



Sakuragawa tourist Information



Welcome to City of Sakuragawa, a wild cherry blossom country



Early to late April is the season of yamazakura, wild cherry blossoms.

The picture on the left is Mt. Amamaki with lots of wild cherry trees. The light-red blossoms and other trees' fresh-green buds create a splendid view. Some say it looks as if it were a patch-work art.

The picture on the right is the cherry blossoms of Sakuragawa Cherry Tree. The trees stand in the Isobe Sakuragawa Park. Also, the ones standing along the path towards Sakuragawa Isobe Inamura Shrine are selected as national scenic beauty. All the cherry trees in the area are designated as Sakuragawa Cherry Tree, a national natural treasure, too.



11 representative varieties of cherry trees among Sakuragawa Cherry Trees



Sakuragawa-nioi



Kaba-nioi



Hatsukasane-sakura



Hatsumi-sakura



Yamato-sakura



Genji-sakura



Shirakumo-sakura



Usuke-sakura



Ao-sakura



Aoke-sakura



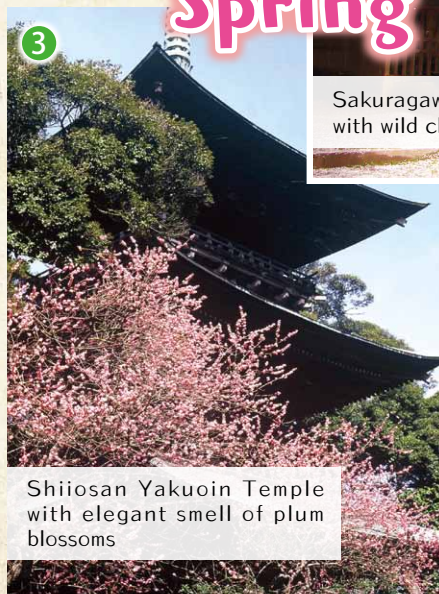
Umebachi-sakura

Photos provided by
Sakura Saku Sato
Project

Sakuragawa, a scenery with a story

The landscape of the mountain-foot area changes day by day. temples and shrines with flowers and autumn leaves, and soothing forests where children are playing around, all of them create the city of Sakuragawa into scenery with a story.

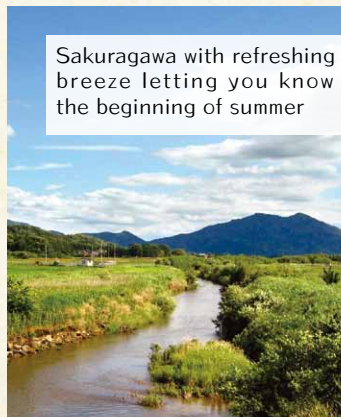
Spring



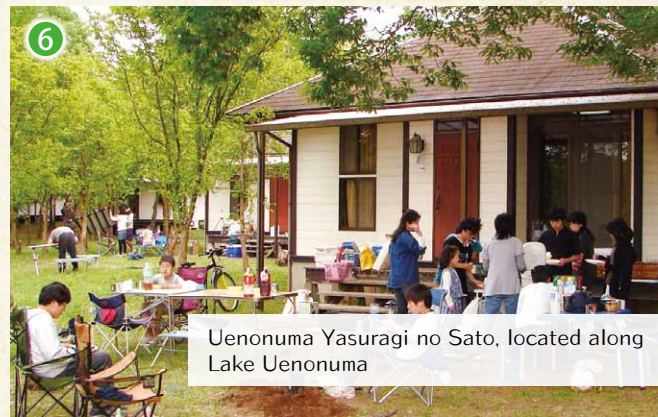
Shiiosan Yakuoin Temple with elegant smell of plum blossoms



