

WELCOME  
TO  
ALSAWA



# GREETINGS FROM MISAWA CITY MAYOR

I would like to extend to you my warmest, most sincere welcome to "A Town Surrounded by Plentiful Nature," the City of Misawa. I am sincerely pleased to see you newly stationed at Misawa Air Base.

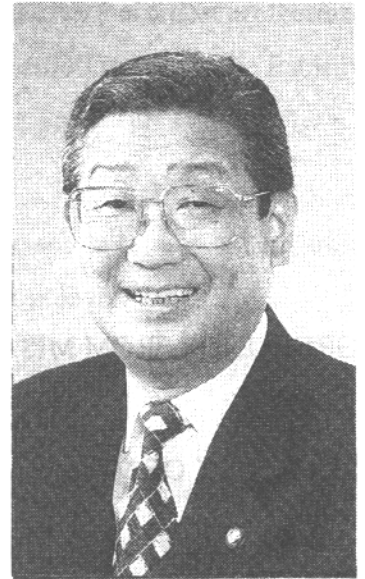
Since I was elected Mayor in February of 1987, I have established a policy of "Co-Existence and Co-Prosperity" as I understand the importance and purpose of National Defense. With this policy in mind, I have accepted the United States Armed Forces men and women, civilians, and their respective family members, as Misawa citizens. It has always been my intention to offer those stationed here an equal, comfortable lifestyle just as Japanese citizens enjoy.

An example of one thing that I am most confident about as Mayor, is that "in all of Japan, Misawa is the only city that doesn't cry out in opposition toward its U.S. Base neighbors."

Misawa is a town that grew as U.S. Military services began deploying troops here after World War II. There are many cities in Japan like Misawa in which U.S. Military Bases are located. Of all of these cities, Misawa is a wonderful city in which each and every citizen understands the importance of your military presence. Although most towns have shown the tendency of practicing Base Restoration Movements, this is the only place possible where you and our citizens can build a "Neighborly Relationship."

In the course of our living together as one society in this small town of Misawa, there may be times in which political problems arise between the City and the Base, and between the Japanese Government and U.S. Government. However, what I would like from you, is for you to accept us all as "Misawans," living together in the same community. If a problem does occur, I want to take the problem in stride, together with the Base Commander, you, Misawa Citizens, and solve it.

My goal is to make a better place to live for both Japanese and Americans through continuous promotion of my policy of "Co-Existence and Co-Prosperity." I will get that much closer to my goal if during your tour here at Misawa, you build friendly relations with the Japanese citizens, and you leave with fond memories of this wonderful town, "Misawa."



*Shigeyoshi Suzuki*

Shigeyoshi Suzuki, Mayor of Misawa City

# SUMMARY OF MISAWA CITY

Misawa City is located in the southwest portion of Aomori Prefecture, the northernmost prefecture of Honshu Island. Misawa City is a town with a population of about 42,000 in which the Pacific Ocean lies to its east, Lake Ogawara to the west, surrounded by Kamikita Town and Tohoku Town, to the south Momoishi Town, and Rokkasho Village to the north.

It measures 11 kilometers from east to west, 25 kilometers from north to south, for a total land area of 120.86 square kilometers. It is a spacious flatland 57 meters above sea level.

Its climate is characterized by a winter of low snowfall, although located in the northern region. Also, northwesterly seasonal winds make for many sunny days in the winter.

Spring and summer months are known to get cold and foggy often due to easterly winds (known as *Yamase*). Another characteristic during these months is the rather dry, yet long rainy season, which shortens summer months.

The history of Misawa City began in 1881 as a branch-village of Momoishi Village. In 1899, it officially became Misawa Village. Since then, although circumstances were not by any means affluent (as the livelihood was centered around farming and fishing) Misawa was known as "Kizakino Pasture" for being a horse producing district.

Misawa City gained fame for becoming the take-off site of the world's first non-stop trans-Pacific flight, and many aviators from all over the world have visited Misawa with the goal of becoming the first to accomplish this historical feat. After three attempts ended in failure, Clyde E. Pangborn (of Washington State) and Hugh Herndon (of New York), made history by taking off from Misawa on the "Miss Veedol" in October of 1931, and landing 41 hours later in Wenatchee, Washington, successfully crossing the Pacific Ocean non-stop. Misawa and Wenatchee celebrated this feat 50 years later, and became Sister Cities in 1981. Since then, the two cities have engaged in various exchange activities.

Because of the accomplishment of this flight, Misawa became known as a suitable airstrip area, and in 1939, the former Imperial Navy constructed a Naval Air Base here. Following World War II in 1945, the base was turned over to U.S. Forces, who have been stationed here ever since. Japanese nationals flocked to Misawa for the opportunity of obtaining work, and the population drastically increased. Consequently, this changed the administrative structure of Misawa Town, formed in 1948, and was changed in 1958 as Misawa City was born.

Presently, Misawa City is the only town in Northern Japan in which U.S. Forces are stationed and has continuously upheld friendly relations with the base. As the nucleus of International Exchange in Northern Japan, Misawa is currently aiming at the establishment of a city motto of "A Cultural City Full of International Atmosphere with Relaxation and Richness."

