

2017
No.38
Winter

Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter

Recommended Winter Events and Information

Introducing spots perfect for enjoying winter, and fun winter activities.

Delicious Winter Food and Drink

Kanazawa Oden



Oden is a popular winter meal across Japan. Some ingredients unique to Kanazawa include sea snail, kurumafu (a donut-like piece of wheat bran), and especially kani-men, a local delicacy which has been becoming more well-known and popular in recent years and consists of a crab shell stuffed with crab flesh and innards.

1

Oysters



Oysters grown in the Noto peninsula are known for being small, but meaty and sweet. Try eating them in winter when they are at their most delicious and nutritious, and enjoy their rich flavor. In winter, oyster festivals are held throughout the Noto peninsula where you can eat fresh oysters cooked on charcoal grills.

2

Local Sake



Try Ishikawa's delicious local sake, made with water sourced from the pure mountain streams of Mt. Hakusan and rice harvested from the rich soil of Ishikawa's fields. It's a perfect match with Ishikawa's fresh seafood. The sake made by breweries in the Noto peninsula (which are counted among Japan's Four Great Sake Breweries) is particularly well-known as one of the best Ginjōshu-style sakes in the country, and is lauded for its rich yet clean flavor. The sake brewing process starts in winter, so it's the perfect time to visit a brewery to see how sake is made and try some for yourself.

Yellowtail



Yellowtail caught in winter off the coast of the Noto peninsula are exquisite, featuring firm flesh marbled with fat. They are of course delicious as shushi or sashimi, but also when cooked with daikon. They can even be fried and eaten whole, meaning you can enjoy the delicious taste of every part of the fish. In Japanese, the yellowtail is called different names as it matures, and as such is associated with growth and good fortune.

2

Sweet Shrimp



Snow crabs caught in Ishikawa, called Kanō-gani, are known for their meaty bodies and sweet and rich flavor. The innards and eggs of the female crabs, called Kōbako-gani, are particularly delicious, and are rich with savory flavor.

Crab



December to March Only

Shirakwagō Day Trip Bus Tour

Travel from Kanazawa Station to Shirakwagō, a UNESCO world heritage site in just over an hour (one-way). The trip includes a healthy lunch including soba, mountain greens, and hōba-miso, a traditional local dish from nearby Hida made by grilling a mix of vegetables, mushrooms, and miso on top of a magnolia leaf. A handmade sembei-making activity is also included, as well as plenty of free time to allow you to explore at your own pace.

Image provided by Gifu Prefecture Shirakawa Village Office

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Cost: Middle-School Age and Up: ¥7,800, Elementary Schoolers: ¥6,800
Date of Departure: Every Saturday (from December 2nd 2017 to March 31st 2018)
Schedule: Departure from Kanazawa Station at 9:30, return to Kanazawa Station at 15:45
English Availability: English-speaking staff available by request at time of reservation
Inquiries: <http://whitring.co.jp/index.html>

Kanazawa Castle Park and Kenrokuen Garden Light-up

From Friday, February 9th to Tuesday February 20th, Kanazawa Castle Park and Kenrokuen Garden will be lit up at night, allowing visitors to view the magical scenery of Kanazawa at night covered by a blanket of snow.

1



Kaga-tobi Ladder Acrobatics

Kaga-tobi ladder acrobatics were originally used by firemen in the Edo period to quickly climb ladders to view the area around a fire from above in order to more effectively direct firefighting efforts on the ground. That technique has been passed down to this day, and every year in early January many locals gather to see firefighters perform this daring acrobatic display.

Date and time: From 10:00, Sunday, January 7th
 Location: Kanazawa Castle Park Shinmaru Square
 Access: 20min by bus from Kanazawa Station, get off at Kenrokuen-shita bus stop, then 5min walking

1

Takuhatsu

The training is planned to last from January 5th to February 3rd.

Tōkōzan Daijōji Temple
 Address: 〒921-8114 Ishikawa-ken, Kanazawa-shi, Nagasakamachi, Ru-10
<http://www.daijōji.or.jp/index.html>

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Kangyō Takuhatsu is a special winter training exercise undertaken by Buddhist monks in training for one month without rest during the coldest part of the year. The monks must walk door-to-door, reciting sutras at the entrance of each household. The sight of these monks walking in the cold wearing the age-old traditional garb of zen monks, straw sandals, and their conical wicker hats is an iconic winter sight.

