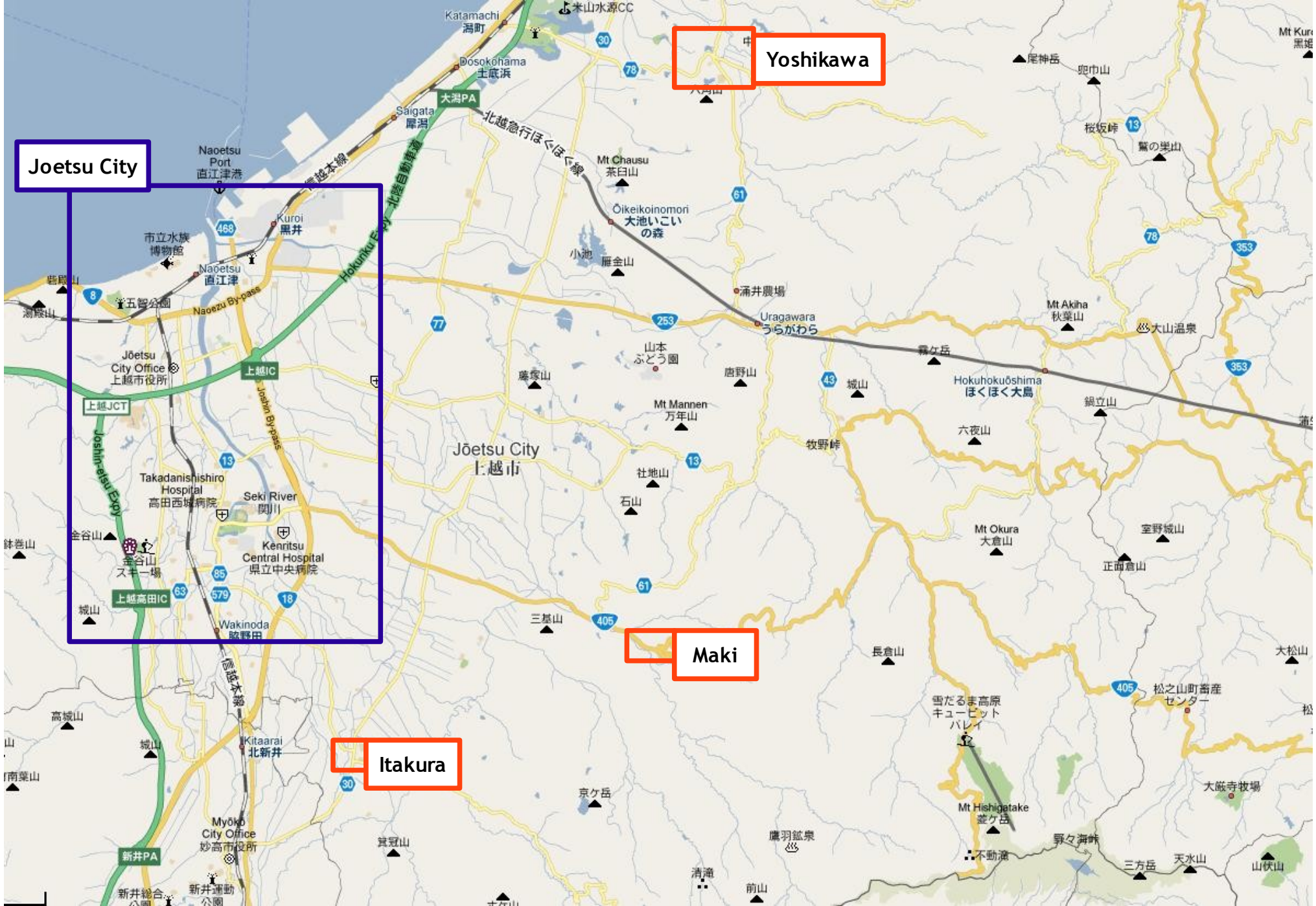


Joetsu Map Guide

A Guide to Joetsu. Using Maps. Obviously.

Most of this was put together by David Welsh, who apologises profusely for any mistakes contained herein.



Joetsu City

Yoshikawa

Maki

Itakura

Naoetsu Bypass
直江津バイパス
a.k.a. Route 8

Sanroku-sen
山麓線
a.k.a. Route 63

Joetsu Odori
上越大通り
a.k.a. Route 579



The main thoroughfares

There are three main routes in Joetsu, and they all run north-south, more or less parallel to each other.