Sakuragawa Isobe Inamura Shrine covered with wild cherry blossoms



Sakuragawa with refreshing breeze letting you know the beginning of summer



Uenonuma Yasuragi no Sato, located along Lake Uenonuma

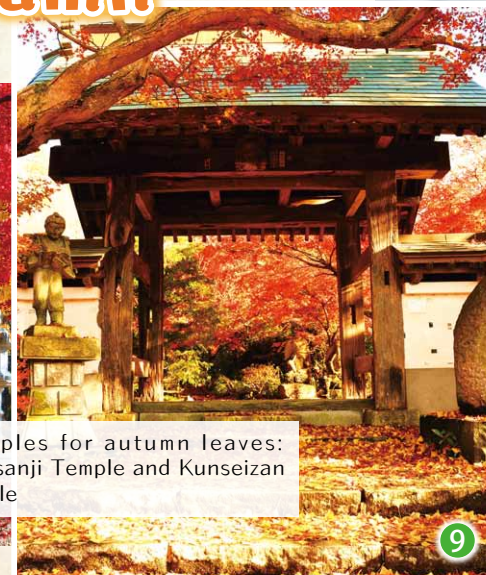
Summer



famous temple for the hydrangea Amabikisan Rakuhoji Temple (Amabiki Kannon)



Famous temples for autumn leaves: Yokozan Gassanji Temple and Kunseizan Yakuoji Temple



Autumn



Sakayori mandarin orange colorizing Mt. Tsukuba



Masumigaike Pond, a place for swans' stopover

Winter



Sunrise over Mt. Tsukuba seen from Lake Tsukushi

Strolling around the Town

The town of Makabe stretches in the west side of Makabe Castle Site, a national historic treasure. You can feel the atmosphere of the old time of the Edo period, when watching the historic town structure, warehouses and gates.

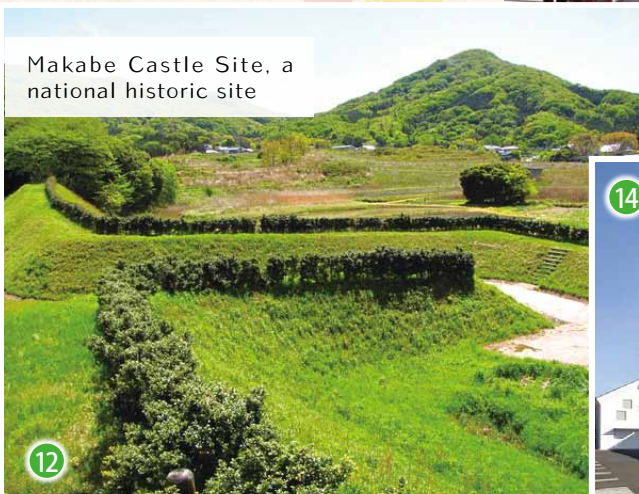
The town was designated as an Important Preserving District for Groups of Historic Building in 2010.



Makabe Old Town Structure

13

Makabe Castle Site, a national historic site



12

14

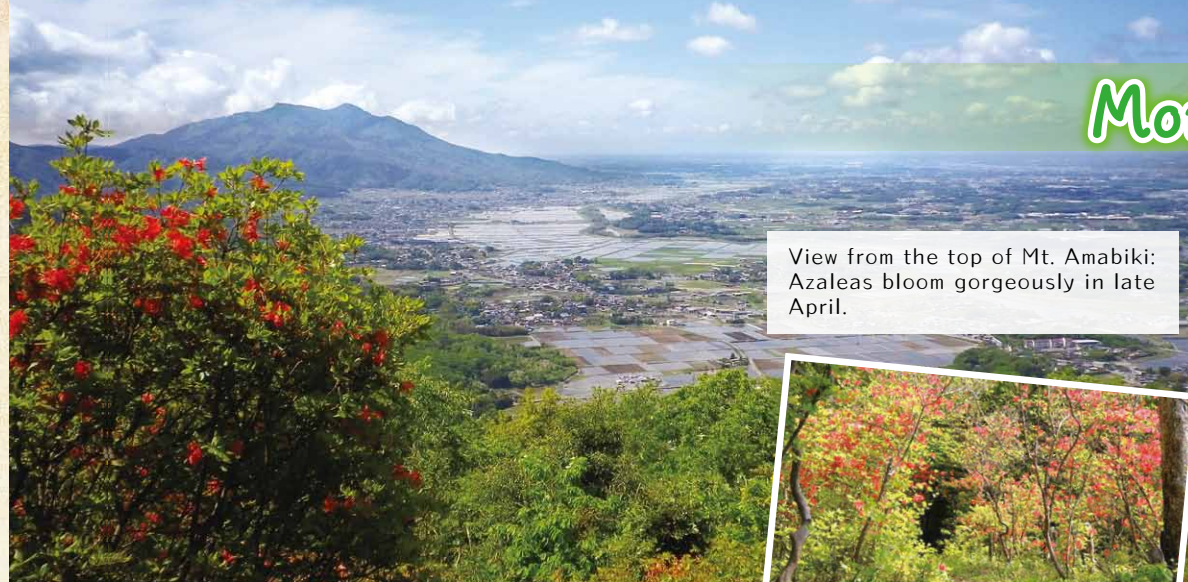
Makabe Denshokan
(Folklore Community Center)



