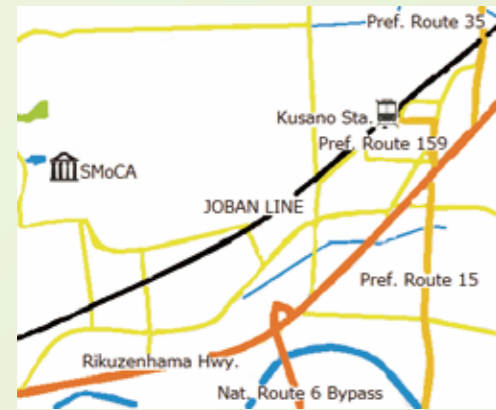


# Touring Iwaki by Rail: Kusano-Suetsugi Stations

Our fourth and final edition covering the things you can see and do within walking distance of the Joban Line stations will cover the northern stations of Kusano, Yotsukura, Hisanohama and Suetsugi.

## Kusano Station



Kusano Station is located in the Izumisaki district of northern Taira. There is quite a contrast between both sides of the station, with narrow suburban streets to the south and a vast expanse of rice fields to the north. Thirty minutes of walking north-west of the station along paths that cut through the rice fields will bring you to the Snake Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA) – a rather unique outdoor art gallery. Follow the winding serpent-like wooden corridor and you'll find a surprising view waiting for you at the top!



## Yotsukura Station



### ① Yotsukura Beach

(13min walk from Yotsukura Station)

This is one of the most accessible beaches in Iwaki for those without a car. The beach is also close to the Roadside Station Yotsukura Port, so you can enjoy a lunch or coffee indoors after taking a stroll along the sand or a dip in the water.



### ② Roadside Station Yotsukura Port (18min walk from Yotsukura Station)

There are over a thousand roadside stations (michi no eki in Japanese) dotted across the highways and expressways in Japan. They serve as a place for drivers to stop and relax on a long trip or as a convenient place to try and purchase the local foods and souvenirs of that region. Iwaki's roadside station features a food court and cafe where you can enjoy Yotsukura's ocean views with your coffee.



## Hisanohama Station



### ① Hamakaze Kirara

(4min walk from Hisanohama Station)

Hamakaze Kirara opened in 2017 as part of Hisanohama's reconstruction after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. This compact shopping area features a cafe, restaurants, stores selling clothes and goods as well as several other small businesses.

### ② Akiba Shrine (5min walk from Hisanohama Station)

Despite being so close to the coast, this small shrine miraculously managed to withstand the 2011 tsunami unscathed and now serves as a memorial and symbol of revitalisation for the residents of Hisanohama. Take some time to come here and pay respect to the victims of the tsunami and pray for the ongoing recovery of this region.



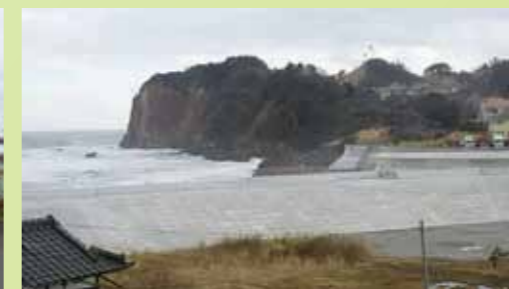
### ③ Hisanohama Branch Office (4min walk from Hisanohama Station)

This facility was constructed in 2015 with the branch office for Iwaki City Hall on the first floor and a 3.11 exhibition on the second floor. More importantly, this building has been designed to withstand tsunamis and thus plays a vital role as a last resort evacuation point in the event of a future tsunami (however, it is highly advised that you evacuate inland and/or onto higher ground immediately after a tsunami alert is issued).

## Suetsugi Station



Suetsugi is the last stop on the Iwaki portion of the Joban Line before the rail continues north onto Hirono and eventually all the way to Sendai in Miyagi Prefecture. The station is located in a small and peaceful village by the coast. Walking for about ten minutes through the tranquil surrounds will bring you to Suetsugi Temple which offers a wonderful view of the coastal cliffs at the top of the temple stairs.



We have now covered every station on the Joban Line in Iwaki. So why not take the time to go on an adventure around each train station and discover the unique features of each area in this large city of Iwaki.