

Kakunodate Guide Map

Black wooden fences line the fronts of the samurai residences. Kakunodate, a smaller version of Kyoto in northeastern Japan, was a castle town that flourished as the seat of the Akita feudal clan. Walking on this street gives visitors the feeling of a being back in the Edo period.

角館

English

You might be able to feel the atmosphere of the time in which samurai actually lived.

Legend

- Hotel
- Inn
- Guest house
- Hot springs
- Bank
- One-way road (7:00 to 19:00)
- Gas station
- Restrooms
- Parking area
- Convenience store

Useful Information

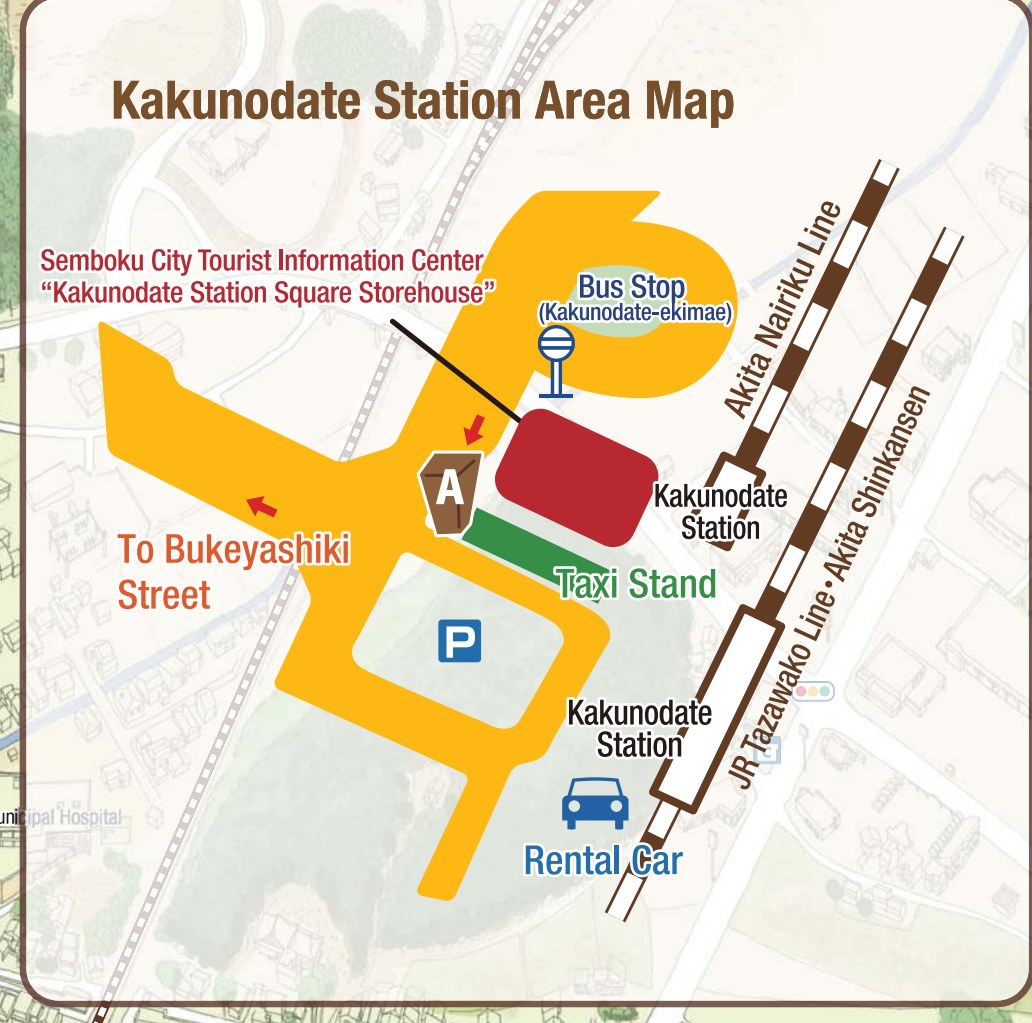
- Free Internet spot
Free Internet access available
- Post Office
Japanese yen can be withdrawn with affiliated overseas ATM cards

Town-Walking Course

Merchant Town・Shin-meisha Shrine Course



The tourist information sign-poles labeled **A** to **P** serve as guides.