Mountain Walking

Various mountain trails in the city with north-south-stretching mountain rows.

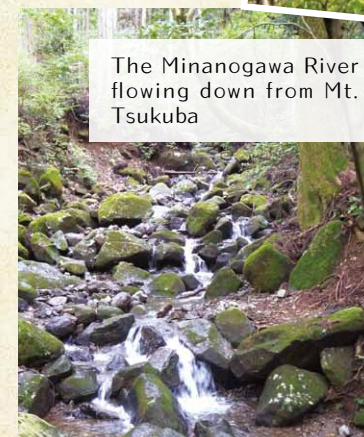
Mt. Ontake and Mt. Amabiki feature easy access from Iwase station. Mt. Tsukuba is accessible from Lake Tsukushi and through Yakuoin Temple. Mt. Kaba with huge rocks has been worshiped as a sacred mountain.



View from the top of Mt. Amabiki:
Azaleas bloom gorgeously in late April.



Sudajii trees stand on the precinct of Yakuoin Temple



The Minanogawa River
flowing down from Mt.
Tsukuba



Mountain trail on Mt. Kaba

The Mt. Tsukuba area including the city of Sakuragawa was selected as a Japan Geo Park in September 2016.

Enjoy cycling on Tsukuba-Kasumigaura Ring Ring Road!

This is a long cycling road of a total length 180km. It connects Iwase Station in Sakuragawa and Itako station via the city of Tsuchira and Lake Kasumigaura. On the way of cycling in Sakuragawa, you can enjoy the mountain view of Mt. Amabiki, Mt. Kaba and Mt. Tsukuba as well as the old town street of Makabe.

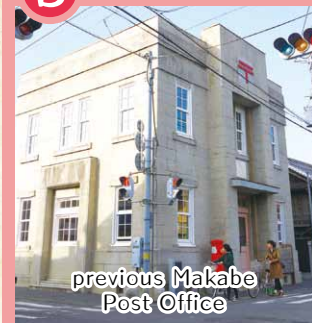
A



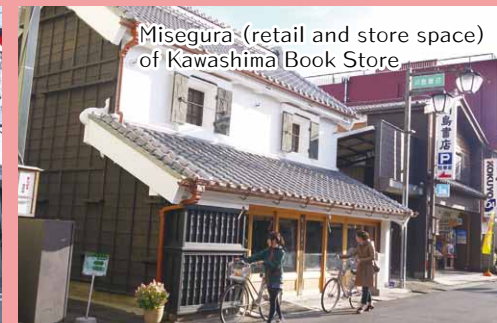
In spring the cycling road is colorized with beautiful cherry blossoms.