# MISAWA CITY PUBLIC FACILITIES

Misawa City has many public facilities, such as a Gymnasium and Martial Arts Center. These facilities are not only for Japanese, but the City wants Americans to make use of these facilities also.

## ● Misawa City Civic Center

Hours of Operation: 09:00 ~ 20:00

Days Closed: every Monday, Japanese holidays, and from Dec. 29 ~ Jan. 3

Outline of Facilities: Large Hall, Small Hall, 11 Meeting Rooms, Cooking Room, Arts and Crafts Room, Music Room, Game Room (for games such as Mah-Jongg), and Recreation Room

※ There is a fee for use of all facilities

☎ 0176-53-8711

## ● Misawa City Gymnasium

Hours of Operation: 09:00 ~ 21:00 (09:00 ~ 17:00 on Sundays and holidays)

Days Closed: every Tuesday, and from Dec. 28 ~ Jan. 4

Outline of Facilities: Large Gym Floor, Table Tennis Room, Weight Training Room, Judo Hall, Kendo/Karate Hall, Archery Hall, and Meeting Rooms

※ There is a fee for use of all facilities

☎ 0176-53-1218

## ● Misawa City Martial Arts Center

Hours of Operation: 09:00 ~ 21:00 (09:00 ~ 17:00 on Sundays and holidays)

Days Closed: every Tuesday, and from Dec. 28 ~ Jan. 4

Outline of Facilities: Competition Floor, Judo Hall, Kendo Hall, Sumo Hall, Meeting Rooms, and Training Room

※ There is a fee for use of all facilities

☎ 0176-57-0050

## ● Misawa City Citizens' Exercise Park

Hours of Operation: 09:00 ~ 21:00 (09:00 ~ 17:00 on Sundays and holidays)

Days Closed: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, and from Nov. 11 ~ Mar. 31

Outline of Facilities: Baseball Stadium (with lighting for night games), Tennis Courts (with lighting for night games)

※ There is a fee for use of all facilities

☎ 0176-57-2812

## ● Misawa Ice Arena

Hours of Operation: 09:00 ~ 19:45 (Monday ~ Friday)

09:00 ~ 18:00 (Weekends & Holidays)

Days Closed: every Wednesday, and from May 1 ~ first Friday in Sep.

\* Admission: ¥100 ~ ¥550, rental skates - ¥300

☎ 0176-57-2100

\* Required to wear gloves.

## ● Misawa City Indoor Heated Pool

Hours of Operation: 10:00 ~ 21:00 (Tuesday ~ Sunday)

Days Closed: every Monday, and from Dec. 29 ~ Jan. 3

\* Admission: ¥100 ~ ¥500

○ Outline of Facilities: 6-course 25m pool, Toddlers' pool, Jacuzzi, 31m (103ft)-long Water Slide

☎ 0176-59-3850

\* Required to wear a swimming cap.

## ● Citizens' Forestry Park

The Citizens' Forestry Park is located adjacent to Lake Ogawara. There are many facilities at the park; field/track field, an obstacle course, tennis courts, baseball stadium, cross country ski course, hot spring bath house, etc. New facilities are built along the shore of the lake; 5 bungalows, auto-camping area for 58 cars and a restaurant/rest house "Lake Pier" (restaurant is open from April through October).

\* There is a fee for use of all facilities

☎ Auto-Camping: 0176-59-3311

Camp grounds & bungalows: 0176-59-2311

Sports facilities: 0176-59-2221

## ● Lake Ogawara

Lake Ogawara is the center of outdoor activity of Misawa City. Around the beach are campgrounds, bungalows, etc., and many people use the area in the early summer season through fall. Applications for use of bungalows are taken by the Commerce, Industry and Tourism Section of City Hall (53-5111, extension 359). There is a fee for use of these. For further information, please refer to the aforementioned section.

## ● Misawa City History and Folk Customs Museum

Tools used during the cultivation of Misawa, such as farming tools, fishing tools, hunting tools and artifacts dated back to B.C. 3000 are displayed.

Hours of Operation: 09:00 ~ 16:00 (Tuesday ~ Sunday)

Days Closed: every Monday, holidays, and from Dec. 27 ~ Jan. 4

☎ 0176-59-3670

## ● Misawa City Library

Hours of Operation: 10:00 ~ 18:00 (Tuesday ~ Friday)

09:30 ~ 17:00 (Saturday & Sunday)

Days Closed: every Monday, holidays and from Dec. 28 ~ Jan. 4

※ No charges

☎ 0176-53-6040

## ● Tonami Clan Memorial Tourism Village

In 1872, Yasuto Hirosawa, a samurai warrior of the former Aizu Clan (later Tonami Clan), came to the area, cultivated it, and established the first Western-style ranch in Japan in the Yachigashira District of Misawa City, which at the time, was a small out-of-the-way village. Hirosawa hired two Britons and imported stud horses and bulls from the Western World to breed with Japanese livestock. Through this, he improved the quality of Japan-bred livestock, built the foundation of recent Japanese livestock, and at the same time raised the level of local agricultural production. In the museum is a display of Hirosawa's valuable literature, materials, and farming equipment. Other facilities are; petting zoo, mini-golf, battery-operated car ride, snack stand, etc. Several events are held throughout the year for community participation.

