Welcome to the Hometown of Cherry Blossoms, just a 30-minute drive away from Utsunomiyal



Tochigi Prefecture

四月の赤いう

那個の赤

\*1781

Rest Area Reminiscent of the Taisho Era

ur the

〔道の駅 きつれがわ〕

Ser

New speciality products Taste and compare different types of Ujiie Udon!

Newly renovated in the style of the Taisho era

lina

## Kitsuregaw Rest Area

## hot springs for beautiful skin

Try different hot springs at Kitsuregawa Onsen

 One-day hot springs
 Hot spring resorts where you can drop by and take a bath without a reservation

#### Overview of Sakura City Area: 125.46 km² Climate: High sunshine duration, low snowfall City tree/flower: Sakura (Japanese cherry) City bird: Sekirei (Wagtail)

Kataoka Sta.

Kamasusaka Sta.

Ujiie Sta.

Yaita City

Shioya Town

Yaita IC

ohoku

Katsuyama Park Arai Kanpo Memorial Ha in the Sakura City Muse

Utsunomiya

City

Otawara City

Sakura City

•Sakura City Sports F ura City Office

Ryuko-ji Temple

Niita Sta.

Shimotsuke-Hanaoka Sta.

Takanezawa Town

## Sights and Attractions

# is Full of Surprises!

Sakura City, was formed in 2005 by the merger of two distinct towns – Ujiie, which stretches along the banks of the Kinugawa River, and Kitsuregawa, which developed around a historic castle town—and is brimming with hot springs, nature-rich woodlands and other attractions!

Attraction

## See fully bloomed ilowers on an invitingly warm spring day

Cherry blossoms sprawled along the banks of the Kinugawa River



The stunning scenery of 3 million poppies in full bloom

#### The city derives its name from the numerous famous spots for viewing *sakura* (cherry blossoms), including Katsuyama Park, the ruins of Katsuyama-jo Castle, the row of *sakura* at Sotome, and Ujiie Yuyu Park. Vividly colored poppies bloom on the banks of the Arakawa River in mid-May, and a poppy festival is held in late May.

**Attraction** 

## Experience nature memories in the extending over the

A full range of easily enjoyable facilities, from foot baths to open-air baths

The jacuzzi in the indoor bath at the Kitsuregawa Rest Area

# The hot springs of Kitsuregawa Onsen, one of Japan's best for beautiful skin

Sakura City is a wonderful place to enjoy hot springs, and boasts a wide array of idiosyncratic facilities, from free foot baths to reasonably priced municipal hot spring baths, open-air baths, private baths and more. Heal your mind and body in the hot springs of Sakura, which are renowned for producing beautiful skin.

2

Nappa Kan is one of the very popular direct sales stores along National Highway Route 4



Nakagawa

Town

Kyuryo no Sato Design

City

Many ayu fishermen come when fishing

season opens

Konoyama Sta.

Vegetables and processed goods proudly sold by the people who made them perfect for personal use and as souvenirs



Access to

Many locals visit in the morning to search for fresh vegetables

# delicious vegetables

Popular produce abounds-seasonal vegetables complemented by onsen-nasu (eggplants grown using the geothermal energy of hot springs), as well as strawberries, apples and other fruits. Juices, jams, miso paste, pickled vegetables, and side dishes made by local producers make great souvenirs. Be sure to check out producers' stores and stands throughout the city.



Nature is widely available to experience in all seasons, from cherry blossom viewing in spring to ayu (sweetfish) fishing starting in early summer and apple picking starting in the fall. Hands-on experiences working with wood from sugi (cedar) and hinoki (cypress) planted for afforestation are eco-friendly activities that contribute to protecting the natural resources of the woodlands.

## NEWS Sakura City Koryukan Now Open!

Sakura Square is a place for locals to interact outside the east exit of JR Ujie Station. The Sakura City Koryukan was constructed here. The versatile facility can be used for

various events, and consists of Building A, which contains tourism information and a Sakura-brand wooden craftwork corner among other facilities, and Building B, which has space for eating and drinking, an area for selling Sakura-brand goods and more.



