

PG-401


JNTO Website : <http://www.jnto.go.jp>

Tourist Information Center (TIC)

Tokyo Office: Tel. (03) 3201-3331



"YOKOSO" means "welcome"

NIIGATA and SADO ISLAND

Niigata City (新潟市), the capital of Niigata Prefecture with a population of 517,595, is situated at the estuary of the Shinano River, the longest in Japan. Niigata has long thrived as a port town, the largest on the Japan Sea Coast, and is now a modern industrial city. The city center is divided by the Shinano River into 2 sections—the east side, a developing subcenter, and the west side filled with amusement and shopping districts. Niigata is the gateway to Sado Island by sea.

Sado Island (佐渡ヶ島), 1 hr. by hydrofoil from Niigata, is the 6th largest Island in Japan. It has 2 parallel mountain chains, between which lies an extensive plain with small rice farms. The 857 km² island with a population of 77,000 boasts natural won-

ders and historical relics of gold rush days.

Historically, the island was the place of the harshest exile until the Middle Ages, when many anti-government intellectuals were banished there. In the Edo Period (1603–1867), a rich gold mine was found and the island encountered the gold rush age. Sado is the birthplace of **Ondeko** (鬼太鼓), a traditional performing art with Japanese Drums (和太鼓). Performances differ from village to village. It's very exciting to see ogres swinging their hairs as they beat their drums. You can see them in some festivals on Apr. 15 and Okesa Matsuri at the end of Apr. or at **Sado Kaikan** (佐渡会館) (Tel. 0259-74-3322), Apr.-Oct. 20:20-21:00 (Admission: ¥ 800).

Access to Niigata:

By rail: (JR Lines)

	Type of train	Time required	Daily runs	Fare (¥) (Reserved seat)
From Tokyo to Niigata	Joetsu Shinkansen "Toki"	2hrs.-2hrs.10min.	every 15–30min.	10,270
From Osaka to Kanazawa or Toyama	Limited Express "Raicho" or "Thunderbird"	3hrs. to Kanazawa 3hrs. 30min. to Toyama	2 per hour	15,620~15,720
From Kanazawa or Toyama to Niigata	Limited Express "Hokuetsu"	3hrs. 30min. from Kanazawa 3hrs. from Toyama	5	
From Osaka to Niigata	Express Sleeper "Kitaguni"*	9hrs.	1	10,290 (non-reserved seat) 10,800 (reserved seat) 15,500~20,790 (berth)

* When using non-reserved or reserved seat, Japan Rail Pass can be used with no extra charge. When using a berth, you need to pay express charge (¥1,260) + berth charge. (¥5,250~10,500)

By air: [JAS. Tel. (0120)5-11283, ANA. Tel (0120)029-222]

5 flights daily. 1hr. from Osaka (Itami) Airport. Fare: ¥22,100.

By bus: [Seibu Bus. Tel. (03)3989-2525]

About 5 hrs. from Ikebukuro Sta. (Tokyo). Fare: 8 services daily.

¥5,250.

[Niigata Kotsu Bus. Tel. (025)241-9000]

About 9 hrs. 20 min. from Hankyu Umeda (Osaka). 1 service daily (night bus). Fare: ¥9,450.