Daihonzan Sōjijiso-in Temple
 〒927-2156 Ishikawa Prefecture, Wajima, Monzenmachi, Monzen 1-18-1
<http://www.wannet.jp/noto-soin/>

2

Winter Spots

Kaga Kamoike Pond Observation Building

Ishikawa is known across the country for being a region where one can see many migratory birds. Katano Kamoike Pond is a particularly common spot for migratory waterfowl to stop, and every year during the peak period from early November to the end of February thousands of ducks and geese come to spend the winter there. The pond is protected under the Ramsar Convention as a waterfowl habitat of international importance. Saka-amiryō is a traditional method of hunting waterfowl that has been passed down since the age of the samurai, in which a net is thrown into the air to capture ducks in flight. The ducks hunted using this gun-free method are delicious, and duck-based cooking is a local Kaga specialty.



Cost: Adults: 310, High Schoolers and younger: Free
 Hours of Operation: 9:00-17:00
 Access: 30min via CANBUS from JR Kaga-onsen Station, get off at Kamoike Kansatsukan bus stop
 Inquiries: http://tabimati.net/midokoro/detail_kanko.php?p=931

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News

Opening of New Interpreter Guide Search Website in Kanazawa

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This new website allows you to search for interpreters and volunteer guides on specific dates. The site features self-introductions by the guides as well as their contact information, so you can get in touch and make a reservation.

<https://www.kanazawaguide.jp/>

Experience Traditional Culture at New Hotel Kumu Kanazawa

Kumu Kanazawa, a new hotel designed with the concept of connecting Kanazawa's traditional culture with the future in mind, has opened in central Kanazawa, near Kenrokuen Garden and Ōmichō market. Various displays and events by traditional craft workers, artists, tea ceremony masters, and Buddhist monks are planned to be held in the public space inside the hotel, in an effort to spread culture both domestically and abroad.

Room Cost: One Room (fits up to four people) ¥18,000-24,000
 Access: 20min walking from Kanazawa Station Alternatively, 7min by bus from Kanazawa Station, get off at Minami-cho Oyama Shrine bus stop
<https://www.thesharehotels.com/kumu/>

1

Ishikawa's Iconic Winter Scenery

In Ishikawa, you can wash away the stress of day-to-day life in a hot spring while viewing beautiful winter scenery. In the Noto peninsula you can view snow falling over the rough waters of the Sea of Japan, while in Kaga you can look out over the snow-covered forests and valleys intertwining, all from the comfort of a bath.

Wakura Onsen, a hot spring with gorgeous views of the sea
Yamanaka and Ichirino hot springs, where you can view snowy vistas from your bath

Hot Springs

**Private Bath with
Hearth-Cooked Meal
Day Trip**



Ichirino Onsen Roan

Roan's private bath and hearth-cooked food are popular with visitors, and in winter you can enjoy looking out on the snow while bathing. Day trip plans are also available. The hearth-cooked meal includes a wide variety of carefully selected ingredients such as char, Japanese beef, wild game, firm tofu from Hakusan, mountain greens, and various organic vegetables.

<http://www.ichirino.jp/>

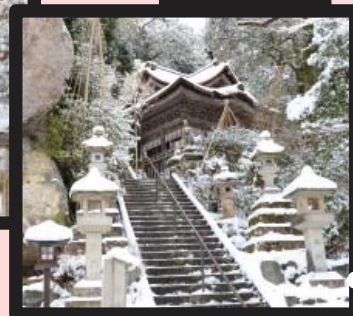
3



Natadera Temple

Natadera temple is famous for its autumn leaves, but it's equally beautiful covered by a blanket of snow.

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Kenrokuen Garden



Enjoy walking through Kenrokuen in the snow. The Yukizuri in particular are a must-see.

1

Scenic Winter Spots

Senmaida



The sight of the terraced rice paddies of Senmaida covered in snow set against the backdrop of the Sea of Japan is not to be missed, especially at night when the paddies are illuminated.

2

Magaki Fence



The Magaki fence is a ~5m tall fence made from split timber bamboo placed together with no gaps located in Wajima. It is used to protect homes by blocking the cold winds that blow in from the ocean in winter, and blocking the setting sun in summer.

2

