



- JR Sagae Station  
☎0237-86-2861
- Yamako Bus Sagae Office  
☎0237-86-2181
- Sagae Taxi  
☎0237-86-5151
- Chuo Taxi  
☎0237-86-4111



## Sagae City, Yamagata Prefecture



# チェリードリーム — Cherry Dream

## About cherry



Sagae City is known as the best valley of cherries in Japan. The Chinese cherry, called an Outou in Japanese, is originally from the western Asia. The white flowers fully blossom in the end of April, and ruby-red cherries grown abundantly from the end of June to the mid July. During this period, Sagae becomes crowded with tourists coming from inside/outside the prefecture for cherry picking .

## A theme park with a motif of cherries! Cherry Land



### Cherry Land Sagae

This building, consisting of a tourist / product center, restaurants, large halls and conference rooms, is a concentration of handiworks, specialties and deliciousness collected from all over Yamagata Prefecture. Visitors can enjoy shopping and having a rest.

### International Cherry Park

There are 139 cherry trees (114 species) from Japan and overseas in the park. Also, creeks and rest houses are arranged around trees of seasonal fruits (plums, apples, grapes, quinces, peaches, pears, blueberries, nashi pears, etc.)

### Cherry Dome

The cone-shaped modern building has been built using triangle panels without iron frames. It is known as a symbol of Cherry Land.



## Cherry Road

Cherry is originally from Republic of Turkey in western Asia. It was delivered to Europe in the pre Christian era, then arrived in Japan in the early Meiji era via the US. The pathway from Turkey to Sagae is called the "Cherry Road". This history has brought an opportunity for Sagae City and Giresun City in Turkey to establish a sister-city relationship in 1988. Giresun City has established Sagae Park and Sagae Road within the city, and Sagae has built Turkey Hall in Cherry Land.



## Cherry picking

Would you like to enjoy picking red cherries heavily grown on trees, and eating them? The freshly picked fruit is indescribably delicious. Hope you visit us one day to enjoy cherries in Sagae.

**The best time:** early Jun - mid July **Price:** ¥1,200  
**Contact:**Shunen Tourism Agriculture Information Center (within the Cherry Hall in Cherry Land)  
TEL.0237-86-1811 FAX.0237-86-9922



### Cherry Hall



Various attractions spread over the site of a huge 222,000m² area. It opens 365 days



The pink building has been designed based on the image of a space shuttle. Photos and panels showing the history and planting of cherries, paper cutout works of late Masayuki Miyata, etc. are displayed. The facility also provides a road information service and tourist information.

The place also sells unique ice creams made with local ingredients, and attracts visitors throughout a year.

### Turkish Hall



The design of the building, by an architect from Republic of Turkey, is the same as those in the Ottoman Turkey era. Marbles, tiles, metallic decorations, etc. are from Turkey. In the facility, ceramics, glass products, bronze handiwork, as well as fabrics and photos are exhibited. Visitors can enjoy the culture of Turkey, a intersection of west and east.

# Festival Calendar



Sagae City has many festivals with long history, events that attracts many people, etc. After enjoying festivals in spring, in which people enjoy viewing cherry blossoms and azaleas, Cherry Festival starts in early summer. Autumn festivals in different areas to celebrate good harvest are also enjoyable. A festive feeling reaches at peak with Sagae Festival, which is held at Hachimangu as its center. Enjoy four seasons of Sagae colored with festivals.



### Late Mar - late Jul / Doll Festival

○In the city  
Doll Festival is a celebration of girls for their growth by decorating dolls representing a noble family in a wedding scene. Sagae was actively interacting with Kyoto and Edo in the Edo era, and there are still many old valuable dolls for Doll Festivals in the city.



### Mid - late Apr / Cherry Festival

### ○Sagae Park

Sagae Park is a well-known spot for cherry blossom viewing along with the site of Hachimangu, Cherry Hills, Sandai Sakura, etc.

### Mid-May / Azalea Festival

### ○Azalea Garden in Sagae Park

The Azalea Park, which stretches over the east slope of Mt. Nagaoka in the center of the urban area, has the largest area size in Tohoku area, with 43,000 colorful azaleas waving in pleasant breezes in May. (they are lit up at night)

### Sagae Spring Flower Story

Well-known spot for cherry blossoms and azaleas (Sagae Park)

The best time: mid - end April

Approx. 300 Someiyoshino cherry trees blossom light pink flowers gorgeously. Cherry flowers being lit up at nighttime produce magical atmospheres. Visitors can enjoy visiting many stalls and various fun-filled events at Cherry Festival.



