



Iwa-Key

Volume 37
November 2020

Iwaki City Monthly Event & Information Guide

Iwa-Key



Like and Share our new Facebook Page!

(<https://www.facebook.com/iwakey/>)

Iwa-Key is Changing!

We're excited to announce some upcoming changes to Iwa-Key's internet presence!

For starters, the current "Iwa-Key" Facebook will be renamed to *Iwaki Vision*. Residents may already be familiar with the physical version of Iwaki Vision, which is published roughly 2-4 times a year, showcasing highlights of life in Iwaki. Although *Iwaki Vision's* Facebook will likely have a post rate of closer to 2-4 times a week, it will cover the same topics as the physical copy, showcasing some of the cool places and events that one can enjoy in our quirky city.

To make these snippets of life in Iwaki accessible to a larger audience, we will also be organizing a corresponding Instagram, featuring the same photo contents.

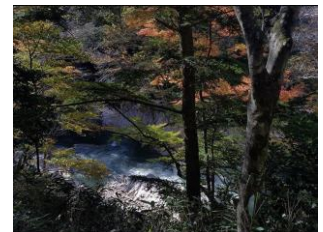


We hope that these changes will help better keep residents informed about community events as they arise, rather than as a once-monthly bulletin. Further, we hope that this will create a venue for residents to share their own Iwaki photos and experiences. Part of this will involve reviving a digital version of the "Cheese Iwaki" photo contest, where Iwaki's resident photographers can showcase some of their proudest work.

Physical copies of Iwaki Vision will still be compiled 2-4 times a year, as sort of a "best of" of our web content. As for Iwa-Key, physical copies will still be delivered until December, but as of January next year, they will be replaced by a more simplified event list. Important announcements regarding disaster relief and lifestyle tips will mainly be posted on the Iwaki International Association's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/iwakia/>) and then shared through Iwaki-Vision's Facebook page, rather than directly uploaded.

For those with concerns or inquiries related to these changes, do not hesitate to drop a message to iia-m-d@city.iwaki.lg.jp

Top Leaf-Viewing Destinations



When it comes to Japanese nature-related activities, the viewing of autumn leaves (*koyo*) comes second only to cherry blossoms in terms of popularity. Iwaki is gifted with several great spots to enjoy *koyo* - perhaps the foremost being the Natsuiyama Valley.

The valley, which the JR Ban-Etsu East Line runs through, offers spectacular autumn views the likes of which you'd see in a *nihon-ga* painting. Throughout the length of the valley one can experience lush foliage, crisp air, and the flowing of the river in the background. Any station along the Ban-Etsu East line offers a beautiful area to get out and explore, though Eda Station is perhaps the highest-recommended by locals.

Though its nearby hiking trail was made inaccessible past the first waterfall by last year's typhoon, the walk along the main road of the valley remains tranquil and scenic. The area offers some modest amenities - a soba restaurant, a campground, a small store, and a square where local farmers will occasionally sell their produce. Nonetheless, it would be wise to bring some food and drinks, as business hours in the middle of a valley can be unpredictable.



For those who prefer less of a hike, the annual autumn illuminations at Shiramizu Amidado temple will be held from November 7th-15th, this year featuring projection mapping for the first time, as well as entry into the temple itself. Admission is 500 yen for adults, 300 yen for children Elementary school age, free for younger. Free shuttle buses will be available from Iwaki Station and Yumoto station on Saturdays and Sundays. Whether in Uchigo's manicured temple grounds, or the dead of Natsuiyama's nature, this year's autumn colours

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

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Iwaki International Association (IIA)

Official Website: <http://www.iia-fukushima.or.jp>
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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

