

Seasons of Eastern Japan
(3-Day/2-Night Summer Trip)

August 2018 ARCHIVE

Yamagata, Aomori,
and Fukushima



TRAIN SUITE
SHIKI-SHIMA

A Journey to Experience Artisanal Skills and The Traditional Culture of The Japanese Summer

The passengers experienced the regional delights of summer via the quintessential Japanese summer event of a firework display, and a festival listed as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. They also enjoyed chartered trips on special regional trains to visit Osorezan, one of the three most sacred sites in Japan, and to the artisan workshops that created the furniture and carpeting used in the Train Suite Shiki-shima cars and lounge.

Saturday August 18 to Monday 20, 2018

[Day 1] Akagawa Firework Display

[Day 2] Shimokita Peninsula

[Day 3] Tendo Mokko

Friday August 24 to Sunday 26, 2018

[Day 1] Shinjo Festival

[Day 2] Shimokita Peninsula

[Day 3] Oriental Carpet

Day 1



Lunch Onboard

Lunch prepared by Train Suite Shiki-shima chef Hitoshi Iwasaki

The first meal of this journey was onboard Train Suite Shiki-shima. It was prepared by executive chef Hitoshi Iwasaki.



Off by coach to the venue

Sightseeing Excursion

[Aug. 18 departure] **Akagawa Firework Display**

The passengers watched Akagawa Firework Display, one of the famed displays of the Shonai region. The passengers enjoyed the sensory experience of music and fireworks in a perfect mid-summer setting.



写真提供: 花火.Collection

Dinner Excursion

A special boxed evening meal made from local ingredients

The passengers enjoyed a leisurely evening at the firework display or festival.

Sightseeing Excursion

[Aug. 24 departure] **Shinjo Festival**

Shinjo Festival has a history stretching back over more than 260 years, and is listed as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. It features a parade of twenty magnificent floats reproducing famous scenes from Kabuki plays and classic literature, and the passengers enjoyed its magical world woven from light and shadow.



Overnight
on the train

Day 2

8:50 arr.

Noheji Sta.

9:20 dep.

Excursion to
the Shimokita
Peninsula

Resort
Asunaro

10:14 arr.

Ōminato Sta.

Ōminato Sta.

14:39 dep.

Breakfast

Onboard

Breakfast prepared by Ken Harata of Trattoria LIPAGIO in Hirosaki

Ken Harata, the owner and chef of this Hirosaki restaurant, prepared an Italian-style breakfast using Aomori ingredients.



Off for an excursion in the Shimokita Peninsula

Sightseeing Excursion

Excursion to the Shimokita Peninsula

Resort Asunaro, installed with an environmentally-friendly hybrid system, took the passengers to the Shimokita Peninsula, located on the northernmost tip of Honshu. They enjoyed the unique atmosphere of Osorezan, one of the three most sacred sites in Japan, as well as the area's fresh seafood.

Resort Asunaro

The Ōminato Line runs along the Mutsu Bay side of the Shimokita Peninsula. The passengers enjoyed the richly varied Shimokita scenery from the train's observation room and large windows.



Osorezan

The pervasive reek of sulfur rising up from vents amidst the rocks is likened to hell, while the white sandy beach of Lake Usori is likened to Amitabha's Pure Land. The passengers visited Osorezan Bodai-ji Temple, founded by Ennin (Jikaku Dai-shi) in 862.



Azuma Zushi in Mutsu

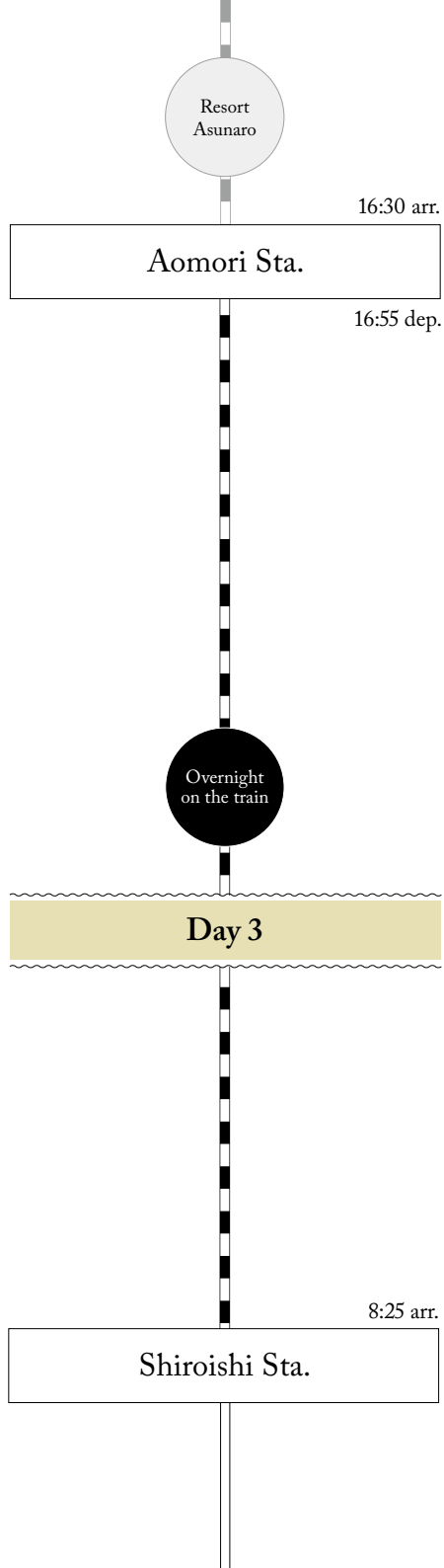
Lunch

Taihei Kakimoto prepared a lunch of nigirizushi, which included Oma tuna, in Andokan, a building inspired by the former office of the Ōminato naval port authority.

