

ISHOC2026 Excursion

We have prepared five different tours for this event. Since each tour has a limited capacity, we ask that you select up to three preferences; however, please understand that we may not be able to accommodate all requests. Please note that even if you choose not to participate in the excursions, there are unique tourist attractions around Niigata Station that you can explore on your own.

1. Japanese Culture Experience Course 1: Capacity 25 participants

*Visit to Imayotsukasa Sake Brewery → Visit of the Niigata Saitou Villa →
Visit to Hakusan Shrine

Comments:

Imayotsukasa Sake Brewery: a sake brewery located near Niigata Station. Here, you can enjoy sake that's hard to find elsewhere.

<https://www.imayotsukasa.com/index.html>

The Niigata Saitou Villa: This traditional Japanese house features a stunning Japanese-style garden. There is also a café where you can enjoy matcha.

<https://saitouke.jp>

Hakusan Shrine: This shrine is well-loved by the locals of Niigata City. Since it's known for warding off misfortune and fostering romantic connections, it's especially recommended for singles. <https://www.niigatahakusanjinja.or.jp>



the Niigata Saitou Villa

2. Japanese Culture Experience Course 2: Capacity 30 participants

*Visit of Takano Sake Brewery → Visit of Yahiko Shrine

Comments:

Takano Sake Brewery: Since it's a local brewery, you can enjoy sake that's hard to find elsewhere. <https://www.takano-shuzo.co.jp>

Yahiko Shrine: This shrine, located in Niigata Prefecture, is the most prestigious Ichinomiya shrine in the region and boasts a history of 2,400 years.

<https://www.yahiko-jinja.or.jp>



Takano Sake Brewery



Yahiko Shrine

3. Japanese Foods Course 1: Capacity 25 participants

*Visit of Minemura Miso Brewery → Visit of Imayotsukasa Sake Brewery

→ Grape picking at Shirane Grape Garden

Comments

Minemura Miso Brewery: This is a brewery that makes miso. You can take a special tour of the miso cellar. You can also purchase miso and miso-flavored sweets.

<https://www.minemurashouten.com>

Imayotsukasa Sake Brewery: a sake brewery located near Niigata Station. Here, you can enjoy sake that's hard to find elsewhere.

<https://www.imayotsukasa.com/index.html>

Shirane Grape Garden: You can pick your own delicious grapes and eat them right there on the spot. <https://kudamonogari.com>



Imayotsukasa Sake Brewery



Shirane Grape Garden

4. Japanese Foods Course 2: Capacity 40 participants

*Visit to the Setsuryōsha Museum of Art → Hands-on experience making bamboo leaf dumplings at Niigata Furusato Village → Visit to Minatopia

Comments:

Setsuryōsha Museum of Art: It's a museum featuring Western and Eastern paintings, Meissen porcelain, and more, but the Japanese-style residence is absolutely beautiful.

<https://www.komeri.bit.or.jp/setsuryosha/>

Niigata Furusato Village This facility offers a chance to experience Niigata's local specialties and hands-on activities. Here, you can try your hand at making sasa dango, a traditional rice dumpling that has been enjoyed in Niigata for 500 years.

<https://furusatomura.pref.niigata.jp>

Minatopia: This is the Niigata City History Museum. The Western-style building is absolutely beautiful. <https://www.nchm.jp>



bamboo leaf dumplings



Hands-on experience making bamboo leaf dumplings

5. Monodzukuri Course: Capacity 30 participants

*Visit to Tsubame Industrial Museum and Hands-On Crafting Experience

→ Visit to Takarayama Sake Brewery

Comments:

Tsubame Industrial Museum: This is a museum dedicated to metalworking in the Tsubame area. The copper “Apple” on display here is a must-see! Also, during this tour, you’ll have the chance to try your hand at hammering a pure copper tumbler.

<https://tim.securesite.jp/index.html>

Takarayama Sake Brewery: At local breweries, you can sample sake that isn’t available in Tokyo, Osaka, or other major cities. <https://takarayama-brewery.co.jp>



Tsubame Industrial Museum



Hand-on of hammering of
pure copper tumbler

* Recommended Sightseeing Spots Around Niigata Station

- Marinepia Niigata <https://www.marinepia.or.jp>

It is the largest aquarium in Niigata Prefecture. The dolphin show, as well as the seals and penguins, are very popular.

- Northern Culture Museum <http://hoppou-bunka.com>

This is a wooden mansion from the Meiji period, older than 130 years, and not only is the building itself beautiful, but the Japanese-style garden is also stunning

- Cave d'Occi Winery <http://www.docci.com>

It's a winery located along the coast. There are also a few cafes.

- Ponshu Kan <https://www.ponshukan.com/niigata/>

There are four shops here. At the Sake Tasting Corner, you can sample sake from Niigata Prefecture. There's also a standing bar area, and you can buy souvenirs. At the Ponshu-kan Craftsmanship Shop, you can purchase Niigata's famous cutlery, knives, and sake sets.

