

Saruka Park

Saruka Park

Cherry blossoms in spring, lotus flowers in summer, colorful leaves in fall, and snowy landscapes in winter. This park, rich in nature, changes its appearance with the seasons. The grounds are full of photo spots! Enjoy taking pictures while strolling around.



Saruka Shrine

It is said that *Sakanoue no Tamuramaro* founded this shrine by imperial decree in 807. The main hall is designated as a Prefectural Treasure. Since the feudal era, it has been revered as a guardian deity for agriculture, fishing, transportation, and eyes, and as a shrine for warding off evil spirits.



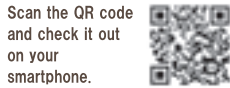
[Phone] +81(0)172-57-2016

Onsen Center Sarukasō (hot spring)

A hot spring with slightly alkaline simple spring water directly from the source. From the lobby, you can enjoy the scenery of the four seasons. The multipurpose hall within the facility is fully equipped with sound and lighting and can be used for various purposes, including banquets.



[Public bath hours] 5:30 AM to 9:30 PM
[Closed] 3rd Wednesdays, August 13th, Year-end and New Year holidays
[Phone] +81(0)172-57-5316



Restaurant Motenashi

The spicy miso ramen-noodles is extremely popular! The fragrant aroma and lingering spiciness are almost addictive!

[Business Hours] Weekdays 11 AM to 2:30 PM
Sundays & holidays 11 AM to 3:30 PM
(Last order: 30 minutes before closing)

[Closed] Wednesdays, August 13th, Year-end and New Year holidays
[Phone] +81(0)172-57-3367

Hasumi no Footbath (Lotus-viewing)

A free foot bath in front of Onsen Center Sarukasō. The foot bath and the view of the garden from there will help you relax and unwind after your trip.



[Available time] 7 AM to 7 PM

Saruka Sabō (tea room)

Located within the Hirakawa City Tourism Association, this cafe's most popular item is banana juice, named after "saru" (monkey) in Saruka! In addition to seasonal drinks made with Tsugaru peaches, sweets and souvenirs are also for sale.



[Business Hours] 9 AM to 4:30 PM
[Closed] Year-end and New Year holidays, Tuesdays during winter season between Dec. and March
[Phone] +81(0)172-40-2231



Events

[Late April to early May]

Hirakawa Cherry Blossom Festival

The park blooms with Somei Yoshino cherry trees, weeping cherry trees, double-flowered cherry trees, and others during this period. Throughout the festival period, events are held alongside exhibitions and sales of garden trees and flowers.



[Late July to mid-August]

Lotus Flower Festival

In the summer, Kagamiyake Pond is covered with pink lotus flowers. During the festival, there are many events and stalls in the park. Also in this period, limited-time lotus flower *goshuin* (temple) stamps are available from Saruka Shrine.



[August 14th, 15th, and 16th on the lunar calendar]

Saruka Shrine Jugaya (the harvest moon) Grand Festival

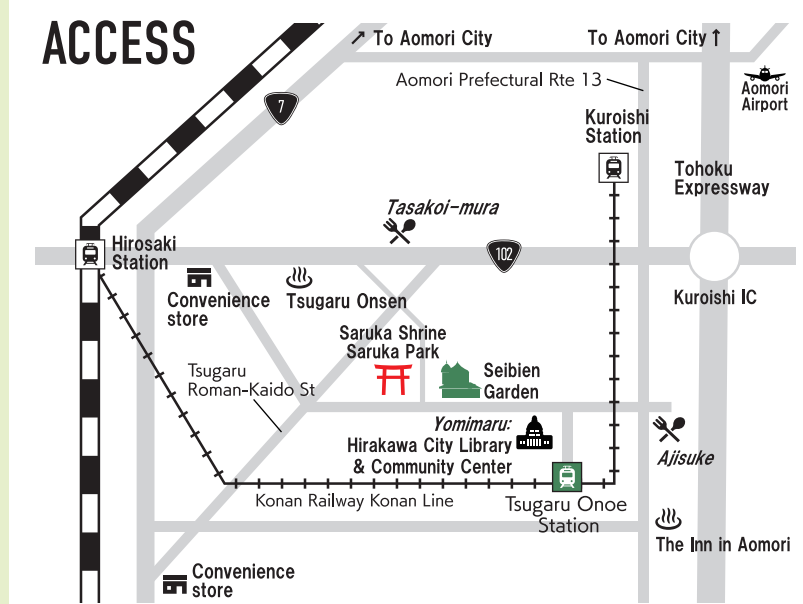
One of Tsugaru's largest evening festivals. In addition to the performance of *Tsugaru Kagura*, a prefectural intangible folk cultural asset, ceremonial events including the Prefectural "Japanese Lion Dance" competition and a mountain climbing music are offered.



