

ISHIKAWA TOURISM NEWSLETTER

#61
Winter
2024

Special
Edition

Foods and activities to enjoy
experience this winter in Ishikawa.

In this issue, we'll take you on a tour of winter
foods and activities in Ishikawa!

EXPERIENCE ISHIKAWA IN THE WINTER

Kenroku-en Garden

At Kenroku-en garden, the beauty in the changing of the season is on full display. During the winter they receive many visitors.

The main attraction during this season is Karasaki no Matsu.

In order to protect tree branches from the damp, heavy snow that is so common to the Hokuriku region of Japan, ropes are used to suspend the branches in a practice called Yukitsuri. This adds structural support and gives the trees a conical silhouette, which has become emblematic of the arrival of winter. Whether or not there is any snowfall, Yukitsuri is well worth seeing.

During winter, Kenroku-en hosts a nighttime illumination that gives visitors the chance to see the Yukitsuri bathed in bright, golden light.

Illumination dates: February 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd 2025

Entrance from 18:00 – 20:45 (closing at 21:00)



Nakaya Ukichiro Museum of Snow and Ice

Nakaya Ukichiro (1900-1962), a native to Katayamazuru Onsen in Kaga City, was a scientist who specialized in snow, and is known for composing the refrain “snow is a message from the heavens”. He was a pioneer in the research of snow and ice, and was the first person in the world to produce artificial snow crystals.

The Nakaya Ukichiro Museum of Snow and Ice celebrates Dr. Nakaya’s contributions and introduces visitors to what he was like as a person. Through trying out experiments and watching videos visitors can have fun, while they unravel the mysteries of snow and ice. The building is a unique design by Isozaki Arata, sporting rows of hexagonal towers. It features a tearoom with a view of Mt. Hakusan overlooking Lake Shibayama-gata, and a courtyard paved with stones from Greenland that is filled with artificial fog. It is truly a sight to behold.



Hakusan Ichirino Onsen Ski Resort (SAM Hakusan)

Hakusan Ichirino Onsen Ski Resort boasts the largest ski slopes in Ishikawa Prefecture. There are slopes for a wide range of levels, from beginners to advanced.

The “Kids Park” and “Fureai Slope” have moving walkways for beginners uncomfortable with traditional ski lifts. These are recommended for children and those who are trying skiing or snowboarding for the first time.

Visitors can also enjoy other snow activities like sledding and tubing.



Hakusan Snow Festival

In the districts of Kuwajima and Shiramine, located at the foot of Mt. Hakusan, residents fill the area with snowmen of all different sizes. Come nightfall, they light candles placed in small openings at the bases of the snowmen, creating a magical aura about the area. There will also be a number of food stalls set up, selling mostly famous local foods.

Date & Time: 16:00 – 21:00 Friday, 7th February 2025

Location: Shiramine, Hakusan City



THE JOYS OF ISHIKAWA'S WINTER FOODS



Kanazawa Oden

Kanazawa Oden has been highly popular in recent years. People can be seen queuing up in long lines, waiting to eat at popular oden restaurants, in particular over the fall and winter months. Kanazawa oden is known for its delicate, slightly sweet flavor, and a broth made primarily from kelp, dried bonito flakes, and dried sardines. In particular, the use of Ono soy sauce from Kanazawa adds just the right amount of sweetness and richness to the broth, enhancing its refined flavor. This broth absorbs the umami of the ingredients and has a delicate flavor that can be drunk in its entirety.

This is the oden loved by the citizens of Kanazawa, a city of people who have discerning palates thanks to the city being blessed with an abundance of seafood and mountain vegetables.

When you visit Kanazawa, oden and a local beer is a must try.



Kanazawa Port Iki-iki fish market

Omicho Market is one of the most famous markets in Ishikawa Prefecture, but did you know that there is another market frequented by locals?

It's called Kanazawa Port Iki-iki Fish Market.

At Kanazawa Port Iki-iki Fish Market, fishermen open their stores and sell fresh seafood such as snow crabs and sweet shrimp (ama-ebi), which are representative of Kanazawa, and the Hokuriku region more broadly.

This is a lesser known market, so you shouldn't expect the crowds of tourists you might see at Omicho Market, where shoppers can purchase fish caught locally, in Ishikawa's rich waters.



Yamato Koji Park

Yamato Soy Sauce Miso is committed to carefully crafting products to help spread the word about fermented food culture in Kanazawa and Ono. The power of malting is on full display here, so why don't you come and give it a taste!

In addition to soy sauce, miso, and malted rice, there is also a bar and a cafe that serves cheesecake and other deserts. You can also enjoy making miso balls, try out a hand-bath. You can come and enjoy the park on your own or in a group.



