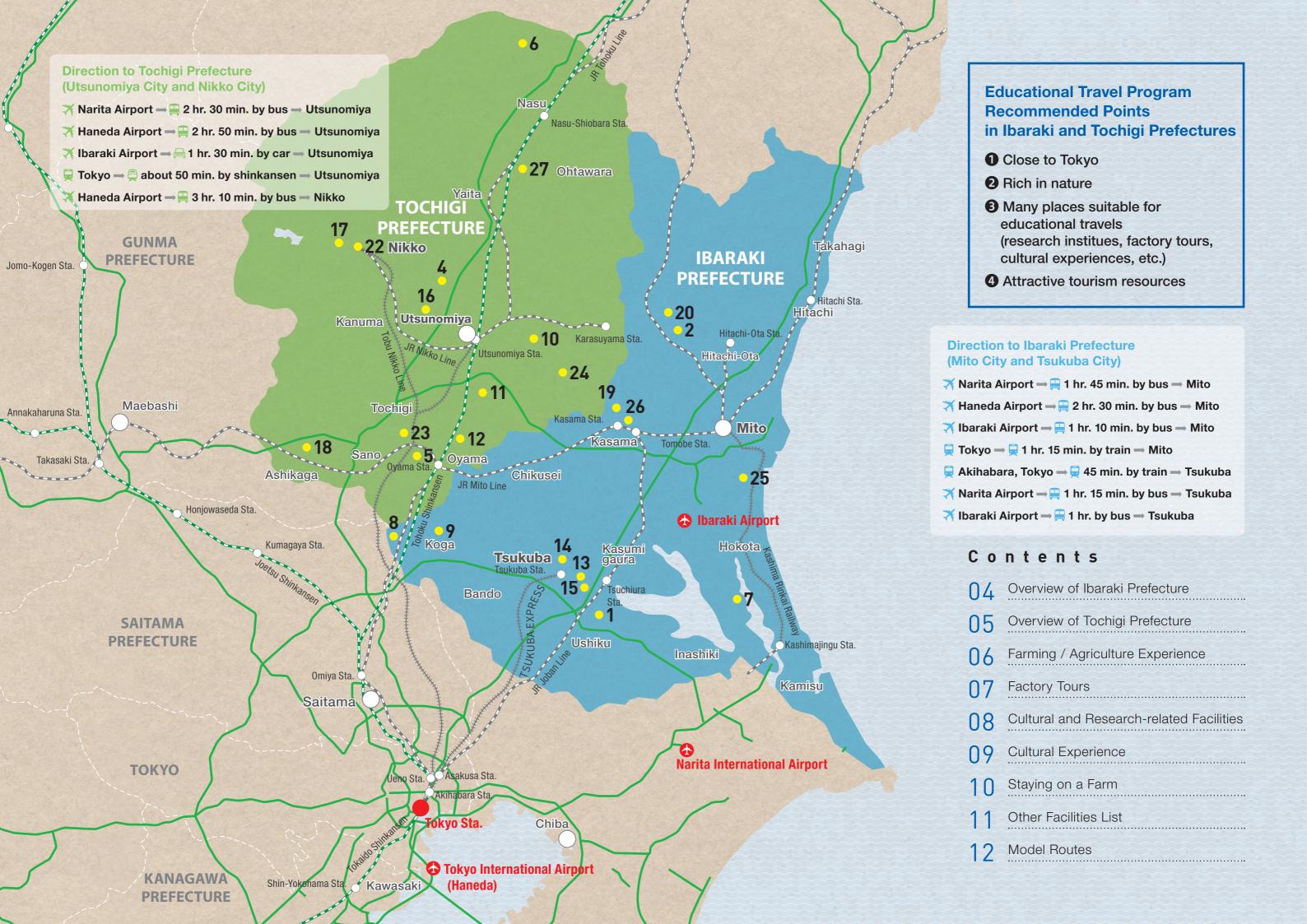




Ibaraki Prefecture Tochigi Prefecture

Educational Travel Program to Japan





baraki Prefecture

Located northeast of Tokyo and facing the Pacific Ocean, Ibaraki Prefecture has both typical urban aspects of Japan such as good access to Tokyo, Haneda Airport and Narita Airport, and an abundance of nature with unspoiled natural scenery.

