



# Welcome to the "Flower Town of Shibata"

## A Short Excursion to Shibata

### Sample Sightseeing Routes

## Welcome to the "Flower Town of Shibata"

The "Flower Town of Shibata" is a town-planning program that aims to create a new landscape colored with flowers. The town of Shibata has held workshops centering on town residents and university students to promote this program, which uses the theme of "flowers" in an effort to think about measures that increase the tourist population while making the most of local resources. This map is the compilation of those efforts. There are 4 sample sightseeing routes included that are an abbreviated exploration of the town's attractions. Why not take the opportunity to depart on a short excursion to the "Flower Town of Shibata?"

## About the town of Shibata

### 教育 Educ 産業 Indu 歴史 Histo 文化 Cult

The town is located in the southern part of Miyagi Prefecture and has a warm climate. Shibata has educational institutions that include preschools, elementary and jr. high schools, Shibata Prefectural High School, Funaoka Prefectural Special Needs School, and Sendai University. It is one of the few towns in Japan to have educational facilities spanning from kindergarten up to university. The "Flower Town of Shibata" is also a university town busy and bustling with youth.

Commerce and industry developed by utilizing the town's location as a key junction point. Notably, shipments of manufactured goods reached 149.3 billion yen (2009 census of manufactures), which places the town 5th in the prefecture. Flower cultivation is also flourishing. The town ships 3.5 million chrysanthemums, putting it in 2nd place in the prefecture (2006 Miyagi Prefecture horticultural crop statistics) and making the town true to its name, the "Flower Town of Shibata."

Shibata's growth is based on utilization of the former navy ammunitions arsenal site. The Self-Defense Forces, Funaoka Industrial Complex, and Sendai University among others have been attracted to the former arsenal site, which has led to remarkable growth for the town. A diorama of the former navy ammunitions arsenal can be viewed at the Shibata Folk Museum, which is next to the Industrial Exhibition Hall where locally manufactured products are introduced.

The equestrian statue of Date Masamune at Sendai Castle is a masterpiece of Shibata's own citizen, the late sculptor Toru Komuro. A reproduction of the statue is on display at the Noson Kankyo Kaizen Center in the Irimada District, Komuro's place of birth. His works are also on display in front of Funaoka Station and Tsukinoki Station. Shibata Folk Museum has a collection of bronze statues and valuable materials related to Komuro.



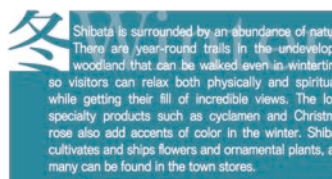
### Getting There Transportation Guide



JR Tohoku Line/Abukuma Express Line via JR Tohoku Shinkansen  
● Tokyo—Sendai—Shibata (Funaoka Station, Tsukinoki Station/Higashifunaoka Station) Approx. 2hrs. 30min.  
Tohoku Expressway  
● Kawaguchi I.C.—Murata I.C.—Shibata Approx. 3hrs. 30min.  
Airlines  
Nagoya Airport—Sendai Airport—Shibata Approx. 1hr. 45min.  
Osaka Airport—Sendai Airport—Shibata Approx. 1hr. 50min.  
Sapporo Airport—Sendai Airport—Shibata Approx. 1hr. 50min.



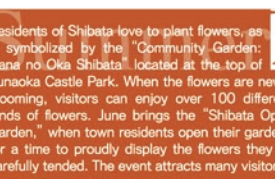
The Miyagi Chrysanthemum Exhibition held at Funaoka Castle Park is one of Shibata's special fall events. The talk of the town are the chrysanthemums dolls made each year that are modeled after that year's NHK historical drama. Shibata is also actively promoting green tourism that gives visitors a chance to try "green" experiences, such as harvesting sweet potatoes and making soba noodles at the nature resort village, Taiyo no Mura.



