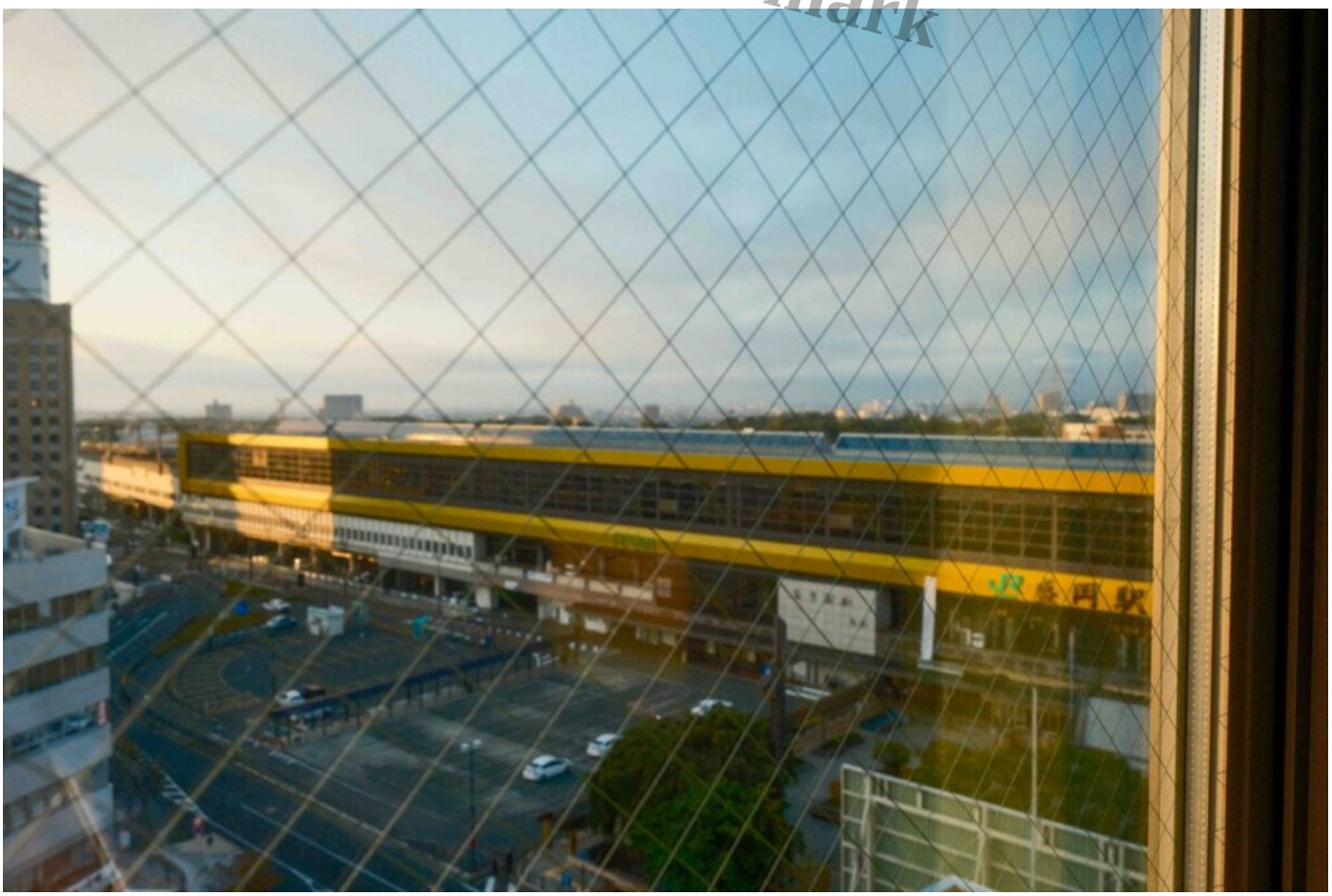


12-Day Self-Drive Adventure in Aomori & Hokkaido: Day 2, Flying Dango and Ryokan Next To A Waterfall

