

Interesting spots in Juo (十王町)

Hitachi City and Juo Town were merged on November 1st. This merger has been promoted to revitalize the northern coastal area of Ibaraki Prefecture. After the merger, the new Hitachi City has a population of about 202,000 people, and it ranks second to Mito City in the prefecture. In this article, we would like to introduce you to Juo Town which has now been incorporated into Hitachi City. There is a well-known Public Hotel "Unomisaki" and also a hot spring called "Urarano-Yu" on the beautiful seaside of Juo Town (showcased in Hyotan No144). This time, we are going to recommend some other interesting spots around Juo.

◆Juo Dam (十王ダム)

This dam was built in 1993, and is the newest multipurpose dam in Ibaraki Prefecture. The concrete wall of the dam is still white, so it sets off the red flood gates very well. The height of the dam is 48.6 meters and the volume of water kept in store totals 2.86 million tons. And it is rare in the country as a dam from which one can see the sea, being only four kilometers away from the seashore. In the deep green dam's lake, many carp and goldfish go free, and we can see a beautiful shoal of them from the road beside the dam. The dam's lake is surrounded by mountains, and we can see the Joban Expressway far away on the north side. The autumn colors around Juo Dam are at their best in mid-November.

◆ The "Juo Dam" Fountain (十王ダムの噴水)

The fountain in the dam's lake is one of the highlights of Juo Dam. The fountain seems to rise out of a forest, if you look at it from the Joban Expressway. The fountain has three kinds of spray directions, upper, lateral, and radiant directions. The spray release times are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. from June till November, and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. from December until May. And it is lighted up at night. The spray release time is every hour on the hour, lasting 10 minutes. When the fountain time comes, the rings of the clock tower's 12 bells begin automatically and the fountain starts slowly in the center of the dam's lake. The fountain shoots up 50 meters high into the air, and its silver spray is set off well by the green surroundings.

◆ Juo Panorama Park (十王パノラマ公園)

This park lies on a hill, overlooking Juo Dam, and its observatory in the shape of a UFO is a landmark of this park. There is an open



space for sports, a roller type slide, cherry blossom hills, and so on. It is also a family park with a full view of the Pacific Ocean and the Abukuma Mountains. From the top of the observatory, we can see a panoramic view of the coast lines, from

Fukushima in the north to Oarai in the south. The symbolic flower of Juo Town is the cherry blossom. There are 35 different kinds of cherry blossoms, 400 cherry trees in the park, and each tree has a plate around the trunk, which indicates its name, the times of its flowering, and a picture of its petals. During the cherry blossom season, town-run street stalls are set up in the park, and many people enjoy looking around them. The Juo Dam's cherry blossoms are beautiful, too.

◆Houjuin Temple (法鷲院)

The *Houjuin* was established in February 807, more than 1190 years ago in the early years of Heian period as a temple of the Hosso sect, which has 126 branch temples based on the substantial gymnasium for the Shingon sect doctrine with an incantation of Saint Kobo. In June 1393 all of the temple building were destroyed by fire and afterward it was reconstructed in February 1394.

Houjuin is famous for one of the three main Saint Kobo temples in Japan, which ward off evil fortune as well as the Soji



Temple in Nishi-Arai Tokyo and the Hirama temple in Kawasaki.

The formal name of this temple is *Myotokuzan Saifukuji* and *Houjuin* is its popular name. By the way, "Hou" derives from Daarma in Sanskrit, which means the highest

truth in Buddhism and "Ju" from Gidhrakta Parvata in Sanskrit which means the *Ryojusen* in India, mountain of summit of bald condor and consequently *Houjuin* means the saint site where the highest truth in Buddhism will be preached.

As for the construction of *Kobodaishido*, the perpetual tower for the repose of one's soul which was the long year purpose, it was

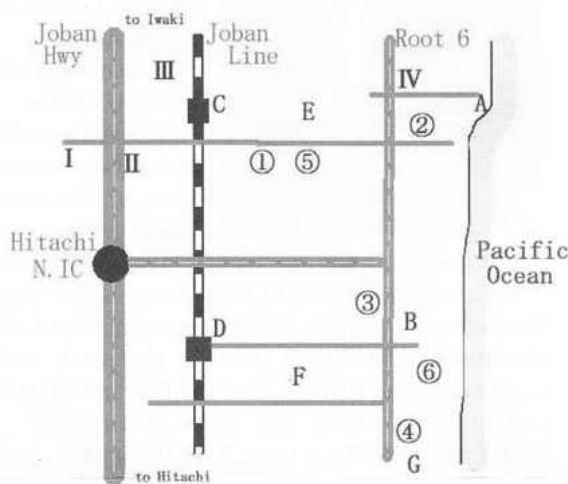
commenced in April 1987 and completed in June 1989 but the consecration ceremony has not been carried out yet. This tower is 33 meter high, 5-storied magnificent pagoda where the Saint Kobo is deified as a god.

