

Hitachinaka, Ibaraki, Japan

A working port that erupts in color each spring — 4.5 million blue nemophila blanket the hillsides of Hitachi Seaside Park while the fish market below serves oysters pulled from the Pacific that morning.

- Pier (industrial wharf)
- Typical call: 8–10 hrs
- Japanese Yen (JPY)
- Japanese (limited English)
- Best Apr–May & Oct

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier — Center Wharf or Nakajima Wharf; no tendering

Walk to Center: Walking outside port gates is prohibited; free shuttle to Katsuta Station or Hitachi Seaside Park

Best For: Seasonal flowers, fresh seafood, day trips to Mito or Tokyo

Don't Miss: Hitachi Seaside Park (nemophila in spring, kochia in autumn) & Nakaminato Fish Market

Getting around: Taxi ¥3,200–¥4,000 (~\$21-27 USD) · Rideshare Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Hitachi Seaside Park** — Over 350 hectares of gardens famous for 4.5 million blue nemophila in spring and vivid red kochia in autumn.
- Kairakuen Garden & Mito** — One of Japan's Three Great Gardens, Kairakuen features 3,000 plum trees, bamboo groves, and the Edo-era Kobuntei pavilion.
- Nakaminato Fish Market** — A bustling waterfront fish market where you can watch fresh Pacific catches arrive and eat rock oysters
- shucked on the spot for a few dollars.
- Tokyo Day Trip** — The JR Joban Line Limited Express from Katsuta reaches Tokyo/Ueno in about 75–85 minutes.
- Aqua World Oarai Aquarium** — One of Japan's largest aquariums, with over 50 shark species, daily dolphin and sea lion shows, and panoramic Pacific ocean views.

BEST WALKS

- Hitachi Seaside Park Nemophila Walk** 3–4 km • Easy • 1.5–2 hrs • Shuttle or bus from Katsuta Station — From the park's west gate, follow the main path up Miharashi Hill for 360° views of the blue nemophila fields in spring or kochia in autumn.
- Nakaminato Waterfront Stroll** 1.5 km • Easy • 45 min • Taxi or bus from Katsuta — Walk the Nakaminato fishing harbor from the fish market stalls along the river mouth to the public viewing point overlooking the Pacific.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 5:04AM–6:11PM · Jun 4:19AM–6:57PM · Aug 4:55AM–6:28PM · Sep 5:20AM–5:45PM · Oct 5:44AM–5:01PM	
Apr	62°	48°	11d		
Jun	74°	64°	14d		
Aug	83°	74°	14d		
Sep	77°	69°	16d		
Oct	68°	58°	13d		