[January 7th, Lunar Calendar]

Saruka Shrine Nanokado Grand Festival

A divine ritual to predict the weather and harvest for the year. Two rituals, the "Yanagi Karami ritual" (a ritual that uses large willow branches to predict the year's agricultural yield) and the "Goma no Mochi" (sesame mochi) Throwing Ritual, are held, attracting many visitors every year.



Konan Railway Konan Line (Hirosaki-Kuroishi) Route Map

Hirosaki
Hirosakihigashiko-Mae
Undokoen-Mae
Nisato
Tachita
Hiraka
Hakunokoko-Mae
Tsugaru Onoe
Onoekoko-Mae
Tanbo Art
Inakadate
Sakaimatsu
Kuroishi

- About 20 mins. on foot / 5 mins. by car from Konan Railway Tsugaru Onoe Station.
- About 10 mins. by car from Kuroishi IC on Tohoku Expressway.
- About 20 mins. by car from Hirosaki Station.
- About 50 mins. by car from Shin Aomori Station.
- About 35 mins. by car from Aomori Airport.

TEL. 一般社団法人平川市観光協会 HIRAKAWA CITY TOURISM ASSOCIATION +81(0)172-40-2231



This information is current as of March 2026. Please note that anything listed may have changed since publication.

Hirakawa City Saruka Park & Seibien Garden Guide Map

English version



Seibien Garden

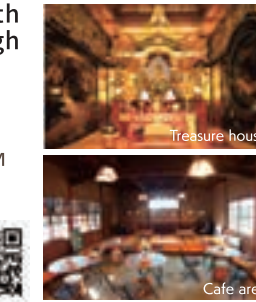
Nationally designated scenic spot

Seibien Garden
Spanning approx. 12,000 m² and established in 1902, the grounds feature the hybrid Japanese-Western Seibikan hall and a garden in the *Oishi Bugaku-ryu* school, offering seasonal views throughout the year. This location is said to have inspired the setting for the Ghibli film "The Secret World of Arrietty." The garden's gold-leaf-covered treasure hall displays one of Japan's largest *maki-e* lacquer works, open to the public every 30 minutes during operating hours. The old folk house serving as the entrance reception also offers souvenir sales and a cafe corner. Why not relax with coffee or tea after leisurely strolling through the garden?

[Business Hours]
Mid-April to end of September 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
October to mid-November 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Mid-November to mid-April(※) 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
※reservation required

[Admission fee] (in winter)
◆Adults 700 yen (350 yen)
◆Junior/High School Students 500 yen (250 yen)
◆Elementary School Students 300 yen (150 yen)
◆Children under elementary school age Free

[Closed] December 29th to January 3rd
[Phone] +81(0)172-57-2020 [Parking] 20 spaces
※Reservations required from mid-November to mid-April. Please contact the Hirakawa City Tourism Association.
[Phone] +81(0)172-40-2231



Seito Family Study Cottage Garden

Considered the origin of the *Oishi Bugaku-ryu* school. Features a beautiful dry waterfall stone arrangement splitting the waterfall into two streams and impressive rock formations.

[Business Hours] 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM ※Reservations required
[Closed] Irregular holidays
[Admission fee] Adults 300 yen / High school & University students 200 yen / Elementary & Junior high school students 100 yen
[Phone] +81(0)172-57-2127



Motenashi Romankan

Fresh vegetables from local farmers, local specialties and folk crafts are available to shop. Especially with vegetables, seasonal produce is available, so you can enjoy shopping throughout the year.♪

[Business Hours] 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
※Closes at 4:30 PM between November and March
[Closed] New Year holidays
[Phone] +81(0)172-43-5610 [Parking] 39 spaces

Restaurant Keyaki

Their most popular "Niboshi (dried sardine broth) Ramen", was produced by a ramen critic Mr. Hayato Ishiyama.

