



Iwa-Key

Volume 32
March 2020

Iwaki City Monthly Event & Information Guide

Iwa-Key



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Reconnecting of the Entire Joban Line

Nine years after the Great East Japan earthquake, the entire Joban Line will be reconnected with the **reopening of Yonomori, Ono and Futaba stations on 14th March.**

Once the Joban Line reopens, there will be 11 inbound and outbound local train services operating between Tomioka and Namie stations daily. In addition, 3 inbound and outbound Hitachi Special Express services will run along the entire Shinagawa-Sendai section of the line daily. Trains will also stop daily at J-Village Station to coincide with the Joban Line reconnection.

If you want to ride on what will be the first ever train ride in 9 years to pass through the reopened Tomoika-Namie section of the Joban Line, a train departing from Haranomachi Station (Minamisoma Town) will arrive at **Namie Station at 5:52am** before heading in the Tomioka direction through the reconnected section. Of course, if you can't get up early enough to make this ride, there will be events and other things to enjoy at each reopened station throughout the day on the 14th.

Local Train Departure Times

Tomioka → Namie	Namie → Tomioka
6:02am	5:52am
6:51am	6:31am
7:50am	7:11am
8:30am	8:10am
10:09am	9:36am
12:55pm	12:09pm
3:59pm	2:20pm
5:27pm	4:46pm
6:29pm	5:54pm
8:04pm	7:08pm
9:00pm	8:41pm

Hitachi Special Express Departure Times (reopened section in bold font)

Shinagawa/Tokyo/Ueno → Iwaki → Sendai					
Hitachi No.	Shinagawa	Tokyo	Ueno	Iwaki	Sendai
3			8:00am	10:25am	12:31pm
13	12:45pm	12:53pm	1:00pm	3:15pm	5:26pm
19	3:45pm	3:53pm	4:00pm	6:14pm	8:28pm
Sendai → Iwaki → Shinagawa/Tokyo/Ueno					
Hitachi No.	Sendai	Iwaki	Ueno	Tokyo	Shinagawa
14	10:13am	12:18pm	2:35pm	2:42pm	2:51pm
26	4:11pm	6:17pm	8:36pm	8:43pm	8:52pm
30	6:02pm	8:16pm	10:37pm	10:43pm	10:53pm

These special express services also stop at Hirono, Tomioka, Ono, Futaba, Namie, Haranomachi, Soma stations.

Iwaki Leg of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Relay

There are only a few months left until the Olympics are held in Tokyo. In the lead up to the Olympics, the Olympic Torch Relay will commence on **Thursday, 26th March**, with Fukushima Prefecture being chosen as the first prefecture and Iwaki chosen as one of the first cities that the torch will pass through.

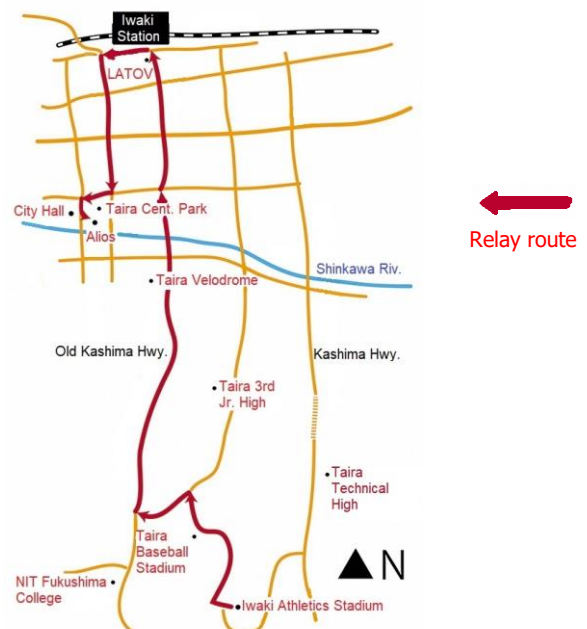
Starting at J-Village, the torch will then make its way down to Iwaki on the same day. The Iwaki leg of the torch relay will depart from **Iwaki Athletics Stadium at 11:39am**, where the torch bearers will run north along the Old Kashima Road, passing via **Taira Baseball Stadium, Taira Velodrome**, all the way to **Iwaki Station** before heading south and arriving at **Alios Iwaki Performing Arts Centre** at 12:52pm.

Flame of Recovery

In the few days leading up to the start of the regular torch relay, a special Flame of Recovery will be displayed in several areas of the three prefectures that were worst affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake (Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures). This flame will be displayed at **Aquamarine Park, Onahama from 2:30pm until 6pm on 25th March** – the day before the torch relay will pass through Iwaki.

For more details about the torch relay route through Fukushima and the rest of Japan, refer to the Official Tokyo 2020 Olympic Website:

<https://tokyo2020.org/en/torch/>



* Note that you may be asked to step away from other spectators if you are coughing or appear unwell.