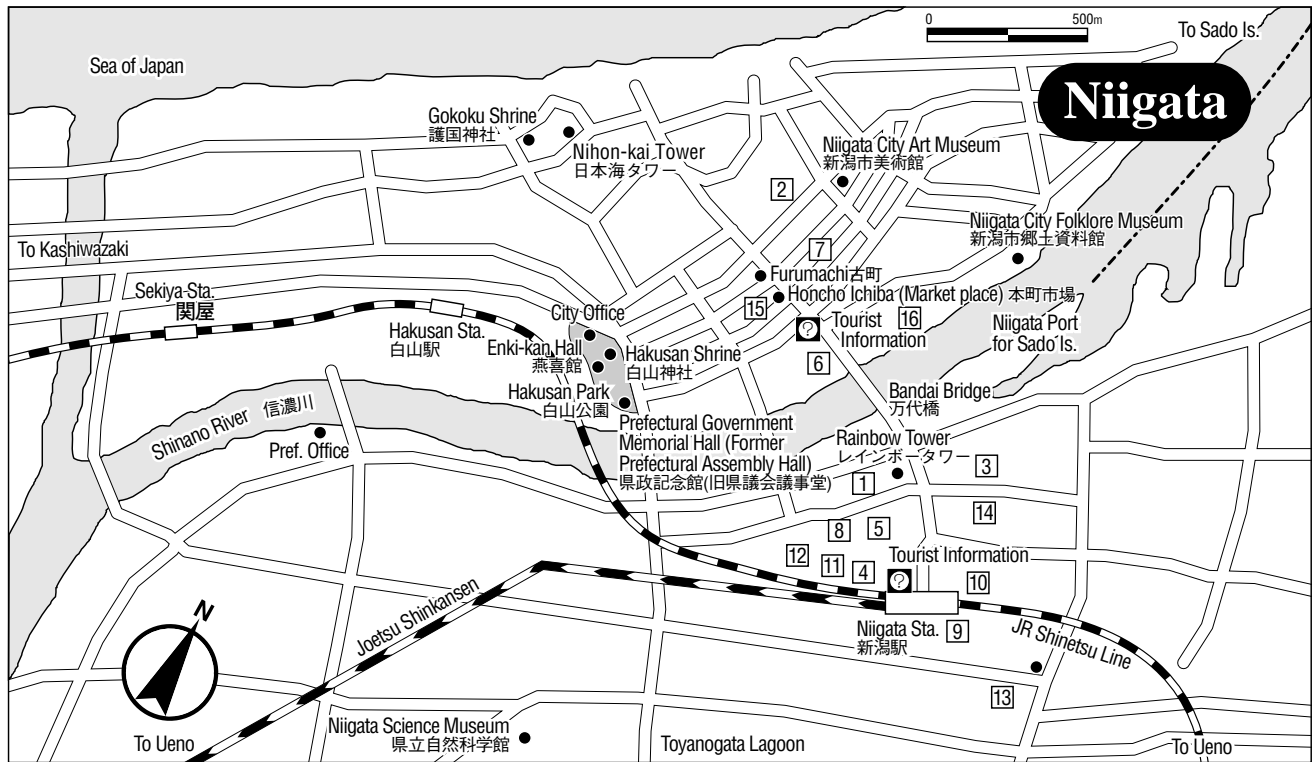
Access to Sado Island from Niigata:

To	From	Type of transportation	Time required	Daily service	Fare(¥)
Ryotsu Port (Sado)	Niigata Port	Ferry boat	2 hrs. 20 min.– 2 hrs. 30 min.	6	2,060~
		Hydrofoil (jet foil)	1 hr.	3-11 (Varied according to month)	5,960~

Organized bus tours in Sado Island (Guided in Japanese only)

A number of organized bus tours ranging from 1.5 hr. to two days are operated from April to November by Niigata Kotsu Bus Company. Most of them depart from Ryotsu.

NIIGATA CITY



1-16 correspond to those on the Accommodations list for Niigata on page 4/6.

Suggested Travel Route

Niigata Sta. — 15 min. by bus — Hakusan-mae Bus Stop — 3-min. walk — Hakusan Shrine — 3-min. walk — Former Prefectural Assembly Hall — 10-min. walk — Furumachi — 10 min. by bus — Nihon-kai (Japan Sea) Tower — 10-min. walk — Gokoku Shrine — 15 min. by bus — Niigata Sta.

Places of Interest:

Hakusan Shrine (白山神社), 15 min. by bus from Niigata Sta., has been revered as a local tutelary deity for more than 400 years. It is now worshiped as a god of marriage, drawing large crowds of visitors. Hakusan Park in the shrine precincts has a fine lotus pond surrounded by some 20 literary monuments.

Prefectural Government Memorial Hall (Former Prefectural Assembly Hall) (県政記念館(旧県議会議事堂)), close to the Hakusan Shrine, was built in 1883, and was used as a prefectural parliament for some 50 years. This is the only building remaining from among all the prefectural halls built in the Meiji Period (1868–1912). This hall was constructed after the style of the House of Parliament in London, with the Shinano River substituting for the Thames as the setting. It is now a museum. Open: 9:00–16:30. Closed on Mon., however, when Mon. falls on a national holiday, it is open and it is closed on the following day. National holidays & Dec. 28–Jan. 4. Admission: Free.