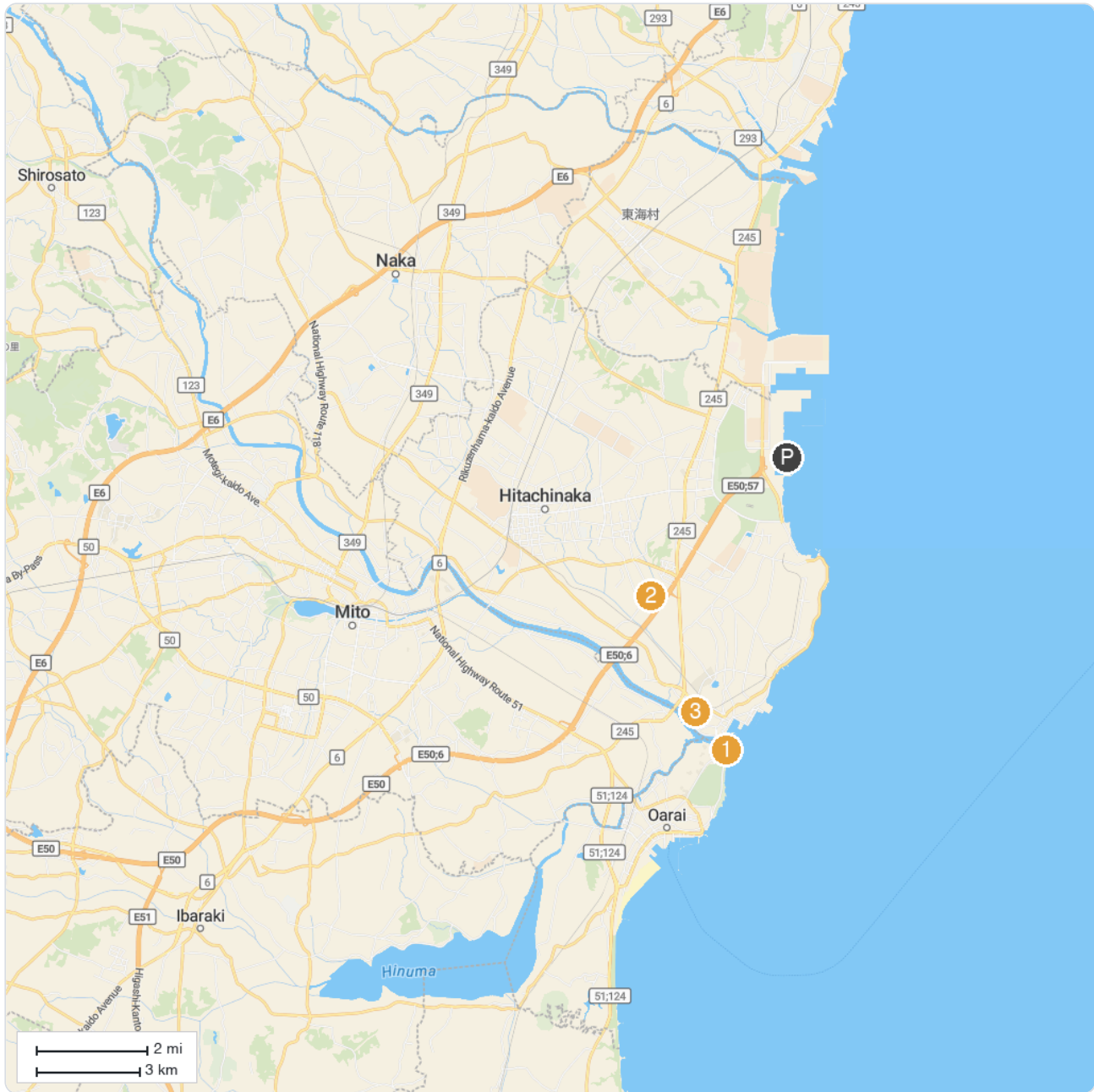
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Carry yen in cash. Japan remains heavily cash-based. The fish market, local buses, and smaller shrines do not accept cards. ATMs at 7-Eleven and Japan Post Bank accept foreign cards.
- Time your visit to the season. Hitachi Seaside Park is spectacular in late April–early May (blue nemophila) and mid-October (red kochia). Shoulder months are pleasant but less dramatic.
- Use the ship's shuttle — or confirm one exists. Walking out of the port gate is strictly prohibited. Confirm with your ship whether a free shuttle runs; if not, taxis will queue at the pier entrance.
- Tokyo is possible but ambitious. The round trip from Katsuta to Tokyo takes 2.5–3 hours. Only attempt it on calls of 9+ hours and buy Limited Express tickets in advance to guarantee seats.
- Eat at the fish market. Nakaminato is Hitachinaka's best-kept foodie secret — giant fresh oysters, sea urchin, and crab served at dock-side stalls for a fraction of Tokyo prices.
- Download Google Translate offline. English is limited outside hotels and major tourist sites. The camera-translate feature is invaluable for menus and signage.

Hitachinaka, Ibaraki, Japan — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Aqua World Ibaraki
Oarai Aquarium

Aqua World is a large aquarium with diverse marine life.

2 Torazuka
Mounded Tomb

Torazuka Mounded Tomb is an ancient Kofun-period burial mound.

3 Nakaminato
Reverberatory
Furnace Ruin

Nakaminato Reverberatory Furnace Ruin is a historic industrial furnace site.

P Cruise port / terminal