The best time: early - late May

The combination of colors created with elegant azalea flowers are breathtakingly beautiful. The huge area size, which is said to be the biggest in Tohoku area, is must-see.



## Site of national history Jionji Temple

A magnificent temple of Tohoku with one-thousand year history.



Jionji hondou



Three Story Pagoda

Statue of Amitabha

Twelve Heavenly Generals

The temple has been said to be built in 746 by Bodhisena, an Indian Buddhist, with an order of Emperor Seimu. Received good supports from leaders in capital cities in the Heian and medieval eras, the temple had become the largest in Tohoku area in the Edo era.

Within the site, there are buildings including five story pagodas, as well as many Buddha statues. Among them, those statues produced 900 - 1000 years ago have been drawing attentions domestically and internationally.

◇ office of a temple TEL.0237-87-3993

### National important cultural properties

■Structures	Honzan Jionji hondou.....	1
■Sculptures	wooden Amida Nyorai zazo .....	1
	wooden kishi Monju Bosatsu and kyouji .....	4
	wooden kizou Fugen Bosatsu and ju-rasetsunyo .....	5
	wooden Miroku Bosatsu and syo-sonzo .....	5
	wooden Junishinsho (the twelve protective deities) Ritsuzo.....	12
	wooden Yakushi Nyorai and two kyouji .....	3
■Intangible folk	Jionji bugaku (Hayashi-ke bugaku)	



Jionji bugaku

## Local products of Sagae!

### Sweets

Pretty sweets made with Cherries are popular.

Sagae has a variety of cherry sweets that represents the nickname of the city "a valley of cherries". Sagae sweets, in both western and Japanese styles, are very delicious, which includes classic crackers that are used to see at a sweets shop, etc.



### Traditional handiworks

Hand-dyed carp banners (koi-nobori) are famous.

The hand-dyed carp banners that are rarely seen in Japan, are characterized with its body, which represents the thick body of carps climbing along Mogami River, dark ink colors, and powerful lines. Sagae's local handiworks includes Sagae Pottery, Garyu Pottery / nobori, hammer forged blades, paulownia-work, etc. are the proof of the great technique of masters.



### Locally produced sake / wines

The deliciousness that can be produced only with high quality water and rice.

Sagae's sake, made with pure water and high quality rice, is so flavorful that you can relish. Visitors can also find Japan's first "cherry wine", which is good for souvenirs.



### Processed food

Processed fruits and traditional tastes are great souvenirs.

Dried noodles of Sagae is so delicious that everyone wants to eat again, and is highly applauded by its fans inside / outside the prefecture. Moreover, Sagae is a treasure box of fruits, so the quality and quantity of the processed fruits in Sagae is no comparison to others. Corned beef is a specialty of Sagae. Traditional flavors of locals can be found in carps cooked with sweet soup, natural honey, miso pastes and soy sauce, which are made with local ingredients.



100% free-flowing hot-spring for beautiful skin

## Sagae Hot Spring

### ●Sagae Hot Spring

Sagae Hot Spring was discovered in 1954. There are some inns in the urban areas near the Sagae Station. It is a 100% free-flowing hot-spring. The unique bath, in which petals of locally produced roses and chrysanthemums are placed, are highly applauded, and is a friendly bath effective for beautiful skins, and it is popular among women.

### ●Shin Sagae Hot Spring

This new hot spring was discovered in 1980 in Takase area in the southern area of the city. The public baths, which attracts 250,000 people a year, and Cherry Kurpark, are popular spots.

### Hot spring facilities

Japanese cuisine / inn Yoshimoto.....	☎84-2138	60 people	Hot spring inn
Kawaraya inn.....	☎86-4630	12 people	Hot spring inn
Hotel Town.....	☎86-8686	32 people	Business hotel with hot spring baths
Kokorono-yado Ichiryu.....	☎86-2233	114 people	Hot spring inn
Japanese cuisine/ inn Fukuyoshi.....	☎84-2661	18 people	Hot spring inn
Hotel Symphony.....	☎86-2131	120 people	Hot spring inn
Japanese cuisine / inn Kanou.....	☎84-3034	22 people	Hot spring inn
Hotel Symphony Annex.....	☎83-1222	140 people	Hot spring inn
Hotel Sun Cherry.....	☎83-5000	101 people	City Hotel
Yu-Cherry.....	☎83-1414		Hot springs for day trippers
Cherry Park Hotel.....	☎83-1511	152 people	Hotels for long stay
Public bath.....	☎86-1126		Public bath

