

2. Aizu (会津)

Aizu is the western most regions of Fukushima Prefecture. The historical Tsuruga Castle is located here.

Transportation: Express Bus Early Bird Round Trip ¥5,400

Hasune → Shinjuku

Shinjuku Bus Terminal 07:30am → 12:14pm Aizuwakamatsu

Aizuwakamatsu 17:00pm → 21:44pm Shinjuku Bus Terminal

Tsuruga Castle (鶴ヶ城)

Also known as the Aizu-Wakamatsu Castle 会津若松城, it was build in 1384. It was once captured by the famed warlord Date Masamune during the Sengoku period. Date Masamune's black samurai attire was the inspiration for George Lucas' Darth Vader in the movie Star Wars. Later during the Boshin war, which eventually usher in the Meiji era, 20 members of the shogunate loyalist Byakkotai (白虎隊), "White Tiger Force," committed suicide when they thought their families and lord were dead. Only one member of the team survive the suicide attempt. The story of the young, brave and honorable Byakkotai was passed on by this sole survivor.



Oyakuen Garden (御薬園)

Oyakuen is a garden landscaped in the traditional Japanese culture. Loosely translated, Oyakuen means the medicinal and herb garden, a name given in the 18th century to encourage locals to cultivate medicinal plants.



Ouchijuku (大内宿)

Ouchijuku is a former town along the Aizu-Nishi Kaido trade route. It has been completely restored to the Edo period with unpaved main street and electricity wires buried deep underneath. Small traditional Edo inns are located here. One can also enjoy locally harvested fish roasted on a stick.