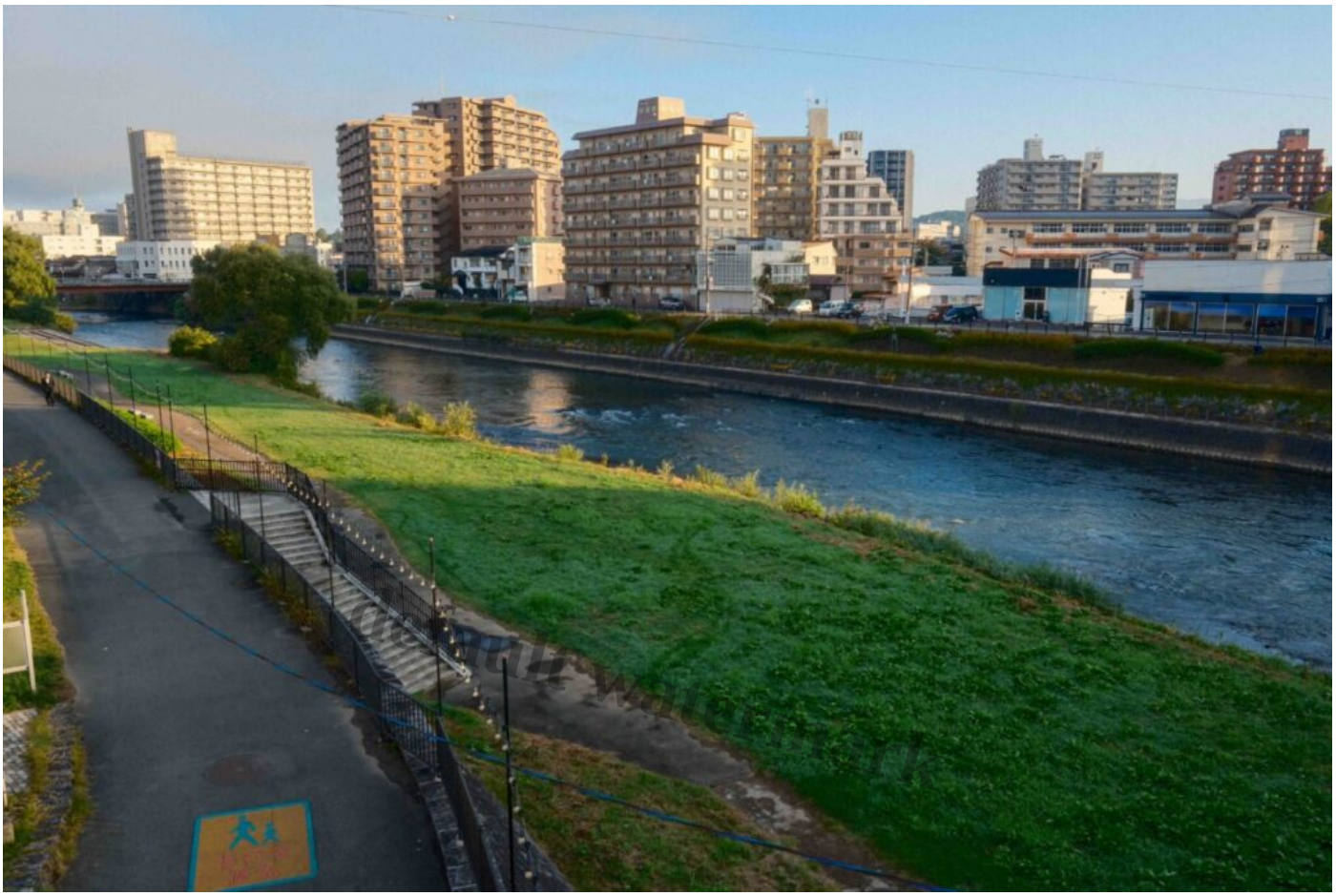
Description

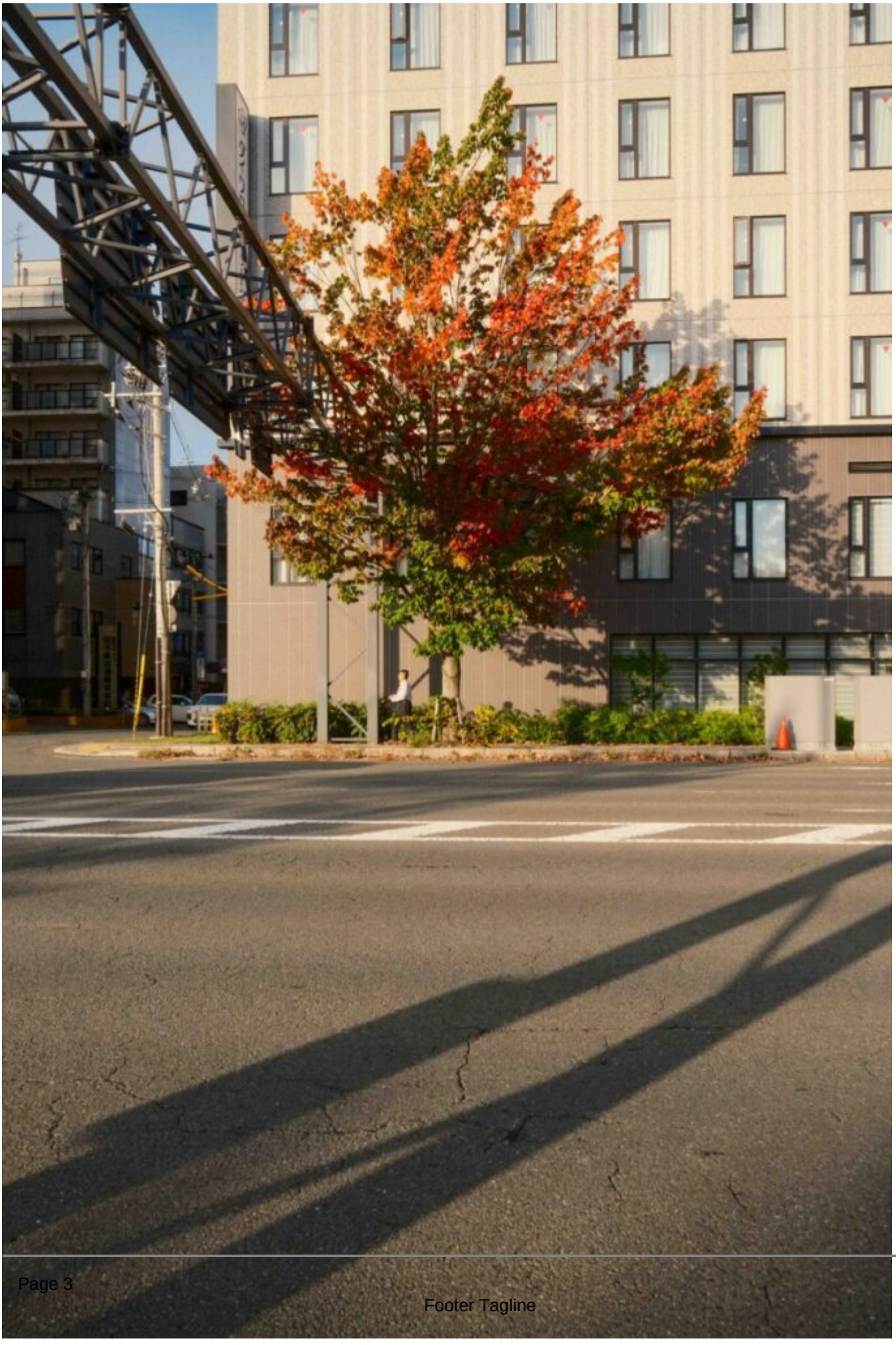
default watermark

Good morning. View from my hotel. Itâ??s super near to Morioka JR station.



I was up quite early. I remember the time was about 7am. When travelling, I like waking up early and take the chance to explore the neighbourhood.





First signs of autumn. Iâ??m excited. Hopefully more to come during the next 10 days.