Hours of Operation: 09:00 ~ 18:00 (April ~ October)

09:00 ~ 16:00 (November ~ March)

Days Closed: every Monday and Dec. 28 ~ Jan. 4

(Outdoor facilities are closed from Nov. ~ Mar.)

※ Admission: Tourism Village - free

Museum - ¥50 ~ ¥210

Rides - ¥100 ~ ¥500

☎ 0176-59-3306

## ● Shuji Terayama Museum

Shuji Terayama, who spent his early days in Misawa, was a very talented artist in various fields, including acting, writing plays and novels, directed movies, etc. This museum displays his famous "Terayama World."

Hours of Operation: 09:00 ~ 17:00 (April ~ October)

09:00 ~ 16:00 (November ~ March)

Days Closed: every Monday and Dec. 28 ~ Jan. 4

※ Admission: ¥100 ~ ¥530

☎ 0176-59-3434

# INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE GROUPS

## 1. **Japanese/American Friendship Club**

This club was organized in 1981 for the purpose of Americans and Japanese learning each other's languages, cultures and ways of life through exchange activity. Presently the club has 50 American and Japanese members. Club members, their families and friends go on ski trips, the Hirosaki Cherry Blossom Festival, hiking and fireworks at Lake Towada, Aomori Nebuta Festival, participate in the Misawa Festival, and conduct volunteer services such as visiting old folks' homes, facilities for handicapped children, and assist with the Red Feather Charity program.

The club holds "Japanese and English Speaking Circle" every Friday, along with regular club meetings every second Tuesday of each month.

POC: Mrs. Kazue Ito ☎ 0176-53-6510

## 2. **Misawa International Club**

This club has kept up with the present trend of "The Internationalization of Local Cities" from the beginning, and has recognized the importance of the cooperation of the over 10,000 Americans residing in Misawa for the development and expansion of their events. The club has been the core of contributions to the activation of American and Japanese cultural and personal exchanges in the local area. It was established in 1987, and is the sponsor of Japan Day, American Day, and the Edgren High School Music Festival.

## 3. **Aomori Foundation for Advancing International Relations – AFFAIR**

AFFAIR is a public interest organization which aims to promote international relations activities between the local community and foreigners residing in Aomori Prefecture. Their office is located on the 5th floor of the Suisan Building (next to the triangle building ASPAM) in Aomori City.

☎ 0177-35-2221

# PUBLIC SERVICES – FOR OFF-BASE RESIDENTS

## Electricity

- \* Applying for and Cancelling

Your landlord will contact Tohoku Electric Power Company for the initial connection and cancellation.

- \* Electric Appliances

There are two electric frequencies used in Japan. In Northern Japan, 50Hz and 100V are used. Make sure you are using compatible electric appliances and be careful when you use appliances brought from the States.

## Water Supply

- \* Applying for and Cancelling

Your landlord will contact Misawa City Water Supply Office for the initial connection and cancellation.

- \* Frozen Pipes

When the temperature dips below 32°F (0°C) beware of freezing pipes (kitchen faucets, toilets, bath and showers) which can cause them to burst. The best way to avoid the freezing is to run a little bit of water throughout the night. If you are going to be gone for awhile, be sure to drain the pipes and turn off all the water valves or let your landlord know.

## Gas and Kerosene

- \* Applying for and Cancelling

Your landlord will contact the gas and kerosene company for the initial connection and cancellation.

## Telephone

Some of the off-base housing may have a pay phone installed. If you want to install your own line, you will have to apply at NTT (Nippon Telephone and Telegraph) or buy a line from someone, which is usually cheaper. A new line set-up will cost approximately ¥75,000.

There are also two kinds of cellular telephone; Keitai Denwa and PHS (Personal Handyphone System). You may apply for the service at NTT or other cellular telephone companies.

## Garbage Disposal

U.S. Forces personnel residing off-base are required to dispose of garbage through a local garbage collection contractor. Ask your landlord for the contractor's name for your house.



## **Bank and Postal Services**

Generally, Japan is a “cash society” and personal checks are seldom used. International credit cards can be used at department stores and other large services, but small shops usually will not accept them, so make sure you have cash on hand while you are off-base.

Financial services are provided by banks and post offices in Japan. Both provide their account holders with a bank card which can be used to make withdrawals and deposits from ATMs. They also provide automatic bill payment and other financial services.

## **Opening an Account**

You are required to bring your passport, Alien Registration Card (if you are registered as an alien) or military ID card and your personal seal (*hanko*, it can be substituted with your signature if you do not have one) with you to the bank and fill out the application. After opening an account, you will receive a bankbook. You will not receive a monthly statement of your account. You can also use the bankbook to record the transaction along with your cash card for ATM transactions.

## **Cable Television Service**

Misawa City provides cable television service, MCTV, for anyone living in the city. Currently, there are 8 satellite channels offered, including MTV, Star channel (movies) and ESPN. To subscribe for the service and for more information, please come to the Misawa Cable Television Office in the city hall.