- Nitoya Japanese Style Cafe

This Japanese-style café is about a 30-minute walk from Toki Messe. It's a great place to enjoy some quiet time.

- Niigata Manga Animation Museum <https://museum.nmam.jp>

Niigata City has produced many famous animators and manga artists and is actively promoting this culture and providing education in this field. The city hosts exhibitions related to anime and manga.

- Nuttari Terrasse Street <https://nuttari.jp>

This shopping district, which has been renovated from an old street with a Showa-era atmosphere, is currently the talk of Niigata Prefecture. It features cafes, general stores, and accessory shops. You might just stumble upon a one-of-a-kind item here.

Foods in Niigata City

- Sekitori, Higashi-Mandai-cho Branch <https://sekitori-shop.com>

One of Niigata's specialties is half a fried chicken. It's simple, but very delicious. The curry-flavored version is especially popular!

- Tonkatsu Masa Cahn <https://www.masachan.co.jp>

A must-try dish in Niigata is the tare katsu don. The restaurant is just a 20-minute walk from Toki Messe. You can also try other types of tonkatsu there.

- Sado Benkei, Pia Bandai Branch <https://sado-benkei.com/pier-bandai/>

Niigata is famous for its rice and fish. As a result, the sushi there is absolutely delicious. The Sado Benkei conveyor-belt sushi restaurant at Pia Bandai, where the Welcome Reception is being held, has a reputation for being both affordable and delicious.

- Sekai Sushi <http://www.sekaisushi.com>

It's a relatively affordable local sushi restaurant. It's about a 30-minute walk from Toki Messe.

- Toyoko, Niigata Ekimae Branch <https://www.touyoko.jp/blank-7>

Niigata City is also famous for its ramen. In particular, Niigata City's miso ramen and shoyu ramen are well-known. Toyoko is one of the famous restaurants serving Niigata miso ramen.

- Horai-ken <http://houraikenniigata.com>

Another popular ramen dish in Niigata City is shoyu ramen. If you're near Toki Messe, Horai-ken—located about a 20-minute walk across the Bandai Bridge—is a well-known spot.

- Nuttari Beer Pub <https://nuttaribeer.co.jp/shop/#pub>

This is a draft beer bar in Niigata City. It's a "brewpub" with a retro vibe, created by renovating an old traditional Japanese house. The atmosphere is absolutely fantastic.

- Ika no Sumi, Niigata Station Branch <https://www.yonekura-group.jp/shop/ikanosumi/guide.html>

This is a seafood izakaya with a relaxed atmosphere that serves sashimi and steamed dishes made with seasonal seafood from Niigata. It offers a wide selection of local sake from Niigata Prefecture and can accommodate everything from small gatherings to large banquets.

- Sumibi Tori Ya ZIMON https://tjniigata.jp/gourmet/2025otonasake_zimon/

Our signature dish is yakitori, which is carefully grilled over charcoal, one skewer at a time, after each order is placed. Another highlight is the calm, upscale atmosphere, which sets us apart from typical yakitori joints. Depending on availability, you can also enjoy rare cuts of meat.

- Tsubamesanjo Bit Niigata <https://bit2013.com/restaurant/restaurant-niigata/>

Here, you can enjoy Italian cuisine that makes the most of the natural flavors of ingredients sourced from Niigata Prefecture, with a focus on Tsubame-Sanjo. The third floor features a gallery showcasing Tsubame-Sanjo products, making this a unique spot where you can experience the appeal of both food and craftsmanship at the same time.

- ALLA VECCHIA PENTOLACCIA <https://quals.jp/trattoria#alla-veccia-pentolaccia>

If you're looking for authentic Neapolitan pizza, this place comes highly recommended. We invite you to enjoy piping-hot Neapolitan pizza, baked in a wood-fired oven, in our cozy, rustic setting inspired by a Tuscan farmhouse.

- Stake House Bronco <https://tabelog.com/niigata/A1501/A150101/15001504/>

This long-established steakhouse has been a favorite for over 40 years. It's famous for its hearty hamburger steaks, and you can also enjoy authentic Mexican dishes like tacos. It's the perfect spot when you're in the mood for a hearty serving of delicious meat.

- Japanese Cuisine Minewo <https://nihonryori-minewo.com/>

This is a cozy Japanese restaurant with about 10 seats, run solely by the owner. Here, you can savor beautiful, delicate dishes served on carefully selected tableware. With an extensive selection of sake from Niigata, you can enjoy a unique, otherworldly atmosphere in this quiet, hidden gem of a spot.

- Mikazuki Bandai Branch <https://www.mikazuki-italian.com/shop/bandai>

This is an "ITALIAN" restaurant serving Niigata's local specialty. Of course, it's not actually Italian cuisine—it's yakisoba topped with meat sauce. You can also enjoy soft-serve ice cream and takoyaki here.

- Bandai Soba

It's a standing-style soba shop, but their curry is so delicious that the place is now famous all over Japan. It's always packed. It's located on the first floor of the Bandai Bus Center.