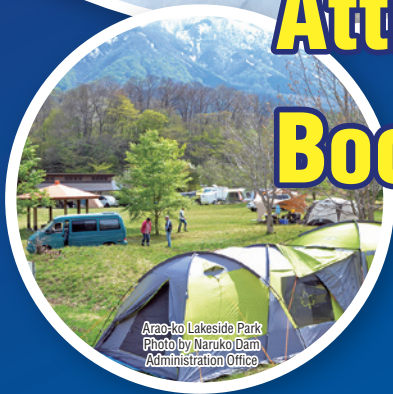


Former Yubikan and the Garden
Photo by Osaki City Board of Education



Murasaki Jigoku (Purple Hell) of Jigokudani
Photo by Naruko Dam Administration Office

Naruko Dam in Osaki City, Miyagi Prefecture Attractiveness Boosting Project



Arao Lakeside Park
Photo by Naruko Dam
Administration Office



Kokeshi Dolls of Naruko
Photo by Miyagi Prefecture
Tourism Division



Autumn leaves of Narukokyo Gorge
Photo: Miyagi Prefecture Tourism Division



Revitalization of new tourism in Miyagi by infrastructure tourism





What is Infrastructure Tourism?

Infrastructure tourism enhances people's understanding of infrastructure by providing "extraordinary" tours to visit the interior of infrastructure facilities normally inaccessible or the scenes behind construction sites visible only momentarily. By doing so, it brings people to the region to revitalize the local community. We have been trying to connect various tourism resources all over Japan with infrastructure facilities and create new sightseeing tour routes. In infrastructure tourism, we will enhance the value of infrastructure facilities as a tourism resource together with local people by making a tour of infrastructure facilities more enjoyable and easier to understand. Why don't you step into the world of infrastructure tourism to have such an "extraordinary" experience?

We are the first in Japan to start the challenge.

Getting ready for spring of 2021!

Now Naruko Dam is taking on a challenge of "next-generation infrastructure tourism."

Now Naruko Dam is taking on a challenge of "next-generation infrastructure tourism." Naruko Dam has been designated as a model facility of the "Infrastructure Tourism Attractiveness Boosting Project" of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and it is the first in Japan to seek an ideal way of next-generation infrastructure tourism. What we are planning to do first is to classify the dam tour into two types by purpose, one "for a group" and the other "for an individual" to introduce a wider variety of aspects of the facility.



Group Tour

- 1 Education tour for elementary and junior high school children (social study tours, school trips, etc.)
- 2 Naruko Dam infrastructure tours through a tie-up with travel agencies
- 3 Technical visits to learn about dam construction and flood control technology
- 4 Dam tour to satisfy the dam lovers



Personal Tour

- 1 A special tour plan including accommodation in nearby spa facilities (Naruko Hot Spring Village) and visit to Naruko Dam
- 2 A Highly satisfactory tour is available for a single participant.
- 3 A patrolling tour of Lake Arao of Naruko
- 4 Viewing of water discharge for dam safety inspection
- 5 Tour of aquatic system of the dam combined with hydroelectric power plant and Osaki Tilled Soil (world agricultural inheritance)



Aha! This and that about Naruko Dam.

Q. Why was Naruko Dam constructed?

A. The Eai River running through the Osaki Plain used to cause flooding many times. Typhoon Kathleen in 1947 and Typhoon Ione in 1948 left devastating damages to the area. So the government decided to build a levee along the Eai River and a multipurpose dam with the functions of flood control, irrigation, and power generation.

Q. What is concrete arch dam?

A. A concrete arch dam is also known as an arch dam. It is a concrete dam designed to transmit most of the force of the water against it onto the bedrock on both sides of the river employing the properties of a rounded arch so that it can be thinner. It is economical but requires robust bedrock to bear hydraulic pressure.



Q. What are other types of dams?

A. Dams are classified into various types such as concrete gravity dam, zoned type dam, concrete facing dam, and others depending on the purpose of use and structure.



Q. How high is the dam?

A. It is 94.5 meters high. It is about the same height as a 30-story building.

Q. How much water can the dam hold?

A. It can hold 35 million cubic meters of water. It is equal to about 93,000 times the amount of water in a swimming pool of 15 meters wide, 25 meters long, and 1 meter deep.