Shibata is surrounded by an abundance of nature. There are year-round trails in the undeveloped woodland that can be walked even in wintertime, so visitors can relax both physically and spiritually while getting their fill of incredible views. The local specialty products such as cyclamen and Christmas rose also add accents of color in the winter. Shibata cultivates and ships flowers and ornamental plants, and many can be found in the town stores.

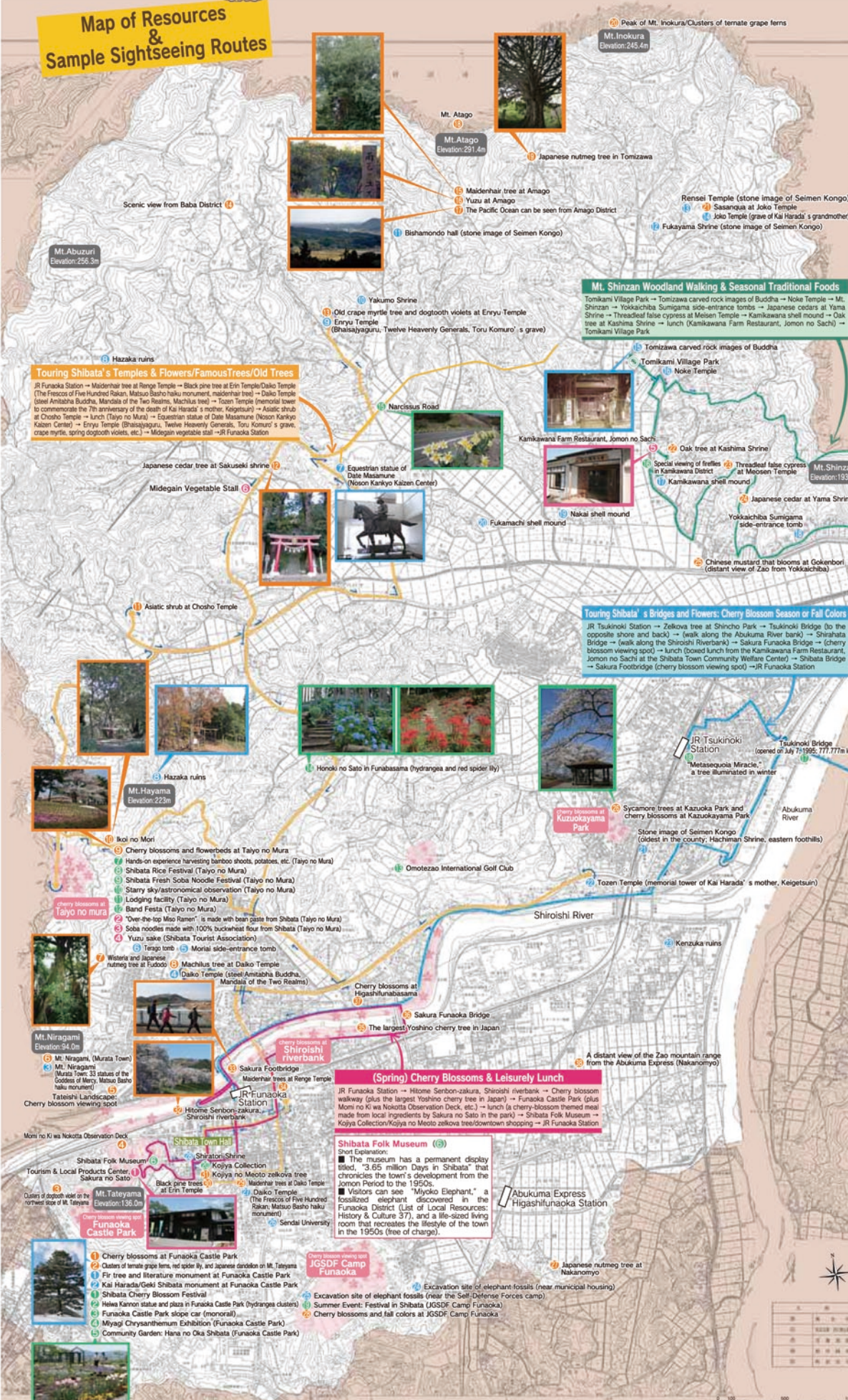


Shibata is well known for its cherry blossoms. In spring, the Zao mountain range covered with lingering snow, the 1,000 cherry trees (Hitome Senbon-zakura) along the banks of the Shiroishi River, and the cherry trees in Funaoka Castle Park together form a scene just like a picture. It's a sight you won't want to miss. This beautiful landscape is the only place in Miyagi Prefecture selected by the Japan Cherry Blossom Association as one of the "100 best sites for viewing cherry blossoms in Japan."



Residents of Shibata love to plant flowers, as is symbolized by the "Community Garden: Hana no Oka Shibata," located at the top of Funaoka Castle Park. When the flowers are newly blooming, visitors can enjoy over 100 different kinds of flowers. June brings the "Shibata Open Garden," when town residents open their gardens for a time to proudly display the flowers they so carefully tended. The event attracts many visitors.