B



previous Makabe Post Office



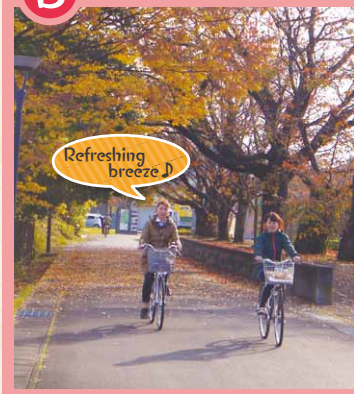
Misegura (retail and store space) of Kawashima Book Store

B



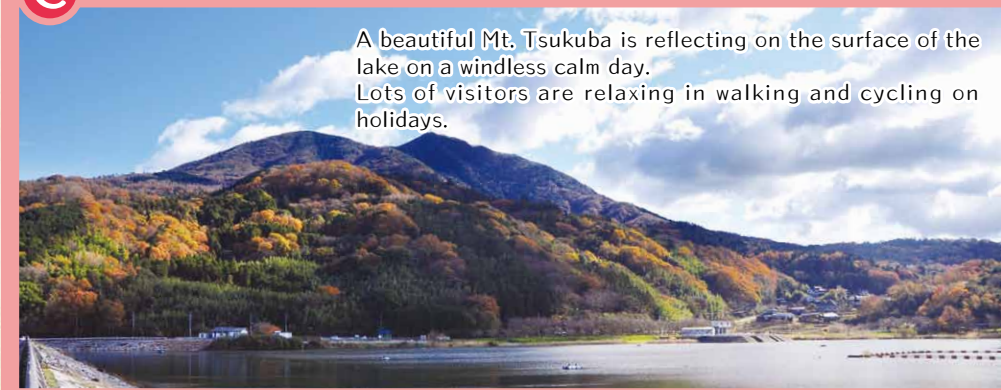
Take a break at Makabe Denshokan (Folklore Community Center)

B



Refreshing breeze!!

C



A beautiful Mt. Tsukuba is reflecting on the surface of the lake on a windless calm day. Lots of visitors are relaxing in walking and cycling on holidays.

A trip to encounter a nostalgic landscape



The road from Iwase to Tsuchiura utilizes the disconnected railroad of old Tsukuba Line. While cycling, you can feel the traces of good old days when the railway was in operation. Tsukuba-Kasumigaura Ring Ring Road has seven bicycle Rental stations (rental is for a charge) and you can drop off the rental bike at any station.

Booking a rental bicycle Lacus Marina Tel.029-822-2437 <http://www.lacusmarina.com/>

Local products & Craftworks from Sakuragawa



Yuzu jam



Yuzu (Citrus junos)

Yuzu jam with less sugar and sweet aroma.

Fukure-mikan (mandarin orange) processed goods



Fukure-Mikan mandarin oranges have been cultivated in the Makabe district since ancient times. Their dried peels with good aroma are used as an ingredient of shichimi-togarashi, a table spice for Japanese dishes.

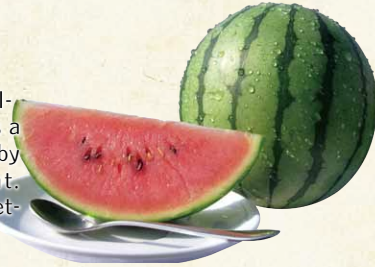


Sakayori Mikan picking (mandarin oranges)

The Makabe district is the northern limit in mandarin orange cultivation. Tourist farms are open from late October to December. Please enjoy the rich sweetness.

Kodamasuika, small-sized watermelons

Benikodamasuika (red-flesh small-sized watermelon) is designated as a brand variety of growing district by Ibaraki Prefectural Government. They are very popular for the sweetness and deliciousness.



Tasting a wide variety of local sake

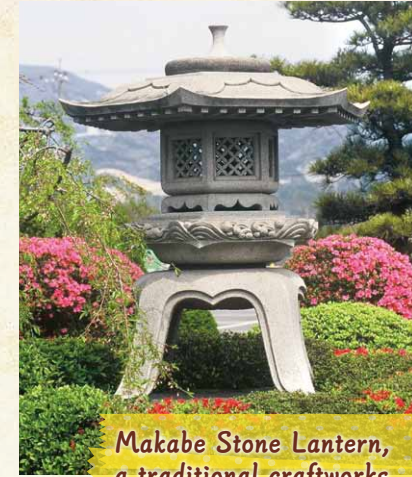
Shoyu (soy sauce) Miso (soybean paste)

Sakuragawa provides quality water fit for making delicious sake, miso and shoyu, which will be good souvenirs.