Houjuin is located in north west direction, 5 minutes by car from JR Juo station.

◆Juo Products Market "*Ukiuki*" (鴨来鴨来)

The *Ukiuki* was opened July 26, 2003. This market is managed by the Association of Utilizing Local Consumption Facility of Local Products, which was established on the joint accounts of Juo Town, the Sightseeing Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the Industry and Agricultural Association. They sell mainly vegetables in addition to daily dishes, cakes, liquours, beverages, condiments, flowers, plants and folk crafts, etc.

Ukiuki is located alongside Route 6, an entrance to the Prefectural resort house "*Unomisaki*", around 10 minutes by car from the JR Juo station.



A: Unomisaki H. Urarano-Yu Hot Spring

B: North Fire Station

C: Juo Station

D: Ogitsu Station

E: Hitachi Cable, Toyoura

F: Hitachi Cable, Hidaka

G: Drivers School

I: Juo Dam

II: Panorama Park

III: Houjuin

Five-storied Pagoda

IV: Ukiuki

① Gyushin

② Hitachian

③ Banrisyan

④ Kourakuen

⑤ Top House

⑥ Roman-tei

Map of interesting spots in Juo and restaurants in northern Hitachi

Hitachi Popular Eating Spots (Part II: Hitachi Northern Area)

When you want to eat out with your friends or your family, where do you go? We would like to introduce several spots you can enjoy different type of food in each area.

Roman-tei (ロマン亭)

If you are getting sick and tired of ready made convenience foods and fast food, *Roman-tei* is the place for you. *Roman-tei* is a restaurant where you can enjoy *yo-shoku*, which literally means "western food". Various kinds of western cuisines

are introduced from European countries around Meiji and Taisho Era and gradually changed into *wayosecchu* (blending of Japanese and western elements), which is now called *yo-shoku*. *Omurice* (omelet rice) and *Hayashi-rice* (*hayashi* may be from hashed beef) are good examples of *yo-shoku*,

and they are featured menus of *Roman-tei*.

Mr. & Mrs. Suzuki, the owners and also the chefs of this restaurant, have a policy for cooking: "always use foodstuff of high quality and provide all home made dishes". They make efforts to create the taste of good old days when western culture was still new in Japan.

The name "*Roman*" can mean two things. One is "*Taisho-roman*", the word used to describe the nostalgic longing for the good old days of Taisho Era when semi-European culture flourished. The other may be "the owners' favorite romantic and nostalgic things".

To make the restaurant their ideal place, Mr. & Mrs. Suzuki designed the building by themselves, carefully selecting materials for windows, walls, floors and so on. They looked for



and found a carpenter who understood their idea. They also gathered their favorite furniture, some of which are antiques. Even the bathroom is so chic and pleasant that you can have a cup of tea there. (But please don't try). We are very impressed by their passion to pursue their dream.

Mrs. Suzuki told us "when you are tired of everyday life, please come to this place".

So why not?



Below are some examples from menus:

Omurice/¥1029,

Hayashi rice/¥1344

Home-made croquette /¥420

Lunch set menu:

Curry or spaghetti, soup, salad, drink /¥1050,

Omurice, soup, salad, drink /¥1260

Dinner set menu: ¥1600~

Category	No.	Name/ Phone	Open Hours/ Holiday	Note
Japanese	①	Gyushin 牛新 0294-42-9929	5:00pm ~ 10:30pm Tuesday	The best place to enjoy grilled Hitachi beef for a reasonable price. Run by the meat store, "Meat Center Hashimoto", next to the restaurant. ¥680~ P:*
	②	Tofu Kobo Hitachian 豆腐工房常陸庵 0294-43-1028	11:30am ~ 2:30pm No holiday	A restaurant specialized in "Tofu"(soybean curd) and has popularity with "Okara doughnut" made from the residue left after the production of Tofu. P:7
Chinese	③	Banrisyan 万里香 0294-42-8264	11:30am ~ 3:00pm ~ 5:00pm ~ 10:00pm No holiday	From dim sum to genuine Chinese dishes. Any other dish, e.g. Mongolian and Turkish, is available upon request in advance. A group party to be reserved. ¥650~ (Lunch set menu) P:*
	④	Korakuen 幸楽苑 0294-44-8755	11:00am ~ 2:00am No holiday	The chain store, "Aizu Ramen". Having the support of the public for an inexpensive price of Chinese noodles. More than 10 kinds of topping available. ¥409~ P:20
Western	⑤	Top House トップハウス 0294-43-3157	10:00am~9:00pm (Mon.~Sat.) 11:00am~9:00pm (Sunday & holidays) No holiday	A light meal restaurant in homely atmosphere, especially famous for its 15 different home-made cakes. ¥630 ~ (Lunch set menu) P:10
	⑥	Roman-tei ロマン亭 0294-42-2198	11:00am~10:00pm (lunch time: ~2:00pm) Tuesday	The place to enjoy tasty food and <i>art nouveau</i> interior as well ¥700~ P: 12

Note P:* Parking lot is available. P: Capacity of parking lot.

