Little Arashiyama in Tohoku
Nakano-Momiji-yama

Every fall, deciduous trees at Nakano-Momiji-yama that spreads from the ground of Nakano Shrine come aflame bursting in red, orange and bright yellow colors. With the beauty of Nakano river, fall foliage at Mt. Nakano has been admired for centuries.

Peak of fall colors Mid Oct through Early Nov

The History of Nakano Shrine & Nakano-Momiji-yama

It is said that Nakano shrine was built in 795 by Tamuramaro Sakanoue; a naval officer while he was going around "Ezo (Northern japan)" to suppress the area. The enshrined deity is Yamato Takeru no Mikoto (a hero in ancient Japan).

The history of maple trees around the shrine dates back to 1802 when the 9th lord of Hirosaki clan, Yasuchika Tsugaru stayed in Nuruyu area.

During his stay, he was deeply impressed by beauty of Fudo fall and decided to collect over 100varieties of young maple plants from Kyoto. He then dedicated the plants to the shrine, and the next year, three maple trees were planted.

As they grew, the mountain became famous as a scenic spot for maple trees. Just like Arashiyama area in Kyoto, which is famous for breathtaking view of fall colors, Nakano-Momiji-yama became famous as a "Little Arashiyama" attracting many visitors.

Back in 1983, the 3 maple trees were assigned as Kuroishi City's natural monuments. Besides them, two fir trees over 200 years old were assigned as natural treasures of Aomori Prefecture. With Kokujyoji temple in Hirakawa City (former Ikarigaseki-village) and Nagaizawa shrine in Kuroishi City, Nakano shrine is known as "Three major Fudo (one of the Five Wisdom Kings in Buddhism)" in the Tsugaru region.
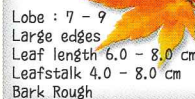
Lobe : 7
Rough edges
Leaf length 4.5 - 8.0 cm
Leafstalk 3.0 - 5.0 cm
Bark Relatively smooth
O maple

Lobe : 5 - 7
Large edges
Leaf length 3.5 - 6.0 cm
Leafstalk 2.0 - 5.5 cm
Bark Relatively smooth
Iroha maple

Lobe : 9 - 11
Fun-shaped
Uchiwa maple
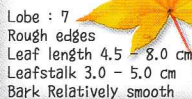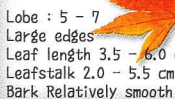
Lobe : 7 - 9
Large edges
Leaf length 6.0 - 8.0 cm
Leafstalk 4.0 - 8.0 cm
Bark Rough
Yama maple

Map around Nakano-Momiji-yama

To Aomori City Namioka I.C.
To central Kuroishi
Apples History Museum
Apple Research Institute
Tohoku Expressway
To Hirosaki City
Kuroishi I.C.
To Owani Hirosaki I.C.
Kuroishi Apple Tourism Orchard
毛内入口 Monai Iriguchi
Drive-inn Nishi-Towada
上温湯 Kami-Nuruyu
Nuruyu Tunnel
Convenience Store
中野神社前 Nakanojinja Mae
伝承工芸館 こけし館前 Denshokogei-kan Kokeshi-kan Mae
Tsugaru Kokeshi-Doll Museum
Tsugaru Traditional Crafts Center
Nuruyu hot spring Village
Ochiai hot spring Village
Nakano-Momiji-yama Free Temporary Parking
Yasuragi Parking lot
Josen Temple
Le Gré
To Jyogakura Ohashi
Oyama no Megumi
Okawara Onsen
Oyama no Omoshie Gakko (Interesting school in the mountains)
Entrance
Nakano-Momiji-yama
Please use the Tsugaru Traditional Crafts Center for parking.
中野南口 Nakano Minamiguchi
Aseishigawa Dam Museum
Aoni Onsen
Michi no Eki Nijinoko 道の駅 虹の湖
Itadome hot spring Village
板石 Itadome
虹の湖公園前 Nijinokokoen Mae
Nijinoko Communication Park
Aseishi River Dam
To Lake Towada

Kuroishi Yakisoba / Meal
One-day hot springs / Hotel
Gas Station
Restaurant / Café
Public Lavatory
Parking
Bus Stop