Environment and Industry

Ibaraki is blessed with abundant nature of mountains and the ocean, and especially the areas near the ocean and southern Ibaraki enjoy relatively mild weather throughout the year. Therefore, Ibaraki is one of Japan's biggest agricultural producers, playing an important role in the food supply to the metropolitan area. As one of the biggest agricultural prefectures in Japan, Ibaraki's gross agricultural production is Japan's second in rank, following Hokkaido. Among others, the production of melons is the largest in Japan.

Meanwhile, Ibaraki also has thriving industries with a number of nationally-known factories. With JAXA, which leads Japan's state-of-the-art space development, and Tsukuba Science City, a large-scale planned city area, this prefecture can also boast an aspect of being a leading academic center of the nation.

History and Culture

There are various cultural sites here and there throughout the prefecture, including Kairakuen Garden, ranked one of Japan's "Three Great Gardens" that was built in the mid-19th century and known for beautiful plum blossoms, and Kashima jingu Grand Shrine, the grand head shrine of about 600 Kashima shrines nationwide. You can also enjoy seasonal landscapes with great natural masterpieces, including Fukuroda Falls, considered one of Japan's "Three Grand Waterfalls."

As for local food, the area has many local specialties, including various kinds of seafood, one of the top beef brands, Hitachi beef, and Mito *natto*.

ochigi Prefecture

Located in the north of the Kanto region, Tochigi Prefecture is an interior prefecture sharing a border with Ibaraki, Gunma, Saitama, and Fukushima prefectures. With the largest area in Kanto, it has a population of about 1.97 million (as of 2018).

Environment and Industry

While it is mostly dry and clear in winter, Tochigi has a relatively large amount of precipitation throughout the year, which brings high-quality water resources. In addition, as the broad difference in temperature between morning and night makes the area suitable for agriculture, it is active in production of rice, vegetables, fruit, and livestock products. Notably, Tochigi has been Japan's biggest producer of strawberries for 50 consecutive years. The area also has various traditional crafts, such as Mashiko ware (officially designated as a Japanese important intangible cultural heritage), which have been passed down to the present day. Furthermore, this area has a highly-developed machinery industry and automobile-related industry.

History and Culture

Among other historical and cultural heritage sites of the prefecture, the UNESCO World Heritage site Shrines and Temples of Nikko especially attracts many tourists every year with its gorgeous buildings, along with a certain awe-inspiring atmosphere created by a prefectural history of more than 1,200 years.

The area is also blessed with abundant nature, including grand mountains in Nikko and Nasu. You can enjoy unique local food made with high-quality water, such as local sake and soba noodles, at various places in the prefecture. Tochigi is also famous for its food culture, including Utsunomiya gyoza and Sano ramen.



Ibaraki Prefecture is the second biggest prefecture in terms of agricultural production in Japan following Hokkaido. You can join agricultural-experience programs where you can plant, observe, harvest, cook, and/or taste various vegetables and fruits nurtured by the fertile ground. For example, melons, lotus roots, and napa cabbages are Japan's number one in production, and lettuces, Japanese pears, and sweet potatoes are number two.

Farming Agricultural Experience

Tochigi Prefecture has many agricultural and livestock products, the production of which ranks high in Japan, such as strawberries, kanpyo dried gourd shavings, milk, garlic chives, and bean sprouts. Among others, the production of strawberries is the largest in Japan 50 years in a row. The following section introduces you to the places where you can join agricultural experience programs in the food supply depot.

Ibaraki Prefecture has the largest land area of company locations in Japan. Since it has convenient access by land and sea and is blessed with abundant nature even though it is considered part of the capital region, the area has attracted many major companies that are well-known nationally and worldwide. The tours give you a rare opportunity for an inside look at the factories.



Located close to Tokyo but easy to obtain large tracts of land, Tochigi Prefecture has attracted many big corporations as well as small businesses with high technological capacities. Ranked second in Japan (2015) in the manufacturing sector of prefectural gross production, the monozukuri area Tochigi offers various interesting factory tours.

Tsukuba Inaka Taiken Oentai (countryside experience support team)

つくば・いなか体験応援隊

This is an organization consisting of 30 farm families which offers agricultural experience programs and inaka (countryside) experience programs. A variety of workshops with features unique to each farm family are available, including vegetable and fruit harvesting, farm labor experience of rice planting and harvesting, craft making, and food processing experience.