Enki-kan Hall (燕喜館), A reconstruction of the Saito Mansion, the house of a merchant who flourished from the Meiji to Showa periods. Open: 9:00–17:00. Closed: 1st and 3rd Mon. and end-Dec.–early Jan. Admission: free.

Furumachi (古町), 10-min. walk along Higashibori-dori Avenue, the main street in Niigata, is the oldest part of the city. Unfortunately, a great fire in 1955 destroyed the old time atmosphere. Today this district is a lively shopping quarter filled with big department stores and fashionable shops. Nishibori Rosa (西堀口ーサ), developed under Furumachi, is the most spacious and

thriving underground shopping center on the Japan Sea coast. Well worth visiting.

Nihon-kai (Japan Sea) Tower (日本海タワー), 10 min. by bus from Furumachi, has a revolving observatory on its top, commanding a wide view of the whole city, Mt. Yahiko and Sado Island. The tower built on the water supply plant displays several gifts donated by Khabarovsk, Russia, and Galveston, USA, both with sister-city relations with Niigata. Also exhibited are 100 water color scenes of Niigata. Open: 9:00–17:00 (Mar.–Nov.), 10:00–16:00 (Dec.–Feb.). Admission: ¥300. Closed: Dec. 29–Jan. 3.

Gokoku Shrine (護国神社), 10-min. walk from the Nihon-kai Tower, was built in 1945 to console the souls of the war dead. The white flagstone approach leads from the torii gate to the main hall. There are many black pine trees in the grounds, which are a popular strolling spot for locals. The Bus Stop for Niigata Sta. is located close to the shrine.

Natural Science Museum (県立自然科学館), 20 min. by bus from Niigata Sta., was constructed in 1981 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Niigata Prefecture. There is a fine view of Toyonogata Lagoon from the top. Open: 9:30–16:30. Closed: Mon. (When Mon. falls on a national holiday, it is open and is closed on the following day.) and during Dec. 27 to Jan. 4. Admission: ¥510.

Rainbow Tower (レインボータワー), 5 min. by bus from Niigata Sta., stands in the heart of Niigata. From its revolving view-point on the top, there is an excellent view of the city and surroundings. Open: 10:00–18:00, 10:00–21:00 (Jul., Aug.), 10:00–17:00 (Dec. 31–Jan. 3). Closed: 2nd Wed. and Thu. Admission: ¥450.

Kaihin Park (海浜公園), a well laid-out park facing the Japan Sea, contains an aquarium, indoor swimming pool and playgrounds. It is an oasis for the citizens.

Niigata Airport (新潟空港), 30 min. by bus from Niigata Sta., services international flights from Khabarovsk and Vladivostok, Russia; Seoul, Korea; Shanghai, Xi'an, Harbin, China; Guam; and

domestic flights.

Niigata Port (新潟港), 15 min. by bus from Niigata Sta., is a starting point for the boat to Sado Island.

Niigata City Art Museum (新潟市美術館), Primarily the works of local artists as well as modern and contemporary artists are exhibited. Open: 9:00-16:30, Closed: Mon. (When Mon. falls on a national holiday, it is open and is closed on the following day.) & Dec. 28 - Jan. 3. Admission: ¥200.

Niigata City Aquarium (新潟市水族館), Marinepia Nihon-kai (Japan Sea). One of the aquariums in the Japan Sea area with the largest scale which exhibits 20,000 marine animals. Go to the last stop on the bus for the aquarium from the Niigata Sta. terminal. Open: 9:00-17:00 (9:00-18:00 Jul. 25-Aug. 31). Closed: End-Dec.- early Jan. and 1st Thu. & the following day of Mar. Admission: ¥1,500.

Niigata City Folk Museum (新潟市郷土資料館), Get off at Kyodo Shiryokan-mae Bus Stop (in front of Folk Museum) on the bus for Irifune-cho from Niigata Sta. bus terminal. Resources referring to the history of Niigata as a port town are exhibited. The building is built in 1869, and designated as an Important Cultural Property. Open: 9:00-16:30. Closed: Mon. (when Mon. falls on a national holiday, it is open and is closed the following

day.) and the New Year's holiday. Admission: ¥100.

Honcho Ichiba (Marketplace) (本町市場), A lively marketplace located in downtown Niigata City. It is considered the kitchen for its citizens. Open: 8:00-17:00. Get off at Honcho Bus Stop on every bus route.