Stone products

Sakuragawa produces Inada granite, Makabe granite, Haguro Aonukame granite and other quality stones. The stone production is a symbolic industry offering gravestones, stone lanterns and art works. They create a new field of stone products that more people have got involved in lately.

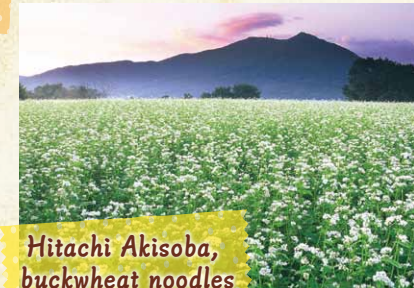


Makabe Stone Lantern, a traditional craftworks designated by the nation.

Top-quality delicious rice



Due to the mild climate and good water from the mountains the rice grown here features excellent aroma and taste.



Hitachi Akisoba, buckwheat noodles

The city of Sakuragawa boasts Ibaraki's second largest buckwheat production in terms of area and quantity. You can see pretty buckwheat flowers in autumn.

Makabe Indigo-dyeing



The tradition of indigo-dyeing has been cherished since ancient times. You can try indigo-dyeing here. For more information, Makabe Indigo-dyeing Preservation Society. (TEL0296-55-1920)



Kotabe Founding, bells of a Buddhist temple



Japan has seven Buddhist temple founding companies and Kotabe founding located in the Makabe district is the only one in the Kanto region. The bell is called in bonsho in Japanese, which is set at the bell tower at a temple.

Wind chimes with the Buddhist bell shape are available.

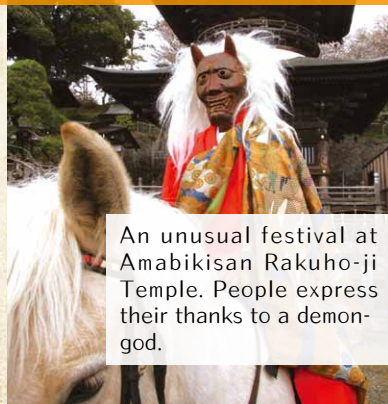


Makabe Hinadoll Festival (a girls' festival) February 4 to March 3



Started by local people's word, "Let's welcome visitors warmly during the cold season," this event represents the city of Makabe. Various kinds of hina-dolls are displayed at over 160 residences and storehouses along the street.

Madara Kishinsai Festival The second Sunday of April



An unusual festival at Amabikisan Rakuho-ji Temple. People express their thanks to a demon-god.

SAKURA Festival mid-April



While the wild cherry blossoms are blooming, lots of events take place, promoting local products including stone goods. You can enjoy all the city attractions during the day.



Cherry Blossom Festival in Sakuragawa, a scenic beauty From mid-March to late April

The cherry blossoms can be seen for nearly one month at different spots such as Sakuragawa Isobe Inamura Shrine, Isobe Sakuragawa Park, Takamine, and Amabikisan Rakuho-ji Temple.

Yamato Stone Festival early June



This event features stone products, one of representative local products. In the venue, lots of stone lanterns and objects are displayed.



Hydrangea Festival June 10 to July 20



Amabiki Kannon has been worshiped since the ancient times and in the precinct various kinds of flowers such as cherry blossoms, azaleas, peony and hydrangea which is well known as a rainy season beauty.

Noryo Taikai, a summer evening event August



Local people are looking forward to this bon dance gathering. The circles of people including homecomings get together surrounding a festival tower and enjoy bon dancing.

Makabe Gion Festival July 23 to 26



This festival takes place at Gosho Komagataki Shrine with a history of over 400 years. Four festive floats with beautiful decoration move on the street of Makabe.

Kattate Festival August 31



The shrine parishioners of Gosho Komagataki Shrine host this event to thank to the god on the top of Mt. Gongenyama by presenting sacred fire.