[Web] http://hello-tsukuba.jp/learns/tsukuba-inakataiken/

Roadside Station Utsunomiya, Romantic-mura Village

道の駅うつのみや ろまんちっく村

Based on the theme "hospitality with 'agriculture and food'," this farm park accommodates overnight-stay visitors. Across its huge 46-hectare grounds, there is a workshop farm, cafeteria, bakery, brewery, tropical greenhouse, onsen facility, accommodation facility, and pool, as well as a forest area where you can play in the woods.





[Web] http://www.romanticmura.com/about/

Lapoppo Namegata farmers village

らぽっぽなめがたファーマーズヴィレッジ

This workshop-type agriculture theme park is located in Namegata City, one of Japan's biggest sweet potato producers. You can join a hands-on factory tour of Shirohato Food Corporation, which produces Western and Japanese confectioneries using sweet potatoes, and offers cooking classes to make homemade sweet potato, and others.



[Web] http://www.namegata-fv.jp/

Calbee Kiyohara Factory

カルビー清原工場

Known for the "Potato Chips," Calbee, a Japanese snack maker, offers a factory tour at its Kiyohara factory to observe the manufacturing processes for cereals and its mainstay "Kappa Ebisen" snack. The tour guide uses various visual aids to explain in an enjoyable way how the products are manufactured there.



[Web] https://www.calbee.co.jp/factory/kiyohara/

Kanasa Shoqakko

かなさ笑楽校

Located in a renovated building of old Kanasa Elementary school that permanently closed in 2008, this facility for experience and interaction offers various nature experience and life experience programs as well as accomodations for visitors. Local people are the guides for teaching farm work and nature exploration. Local-dish cooking classes are also offered, including soba and tofu making.





[Web] http://www.city.hitachiota.ibaraki.jp/page/page001655.html

Ichigo no Sato Farm

いちごの里ファーム

This workshop farm has acquired "JGAP," a certificate for farms that promote food safety and environmental conservation. This farm offers various seasonal fruit pickings, including strawberries, which is the signature agricultural product of Tochigi Prefecture, as well as grapes and peaches. The buffet-style restaurant that serves only dishes made with local ingredients is popular among visitors.



[Web] https://www.itigo.co.jp/

Tomoe Dairy Processing Co., Ltd.

A factory tour is offered for the factory and Milk Museum of Tomoe Dairy Processing, which started in Koga City, Ibaraki Prefecture. In this tour, you can see the process of preparing commercially available milk as well as the exhibition of more than 5,000 items from 150 countries related to milk and dairy cows, including milk containers.





[Web] http://www.tomoemilk.jp/

Nissan Tochiqi Factory

日産 栃木工場

With the largest site area among Nissan's factories in Japan, this factory produces high-end cars and sports cars.

At the factory guest hall, you can join a guided tour of the car manufacturing process.

(The factory tour may not be offered or the contents of the tour may be changed due to certain circumstances.)



[Web] https://www.nissan-global.com/JP/PLANT/TOCHIGI/

Fruit Picking Experience

果物狩り体験

As the biggest producer of melons and chestnuts in Japan, Ibaraki Prefecture is active in fruit cultivation. There are tourist farms all over the area, allowing people to enjoy picking various kinds of fruit throughout the year. Have fun picking and enjoy freshly harvested fruit, such as strawberries, melons, blueberries, Japanese pears, grapes, persimmons, apples and also chestnuts.





[Web] http://www.ibarakiguide.jp/seasons/fruits.html

Minamigaoka Dairy

南ヶ丘牧場

This is a hands-on-experience ranch where you can touch various animals, including cows, horses, donkeys, and rabbits. You can try making ice cream with Guernsey milk from a Guernsey cow that won the best prize at the National Local Milk Grand Prix. as well as sausages and butter.





[Web] http://www.minamigaoka.co.jp/trial/

FP Corporation's Kanto Recycle Plant

エフピコ関東リサイクル工場

FP Corporation, a manufacturer of disposable food containers widely used for fresh produce and pre-cooked food, offers a tour at its circular recycling system. You can see how the used food containers collected from supermarkets, shops, and stores are turned into reusable materials, as well as asking questions about recycling.



[Web] https://www.fpco.jp/esg/environmenteffort/factory.html

Morinaga's Oyama Factory

森永製菓株式会社 小山工場

Oyama Factory of Morinaga Co., Ltd., one of Japan's longest-established confectionery companies founded in 1899, offers a free factory tour, in which you can observe the production processes of "Milk Caramel," "Choco Ball," and "Angel Pie" through window after watching a brief DVD.