Northern Culture Museum • Ito Mansion (北方文化博物館・豪農の館), 25 min. by taxi from Niigata Sta. or 40 min. by bus from Bandai City Bus Center (10-min. walk from Niigata Sta.) to Kamisoumi Hakubutsukan-mae Bus Stop (¥540), is a spacious wooden house containing more than 60 rooms built on a site of 29,200m². It was built for the Ito Family, a wealthy landowner, in the Meiji era and is an example of traditional Japanese architecture. Open: 9:00-17:00 (Apr.-Nov.) 9:00-16:30 (Dec.-Mar.) Admission: ¥800.

Niigata is famous for its prime quality rice and **Sake** (rice wine). You can visit some sake breweries. **Ito Shuzo** (伊藤酒造) (Tel: 025-262-2008), 10-min. walk from Uchino Sta., Echigo Line. Open daily: 9:00-16:00, **Imayotsukasa Shuzo** (今代司酒造) (Tel: 025-245-3231), 3 min. by taxi from Niigata Sta. Open: 9:00-16:30. Closed on the New Year's holiday. Both need reservations and an admission fee.

SADO ISLAND

Suggested Travel Route

Niigata — 1 hr. by hydrofoil — Ryotsu in Sado Island — 10-min. walk — Ryotsu Kaikan Hall — 5-min. walk — Lake Kamo — 55 min. by bus — Mt. Donden — Ryotsu — 70 min. by bus — Aikawa — 20-min. walk — Aikawa Folk Museum — 40-min. walk or 5 min. by taxi — Golden Sado (Sado Gold Mine) — Aikawa

Places of Interest in Ryotsu and Vicinity:

Ryotsu (両津), the major gateway to Sado Island, is the island's largest city, and a good base for seeing Sado. A thriving tourist resort, Ryotsu has many well-appointed hotels and Ryokan. The busiest quarter is Yebisu, with many local restaurants and bars.

Lake Kamo (加茂湖), once a freshwater lake, now holds sea-water following construction of the canal in 1903. On its eastern shore is **Shiizaki Park** (椎崎公園), commanding a fine view of the lake with the reflection of Mt. Kimpoku.

Ryotsu Onsen (Spas) (両津温泉郷) consists of 2 hot springs—Sumiyoshi and Shiizaki. **Sumiyoshi Spa** (住吉温泉), 15 min. by bus from Ryotsu (¥160), was known for a long time, but has only been developed as a resort since 1969. This spring, containing sulphurous sodium, is reputedly good for neuralgia, rheumatism and curing fatigue. It is also popular as a swimming resort. **Shiizaki Spa** (椎崎温泉), 10 min. by bus from Ryotsu (¥150), was constructed quite recently in Suwa Park with hot water piped from Sumiyoshi Spa. There are several ryokan, or Japanese inn, set in quiet locations, many with fine views of mountain ranges and Lake Kamo.

Mt. Donden (ドンデン山) is the most popular climb in Sado. From the summit are splendid views of Ryotsu Bay, Lake Kamo and rice fields, and you can see as far as Mts. Yahiko and Chokaizan in the Honshu main island on a clear day. The summit is a plateau carpeted with various kinds of wild flowers in season and is a good place to enjoy hiking and camping. 20 min. by car from Ryotsu to the entrance of the climbing trail.

Places of Interest in Aikawa and Vicinity:

Aikawa (相川) can be reached in 60 min. by bus from Ryotsu (Fare: ¥780, every 30 min. from 6:24 to 20:47). Until 1601, there were only 10 houses. A rich gold vein was found in that year, and the town grew at a rapid pace, inhabited by 100,000. The Tokugawa Shogunate placed the town under direct control, and sent a large number of people from Tokyo (then called Edo) to dig gold mines. Mining continued until the end of the Edo Period in 1867. As the mine shut down, the town declined and today has a population of only 10,000. Today, it is a sightseeing resort featuring the relics of the old gold mine. Transportation in the town depends on taxis or walking.

