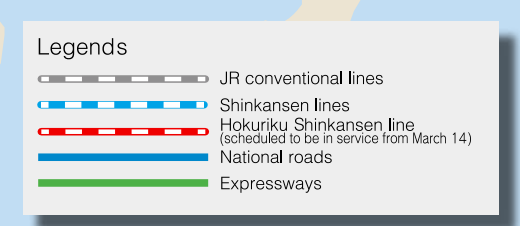


Ishikawa Prefecture – where you can enjoy the four seasons of Japan

Surrounded on three sides by the ocean, and with Mt. Hakusan, one of Japan's three most sacred mountains, Ishikawa Prefecture is blessed with abundant nature. Its seasonal beauty includes cherry blossoms in spring, the sea in summer, colored leaves in autumn, and snow in winter. Its bountiful natural features can be seen in the Satoyama and Satoumi of Noto, which was the first area among the developed nations that was designated as a site of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). Furthermore, there are an abundance of attractions characteristic of Japan, including a food culture nurtured by the abundance of nature, many hot springs that are counted as some of the best in Japan, and traditional culture fostered by the history of Kaga Hyakumangoku.



Onsen (Hot Springs)

Ishikawa has many Onsen from large-scale Onsen resorts to small spas in the mountains, each Onsen with its own special ambience and feel for you to enjoy. Mostly founded about 1300 years ago, the Onsen in Ishikawa are nationally famous for their history and high status. So how about visiting some of these Onsen and have a relaxing and soothing spa?

Getting to and from Ishikawa		
By Plane	By Train	By Bus
Komatsu - Seoul 1:40 h	Kanazawa - Tokyo (by Hokuriku Shinkansen) 2:28 h (minimum)	Kanazawa - Tokyo 7:52 h
Komatsu - Shanghai 2:10 h	Kanazawa - Tokyo (via Echigo-Yuzawa) 3:47 h	Kanazawa - Nagoya 3:57 h
Komatsu - Taipei 3:00 h	Kanazawa - Tokyo (via Maibara) 4:12 h	Kanazawa - Osaka 4:40 h
Komatsu - Tokyo (Narita) 1:20 h	Kanazawa - Osaka 2:30 h	Kanazawa - Takayama 2:10 h
Komatsu - Tokyo (Haneda) 1:05 h	Kanazawa - Nagoya 2:25 h	Kanazawa - Shirakawa-go 1:15 h
Noto - Tokyo (Haneda) 1:05 h	Kanazawa - Kyoto 2:30 h	Kanazawa - Kyoto 4:30 h
	Kanazawa - Kansai International Airport 3:22 h	

Land of Traditional Arts & Crafts

In Edo Period, Kaga Province (today's Ishikawa) put in great efforts to promote the developments of various cultures, as it was one of the richest provinces of Japan. Especially, various arts & crafts took a giant leap forward and the magnificent techniques developed in those times are still preserved today. These traditional arts and crafts are a source of great pride for the people of Ishikawa Prefecture.



Kutaniyaki Pottery
Kutaniyaki pottery is famous for its daring designs and elegant colors. It has been exported to foreign countries for about 100 years and has gained great popularity.

Wajima Lacquerware
These lacquerware items are representative traditional Japanese lacquerware with a solid feeling and an elegant beauty. 100 processes are required in finishing an item and each one is made carefully by hand.

Yamanaka Lacquerware
The major feature of Yamanaka Lacquerware is the manner in which the natural beauty of the grain of the wood is most prominently preserved. This requires great skills with the traditional revolving wheel saw.

Kanazawa Gold Leaf
Over 99% of the gold leaf made in Japan is made in Kanazawa. It is less than 1/10,000 mm in thickness and a high level of technical expertise is required to make it.

Kaga Yuzen Silk Dyeing
Kaga Yuzen Silk Dyeing is a representative traditional Japanese dyeing art. The designs render natural beauty realistically and are described to possess a samurai-style serene elegance.

Japanese Performing Arts & Culture in Ishikawa

Noh
Noh-gaku music, which is one of the most representative performing arts of Japan, has been enjoyed by the local lords and dignitaries in Kanazawa since the Edo Period. The Hoshō-ryū school of Noh was especially favored. It has since evolved and become widely known as Kaga Hoshō that continues to prosper even today.

The Tea Ceremony
The tea ceremony, once a required accomplishment for the samurai warrior class, is still loved by many who regard it as one of the important cultural accomplishments. The distinguished tea ceremony of Japan continues to prosper in Ishikawa where there are a lot of tea houses holding various activities and events connected with the tea ceremony.