The western one is the **Sanroku-sen (山麓線)**, which is called **Route 63** for most of its way through central Joetsu.

Dividing the west and central routes is the railway track, which runs parallel to them both.

The central one is **Joetsu Odori (上越大通り)**, called **Route 579** for much of its way.

Dividing the central and eastern routes is the Seki river, or **Sekikawa**.

The eastern one is the **Joetsu Bypass, or Route 18**.

If you follow any of these north, they will hit the **Naoetsu Bypass, or Route 8**, which runs east-west all the way along the coast of Niigata and beyond.

If you follow them south, the Sanroku-sen will end abruptly at the south end of Takada. Odori and Route 18 will eventually join up in Arai, and then both continue all the way down to Nagano.

Joetsu Bypass
上越バイパス
a.k.a. Route 18

West Naoetsu

- Joetsu's main railway station
- A beach
- An aquarium
- Ito Yokado, a fair-sized shopping center

Route 8

- A bowling alley
- A whole bunch of shops
- A whole bunch of eateries
- A whole bunch of traffic

Takada

- Takada Park
- Joetsu's other main railway station
- Nakamachi, where night life happens
- Shimin Plaza
- Tsutaya DVD rental store
- Many supermarkets and other shops
- Many quality eateries
- Also, KFC and McDonalds



East Naoetsu

- Ferry terminal
- Lots of industrial/port stuff

Central Joetsu

- Kyoiku Plaza
- Jusco, the largest shopping center in Joetsu
- Yamaya, the foreign food/drink store
- Musashi, the DIY/home/kitchen/craft store
- Many clothes stores
- Tsutaya DVD rental store
- Eateries aplenty

Cowboy / Joetsu Wing

- J-Max movie theater
- Several furniture stores
- Tsutaya DVD rental store
- A swanky but expensive *onsen*

Ferry terminal

Ferries to Sado Island, among other places.

Ferry times and other information can be found at:

<http://www.sadokisen.co.jp/jikoku/>

Other stuff

Naoetsu is a port city, so if you are into that sort of thing it can be fun to walk or cycle around. There is also a small observation tower on the top of the Ferry Terminal building, where the view is quite beautiful.



Funami Koen

A simple beach park with barbecue facilities. Also beach football and volleyball at the weekends during spring-summer.

Aquarium

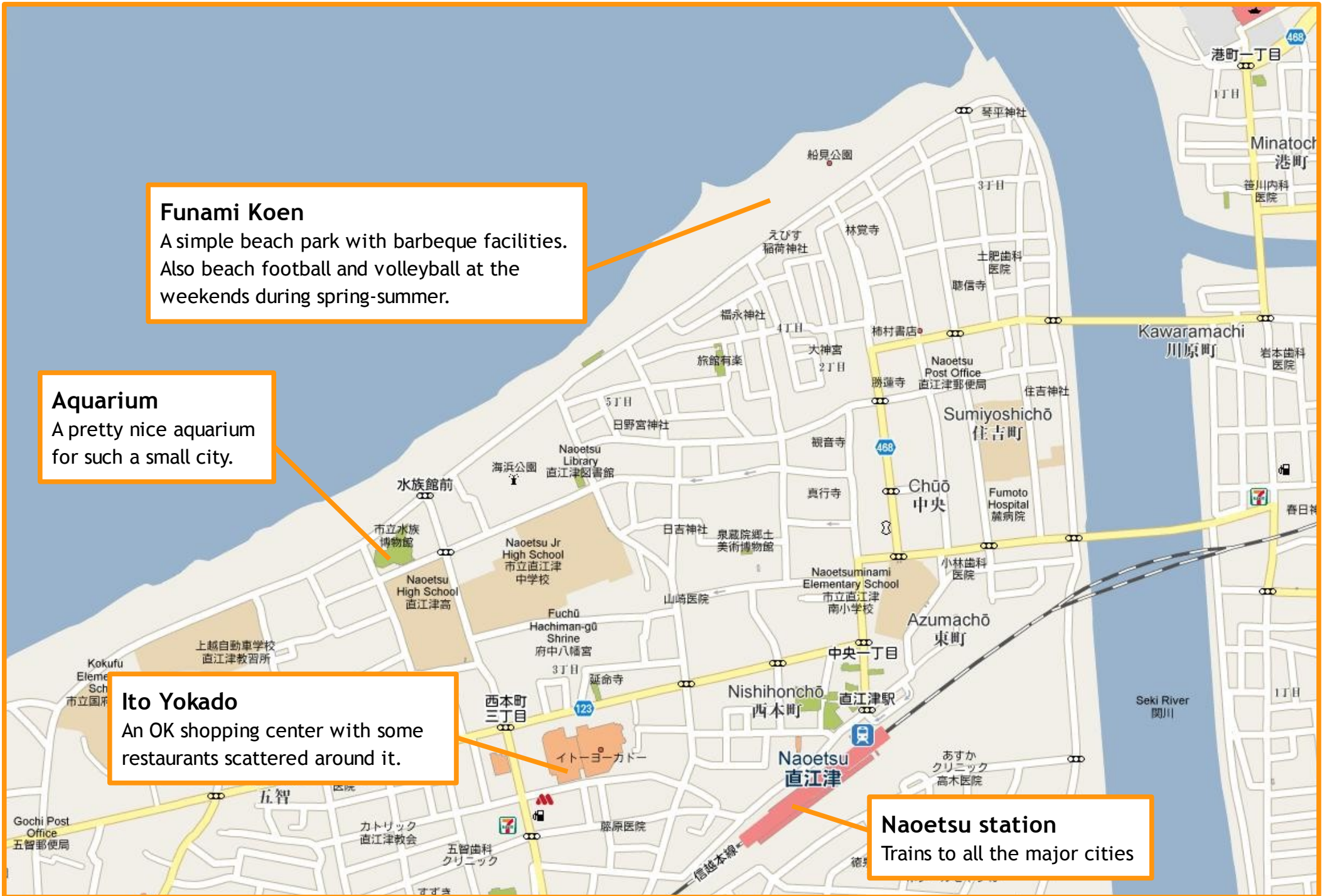
A pretty nice aquarium for such a small city.