◆ Spring ◆

- **Makabe Hinadoll Festival** (February 4 to March 3)
Venue: Town Street of Makabe / Takagami-cho Parking
279-1 Makabe, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa
- **Cherry Blossom Festival in Sakuragawa, a scenic beauty** (From mid-March to late April)
Location: Isobe Sakuragawa Park / 740-2 Isobe, Sakuragawa
- **Madara Kishinsai Festival** (The second Sunday of April)
Location: Amabikisan Rakuho-ji Temple
1 Motogi, Sakuragawa / Tel.0296-58-5009
- **SAKURA Festival** (mid-April)
Location: Sakuragawa City Sports Park
2685-14 Iwase, Sakuragawa
- **Yamato Yabusame Competition / Japanese mounted archery competition** (late May)
Location: Yamato Horse Park / 4432-6 Okunitama, Sakuragawa
Tel.0296-58-7196
- **Hydrangea Festival** (June 10 to July 20)
Location: Amabikisan Rakuho-ji Temple / 1 Motogi, Sakuragawa
Tel.0296-58-5009
- **Ymato Stone Festival** (early June)
Location: Sakuragawa City Office, Yamato Branch,
Parking Lot (1023 Haneta, Sakuragawa)

◆ Summer ◆

- **Makabe Gion Festival** (July 23 to 26)
Location: Town Street of Makabe / Takagami-cho Parking
279-1 Makabe, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa
- **Noryo Taikai, a summer evening event** (August)
Location: Sakuragawa City Sports Park
2685-14 Iwase, Sakuragawa
- **Kattate Festival** (August 31)
Location: Gosho Komagataki Shrine
503 Yamao, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa
Tel.0296-55-1487

◆ Autumn ◆

- **Sakuragawa Walking** (mid-November to early December)
Location: Shiiosan Yakuoin Temple and other places
3178 Shio, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa
Tel.0296-55-4319 (Shiiosan Yakuoin Temple)

◆ Winter ◆

- **Omeshi Matsuri / Large Serving of Rice Festival** (The second Sunday of December)
Location: Shimoizumi Community Center
374-3 Shimoizumi, Sakuragawa
- **Hiwatari, firewalking** (December, the winter solstice)
Location: Kaba Saenazumi Shrine
809 Nagaoka, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa
Tel.0296-55-1012

~ Sakuragawa Map ~

①-1 A rich profusion of wild cherry trees around Takamine / Mt. Amamaki
Location : Hirasawa District in Sakuragawa and other places (Hirasawa Community Center 702 Hirasawa, Sakuragawa)

①-2 A rich profusion of wild cherry trees Mt. Ontake / Mt. Amabiki / Mt. Haneda and surrounding areas
Location : Sakuragawa City Office Yamato Branch (1023 Haneda, Sakuragawa) and surrounding areas / Tel.0296-58-5111

② Isobe Sakuragawa Park
Location : 740-2 Isobe, Sakuragawa

③ Shiiosan Yakuoin Temple
Location : 3178 Shiio, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa / Tel.0296-55-4319

④ Sakuragawa Isobe Inamura Shrine
Location : 779 Isobe, Sakuragawa
Tel.0296-75-2838

⑤ Amabisan Rakuho-ji Temple
Location : 1 Motogi, Sakuragawa
Tel.0296-58-5009

⑥ Uenonuma Yasuragi no Sato Camping Site
Location : 48 Uenoharachi-shinden, Sakuragawa / Tel.0296-76-0952

⑦ Yokozen Gassan-ji Temple
Location : 1677 Nishikobanawa, Sakuragawa / Tel.0296-75-2251

⑧ Sakayori Mikanen Tourist Farm (Mandarin orange orchard)
Location : Sakayori, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa

