

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
 - [Aoba Joshi \(青葉城址\)](#), [Aoba castle \(Date's\) ruins](#)
 - [Sendai City Museum \(仙台市博物館\)](#), [Date Masamune's armour](#)
 - [Zuihōden \(瑞鳳殿\)](#): grave of Date Masamune
- Day 2
 - [Kirin Beer factory tour: KIRIN ICHIBAN Shinbori Experience](#)

Visit Matsushima (松島)

- En route from Sendai, visit [Urakasumi Sake Brewery](#)
 - tours at 11:00 and 14:00 on weedays only (reservations: info_en@urakasumi.com)
- [Zuiganji \(瑞巖寺\)](#): first built 828 CE, rebuilt by Date Masamune in 1609 as his family temple
- [Entsuin Temple \(円通院\)](#): abutts Zuiganji. built to honor Masamune's grandson, Mitsumune
- [Godaïdo](#)

Visit Hiraizumi

- [Chusonji Temple](#)
- [Grave of Saito Musashibo-Benkei \(西塔 武蔵坊 弁慶\)](#)
 - warrior of the fame 『弁慶の泣き所』
- [Motsuji Temple](#)
 - Basho wept here, composing his immortal haiku: "Ah, summer grasses! / All that remains / Of the warriors' dreams."
- [Takadachi Gikeido \(高館義経堂\)](#)
 - place where Minamoto no Yoshitsune (first samurai of Kamakura shogunate) committed seppuku while his warrior Benkei stood on the narrow bridge and was famously killed while standing upright (弁慶の立往生); Date Masamune built a memorial to honor it in 1683 and Matsuo Basho visited in 1689

Visit Yamagata

- [Yamadera / Rissyakujii \(立石寺\)](#): Basho composed famous haiku here
- [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

Visit Zao Fox Village

- Hotel: [Yunushi Ichijou \(湯主一條\)](#), ~\$250

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