### \*Public baths

◇6.30am - 9pm (regular business hours / Closes on: the second Thursday)  
◇Admission fee: Adult ¥200, Child ¥100  
◇TEL.0237-86-1126

## Fruit Picking Calendar

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Best season	Strawberry			Blueberry							Secchu Strawberry	
		Cherry		Peach			Apple					
					Grape	Pear						
Experiential activities: soba making, potato cooking, rice cake making, ice cream												

For further information on fruit picking, please contact to Cherry Hall on 0237-86-1811.



# Area Map of Sagae

Let's walk Sagae town with map!



## Enjoy Sagae Recommended courses

These are recommended courses that visits attractive spots in Sagae City. Chose a course that meets your purpose, and enjoy the whole of Sagae.

### Enjoy Jionji Temple Tour [4-5 hours]

JR Uzen Takamatsu Station C-4  
↓ (25 min) A-5

- Jionji Temple
  - Main Hall / Yakushima Hall
  - Saio-in
  - Three Story Pagoda
  - Old trees (traditional places)

Sannoudai Park ↓ (15 min) A-4

Garyu Bridge (Check point of Rokujuri-goe Road) ↓ (15 min) A-3

JR Uzen Takamatsu Station C-4

### Eating tour course [4-5 hours]

Tourism Cherry Park (fruit picking) ↓ (5 min) C-7

- Cherry Land
  - Ice cream
  - Turkey cuisine
  - Ball konnyaku
  - Soba

Furusawa Brewer Museum (sake tasting) ↓ (10 min) E-8

Soba restaurants (throughout the city)