## **English Newspaper Subscription**

There are several English language newspapers that you can have delivered to your house daily. Please have a Japanese speaking person apply for subscription. Following is a list of English newspapers available in this area:

\* Asahi Newspaper Agency ☎ 0176-53-3750

Japan Times, Asahi Weekly, Asahi Evening News, Weekly SP Student Time, New York Times, Japan Times Weekly

\* Mainichi Newspaper Agency ☎ 0176-53-2637

Mainichi Daily News (2 days late), Mainichi Weekly Newspaper (English and Japanese)

\* Yomiuri Newspaper Agency ☎ 0176-53-3454

The Daily Yomiuri (1 day late)

## **Japanese Language Lessons**

Tohoku Gaigo Gakuin ☎ 0176-51-1600

Private lesson - ¥2,700 an hour

For group lessons, please call.

# JAPANESE TRADITIONAL AND MARTIAL ARTS

There are many national Martial Arts forms indigenous to Japan: Judo, Kendo, Karate, and Sumo. Culturally, there are such original arts such as Flower Arrangement and the Tea Ceremony. The City of Misawa is a place where one can acquire knowledge and skill in these art forms. The following is a brief explanation of various martial arts, Japanese traditional arts, and information of classes. If interested, please feel free to use this list. Fees for classes are subject to change without notice.

## **JUDO**

Judo is one of Japan's typical techniques of hand-to-hand combat. The key point of Judo is to overwhelm the opponent by taking advantage of his force and weight. The rank is shown by the color of belts.

## **KENDO**

Kendo is somewhat similar to fencing. In a Kendo match, the two combatants wear protective outfits resembling armor (*yoroi*) and attack with swords made of bamboo. They score points by hitting their opponent's head, trunk, forearms or charging at their throat with the bamboo sword.

## **KARATE**

Karate was formed by combining Chinese Kung-Fu with Okinawan martial arts and developed as the art of self-defense. One fights not with weapons but with fists, elbows and feet. Basic tactics include the forward fist thrust, defense, kicking and the backward elbow thrust. Like all other martial arts, karate emphasizes not only physical strength but spiritual aspects as well.

## **SUMO**

Sumo is the national sport of Japan since 1909. In ancient times, it was practiced as agricultural and Shinto rituals, so it still today includes many ceremonial elements. In a sumo match, two wrestlers wearing only a *mawashi*, a loincloth, enter the ring made with dirt, and fight until one either leaves the ring or touches the ground with any part of his body other than the bottom of his feet.

## **AIKIDO**

Aikido finds its origin in ancient China, but the concept of *ki* is connected with Shinto and has a peculiarly Japanese development. A martial art without weapons, Aikido makes it possible to overwhelm and throw opponents by grasping and twisting their hands, feet or joints, without resorting so much to strength. Also, one's technique becomes more efficient as one learns the special Aikido art of breathing.

## **KYUDO**

Bows and arrows used to be in practical use as weapons in Japan. However, from the late 1500s, warriors valued Kyudo as a discipline for mind and body and thus advanced its development as a martial art. Modern day Kyudo is similar to archery in the Western countries.

## ***NAGINATA***

Naginata, or a special long bamboo sword, has been used in Japanese martial arts since ancient times. Originally, it was used in man-to-man combat, but gradually it became the weapon of choice for warrior priests, physicians and women.

## ***IAIDO***

Iaido is a little known Japanese martial art that can trace its development to the 14th century. Iaido concentrates on using the traditional Japanese long sword in a quick draw type fashion. The idea is to defend oneself from a sudden surprise attack. Modern practitioners of Iaido hone their skills through repetitive kata and practice.

## ***SHODO (calligraphy)***

Shodo is the art of drawing characters with a brush and India ink to express spiritual depth and beauty. It originally came from China. With a brush soaked in India ink one can freely control, unlike with a pen, the thickness and the tone of the characters. That is how the calligraphers are able to express their spirits and ideas. Except for New Year's cards and the like, a brush is ordinarily not used for writing anymore, but Shodo is included in the elementary school curriculum.

## ***HAIKU***

Haiku is poetry structured in the set form of 17 syllables, arranged in groups of 5, 7, 5. Haiku can express the beauty of nature and the depths of the human heart in a brief form and it has now spread throughout the world.

## ***SHIGIN (GINEI)***

Putting music to Chinese poetry and reciting it is called Shigin.

## ***SHAKUHACHI***

Shakuhachi is a wind instrument made of bamboo. It is made by simply putting 5 holes in a bamboo tube, but its chief characteristic is the curious changes in scale and tone coloration that come out with the style of blowing into it, with the space between the lips and the mouthpiece and with the manner of controlling the fingering.

## ***KADO – IKEBANA (flower arrangement)***

Kado, also called Ikebana, is a traditional Japanese art that has flourished since the sixteenth century. Its origin is said to date from the sixth century when Buddhist priests offered up flowers before Buddha. Its fundamental concept is to express the three elements of heaven, earth and mankind in a balance composition, using natural flowers.