Train Suite Shiki-shima

Train

Bus



Dinner Onboard

Dinner prepared by Train Suite Shiki-shima chef Hitoshi Iwasaki

Executive chef Hitoshi Iwasaki prepared French cuisine using ingredients typical of the region being traveled by Train Suite Shiki-shima.



Onboard



Lounge Komorebi (Car 5)

Relax over a drink at the end of the day, watching the beautiful scenery stream past the windows.

Breakfast Onboard

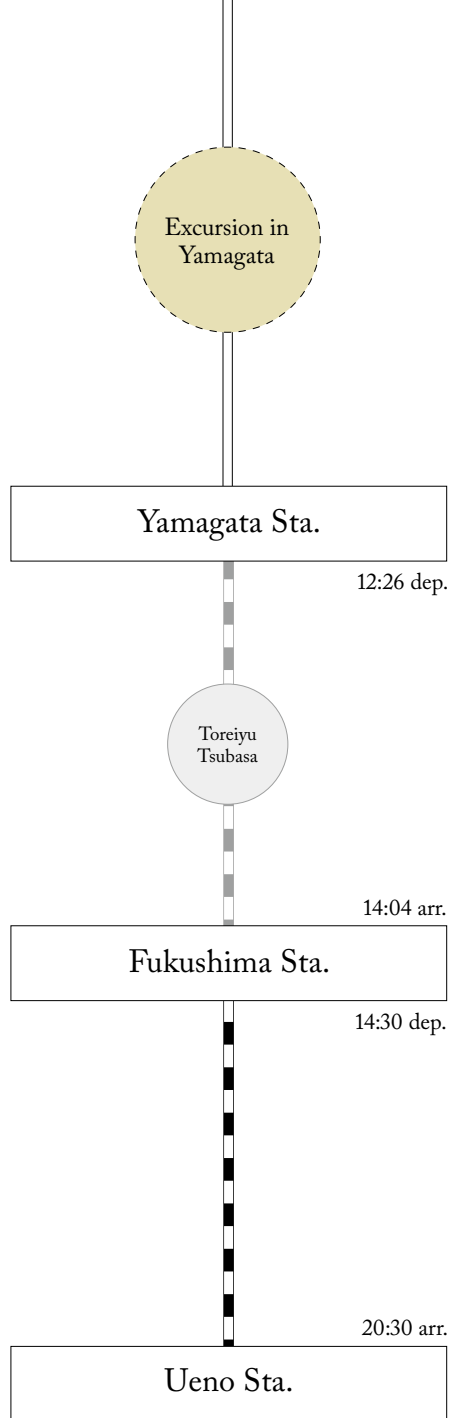
Breakfast prepared by Train Suite Shiki-shima chef Hitoshi Iwasaki

The passengers enjoyed breakfast onboard the train while gazing out on passing scenery.



Off by coach on an excursion in Yamagata

Train Suite Shiki-shima
 Train
 Bus



Sightseeing Excursion

Excursion in Yamagata

The passengers enjoyed a close-up look at traditional techniques still part of our daily lives and at Yamagata artisanal skills.

[Aug. 18 departure] **Tendo Mokko**

The maker of the furniture used in the Train Suite Shiki-shima lounge and Prologue Shiki-shima. The passengers observed the world-class artisanal skills and manufacturing techniques that make its delicate artistry possible.

[Aug. 24 departure] **Oriental Carpet**

The passengers observed the processes used to make the handwoven carpets used in the observation car, lounge and rooms of Train Suite Shiki-shima. They had a close-up view of the techniques that create these high-quality carpets.

Hotel Metropolitan Yamagata: Mogamitei

Lunch

Yamagata buckwheat nurtured by the clear waters of the Mogami River and its abundant fountain-head. There are areas known in Yamagata Prefecture as the “Soba (Buckwheat Noodle) Road,” where each place has its own distinctive flavor. Yamagata country-style soba was served for lunch.



Toreiyu Tsubasa

A ride on the Toreiyu Tsubasa, whose distinctive design takes as its motifs Mount Gassan and the Mogami River, the symbols of Yamagata Prefecture.

The passengers relaxed and enjoyed their time aboard the first sightseeing shinkansen.



Dinner

Onboard

Dinner prepared by Kazunori Otowa of Otowa Restaurant in Utsunomiya

Kazunori Otowa serves French cuisine that is an expression of the Tochigi climate and has its roots in Utsunomiya. The meal he prepared was a real tour de force.





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Route Map

* The photos are all for illustrative purposes only.

* The map on the left is of the route that was followed. Only the main stops are shown.