

Akita Port: Today and Beyond

Today, Akita Port is a center for shipping, manufacturing, and tourism, and it continues to be a key point of contact between Japan and the world.

While rebuilding after World War II (1939–1945), local officials realized a breakwater was needed to block the Sea of Japan's rough currents. This was a major challenge, as raising funds for large construction projects was nearly impossible in the early years of the Allied Occupation (1945–1952). Instead of creating a breakwater from scratch, officials decided to make one by sinking three warships that sat abandoned at the dock, creating a 268-meter breakwater that protected the port until it was demolished in 1975 during port expansion.

Akita Port currently sustains various commercial industries. The shipping-container terminal facilitates imports and the export of goods from northeastern Japan. Cargo ships arriving from South Korea and China stop at the port several times per week. Taking advantage of the easy access to imported raw materials, several manufacturing plants are located nearby,

including a paper mill and a metal refinery.

Although diplomatic delegations like those that once visited Akita Fort are ancient history, Akita Port welcomes tourists from domestic and international cruise ships. To ensure a sustainable future for the commercial and cultural exchange that has defined the port for centuries, one of the country's first full-scale offshore wind farm was established here in 2023.