Contact

Naruko Dam Administration Office,
Tohoku Regional Development Bureau, MLIT

2-8 Aza Iwabuchi, Naruko Onsen,
Osaki City, Miyagi 989-6806
TEL.0229-82-2341 FAX.0229-83-3855



Points of Interest near Naruko Dam

Arao Lakeside Park

Arao-kohan-koen

Lakeside Camping Ground Full of Greenery

Utilizing Arao Lake, an artificial lake created by Naruko Dam, this park preserves and maintains the rich natural surroundings as a place for people to relax and to have a good time playing tennis, camping, having BBQ, and many other activities. Let's enjoy the outdoors to your heart's content with family and friends.



Contact

Address: Naruko Onsen Onikoube, Osaki City, Miyagi
TEL: 0229-86-3455 at Arao-kohan-koen Administration Office

Onikoube Jigokudani (Hell Valley)

Onikoube Jigokudani

Feel the breath of the Earth in Jigokudani or hell valley You can see the geysers blowing up from a close range.

Along Fukiagesawa, there are more than ten hot springs on both sides of the river. There is a walking path where you can walk for about 30 minutes. Near Mura-sakijigoku or purple hell, you can make delicious boiled eggs in less than ten minutes by putting the eggs in hot water.
※In winter, it is closed naturally due to heavy snowfall.



Contact

Address: 16 Naruko Onsen Onikoube, Osaki City, Miyagi
TEL: 0229-82-2111 at Regional Development Division,
Regional Development Division, Naruko General Branch Office

Katanuma Marsh

Katanuma

A mysterious pond that changes the color of its surface

Katanuma Marsh is a caldera lake created some 1,200 years ago by an eruption. It is one of the most famous acidic lakes in Japan, and the surface of the lake changes colors when the weather changes. No fish is living here because of the harsh acidity. You can enjoy a 1.3-kilometer walk along the lakeside and rent a boat at the rest house. You can also experience SUP (reservation required).



Contact

Address: 69 Naruko Onsen Yumoto, Osaki City, Miyagi
TEL: 0229-83-3441 at Naruko Onsenkyo Tourist Information Office

Narukokyo Gorge in Autumnal Colors

Narukokyo

The breathtaking beauty of colorful leaves covering the 100-meter high valley walls

The natural beauty of "Narukokyo" is one of the most well-known scenic views in Tohoku. The valley cuts into the depth of 100 meters and the autumnal colors of leaves cover the entire walls. The view from the viewpoint and the walking path is beautiful as well, and a lot of tourists come to see this marvelous sight from all over the country.



Contact

Address: Naruko Onsen, Osaki City, Miyagi
TEL: 0229-83-3441 at Naruko Onsenkyo Tourist Information Office

Former Yubikan and the Garden

Kyu-Yubikan & Teien

National Historic Site and Site of Beauty Spot

"Former Yubikan and Garden" have been designated as a national historic site and a site of scenic beauty. The hermitage was built in 1677 for Munetoshi, the second generation family head of the Iwadeyama-Date, and was also used as a local school to educate children of the vassals. The garden is said to have been developed by Murayasu of the fourth generation. It is a Chisen Kaiyu style garden (a style of a Japanese garden with a path around a central pond) featuring four islands in the pond benefits from the scenery of the cliffs of Iwadeyama Castle.



Contact

Address: 6 Aza Kamikawaramachi, Iwadeyama, Osaki City, Miyagi
TEL: 0229-72-1344

Japan Kokeshi Museum

Nippon Kokeshi-kan

Exhibit of about 5000 traditional Kokeshi dolls

The museum is specialized in Kokeshi dolls and is located in Naruko Park on the hill, where you can see the exhibits of Kokeshi dolls and observe how they are made. You can also buy them on site. Some of the Kokeshis on display are from the treasured collection of His Imperial Highness Prince Takamatsu, Fukazawa Collection, and many more from various areas. Kokeshi decorating experience event is also available.



Contact

Address: 74-2 Naruko Onsen Shitomae, Osaki City, Miyagi
TEL: 0229-83-3600



Hot Springs

Naruko Hot Spring Villages

Naruko Onsenkyo

Hometown of Hot Springs and Kokeshi Dolls Onsen Tour of the Communal Baths is Fun

There are five hot spring villages, including the old "Narukoonsen" known for the legend of Yoshitsune. Each inn and hotel has its own spring source, and you can enjoy a variety of hot-spring quality and effect. There are many choices from modern hotels to traditional inns that provide spa treatment or "toji". The Ministry of Environment designated the area as a national hot spring health resort.