### City Walk course [4-5 hours]

JR Sagae Station F-7 ↓ (3 min) F-7

Seseragi Foot Spa (In front of Sagae Station) ↓ (3 min) E-3

Sagae City Museum (within Flora SAGAE) ↓ (10 min) E-7

Sagae Hachimangu ↓ (5 min) D-7

Sagae Park ↓ (20 min) C-7

Ninoseki-shinsui Park ↓ (5 min) C-7

Cherry Land

### Nature Walk course [4-5 hours]

Jionji Temple ↓ (25 min) C-7

Cherry Land ↓ (25 min) D-7

Ninoseki-shinsui Park ↓ (25 min) F-7

Seseragi Foot Spa (In front of Sagae Station) ↓ (25 min) F-7

## Map of the surroundings of the station



## Major historical sites/cultural assets

- Sagae Hachimangu** E-7  
In 1191, Oeono Chikahiro transferred the god of Kanakura Tsuoka Hachimangu to a new Sagae-sou, and enshrined it in the land of Nagaoka.  
Since then, the shrine has made a history over 800 years as a guardian of Sagae-sou. The autumn festival sees yabusame and yakko town tour, which are performed with the hope of good harvest, and carrying a mikoshi (portable shrine).
- Hirashio Kumano Shrine and Bugaku** H-4  
It is said that the shrine was opened by Gyoki after the gods were transferred from Kii Kumano Gongen in 721. It is an old and the biggest shrine with a temple estate of 149-seki and 9-to area size, and received a gosho (letter bearing the shogun's scarlet seal) from Edo shogunate government. Inside the cedar forests, which are dark even in a daytime, there are two wooden Juo statues, which have been designated as a cultural asset of the prefecture, and the main temple that enshrines a Lakshmi statue quietly sitting. The elegant performance of Hirashio Bugaku is performed at the shrine on April 3 every year. The performance is regarded as a very important culture in the town study field as it has developed under the influence of Kyoto Bugaku, which has been disappeared a long time ago (an intangible cultural asset designated by the prefecture).
- Fork Museum (Nishi Murayama-gun Office / Gun Conference Hall)** D-7  
The impact of the westernization and modernization in the Meiji era could be seen in rural areas as well. In 1878, after the laws were established for the country (gun in Japanese), the western style building was built as a Gun Office in the center of the town at the time. Local people might have experienced the arrival of a new history by looking at the white building and street lamps along the main street. Today, the office has been transferred within the Sagae Park, and displays historical materials. (designated as a tangible cultural asset by the prefecture)
- Tanemaki Cherry Blossom** A-3  
The species of the cherry is Edohigan Sakura with 4.8 meter in a diameter of roots and 10 meter of the main trunk. It is approx. 800 years old. The origin of the name (tanemaki: seedling in Japanese) is from a myth that the tree had saved farmers in an ancient times after they missed a chance of seeding plants because of nasty gangs. (a natural treasure designated by the prefecture)
- Five-piece gravestones of Ooe Tomohiro and his wife** E-7  
The tower is a gravestone of Ooe Tomohiro, the estate manager of Sagae-sou, and his wife. The two towers stand together within the graveyard in Chokoji Temple. Tomohiro passed away in 1494 (Muromachi era). After her husband died, the wife donated their land to Chokoji. The names of lands written on the donation letter along with the tower that says "Akada, Kinowasa, Takase..." tells the current generation about Sagae-sou in the medieval era. (a historical site designated by the city)
- Tomb of Kuwana warriors** E-8  
On September 20, 1868, the imperial army and Kuwana army developed a harsh battle in Sagae City. Kuwana ran away to Shonai after losing 19 warriors. A monk of Youshun-in called Daikan-oshu collected the bones of the diseased warriors and mourned for them sincerely. The tombstone represents the storms of Meiji Restoration in the local area. (a historical site designated by the city)
- Otomoto Kannon** F-6  
Mogami 33 Kannon No. 15 Oufuda Office located in the Otomo area in the western side of the city. Although the origin of the name "Otomoto" is not known, there is a theory related to it on Hagaromo, Ononokomachi, Kobo Daishi, etc. The main image is a Kannon with eleven faces.
- Nagaoka Kannon** E-8  
Mogami 33 Kannon No. 16 Oufuda Office. It was originally located in Mt. Nagaoka, but was transferred to Chononji Temple because both Sagae and Shibahashi camps were moved to Mt. Nagaoka. The main image of a Kannon with eleven faces.
- Sagae Mikoshi Hall** F-7  
The glass-paneled unique building distributes the culture of Sagae. It always displays mikoshi that are brought out for Sagae Festival. The information corner in the center of the building shows the scenes of festival and tourist information on a large screened Diamond Vision.
- Nature Spot**
  - Azalea Garden** D-7  
Mt. Nagaoka, located in the heart of the city, and Sagae Park in its center, are popular as a recreation park for local people. Especially, Azalea Park is the largest scale in Tohoku area with 22 acres of well-cared-for azaleas (nine species), which blossom in the mid-May. A romantic atmosphere is produced as the park is lit up at night during a certain period.
  - Ninoseki-shinsui Park** C-7  
Having Mt. Gassan on its back, the shinsui park draws water from the fresh Sagae River. Within the area of 1.5km in length, there are rest houses, multi-purpose spaces, walk path, museum, waterwheels and aquarium. The park gives its visitors a warm and relaxing time.
  - Mt. Hayama and Shimin-sou**  
Mt. Hayama is known as a mountain for mountain worship where people believed that the god of agriculture lives. Beech forests stretch out to the top of the mountain. Alpine plants like Kanazama can be seen. Hayama Shimin-sou, located in the halfway up the mountain, is used as a hub for mountain climbing and forest bathing.
  - Sagae River and Garyu Bridge** A-3  
Sagae River, the source of which is located in a sacred mountain of Gassan and the Asahi Mountain Ranges, is known as a symbol of Sagae and famous for its streams that have salmon going upstream and many ayu fish. The bridge, built in 1827 as a draw bridge, was a check point of Rokujuri-goe Road. It was built in the current form of the beautiful arch-shaped concrete bridge in 1937. This is an only bridge in the prefecture that has been registered as one of the 100 most beautiful Japanese bridges.
  - Mogami River Furusato Sogo Park** G-6  
Laying along the Mogami River that flows through the southern part of the city, the park offers magnificent views of the Oku Mountains that includes Gassan, Hayama and Zaou, with the theme of flowers, greens and the flow of a river. The park holds an event called "Yumetane @ Sagae" during a harvesting period for cherries, which attracts many local people and tourists.
  - Dog Run Facility**  
The facility is located in the eastern side of Mogami River Furusato Sogo Park. Dogs are allowed to run and play without a leash under the supervision of its owner. (A registration is required for the use)
  - Skate Park**  
The Biggest Concrete Park in Tohoku The park holds lectures on BMX and skateboarding as well as competitions.