Fukumitsuya (brewery tour)

Founded in 1625, Fukumitsuya is Kanazawa's oldest sake brewery. Fukumitsuya is a junmai brewery which combines both high quality sake rice and water, with traditional techniques that have been passed down for 400 years to brew their sake.

Their "Inside the Brewery" tour (available only during the brewing season) allows visitors to see the actual brewing process up close, the "Sake Tasting" tour allows visitors to taste a variety of unique junmai sake.

Group bookings can be made at least 3 months in advance.

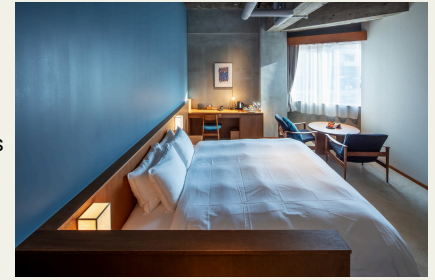


Newly Opened!

●Hotel AO KANAZAWA



Hotel Ao Kanazawa lies in the heart of the Kanazawa City, in the beautiful area of Kenroku-en Shita. It was originally built in 1966 as a 6-storey building. The exterior retains the appearance of those days gone by, while the interior has been reconstructed and renovated and is now a high-quality, comfortable, and functional place to stay for the guests. There is a total of 15 rooms with 7 different room types to choose from. During the day explore the bounties of Kanazawa, this treasure trove of culinary delights, to your heart's content, and at night, come back to relax and sleep in the comfort of your hotel room at Hotel Ao Kanazawa.



● Onsen & Garden Nana (Kanazawa)



Have you ever wanted to have an open air onsen, nestled in the wilderness of Ishikawa's Satoyama landscape all to yourself? At this 200 year old kominka hotel & restaurant they provide just that. Day visitors are welcome, and their restaurant serves a delicious wild game lunch. Immerse yourself in nature and experience the revitalizing waters of this small hilltop onsen.

The hotel also features a breast-feeding room, a diaper changing space, a universal toilet, a prayer room for Muslim guests, and a children's area.



●Yunomachi Kaga



On the 1st of December 2024, Yunomachi Kaga, a facility with tourist information, and restaurants, opened at Kagaonsen Station.

Currently the facility features a craft beer store, a café and udon/soba noodle store, and a convenience store called "Omiyageka Kaga" that sells a wide variety of souvenirs. In addition, there is a shared space called "Ekinowa" available for use as a place for people to come together. It features a shared kitchen, and will be used for pop-up stores to open as well.

After the opening of Kagaonsen Station last March, it's exciting to its evolution into a more and more useful and lively place.



News

●Revisiting the Achievements of World-Renowned Architect Yoshio Taniguchi

Revisiting the Achievements of World-Renowned Architect Yoshio Taniguchi

World-renowned architect Yoshio Taniguchi (1937-2024), who was associated with Kanazawa, and who was responsible for designing the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, USA, passed away in December. Yoshio Taniguchi was born in Tokyo, the eldest son of Kanazawa-born architect Yoshiro Taniguchi, and spent three years of his childhood evacuated to Yoshiro's birthplace in Teramachi, Kanazawa. After graduating from Keio University, he moved to the United States to study architecture at Harvard University. In addition to the Kanazawa City Tamagawa Library, which he co-designed with his father Yoshiro, Ishikawa Prefecture is home to 3 other buildings of his design; D.T. Suzuki Museum (2011), which, through its architecture embodies the ideas of the world-renowned Buddhist philosopher to whom it's dedicated; Katayamazu Onsen So-yu (2012) which overlooks Shibayamagata lagoon; the Yoshiro and Yoshio Taniguchi Museum of Architecture, Kanazawa (2019), developed on the site of Yoshiro's birthplace. Simple, beautiful, modern, yet respectful of Japanese tradition, It will be a long time before Taniguchi's architecture is forgotten; it will stand as a model for architects and architecture students in Ishikawa Prefecture, where both past and present live together. The current exhibition at the Kanazawa Architectural Museum, "Kodatsuno, The New Creative Point for Knowledge and the Arts" (see QR code on the right), was proposed by Yoshio and focuses on the architecture of two public buildings: the Ishikawa Prefectural Library, now the most visited library in Japan, and the Kanazawa College of Art, which was built in front of it.

Incidentally, architect Mitsuru Senda, who designed the Ishikawa Prefectural Library, studied architecture under Yoshio's his father, Yoshiro Taniguchi, at Tokyo Institute of Technology, and had a long friendship with Yoshio Taniguchi.

This summer, an exhibition of Taniguchi's architecture will be held at the Museum of Architecture. If you are interested in architecture, why not plan a trip to Ishikawa Prefecture focused on learning about architecture?



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