



Kanazawa is set to begin service for the Hokuriku Shinkansen in Spring 2015
~It will take only 2.5 hours to travel from Tokyo to Kanazawa~



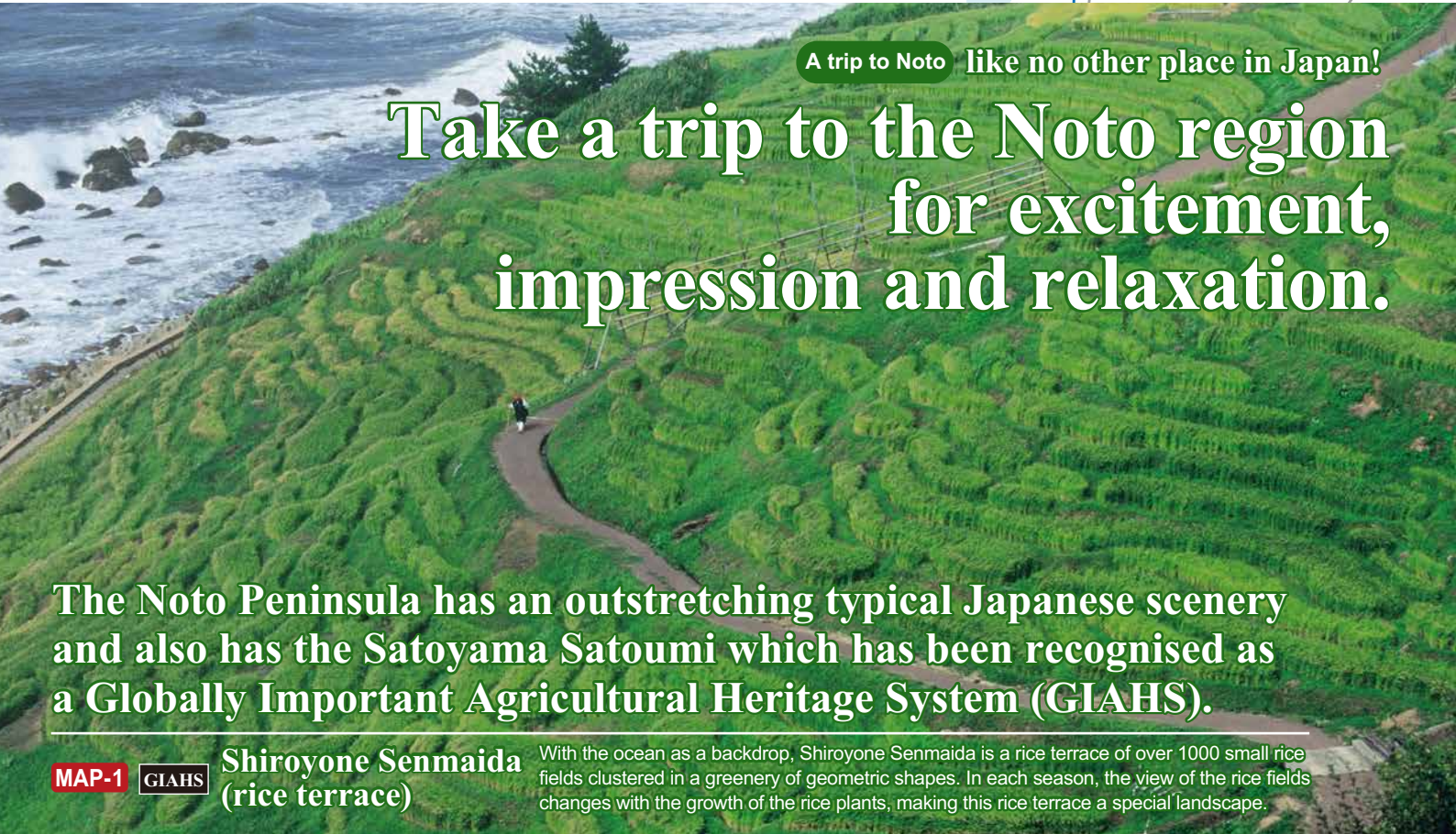
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2014 No. 24 Summer Edition

Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter



	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Sightseeing Model Course of Noto	▶ Sightseeing in Kanazawa	▶ Wakura Onsen	▶ Sightseeing at Hegurajima Island
	▶ Chirihama Nagisa Beach Driveway	▶ Sightseeing in Wajima (morning market, Wajima lacquerware, Senmaida rice terrace)	▶ Kanazawa
	▶ Stay at Wakura Onsen	▶ enjoy Gojinjo Daiko (Traditional drum)	
		▶ Stay at Wajima Onsen	



A trip to Noto like no other place in Japan!

Take a trip to the Noto region for excitement, impression and relaxation.

The Noto Peninsula has an outstretching typical Japanese scenery and also has the Satoyama Satoumi which has been recognised as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS).

MAP-1 GIAHS Shiroyone Senmaida (rice terrace)

With the ocean as a backdrop, Shiroyone Senmaida is a rice terrace of over 1000 small rice fields clustered in a greenery of geometric shapes. In each season, the view of the rice fields changes with the growth of the rice plants, making this rice terrace a special landscape.

