

Introducing the secrets of electric and diesel locomotives!



EL (Electric Locomotive)

From 1964 to 1982, 132 [EF64] trains were manufactured. At the Gunma Train Center, the first unit of the EF64, No. 1001, and the last one manufactured, No. 1053, are stationed.

From 1965 to 1979, 308 [EF65] trains were manufactured. EF65 No. 501, which belongs to the Gunma Train Center, was active as a blue train on lines such as the Tokaido Line. It was the first unit manufactured out of 500, and was a passenger-use locomotive train, so it was affectionately called the P Top, taking the P from passenger.



EF64 No. 1053



EF65 No. 501

DL (Diesel Locomotive)

From 1962 to 1978, 649 [DD51] trains were manufactured to replace steam locomotives. This series was active throughout Japan, except for the Shikoku region. DD51 No. 842 and No. 895 are stationed at the Gunma Train Center. DD51 No. 842 is a locomotive that has pulled the train used by the Imperial family. The first unit in the DD51 series is statically preserved at the Usuitouge Railway Heritage Park. This first unit features distinctive round headlights.



DD51 No. 842



DD51 the first unit

Introducing Trains at the Railway Heritage Park

[189 Series Asama (Japan National Railways color and upgraded color)] Active as the Limited Express Asama (Japan National Railways - JR) representing the Shin-Etsu Main Line. This limited express train is a symbol of the Usui Line, which was equipped with coordinative operation equipment with the EF63.

[ED42 Type Abt. Electric Locomotive] An Abt. Type Electric Locomotive that ascends and descends 66.7% of steep slopes through the engagement of rack rails and pinion gears.

[EF63 Electric Locomotive] An assistive locomotive active solely on the Usui Line. It was active for many years as a primary train on the Usuitouge pass and was known as the sherpa of the mountain pass. Now it is the sole train in Japan preserved in a working condition at Usuitouge Railway Heritage Park.



Asama (Japan National Railways color)



Asama (upgraded color)



ED42 Abt. Type Locomotive



EF63 No. 12

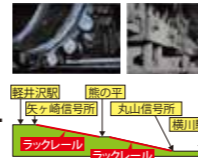
[Old Maruyama Substation]

This substation was constructed in 1912 along with the electrification of the Usui Line, the first main railway line in Japan to be electrified. It consists of the two buildings (battery room and machinery room) built of bricks.



[Abt Style Railway]

This style of railway features tooth-shaped rack rails laid in the middle of the rails, with gears set under the train floor engaged to enable trains to ascend lines with steep slopes.



[The Role of the Usuitouge Railway Heritage Park]

The park features a railway museum that conveys the history of the Usui Line as well as exhibits on various trains and the Asama series, which were active on the Usui Line. It also has facilities where visitors can experience operating the EF63 type electric locomotive. Visitors can see and experience railway history.



How to Apply

Apply by contacting the Usuitouge Railway Heritage Park by phone, fax or e-mail.

- ① Representative Name
- ② Address
- ③ Date of Birth
- ④ Gender
- ⑤ E-mail Address
- ⑥ Phone Number
- ⑦ Date of Desired Visit
- ⑧ Number of Visitors (Both adults and children)
- ⑨ Nationality
- ⑩ Language
- ⑪ Please inform us if anyone in your group has allergies.

◆Tour days coincide with days in which the JR seasonal train (SL) is in operation. A detailed schedule will be sent again after July.