[Web] https://www.morinaga.co.jp/factory/visit/oyama/

In Tsukuba, the science city where Tsukuba Expo '85 was held in 1985, a number of public research and education institutions and private research institutions comprise Japan's largest research and development zone. You can observe and experience the fruits of all that research from Tsukuba.

Culture and Research-Related **Facilities**

Tochigi Prefecture has numerous historical and cultural spots that you want to visit at least once, including Shrines and Temples of Nikko, a group of shrines and temples centered on Nikko Toshogu Shrine that was named to the UNESCO list of world heritage in 1999, Ashikaga Gakko, which is said to be Japan's oldest academy, and industrial

Ibaraki Prefecture has a number of attractive traditional craft products, including "Kasama Ware" that was born in the Edo period, "Yuki Tsumugi," which has been registered in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritages in 2010, and "Nishinouchi Washi" paper, which is widely used for various purposes such as Sesson-uchiwa fans and Suifu-chochin lanterns due to its water resistance properties.



Nurtured in the history, culture, and lives of local people, traditional crafts remain alive, providing spiritual sustenance and richness to our modern lives. The following section introduces you to the places where you can observe and try your hand at Tochigi's traditional craft works.

JAXA Tsukuba Space Center

筑波宇宙センター |AXA

At the center, you can see close-up full-size satellites and real rocket engines. Guided tours are available where you can visit facilities including the astronauts training area to learn how to train astronauts and how to maintain them in good shape in a space shuttle.



[Web] http://global.jaxa.jp/about/centers/tksc/

Oya History Museum

This facility introduces "Oya Stone," which has been mined all over Oya Town located northwest of Utsunomiya City. The exhibition includes a huge underground space where an enormous stone quarry used to be located, as well as hand-mining tools and machine mining methods introduced in 1959. It is also used as a spot for shooting movies and



[Web] http://www.oya909.co.jp/

Kasama Geijutsu-no-mori Park (Crafthills Kasama)

笠間芸術の森公園 (笠間工芸の丘)

Adjacent to Kasama Geijutsu-nomori Park, Crafthills Kasama is a complex facility with a variety of tenants, including ones offering pottery experience, exhibiting and selling Kasama ware, and selling local products and souvenirs, as well as a café that serves food and drinks on/in Kasama tableware. Enjoy a pleasant time in touch with art on a hill surrounded by nature.



[Web] http://www.kasama-crafthills.co.jp

Nikko Woodcarving Center

日光木彫りの里工芸センター

Nikko-bori woodcarving is a traditional craftwork, which is said to have started as a leisure activity of the sculptors who came to Nikko from all over Japan for the reconstruction of Nikko Toshogu Shrine in the Edo period. The center offers a program in which you can try Nikko-bori woodcarving with no preparation.





[Web] http://www.n-kibori.jp/

CYBERDYNE STUDIO

サイバーダインスタジオ

At this studio of CYBERDYNE INC., which provides products and services based on Cybernic (a new interdisciplinary academic field based on the fusion of human, robot, and information) Technology, you can join a tour to go around the most advanced robot exhibition including a cyborg-type robot suit "HAL," and experience the motion principle of ©Prof. Sankai, the HAL.



University of Tsukuba /



[Web] https://www.cyberdyne.jp/english/studio/GroupTour.html

Nikko Toshogu Shrine

Dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate, this shrine has main buildings made by the third shogun, Iemitsu, in 1636. There are many places to see on the premises, including National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties, such as the main building and Yomeimon Gate, both adorned with colorful statues, as well as the cloisters, Karamon Gate, and Nemurineko sleeping cat wood carvings.





[Web] http://www.toshogu.jp/

Kaminosato: Nishinouchi Washi Museum

紙のさと 西ノ内和紙資料館

Highly appreciated in the Edo period as a monopoly item of the Mito Domain, Nishinouchi washi paper has been widely used for various purposes due to its strength, including crafts, card cases, construction materials, and interior materials. This museum displays the materials, tools, and products, as well as offering a suki-e drawing class.



