

Tsukuba Kasumigaura ring ring road Cycling Course Overview

Basic Course

Tsukuba Kasumigaura ring ring road is an extensive cycling course stretching approximately 180 kilometers along the old Tsukuba railway line and the coastal roads of Kasumigaura. Cyclists are treated to the area's magnificent nature, scenic views, historic and cultural ruins, and much more.

Key Icons

Parking lot

Toilet

Coin-operated lockers

Showers

Hot springs/bathing facilities

Restaurants

Address

Opening hours

Closed

Cost

Mt. Tsukuba Area

This course runs along the old Tsukuba railway line, offering grand views of the peaks of Mt. Tsukuba. The majority of the route is geared toward bicycles and pedestrians. Designed for all cyclists including beginners, the course also features a number of rest areas using the remnants of old station buildings. There is also the Tsukuba hilly course along the railway line—making the experience incredibly rich-and-varied! It should be noted that cycling in springtime amongst the cherry trees is a truly magical experience.

Mt. Tsukuba area recommended sightseeing spots



Cherry blossom viewing spots along the Cycling Road

Visitors can enjoy the double pleasure of viewing cherry trees while biking along the Cycling Road, as well as the sight of the special cherry trees of Sakuragawa City, which have been named natural national treasures.

Makabe townscape

Located near the Makabe rest area, the look and layout of this area—populated with historic buildings and structures including warehouses and gates—has remained largely unchanged since the Edo Period (1603–1867). There are also old-fashioned Japanese-style confectionaries and restaurants, making this a combination of nostalgic townscapes and delicious food!

911 Iitsuka, Makabe-cho, Sakuragawa

MAP A-2



Ibaraki Flower Park

The Ibaraki Flower Park was established in 1985 and was renovated in April 2021. It reopened under the concept of not being only a visual experience, but being an experience where one can enjoy the scenic beauty of this spot using all five senses. The park features 900 types of roses and a wide range of flowers from each season. There are also a variety of activities that take advantage of the rich natural environment of the land, meals featuring ingredients from the local Yasato area.

200 Shimo-Aoyagi, Ishioka 9:00–17:00 (January to February: 9:00–16:00) *Park hours differ depending on the season. Tuesdays (the next weekday where a national holiday falls on a Tuesday), December 31–January 3 (Regular Season) Adults: ¥900, Children: ¥300, Preschool-age children: admission free, Pets: ¥200 (Rose Season) Adults: ¥1200, Children: ¥400, Pre-school children: admission free, Pets: ¥200 *Pets refers to all accompanying animals

MAP B-3

Mt. Tsukuba

Mt. Tsukuba, regarded as a symbol of Ibaraki Prefecture, is known for its twin peaks, called the "male" (Nantai, 871 meters) and "female" (Nyotai, 877 meters). Visitors are treated in early spring to the plum blossoms, and to the colored leaves in the fall—and at all times to the spectacular view of the Kanto Plain from the summit accessible by ropeway and cable car. The hotel at Mt. Tsukuba Hot Springs offers different types of hot springs as well as baths with breathtaking outdoor views.

Mt. Tsukuba Ropeway

1 Tsukuba, Tsukuba 9:20–16:40 (depends on the day of week and the season) Open daily year-round One-way: ¥750, Child one-way: ¥380, Round-trip: ¥1300, Child round-trip: ¥650

Mt. Tsukuba Cable Car

1 Tsukuba, Tsukuba 9:20–16:40 (depends on the day of week and season) Open daily year-round One-way: ¥590, Child one-way: ¥300, Round-trip: ¥1070, Child round-trip: ¥540



Kasumigaura Area

This cycling course stretches primarily along Lake Kasumigaura, which is the second biggest lake in Japan. Have fun cycling as you take in the blue skies and sparkling lakewaters. On a clear day, visitors can take in views of Mt. Tsukuba and the Ushiku Daibutsu (Great Buddha) from the opposite coast. There are also plenty of spots to view the sunset along the route and lots of great local food as well.

