

# Highlights of the Iiyama Line

A Journey to Explore  
the Japanese Hometown

English



Iiyama Line Area Revitalization Council

We are utilizing the Nagano Prefecture Regional Revitalization Support Program.



## The Iiyama Line Sightseeing Train "OYKOT"



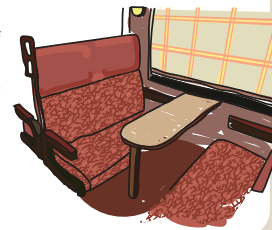
### Concept

"OYKOT" is the reverse of TOKYO. The concept is to escape the hustle and bustle of the city by traveling in nature-rich regions, and enjoy moments of relaxation during the journey.



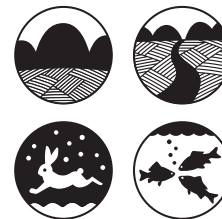
### Train Design

The train cars evoke the image of traditional Japanese homes. Incorporating designs that imitate sliding doors and paper screens, and featuring nostalgic patterns inside, they create a warm, tranquil atmosphere reminiscent of "grandma's house."



### Hometown Motifs

A famous Japanese children's song "Furusato" (Hometown), with lyrics by a local lyricist from Nakano City, contains words that are typical of a Japanese countryside: "mountain," "river," "rabbit," and "small carp." These motifs can be seen on the train body and interior lamps.



### Take Photos with Sugeboshi

"Sugeboshi" is a traditional hood worn in the snowy regions along the Iiyama Line. It is made with straw, which is sturdy and water-resistant, making it ideal for protecting the body from the region's moisture-rich snow. Take a photo while wearing the Sugeboshi to make your trip more memorable!



## Chikuma River (Shinano River)



### Japan's Longest River

Much of the Iiyama Line runs parallel to the Chikuma River, allowing passengers to see the majestic river views alongside the beautiful scenery of the surrounding mountains and villages.



### Why It Has Two Names?

This river is called the Chikuma River within Nagano Prefecture, and known as the Shinano River in Niigata Prefecture. "Chikuma" means "a thousand turns," referring to the river's characteristic meandering course. On the other hand, "Shinano" was the former name for Nagano Prefecture, and the river was named "the river flowing from Shinano Province."

### Life Along the Chikuma River

The Chikuma River has been deeply intertwined with the lives of people in its basin since ancient times. Its waters, in particular, have been used for agricultural irrigation, playing a vital role in supporting rice cultivation. In recent years, its abundant water is also used in hydroelectric power generation, producing clean energy for residents in Japan.



### Trivia

The Shinanogawa Hydro Power Station, which draws water from a dam near Nishi-Otaki Station, boasts the highest cumulative power generation in Japan.





## 1 Orchards (near Kaesa Sta.)



The region thrives on fruit cultivation that takes advantage of its rich natural environment. It is particularly renowned as a leading producer of apples and grapes. Many orchards offer fruit picking programs from summer through autumn.

## 3 Rice Paddies (near Shinano-Taira Sta.)



This area is surrounded by expansive green fields in the summer and golden rice fields in autumn. This region is known to produce high-quality rice, which is supported by natural conditions such as abundant meltwater and significant day-night temperature differences.

## 5 Sakae Ohashi Bridge (Yokokura Sta. ~ Morimiyano-hara Sta.)

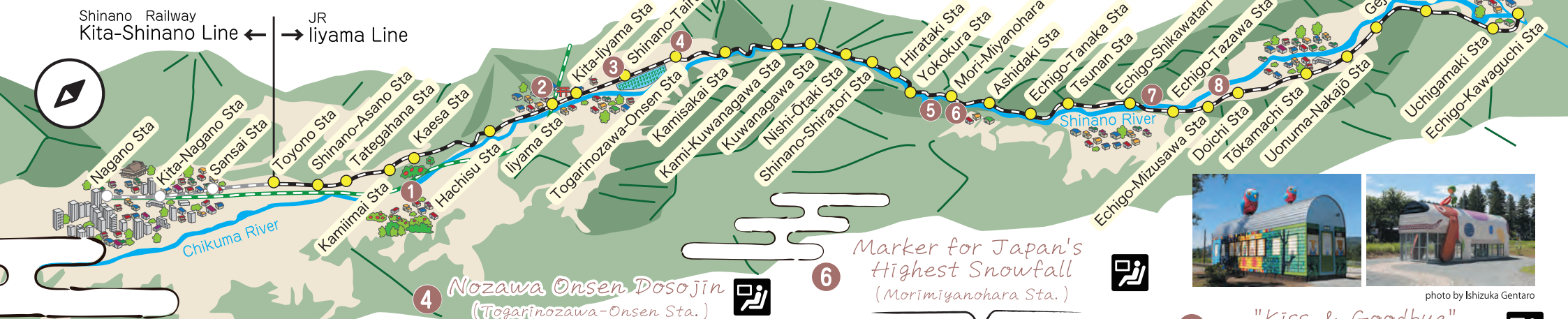


Sakae Ohashi Bridge, which is a 15-minute walk from Morimiyano-hara Station, is a popular photography spot of the Iiyama Line. Please be careful when taking photos there as it is a high-traffic area, and refrain from using tripods.

## 7 Shinano River View Point (Echigo-Shikawatari Sta. ~ Echigo-Tazawa Sta.)



This bridge is the only location on the Iiyama Line that crosses the Shinano River. Enjoy the breathtaking view of the river and the mountains.



## 2 Automaton Clock (Iiyama Sta.)



The automaton clock inside Iiyama Station features the "Gosoku Daidai Kagura" every hour. Kagura are traditional dances and music performed to express gratitude to the deities and pray for a bountiful harvest. This festival culture is still very much cherished in areas along the Iiyama Line.



## 4 Nozawa Onsen Dosojin (Togarinozawa-Onsen Sta.)



Dosojin are deities of marriage and fertility, and you can find them on the platform at Togarinozawa-Onsen Station.

One of Japan's top three fire festivals, the Nozawa Onsen Dosojin Fire Festival features a dramatic battle where villagers try to set a 10-meter wooden shrine on fire to pray for good harvest, health and fortune.



## 6 Marker for Japan's Highest Snowfall (Morimiyano-hara Sta.)



A marker post beside the train tracks at Morimiyano-hara Station states that snow accumulation reached 7.85 meters in 1945.

This area is known to be one of Japan's heaviest snowfall regions, and the wisdom of living with snow continues to be passed down here.



## 8 "Kiss & Goodbye" (Doichi Sta. & Echigo-Mizusawa Sta.)



The art piece "Kiss & Goodbye" (Jimmy Liao/Taiwan) from the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale is on display at both stations. The Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale is a contemporary art festival where visitors can enjoy a collection of original and captivating works created by artists from around the world, themed around the rich nature and local culture.



photo by Ishizuka Gentaro

Map Legend



Need to get off the train



Visible from inside the train

Access the digital brochure to get sightseeing information→