A hub for visitors to Sakura City MAP P8C3

## History of Sakura City

The castle town dates back to the time of the Ashikaga clan, known for being a great domain of feudal Japan despite its small size

Kofun (ancient burial mound), the nationally designated Tosando, and the medieval Katsuyama-jo Castle and Okuragasaki-jo Castle. During the Edo period, the Kitsuregawa area was governed by the Kitsuregawa Ashikaga clan, who descended from Ashikaga Takauji, and were treated as great daimyo feudal lords of 100,000 koku (a certain volume of rice used to assess the size of a domain) and sometimes more despite ruling over an area of just 5,000 koku. A castle town developed in the Kitsuregawa area, and

various ruins can be seen to this day.



Wooden statue of Ashikaga Takauji, a cultural property designated by Sakura City stored at Ryuko-ji Temple

## **Historical Figures**

#### Kanpo Arai (1878-1945)

#### A Sakura City-born nihonga (Japanesestyle paintings) artist known for **Buddhist paintings**

Kanpo Arai was born in what is now the Ujiie area of Sakura City in 1878. After studying historical painting under nihonga artist Toshikata Mizuno, Arai became an active contributor at the Nihon Bijutsuin. He painted many Buddhist paintings. Later, he was invited by the great poet Rabindranath Tagore to work as an art teacher in India, where he also made reproductions of murals of the Ajanta Caves, a World Heritage site. In his later years, he made a reproduction of a mural of

Horyu-ji Temple.

## **Ujo Noguchi** (1882-1945)

A poet and lyricist who wrote a number of children's songs, including "Nanatsu no Ko" and "Ame Furi Otsukisan"

Ujo Noguchi is known throughout Japan as one of the three great artists of children's songs. His wife, Hiro Takashio, was from what is now the Kitsuregawa area of Sakura City, so Noguchi often visited this area, and the area influenced his work. For example,



the beautiful scenery of Renko-in Temple and the fragrance of *ume* (plum blossoms) were the inspiration for "Ume no Otera" ("Temple of Plum Blossoms"), The Kanpo Arai Memorial Hall at the Sakura City Museum contains a corner dedicated to Noguchi.

Bubble") played throughout Sakura City is the work of Ujo Noguchi



# **Kitsuregawa Rest Area**

Sakura City: the second home of poet Ujo Noguchi, with retro-style buildings along the main shopping street, woodland scenery, and more. Kitsuregawa Rest Area reopened after undergoing a renovation to create an atmosphere reminiscent of the Taisho era (1912-1926), the underlying flavor of the charm of Sakura City. The reimagined rest area is gaining popularity as a comfortable space to enjoy the familiar simplicity and the nostalgia of the Japan of yore.

DATA ① 028.686-8180 ① 4145-10 Kitsuregawa Sakura City ② 18-minute drive from Yaita IC on the Tohoku Expressway ② 9:00-23:00 (Varies by facility and store) ② 2:018 & 4th Mon. (unless public holiday, then it is the next day) ② 264 spaces MAD P8C3

The renovated main building on the left, and the new building on the right



## Check out the new X Ujo Noguchi Corner!

Ujo Noguchi is known throughout Japan as one of the three great artists of children's songs. Noguchi's first wife, Hiro Takashio, was from Kitsuregawa, so he often visited this area, and the area influenced his work. There is an Ujo Noguchi Corner near the entrance of the main building.



Panels explaining the relationship between Ujo Noguchi, Hiro Takashio and Sakura City

The observation platform overlooks the Kitsuregawa townscape and woodland scenery Vertical banners themed after Noguchi's children's songs decorate the atrium of the main building's



## A Hot spring sommelier on dut

The real charm of

the rest area!

Enjoy indoor baths, open-air baths, saunas, large baths complete with cold baths, and a hot spring resort where you can wear a bathing suit (with a walking bath, herb bath, silky bath, electric bath and strong jet bath). Here to help are hot spring sommeliers and master sommeliers who are well-versed in the knowledge of hot springs and correct bathing methods.