## ***SADO – Tea Ceremony***

Sado, also called Cha No Yu, is the traditional etiquette of preparing and drinking tea when one has guests. In Sado, special powdered tea is used. The powdered tea is put into a tea cup, hot water is poured on it, it is whipped with a bamboo whisk until the tea foams, and then it is served.

# CLASSES

## Judo

Youth Group (Elementary, Junior High and High School students)

Practice: Monday through Friday - 1700 ~ 1900

Sunday and 2nd & 4th Saturday - 0900 ~ 1100

1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday - 1400 ~ 1600

Place: Misawa City Martial Arts Center

Fee: Initial - ¥2,000, Monthly - ¥1,500

Contact: Katsushi Nakamura, 53-5111

Adult Group (Junior High School students and above)

Practice: Monday through Friday - 1700 ~ 1900

Sunday and 2nd & 4th Saturday - 0900 ~ 1100

1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday - 1400 ~ 1600

Place: Misawa City Judo Hall

Fee: Initial - ¥3,000, Monthly - ¥2,000

Contact: Katsushi Nakamura, 53-5111

Omisawa Judo Association

Practice: Monday through Friday - 1700 ~ 1900

Place: Omisawa Judo Hall

Fee: Adult - Initial - ¥3,000, Monthly - ¥1,500

Students - Initial - ¥2,500, Monthly - ¥1,500

Contact: Kiyotaka Furuta, 54-4276

## Kendo

Youth Group (Elementary School students)

Practice: Monday through Friday - 1700 ~ 1830

Place: Misawa City Working Women's Hall

Fee: Monthly - ¥2,000

Contact: Yoshio Nitobe, 53-2108

Asagumo Group (Elementary School students)

Practice: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 1800 ~ 1930

Place: Misawa City Martial Arts Center

Fee: Monthly - ¥3,000

Contact: Yasuji Nakao, 57-0875

Misawa City Kendo Association (adults)

Practice: Thursday - 1900 ~ 2100

Place: Misawa High School

Fee: Yearly - ¥5,000

Contact: Yoshio Nitobe, 53-2108

## Karate

Seidokan

Practice: Monday, Wednesday - 1900 ~ 2100

Saturday - 1800 ~ 1930

Place: Misawa City Gymnasium Martial Arts Hall

Fee: Monthly - ¥5,000

Contact: Kunio Tachizaki, 59-2956

## Sumo

Practice: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 1730 ~ 1930

Place: Misawa City Martial Arts Center

Fee: Free

Contact: Kunio Yamazaki, 53-5111

## Shorinji Kenpo

Practice: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday - 1830 ~ 1930 (Elementary School students)  
1900 ~ 2100 (Jr. High School students and above)

Place: Misawa City Martial Arts Center

Fee: Initial - ¥3,000, Monthly - ¥3,000 (Elementary School students)  
¥4,000 (Junior High School students and above)

English textbook ¥1,100

Contact: Etsuo Ishii, 57-3640

## Aikido

Practice: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 1830 ~ 2000

Place: Misawa City Gymnasium

Fee: Initial - ¥3,000, Monthly - ¥2,000  
Sports Insurance ¥1,300 (per year)

Contact: Naomitsu Miyano, 52-4075

## Naginata (Japanese Halberd)

Practice: Saturday - 1400 ~ 1700

Place: Misawa City Martial Arts Center

Fee: Monthly - ¥500 (Adult), ¥100 (Children)  
Sports Insurance ¥1,300 (per year)

Contact: Mari Miyano, 52-4075

## Iaido

Practice: Friday - 1830 ~ 2100

Place: Koike Dojo

Fee: Initial - ¥3,000, Monthly - ¥4,000

Contact: Akira Koike, 52-2554

## Kyudo

Practice: Monday ~ Friday - 1700 ~ 2100

Place: Misawa City Gymnasium

Fee: Initial - ¥1,000, Monthly - ¥1,100

Contact: Akikazu Sukekawa, 53-7877

## Flower Arrangement

Ohara Style

Practice: Saturday - 1000 ~ 1200

Place: Skills Development Center (Misawa Air Base)

