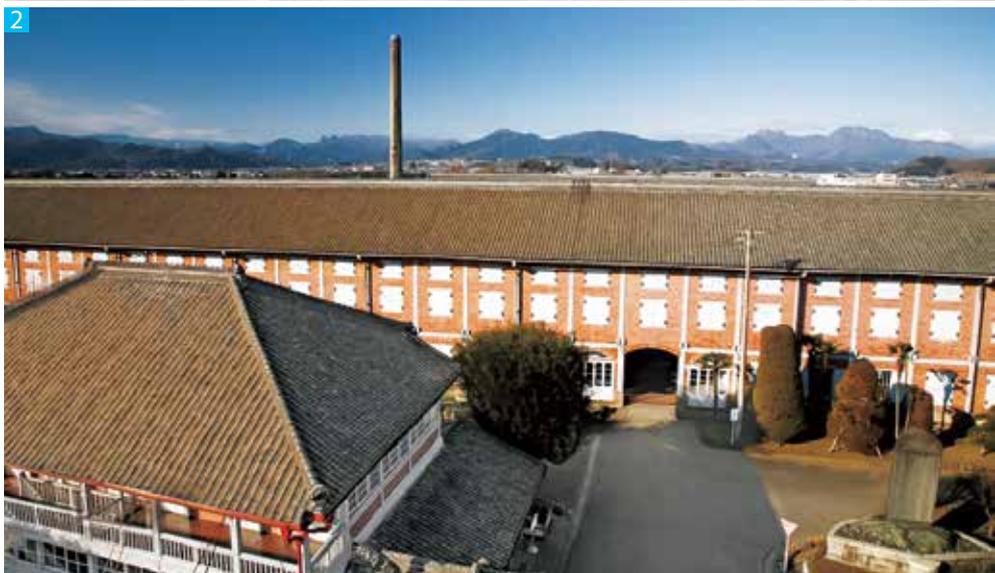




- Explore the regions -



Tastes of JAPAN by ANA has won the award for Tourism Business (Field of Domestic and Inbound Travel) from Tourism EXPO Japan 2016, supported by Japan Tourism Agency and others.



1 Yomeimon Gate, Tochigi Pref. Photo by kazukiatuko/PIXTA

2 East Cocoon Warehouse, aerial view, Gunma Pref. © Tomioka City

# Sacred and Silk Sites of Historic Interest

October is a vibrant time to experience the rise of autumnal tones and sites colored by history in the Kanto region. Here you can feel the spirit of Nikko's Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples,

beloved for an architecture of rich decorative elements, or see how matchless silk-making, past and present, reaches new heights for the future.

### Looking Ahead

The next theme for Get to Know Kanto (Greater Tokyo) in November is food, when we introduce two renowned prefectural products, Chiba soy sauce and Yamanashi wine.

### Handy URL

Visit the special website of Tastes of JAPAN by ANA Kanto webpage.



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## Shrines and Temples of Nikko, Tochigi Pref. Gateway to Spirit and Beauty

With Nikko Futarasan Shrine and Nikko Toshogu Shrine plus the Buddhist temple of Nikkozan Rinno-ji, as well as 103 related historical buildings, Nikko became Japan's eighth World Heritage site in 1999. Natural surroundings set the stage for historic sites of spiritual and cultural interest at the entrance to Nikko National Park.

Nikko Toshogu Shrine, perhaps the most famous Nikko structure, is dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, first of the Tokugawa shoguns, and was built by the second, Hidetada. At first a modest structure, it was rebuilt in 1636 by Iemitsu, third Tokugawa shogun, into the grandiose style enjoyed today. The *torii* gate at the end of the front approach is one of Japan's three great stone torii—including Kyoto's Yasaka and Kamakura's Tsurugaoka Hachimangu shrines—and the largest. Beautiful lacquerware art and renowned sculptures by artisans around the country—such as the Sleeping Cat surrounded

by peonies—adorn 55 buildings, including eight National Treasures and 34 Important Cultural Properties.

The overall grandeur is palpable from the time you step along the approach optimizing beautiful geographical contours and walk into the Yomeimon Gate entrance to the main hall. The latter, renovated in 2017 to restore its majestic splendor, is intricately arrayed. Nikko Toshogu Shrine, Nikko Futarasan Shrine, and Nikkozan Rinno-ji, with its sacred bridge spanning Daiya River, are just three of many sites that continue to give Nikko the brilliant glory revered by both young and old throughout the centuries.

**Getting There:** ANA daily serves Tokyo (Haneda and Narita) with many direct flights from airports around Japan. Express trains from Tokyo Station to Nikko Station take about 2 hrs.

Inside the Reeling Plant,  
Gunma Pref.  
© Tomioka City



## Tomioka Silk Mill and Related Sites, Gunma Pref. Uniting the World Through Silk

Supervised by Paul Brunat, a French engineer working in Yokohama, Tomioka Silk Mill was founded by the Meiji government on October 4, 1872. Brunat selected the site due to conditions needed for silk reeling, such as water supply and extensive land. Over a century later, this historic mill became a UNESCO World Heritage site, one in operation for 115 years.

The timber-frame brick construction fuses East and West building styles. Original buildings, such as the 140-meter-long silk-reeling plant and the cocoon warehouses, stand just as they were. Following World War II, previous hand-reeled processing was automated and production continued. With later dwindling of the silk-reeling industry, the mill closed in 1987.

The mill was preserved by the company even after operation ceased. Designated a National Historic Site (2005) as well as an Important Cultural Property (2006), plus two cocoon warehouses and the reeling plant as National Treasures (2014), the mill and its

various buildings were donated to Tomioka City, which also currently manages the mill's preservation.

Because of its contribution for development of silk manufacture, Tomioka Silk Mill and the following related sites became a World Heritage site (2014) and sustain a valuable and historic artistry and science: the sericulture farmhouse of Yahei Tajima, who perfected modern sericulture emphasizing ventilation; Takayama-sha Sericulture School, which established and standardized silkworm rearing technology; and Arafune Fuketsu, a cold storage facility for silkworm eggs.

**Getting There:** ANA daily serves Tokyo (Haneda and Narita) with many direct flights from airports around Japan. Expressway travel by car from Tokyo takes under 2 hrs. Trains from Tokyo Station to Joshu-Tomioka Station, via transfer at Takasaki Station, take about 1.5 hrs.

