

Takachiho Amaterasu Railway

To accommodate growing interest in the district and its traditions, such as its *kagura* shrine dances, the Takachiho Amaterasu Railway began offering special train tours of local sights in 2017. The single, 30-passenger capacity diesel-driven Super Grand Cart train takes visitors on a 30-minute, 2.5-kilometer ride through tunnels and into landscapes that include Ama no Iwato Shrine, Aratate Shrine, and the Takachiho rice terraces (recognized as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System by the United Nations in 2015). The highest point of the journey is atop the 353-meter-wide Takachiho Iron Bridge. At 105 meters high, this span was for a time Japan's highest-elevation railway bridge. The train's glass floor allows heart-stopping views of the gorge below. The train departs every 40 minutes, offering 10 trips daily (except Thursdays). But journeys may be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.