Fee: Monthly - ¥4,000

Contact: Kazuko Ura, 53-4031

## Sogetsu Style

Practice: Monday or Thursday - between 1300 and 2100

Place: instructor's residence

Fee: ¥4,000

Contact: Mitsuko Nonomiya, 53-2264

## Ikenobo Style

Practice: Thursday - 1300 ~ 1500, 1700 ~ 1900

Place: Instructor's residence

Fee: Initial - ¥3,000, Monthly - ¥5,000 plus cost for flowers

Contact: Tomoe Kikuchi, 53-6294

## Tea Ceremony

### Omote Senke Style

Practice: Thursday - 1300 ~ 1500, 1700 ~ 1900

Place: Instructor's residence

Fee: Monthly - ¥8,000

Contact: Tomoe Kikuchi, 53-6294

## Kimono

Practice: Friday - 1300 ~ 1500

Place: Instructor's residence

Fee: Initial - ¥3,000, Monthly - ¥4,000

Contact: Ms. Nakaguki, 57-3311

## Shigin

### Michinoku Ginei Kai

Practice: Tuesday - 1900 ~ 2100

Place: Misawa City Civic Center #11 Meeting Room

Fee: Monthly: Adult - ¥1,500, Children - ¥500

Contact: Takeshi Yoshimitsu, 53-5683

### Tengin Style

Practice: Wednesday - 1830 ~ 2100

Place: Koike Dojo

Fee: Initial - ¥3,000, Monthly - ¥4,000

Contact: Akira Koike, 52-2554

## Misawa Haiku Kai

Practice: 4th Thursday

Place: Misawa City Civic Center or Fureai no Yakata

Fee: Monthly ¥300

Contact: Kairaku Shinmyo, 53-8283

## International Shodo Kai, Misawa Branch

Practice: Tuesday & Thursday - between 1300 and 1930

Wednesday - between 1500 and 1800

Place: Shindo Shodo School

Fee: Monthly - ¥3,500

Contact: Toko Shindo, 53-7353

### **Kinko Style Misawa Itsurenkai (Shakuhachi - Japanese instrument)**

Practice: 2nd & 4th Wednesday - 1800 ~ 2100

Place: Misawa City Civic Center

Fee: Initial - ¥1,500, Monthly - ¥1,000

Contact: Yasuichi Yamaoka, 53-6576

### **Shushokai (Japanese Dance)**

Practice: Friday & Saturday - between 1000 and 2100

Fee: Monthly - ¥4,000

Contact: Shusho Hanayagi, 52-2203 or 53-4194

### **Nishiki Style Kikusenkai (Japanese Dance)**

Practice: Wednesday - 1830 ~ 2050

Place: Working Women's Hall

Fee: Monthly - ¥2,000

Contact: Hiroko Kimura, 53-5608

### **Menkoikai (Noh Mask Making)**

Fee: Initial - ¥1,000, Monthly - ¥3,000

Contact: Kyoko Inoue, 57-0275

### **Misawa Flute Ensemble**

Practice: 2nd & 4th Friday - 1930 ~ 2200

Place: Misawa City Civic Center

Fee: Monthly - ¥500

Contact: Keizo Namioka, 57-2970

### **Do-Re-Mi Ensemble (Chorus)**

Practice: Monday ~ Friday - between 1000 and 1800

Place: Meikyokudo

Fee: Initial - ¥4,200, Monthly - text book fee

Contact: Noriko Onoda, 57-1372

### **Misawa Unique Ballet**

Practice: Monday & Friday

Place: Misawa Catholic Kindergarten

Fee: Initial - ¥3,000, Monthly - ¥6,000

Contact: Teruko Kubo, 0178-25-4490

### **Misawa Soccer Association**

Please contact the association for teams that are able to accept foreign players.

Contact: Takayuki Akanuma, 53-3661

### **Misawa Table Tennis Association**

Practice: Monday, Tuesday & Friday - 1900 ~ 2100

Thursday - 1900 ~ 2045

Place: Mon, Tue & Fri - Horiguchi Jr. High School Table Tennis Room

Thursday - Misawa City Gymnasium

Fee: Yearly - ¥3,600

Contact: Shoji Narita, 57-0109

### **Misawa Tennis Association**

Practice: Monday & Wednesday - between 1730 and 2045

Place: Misawa City Gymnasium

Fee: Initial - ¥1,000, Yearly - ¥3,000, Monthly - ¥1,000

Contact: Takashi Uchiyama, 53-6490 or 57-2812

### **Misawa Badminton Association**

Please contact Koji Ito at 53-3047 or Kazuyo Tazawa at 54-2459 for detailed information.

### **Misawa Ski Association**

Please contact Naoki Kubo at 57-2469 for detailed information.

### **Towada Equestrian Club**

Practice: Wednesday ~ Monday - between 0900 and 1600

Place: Towada City

Fee: Initial - ¥50,000, Monthly - ¥7,500, Children - ¥5,000

Contact: 0176-26-2945

### **Misawa Ice Hockey Association**

Please contact the association for teams that are able to accept foreign players.

Contact: Mr. Takahashi, 57-2100

### **Figure Skating Lessons**

Please contact the Misawa Ice Arena for more information.

Contact: Mr. Takahashi, 57-2100



# FESTIVALS

\* Held in Misawa City

## 1. Sapporo Snow Festival (first week of February)

This event is held in Sapporo City on Hokkaido Island. Huge size sculptures are made out of snow and ice and displayed. During the festival, there is an international snow sculpture contest and many groups from all over the world participate.

## 2. Misawa Freezing Festival (second weekend of February)

You can enjoy snow-tubing, sledding races and other outdoor games at this festival. You can also enjoy the snow sculptures made by the members of JASDF and US Forces.

## 3. Hirosaki Snow Lantern Festival (mid February)

This event shows a display of snow lanterns made by Hirosaki City citizens. During the night, the lanterns are lighted with electric lights.

## 4. Hachinohe Enburi Festival (17 - 20 February)

A unique farmers' festival held in Hachinohe City. The dance seen in this festival resembles the farmers' work in planting through harvesting rice.