TEL.027-380-4163 FAX.027-380-4111

E-mail address bunkamura@usuitouge.com

1 Night 2 Days Meals Included
Single Guest **35,000 Yen** (Tax excluded)

Same fee for adults and children (those 7 years of age or older)
Minimum number of participants - 2
Maximum number of participants - 10

Accommodation is the Hotel Isobe Garden at Isobe Hot Spring. (Dinner and breakfast included)
◆Gather at Takasaki Station / Disband at Isobe Station

●The following are included in the fee. Railway boarding feeds from group gathering to disbanding, the Shin-Etsu Line mystery solving tour, visiting Usuitouge Railway Heritage Park (EF63 preserved in a working condition Boarding Experience, statically preserved electric locomotive maintenance experience, autumn leaves illumination boarding experience on Sherpa-kun), accommodation fees●Rooms cannot be designated. ●Please inform us in advance if participating in optional events ●Please wear clothes and shoes that are easy to walk in. ●Drink fees are not included. ●Events will be held regardless of the weather in most cases, but will be cancelled in cases of extreme weather where alerts or warnings are issued. We will contact participants 24 hours beforehand in cases of cancellation.

For details on tours being conducted, please see the Usuitouge Railway Heritage Park website.



Usuitouge Pass

Sustainable Night Park Tour

Experience boarding the F63!

Enjoy a nighttime ride on Sherpa-kun, on the abandoned Shin-Etsu line!

We hold locomotive maintenance events!

Travel on the JR seasonal train (SL)

From Takasaki Station to Yokokawa Station **1 Night 2 Days** Stay at Isobe Hot Spring

Usuitouge Railway Heritage Park offers several experience events for visitors, including boarding the EF63, maintenance of locomotives, an autumn leaves sustainable night trip, and mystery solving along the Shin-Etsu Main Line

A must-see for railway fans!

A chance to enjoy locomotives at Usuitouge Railway Heritage Park!



Schedule

*Schedule may change in some cases.

Day 1

Gather at Takasaki Station
9:00

Shin-Etsu Line Mystery Solving Rally
① Takasaki Station Edition

Takasaki City is famous for daruma dolls. Solve 2 mysteries at Takasaki Station!



Takasaki Daruma Dolls

The eyebrows are a crane, and the nose and mustache are a turtle. Takasaki daruma dolls express the good fortune of Japan on their faces. They are also known as fuku-daruma (good fortune daruma) and engi-daruma (luck daruma). These dolls are also symbols of persistence, as they get right back up no matter how many times they're knocked over. Their stable balance represents a strong mindset, showing a calm spirit and patience that can deal with any problem.



Participants can solve mysteries together while finding out where they are hidden!

Depart Takasaki Station
9:47

Board and depart on the seasonal train SL!

Board the SL! A 1-hour trip from Takasaki Station to Yokokawa Station. All seats are designated.



Mt. Myogi, famous for strangely shaped rocks



Myogi-jinja Shrine



Megane-bashi Bridge

Completed in December 1892. This beautiful arch bridge made of brick fuses art and technology, and stands at 31m tall from the river bottom. It is one of the largest such bridge in Japan. This grand four-span arched bridge is well known as Megane-bashi, and is designated as a Nationally Important Cultural Property.



Arrive at Yokokawa Station
10:49

Shin-Etsu Line Mystery Solving Rally
② Yokokawa Station Version

The last station on the Shin-Etsu Main Line in Gunma. Originally an Abt-style train that went through the Usuitouge pass, it used to go all the way to Karuizawa!



Yokokawa Station has remnants of the Abt era. Facilities made of brick remain near Yanosawa Bridge.

History of Yokokawa Station

A long wished for railway that connects Yokokawa and Karuizawa was opened in 1893 thanks to the Abt system. It was opened after a difficult construction that required 26 tunnels and 18 brick bridges. The Abt-style locomotive type 3900, imported from Germany, traveled up and down steep slopes with altitude differences of 553 m, and connected Yokokawa and Karuizawa in around 80 minutes. The 3920 type and Japan-produced 3980 type were later introduced. They had a max speed of 9.6km/h, were capable of 24 round trips per day, and had 10 cars (passenger cars) per train. Because of the many tunnels, dealing with soot and smoke became an issue.



Driving wheels of the EF63-3. Active as the "sherpa of the mountain pass" on the Usuitouge pass.

Option You can participate anytime!