Note: Because the distance is relatively long compared to the Mt. Tsukuba area, and there are fewer rest spots over some stretches, it is important to appropriately prepare and plan ahead of time.

Recommended sightseeing spots in the Kasumigaura area



Ushiku Daibutsu (Great Buddha)

At 120 meters, this is one of the world's tallest bronze statue, the Guinness Book of world record holder. Inside of it, an elevator takes visitors up to 85 meters off the ground. And you can enjoy seasonal flowers in the nearby gardens. There is a special light show and fireworks display in summer and on the last day of the year.

2083 Kuno-cho, Ushiku March to September: 9:30–17:00 (Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 9:30–17:30) / October to February: 9:30–16:30 Open daily year-round ¥800 (Children: ¥400)

MAP B-5



Kasumigaura Hobikisen Traditional Fishing Boat

Originally developed for whitebait fishing, this boat is now used for sightseeing purposes. The white sails against the blue sky or setting sun make for some wonderful picture-taking.

Tsuchiura, Kasumigaura, Namegata From late July to late November. ¥2000 (Children: ¥1000)

MAP D-4

Diamond Tsukuba

The "Diamond Tsukuba" sunset view happens when the sun goes down between the mountain's double peaks to create a magical scene on the surface of Lake Kasumigaura. Diamond Tsukuba can be seen twice a year, in mid-May and Mid-July.

Kasumigaura Lakeside, Omitama City (located near Shimo-Tamari) Twice annually in mid-May and mid-July, around 18:00

MAP D-3

Kashima-jingu Shrine

As the Headquarters of Kashima-jinja Shrine, which oversees about 600 shrines around the nation, this place is considered a power spot boasting a magnificent nostalgic atmosphere as well as the weight of history. There are many interesting places to see here, including the brilliant vermilion-painted two-story gate; striking decorations in the main building; the Mitarashi pond from which pure, clear water constantly flows; and the very photo-worthy Ichi-no-torii Gate—one of the largest such gates standing in the water in the nation.

2306-1 Kyuchu, Kashima

MAP F-5



Suigo Itako Ayame Gardens

Approximately one million bulbs in 500 different varieties of iris—white, purple, and yellow—burst into bloom in season. During the annual Suigo-Itako Ayame Festival, which goes from late May–late June, numerous traditional events are also held including the yomeiri-bune "rowboat with a bride" and excursion rowboats.

1-5 Ayame, Itako 24 hours Open daily year-round Admission free

MAP E-6

Whole Area of the Tsukuba Kasumigaura ring ring road

On this route, cyclists can view both Kasumigaura and Mt. Tsukuba. Take in the massive scale of the Kanto Plain, with its lakes and satoyama (traditional community-managed forest) landscapes.



Take a little jaunt

Recommended Area Sightseeing Spots



Hitachi Seaside Park

This spot is now famous, through SNS and other means, as one of the "breathtaking sights in the world that you want to see before you die." At Miharashi-no-oka inside the park, the blue nemophila ("baby blue eyes") bloom from mid-April through early May. In October, the burning bush creates a gorgeous red blanket over the area. It's a must-see! There is also a cycling road inside the park, where visitors can take their own bicycle or a rental.

605-4 Aza Onuma, Mawatari, Hitachinaka 9:30–17:00 (subject to change depending on the season) Depends on the month ¥450 (subject to change depending on the season)

MAP F-1



Oarai Isosaki-jinja Shrine

This ancient shrine, built during the Heian Period (794–1185), is situated atop a hill facing the Pacific Ocean. The Kamiiso-no-Torii gate, the place where the deity of this shrine is believed to have descended, is popular as a photo opportunity spot at sunrise as well as on moonlit nights.

