



Omachi

About Omachi

Located in the northwest of Nagano prefecture, between the Matsumoto plain and Hakuba lies the city of Omachi. 3000m high mountains of the Northern Alps lining the west of Omachi give rise to its reputation as "The Number One Town of the Northern Alps". The city's elevation is about 700m above sea level. With 3 natural "Nishina Lakes" reflecting the mountains, an artificial lake created by Kurobe Dam, and blessed with an abundance of hot springs, Omachi is endowed with a geography suited to mountain tourism throughout the 4 seasons. Omachi is also known as the entrance to the Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route.

<http://www.kanko-omachi.gr.jp/english/>



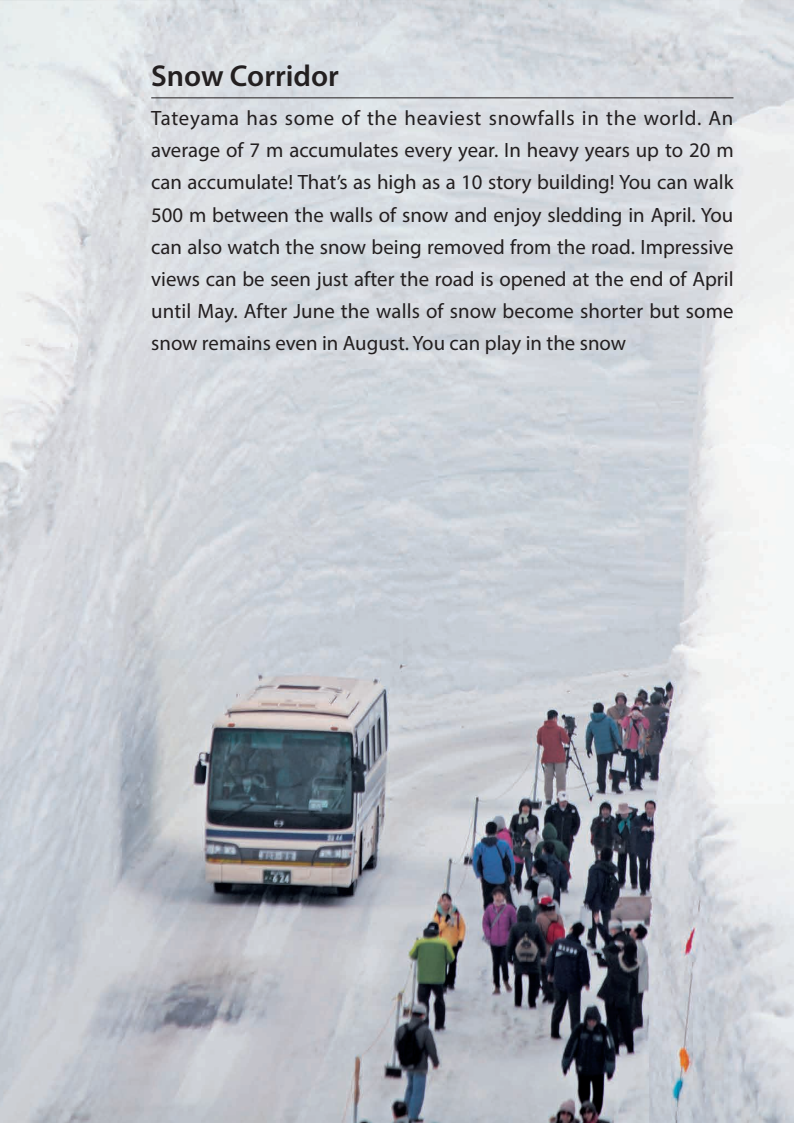
**Tateyama
Kurobe Alpine
Route**

Experience stunning vistas and unique landscapes as you travel over, above, and even under the majestic Mt. Tateyama. Stop off to enjoy a stroll through flower filled meadows or steaming volcanic valleys.



