

Tourist Information In Matsumoto Area

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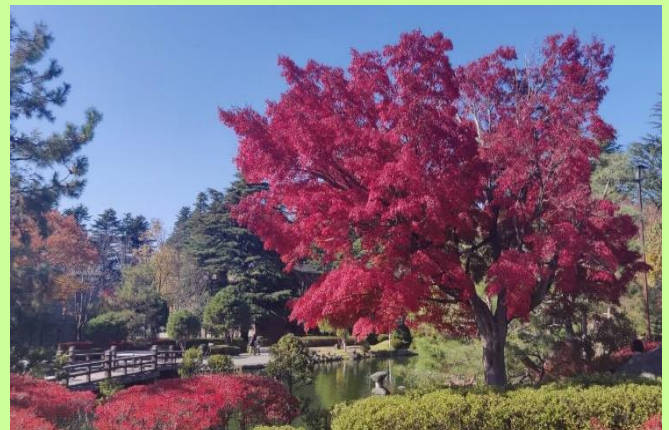


Worth a visit – Agata no Mori Park

If one is looking for something different to the hustle and bustle of Tokyo, or the bright lights and glamour of Osaka, there is no better place than Matsumoto city. From living here as an exchange student, I came to realise just how extraordinary this deceptively ordinary-seeming city truly is.

Perhaps one of the best examples of a hidden gem within this hidden gem is Agata no Mori park. Although located at the end of the same road and a short distance from the Matsumoto Art Museum, the garden is sometimes overlooked because the entrance is rather unsuspecting when seen from the main road. In fact, I didn't realize the park existed until I stumbled across it while exploring Matsumoto for myself, despite passing the area regularly. Agata no Mori park is a pleasant oasis, a beautiful escape from life's activities. The spacious grounds are frequented by locals throughout the year and are ideal for family picnics, a game of catch, or for reading a book under a tree. What could be described as the centrepiece of Agata no Mori is the pond at the heart of the park, home to a few resident turtles and koi fish. With serene waters surrounding all sides, the gazebo at the centre of the pond is the perfect place to sit and watch as the world around moves at a leisurely pace. At the time I first visited, some time in autumn around late October or mid-November, the park's beauty was at its peak as the trees and hedges were dyed a myriad of reds and oranges. The cool weather, tranquil atmosphere and vivid autumn colors made my visit to the gardens one of the most memorable of my time in Matsumoto.

Entry to Agata no Mori is free and is certainly worth a visit, especially in Autumn. I have also heard that the Sakura blossoms in spring are a spectacle not to be missed.



Worth dropping by for a meal – Takagi Soba

Price: ¥1000-¥2000

Amongst many things, Matsumoto is known around Japan for its soba, or buckwheat noodles. As such, I knew I had to sample the local soba while here. I ordered a tempura set meal at Takagi Soba, which I thought at the time to be a little on the pricey side (for a student at least), but the quality of food served was more than worth it. It was apparent just how much attention to detail was paid to the little dishes to ensure the subtle tastes of the vegetables, shrimp and buckwheat were able to stand out against a backdrop of richer and stronger flavors.



Matsumoto Town Walking Map