Contact

Address: 2-1 Naruko Onsen Yumoto, Osaki City, Miyagi
TEL: 0229-83-3441 at Naruko Onsenkyo Tourist Information Center



MLIT Japan Infrastructure Tourism Attractiveness Boosting Project

Transform the public infrastructures into new tourism resources



New Recommendation for Tourism in Japan Miyagi Tourism for Future Project



Onikoube Jigokudani

Feel the breath of the Earth in Jigokudani
You can see the geysers blowing up from a close range. Along Fukiagesawa, ten or more hot springs are flowing out on both sides of the river, and the steam fills the area. There is a well-maintained walking path where you can enjoy a half-hour walk.

Contact Regional Development Division, Regional Development Division, Naruko General Branch Office

☎ 0229-82-2111



Arao Lakeside Park

Lakeside Camping Ground Full of Greenery
A place for recreation and relaxation utilizing Arao Lake, an artificial lake created by Naruko Dam.

Contact Arao-kohan-koen Administration Office

☎ 0229-86-3455



Naruko Gorge in Autumnal Colors

Breathtaking beauty of colorful leaves covering the 100-meter high valley
Many tourists come to see this marvelous sight from all over the country.

Contact Naruko Onsenkyo Tourist Information Office

☎ 0229-83-3441



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Contact Japan Kokeshi Museum

☎ 0229-83-3600



Katanuma Marsh

A mysterious lake that changes the color of its surface

Katanuma Lake is a caldera lake created some 1,200 years ago by an eruption. It is one of the most famous acidic lakes in Japan, and the surface of the lake changes its color when the weather changes.

Contact Naruko Onsenkyo Tourist Information Office

☎ 0229-83-3441



Former Yubikan and the Garden

National Historic Site and Site of Beauty Spot
The building was used as a hermitage of the Iwadeyama-Date family and a local school to educate the children of the vassals. In the Chisen Kaiyu style garden with islands in the pond, you can feel the seasonal changes throughout the year.

Contact Former Yubikan and the Garden

☎ 0229-72-1344



Background of Naruko Dam



The dam was completed as a result of the passionate efforts of many people.

It was built only by Japanese hands for the first time.

“Don’t worry. We’re gonna make it.”

All the people involved in the construction were convincing themselves when the construction of Naruko dam started because it had been decided that they would build it only by Japanese hands without the help of the engineers invited from abroad for the first time in history.

Following the various preparations, including researches, designs, tests, and development of new roads to deliver materials and machinery to the construction sites, the construction of the dam finally began.

There were several accidents such as landslides and falling rocks, and some people became victims. Yet nobody gave up and continued the construction with a strong determination to complete the dam no matter what happened to save those who had suffered in the previous floods.

On April 5, 1957, the majestic shape of Naruko Dam appeared in front of the people who had been working with passion and determination. Watching the water pouring into the bottom of the dam with a resounding roar, everybody involved in the construction felt an upsurge of emotions. “We’ve done it! It was finally completed! It was all made by the hands of us Japanese. “

Thus everyone said to himself in his heart. Unfortunately, the victims of unexpected accidents could not see the finished form of the dam but those who watched the blue water gradually filled the dam bottom were deeply touched and remembered them dearly.

The completion of Naruko Dam was about to mark the arrival of a new era not only for the Naruko district but also for the lower reach of Eai River, including Iwadeyama and Frurukawa.

“At last, there will be no dreadful floods. If it rains, we won’t have to worry about floods anymore.” All the people in town were rejoiced and celebrated the completion of the dam.

Excursion boats are floating and the fiery autumn leaves reflected on the surface of Lake Arao-ko which was created by the forming of the dam. Many tourists visit here to see this magnificent dam and the beautiful autumn leaves of the mountains. Naruko Dam has become the major attraction of tourism in Naruko.

After the completion of the dam, National Route 108 was built, and driving in the winter season, which had been hard, is now much safer than it used to be. In this way, Naruko Dam also plays some role in bringing the regions closer.





Naruko Dam Infrastructure Tourism Guided Tour

Our guided tours are conducted basically on weekdays, but it is negotiable. We have two types of tours: Course A takes approximately one hour, and Course B takes 2 hours. For details including time and course, please feel free to contact us in advance. We recommend you to consult with us at least two weeks ahead of your visit by e-mail.