1 Ishiguro House
[Semboku City Designated Cultural Asset]
Among the samurai residences in Kakunodate existing today, this one is the most prestigious residence of the highest pedigree.
●Admission/Adults 300 yen, Children 150 yen (Discounts available for groups of 20 and more)
●Hours/9:00 – 17:00 ●7 days a week
☎0187-55-1496
http://www.hana.or.jp/~bukeishi/

2 Matsumoto House
[Akita Prefecture Designated Tangible Cultural Property]
This is where the movie “Twilight Seibel” was filmed. A cozy house surrounded by a brushwood fence.
●Admission/Free ●Hours/9:00 – 16:30
●Mid-April – November, Closed in winter
☎0187-43-3384 (Semboku City Cultural Asset Department)

3 Kawarada House
[Semboku City Designated Cultural Asset]
This residence features the authentic Bukeyashiki (samurai house) building style of the Edo period, remaining unchanged to this day.
●Admission/Free ●Hours/9:00 – 16:30
●Mid-April – November, Closed in winter
☎0187-43-3384 (Semboku City Cultural Asset Department)

4 Odano House
[Semboku City Designated Cultural Asset]
The house of an intermediate samurai of the branch family of Naotake Odano, the founder of Akita Ranga (Dutch-style painting) and the illustrator for “Kaitai-Shinsho”, Japan’s first anatomy book.
●Admission/Free ●Hours/9:00 – 16:30
●Mid-April – November, Closed in winter
☎0187-43-3384 (Semboku City Cultural Asset Department)

5 Iwahashi House
[Akita Prefecture Designated Cultural Asset]
This is where the movie “Twilight Seibel” was filmed. This simple house with Kobabuki shingled roof was the residence of an intermediate samurai.
●Admission/Free ●Hours/9:00 – 16:30
●Mid-April – November, Closed in winter
☎0187-43-3384 (Semboku City Cultural Asset Department)

6 Aoyagi House
[Akita Prefecture Designated Cultural Asset (main building, gate, storehouse)]
There are various pavilions on this expansive site, with many samurai arms and artworks that had been handed down from generation to generation on exhibit.
●Admission/Adults 500yen, Jr. high/High school students 300yen, Children 200yen (Discounts available for groups of 20 and more) ●Hours/9:00 – 17:00 (until 16:00 in winter) ●7 days a week
☎0187-54-3257
http://www.samuraiworld.com/

Samurai Residences
武家屋敷

An Elegant Town
Dressed in Rich Patterns
Of the Four Seasons

Colored by its history and culture, Kakunodate deeply holds the remnants of olden days. Giant and ancient trees decorate the town, bringing out the charm of each season.

Although Kakunodate is famous for its cherry blossoms, the contrast between the red autumn leaves and the black wooden fences is also gorgeous; one can feel the beauty cultivated by history.

Cherry Blossoms
さくら

Festivals
お祭り

The Festival of Kakunodate
September 7 – 9 [Nationally Designated Important Intangible Folk-Cultural Asset]
18 parade-floats parade through town while performing Oyama-bayashi music and the Te-odori (a hand-dance). When 2 floats face each other, a “negotiation” starts for passing rights, and when negotiations break down, “Yama-Buttsuke” begins, and the floats ram into each other until one is able to pass by. A Nationally Designated Important Intangible Folk-Cultural Heritage.

Hifuri Kamakura
February 13 (At the city-operated Sakuranamiki Parking lot)
February 14 (30 and more places in Kakunodate)
An enchanting festival of brilliant fire rings dancing in the snow. The hallmark of this festival is the sacred fire that drives out bad luck from the rice fields, while people pray for the health of their family and safety throughout the year.

April
April 20 – May 5
Cherry Blossom Festival of Kakunodate

May
Mid to Late May
Bukeyashiki with Fresh Greenery

August
15th
The Sasara dance, an Obon festival event of Kakunodate

September
7th, 8th and 9th
Festival of Kakunodate

October
End of October – End of November
Bukeyashiki with Autumn Leaves
10th – Early November
Dakigaeri Valley Autumn Leaves Festival

February
13th and 14th
Hifuri Kamakura

Experience the Culture of Kakunodate

7 Nishinomiya House
A popular tourist attraction consisting of the main building and five Kura-storehouses. In Kura, handicrafts are exhibited and sold. You can also enjoy a meal or a coffee/tea.
●Admission/Free ●Hours/10:00 – 17:00
●7 days a week
☎0187-52-2438
http://www.nishinomiya.jp

8 Hirafuku Memorial Museum of Art
This museum features a collection of the works of Suian Hirafuku, a master of modern Japanese painting, and his son Hyakusui Hirafuku, as well as many local painters under the same discipline. Also, the museum serves as a place to introduce the works of present/young artists.
●Admission/Adults 300 yen, Elementary/Jr. high school students 200 yen ●Hours/9:00 – 17:00 (- 16:30 December - March) *Admissions until 30 min. before closing. ☎0187-54-3888