Walking is the best way to get around the gold mine. Walking up the narrow, paved road leading to the relics from the bus terminal, you can find many small temples on the way. These were built one after another in the early Edo Period, when the gold digging came to its peak. After passing by the **Chomyoji Temple** (長明寺), the oldest one remaining to this day in the town, you can get to the summit in several more minutes. On the summit is a big bell, and 50 steps away to the right, is **Mizukaemushuku-no-haka** (水替無宿の墓), the only formal grave for the enslaved miners. From there, you can look down at **Dooyu-no-wareto** (道遊の割戸), the old gold mine excavated by manpower only. The numerous test holes sunk on the slopes present as unusual picture. The remains can be reached in 40 min. on foot or in 5 min. by taxi from Aikawa bus terminal.

Aikawa Folk Museum (相川郷土博物館), 20-min. walk down from the mine, exhibits various materials related to this old mine. Open: 8:30-17:00 throughout the year except Sat. & Sun. of Jan. & Feb. and Dec. 28-Jan. 4. Admission: ¥300.

Golden Sado (ゴールデン佐渡) or **Sado Gold Mine** (佐渡金山) opens the old **Sodayu-Koh** (宗太夫坑) drift mine to the public, the best mine at the peak of the gold mining days. Electrically-operated dolls today demonstrate the working conditions of the days. In the Edo Period, many people flocked to Sado to seek work. At the same time, thousands of homeless

people of Edo were sent there to bail out water from the mine. The mine belonged to the Imperial Household at the time of the Meiji Restoration in 1868, and it passed into the hands of Mitsubishi Co. in 1896. Today, the Sado Gold Mining Co. has the rights to the mine and still now produces 10,000 tons of silver and gold ore annually.




Nearby are a souvenir shop and the exhibition hall displaying a replica of the **Sado Gold Mine** (佐渡金山). Open: 8:00-16:30, 8:00-17:00 (Apr.-Oct.)(enter by 30 min. before closing time). Admission: ¥700.

Senkaku Bay (尖閣湾), the most famous stretch of coast in Sado Island, extends for 2 km from Tassha to Ageshima, presenting a rugged beauty accented by fantastic sea-eroded rock formations. **Tassha** (達者), 15 min. by bus from Aikawa (¥280),

and **Senkaku-wan Yuen** (尖閣湾遊園), 20 min. by bus (¥350), are bases for bay sightseeing. There are 17 bus services a day. A 40-min. excursion boat for viewing the rocks is also available from Tassha to Senkaku-wan Yuen from Apr. to mid-Nov. One-way fare: ¥700 including the admission charge for Senkaku-wan Yuen Park.

Senkaku-wan Yuen Park (尖閣湾遊園公園), another attraction in the Senkaku Bay area, faces Ageshima Island which is linked to the land by a 54-m-long bridge. The observatory on the top of the island provides splendid seascape views diversified by fantastic rock formations, varied cliffs and sandy beaches. In the park are an aquarium and sea food restaurants. Open: 8:00-17:30, 8:30-17:00 (Mar.-Apr.). Admission: ¥500.

Accommodations:


Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
Niigata:			
① Bandai Silver Hotel (H)	(025)243-3711	(025)243-3720	13,000~
② Hotel Italia-Ken (H)	(025)224-5111	(025)224-7679	18,000~
③ Hotel Niigata (H)	(025)245-3331	(025)243-0493	16,000~
④ Niigata Tokyu Inn (H)	(025)243-0109	(025)243-0401	12,000~
⑤ Niigata Toei Hotel (H)	(025)244-7101	(025)241-8485	13,000~
⑥ Hotel Okura Niigata (H)	(025)224-6111	(025)224-7060	16,000
⑦ The Hotel Kinsu (BH)	(025)229-1695	(025)229-1393	6,000~
⑧ Hotel Kawai (BH) 	(025)241-3391		4,900
⑨ Niigata Washington Hotel (BH)	(025)243-7311	(025)243-0685	7,000~
⑩ Niigata Green Hotel (BH)	(025)246-0341	(025)246-0345	5,000~
⑪ Niigata Station Hotel (BH)	(025)243-5151	(025)243-3845	6,000~
⑫ Hotel Heimat (BH)	(025)243-3161	(025)241-8728	4,700~
⑬ Niigata Park Hotel (BH)	(025)245-5571	(025)247-0061	6,000~
⑭ Niigata Wako Hotel (BH)	(025)241-5000	(025)243-7383	4,500~
⑮ Niigata Ohnoya Ryokan (R)	(025)229-2951	(025)229-3199	11,500~
⑯ Ueda Ryokan (R*) 	(025)225-1111		6,500~
Sado Island:			
① Yamaki Hotel in Aikawa (H*)	(0259)74-3366	(0259)74-3382	9,500~
② Hotel Ohsado in Aikawa (H)	(0259)74-3300	(0259)74-3219	12,000~
③ Sado Royal Hotel Mancho in Aikawa (H)	(0259)74-3221	(0259)74-3738	11,000~
④ Yoshidaya in Ryotsu (R)	(0259)27-2151	(0259)23-4488	12,000~15,000
⑤ Sado Seaside Hotel (R) 	(0259)27-7211		7,000
⑥ YH Kazashima-kan (Y)	(0259)29-2003	(0259)29-2003	4,350(5,350)
⑦ Sado Hakusan YH (Y)	(0259)52-4422		4,300(5,300)
⑧ Senkaku-so (PL)	(0259)75-2226	(0259)75-2278	7,000
⑨ Sotokaifu YH (Y)	(0259)78-2911	(0259)78-2931	4,800(5,800)
⑩ Green Village YH (Y)	(0259)22-2719	(0259)22-2719	4,500(5,500)