Snow Corridor

Tateyama has some of the heaviest snowfalls in the world. An average of 7 m accumulates every year. In heavy years up to 20 m can accumulate! That's as high as a 10 story building! You can walk 500 m between the walls of snow and enjoy sledding in April. You can also watch the snow being removed from the road. Impressive views can be seen just after the road is opened at the end of April until May. After June the walls of snow become shorter but some snow remains even in August. You can play in the snow

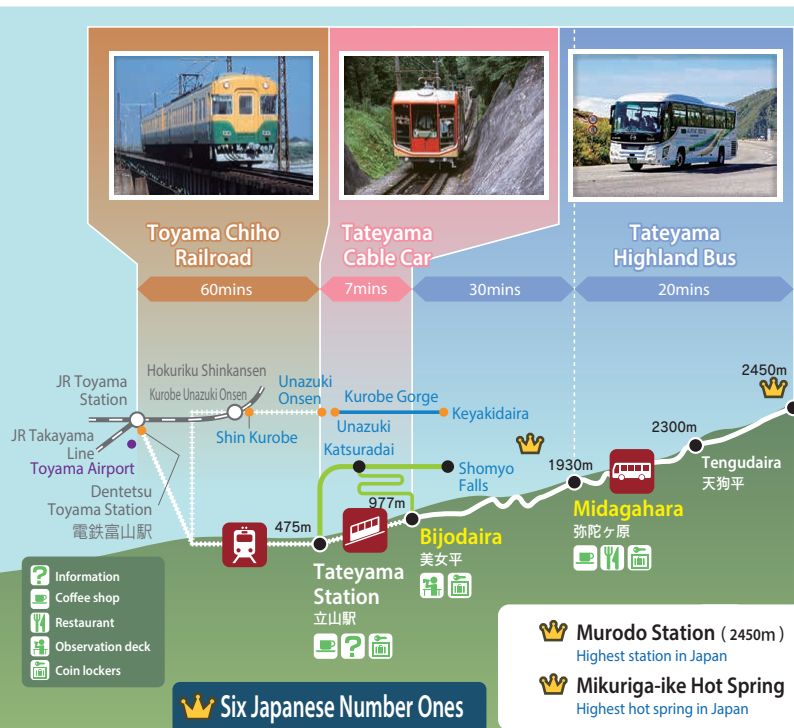


The Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route is approximately 100km long, and passes through the Northern Alps to join Omachi with Toyama. From the Ogisawa entrance on the Omachi side, a trolley bus, an underground cable car ropeway, and other transportation options can concert you to the route through the central area towards Murodo.

People have been so moved by the 360-degree panoramic view that they have been struck speechless.

For the period starting from the opening of the route in April until late May, you can walk under walls of snow close to 20 meters in height for much of the time.

The route opens from April 16th to November 30th.



Daikanbo

Outstanding view from the second floor and observation deck atop the station. A wide panorama of the Japan Alps and the lake formed by Kurobe Dam.

Harinoki Daisekkei, one of 3 snow corridors in Japan where snow remains even in summer. Mt. Kashimayarigatake (2889 m), one of Japan's 100 famous mountains, is also visible from here.

Kurobedaira

There is a garden as you exit the station, surrounded by the scenic mountain range and Kurobeko (lake). The botanical garden displays high altitude plants.

Mikurigaike (pond)

One of the most picturesque spots for a stroll at Murodo. This is a crater lake of Tateyama Volcano. From June you can see the peak of Mt. Tateyama reflected in the cobalt blue surface of the pond. This pond was called "a kitchen pond for god" and its water was used to cook meals for the god residing on the mountain. This area is home to many rare alpine plants and "Raicho" birds can be seen hiding in the pine bushes.

Kurobe Dam

The highest dam in Japan (186 m) was a historically difficult construction project.

You can see impressive plumes of high pressure water being discharged from the dam between June 26th and October 15th.