[Web] http://www.kaminosato.com

Yamamoto Sohonten

山本総本店

Prospering as a river-transportation merchants' town in the Edo period, Tochigi City has a number of long-established wagashi confectionery shops. One of them, Yamamoto Sohonten, which started its business in 1892 and is known for Tochigi's famous confection, "Robo-no-ishi," offers a wagashi making class under the instruction of a wagashi

益子焼窯元共販センター

"Mashiko Ware" is folk art that

started in 1853. Mashiko Town

has long been known as a big pot-

tery town, currently with more

than 250 kilns. This coopera-

tive selling center offers various

hands-on classes, including draw-

ing on Mashiko ware, trying the

tebineri (forming by hand) tech-

nique of Mashiko ware, and using

a potter's wheel.



[Web] https://www.tochigiji.or.jp/spot/6150/

Science Square Tsukuba

サイエンス・スクエア つくば

This is a "showroom of industrial technology," where the "National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology," one of the largest research institutes of Japan, introduces its cutting-edge research and achievements in a comprehensive manner. A guided tour is also available, in which you can look around the exhibition listening to the explanation by a guide.





[Web] https://www.aist.go.jp/index en.html

Ashikaga Gakko (designated Japan Heritage)

日本遺産・史跡足利学校

Japan's oldest academy, which is said to have been built in the Nara period (starting in the early 8th century) or the Heian period (starting at the end of the 8th century) or the Kamakura period (starting at the end of the 12th century), that has been designated an historic site. It was introduced to the world by Francis Xavier, a Jesuit missionary who came to Japan in 1549.



[Web] http://www.city.ashikaga.tochigi.jp/site/ashikagagakko/

Yuki-tsumuqi Weaving Experience

[Web] http://www.pref.ibaraki.jp/bugai/koho/kenmin/hakase/info/40/index.html

結城紬体験

At Yuki City, you can learn the history of "Yuki-tsumugi," which is designated as one of Japan's important intangible cultural properties of the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage and the related materials about its production process. A weaving workshop using a "jibata" weaving machine, one of the requisites of Yuki-tsumugi to be designated as an important intangible cultural property, is also offered at some facilities.





[Web] http://www.mashikoyakikyouhan.jp/school/index.html



Mashiko Ware Cooperative Selling Center

Ibaraki Prefecture is blessed with fertile land, which was described in the "Hitachi-no-kuni Fudoki" topography compiled in 713 as follows: "The land is huge and fertile, the products from the ocean and mountains are abundant, and the people have a good life; therefore, this country is like a paradise." Staying on a farm, you can get to know local people more deeply.

Staying on a Farm

Green tourism offers you a precious opportunity to enjoy a moving experience while staying at a village surrounded by beautiful nature and blessed with abundant food ingredients. It is attractive not only because you can come close to the local industry, history, and culture but also you can get involved with the local people more deeply.

Hiroura Country Life Association

ひろうら田舎暮らし体験推進協議会



Staying at a private house in Hiroura, Ibaraki Town, located roughly in the center of Ibaraki Prefecture, you can try various programs. Especially recommended are activities at Lake Hinuma such as observing *shijimi* clam fishing, trying traditional fishing, travelling on a wooden raft, and touring on a sightseeing boat. Other workshops include a school-exchange program and Japanese culture experiences such as seeing and trying Japanese drum performances, joining mock festivals, wearing a kimono (yukata), dyeing a tenugui (Japanese cotton towel), making a kumiko wooden piece (a coaster)

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[Web] http://hiroura.jp/

Kasama no Miryoku Hasshintai

笠間の魅力発信隊



An NGO that aims to present to the world various attractive aspects of Kasama City, known for Kasama Inari-jinja Shrine and as a pottery town. You can try various kinds of activities staying at a private home, including pottery, farming, soba making, zazen (Zen meditation), shakyo (sutra copying), aikido (Japanese martial art) training at the sanctuary of aikido, and canoeing on the lake created at a quarry.

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[Web] https://www.facebook.com/kasama.hasshintai/

Ohtawara Tourism

大田原ツーリズ*』*



In the area along the Naka-gawa River in Ohtawara City in the northeastern part of Tochigi Prefecture, this company offers a farm stay program, in which you can stay at a farm house to enjoy its everyday life as a member of the farm family, along with a number of workshop experiences, such as agriculture and forestry workshops, food making workshops such a "shichimi" (spicy pepper mixture) making program using the local specialty chili peppers), and outdooractivity programs, for example a nature-observation program.

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[Web] http://www.ohtawaragt.co.jp/

Guideline of Workshop

Reservation is required for workshops

Facilities listed in this brochure may require reservation. Please ask the facility how to make a reservation. You will be asked to contact on the Internet, e-mail, telephone or fax.

