

Niigata City, Niigata Prefecture, Japan

Japan's rice and sake capital sits on the Sea of Japan with two docking options, historic geisha quarters, and no crowds. One of Asia's most underrated cruise calls.

 Docked (pier)  Typical call: 8-10 hrs  Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)  Language: Japanese

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Yamanoshita Wharf (West Port) for most ships; East Port for mega-ships (~20 km from center)

Best For: Sake tasting, Kiwami sushi, traditional Japanese culture, historic villas

Walk to center: Not walkable — shuttle or taxi required; city center ~10-15 min by taxi

Don't Miss: Ponshukan sake vending machines at Niigata Station; Former Saito Villa garden

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  ¥1,200–¥2,800 ·  **Rideshare**  Uber ·  **Hop-on hop-off**  Hop-on hop-off

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Ponshukan Sake Tasting** — For ¥500 you get five tokens and a ceramic cup — insert tokens into any of 100+ vending machines dispensing premium...
- **Former Saito Villa & Garden** — A magnificent 1918 merchant family villa with a serene traditional Japanese garden designed to be viewed from...
- **Kiwami Sushi Lunch** — Niigata's Kiwami initiative means nearly every sushi shop offers 10 pieces of premium seasonal sushi — sea urchin...
- **Imayotsukasa Sake Brewery** — A historic brewery a short walk from Niigata Station with English-language tours and a beautiful tasting room.
- **Bandai Bridge & Shinano River Walk** — Stroll across the elegant six-arched granite Bandai Bridge — a national cultural property — and follow the Shinano...

BEST WALKS

- **Station to Furumachi Geisha District** 2.5 km · ~30 min · Flat — Walk from Niigata Station east exit across the iconic Bandai Bridge, through the historic Furumachi district — Niigata's former geisha...
- **Riverside Culture Loop** 2 km · ~25 min · Flat — From Bandai Bridge, follow the river path north to Minatopia (Niigata City History Museum) with its restored historic buildings, then...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	59°	44°	12d
Jun	74°	63°	13d
Aug	85°	75°	14d
Sep	78°	68°	15d
Oct	67°	56°	15d

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Apr 5:09AM–6:19PM · Jun 4:21AM–7:07PM · Aug 4:59AM–6:37PM · Sep 5:25AM–5:51PM · Oct 5:52AM–5:06PM

 Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)

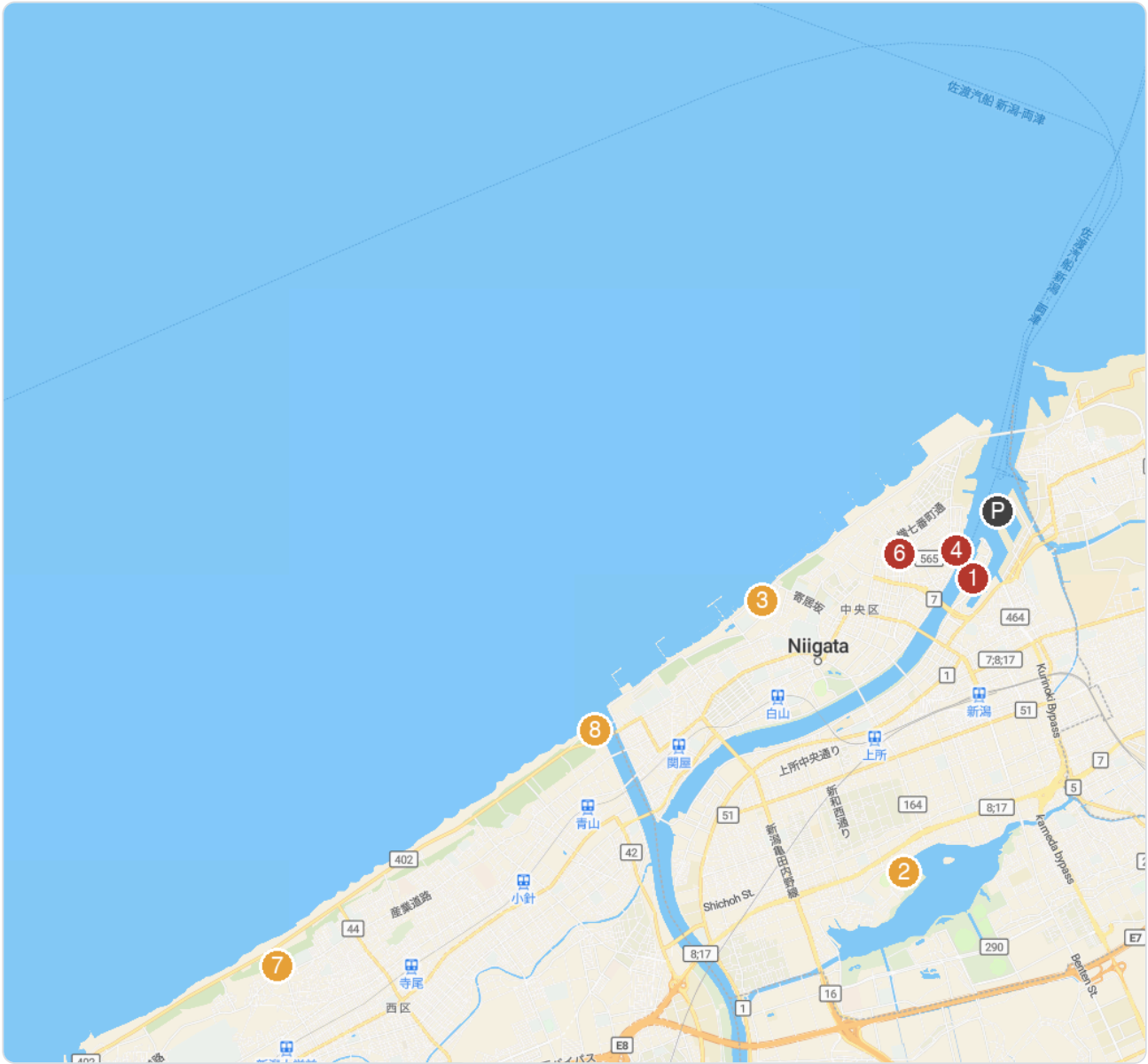
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Carry cash. Credit cards work at department stores and larger restaurants, but Ponshukan, taxis, small stalls, and shrine offerings all need Japanese Yen. ATMs at 7-Eleven and...

Niigata City, Niigata Prefecture, Japan — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



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|----------|--|--|----------|---|---|
| 1 | Toki Messe | Convention center with a panoramic observation deck and hotel. | 2 | Niigata Science Museum | Interactive science museum for all ages. |
| | Niigata City Aquarium | | | | |
| 3 | Marinepia Nihonkai (Sea of Japan) | Aquarium showcasing marine life from the Sea of Japan. | 4 | Minatopia: Niigata City History Museum | Museum detailing Niigata City's rich history and culture. |
| 5 | Setsuryosha Museum | Museum showcasing agricultural machinery and local industry. | 6 | Former Ozawa Family Residence | Historic merchant's residence showcasing traditional Japanese architecture. |
| 7 | スポーツセンター | Large sports complex with various athletic facilities. | 8 | | Museum detailing the Sekiya Diversion Channel flood control project. |
| P | Cruise port / terminal | | | | |