Autumn foliage: October

Dam Observation Deck
Climb 220 stairs to see the finest view of the dam. Also a great view of the water discharge. 10 tons of water shoot out of the dam every second producing a beautiful rainbow.

Monument to Workers who Lost Their Lives during Construction
A monument to the 171 workers who lost their lives during construction of the dam.

Kurobe Cruise Ship "Garbe"
The highest sailing pleasure boat in Japan (1448 meters). The scenery of Lake Kurobe and the view of the Alps reflected on the surface of the water here are just beautiful.

Walking Path around the Lake
There is a boardwalk across the suspension bridge to the south of the "Garbe" boarding point.

Kurobe spring water
Cool and delicious mineral water even in mid summer.

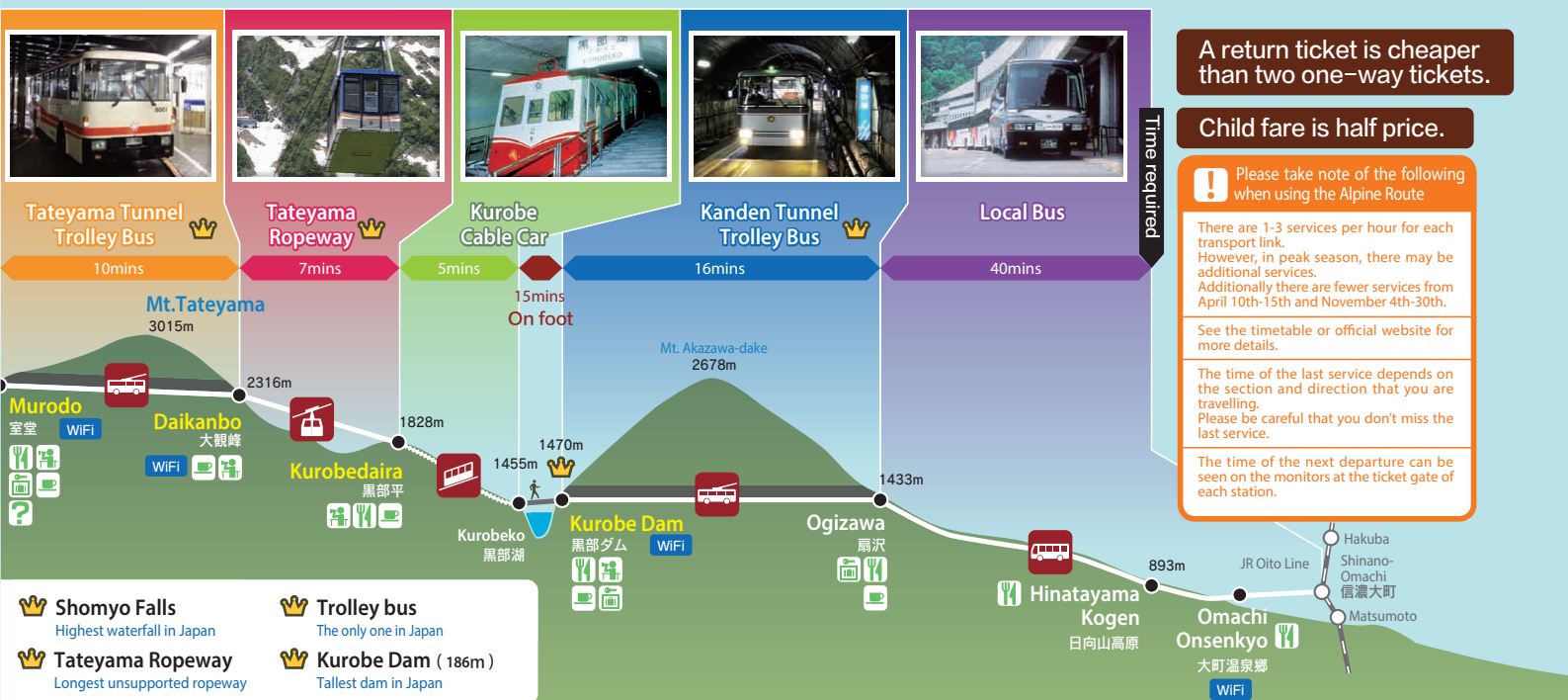
Dam Rest House (Restaurant)
Enjoy views of the dam and Tateyama mountains while you eat. We recommend the Kurobe Dam Curry, a lake of delicious curry behind a dam of rice

New observation area
Come here to see the water discharge up close.