♦ 500 yen ● 10:00-23:00 (Hot spring resort: Closes at 20:00) ♦ 2nd & 4th Mon. (unless public holiday, then it is the next day)

> There is a Western-style large bath and a Japanese-style large bath, each open to one sex on alternating days

What are rekijo? Women who love history! *Rekijo* work at the Information Area

at the Kitsuregawa Rest Area. They wear kimono with yagasuri (arrow feather) patterns and provide tourism information and other guidance regarding the rest area and Sakura City.

The hot spring resort has eight different hot bath facilities

The observation platform on the rooftop of the main building gives unobstructed views of the Arakawa and Uchikawa Rivers, Omaruyama Park and more. It is said that if you make a wish and ring the Bell of Joy on the platform, you will achieve true love.

G Make a wish and attach a padlock near the bell

Observation

Platform

Arakawa-no-Yu is a Japanese-style open-air bath, Uchikawa-no-Yu is a Western-style openair bath



#### Kikyo Hanamiya

A renowned udon and soba noodle shop. Enjoy light dishes such as tendon, a bowl of rice topped with tempura created with only the best ingredients. Also serves local specialty Uijie Udon (P6).

● 11:00-15:30, 17:00-21:00 🛇 2nd & 4th Mon. (unless public holiday, then it is the next day)

### **Gelateria KITS**

Royal milk tea, hazelnut chocolate and other unique gelato flavors are a hit. The shop's recommended item is the affogato: a scoop of milk-flavored gelato afloat in espresso.

🕒 9:00-19:00 🐼 2nd & 4th Mon. (unless public holiday, then it is the next day)

## aro CU

A waterfront park stretches from the east side of the rest area to the confluence of the Arakawa and Uchikawa Rivers, and is an ideal place for splashing in the water, playing on the obstacle course, barbecuing and more. Enjoy a barbecue without having to bring a thing: rental sets are available (3,000 yen for 4 hours, May 15-September), and meat and vegetables can be purchased at the direct sales store.

> A fishing weir is installed from August to October. Ayu (sweetfish) travel downriver to spawn in September

Asano Farm

A farm stand-style store. Raised in nature

free of stress, Asano pork has a distinctly

smooth quality, and the fat carries a hint of

● 9:00-18:00 ⊗ 2nd & 4th Mon. (unless public

sweetness. The curry is also popular.

noliday, then it is the next day)

Playground equipment for children

# heck out



The store contains an agricultural products corner where local farmers sell their freshly harvested vegetables, and a special products corner where local special products are sold. Check out the various Kitsuregawa Rest Area original goods, including towels, T-shirts, sweets, cherry blossom tea, coasters made of oyaishi (a type of pumice tuff mined locally) and much more.



The agricultural products corner where farmers deliver fresh vegetables and fruits every morning

531

#### Salt-grilled avu (sweetfish), a

Kitsuregawa specialty, cost 350 yen each, and are sold next to the entrance

DATA







Sozai Kobo Hana Noren

customers dropping in every day.

A shop that sells side dishes and lunch

boxes made by local women. The everchanging lineup of daily specials and the warm, home-cooked taste has some

hot sweet bean paste and a variety of other fillings, including cream or ham and mayonnaise (150 yen each) and green sweet bean paste or sesame bean paste (180 ven each).

🕒 9:00-18:00 🔇 Mon. (unless public holiday, then it is the next day)



The food court-style layout means that everyone can choose their favorite foods and still eat together



# 

## Katsuyama Local Specialty Restaurant

#### @028-682-3271 MAP P8B4

#### A collaboration of *udon* and motsuni (stewed giblets)! This is the place for Ujiie local cuisine

The menu revolves around ramen, udon and soba noodle dishes. This shop was the first certified as a promoter of Ujie Udon. Ask to sit in a teuchi booth to watch the second-generation owner make udon noodles by hand.

