

When you stop,  
you can see

Step inside nature's art gallery,  
where the forest and stream are the masterpieces.

\*Photo for  
illustrative purposes

National highway and walking path  
become a mystical corridor

# Oirase Open-Air Museum of Natural History

Limited-time traffic restriction period

2025  
10/27 mon ▶ 11/02 sun



Watch a video to experience the  
Oirase Open-Air Museum here.

Organized by:  
Oirase Towada Utilization Council and  
Oirasekeiryu Eco Tourism Project Committee

## Lake Towada/Oirase Gorge Area Guide

**Information "i" Tourist Information**

**Tourist information center for foreigners traveling in Aomori Prefecture**

- Aomori City Tourist Information Center 017-723-4670
- Aomori Airport Tourist Information Center 017-739-2007
- Aomori City Tourist Information Center 017-752-6311
- Hirosaki City Tourist Information Center 0172-26-3600
- Hirosaki City Tourist Center 0172-37-5501
- Hachinohe Tourist Center 0178-27-4243
- Roadside Station Shichinohe 0176-62-5777
- Towadako Tourist Information Center 0176-75-2425
- Misawa Airport Tourist Information Center 0176-53-7500
- Towadako Tourist Center "Pratt" 0176-75-1531

**When you go to a clinic or hospital:**  
 ★If you do not understand Japanese, take somebody with you who can speak Japanese whenever possible. It is advisable to contact in advance because, even in a hospital with foreign-language-speaking doctors, they may be off-duty, or receptionists may not be able to speak foreign languages. ★There is a medical insurance system to alleviate patients' burdens to pay medical expenses in case one gets ill or injured. You should take the medical insurance as early as possible. ★In case your daily life or medical treatment is limited for religious or other reasons, please explain to your doctor when you see them.

**The following are necessary when receiving medical care:**  
 (1) Insurance card, (2) cash (only cash accepted to pay for medical care), (3) passport, and (4) note of your address, phone number, etc.  
 It is recommended that you bring a card that describes your address, phone number, and the like so that unnecessary difficulties will be eliminated at the time of reception. It is also recommended that you bring a note of your prominent symptoms so that it will help your doctor give a diagnosis, and help your doctor's fee to be decided at the counter.

Medical facilities in Aomori with multilingual support  
**JNTO medical care guide**  
[https://www.jnto.go.jp/emergency/eng/ml\\_guide.html](https://www.jnto.go.jp/emergency/eng/ml_guide.html)

## History of Lake Towada and the Oirase Gorge

Lake Towada is a mountain-top lake located near the northern end of the Ou Mountains, a mountain range in Japan. The Towada Volcano, which became active 200,000 years ago, formed a rectangular caldera around 16,000 years ago, and water filled the caldera to create what we know today as Lake Towada. Part of the lake then ruptured and the water flooding out of it created the Oirase canyon. Oirase River is the only river flowing into the canyon. The river stretches for about 70 km on its journey to the Pacific Ocean, and the 14 km section from the Nenokuchi river outlet (400 m above sea level) to Yakeyama (200 m above sea level), the confluence point with the Tsuta River flowing from the Hakkoda Mountains, is known as the Oirase Gorge.

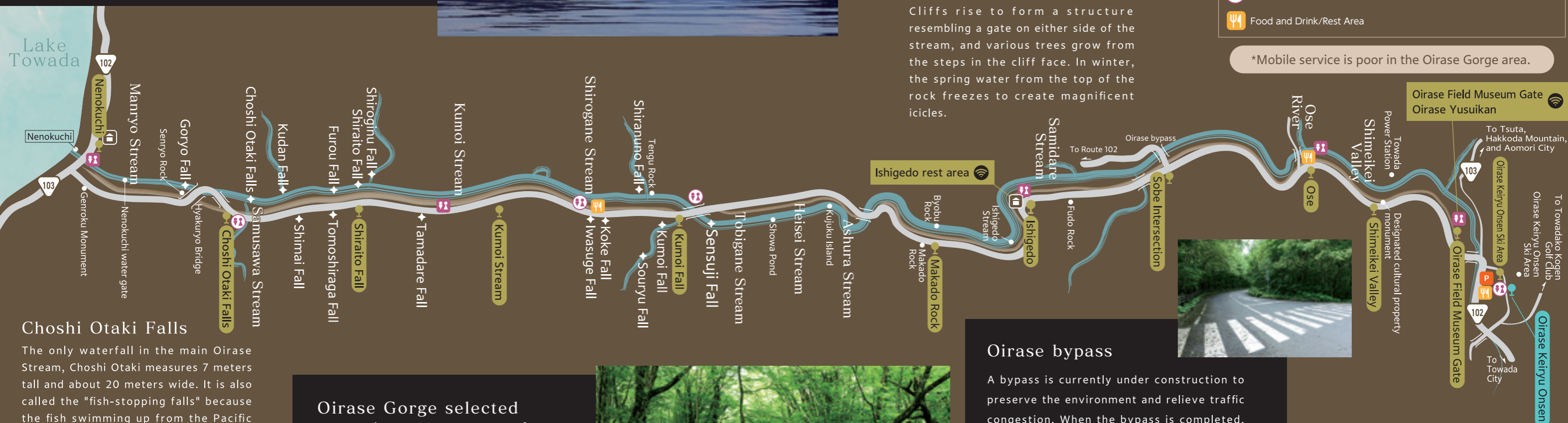


# Oirase Open-Air Museum of Natural History Viewing Map

奥入瀬自然博物館観賞マップ

- Road
- Stream
- Walkway
- Shuttle bus stop
- Rest stop
- Parking lot
- Washroom
- Wi-Fi spot
- Temporary washrooms (only when access is restricted to private vehicles)
- Food and Drink/Rest Area

\*Mobile service is poor in the Oirase Gorge area.



### Choshi Otaki Falls

The only waterfall in the main Oirase Stream, Choshi Otaki measures 7 meters tall and about 20 meters wide. It is also called the "fish-stopping falls" because the fish swimming up from the Pacific cannot make it past this point.



### Oirase Gorge selected as an important moss forest

One unique thing about Oirase is that the forests, composed mostly of deciduous broad-leaved trees, create a natural moss garden, with moss growing everywhere the eye can see. Surveys have identified nearly 300 species of moss (bryophytes). The numerous waterfalls and streams, and the lingering sea mist from the Pacific Ocean, make the valley extremely humid and a treasure trove of not only mosses, but also ferns, lichens, fungi, deformable fungi, and other peculiar plants.



### Oirase bypass

A bypass is currently under construction to preserve the environment and relieve traffic congestion. When the bypass is completed, traffic restrictions will be imposed on the Oirase Gorge section of the national highway. When the Oirase Open-Air Museum is open, the road will be used in a social experiment for visitors to experience the Oirase of the future. Historically, the opening of roads in scenic Oirase has opened various doors to many people. It is therefore a very important theme to think about how roads are to be used while preserving the beautiful natural surroundings.



Walking time



Nenokuchi

1.5km

30min

Choshi Otaki Falls

1.1km

25min

Shiraito Fall

1.6km

35min

Kumoi Stream

1.8km

35min

Kumoi Fall

1.5km

35min

Makado Rock

1.3km

25min

Ishigedo

1.8km

35min

Sobe Intersection

1.8km

35min

Ose

0.7km

15min

Shimeikei Valley

1.0km

20min

Oirase Field Museum Gate

Walking time