9 Kakunodate Kaba Craft Densho-kan
The Kaba craft is a traditional Kakunodate handicraft using the bark of mountain cherry tree. Here, you can see the technique of the craftsmen up close as well as the craft, culture and historical documents on exhibit.
●Admission/Adults 300yen, Elementary/Jr. high school students 200yen ●Hours/9:00 – 17:00 (- 16:30 December - March) *Admissions until 30 min. before closing. ☎0187-54-1700

10 Shinchosha Memorial Museum of Literature
The documents on the works of people who were connected with Giyo Sato (the founder of the publishing company, Shinchosha) are on display here.
●Admission/Adults 300 yen, Elementary/Jr. high school students 150 yen ●Hours/9:00 – 17:00 (- 16:30 December - March) *Admissions until 30 min. before closing. ●Closed/Mondays (or the next day in the case of a holiday) ☎0187-43-3333

11 Ando House
Established in the 6th year of the Kaei period (in 1853). A manufacturer of miso, shoyu and pickles. The kura-zashiki, a storehouse parlor built in the Meiji period, was designed for protection from fire. Open to the public.
●Admission/Free ●Hours/8:30 – 17:00
☎0187-53-2008

12 Tatetsuya・Tomachi Museum
Built in the 33rd year of the Meiji period (in 1900), the quiet majesty of the Japanese garden and the quaint rooms carry the atmosphere of this merchant house through to the present day. Visitors can also view articles of hobbies and housewares which their ancestors used since the late Edo period on exhibit here.
●Admission/Free ●Hours/9:00 – 18:00
☎0187-55-1320

13 Tenneiji Temple
Founded in the first year of the Kansei period (in 1624). The family temple of the Ashina Clan was relocated from Aizu. The main gate of a Buddhist temple is the remains of Kakunodate Castle, and the Fudezuka, or ink-brush mound, of Hyakusui Hirafuku is in the mountain in the back of the temple overlooking the town.
●Admission/Free
☎0187-53-2904

14 Jokoin Temple
Founded in the first year of the Kansei period (in 1460). This is the family temple of the Northern Satake Clan. The temple grounds house the graveyard of the reinforcement groups of clansmen from Kyushu, including the Omura Clan, which were lost in the Boshin War of the late Edo period.
●Admission/Free
☎0187-53-2074

15 Jojuin Temple Yakushi-do
The local shrine worshipping Yakushi, the Buddha of healing. Called “Yakushi of the peak”, it is used by many people as a place of prayer. The festival of Kakunodate is a traditional event associated with Jojuin Temple / Yakushi-do
●Admission/Free

16 Kakunodate Shinmeisha Shrine
The town shrine worshipping the Kakunodate Amaterasu Sun Goddess. This shrine features Ema, the votive picture of Naotake Odano is dedicated, as well as a monument of the place of Masumi Sugae's death.
●Admission/Free
☎0187-53-2376

SAVE!
Joint Admission Discount Ticket

Good for **2 Museums**
Adults/High school students
Individual: 510 yen
Group: 340 yen
(For groups of 20 or more)

Good for **3 Museums**
Adults/High school students
Individual: 720 yen
Group: 480 yen
(For groups of 20 or more)

●Hirafuku Memorial Museum of Art
●Kakunodate Kaba Craft Densho-kan
●Shinchosha Memorial Museum of Literature

Kakunodate Model-Courses

Neighborhood-Walking Course

Kakunodate Sta. → Walk 15 min → From Hiyoike To Bukeyashiki St. → Walk 1 min → Odanoya 4 → Walk 1 min → Kawarada House 3 → Walk 3 min → Iwahashi House 5 → Walk 3 min → Aoyagi House 6 → Walk 1 min → Ishiguro House 1 → Walk 3 min → Matsumoto House 2 → Walk 1 min → Kakunodate Kaba Craft Densho-kan 9

Merchant Town・Shinmeisha Shrine Course

Kakunodate Sta. → Walk 10 min → Nishinomiya House 3 → Walk 5 min → Ando House 11 → Walk 10 min → Shinchosha Memorial Museum of Literature 10 → Walk 15 min → Kakunodate Shinmeisha Shrine 16

Interactive Facilities

Itaya Craft Workshop
[Period] All year
[Description] Itaya Horse
[No. of People] Max. 100
[Fare] [Per person]
・ 1 to 2 persons 1,000 yen
・ 3 to 4 persons 800 yen
・ 5 or more persons 700 yen
[Time Required] About 2 hr.
[Main Location] Kaba Craft Densho-kan
[Reservation] Please make a reservation at least 10 days in advance. The cancellation fee is equal to 100% of your booking charge if done after the confirmation call made on the previous day. (Please consult us for further details.)

