

Touring Iwaki by Rail: Uchigo and Iwaki Stations

Iwaki Station

This series has so far covered the southern portion of Iwaki's train stations. For the third edition, we will introduce some of the things you can see and do within walking distance of Uchigo and Iwaki Stations.

Uchigo Station

① Medical facilities

Whilst Uchigo is most famous for the National Treasure Shiramizu Amida Temple (see previous edition of Iwaki Vision), the area is also a medical hub for Iwaki, with the city's major hospital and health facilities located within a short bus ride or walk from the station.

(a) Iwaki Kyoritsu Hospital (17min walk or 3min bus ride from Uchigo Station)

A new hospital site is being rebuilt next to the current hospital and is expected to begin admitting patients by December 2018.

Inquiries: kyoritsu@iwaki-kyoritsu.iwaki.fukushima.jp

(b) Iwaki City General Health and Welfare Centre

(13min walk or 7min bus ride from Uchigo Station)

Apart from being a facility for a variety of health-related consultations, the health and welfare centre also provides after hours medical treatment and emergency dental care.

Inquiries: hokenjo@city.iwaki.fukushima.jp



② Walking/cycling paths

Starting at Uchigo Station, there is a divided path for cyclists and pedestrians which runs alongside the Joban Line. From there you can continue your stroll or bike ride along the Shin River which will eventually take you past Iwaki City Hall and close to Iwaki Station.

③ Fukumiya (3min walk from Uchigo Station)

This shop has been making homemade daifuku, a type of mochi rice cake with azuki beans inside, for over 50 years. The freshly-made soft-textured mochi is so popular that it often sells out by noon, so you might want to wake up early to try this traditional Japanese sweet.



④ Shike Sake Brewery (18min walk from Uchigo Station)

This local family-owned brewery has been passed down the generations for over 140 years. This is where Iwaki's award winning sake "Matabee" is brewed. The family makes this sake under the concept of "Local sake for local people".



Uchigo Station Area

As the central station for Iwaki, there are many things to see and do around Iwaki Station (so many that we can't include them all in this article!). The area has a long history as the site of the former Iwakitaira Castle and you can get a taste of Iwaki's history by visiting the surrounding parks and walking down each street.

① Matsugaoka Park (15min walk from Iwaki Station)

This park is popular for its azalea and cherry blossom flowers which are best viewed in April and early-May. The park also features a statue of Nobumasa Ando, a high-ranking daimyo (feudal lord) of the former Iwakitaira Domain during the final years of the Edo period.



② Tangosawa Park (5-8min walk from Iwaki Station)

This peaceful park was actually once part of an inner moat that was being constructed for Iwakitaira Castle. The park is named after a 95 year-old man who sacrificed himself as a hitobashira (lit. human pillar) for the successful construction of the moat around 400 years ago.

③ Iino-Hachiman Shrine (16min walk from Iwaki Station)

Built during the Heian period of Japan over 1000 years ago, this temple holds the annual Yabusame festival in September. During the festival, archers shoot a target while riding on horseback.



④ Yoake-Ichiba (4min walk from Iwaki Station)

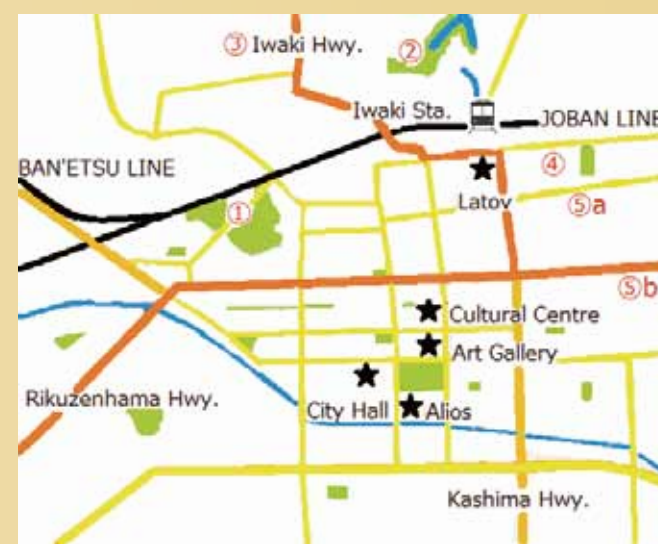
Established on 4 November 2011, this alley that was once known as Shirogane-Koji was rejuvenated into Yoake-Ichiba as a way to promote the revitalisation of Iwaki's city centre after the Great East Japan Earthquake. The small alley features over a dozen small restaurants, each offering a friendly, at-home atmosphere.

⑤ Historical warehouses renovated into cafes

These two cafes have utilised old warehouses that were built during the Meiji period over 100 years ago. Whilst the warehouse for Caferia (left) has been renovated into a cottage-style cafe, the larger warehouse of Karaku (right) features, in addition a classic-style cafe, several businesses including a hair salon and drinking establishments.

(a) Karaku (7min walk from Iwaki Station)

(b) Caferia (10min walk from Iwaki Station)



Iwaki Station Area