6890 Isohama-cho, Oarai-machi Open daily year-round

MAP F-1

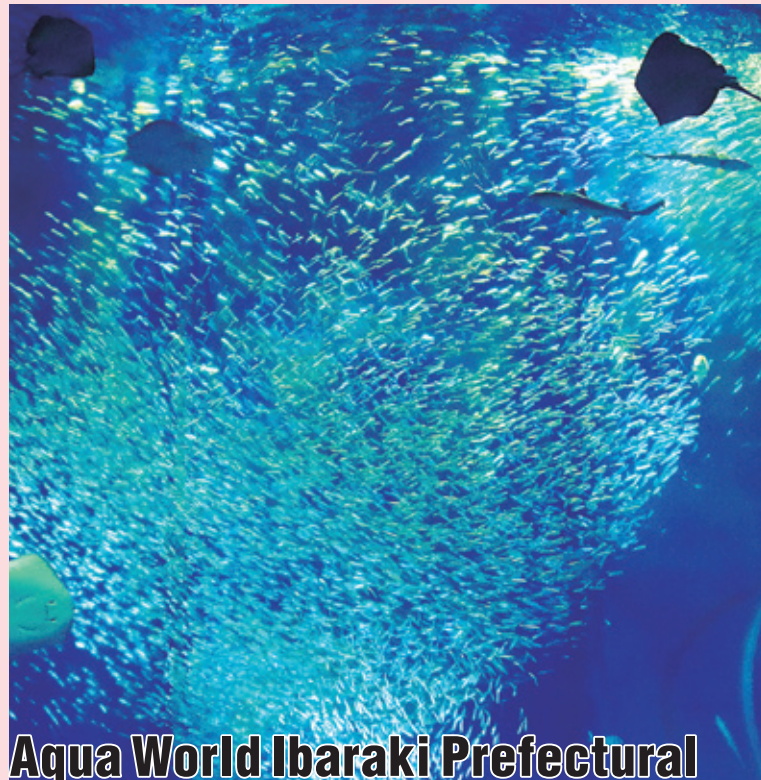


Kasama Inari-jinja Shrine

This shrine is famous as one of the three important inari shrines in Japan. In average years, in early May, the two wisteria trees known as the Yae-no-Fuji and Ofuji come into full bloom. At the nearby Kasama Tsutsuji Park, visitors can take in the brilliant red azalea lighting up a small hill. The inari-sushi featuring soba, walnuts, and more and other local specialties are highly recommended.

1 Kasama, Kasama Open daily year-round

MAP C-1



Aqua World Ibaraki Prefectural Oarai Aquarium

The aquarium has more different kinds of sharks than any other aquarium in Japan, as well as approximately 68,000 specimens of 580 different varieties of sea life including sunfish and penguin. In addition to exhibits such as a large tank housing approximately 20,000 fish belonging to 80 different varieties, the aquarium also holds live events featuring dolphins, sea lions, and much more.

8252-3 Isohama-cho, Oarai-machi, Higashi-Ibaraki-gun 9:00–17:00 Open daily year-round (closed on certain days in June and December) Adults: ¥2000 / Elementary and junior high school students: ¥900 / Toddlers: ¥300 / 2 and under: admission free

MAP F-2

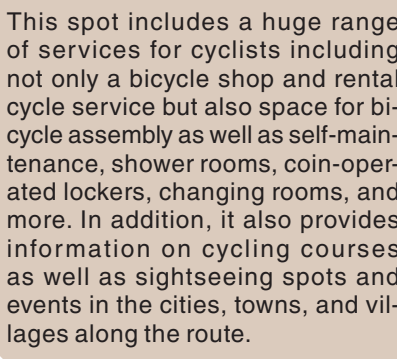
Direct Access from Tsuchiura Station! Check Out the Tsukuba Kasumigaura ring ring road Cycling Center ring-ring square tsuchiura



Bicycle shop



Temporary storage space for rental bicycles



Coin-operated lockers



Shower and changing rooms

ring-ring square tsuchiura

PLAYatré TSUCHIURA, 1-30 Ariake-cho, Tsuchiura 10:00–20:00

Inquiries about Facilities

029-835-3000 10:00–18:00 (weekdays only)

Inquiries on bicycles available for rent at ring-ring square tsuchiura

Cycle Spot Le Cyc Tsuchiura location

10:00–20:00 (Open daily Year round)

MAP B-7



Kairakuen Garden



Considered one of Japan's three finest gardens, approximately 3,000 trees of about 100 different varieties make this a famous site for plum blossoms. Every year during the plum blossom period from late February to March, a large number of events are held including the open-air tea ceremony and plum wine festival.