Water discharge observation deck
Wheelchair access observation space

Kurobe Dam Sta

Kurobeko Sta



Hot Springs · Accommodations

As the Japanese saying goes, "Famous mountains have famous hot springs", Omachi is host to some superb spas. First of all is the Omachi Hot Spring Village. The snow melt of the Northern Alps flows down in clear streams, and along the Alpine line 16 hotels and traditional inns feature hot spring bathing facilities. The beautiful forests of larch, red pine and birch covering the majestic mountain ranges of the Northern Alps provide a backdrop to your experience here. The inns and hotels here are widely distributed, giving ample space for your body and mind to relax fully.

One famous hot spring is Kuzu Hot Spring. It is said that historically the hot spring has been under the control of a powerful family since the Middle Ages. The water from this hot spring is reputed to have superior benefits for one's health, and even now you can see the billows of steam rising from the shallows of the narrow valley. From spring buds, to the fresh green of new leaves, to the autumn colors and the snow-capped scenery of winter, each of the 3 lodgings have outdoor baths designed especially for viewing the changes of the seasons.



Lodgings

Located at the entrance to the Alpine Route, the Omachi Hot Spring Village hosts a number of hotels and Japanese-style inns "Ryokan" featuring outdoor baths for your bathing pleasure and relaxation.

Kuzu Hot Spring is the oldest in this area, with 3 separate lodgings contained in a beautiful narrow valley.

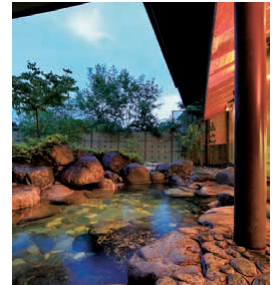
Resort hotels with hot springs are found in Hinatayama Kogen along the Alpine Route.



Omachi Onsenkyo

This is a hot spring resort village with many traditional Japanese hotels. It is perfect place to take rest on the way to or from the Alpine Route. The quiet village, which lies in harmony with the surrounding forest, also provides entertainment for day visitors with the bathing facilities, a foot hot spring, a sake museum where samples are provided, the art museum of Utagawa-ha (ukiyo-e printing) that Van Gogh loved, and other attractions.

Every Saturday night in February, fireworks and performances of Japanese drums are shown as a part of "Omachi Snow Festival."



Three Nishina Lakes



Miasa and Yasaka districts

The area around the "Three Nishina Lakes" (Kizaki Lake, Nakatsuna Lake, and Aoki Lake) is home to many family-run lodges and western-style boarding houses. There are also many lodging establishments in the areas around Omachi train station, as well as the Miasa and Yasaka districts.



Shinano Omachi Sta.



Kuzu Onsen

This is a hot spring hidden in the beautiful Takase Gorge. The three facilities boast abundant hot water and offer the special experience of soaking in outdoor baths with views of amazing fall foliage. Guests can enjoy the taste of a variety of Japanese food including Japanese char, a kind of river trout, and edible wild plants. (Guests are hosted only in Japanese at all the facilities.)

Outdoor Activities, Experiences



Located at the foot of the Northern Japan Alps, Omachi is a great place to enjoy a variety of activities in the beautiful natural environment. It is also easy to partake in a range of Japanese cultural experiences.



