

Takachiho Amaterasu Railway

The Takachiho Amaterasu Railway is a 30-minute railway tour that traverses 2.55 kilometers of disused* tracks of the old Takachiho Railway. Passengers leave the station and cruise through tunnels and natural landscapes before the train reverses, passing twice by local attractions, such as the Aratate Shrine, Amano Iwato Shrine, and the Takachiho rice terraces. The tour highlight is the pinnacle stop atop Takachiho Iron Bridge, once the highest railway bridge in Japan.

To meet the increase of passengers, Takachiho Amaterasu Railway unveiled a new 30-passenger, diesel-engine “Super Grand Cart” in 2017. This train projects colorful lights to illuminate tunnels and has a glass floor to better enjoy the view from atop the Takachiho Bridge, 105 meters in the air. This view overlooks the Iwato River valley, including an expanse of the Takachiho rice terraces that are recognized as a GIAHS (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System) by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

*Due to damage sustained in a 2005 typhoon, the Takachiho Railway, which ran for about 50 kilometers between Nobeoka and Takachiho, ceased operations. So, with the support of the area, local investors created a new company and converted the disused tracks into a novel touring experience.