Kaba Craft Workshop
[Free] [Per person]
・ 500 yen for 1 person
・ 2500 yen each for 2 people
・ 2300 yen each for 3 people
・ 2000 yen each for 4 people
・ 1500 yen each for 5 people
[Time Required] About 2hr.
[Main Location] Kaba Craft Densho-kan
[Reservation] Please make a reservation at least 5 days in advance. The cancellation fee is equal to 100% of your booking charge if done after the confirmation call made on the previous day. (Please consult us for further details.)

Painting a Mini-Lantern
[Period] All year
[Description] Painting on a small kite (5 cm x 18 cm), or a small lantern (22cm in height).
[No. of People] Max. of around 50 in total
[No. of People] Max. of around 50 in total
[Time Required] About 90 min.
[Main Location] Kanno Carpentry Shop, Kaba Craft Densho-kan or Kakunodate Office West Bldg. (The place is different according to the number of people.)

Sweets & Gourmet Foods

Naruto Mochi Rice Cake
Rice cakes made with ground, stone-milled glutinous rice and bean jam inside.

Morokoshi
A confectionary made with azuki-bean powder put inside wooden frames to harden and then baked.

Okaribayaki
<Kakunodate Satake-Kita Family Tradition>
A dish of meat and seasonal vegetables cooked with Sansho-miso (miso paste with Japanese pepper). The fragrant Sansho-miso enhances the abundant flavors of the ingredients, creating a dynamic yet delicate taste. This is a local cuisine rich in romantic history. While you eat, you might like to imagine the scenes of the Satake-Kita family going hunting.

[Contact] Kakunodate Tourist Association TEL 0187-54-2700

Kakunodate Area Restaurant Guide

Restaurants accessible for foreign customers

[Akita Local Cuisine・Okaribayaki]

1 Restaurant Inaho
☎0187-54-3311

In addition to the local cuisine of Akita: “Kiritampo, rice cake (1,500 yen)”, “Shottsuru, preserved fish stew (1,500 yen)” and “Hina-jidori chicken dishes”, you can also enjoy interesting dishes such as “Gakko Kaiseki, a course dinner of pickles (1,500 yen)”, “Kakunodate-style Inaniwa Udon (1,000 yen)” and “Kiritampo Tempura (300 yen)”.
●Hours: 11:00 - 16:00
●Closed: Thursdays

[Japanese Cuisine・Inaniwa Udon・Sesame Tofu]

3 Restaurant Genpachi
☎0187-54-2462

The specialty of “Gomadofu (sesame tofu)” is our most popular dish on the lunch menu, and the “Omakase (chef's selection) course is recommended for dinner”. We are a family-run small restaurant attentive to details, especially popular among women.
●Hours: <Lunch>11:30 – 14:00<Dinner>17:30 – 22:00 (closes at 21:00 on Sundays) ●Closed: Tuesdays

[Akita Local Cuisine・Tofu Kaiseki Course]

4 Kakunodate Shichibei
☎0187-54-3295

This restaurant with Kura storehouse-parlor faces the border of samurai residences and merchants' town. We offer tofu dishes and local dishes using plenty of ingredients from Akita with a focus on health. The town house style interior has a nice and relaxing atmosphere especially popular with mature customers. Try the Tofu Zannai (Indulgence) Course 1,600 yen, etc.
●Hours: 11:00 – 20:00 (Last Order) ●Closed: Tuesdays

[Inaniwa Udon・Western-style dishes, etc.]

2 Restaurant Kitagura
(at Nishinomiya House)
☎0187-52-2438

This Kura storehouse was built around 1919. You can enjoy delicious meals such as the chef's original western-style local cooking and Japanese cuisine made with the organically grown local rice and fresh local vegetables from Kakunodate. Tea and coffee are also available.

[Handmade Soba]

5 Sobakiri Chosuke
☎0187-55-1722

We are a soba restaurant run by a farming family. Please enjoy our soba noodle hand-made with home-grown, stone-milled, 100% buckwheat flour.
●Hours: 11:00 – 16:00 In winter 11:00 – 15:00
●Closed: Tuesdays