Firefly Viewing Cruise

This seasonal event on Lake Aoki is viewable from mid-July until late August. Cruising over the quiet waters of the lake by the light of a lantern, it is possible to float among the glowing lights of the fireflies. This is an exclusive event that can only be seen from the lake.

Canoeing

Cruise over the peaceful waters of neighboring lakes Kizaki and Aoki. Both kayaks and Canadian canoes are available. (May to October)



Rafting

Enjoy vigorously paddling your raft along the crystal clear rivers that flow down from the Northern Japan Alps. Each trip lasts about half a day. (Available from May to October)



Washi Experience

Making washi (traditional Japanese paper) is one of the crafts historically associated with this area. Produce your own post-card sized piece of washi in this unique experience. (Reservation required)

In 2014, "Washi – The craftsmanship of traditional Japanese hand-made paper" was added to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Local Sake Tasting

The Omachi Onsenkyo Sake Museum displays the tools and equipment traditionally used to produce sake (Japanese rice wine). You can also enjoy tasting locally produced sake.



Cycling

Omachi has a diverse array of cycling courses as it hosted large-scaled cycling races in the past: leisurely cycling around the Three Lakes of Nishina, enjoying impressive views of the Northern Alps, challenging cycling on advanced courses, and others. Rental bikes are available at convenient locations.

Samurai Experience

Housed in traditional Japanese architecture, this experience allows you to don Kendo-gi (traditional garments worn when practicing sword technique). While wearing the clothes you can enjoy taking pictures and relax like a samurai, drinking traditionally prepared green tea.



Ski Resort

With the grandeur of the Northern Alps in the background, fall in love with Omachi's winter season while skiing and snowboarding the silver slopes to your heart's content.



Kashimayari Ski Resort

This is a full-scale ski resort with 22 courses, including a long 5-km downhill course. Various winter activities such as snowshoeing can be enjoyed, and this resort is open at night from late December to mid-March.

A free shuttle bus is available from Shinano Omachi Station and Omachi Onsenkyo.



Jigatake Ski Resort

This ski resort offers a popular ski slope intended for children, and its gentle slopes with wide visibility are excellent for families with children and groups. It is 10 minutes away by taxi from Omachi Onsenkyo, where you can relax in hot springs after a day on the slopes.



Yanaba Snow Park

This park's varied terrain makes it popular for everyone from novice to expert skiers and snowboarders. It also hosts a great view of Lake Aoki. Access to the park is convenient. There is a JR Line station at the base, and Route 148 runs it as well.

Ame Ichi (Candy Market Festival)

The Ame Ichi is a traditional festival held by local stores. Storekeepers of the shopping street operate stands for candies, sweets, and other merchandise, where you can meet and buy from local people.

Experience Kanjiki – Traditional Japanese Snow Shoes

Walk and play around wearing "Kanjiki", one of the old-time necessities of life in the snowy country.



Winter Fantasia —

Omachi Snow Festival

This event is held in February each year. In addition to the events mentioned below, a variety of events take place at various locations in Omachi.

• "Dream Fireworks and Sound Festival" in Omachi Onsenkyo: every Saturday

Visitors can enjoy the collaboration of Omachi's traditional drum performances and fireworks.

"Kashimayari Fire Festival" in Kashimayari Sports Village: in early February

The feature of this event is skiers with torches skiing down the hill as well as a fireworks display.



Dining & Souvenirs

Upon a visit to Omachi, please enjoy the taste of Omachi created in its pure water and air. A large collection of historical crafts is also displayed.

Enjoy Local Japanese Cuisine

In 2013, "Washoku – Traditional Japanese Food Culture" was added to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



Local Sake in Shinano Omachi

In Omachi City, there are three sake breweries with long-established traditions. Anywhere around the base of the Northern Alps, flowing spring water can be found. The origin of this water is melted snow from the mountain peaks. Skilled sake brewers, "Toji" utilize this pure cold water and sake rice grown in this water, and transform them into traditional sake with a sweet elegant flavor. We proudly recommend Shinano Omachi's local sakes, which are available in various shops around the city.