Accommodation rates are due to change by season or days. Please check the correct rates before you visit.

Remarks:

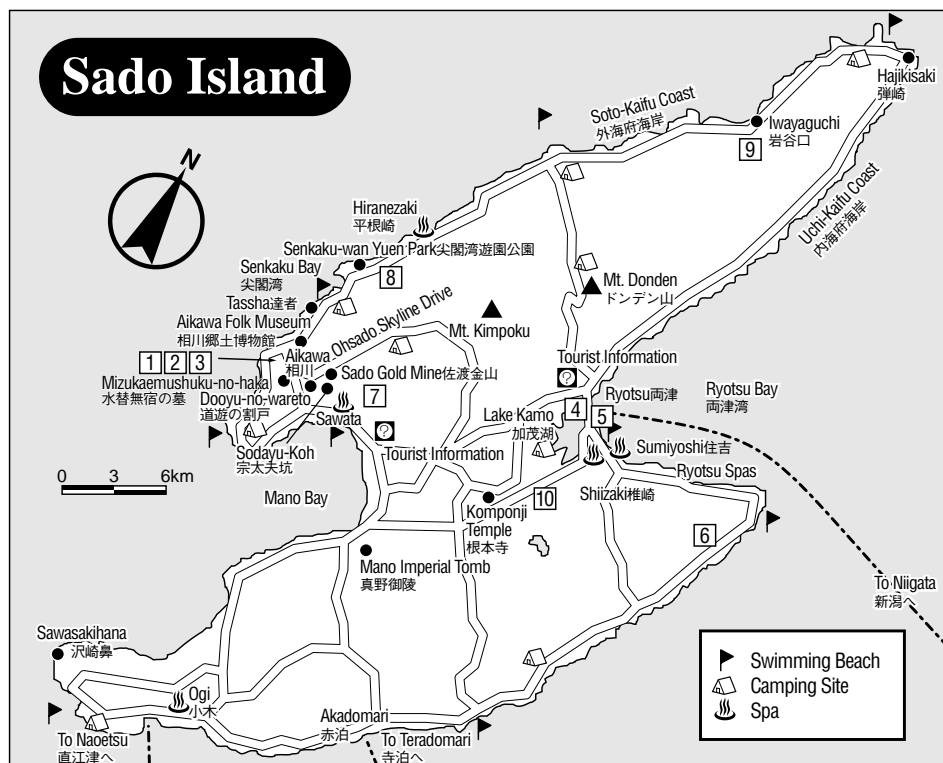
Standard rates are quoted.

Numbers correspond to those on the maps on 2/6 & 5/6 respectively.

H = Hotel	Rate for a twin room.
H* = Hotel	Rate per person with 2 meals.
R = Ryokan	Rate per person including 2 meals, tax and service charge.
R* = Ryokan	Rate per person without meals.
BH = Business Hotel	Rate for a single room.
Y = Youth Hostel	Rate per person with 2 meals. () = Rate for non-member.
PL = People's Lodge (Kokumin Shukusha)	Rate per person with 2 meals.
 = Welcome Inn member	

In addition, there are a lot of minshuku available. (¥7,000 up per person with 2 meals.)

Booking can be made through information counters of Sado Kisen ship company at Niigata Port or Ryotsu Port.