Q 1200-3 Ujiie, Sakura City C 19-minute drive from Yaita IC on the Tohoku Expressway
● 11:30-20:00 ♥ Wed. ● 10 spaces

complements the plump, chew handmade udon noodles. A hal t this hearty meal

Half-portions of giblets a

1,100 yen

550 yen

New specialty products

don

ludon are a

## **Ujiie Open Dining** WAKAZO



#### © 028-682-9949 MAP P8B3

#### Experience eating udon and Italian food in a warehouse made of *ovaishi* (a type of pumice tuff mined locally)

Wakazo means "youngster," and the name was chosen to reflect the fact that the owner was just 24 years old when he started the business. The menu includes pasta, Sakura-brand pork steak and other Italian cuisine as well as Ujiie Udon.

O 1851-1 e-Plaza Sanbankan, Ujiie, Sakura City 🗔 1-minute walk from JR Uiiie Station Parlor: 11:00-16:00 (Last order for meals: 14:30) Serior: Open every day (Bar: Tue.) (Bar: Tue.)

780 yen Eniov two different noodle b

## Kinuva Japanese Restaurant

#### @ 028-682-2444 MAP P8B3

#### **Delicious! Cheap! Fast! Clean and spacious restaurant**

Established over 50 years ago. The menu features rice bowls, set meals, noodles and more, each with satisfying portions. Ujile Udon is thin and flat, but firm and very filling.

3443 Ujiie, Sakura City 😞 11-minute drive from Yaita IC on the Tohoku Expressway 🕒 11:00-21:00 (Last order) 🗞 Wed. 🕑 30 spaces





## 1.523 yen ni, tempura, desserts, *ch* iru (dipping sauce) has a soy sauce flavor.



#### © 028-682-2482 MAP P8B4 Enjoy the taste of Ujiie Udon with fresh seafood

A popular Japanese restaurant with sushi, seafood and eel cuisine. The Nigiwai Udon Set includes your choice of regular udon or Ujiie Udon noodles, sashimi and tempura.

2015 Ujiie, Sakura City 211-minute walk from JR Ujiie Station Last order) Mon. (unless public holiday, then it is the next day) (P 60 spaces

Local udon (wheat flour noodles) made with locally produced wheat, which is harvested in the Ujiie area of Sakura City. The Ujiie Chamber of Commerce and Industry applied for a patent, and in January 2016, Uiiie Udon became a registered regional collective trademark.

Every shop makes Sakura Citv's famous local specialty Ujiie Udon a bit differently, so it's fun to eat and compare!

Eat and Compare Local Specialty

jiie Udon!

Dynam Shinrai no Mori Tochigi Sakura Location

## Menrokuya Japanese Restaurant

@ 070-1434-5686 MAP P8B3 Udon The first certified Uiiie chain restaurant Abundant menu and

hearty portions The diverse menu includes katsudon

(cutlet over rice) for 650 yen and miso ramen for 590 yen. The wavy, thin noodles of Uijie Udon have a light, Kansai-style saltiness that brings out the flavor of the Iwai-no-Daichi flour.

🖸 55 Baba, Sakura City 🗔 15-minute walk from JR Ujiie Station ( 12:00-15:00 (Sat., Sun., and public holidays: 12:00-15:00, 16:00-18:00) & Open every day P 327 spaces 600 yen



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# **Kitsuregawa Onsen: Tour Hot Springs for Beautiful Skin!**

### Municipal Open-Air Bath (No. 2 Hot Spring Bath)

#### @028-686-5047 MAP P8C2

The spring water emerges at 51°C or hotter and has a deep, dark reddish-brown color. The bath is covered by a roof, so it can be used even in rainy weather. The water is a warm 43°C and is not recycled (except during the summer). The bathing area includes simple washing stations and chairs for relaxing.

➡ 871-1 Kitsuregawa, Sakura City ➡ 18-minute drive from Yaita IC on the Tohoku Expressway ➡ Bathing: 300 yen ➡ 8:00-21:00 (Last entry at 20:30; Late-December-mid-February: Opens at 9:00) ➡ 3rd Mon. (unless public holiday, then it is the next day) ➡ 50 spaces



### A spacious open-air bath

where you can enjoy hi quality hot spring wate to your heart's content

The greenery outside the glass window



Lodging Data

Rate for 1 night with 2 meals: 8,500 yen and up Check-in: 15:00 Checkout: 10:00

### Heartpia Sakura no Sato @028-686-7091 MAD P8c2

Enjoy an indoor bath, open-air bath and a mist sauna. You can bathe as many times as you wish throughout the day, so you can take your time in the rest areas and Japanese restaurant. The view from the bath is also memorable. Kitsuregawa Onsen hot springs first gushed out in 1981, and contain high amounts of sulfur, salt and iron. It is advertised along with Ureshino Onsen and Hinokami Onsen as one of Japan's top three hot springs for beautiful skin.