Usuitouge Railway Cultural Heritage Mystery Solving rally Experience

This mystery solving rally is enjoyable for both children and grown-ups alike as you visit 3 stations on the Shin-Etsu Line-Takasaki, Isobe and Yokokawa. The themes of quiz questions include "Daruma doll culture" at Takasaki station, "hot spring culture" at Isobe station and "railway culture" at Yokokawa station. Enjoy experiencing a Shin-Etsu Line and Usuitouge Railway Cultural Heritage. Time required will be around 2 to 4 hours so feel free to participate anytime. Solve all mysteries and receive a finely made paper craft of the DD51 which is scheduled for its final operation in fall 2025 as a completion prize. This is an iconic car that is set to become Railway Cultural Heritage.

One guest **500 yen** (Tax excluded)
Apply at the Usuitouge Railway Heritage Park website

Comes with Original Clear File

Usuitouge Railway Heritage Park Free Tours & Experiences

13:00
EF63 preserved in a working condition
Boarding Experience & Maintenance Experience



Train Boarding Experience



[About the Maintenance Experience]

To ensure that the valuable train cars displayed at the park continue to be preserved for a long time, we hold events letting visitors experience painting and repairing these cars, as well as the repairs and inspections of the EF63 type electric locomotive preserved in a working condition here. This kind of work is usually done by professionals, but these events give visitors a special chance to experience it.



[EF63]
The EF63, an electric locomotive used exclusively in the Usuitouge Pass, debuted in 1963. It supported the operation of the Usui Line until the extension of the Hokuriku Shinkansen to Nagano on October 1, 1997. Now 4 cars are preserved in a working condition, and 3 cars are statically preserved, at Usuitouge Railway Heritage Park.

[EF63 Type Electric Locomotive Routine Repair Experience]

- Capacity / 10 People (Minimum of 5 for the event to be held)
- Participation Fee / 5,000 yen per Person (Tax excluded)
- Time Required / 60 - 90 minutes

[Preserved Train Car Painting and Cleaning Experience]

- (Actual train cars used are designated by the park)
- Capacity / 20 People (Minimum of 10 for the event to be held)
- Participation Fee / 3,000 yen per Person (Tax excluded)
- Time Required / 60 - 90 minutes

- Regarding your belongings - This work will dirty your clothes and belongings, so please prepare clothes that you do not mind getting dirty. Please inform us in advance if you need to change clothes. Please also bring cotton gloves and masks.
- Benefit - All participants are given a specially made "Maintenance Experience Completed" can badge from Usuitouge Railway Heritage Park.

Autumn Leave Illumination Boarding Experience on a Trolley Train [Old Maruyama Substation Round Trip]



- Capacity / 10 People (Minimum of 5 for the event to be held)
- Participation Fee / 3,000 yen per Person (Tax excluded)
- Time Required / Around 30 minutes

Visitors can ride a trolley train between Yokokawa and Karuizawa Stations, a route that was abandoned on September 30, 1997. The buildings and surrounding autumn leaves at the Old Maruyama Substation, designated as a Cultural Property, are illuminated, letting you feel the past.

*Note - The fallen leaves season illumination is operated past twilight, so visitors will return to Bunkamura Station close to closing time. Other attractions and shops may be closed around this time.

Yokokawa Station → Isobe Station
17:21

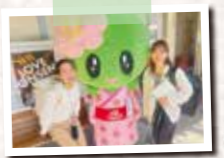
Isobe Hot Spring Hotel Isobe Garden Check In Stay at Isobe Hot Spring
18:00

An inn where the Japanese fable "The Tongue-Cut Sparrow" was born. Visitors can enjoy hot spring water that makes their skin smooth.

Day 2

Isobe Walk 9:00
Shin-Etsu Line Mystery Solving rally
③ Isobe Edition

After solving the mystery, guests are awarded a mystery solving completion present at the hotel.



Rack rails from the Abt. era, used in road gutters.

Isobe Station Disband Drop by the Isobe Senbei store near the station!