Soba (buckwheat noodles)

When Japanese are asked to name Nagano Prefecture's famous food, most would first list "soba." Omachi is no exception, offering a number of historical restaurants that serve delicious soba.



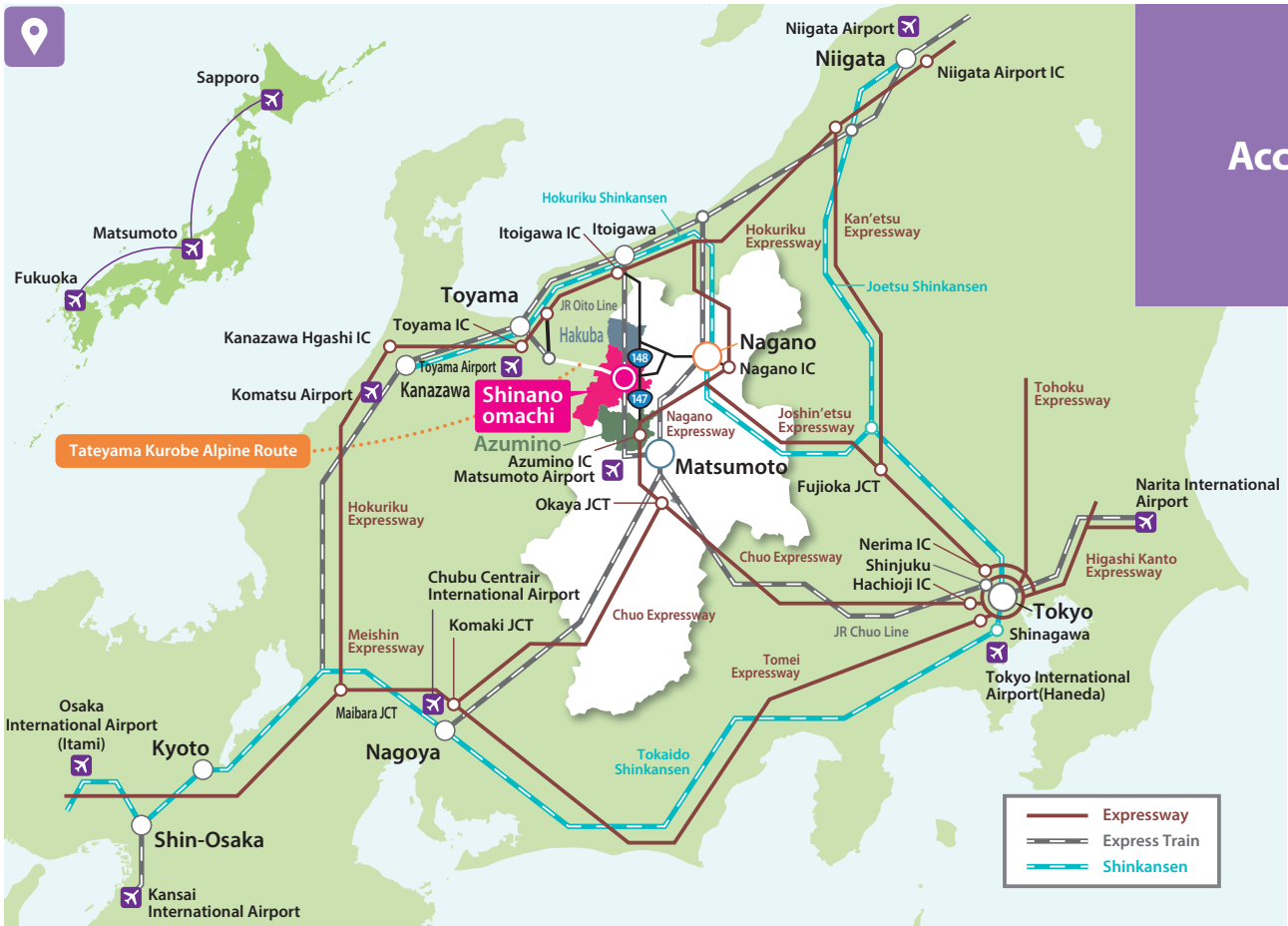
Haiyaki Oyaki (dumplings with fillings baked in ash)