## 5. Japan Day (first Saturday in April) \*

This event is held once a year at Edgren High School for the purpose of introducing Japanese culture. There are many booths set up at the event, which are separated into the following categories: festival, Japanese food, sports, and culture. War drums, Shinto dances, martial arts, sumi-e, tea ceremonies, flower arranging, yaki-tori, sushi, and many other cultural subjects are introduced.

## 6. Hirosaki Cherry Blossom Festival (last week of April through first week of May)

You can find more than 5,000 cherry trees around Hirosaki Castle and Hirosaki Park.

## 7. American Day (first weekend of June) \*

American Day is an event which introduces American culture to the local Japanese community. Many private organizations from Misawa Air Base set up booths on the street between the City hall and the Civic Center of food, drinks, T-shirts, etc.

## 8. Lake Ogawara Festival (mid-July)

This event takes place for the purpose of celebrating the coming of summer and to pray for no lakeside related water accidents. A Beauty Contest and elementary school students' sumo contest, along with many other attractions, take place.

### 9. Nango Summer Jazz Festival (mid-July)

Held in Nango Village, this is one of the biggest outdoor concerts in Northern Japan area. Many great professionals from around the world will perform at this concert.

### 10. Mt. Osore Grand Festival (20 - 24 July and 9 - 11 October)

Mt. Osore in Mutsu City (Shimokita Peninsula) is one of the most sacred mountains in Japan. The main purpose of this festival is to console the spirits of the deceased. The *Itakos* – female shaman – will call up the spirits of the dead.

### 11. Tanabata Festival (late July) \*

This festival announces the beginning of summer, and is known as “The Star Festival.” According to Chinese folklore, the lovers Vega (a star princess) and Altair (a star prince), are allowed to meet solely on this day out of the year. The festival celebrates their meeting. Tanabata festival is held in many places in Japan, and is known for its colorful hanging decorations.

### 12. Bego-Jaga Festival (first Sunday in August) \*

This event is held at the Misawa City Farm. Tickets for barbecue (Aomori beef, vegetable and sauce) are sold in advance and on the day of the festival, and they will rent out grills and charcoal. You can enjoy games such as Treasure Hunt, Hay Rolling, and pony and tractor rides. They also have a petting zoo, potato digging, milk tasting, potato tasting, etc.

### 13. Hachinohe Three Shrine Grand Festival (first week of August)

The main event for this festival is the traditional Japanese float parade. The themes for the floats are from old Samurai stories or legends.

### 14. Hirosaki Neputa Festival (1 - 7 August)

During this summer night fire festival in Hirosaki City, large lantern-floats are paraded through the city. Their brilliantly-colored pictures of warriors are illuminated against the night sky and the rhythms of the accompanying large drums excite one and all.

### 15. Nebuta Festival (3 - 7 August)

Held in Aomori City, this is the biggest and the most unique summer festival in the northern Japan region. They have a parade of floats, which their designs are based on historical characters of Samurais or fairy tales but the face of the main character is the same on each float. The floats are about ten feet tall and twenty feet wide and have a group of dancers follow them. The dance is also unique. Instead of the traditional Japanese dance, they hop around the floats.

**16. Misawa Festival** (late August) \*

This is a three day festival which takes place with the purpose of praying for a bountiful rice harvest during the autumn harvest months. On the first day and final day, floats depicting historical Japanese samurai are run through the streets. On the second day, the liveliest day of the festival, the Costume Parade kicks off festivities, and is climaxed in the evening with the “International Summer Festival.” The main attraction of this International Summer Festival is the Mikoshi Contest, in which Americans and Japanese compete against and with each other.

**17. Misawa Port Festival** (first Sunday in September) \*

This festival takes place for the purpose of praying for Misawa City’s big catches of fish, one of the city’s two main industries. The festival usually takes place on the first weekend of September, and the main attraction is the fireworks display on Sunday night.

**18. Misawa Station Festival** (mid September) \*

The festival is held in front of JR Misawa Station. You can enjoy Japanese food and entertainment.

**19. Hirosaki Castle Fall Festival** (October - November)

The main event of this festival is the displays of dolls and other figures made from chrysanthemums.

**20. Industry and Culture Festival** (beginning of November) \*

This event is an industrial market which assembles Misawa’s industrial products all at once and displays and sells the products to the general public. Agricultural and fishery products prepared in original Japanese recipes are sold at this festival.

**21. Shimoda Salmon Festival** (last weekend of November)

The main attraction of this event is the Salmon Catching by hand. They will also have a demonstration of the Japanese Drum, vegetable market, fireworks and more.