Ito Yokado

An OK shopping center with some restaurants scattered around it.

Naoetsu station

Trains to all the major cities



Musashi

A home store - everything you need for your home, including furniture, tools, bathroom/kitchen stuff, art stuff, plants/flowers, bicycles, pets....

Kyoiku Plaza

Where ALTs gather for meetings

Yamaya

Foreign food & drink

Cannery Row

A common eating place for ALTs.

Region Plaza

A sports/leisure center with an ice rink and swimming pool, among many other things.

Tsutaya

Large DVD/CD/manga rental store.

Toda Books

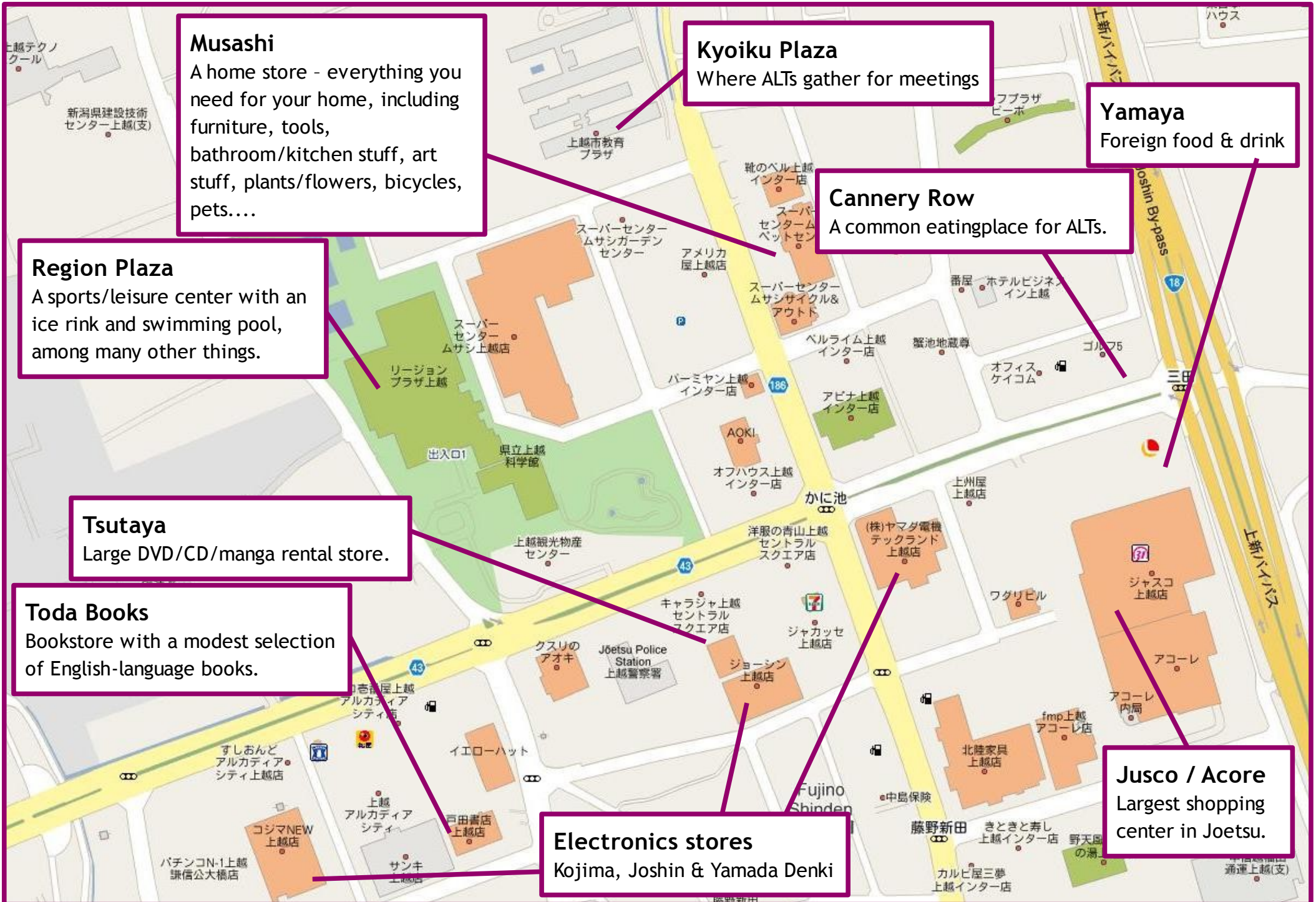
Bookstore with a modest selection of English-language books.