EVENTS in HITACHI in November

Date	Event & Main Attractions	Place	Admission	Inquiry
3 rd (NH) 16:00	Noh Drama Performed Outdoor at Night by Fire Light	Hitachi New City Plaza	S: ¥5,000 A: ¥3,000	Hitachi Civic Center Tel. 24-7711
6 th (Sun.)-7 th (Su) 9:00	Citizens' Day of Kamine Park	All Facilities in The Park	Free	Tourist Info Sec. in CH Tel. 22-3111 Ex.406
7 th (Sun.) 11:30	40 th Hitachi Citizens' Music Festival	Hitachi Civic Center Music Hal	Free	Free Admission Ticket Tel. FAX 42-7243
13 th (Sat.)-14 th (Sun.)	Hitachi Industrial Festival (Exhibition & Sale)	Civic Athletic Park Central Gymnasium	Free	Commerce & Industry Sec in CH Ex.471
20 th (Sat.)	Hello! from Ibaraki Prefecture (Live Broadcast Program)	Hitachi Civic Hall		Policy Exam Sec. in CH Tel. 22-3111 Ex.328
20 th (Sat.)	Hitachi International and Cultural Festival	Hitachi Civic Center	Free	Hitachi Civic Center Tel. 247-7711
21 st (Sun.)	Hitachi City Children Festival (Recreations & Snack Stand)	Civic Athletic Park Central Gymnasium		Youth Sec. in CH Tel. 35-1466
23 rd (NH)	'Ekiden' Road Relay Around Juo Town	Juo Town	Free	Secretariat Tel. 0293-32-2446
28 th (Sun.)	Centennial Cram-school Festa in 2004	Education Plaza Hitachi Civic Hall	Free	Lifelong Learning Sec. Tel. 23-9150
Dec.5th (Sun.)	KIWI Festival "know more about New Zealand"	Kujigawa Hitachi-South Kouryu-Center	Free	Sec.: Mrs. U. Morimura Tel. 37-1483

NH: National Holiday

CH: City Hall

JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES

NAME	LOCATION	DATE & TIME	Fee	Contact
Sakura	Shichokaku Center etc	Saturday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	Ms. Reiko Tsuru Tel (0294) 53-4558 reiko_tip@yahoo.com
Sakura (Kanji)	Kyoiku Plaza	Thursday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	
		Friday 10:00-11:30	¥1,000/semester	
Anzu	Shichokaku Center	Tuesday 19:00-20:45	¥300/month	Ms. Kyoko Kamada Tel/Fax (0294) 33-3399 Mr. Shichizoh Kohsaka Tel/Fax (0294) 35-3989
	Kyoiku Plaza	Friday 14:00-16:00		

Movies in November

Theater	Day	Titles (Original Titles)
Cinefesta 1&2 Tel:21-7472	-5	TWO BROTHERS [E]
	-19	FAHRENHEIT 911 [E]
	-19	SWING GIRL [J]
	-	THE BLUE BUTTERFLY [E]
	-	Kakushi Ken Oni no Tsume [J]
Hitachi Central Tel:21-1386	-	Howl's Moving Castle [J]
	-19	Ima, Aini-Yukimasu [J]
	-20	Howl's Moving Castle [J]
Aigakan 1&2 Tel:23-2323	-5	RESIDENT EVIL 2 APOCALIPS [E]
	-5	i, ROBOT [E]
	-6	Chi to Hone [J]
	-19	DEEP BLUE [E]
	-19	DEVIL MAN [J]
	-20	Ima, Aini-Yukimasu [J]
Theater Isejin Tel:22-1761	-	COLLATERAL [E]
	-	2046 [C]
	-3	CATWOMAN [E]

[E]: English with Japanese subtitle [J]: Japanese
[C]: Chinese with Japanese subtitles

Emergency Doctors on Duty

Hitachi uses a system called "TOBAN-I". The doctors in the city take turns standing by for emergency patients from 9:00 to 16:00 on Sundays and national holidays.



Surgeons

Nov.	Hospital Name	Address	Tel
3	Kuriyama Seikeigeka	Hidaka-cho	42-8100
7	Naito Seikeigeka	Higashioonu ma-cho	53-1833
14	Shimada Geka Iin	Omika-cho	53-4888
21	Shinohara Clinic	Suwa-cho	34-6800
23	Sasaki Ichouka Geka	Orisaka-cho	43-0333
28	Hitachi Sakura Clinic	Tajiri-cho	43-2000

Physicians, Pediatricians and Dentists seven days a week: Hitachi Medical Center (5-1-1 Higashitaga-cho
Tel 0294-34-2105

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