# HOLIDAYS AND ANNUAL EVENTS

- \* January 1st ..... Shogatsu  
New Year
- \* January, 2nd Monday ..... Seijin-no-hi  
Coming-of-Age Day
- February 3rd ..... Setsubun  
Eve of the first day of spring  
Bean-throwing ceremony
- March 3rd ..... Hinamatsuri  
Girls' Festival or Doll Festival
- \* March 21st ..... Shunbun-no-hi  
Vernal Equinox Day
- \* April 29th ..... Midori-no-hi  
Greenery Day (Birthday of the late Emperor Hirohito)
- \* May 3rd ..... Kenpo-kinenbi  
Constitution Day
- \* May 5th ..... Kodomo-no-hi  
Children's Day or Boys' Festival
- July 7th ..... Tanabata  
The Star Festival
- \* July 20th ..... Umi-no-hi  
Marine Day
- August 13th ~ 16th ..... Obon  
The Festival of Souls
- \* September 15th ..... Keiro-no-hi  
Respect for the Aged Day
- \* September 23rd ..... Shubun-no-hi  
Autumnal Equinox Day
- \* October, 2nd Monday .... Taiiku-no-hi  
Health/Sports Day
- \* November 3rd ..... Bunka-no-hi  
Culture Day (Birthday of the late Meiji Emperor)
- November 15th ..... Shichi-go-san  
Festival day for 3-, 5- and 7-year old children
- \* November 23rd ..... Kinro-kansha-no-hi  
Labor Thanksgiving Day
- \* December 23rd ..... Tenno-tanjyobi  
The Emperor's Birthday

### Methods and Prices of Transportation

DESTINATION	CAR	TRAIN	AIR	FERRY	TIME	COST ¥ ONE-WAY	NOTES
Aomori	X				2 hrs	830	Michinoku Toll Road
		X			1.5 hrs	1,280	*b
Hirosaki	X				2.5 hrs	830	Michinoku Toll Road
		X			3 hrs	1,890	*b
Morioka	X				3 hrs	3,100	Tohoku Expressway
		X			1.5 hrs	4,090	*b
Sendai	X				4 hrs	6,450	Tohoku Expressway
		X			2 hrs	9,220	R/T fare is ¥17,800 w/reserved seat *a, b
	BUS				4.5 hrs	4,680	Bus leaves from Hachinohe

\*a Need to transfer at Morioka to a Bullet Train (Shinkansen).

\*b Elementary students (6-12 years old) are charged children's fare, which is half of the adult fare and children under the age of 6 are free.

## Methods and Prices of Transportation

DESTINATION	CAR	TRAIN	AIR	FERRY	TIME	COST ¥ ONE-WAY	NOTES
Sapporo	X			X	9 hrs	20,900	From Hachinohe Port. Fare is per car with one driver. *a, 1
				X	9 hrs	3,970	Ferry leaves from Hachinohe Port. *a, 1
		X			7 hrs	12,940	*d
			X		45 mins	18,000	¥11,663 with 25% military discount *e, 2
Hakodate	X			X	3.5 hrs	16,500	From Aomori Port. Fare is per car with one driver. *b, 3
				X	3.5 hrs	1,420	Ferry leaves from Aomori Port. *b, 3
				X	2 hrs	2,130	Ferry leaves from Aomori Port. *c, 4
		X			3.5 hrs	6,920	Round trip fare is ¥12,640. *d

\*a Ferry arrives at Tomakomai Port (1.5 hr drive to Sapporo City). Need reservation.

10% discount applied on return fare when round trip ticket is purchased.

\*b Ferry arrives at Hakodate Port. Need reservation.

10% discount applied on return fare when round trip ticket is purchased.

\*c Ferry (Hydrofoil) arrives at Hakodate Port. Need reservation.

10% discount applied on return fare when round trip ticket is purchased.

\*d Elementary students (6-12 years old) are charged children's fare, which is half of the adult fare and children under the age of 6 are free.

\*1 Kawasaki Kinkai Kisen: Hachinohe Office – 0178-28-2018, Tomakomai Office – 0144-34-1181

Higashi Nihon Ferry: Hachinohe Office – 0178-28-3985, Tomakomai Office – 0144-34-5261

\*2 Japan Air System: 0176-53-7111

\*3 Higashi Nihon Ferry: Aomori Office – 017-782-3631, Hakodate Office – 0138-37-2222

\*4 Higashi Nihon Ferry (Hydrofoil): Aomori Office – 017-774-3333, Hakodate Office – 0138-37-2222

• Prices are subject to change without notice.

(as of April 2000)

### Methods and Prices of Transportation

DESTINATION	CAR	TRAIN	AIR	FERRY	TIME	COST ¥ ONE-WAY	NOTES
Tokyo	X				9 hrs	15,000	Tohoku Expressway and Shuto Expressway (450 miles)
		X			4.5 hrs	16,150	Round trip fare is ¥28,340 with reserved seat *a, b
			X		1 hr	25,000	*1
	BUS				9 hrs	9,680	Bus leaves from Hachinohe
Kyoto		X			8 hrs	26,240	Round trip fare is ¥49,780 *a, c
Osaka		X			9 hrs	26,560	Round trip fare is ¥46,900 *a, c
			X		1.5 hrs	32,000	Direct flight from Misawa *1

\*a Elementary students (6-12 years old) are charged children's fare, which is half of the adult fare and children under the age of 6 are free.

\*b Need to transfer at Morioka to a Bullet Train (Shinkansen).

\*c Need to transfer at Morioka and Tokyo to a Bullet Train (Shinkansen).

\*1 Japan Air System: 0176-53-7111

• Prices are subject to change without notice.

(as of April 2000)