

Flight Considerations

JAL flies direct from BOS to NRT, via the Boeing 787 Dreamliner

- Non-Stop
 - JAL:
 - get window seat, A or K, for better shoulder room
 - avoid aisle / center seats, as you can't drop the armrests
 - target row 1 or 8 (bulkhead rows)
 - With Layover
 - ANA (JFK, ORD -> NRT)
 - plane: Boeing 777-300ER (avoid 787, much narrower!)
 - roomiest seats available
 - United (EWR, SFO, ORD -> NRT)
 - plane: Boeing 777-300ER, 787
 - Singapore Airlines (JFK -> NRT)
 - plane: Boeing 777-300ER, Airbus 350
 - downside: wide seats but not sleep diagonal to lay flat

Themes

Themes: Matsuo Basho (松尾芭蕉), Date Masamune (伊達政宗)

Mogami (最上氏) and Date (伊達氏) clans

宮城県

仙台市

Major history of city began with Date daimyō, Date Masamune.

名物、食品: 牛タン、炉端焼き、ずんだ餅

酒:

名物: 柳宇和氏、こけし

Yamagata Castle, connected to Date Masamune

Ōsaki Hachiman-gu (国宝大崎八幡宮), shrine ordered built by Date Masamune

新潟県

名物: 酒

Trip Overview

Visit Sendai

- * Day 1
 - * [[<https://maps.app.goo.gl/hUTSJg2AJbDjyGBg7> | Aoba Joshi (青葉城址), Aoba castle (Date's) ruins]]
 - * [[<https://maps.app.goo.gl/SG5JpmpEbxjDacaA8> | Sendai City Museum (仙台市博物館), Date Masamune's armour]]
 - * [[<https://maps.app.goo.gl/qurZxort1rpHDWZ88> | Zuihōden (瑞鳳殿)]]: grave of Date Masamune

Visit Matsushima (松島)

- * Zuiganji Temple: first built 828 CE, rebuilt by Date Masamune in 1609 as his family temple
- * Entsuin Temple: built to honor Masamune's grandson, Mitsumune
- * Godaido

Visit Hiraizumi

- * Chusonji Temple
- * Motsuji Temple
- * Takadachi Giko-do: place where Minamoto no Yoshitsune (first samurai of Kamakura shogunate) committed seppuku; Date Masamune built a memorial to honor it in 1683 and Matsuo Basho visited in 1689
- * Visit Yamagata
 - * [[<https://maps.app.goo.gl/mvcLshnCJ3B2b59FA> | Yamadera / Rissyakujī (立石寺)]]: Basho composed famous haiku here
 - * [[<https://kanko-mogami.jp/en/agarashare/funakudari/> | Mogami River Boat ride]]: Basho took a boat tour and wrote haiku about the power of the river
 - * Kajo Park: original seat of power of Mogami Clan.
 - * Mogami Yoshiaki Historical Museum: Mogami Yoshiaki's actual battle armor—complete with a bullet dent from a matchlock gun
 - * Senshoji Temple: temple holds the family graves of the Mogami Clan, including the final resting place of Mogami Yoshiaki

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