Recommendation for summer!

Our recommendation for getting to Noto from Kanazawa is the Noto Satoyama Kaido drive course. The changing scenery of the coastline is impressive.



Chirihama Nagisa Beach Driveway. The only place in Japan where cars can drive on a sandy beach. You can even ride a bicycle on it. There is no greater feeling than riding a bicycle with sea breeze brushing against your cheeks.

MAP-3

MAP-2

Cycling

The Noto Peninsula has many nice places for cycling such as along the coastline. There has recently been a wave of tours for enthusiasts from Taiwan and Europe coming to Ishikawa.



- Rent-a-cycle: Wakura Onsen Tourism Association <http://www.wakura.or.jp/> (Japanese, English)
- Tour de Noto 400 – A cycling competition around the Noto Peninsula Coastline (Sep 13 – 15) <http://tour-de-noto.com/> (Japanese)

Getting to Noto

- Access to Noto From Tokyo
 - (by plane) Haneda → Noto Airport (60 minutes, 2 round trips per day)
 - Access to Wakura Onsen from Kanazawa
 - (JR Express) Kanazawa Station → Wakura Onsen Station (Around 50 minutes, 6 round trips per day (local train: 10 round trips per day))
 - JR West Japan Railway Company <https://www.westjr.co.jp/> (Japanese, English)
 - Access to Wajima from Kanazawa
 - (Hokutetsu Express Bus) Kanazawa Station → Wajima Eki-mae (Around 2 hours, 11 round trips per day)
 - Hokuriku Railroad <http://www.hokutetsu.co.jp/index.html> (Japanese)
 - Access to Wajima from Wakura Onsen
 - (Noto Railway) Wakura Onsen → Anamizu (30 minutes, 16 round trips per day)
 - Noto Railway <http://www.nototetsu.co.jp/> (Japanese)
 - (Hokutetsu Okunoto Bus) Anamizu → Wajima (40 minutes, 12 return trips per day) Wakura Onsen → Wajima (65 minutes, 3 return trips per day)
- Hokutetsu Okunoto Bus Tel: 0768-22-2314

Q Sights & Activities MAP-4

Wajima Asaichi Morning Market

Wajima Morning Market is one of the three largest morning markets in Japan which is over 1000 years old. The stalls are vibrant with its fresh seafood, seaweed, vegetables and conversations. (Closed every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month and at the beginning of the year)



Wajima (Lacquerware)

Lacquerware is one of the main traditional crafts of Japan. Crafting Wajima Lacquer involves a process with over 120 steps which the craftsmen pour their heart and soul into.

You can visit the craft studios and even take part in a workshop to create your very own pair of chopsticks as a memento of Japan.

<http://wajimanavi.lg.jp/www/index.jsp> (Japanese, English)



Food MAP-4

Noto-Don

Heaps of fresh local beef or seafood is piled on Koshihikari rice produced in Noto region.

■ Welcome to Okunoto
<http://www.okunoto-ishikawa.net/> (Japanese)



Summer Events MAP-4

Gojinjo Daiko (Traditional drum) Apr 26 – Nov 23 on weekends

*Jul 26 – Oct 31 performances every day. (No performance on Aug 30)

It is said that in 1576 when the war lord of the neighbouring state entered, the villagers who had no access to weapons put on masks made of tree skin, put seaweed in their hair and chased out the invaders by beating on a drum. You will be impressed by the resonating sound.



Time: 8:30pm – 8:50pm

Performance venue: Michi-no-Eki Wajima Furatto Homu

■ Enquiries Wajima Station Tourism Center (Tel: 0768-22-1503)

http://www.wajimaonsen.com/event/78/post_41.html (Japanese)

Wajima Taisai Festival Dates: Aug 22 (Fri) – 25 (Mon)

Kiriko lantern Festival – Gallant and wondrous summer festivals

Kiriko is the massive lanterns that are carried through the town streets with the Mikoshi portable shrines. The Kiriko Festivals are held from July to September across the Noto region.

Wajima Taisai Festival is one of the Kiriko Festivals, in which Kiriko lanterns are spun round and moved dynamically. At the last, the large torches are knocked over and it is a thrilling experience to see the young people pick up the Gohei strips amongst the flames.



Other than Wajima Taisai Festival, there are over a hundred Kiriko Festivals across the Noto Peninsula.
<https://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/english/attraction/events/index.html> (English, Japanese)

Hegurajima / Visit the island of the Ama divers MAP-5

With a perimeter of around 4km, Hegurajima Island is located approximately 50km North of Wajima. It has ideal fishing grounds and in summer (June – August) the fishers migrate and the female Ama divers pick abalone and turban shells.

This peaceful island is also a place where migratory birds from around the world come to migrate.

■ Enquiries: Hegura Kouro Co., Ltd
(Tel: 0768-22-4381) (90 minutes, 1 return trip per day).
<http://www11.ocn.ne.jp/~hegura/index.html> (Japanese)



Nanatsu-jima Island: This can be seen on the way to Hegurajima Island.