View this post on Instagram

default watermark

A post shared by Kevin Yeo (@kevinyeo83)

Breakfast at æ•¾å±?. This chain looks like Yoshinya. Very popular with the working crowd. I was always curious if itâ??s any good. Conclusion: can skip.


default watermark

Toyota-Rent-A-Car opens from 8am. After checking out, we headed over to pick up our rental car. This time as we have a little more luggage, I opted for a Sienta. From the picture, you can see that we were able to fit in 3 jumbo luggage and 1 medium sized luggage with a little space to spare.

default watermark


Semboku
仙北
JR Rent-A-Car
Morioka station
Yahaba
矢巾町
Shiwa
紫波町
default watermark
IWATE
Hanamaki
花巻
1 hr 12 min
96.6 km
Yokote
横手
Kitakami
上
E46
Kanegasaki
金ケ崎町
Higashinaruse
東成瀬村
Oshu
奥州
Hiraizumi
平泉町
Ichinoseki
一関
Kesen

Off we go to our first stop. Genbikei Gorge.

Why Genbikei Gorge? 2 reasons. The first was that during peak autumn, stunning fall colors create a fiery contrast with the rocks and water. We hoped to catch that but unfortunately, it seems like we were too early.

default watermark


Default watermark

Second reason: Flying Dango

default watermark

View this post on Instagram

A post shared by Kevin Yeo (@kevinyeo82)

This is perhaps Genbikeiâ??s most unique and famous feature! On one side of the gorge, visitors can place money in a basket hanging from a rope. Knocking on a wooden board signals the shop on the opposite cliff. The basket is then pulled across the gorge to the teahouse (â??Kakkoyaâ?•), and shortly

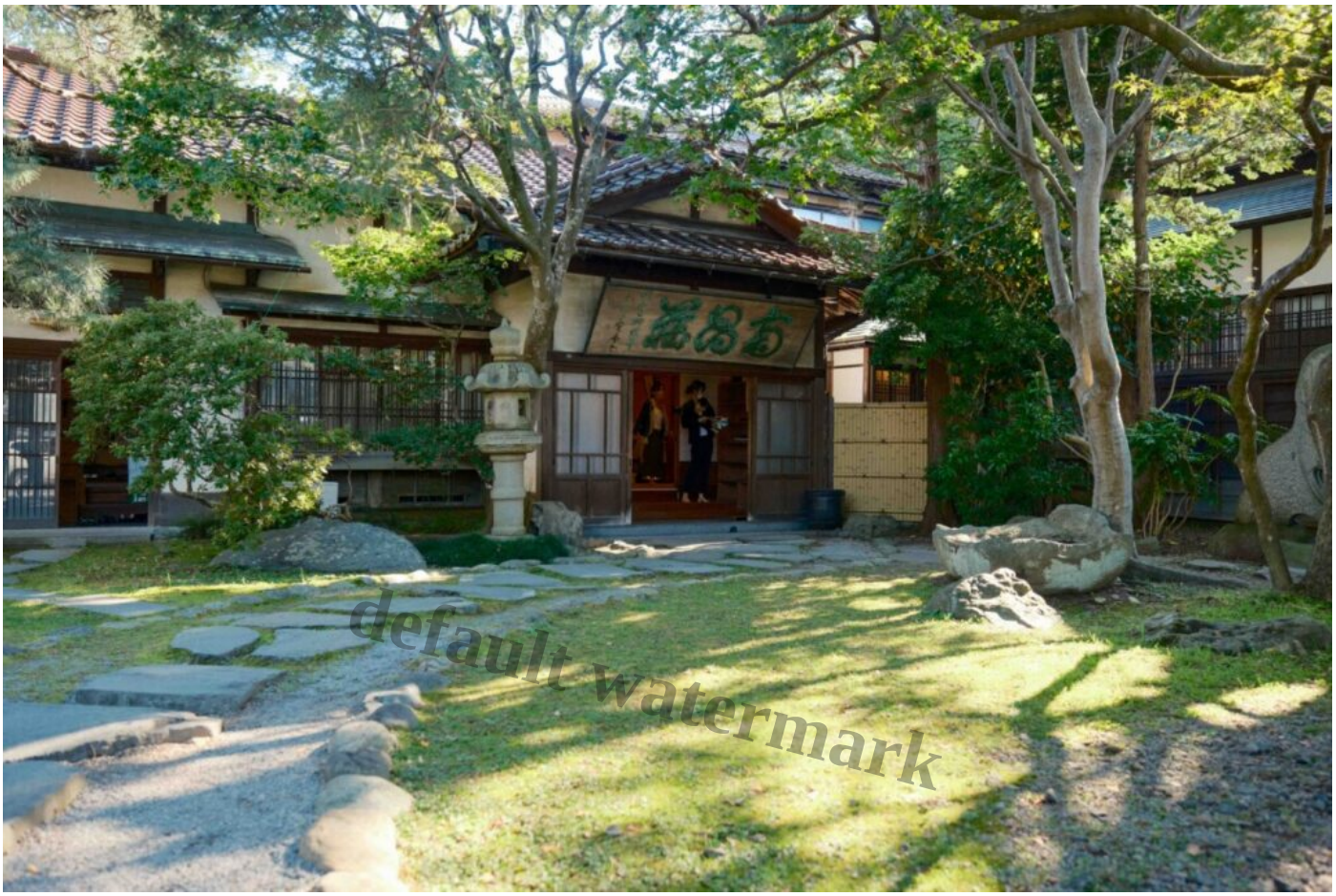
after, it returns carrying freshly made *dango* (sweet rice dumplings) and tea. Itâ??s a fun and memorable experience.



