

Optional Events

HALF-DAY & ONE-DAY EXCURSION

Tour code:1 **“Matsushima and Shiogama” One-day**

June 2nd(Sun), 2002

Matsushima is renowned as one of the three most beautiful spots in Japan. There are over 260 islands scattered all over Matsushima Bay. Participants will cruise Matsushima Bay on a ferry and visit Bodaiji-Zuiganji Temple (the most famous Zen temple in the Tohoku District) and Godaido (a prayer hall). The tour will also make a stop at Shiogama Shrine, a shrine with a history of 1,200 years. Lunch will be served at a hotel that overlooks Matsushima Bay.

The tour departs at 9:00 a.m. from Sendai International Center and returns to the hotel of participants and Sendai International Center around 4:00 p.m.

Price: ¥11,000(lunch is included) · Minimum number of participants: 25

Tour code:2 **“Sendai City:Zuihoden Mausoleum and the site of Sendai Castle” Half-day**

June 3rd(Mon), 2002

Sendai's history began some 400 years ago with the construction of the castle by “Date Masamune”, a feudal lord, who commanded great power in the region during the period of civil strife in Japan. The Zuihoden Mausoleum is the final resting-place of the members of the “Date” Clan. After touring the site, participants will be able to enjoy traditional Japanese powdered green tea at the Basho-An (tea-ceremony room). The site of Sendai Castle is a favorite spot to visit for many who come to Sendai. Situated on high ground, this historical site provides a panoramic view of Sendai.

The tour departs at 1:00 p.m. from Sendai International Center and returns to the hotel of participants and Sendai International Center around 4:30 p.m.

Price: ¥6,000(lunch is not included) · Minimum number of participants: 25

Tour code:3 **“Hiraizumi: The Golden Age of the Fujiwara Clan” One-day**

June 5th(Wed), 2002

The tour will visit Hiraizumi, once the major political and cultural center of Japan. There are still some 3,000 national treasures situated across the two main compounds of Chusonji Temple and Motsuji. The Buddhist monk Daishi Jikaku founded Chusonji Temple. At present, only two original structures, the Konjikido or Golden Hall and the Fujiwara Memorial Hall or Sankozo, remain. Although not much remains of the original Motsuji compound, the serene Oizumi Pond and the beautiful Japanese gardens enable visitors to imagine how splendid this site must have been. Lunch will be various Omochi (rice cake) dishes that are served in this region to celebrate joyous occasions.

The tour departs at 9:00 a.m. from Sendai International Center and returns to the hotel of participants and Sendai International Center around 4:00 p.m.

Price: ¥11,000(lunch is included) · Minimum number of participants: 25

Tour code:4 **“Mt.Zao” One-day**

June 6th(Thu), 2002

The excursion to Mt.Zao bus tour is scheduled to include a hike up to the summit of Mt.Zao (1,841m) to enjoy the beautiful landscape. If the weather is good, it is possible to see the famous volcanic crater lake “Okama” after a short walk. A traditional Japanese lunch will be served. Participants will then visit the most famous Kokeshi doll (simple figures made of wood) workshop in Japan where all participants can try their hand at painting the eyes, nose, and mouth on Kokeshi dolls.

The tour departs at 9:30 a.m. from Sendai International Center and returns to the hotel of participants and Sendai International Center around 4:00 p.m.

Price: ¥9,500(lunch is included) · Minimum number of participants: 25