

LIVING GUIDE MORIOKA

MORIOKA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ASSOCIATION

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How about Going around Morioka by Bus?

Trees are getting greener and greener, telling us that summer is drawing near. It is pleasant and refreshing to go out at this time of the year. It's fun to walk around Morioka, but it's convenient to take a bus when you're visiting distant places.

Going around downtown?

The "Dendenmushi" bus is perfect for going around downtown Morioka. Dendenmushi, literally meaning a snail in Japanese, follows a circular route in downtown in both clockwise and counterclockwise directions. You can get on and get off Dendenmushi at whichever stop you want at a fare of 100 yen.

It is available at #15 bus stop in front of the Morioka station for the clockwise route and #16 for the counterclockwise one. Running at intervals of 10~15 minutes, Dendenmushi travels around the route in 35 minutes.

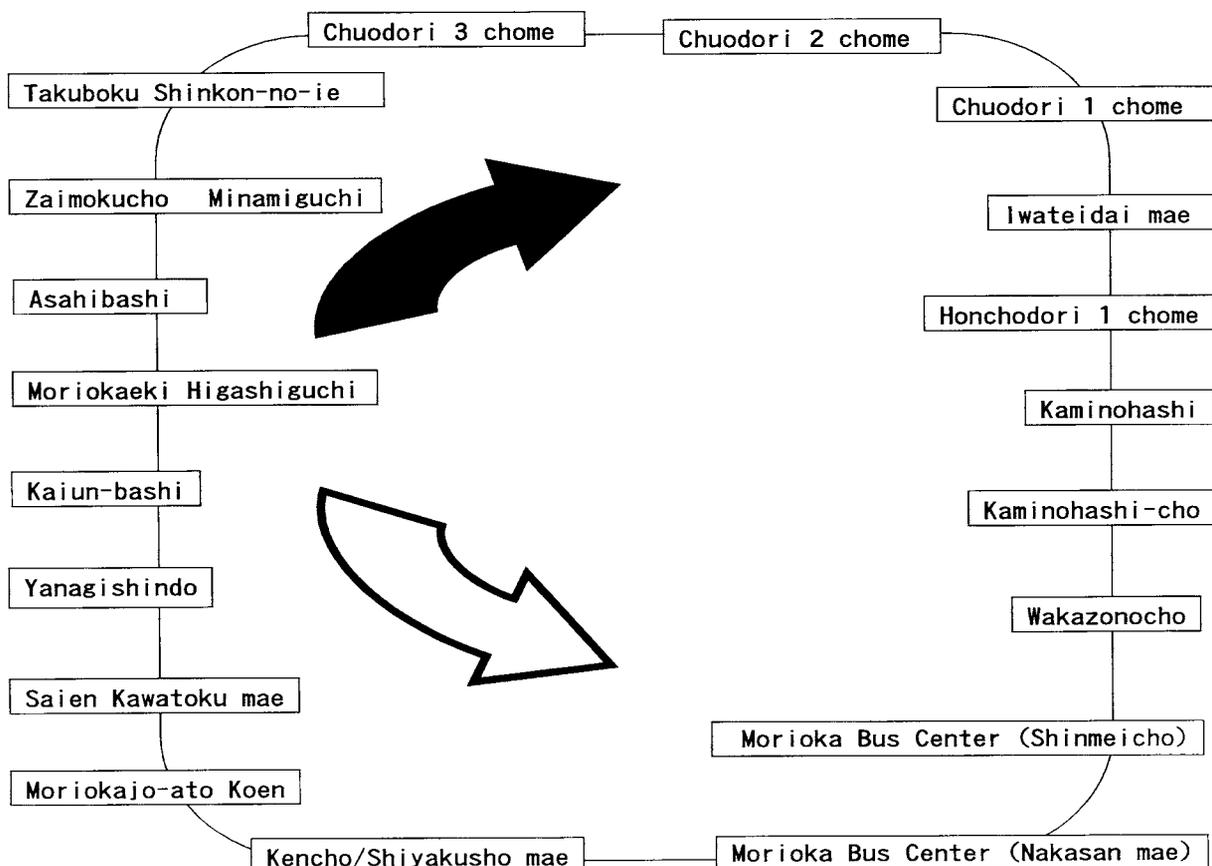
Bus Stops of Dendenmushi



Clockwise Route: starts at #15 bus stop in front of Morioka Station



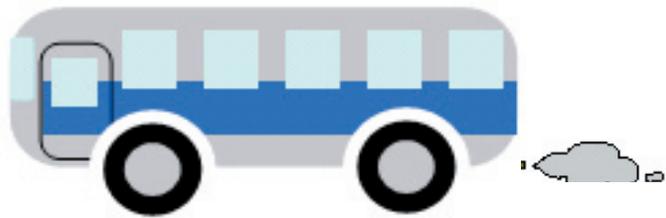
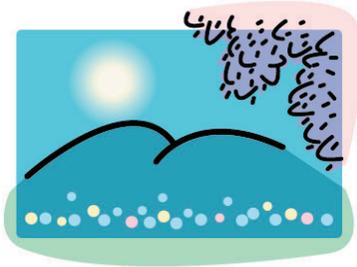
Counterclockwise Route: starts at #16 bus stop in front of Morioka Station



Sightseeing around Morioka?

Sightseeing bus service is also available for the following routes.

- * "Koiwai-go" takes you to a half-day tour of Tezukuri Mura (Morioka Handi-Works Square) and Koiwai Farm. Enjoy baking *nambu senbei* by yourself at Tezukuri Mura (cost is included). Fee: Adult ¥2,200. Koiwai-go leaves in the morning.
- * "Takuboku-go" takes you to a half-day tour of Morioka Chuo Kominkan (Morioka Central Public Hall), Morioka Senjin Kinenkan (Morioka Memorial Museums of Great Predecessors) and Morioka Kenji/Takuboku Museum. Fee: Adult ¥2,200. Takuboku-go leaves in the afternoon.
- * "A Full-day Tour" covers both of the Koiwai-go and Takuboku-go routes.
Fee: Adult ¥3,500



For more information about bus services

Visit the website of Iwateken Kotsu at <http://www.iwatekenkotsu.co.jp/>

Information about the routes and schedules of both route buses and sightseeing ones is available on the website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

● Chagu Chagu Umakko Sat. June 9

With the history of more than 200 years, Chagu Chagu Umakko is a traditional annual event to express appreciation to farm horses. About 100 colorfully dressed horses and their owners march from Sozen Shrine in Takizawa to Hachiman Shrine in Morioka, taking about four hours.

● Father' s Day Sun. June 17

People give their fathers presents and thank-you message to express their gratitude. The typical gift for Mother's Day is a carnation. It's a rose for Father's Day. How are you going to express your thanks to your daddy?



● Sansa Odori Wed. August 1 ~ Sat. August 4

It is said *Sansa Odori* originally started a long time ago when local people danced happily to see troublesome demons being driven away. Now it's a grand parade of Japanese drums and dancers. The year 2008 marks the 30th anniversary of the annual summer festival. The four-day event, which used to be a three-day one until 2006, adds joy and energy to the summer of Morioka.

● Yoichi at Zaimokucho Saturdays

Yoichi, literally an evening market, is a Saturday market at Zaimokucho shopping street from 3:10p.m. to around 6:30 p.m. every Saturday until November 24. Fresh vegetables and fruits, flowers and sweets are available at reasonable prices. You will find a lot of shops along the street. It's fun just to see them around.