### Map of Resources & Sample Sightseeing Routes



### Shibata Open Garden

Contact  
Shibata Town Planning Policy Division  
TEL.0224-54-2111



### The "Flower Town of Shibata" A List of Local Resources

Category No.	Local Resources
1	Cherry blossoms at Funaoka Castle Park
2	Clusters of female grape ferns, red spider lily, and Japanese dandelion on Mt. Tateyama
3	Clusters of dogtooth violet on the northwest slope of Mt. Tateyama
4	Momi no Ki wa Nokotta Observation Deck
5	Tateishi Landscape: Cherry blossom viewing spot
6	Mt. Niragami(Murata Town)
7	Wisteria and Japanese nutmeg tree at Fudodo
8	Machilus tree at Daiko Temple
9	Cherry blossoms and flowerbeds at Taiyo no Mura
10	Iko no Mori
11	Asiatic shrub at Chosho Temple
12	Japanese cedar tree at Sakuseki shrine
13	Old crane myrtle tree and dogtooth violets at Enryu Temple
14	Scenic view from Baba District
15	Maidenhair tree at Amago
16	Yuzu at Amago
17	The Pacific Ocean can be seen from Amago District
18	Mt. Atago
19	Japanese nutmeg tree in Tomizawa
20	Peak of Mt. Inokura/Clusters of female grape ferns
21	Sasanqua at Joko Temple
22	Oak tree at Kashima Shrine
23	Threadleaf false cypress at Meisen Temple
24	Japanese cedar at Yama Shrine
25	Chinese mustard that blooms at Gokenbori (distant view of Zao from Yokkaichiba)
26	Sycamore tree at Kazuoka Park and cherry blossoms at Kazuokayama Park
27	Japanese nutmeg tree at Nakanomiyu
28	Cherry blossoms and fall colors at JGSDF Camp Funaoka
29	Maidenhair tree at Daiko Temple
30	Black pine tree at Erin Temple
31	Koiya no Meoto zekovra tree
32	Hitome Senbon-zakura, Shiroishi riverbank
33	Sakura Funaoka Bridge
34	Maidenhair tree at Renge Temple
35	The largest Yoshino cherry tree in Japan
36	Cherry blossoms at Higashifunaokasama
37	A distant view of the Zao mountain range from the Abukuma Express (Nakanomiyu)
38	Fir tree and literature monument at Funaoka Castle Park
39	Kai Harada/Geki Shibata monument at Funaoka Castle Park
40	Mt. Nagai (Mata Town: 33 statues of the Goddess of Mercy, Matsuo Basho haku monument)
41	Daiko Temple (steel Amitayus Buddha, Mandala of the Two Realms)
42	Morial side-entrance tomb
43	Terago tomb
44	Equestrian statue of Date Masamune (Noson Kankyo Kaizen Center)
45	Hazaka ruins
46	Enryu Temple (Bhaiyaguru, Twelve Heavenly Generals, Toru Komuro's grave)
47	Yakumo Shrine
48	Bishamondo hall (stone image of Seimen Kongo)
49	Fukayama Shrine (stone image of Seimen Kongo)
50	Rensei Temple (stone image of Seimen Kongo)
51	Joko Temple (grave of Kai Harada's grandmother)
52	Tomizawa carved rock images of Buddha
53	Kamikawana shell mound
54	Yokkaichiba Sumigama side-entrance tombs
55	Nakai shell mound
56	Fukamachi shell mound
57	Stone image of Seimen Kongo (oldest in the county; Hachiman Shrine, eastern foothills)