Event	When & Where	Details	Inquiries
Amidanight	November 7 th -15 th , 5:30-8:30pm Shiramizu Amidado	See the Iwaki's national treasure amid autumn leaves, stunningly emphasized by illuminations and projection mapping. Admission is 500 yen for adults, 300 yen for children Elementary school age, free for younger. Free shuttle buses will be available from Iwaki Station and Yumoto station on Saturdays and Sundays. For more details, check out: https://kankou-iwaki.or.jp/event/50938 .	Iwaki Tourist Information Centre TEL: 0246-23-0122
Iwaki Great Harvest Festival	November 15 th 10am-3pm Iwaki La La Mew South Side Rest Area	Come reap the fruits (or in this case, vegetables) of this year's harvest from local farmers from Tabito, Tono, Miwa, and Kawamae.	Iwaki La La Mew TEL: 0246-92-3701
Uchigo Autumnal Mine Town Walking Tour	November 15 th , 8:45am meeting, 9am departure from. Shiramizu Amidado	Enjoy a slip back in time by touring Uchigo and learning the town's history from a local guide. Participants should be advised that the course is 6km over the 5 hours. Cost is 2000 yen, including lunch, admission, guide fees, and insurance Registration closes November 6 th .	Iwaki Tourism and City Planning Bureau TEL: 0246-44-6545 https://kankou-iwaki.or.jp/event/51399
Wonder Farm Nature Hike	November 21 st , 9:30am-12pm Iwaki Wonder Farm	Come join a guided tour of the forested areas around Wonder Farm. Remember to bring towel, drinks, and appropriate hiking attire. Participation is free.	Environmental Planning Division TEL: 0246-22-7441 kankyokikaku@city.iwaki.lg.jp
Tabito Mount Atago Mountain Climb and Lunch	November 29 th , 8:30am-12:30pm Hito-Tabi Cafe	Join a hike throughout the beautiful nature of Tabito, guided by locals. Participation fee (including lunch) is 2000 yen. Please select from three menu options upon registration.	Iwaki Tourism and City Planning Bureau TEL: 0246-44-6545 https://kankou-iwaki.or.jp/event/51358
Kusano Shinpei and Munakata Shikou: Becoming Van Gogh	Ongoing from October 10 th -December 20 th Kusano Shinpei Memorial Literature Centre	An exhibit showcasing the close companionship between these two Tohoku-born artists, and the inspiration they derived from each other. Admission is 440 yen for adults.	Kusano Shinpei Memorial Literature Centre TEL: 0246-83-0005
Morning Omusubi at Yumoto Onsen	November 13 th -17 th Various Ryokan in Yumoto	As promotion with Iwaki Laiki rice, ryokan in Yumoto are offering 800 yen vouchers for two onigiri and an early morning dip in their respective onsen. Times and quantities vary, so be sure to book with your ryokan before 6pm the day before. For full list of participating ryokan, check out: https://kankou-iwaki.or.jp/event/51010	Information varies by ryokan
Iwaki Laiki Live Kitchen	November 14 th -15 th , Hourly Between 10am-2pm	Chef from a Michelin Guide-listed onigiri shop will be travelling to Iwaki, hosting a "live kitchen" at Iwaki Coal and Fossil Museum. Admission is 500 yen (includes two onigiri).	Iwaki Laiki Brand Management TEL:0246-22-1147
Exploring Iwaki's Yayoi Period	Ongoing Until December 12 th Iwaki City Archaeological Museum	Come see the basic tools that marked the beginning of rice production, as they've been found in what is now known as Iwaki. Free Admission.	Iwaki City Archaeological Museum TEL: 0246-43-0391
Green Slow Mobility Transportation System Toybox	Ongoing until November 23 rd Various Locations Around Iwaki Station	Demonstrations of this new, environmentally-friendly technology have been extended, offering taxi service between 23 designated boarding points around Iwaki Station (complete list available online). Guests are asked to reserve service — this can be done via smartphone on demand between 9:00-4:30 at https://bit.ly/iwakigs . Readers should be advised that for the additional service cost of 100 yen is now required.	Hotoku Taxi TEL: 0246-23-6111 Website: https://bit.ly/iwakigs

- The information above may be subject to cancellation or change. Before attending events, please confirm with the sponsors in