⑨ Kunseizan Yakuoji Temple
Location : 1375 Aoki, Sakuragawa
Tel.0296-54-4569

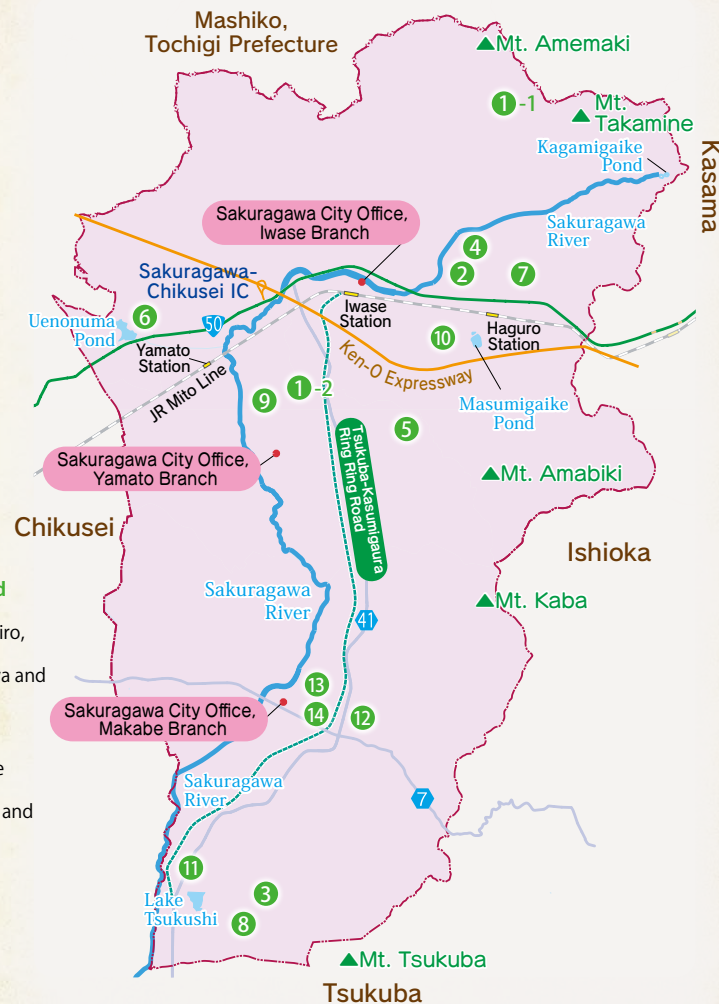
⑩ Masumigaikae Pond
Location : 1829 Tomobe, Sakuragawa

⑪ Lake Tsukushi
Location : 3196 Shiio, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa

⑫ The Site of Makabe Castle, designated as a national historic site
Location : Makabe Gymnasium, Furushiro, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa
377 Furushiro, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa and the surroundings

⑬ Makabe Old Town Structure
Location : Makabe Denshokan (Folklore Community Center)
198 Makabe, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa and surrounding areas

⑭ Makabe Denshokan (Folklore Community Center)
Location : 198 Makabe, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa / Tel.0296-23-8521



● By car

- **From/To Tokyo (Misato IC)**
Tomobe JCT on Joban Expressway ⇒ Sakuragawa-Chikusei IC on Kitakanto Expressway
- **From/To Tokyo (Misato IC ~ Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa)**
Tsuchiura-Kita IC on Joban Expressway ⇒ Prefectural Route 14 ⇒ Prefectural Route 41 ⇒ Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa
- **From/To Utsunomiya (Utsunomiya-Kaminokawa IC)**
Sakuragawa-Chikusei IC on Kita-Kanto Expressway
- **From/To Iwaki (Iwaki IC)**
Tomobe JCT on Joban Expressway ⇒ Sakuragawa-Chikusei IC on Kita-Kanto Expressway ⇒ Route 50 ⇒ Sakuragawa ⇒ (Or, from Kasama-Nishi IC on Kita-Kanto Expressway)