"Oyaki dumplings" are a local food of Nagano Prefecture, for which various vegetable fillings such as nozawana leaves, sweet squash, dried radish, or eggplant are wrapped in flour dough and baked. Especially, the oyaki baked in the ash of a fireplace is this region's specialty.



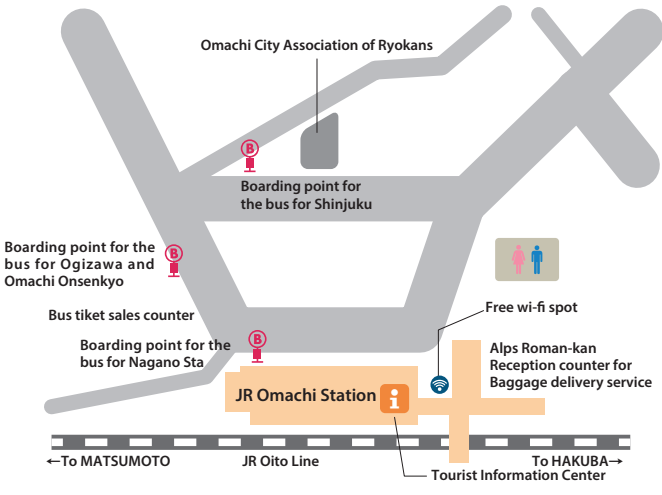
Apple

At the base of Japan Alps, 600 to 750 meters high in elevation, delicious apples are grown in Omachi thanks to the difference in temperature between day and night, clean air, and abundant water. Many kinds of apples, including Nagano's original "Shinano" varieties, are harvested from September to November. Selections include "Shinano Sweet," "Shinano Gold," and "Fuji." (Fuji is known for its extended preservation quality.)

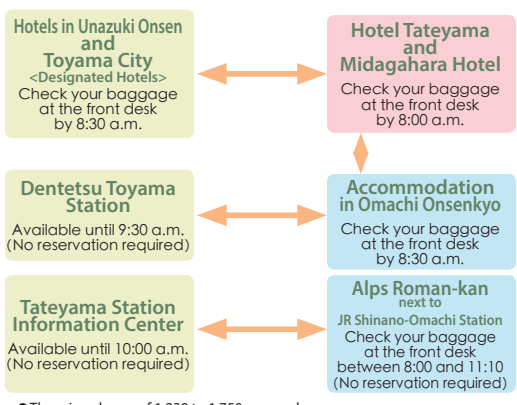


Directions to Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route

Upon exiting the station, there is a sightseeing guideboard in multiple languages (see below).



Baggage Delivery

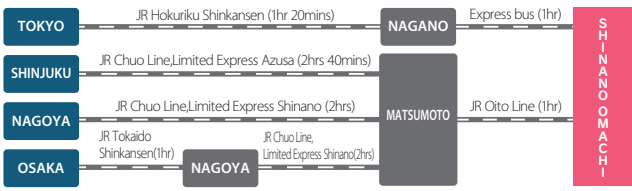


- There is a charge of 1,230 to 1,750 yen per bag.
- Your baggage should arrive between 15:00 and 17:00 the same day (maybe later depending on the destination.)
- Service period: 4/16~11/10 (at Hotel Tateyama & Midagahara Hotel from early May to November 10th)

Tateyama Kurobe Service Co., Ltd., Alpine Porter Service
 Phone +81-76-464-1788 / FAX +81-76-464-1033

Access

By Train



By Bus



By Airplane