[Business Hours] 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Last order 2:30 PM)
[Closed] New Year holidays
[Phone] +81(0)172-43-5610



Hirakawa City Tourist Guides

Warmly welcome all visitors to the region, offering guiding tours with a touch of *Tsugaru* dialect.

●【Seibien Garden】～A Mysterious World of East-Meets-West～
This exclusive tour grants access to the normally off-limits second floor of Seibikan.
[Fee] ¥2,500 per person (includes garden admission)
[Group Size] 1 person (up to 5 people)
※Advance reservation required.

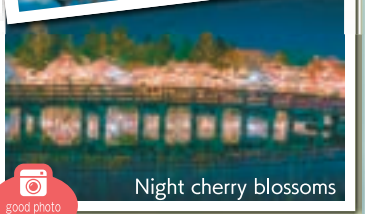
●【Saruka Park】～Leisurely Stroll Through Serene Nature～
Guided tour of Saruka Park and Saruka Shrine. Enjoy a unique perspective with a guide.
[Fee] ¥1,500 per person
[Group Size] 1 person (up to 5 people)
※Advance reservation required.
[Inquiries] Hirakawa City Tourism Association
[Phone] +81(0)172-40-2231



Saruka Park

Kagami-gaike Pond

Taking pictures of the Muna-kata Shrine and lotus flowers from around the pond is popular. In spring, you can capture the shrine and cherry blossoms reflected on the water's surface.



Cherry Blossom Frame

Take pictures of the red bridge and cherry blossoms together using the weeping cherry blossoms as a frame.



Saruka Park Mystery Solving

Enjoy solving mysteries while strolling through the park. The puzzles range in difficulty, with some even challenging adults.

[Reception Hours] 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
 [Reception Location] Hirakawa City Tourism Association
 [Fee (tax included)]
 Mystery Pond-Cherry Blossom: 1,000 yen per kit
 Mystery Garden: 1,500 yen per kit



Karesansui (dry landscape) garden

A beautiful spot for photographing autumn maple leaves.



Fountain Square

A photogenic spot where you can see Mount Iwaki beyond the fountain. You can also play by the water.



Seibien Garden

Nationally Designated Scenic Spot Seibien Garden

Take pictures of Seibikan Hall and the garden together as they reflect on the water's surface.



Seibien Garden Mystery Solving

Explore the garden while solving mysterious quizzes. Each quiz has a storyline, and if you can solve it all the way to the end, a wonderful ending awaits you!

[Reception Location] Seibien Reception Desk
 [Fee] ¥1,000 per kit
 (tax included; admission fee separate)



Japanese Garden

A strolling garden centered around a pond. Recommended for viewing the autumn leaves.



Boat Landing

Boats are available in the park for a ride. Among them, there is a particularly eye-catching golden swan boat. It is said that if you use the boat's picture as your phone's wallpaper or ride the boat, it may bring you financial luck.

[Business Period]
 April to September 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 October to Early November 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM



Koikoi Shrine

Pass through the torii gate, think about your worries, and feed the carp. Over 200 carp will gobble down your worries (carp-food). The sight is...shocking!

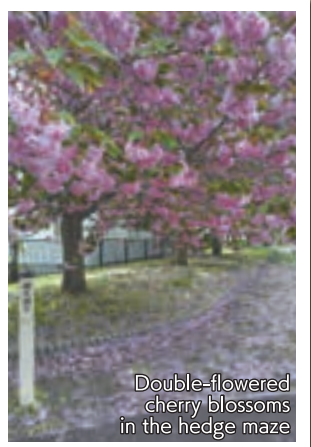


Hedge Maze

Why not challenge yourself to navigate the maze while enjoying the scent of the hedges?

Double-flowered Cherry Blossoms in the Hedge Maze

The peak season for double-flowered cherry blossoms is in late April to early May. The double-flowered cherry blossoms in the hedge maze are especially spectacular!



- Recommended Photo Spots
- Cherry Blossoms (Mid-April to early May)
- Lotus Flowers (Mid-July to late August)
- Autumn Foliage (Late October to mid-November)
- Toilet
- Parking lot
- Free Wifi Spot