● By train

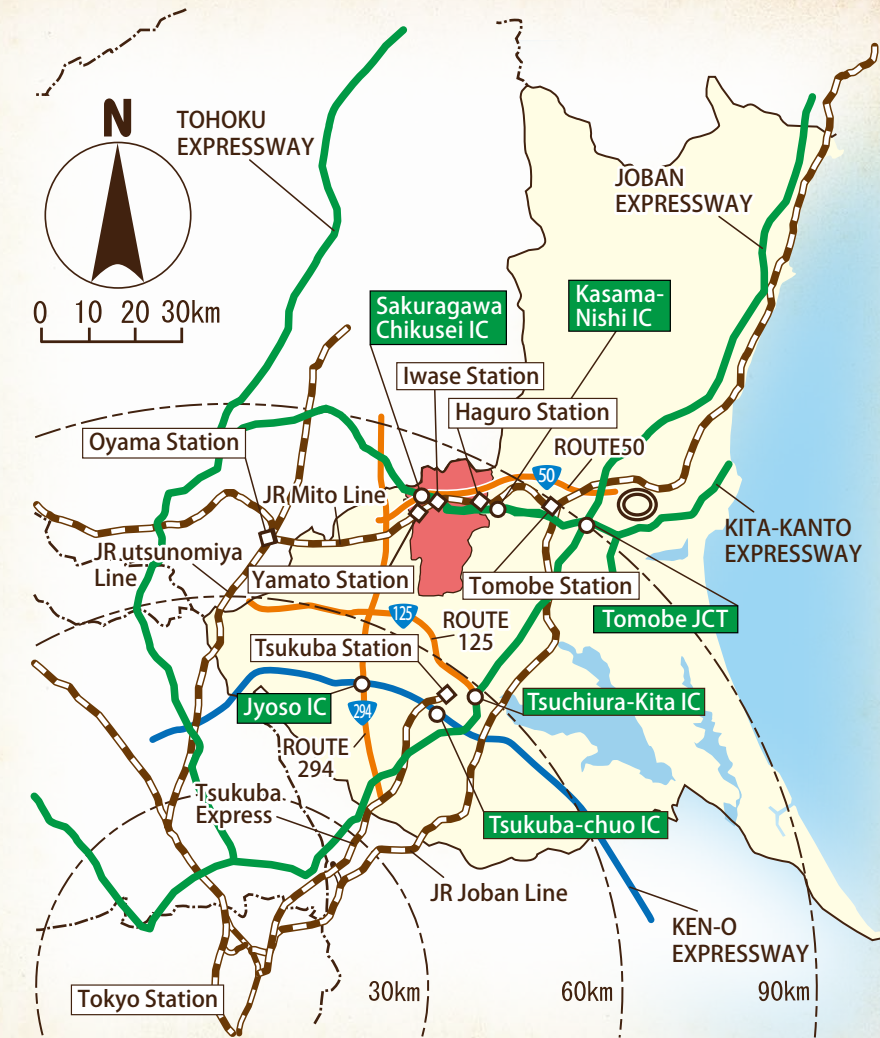
- **From/To Tokyo / Utsunomiya (JR Utsunomiya Line)**
JR Utsunomiya Line / Oyama Station ⇒ JR Mito Line / Iwase Station ⇒ Go sightseeing by taxi
- **From/To Tokyo (TX Akihabara Station)**
Tsukuba Express / Tsukuba Station ⇒ Tsukuba Center Bus Stop No. 3 Shuttle Bus North Route ⇒ Get off at Tsukubasan-guchi ⇒ Sakuragawa City Bus, riding time: 30min ⇒ Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa
- **From/To Iwaki (Iwaki Station)**
Tomobe Station on JR Joban Line ⇒ Iwase Station on JR Mito Line ⇒ Go sightseeing by taxi

● For chartered buses

- **Takajomachi Parking Lot**
(address: 279-1 Makabe, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa, Ibaraki)
Reservation in advance is required.
- * Reservation: City Development Division, Sakuragawa City Office
Tel.0296-58-5111

● Taxi

- **Uchida Taxi : 0296-55-0122**
Located in Makabe-cho
- **Okada Hired Car : 0296-75-2009**
Located in front of Iwase Station



Commerce, Industry and Tourism Division, Sakuragawa City Office

〒300-4495 911 Iitsuka, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa, Ibaraki

TEL **0296-55-1111**

TEL **0296-55-1159** (dial-in)

City of Sakuragawa

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