58	Excavation site of elephant fossils (near municipal housing)
59	Excavation site of elephant fossils (near the Self-Defense Forces camp)
60	Sendai University
61	Daiko Temple (The Fescos of Five Hundred Rakan, Matsuo Basho haku monument)
62	Shiratori Shrine
63	Shibata Cherry Blossom Festival
64	Heisa Kannon statue and plaza in Funaoka Castle Park (hydrangea clusters)
65	Funaoka Castle Park slope car (monorail)
66	Miyagi Chrysanthemum Exhibition (Funaoka Castle Park)
67	Community Garden: Hana no Oka Shibata (Funaoka Castle Park)
68	Shibata Folk Museum
69	Hands-on experience harvesting bamboo shoots, potatoes, etc. (Taiyo no Mura)
70	Shibata Rice Festival (Taiyo no Mura)
71	Shibata Fresh Soba Noodle Festival (Taiyo no Mura)
72	Starry sky/astronomical observation (Taiyo no Mura)
73	Lodging facility (Taiyo no Mura)
74	Band Festa (Taiyo no Mura)
75	Omotezao International Golf Club
76	Honoki no Sato in Funaokasama (hydrangea and red spider lily)
77	Narcissus Road
78	Special viewing of fireflies in Kamikawana District
79	Tsukinoki Bridge (opened on July 7, 1995; 777.777m long)
80	"Metasequoia Miracle," a tree illuminated in winter
81	"Metasequoia Miracle," a tree illuminated in winter
82	Summer Event: Festival in Shibata (JGSDF Camp Funaoka)
83	Koiya Collection
84	Tourism & Local Products Center, Sakura no Sato
85	"Over-the-top Miso Ramen" is made with bean paste from Shibata (Taiyo no Mura)
86	Soba noodles made with 100% buckwheat flour from Shibata (Taiyo no Mura)
87	Yuzu sake (Shibata Tourist Association)
88	Kamikawana Farm Restaurant, Jomon no Sachi
89	Midogain Vegetable Stall
<b>Guide to Facilities</b>	
Funaoka Castle Park Tourism & Local Products Center, Sakura no Sato TEL. 0224-87-7101	
Shibata Folk Museum	
Closed: Mondays (or the following day when Monday is a holiday)	
Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm	
Contact: Shibata Folk Museum TEL. 0224-55-0707	
Taiyo no Mura	
Closed: Mondays (or the following day when Monday is a holiday)	
Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm	
Contact: Taiyo no Mura Shibata Tourist Association TEL. 0224-56-3970	
Kamikawana Farm Restaurant, Jomon no Sachi	
Service by reservation only	
(Reservations must be made 10 days in advance: lunch, parties, catering)	
Contact: Jomon no Sachi	
Lodging in Shibata	
Taiyo no Mura	TEL. 0224-56-3970
Watu Hotel Higashifunaoka	TEL. 0224-57-1616
Hotel Harada in Sakura	TEL. 0224-58-2525
Business Hotel Ichitaro	TEL. 0224-54-1234
Okuma Ryokan	TEL. 0224-56-1207
Takatori Ryokan	TEL. 0224-54-1112
<b>Taxi Companies</b>	
Shibata Inari Taxi	TEL. 0120-34-6000
Shibata Kankyo Taxi	TEL. 0120-12-1750
Shinseido Taxi	TEL. 0120-39-1038



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