Electronics stores

Kojima, Joshin & Yamada Denki

Jusco / Acore

Largest shopping center in Joetsu.





Restaurants

All the way along the Joetsu portion of Route 8, there are dozens of restaurants, especially at the two big intersections.

Video One

DVD rental store, often much cheaper than Tsutaya

Joestu Leisure Land

Has a bowling alley, table tennis, billiards, air hockey, and things of that sort. Next door is a delicious *yakiniku* restaurant.

Super Sports Xebio

Sports supplies, from tennis racquets to ski wear.

Uniqlo

Affordable good-quality clothing store.

J-Max

An 8-screen multiplex movie theatre. Usually foreign movies come out in two versions simultaneously: the original version with Japanese subtitles, and a dubbed Japanese version.

Prices (as of 2010/7/26)

Regular ¥1800

Late show ¥1300
(movies that start after 20:30)

Ladies' Day ¥1000
(special price, for women only, every Wednesday)

Men's Day ¥1000
(special price, for men only, every Tuesday)

First Day ¥1000
(price for everyone on the first day of every month)

Mizusawa / Komeri

Furniture and interior decorating stores, often with quite good deals.

The Daisou

A huge hundred-yen store



Joetsu Interchange

One of two entrances in Joetsu to the expressway, which if navigated correctly can take you to every major city on the island. It is extremely fast, and rarely crowded, but is not free.

Tsutaya

DVD/CD/manga rental store

Hirasei Home Center

All manner of things for the home

Nunoya

Bedding, curtains, sheets and the like. Often extremely good value.

Joetsu Wing / Cowboy

A smorgasbord of various retail opportunities.

There is a luxurious and expensive *sento* (a man-made *onsen*), a couple of restaurants, and a massive shoe store (by which I mean a massive store of shoes, not a store selling massive shoes, which is a pity, as mine are 31cm)

Birds Inn Cafe
Steak house. Common eatingplace for ALTs.

Takada Station
Trains to almost everywhere.

Shimin Plaza
A place where various events (and the occasional ALT meeting) are held.

Has a giant picture of the earth and a slanted solar panel on its central tower.

It's just off the top of this map, but easy to spot if you follow the road north.

Nakamachi
Home to Joetsu's night life. Lots of small restaurants and a couple of clubs. And of course, karaoke.

Post Office
The main one in Joetsu, open 24/7 for mail-related things (not money transfers and the like; those are only available during regular business hours).

Takada Park
A beautiful park, home to various festivals throughout the year, and with the remnants of Takada Castle at its center.

