer-direct produce stands.

The lakeshore is equipped with a wooden deck that's just perfect for a rest stop. The hamburgers at the adjacent local-goods market are a popular treat.

START Tsuchiura Station

- 3.5km 20min. Tamura district
- 15km 70min. Ayumizaki Park
- 3.5km 20min. Road Station Tamatsukuri
- 15km 70min. Tennozaki Park (Aso Spa, Shiraho-no-Yu)
- 5km 30min. Kitatone Bridge

GOAL Kitatone Bridge

View Points: Lotus fields, Lake Kasumigaura, Ishioka, Takahama, Kandaatsu, Arakawaaki, Fishers, Dawn over Lake Kasumigaura

Facilities: WC, Souppin Shop, Kasumigaura Ohashi Bridge, Road Station Tamatsukuri, Shiraho-no-Yu, Aso Spa

Bicycle Rentals: Hot one, Tsuchiura Machikado Kura Daitoku, Suigo People's Lodge

Bicycle Rental

Renting a bicycle for a day is the most fun and convenient way to see all the famous sites in Tsuchiura. In this section, we explain how to rent bicycles here and where to find bicycle rental outlets around the city. Rental fee: ¥500 per day plus ¥1,000 security deposit (refundable)

How to Rent Bicycles in Tsuchiura

- 1 Inquire at the shop.
- 2 Write your name, address and telephone number on the bicycle rental form. Pay the fee and the ¥1,000 security deposit.
- 3 Ready to go. Have fun!
- 4 Return the bicycle and receive back your ¥1,000 security deposit.

Bicycle rental is available at:

Tsuchiura Machikado Kura Daitoku

☎029-824-2810 (Tsuchiura Tourism Association)
●MAP13 D-2 ☎Daily 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM (bicycle rental is available until 5:30 PM). ☎Open everyday except December 29 to January 3 ☎1-3-16 Chuo, Tsuchiura ☎10 min. walk from JR Tsuchiura Station ☎Parking is available for 30 vehicles.

Machinaka Community Station Hot one

☎029-879-8815 ●MAP13 E-3 ☎Daily 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM ☎Every Wednesday ☎1-3-132 Kawaguchi, Tsuchiura ☎4 min. walk from JR Tsuchiura Station

Suigo People's Lodge

☎029-823-1631 ●MAP19 B-3 ☎Daily 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM ☎Open everyday ☎255 Oiwata, Tsuchiura ☎From JR Tsuchiura Station, take Kirara-chan Bus and get off at Kokumin Shukusha Suigo (Suigo People's Lodge). ☎Parking is available for 30 vehicles.

Komachi-no-Yakata

☎029-862-1002 ●MAP26 B-2 ☎Daily 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM ☎Every Monday and December 29 to January 3 ☎491 Ono, Tsuchiura ☎30 min. taxi ride from JR Tsuchiura Station ☎Parking is available for 50 vehicles.



Sightseeing City Tsuchiura