## Kanpo no Yado Tochigi Kitsuregawa Onsen

#### @028-686-2822 MAP P8C3

A hot spring resort complete with a large public bath with five types of baths, an open-air bath and a private bath with an open-air bath (1,620 yen for 50 minutes, reservations required). There is also a free rest area and a private rest area available for a fee (reservations required).

© 5296-1 Kitsuregawa, Sakura City © 16-minute drive from Yaita IC on the Tohoku Expressway ♥ Bathing: 700 yen (15:00-19:00: 500 yen) ● 10:30-20:00 (Last entry at 19:00) ♥ Irregular holiday once a year ● 120 spaces

## A complete facility for spending the entire day Feel the healing power in a wide variety of baths

Lodging Data Rate for 1 night with 2 meals: 11,300 yen and up Check-in: 15:00 Checkout: 10:00 A large public bath complete with a large bath, ultrasonic bath, shallow baths to lie down in, baths with water cascading from above, and a walking bath

The expansive bathing area features two baths, one with a higher temperature and one with a lower temperature



Feel the healing power of the expansive, semi-openair bath that is like visiting a hidden hot spring on top of a mountain

### Kitsuregawa Sotome Onsen @028-686-4126 MAD P8C3

Spring water quality is our main focus: we clean the baths every morning and never recycle the water, always letting fresh, hot water bubble over the sides of the baths. Although the facility is small, its reputation as a place to truly feel the minerals seep into the body and forget the hustle and bustle of everyday life draws visitors from all over Japan.

#### Die of the few sulfur hot springs on the Kanto Plain The ever-delightful, ever-changing colors of the hot spring water

 Q 2114 Sotome, Sakura City ♀ 15-minute drive from Yaita
 IC on the Tohoku Expressway ♀ Bathing: 1,050 yen (17:00-21:00: 650 yen) ● 10:00-21:00 (Last entry at 20:00)
 Thur. (unless public holiday) ♀ 100 spaces

## Lodging Kitsuregawa Onsen

## Hotel New Sakura

The open-air

one time

rock bath can hold

up to 50 bathers at

A unique atmosphere with two indoor baths

with different temperatures, a bath with water cascading from above and different levels with a rock motif, and a wide-open shallow bath to lie down in. The family bath (2,000 yen for 45 minutes) requires reservations.

An indoor bath with a lovely view overlooking the Kitsuregawa townscape



A day trip to soak in this hillside hot spring comes with unobstructed views of the city

## Municipal Motoyu Onsen (No. 1 Hot Spring Bath)

@028-686-3284 MAD P8C3

The clean-feeling bathing area has large windows that offer mountain views to create an open atmosphere. The facility features an indoor bath and an open-air rock bath. Morning bathers appreciate the early opening of 7:00.

Check-in: 15:00 Checkout: 10:00

About 90 minutes by car or train from the Greater Tokyo area. Sakura City is close to Yaita IC on the Tohoku Expressway, which makes access by car convenient.



Yaita Sta

Designed, edited, and produced by JTB Publishing

d due to the content of this pamphlet. **\*In principle, the prices in this pa** days, Obon holidays and Golden Week holidays are omitted from the regu and last entries may be 30 to 60 minutes earlier than the listed closing times. \*1 \*Hot spring water quality and benefits are derived from the water source, not inc

aware that rates may change by season or according to the number of people. The maps in this pamphlet were created using the Digital Map (Basic Geospatial Information) and Digital Japan Basic Map (Map Information) issued by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan with the permission of its director. (Approval No. 2017 Joshi 679)