

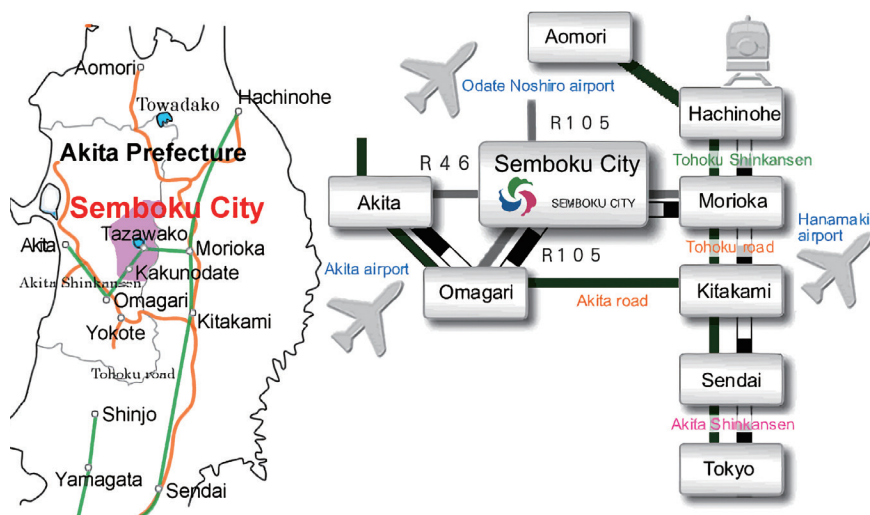
Japan's northernmost national strategic special Zone Semboku City, Akita

An Incredibly Amazing Strategic Location for International Schools

Semboku City, Akita, Japan, is within a national strategic special zone working on deregulation.

You can expect a variety of educational experiences. It is surrounded by excellent natural resources such as Lake Tazawa, Nyuto Onsen Village, and ski resorts, and there are the abundant traditional culture such as samurai residences and craftworks in Kakunodate, and art education at Akita Art Village.

Semboku City, Akita Prefecture, is aiming to attract international schools by leveraging its advantages as a national strategic special zone and local resources.



Overview of Semboku City

Semboku City is a leading tourist destination blessed with cultural resources and rich nature, including samurai residences in Kakunodate, the deepest lake in Japan of Lake Tazawa, and the dream hot spring resort of Nyuto Onsen Village. It can take as little as 2 hrs 45 mins from Tokyo Station without transfers.

Basic Information

Population	23,441 (December 2023)
Area	approx 1,094 km ²
Number of tourists	5.04M/year (2019)

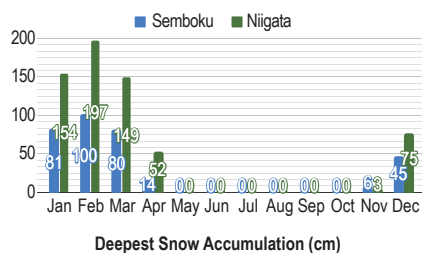
Access

From Tokyo	Approx 3hrs	From Morioka	Approx 45mins
From Sendai	Approx 1hr 30 mins	From Akita	Approx 45mins

Semboku City's charms and characteristics

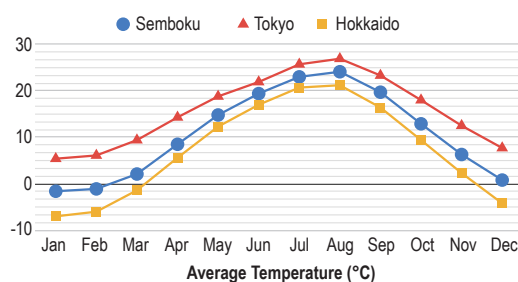
Enjoy the charm of the four seasons

There are four distinct seasons. Summers are cooler than Tokyo, and winters are not as cold as Hokkaido. Although it does snow, it is less compared to other areas with heavy snowfall. It is the perfect environment to live in.



Excellent natural environment

Semboku city has an excellent natural environment, including Lake Tazawa, hot springs and ski resorts. There are also various activities that make use of the previous environment, such as SUP and skiing.



A town of traditional history, culture, and art

You can enjoy a typical Japanese scenery, Kakunodate's samurai residences, the Kakunodate Yama (Float) Festival, and crafts such as cherry bark work and shiraiwa ware.

Akita Art Village is a home to the theater company Warabi-za, which provides artistic education through musical theater and theater education.

Japan's northernmost national strategic special zone

The National Strategic Special Zone was created with the aim of creating the "world's most business-friendly environment" by implementing the bold regulatory and institutional reforms.

Examples of regulatory reform within National Strategic Special Zones

The acceptance of diverse foreigners for business start-ups

To enter Japan to start a business, need to confirm the requirements at the time of entry.

In National Strategic Special Zones, if the business plan is approved, the confirmation of requirements will be postponed for six months.