Ama divers

Ama divers are women that skin dive in the sea to pick abalone, turban shells and other shellfish and seaweed. Ama diver fishing from Wajima has a history that stretches back over 350 years.



Accommodation / Onsen (Hot-spring)

■ Wakura Onsen MAP-6
Wakura Onsen with its 1200 years of history brings a great sense of relaxation with its abundant nature and delicacies made from fresh ingredients from the mountains and sea. There are accommodations that cater for all guests' needs including inns that offer great views of the Nanao bay, an inn that has been ranked number one for over 30 consecutive years, and lodges that cater for families.
<http://www.wakura.or.jp/index.php> (Japanese, English)



■ Wajima Onsen MAP-4
Inns and lodges that have great views of the sun setting on the Ocean.
<http://www.wajimaonsen.com/index.shtml> (Japanese)

Summer Events

Katayamazu Onsen Fireworks Festival

MAP-7

[Access]
 (JR Train) Kanazawa Station → Kagaonsen Station (CAN bus) → Katayamazu Onsen

Held from July to September. Please refer to the website for dates and times.

<http://www.katayamazu-spa.or.jp/>
 (Japanese, English)



Platinum Route Tour

Kanazawa ⇄ Hakusan Super Rindo Forest Road ⇄
 World Heritage Shirakawa-go ⇄ Takayama

MAP-8

A tour that takes you from Hakusan Super Rindo Forest Road to the World Heritage Shirakawa-go and the old townscapes remaining in Takayama (Daily departures between Jun – early Nov).

White Ring Co.,Ltd
<http://www.whitering.jp/>
 (Japanese, English)



What's New

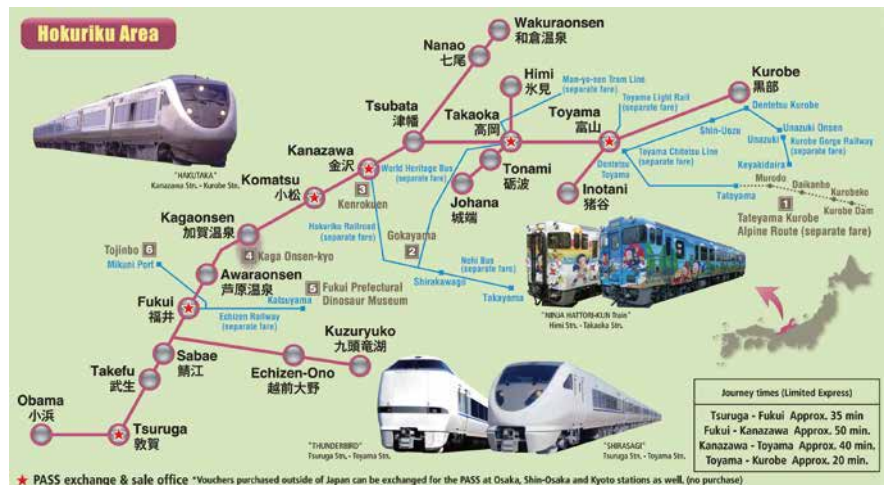
Hokuriku Area Pass

The JR-WEST RAIL PASS (Hokuriku Area Pass) allows you to freely get on and get off any JR train in the Hokuriku area and is on sale for a limited time. Individual tour is easier than ever!

*With this Hokuriku Area Pass, you can get unlimited rides on unreserved seating on the Limited express, rapid service and local trains within Hokuriku area for 4 days
 You will receive benefits with presentation of the Hokuriku Area Pass.

■ Period of use: May 1 (Thu) 2014 – Feb 28 (Sat) 2015

JR West
http://www.westjr.co.jp/press/article/2014/02/page_5157.html
 (Japanese, English)



Science Hills Komatsu

MAP-9

The newly opened facility houses a 3D theatre showing a planetarium program and offers advanced and natural science hands-on experiences. Recommended for educational trip as well as sightseeing.

■ Access: Around 10 minutes by car from Komatsu Airport, 3 minutes by foot from JR Komatsu Station east exit

<http://science-hills-komatsu.jp/>
 (Japanese)



Kanazawa Gyokusentei

MAP-10

Taste delicious gourmet food whilst viewing the garden park that took around 100 years to complete during the Edo period at the garden restaurant.

■ Address : Kosyomachi8-3, Kanazawa

<http://www.gyokusen-tei.jp/index.html>
 (Japanese)



Watch & Listen Popular music clip

WORLD ORDER "THIS IS LIFE"

WORLD ORDER is a popular dance group dressed in typical Japanese business suits and slick back hair styles that perform popular animation dances. In "THIS IS LIFE", they perform unique dances to original music in various locations in Ishikawa.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQosBq6B9hU>



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Coming soon – Ishikawa prefecture's Facebook page

"Welcome to Ishikawa (Tentative name)"
 A community page is currently being created which will allow users to easily access tourist information on Ishikawa. We will let you know when the sight is opened, so look forward to it in the meantime.

Thank you for reading. Please send us anything that you would like us to feature in the Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter and your feedback.