The dango taste pretty good.

There isnâ??t too much of anything else going on there. 1 hour or so would be sufficient for photos and the dango.

We made our way back to Morioka. Time was abit tight so we had to skip lunch at the famous soba shop. Instead, we decided to go to visit a beautifully preserved Meiji-era mansion.



Nanshoso å•?æ??è•?



The mansion is intrinsically linked to its beautiful Japanese garden. Itâ??s designed as a *kaiyu-shiki teien* (stroll garden), featuring a central pond with koi carp, carefully arranged rocks, stone lanterns, lush moss, and a variety of mature trees and plants.

Again we were hoping to catch the vibrant autumn foliage but we were too early for it.

Grab a seat with a nice view, enjoy the serenity and have some snacks and matcha.


default watermark



Bumped into a couple taking wedding photos.



View this post on Instagram

A post shared by Kevin Yeo (@kevinyeo82)

We have to start making our way to our hotel for the night. Itâ??s a ryokan. We want to reach early to enjoy the facilities.

We stopped briefly (5 minutes) to snap a few photos of the Iwate Bank Red Brick Building (å²©æ??é??è¡?èµ¤ã?¬ã?³ã?¬é¤¨ â?? Iwate Ginko Aka-Renga Kan), an iconic landmark in Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture, Japan.

default watermark

It does remind me a little of the fire station opposite Funan.





We are heading west wards and a little into the mountains. The journey will take about 1 hour.



The ryokan was stunning. Itâ??s one of the most beautiful ryokan I have stayed in thus far.



Tae no Yu is a well-regarded and popular ryokan (traditional Japanese inn) located within the famous Nyuto Onsenkyo (ä¹³é æ¸©æ³?é?·) hot spring village. Nyuto Onsenkyo is nestled deep in the mountains near Lake Tazawa in Semboku City, Akita Prefecture, Japan. This area is renowned for its rustic charm, secluded atmosphere, and excellent natural hot springs.

The ryokan has very limited rooms. And during peak period the rooms are snapped up very quickly.



Before settling into our room, we were treated to some snacks while enjoying the view.

default watermark


default watermark

A little room tour.

default watermark

View this post on Instagram

A post shared by Kevin Yeo (@kevinyeo82)

The dinner was great. Usually ryokan dinner are good but not great. But for this, it was delicious.

Tae no Yu serves traditional Japanese multi-course *kaiseki* dinners, showcasing local Akita ingredients.

default watermark

View this post on Instagram

A post shared by Kevin Yeo (@kevinyeo82)



After dinner, remember to take a walk outside. (although it gets a bit chilly after the sun goes down).

The waterfall gets lighted up.

Time to rest. I plan to wake up early tomorrow to catch the sun rise.

***

12-Day Self-Drive Adventure in Aomori & Hokkaido: Day 3, Free Flow Sake and Best Oyakodon

Drop your email here to get your free Aomori Itinerary!

default watermark

* indicates required
Email Address * Enter a valid email address
Name * How do we address you?
Subscribe

Date Created
26/04/2025
Author
kevinyeo