Early reservation is recommended

Since some workshops may have a capacity limit, an early reservation is recommended. If your visit is during Japan's vacation seasons (early May, July through August, and the year-end and New Year holidays), some workshops might be fully booked or closed.

Confirm the details

Some workshops have requirements for the minimum number of participants or qualifying ages. If such conditions apply, you may be unable to participate, so please confirm prior to reservation.

Contact the facility if you wish or need to cancel

In case of sudden poor health condition or traffic disturbance, there may be a possibility of arriving late or non-participation. If you wish to cancel the workshop, please contact the facility as soon as possible.

Confirm the weather and temperature

Farming workshops depend on the weather and temperature. In particular, as harvesting and fruit-picking workshops depend on the current growth situation and the weather, please understand that the workshop period may be changed. If unsure, please contact the facility prior to reserving or going.



Trip for four nights and five days Plan in Tochigi, Ibaraki, Tokyo



Arrive at Haneda/Narita Airport → 6 Agricultural Experience (Minamigaoka Dairy), Tochigi -3 Staying on a farm (Ohtawara Tourism), Tochigi



 Staying on a farm (Ohtawara Tourism), Tochigi → Tochigi Prefecture School Exchange → **10** Culture and Research-related Facilities (Nikko Toshogu Shrine), Tochigi → ② Cultural Experience (Nikko Woodcarving Center), Tochigi → **Hotel in Tochigi Prefecture**



Hotel in Tochigi Prefecture → Ibaraki Prefecture School Exchange → Aqua World Ibaraki Prefectural Oarai Aquarium, Ibaraki → Oarai Isosaki-jinja Shrine, Ibaraki → Hotel in Ibaraki Prefecture



Hotel in Ibaraki Prefecture →

- 3 Agricultural Experience (Fruit Picking), Ibaraki →
- **13** Culture and Research-related Facilities (Science Square Tsukuba), Ibaraki → Culture and Research-related Facilities (CYBERDYNE STUDIO), Ibaraki → Tokyo



Sightseeing in Tokyo → **Depart from Haneda/Narita Airport**

Trip for four nights and five days Plan 、 in Tochigi, Ibaraki



Arrive at Haneda/Narita Airport →

- **16** Culture and Research-related Facilities (Oya History Museum), Tochigi →
- Staying on a farm (Ohtawara Tourism), Tochiqi



- Staying on a farm (Ohtawara Tourism), Tochigi →
- **①** Culture and Research-related Facilities (Nikko Toshogu Shrine), Tochigi →
- Tochigi Prefecture School Exchange → **Hotel in Tochigi Prefecture**



Hotel in Tochigi Prefecture →

22 Cultural Experience (Mashiko Ware Cooperative Selling Center), Tochigi → Ibaraki Prefecture



Ibaraki Prefecture School Exchange →

- **©** Culture and Research-related Facilities (Science Square Tsukuba), Ibaraki -
- **@** Culture and Research-related Facilities (CYBERDYNE STUDIO), Ibaraki → Hotel in Tsukuba, Ibaraki



Factory Tours (Tomoe Dairy Processing Co., Ltd.), Ibaraki → Cultural Experience (Yuki Tsumugi Kyoudokan Museum), Ibaraki → **Depart from Haneda/Narita Airport**

Trip for four nights and five days Plan in Tochigi, Ibaraki, Tokyo



Arrive at Haneda/Narita Airport → Ibaraki Prefecture School Exchange → **3** Staying on a farm (Hiroura Country Life Association), Ibaraki



3 Staying on a farm (Hiroura Country Life Association), Ibaraki → Fishing Experience, Ibaraki → Ushiku Daibutsu, Ibaraki →

13 Culture and Research-related Facilities (JAXA) Tsukuba Space Center), Ibaraki → 4 Culture and Research-related Facilities (CYBERDYNE STUDIO), Ibaraki → Hotel in Ibaraki Prefecture



Hotel in Ibaraki Prefecture →

- P Factory Tours (Morinaga's Oyama Factory), Tochigi
- → ② Cultural Experience (Yamamoto Sohonten), Tochigi
- →
 Culture and Research-related Facilities (Ashikaga Gakko), Tochigi → **Hotel in Tochigi Prefecture**



Hotel in Tochigi Prefecture → Tochigi Prefecture School Exchange → Tokyo



Sightseeing in Tokyo → **Depart from Haneda/Narita Airport**

