



Iwate's Largest Public Housing Complex for Survivors,  
Tochigasawa Apartments, Now Open

Rikuzentakata

On August 1st, 2016 (Mon), people began moving into Tochigasawa Apartments, the largest public housing complex for disaster survivors in the prefecture.

This kind of housing is intended for people who lost their home during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and for whom rebuilding privately isn't an option. The Tochigasawa complex has 301 rental apartments altogether, split across two buildings. The northern block is an 8-story building with 150 apartments, while the southern block is a 9-story building with 151 apartments. Each one has a kitchen and up to 3 other rooms. Some are designed with wheelchair users in mind.

As of August 26th, 188 people had picked up their keys. For those who have spent the time since the disaster in emergency housing, it marked the beginning of a new life.

Applications will continue to be accepted until the apartments are filled. It's possible to apply as a group to be placed closely together.



The newly-opened Tochigasawa Apartments



Sanriku Event Information Fall's top picks!

**9/16 Fri** **Kuji Autumn Festival** Kuji  
 Venue ▶ Downtown Kuji  
 The largest festival in northern Iwate, with over 600 years of history and tradition. The highlights are the extravagant, majestic parade floats and portable shrines.  
 Contact Kuji Autumn Festival Planning Committee: 0194-66-9200

**9/17 Sat** **Miyako Autumn Festival** Miyako  
 Venue ▶ Event Square in front of Miyako Station, etc.  
 As groups of local dancers perform, extravagantly decorated parade boats compete to be the most beautiful.  
 Contact Junior Chamber International Rikuchu Miyako: 0193-62-8458

**10/9 Sun** **Fudai Sea Festival** Fudai  
 Venue ▶ Otanabe Fishing Port  
 A festival celebrating the Sanriku sea. There will be a parade of fishing boats, and cruises along the beautiful coastline.  
 Contact Fudai Sea Festival Planning Committee: 0194-35-2116

**10/9 Sun** **Ofunato Saury Festival** Ofunato  
 Venue ▶ Ofunato Citizens' Gymnasium  
 Taste pacific saury straight from Ofunato Port, and take part in all sorts of events.  
 Contact Ofunato Saury Festival Planning Committee: 0192-21-1922

Tours of Holland Island Now Taking Place Miyako

Within the protected borders of the Sanriku Fukko National Park, floating just off the coast of Yamada Bay, is a large island. It's known as "Holland Island", after the Dutch ship Breskens, which washed ashore here in 1643.

Its circumference is around 900 meters, and it's famous as the only uninhabited island in Tohoku with a swimming beach.

Due to the catastrophic damage suffered in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the beach isn't generally open to the public. However, "Marine Tourism Yamada", a group run by local fishermen, ran a special summer promotion offering discounted tours of the island. The offer took place between July 23rd (Sat) and August 21st (Sun), attracting large numbers of tourists who were mesmerized by the emerald green seawater and white sand.

Tours of Holland Island will continue until October.



The beach on Holland Island (Photo: Marine Tourism Yamada)

**[Contact]**  
 Yamada Town Tourism Association ☎0193-84-3775  
 (Business hours 8:30-17:30. Closed Wednesdays)  
 \*Inquiries in Japanese, please.

**10/14 Fri** **Kamaishi Festival** Kamaishi  
 Venue ▶ Ozaki Shrine, downtown Kamaishi, etc.  
 Kamaishi's two big autumn events are Hikifune, a lively ocean festival, and a parade of luxurious portable shrines.  
 Contact Kamaishi Festival Planning Committee: 0193-27-8172

**10/16 Sun** **Nationwide Taiko Festival** Rikuzentakata  
 Venue ▶ Rikuzentakata Daiichi Middle School Gym  
 Taiko drummers from across the country come to play together. This year's theme is "Life starts with a beat".  
 Contact Planning Committee: 0192-54-2111

**10/22 Sat** **The 11th Hirono Farm Festival** Hirono  
 Venue ▶ Ono Campus  
 An introduction to farming in Hirono, with loads of activities. Buy local products, or eat local beef at the BBQ Dojo.  
 Contact The 11th Hirono Farm Festival Planning Committee: 0194-77-2113

**11/6 Sun** **Autumn Smile Harvest Festival** Noda  
 Venue ▶ JA Shin Iwate Noda Branch Special Venue  
 Taste Noda's local dishes and ingredients, including some delicious limited edition foods!  
 Contact Noda Agriculture Festival Planning Committee: 0194-78-2926

Event details are subject to change, so please call beforehand. \*Inquiries in Japanese, please.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of July 31, 2016

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,123
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,075

To make a donation to aid in Iwate's reconstruction:  
[www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html](http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html)

Thank you for all your support!

As of July 31, 2016

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.59 billion (93,626 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.77855 billion (7,812 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥8.5893 billion (18,111 donations)

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