Iwa-Key is produced by the Tourism Exchange Division of Iwaki City Hall

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(The IIA is also on Facebook and Twitter)

The Tourism Exchange Division and the IIA are open to the public. Please feel free to drop by, call, or e-mail us anytime.



Iwaki Festivals and Events

Notice:

Several major events that were scheduled to take place this month have been cancelled or delayed due to concerns relating to the outbreak of Coronavirus. The following events (as well as those mentioned on the previous page) are still scheduled to take place as of the time of publishing this edition of Iwa-Key. However, there is a possibility that further events may be cancelled at a later date.

Before attending any event, confirm with the event sponsor in advance to ensure that it will still be taking place. Even if events are still going ahead, there may be certain precautions to consider to prevent the spread of viruses (for example, you may be asked to wear a mask, disinfect your hands with alcohol or leave the venue if you are coughing or feeling unwell).

Event	When & Where	Details	Inquiries
3.11 Candle Night	Wed 11 th Mar; 6pm-7:30pm Taira Central Park (in front of Alios), Taira	Candles will be lit up and arranged to form a message in tribute to those who lost their lives in the 3.11 disaster and serve as a symbol of recovery.	3.11 Light of Hope Project Executive Committee TEL: 0246-58-6777
Traditional Thatched-Roof House Opening Event	Sat 14 th Mar; from 11am Museum of Folklore and Traditional Housing, Taira	This event is being held to celebrate the completed relocation of a 150 year-old thatched house that has been designated by Fukushima Prefecture as an important cultural property. There is no need to apply to participate in the event, but admission fee into the facility is required.	Cultural Promotion Division of Iwaki City Hall TEL: 0246-22-7546
Mushroom Growing Workshop	Sun 15 th Mar; from 1pm-4pm Iwaki City Yunodake Mountain Lodge, Joban	Try cultivating shiitake and other types of mushrooms for free. This event is limited to 20 participants. Contact the event sponsor to apply for the event.	Forest Friendship Society TEL: 0246-44-3273
Strawberry and Cake Fair	Fri 20 th Mar; from 11am Forest Kitchen in Wonder Farm, Yotsukura	A giant 1mX2m sized strawberry cake will be served at Wonder Farm's buffet restaurant. In the lead up this event, a giant Doll's Festival cake will be served every Sunday this month. All-you-can-eat strawberry events will also take place on the 20 th , 21 st , 27 th and 28 th this month.	Forest Kitchen, Wonder Farm TEL: 0246-38-8853
Spring Festival	Fri 20 th Mar – Sun 5 th Apr Aquamarine Fukushima, Onahama	There will be a number events held to celebrate spring as well as the 20 th anniversary since the opening of the aquarium. A tea party will be held as an opening event from 9am-10am on the 20 th and photogenic goldfish that resemble cherry blossoms will be on display throughout the event period.	Aquamarine Fukushima TEL: 0246-73-2525
Forest Hiking Tour	Sat 28 th Mar; 10am-noon Starts and Finishes at Wonder Farm, Yotsukura	Starting at Wonder Farm, a guide will take you on a hiking tour up to a 160m high rocky cliff where you can enjoy views of the Pacific Ocean and surrounding forest. Please bring fluids, towel and gloves and wear clothing suitable for hiking (long sleeve shirt, long pants, hat and walking shoes). Participation is free, but you must apply for the tour by Wed 25 th Mar.	Environmental Planning Division of Iwaki City Hall TEL: 0246-22-7441 Email: kanyakokikaku@city.iwaki.lg.jp
Disney Brass Band Concert	Sat 28 th Mar; from 3pm (doors open at 2pm) Main Hall, Alios, Taira	Japan's famous Siena Wind Orchestra will perform famous Disney songs with Iwaki Yumoto 1 st Junior High School performing as a supporting act. Ticket prices range from ¥6500 to ¥7500 with discount seats available for students of high school age or younger.	Kyodo Tohoku TEL: 022-217-7788
Weeping Cherry Blossom Tree Bus Tour	Thu 2 nd , Fri 3 rd & Sat 4 th Apr Bus departs Izumi Station at 8:40am, Yumoto Station at 9am, Horuru at 9:05am and Iwaki Station at 9:30am (Bus returns to each spot at 3:35pm, 3:55pm, 4pm and 4:20pm respectively)	Enjoy a daylong tour around 3 famous 500 year-old weeping cherry blossom trees in Iwaki. This tour will also include lunch at a sushi restaurant and strawberry picking. The tour is limited to 25 people per day and costs ¥6500 to participate (fee includes lunch and admission fee into each facility).	Joban Kotsu Tourism (JKK) TEL: 0246-29-5611