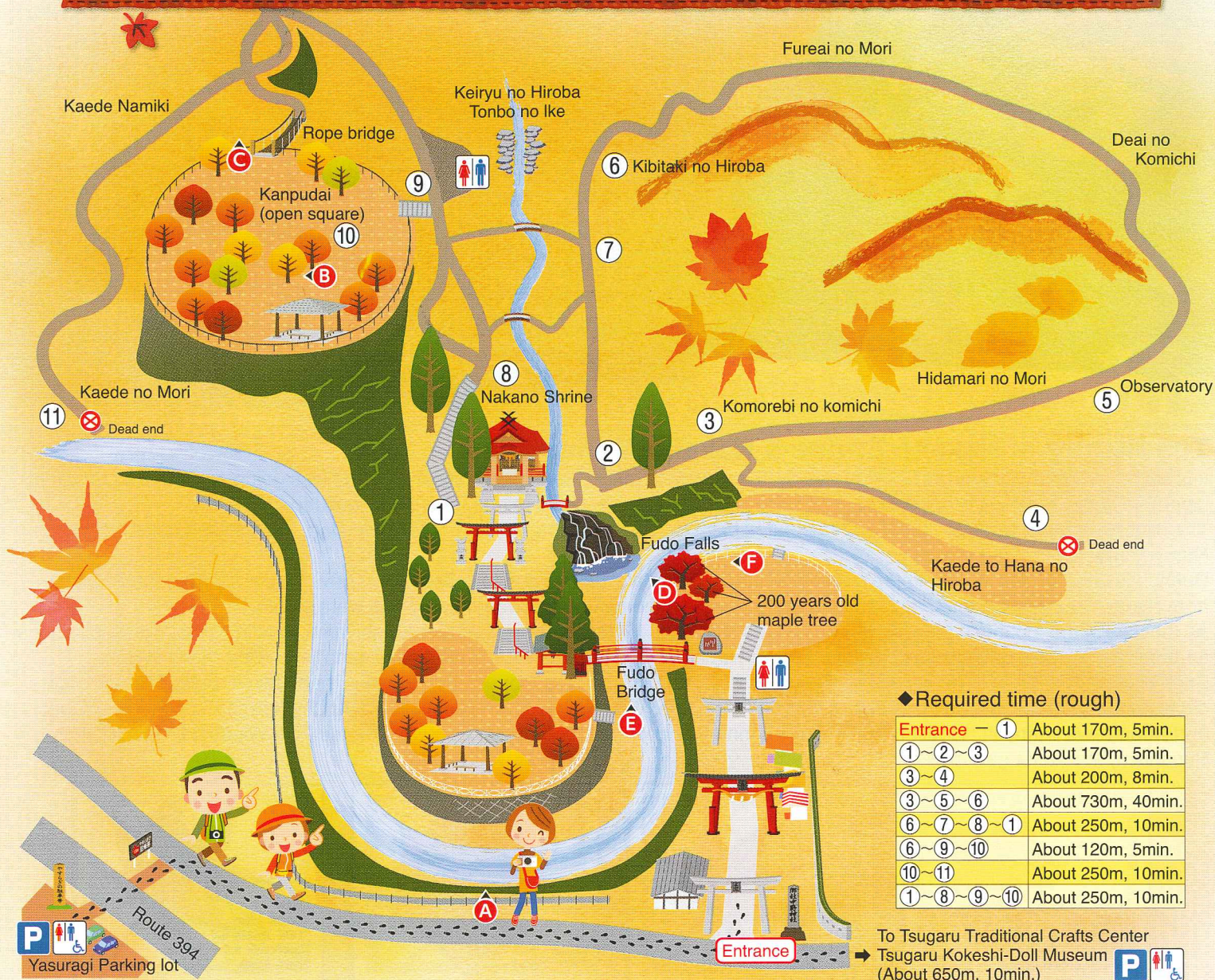During the autumn leaves, the parking zone of the National Highway No. 394 Yasuragi is crowded, so please use the parking lot of Tsugaru Traditional Crafts Center (free). (10 minutes on foot)

Stroll Map for Nakano-Momiji-yama

東北の小嵐山 「中野もみじ山」 散策マップ

Fureai no Mori

Kaede Namiki

Keiryu no Hiroba
Tonbo no Ike

Deai no Komichi

Rope bridge

C

⑨

⑥ Kibitaki no Hiroba

Kanpudai
(open square)

⑩

B

⑦

Hidamari no Mori

Observatory

⑤

Kaede no Mori

⑪ ⊗ Dead end

⑧
Nakano Shrine

① ②

③ Komorebi no komichi

④ ⊗ Dead end

Fudo Falls

F

D

200 years old
maple tree

Kaede to Hana no Hiroba

Fudo
Bridge

E

Entrance

Route 394

P ♿
Yasuragi Parking lot

◆ Required time (rough)

Entrance — ①	About 170m, 5min.
①~②~③	About 170m, 5min.
③~④	About 200m, 8min.
③~⑤~⑥	About 730m, 40min.
⑥~⑦~⑧~①	About 250m, 10min.
⑥~⑨~⑩	About 120m, 5min.
⑩~⑪	About 250m, 10min.
①~⑧~⑨~⑩	About 250m, 10min.

To Tsugaru Traditional Crafts Center
➡ Tsugaru Kokeshi-Doll Museum
(About 650m, 10min.)

P ♿

There are countless photogenic spots around Nakano-Momiji-yama. Stroll around the area and find your best photo spot. In the fall, you can also try our street vendors offering Kuroishi yakisoba noodles and many other snacks.

A. Start your stroll from this point overviewing the whole mountain! Illuminated trees at night are also fascinating.

B. Another picture perfect spot; "Kanpudai(open square)"

C. When leaves start falling down, it looks as if the whole area was covered by a big colorful rug.

D. The popular photo spot; "Fudo Falls".

E. The popular photo spot "Fudo Bridge".

F. Relax and indulge yourself on a special floor.