Tour Date

As requested

Tour Time

Course A (1-hour)

Operation Room → Rooftop → Dam Crown

Course B (2-hours)

Operation Room → Rooftop →
Nanairo (Seven-color) Tunnel →
Dam Interior → Dam Bottom

Party Size

Course A Up to ca. 25 persons

Course B Up to 10 persons

Reservation

Must be made at least two weeks before the date of the tour.

How to book a guided tour

1 By e-mail

Write down the necessary information and send it to the e-mail address below.

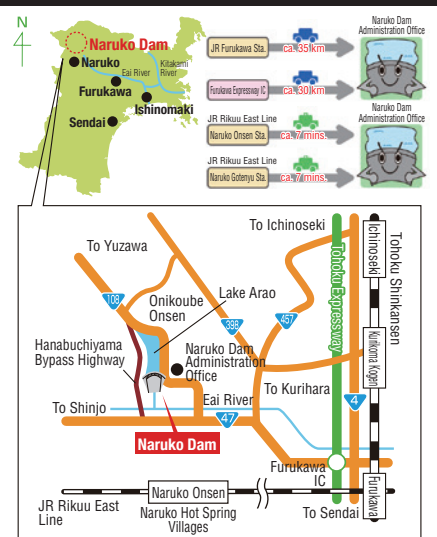
Naruko Dam Administration Office:
thr-naruko01@mlit.go.jp

2 By fax

Download the application form from the Naruko Dam Administration Office website (<http://www.thr.mlit.go.jp/naruko/office/vist/entry.html>), fill it in, and fax it the following number: 0229-83-3855



Access



Tour Course

1 Dam Crown



Naruko Dam is located in a valley, and the surrounding mountains and a dam lake, Lake Arao offer a variety of scenes including dam water discharge in spring known as "Sudare (bamboo screen)-Horyu," fresh green in early summer, colorful autumn leaves, and snow-covered landscape.

2 Terrace and Exhibition Room of Administration Office (1F)



The exhibition room provides a learning experience about the history and functions of Naruko Dam. You can observe various birds from waterfowl to birds of prey using a telescope from the terrace, and also have a look at the natural beauty of the mountains.

3 Dam Operating Room (2F of the Administration Office)



You can learn how to operate a surveillance camera installed in the dam and how the observation equipment functions as the eyes and ears of the dam. Also, you can watch videos of Sudare-Horyu and the Rainbow-colored Tunnel in the video room.

Initiatives for Infrastructure Tourism in Japan

In addition to Naruko Dam, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism is making a progressive approach toward developing more attractive internal tours of infrastructure facilities and construction sites throughout Japan.

For more information, please visit the Infrastructure Tourism Portal Website...Search by “infrastructure tourism”

Yanba Dam

Gunma



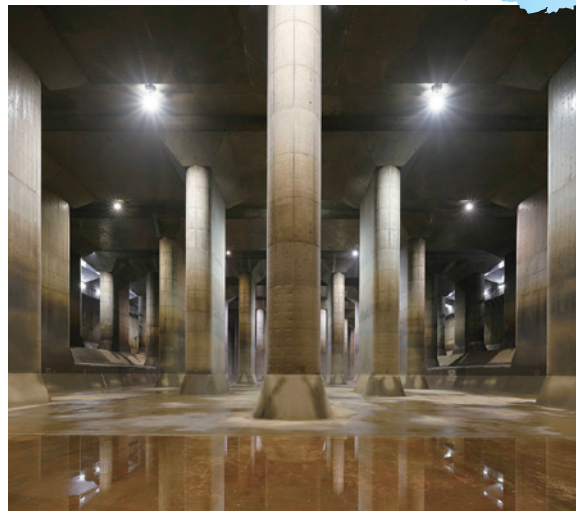
Yanba Dam is the latest dam that started operation in April, 2020. Amphibious buses, sightseeing boats, canoes, and SUP will be in service in the future.

(Contact)

Naganohara Town Hall: 0279-82-2244

Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel

Saitama



Three types of courses are available to see the interior of the gigantic “Disaster Prevention Underground Temple.”

(Contact)

Tour Reception at Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel:
048-747-0281

Akashi Kaikyo Bridge

Hyogo



Experience a 360° panorama view of the world's longest suspension bridge from the 300-meter high main tower.

(Contact)

Bridge World Office: 078-784-3396

Yunishigawa Dam Amphibian Bus

Tochigi



The open-air bus dives directly into the dam lake for sightseeing. You can also visit the inside of the dam.

(Contact)

Yunishigawa Duck Tour: 0288-78-0345