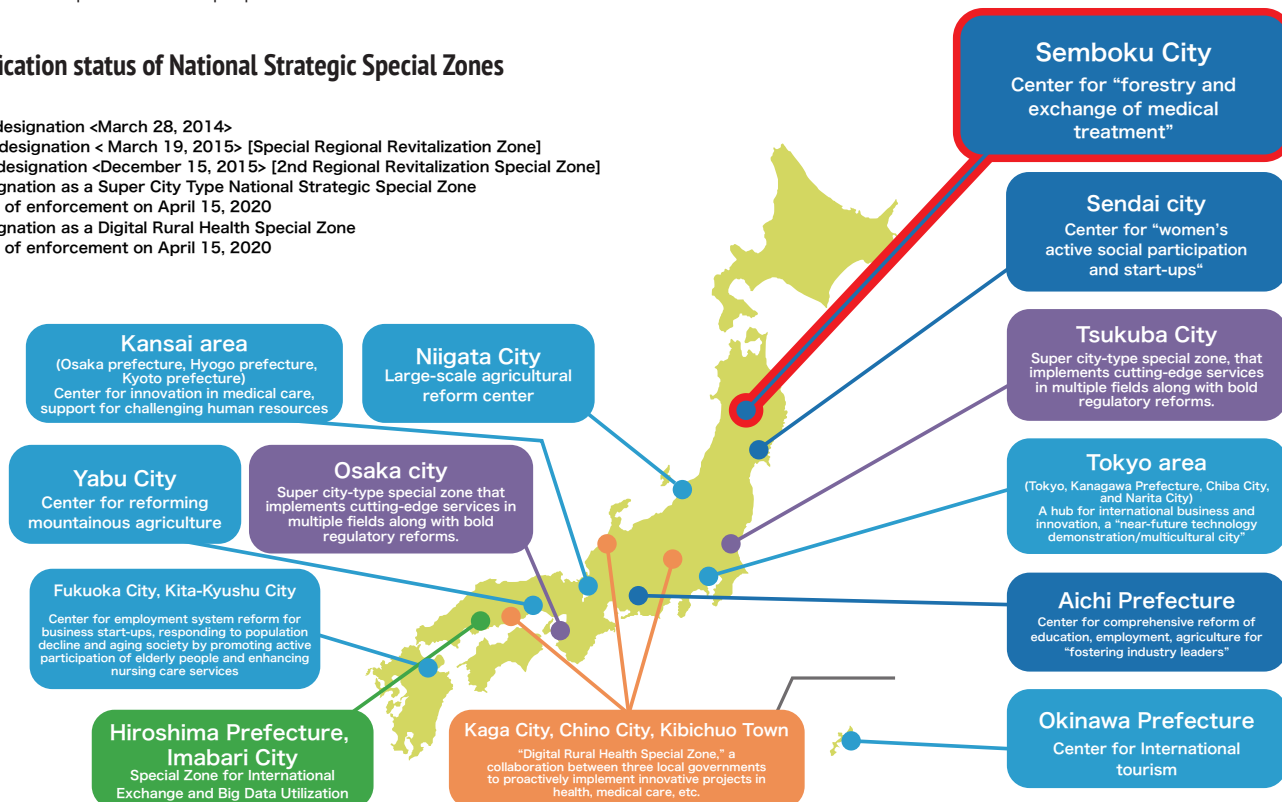
Relaxation of requirements for securing a business location for foreign founders

Normally, required to secure a place of business within six months of entering Japan and Co-working spaces and shared offices are not allowed.

Within the National Strategic Special Zone, co-working spaces and shared offices certified by the local government can be recognized as business establishments for a period of one year if certain requirements are met.

Certification status of National Strategic Special Zones

- 1st designation <March 28, 2014>
- 2nd designation < March 19, 2015> [Special Regional Revitalization Zone]
- 3rd designation <December 15, 2015> [2nd Regional Revitalization Special Zone]
- Designation as a Super City Type National Strategic Special Zone
- Date of enforcement on April 15, 2020
- Designation as a Digital Rural Health Special Zone
- Date of enforcement on April 15, 2020



Various subsidy systems of Semboku City

Semboku City offers various subsidy systems for international schools and industries. "Act on the Promotion of Establishment of Enterprises" which supports capital investment, "Furusato Loan" an interest-free loan from the city, and "Capital Investment Promotion Tax System (Corporate Tax)" which allows tax deduction and special depreciation when acquiring machinery, buildings, equipment, etc. to carry out projects within National Strategic Special Zones can be used.

Semboku City will provide generous assistance in coordinating with the national government, prefecture, and other parties involved in opening a school, and will support the establishment of an international school.



Message from the mayor



The Mayor of Semboku City
Taguchi Tomoaki

Semboku City has a wonderful environment for education owing to abundant nature such as Lake Tazawa and ski resorts, historical buildings such as Samurai Residences, and convenience to go to Tokyo. Furthermore, as it is the northernmost National Strategic Special Zone in Japan, you can take advantage of the deregulation menu. As an SDGs future city, we aim to be the No. 1 city in the country in terms of happiness, leaving no one behind.

I believe that our environments are great for learning, not only for children in Japan but also for children around the world. This is a unique place where children can enjoy swimming in the lake in the summer, skiing in the winter, and experiencing traditional culture. We hope that you refer to this flyer and plan to establish an international school in our city. Please come visit Semboku City and experience its possibilities. Semboku City is looking forward to your visit!



Contact

Semboku City
Planning and Policy Division
30 Miyanoushiro, Tazawako Obonai,
Semboku City, Akita Prefecture
Tel: 0187-43-1112
E-mail: kikaku@city.semboku.akita.jp