1 - 10 correspond to those on the Accommodations list for Sado Island on page 4/6.

Annual Events:

Niigata City

- Apr. 10-30: Toyonogata Lagoon Cherry Blossom Festival at Toyonogata Lagoon
- Apr. 12-18, & Jul. 12-18
Hakusan Shrine Annual Festival
- May 5-8: Gokoku Shrine Spring Festival
- Aug. 7-9: Niigata Festival

Sado Island

- Apr. 19 - 22: Sado Geino Matsuri (Folk-Performing Arts Festival) in Mano
- Jun. 15 & 16: Ryotsu Festival in Ryotsu
- Jul. 25-27: Kinzan (Gold mine) Festival in Aikawa
- Aug. 6-8: Tanabata or Star Festival in Ryotsu
- Oct. 19: Aikawa Festival in Aikawa

JNTO Website

JNTO Website can be a great help for getting detailed information for your travel to Japan. It provides a wide range of travel information in English and other 5 languages (Français · Deutsch · 中文简体字 · 中文繁體字 · 한국어) via the internet on transportation, accommodations, shopping and events. Information is updated frequently to enable you to access the latest information anytime.

URL: <http://www.jnto.go.jp>



Goodwill Guide Groups like the following offer tourists from overseas local tours guided in English or other languages. The guides are registered with JNTO and display the badge shown. As they are volunteers, there is no charge for their service. You are only expected to pay for their transportation, admission to tourist facilities if you visit any and their meals if you eat with them.

DSI Discover Sado Island

We can take you around at your request. Please come and enjoy a beautiful island, Sado-ga-shima. Apply by phone to Ms. Reiko Okamura (0259-52-2265, 9am-4pm) or e-mail: dsiwill@geocities.co.jp.

URL: <http://www.geocities.co.jp/SilkRoadForest/4857/index.html>



The Welcome Inns comprise a range of accommodations from hotels, business hotels, ryokan, minshuku and pensions to youth hostels. Most of them have guest rooms the charge for which is a modest ¥8,000 or less per night for a single room.

Reservation for Welcome Inns is available through International Tourism Center of Japan (ITCJ).

Reservation before your departure for Japan

Visit ITCJ's website at <http://www.itcj.or.jp> or JNTO's at <http://www.jnto.go.jp>. Also your request by mail, fax or e-mail is accepted and processed at ITCJ's head office. To make a reservation, simply complete the Reservation Request Form available from your nearest JNTO offices and send it to the head office at least one week ahead by e-mail or fax, or three weeks ahead of your departure from home by mail. Confirmed flight booking required for application. Especially for your first night in Japan, we accept the reservation request only when you have a firm booking on a flight arriving in Japan by no later than 7:00 p.m.

Reservation after your arrival in Japan

To take advantage of our service, you must appear in person at any of the Welcome Inn reservation counters located at the Tourist Information Centers (TICs) operated by JNTO (in Tokyo) or ITCJ (at Narita Airport and Kansai Airport).

Welcome Inn Reservation Center

c/o International Tourism Center of Japan

9th Fl., Kanda Urban Bldg., 2-4-2, Kanda Tsukasacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0048

Tel:03-3252-1717 Fax:03-3252-1521



TOURIST INFORMATION

("i" Tourist Information Offices)

Niigata Station Bandaiguchi Tourist Information Center:

Niigata Station, 1-1-1 Hanazono, Niigata City
8:30-17:15; Closed on Dec. 29-Jan.3 Tel. (025)241-7914

Niigata Int'l Friendship Center:

Miyoshi Mansion 3F, 6-1211-5 Kami-Okawamae-dori, Niigata City
10:00-18:00 Closed on Wed. & the day after national holidays. Dec. 29-Jan. 3
Tel. (025)225-2777

Sado Information Center (Aikawa):

2 chome Hama-machi, Aikawa-machi, Sado-gun
8:30-17:15 (Mon.-Fri.) Closed on Sat. Sun. & national holidays
Tel. (0259)74-3318

Niigata Kotsu Information Center (Ryotsu Port):

353-1, Oaza-Minato, Ryotsu City Tel. (0259)27-5164
8:00-17:30

All information contained in this leaflet is based on data as of November 2002. Transportation schedules, fares and accommodation charges are subject to change. Check with organizations concerned for updated information.