1-1251 Migawa, Mito 6:00–19:00 (October 1st to mid-February, 7:00–18:00) Open daily year-round

MAP E-1

A cyclist-friendly hotel

Court Hotel Mito
2-8-22 Jonan, Mito
MAP E-1

Hotel Lakeview Mito
1-6-1 Miyamachi, Mito
MAP E-1

Hotel Terrace the Garden Mito
1-7-20 Miyamachi, Mito
MAP E-1

Hotel Crystal Palace
1-22-1 Odairi, Hitachinaka
MAP E-1

Shiosai-no-yado Marutoku
4318 Isozaki-cho, Hitachinaka
MAP F-1

Hotel New Hakuaki
4604 Isozaki-cho, Hitachinaka
MAP F-1

Terrace Inn Katsuta
1-3 Katsuta-cho, Hitachinaka
MAP F-1

Rest House Sakyu
2228-2 Ajigaura-cho, Hitachinaka
MAP F-1

AJIGAURA CLUB
9 Ajigaura-cho, Hitachinaka
MAP F-2

Resort Oarai Hamamoto
64-83 Onuki-cho, Oarai-machi
MAP F-2

Minshuku Hamano-ya
78 Onuki-cho, Oarai-machi
MAP F-1

Sailors
63-6 Onuki-cho, Oarai-machi
MAP F-1

KAMENOI HOTEL Oarai
7986-2 Isohama-cho, Oarai-machi
MAP F-1

Oarai Hotel Annex Gyorai-an
6885 Isohama-cho, Oarai-machi
MAP F-1

Tobitaso
8226-6 Isohama-cho, Oarai-machi
MAP F-1

A cyclist-friendly hotel

Hotel Sosha
1-10-11 Fuchu, Ishioka
MAP C-3

Hotel Hashimoto Rou
2-1-29 Fuchu, Ishioka
MAP C-3

Guest House jicca
392-1 Kayouno, Ishioka
MAP B-2

Hotel Mark-1 Tsukuba
5-13-5 Kenkyugakuen, Tsukuba
MAP A-4

Hotel Bestland
5-8-4 Kenkyugakuen, Tsukuba
MAP A-4

Old Kobayashi House Hitotoki
937 Tsukuba, Tsukuba
MAP A-3

Tsukuba Grand Hotel
1050-1 Tsukuba, Tsukuba
MAP A-3

Hotel Nikko Tsukuba
1-1364-1 Azuma, Tsukuba
MAP B-4

Urban Hotel Tsukuba
2-1-2 Tsukuba, Tsukuba
MAP A-3

Takasago Ryokan
174 Iwase, Sakuragawa
MAP A-1

Miharashi-no-oka Makabe Uribou
1074-26 Makabecho-sakurai, Sakuragawa
MAP B-2

Water Garden Resort Camp & Marina
3183-3 Nikkawa, Kamisu
MAP C-5

Aton Palace Hotel
1-12-1 Onohara, Kamisu
MAP E-6

Kitaura Horai Onsen Tsururum Spa & Inn Kitaura Kohanso
3969 Yamada, Namegata
MAP E-4

Guesthouse fU96
96-1 Fujii, Namegata
MAP E-4

Kohan-no-Yado Gogetsu
194 Aso, Namegata
MAP E-5

Minpaku Takehoan
7931-94 Serizawa, Namegata
MAP E-3

Hotel Sawaya
1583-2 Hokota, Hokota
MAP E-3

Hashimoto Ryokan
1 Nakabe, Omitama
MAP D-3