A Treasure House of Delicious Cuisine

Besides Mt. Hakusan and the Sea of Japan, one will also find large Plains of Kaga in Ishikawa Prefecture. Being blessed with such natural environments, a huge variety of food ingredients is available all year round to create wonderful cuisines and dishes.



Wagashi (Japanese Sweets)
The Ishikawa area is famous throughout Japan for producing Japanese traditional sweets that is connected with the tea ceremony.

Local Sake of Ishikawa
Ishikawa is blessed with good rice and water and is one of the most famous "sake" producing areas in Japan. Sake making is at its peak during the winter months.

Sushi
Blessed with assorted fresh seafood in the Prefecture, Ishikawa has numerous famous sushi restaurants that earned great praises from the Nation.

"Kaga Kaiseki Ryori" (Kaga traditional cuisines)

The biggest characteristics of the traditional Kaga cuisine is that customers can enjoy the delicious dishes while taking pleasure in viewing the special plates and bowls that serves the cuisines, which include the beautiful lacquerware with detailed decorations of gold leaves, as well as the gorgeous and noble Kutaniyaki Porcelains. Furthermore, you can enjoy the various traditional dishes of Ishikawa that are made with locally produced vegetables and ingredients. Jibuni, for instance, is a typical local dish. It is a stew where juicy duck meat, "Sudare-fu", Japanese mushrooms and other ingredients are stewed with soy sauce, sugar and wine. Be sure to give it a try when you visit Kanazawa.



Tourist Information

Ishikawa Prefecture
Kanazawa Tourist Information Center
JR Kanazawa Station ; R0-1 Hirooka-machi, Kanazawa-City

076-232-3933

Hours: 9:00-19:00
Open everyday except for end of the year holidays 12/31-1/2

Accommodation Information

Ishikawa Prefecture Hotel & Lodging Association 076-263-5777
Kanazawa Ryokan & Hotel Cooperative Association 076-221-1147

- sightseeing, lodging guide
- information on tourist sites
- sightseeing information supported by the internet
- information on traditional handicrafts

(2014年11月現在)



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<http://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/english/index.html> English



FESTIVALS

Abare Matsuri (Fire Festival)

The Noto "Kiriko" Festivals

Many festivals take place on the Noto Peninsula during the summer. The center of attraction for many of these festivals is the "Kiriko" sacred lanterns that are approximately 10m in height. These great lanterns are carried through the streets by young people and dance wildly through the night sky. The Noto Town "Abare Festival" (July) and the Nanao City "Issaki Hoto Festival" (August) are especially heroic and magnificent in nature.

There are many types of traditional festivals: festivals in spring to pray for abundant crops; festivals in summer requesting for safety at sea and the blessing of the sea; festivals in autumn to express gratitude for a good harvest; and festivals in winter to drive away evil spirits and bring luck and safety for the New Year. The seasonal festivals in Ishikawa provide the energy and prayers necessary for everyone to live and work harmoniously.

Festival Almanac

January	New Year Performance by Kanazawa City Firefighters	Kanazawa City
February	Takewari Matsuri (Bamboo-Splitting Festival)	Kaga City
March	Noto Yukiwariso Matsuri Festival Monzen Town, Wajima city	
April	Asanogawa River Yuenkai Festival Kanazawa City	
May	Kutaniyaki Porcelain Festival Terai Town, Nomi City	
	Seihakusai Festival Nanao City	
June	Shobuyu Matsuri Festival Yamanaka, Yamashiro, Katayamazu, Awazu Onsen	
July	Nafune Taisai Festival Wajima City	
August	Yamashiro Daidengaku Performance Wajima Onsen	
	Wajima Taisai Festival Wajima city	
September	Okuma-Kabuto Matsuri Festival Nakajima Town, Nanao City	
	Koi Koi Matsuri Festival Yamanaka Onsen	
Ocotber	Horai Matsuri Festival Tsurugi Town, Hakusan City	
	Don Don Matsuri Festival Komatsu City	
November	Bakko Matsuri Festival Naka-Noto Town	
December	Ski Season Opens for Ski Resorts at Mt. Hakusan Hakusan City	
	Sojiji Temple New Year Event "Yuku-toshi Kuru-toshi" Wajima City	

Kanazawa Hyakumangoku Festival

Kanazawa Hyakumangoku Festival is held in commemoration of Lord Maeda Toshie's entry into Kanazawa castle on 14th June, 1583 which laid the foundations of the present day Kanazawa. The main attraction of this Festival is a gorgeous and dazzling parade. Many other traditions of Kanazawa that have been handed down for 400 years are also on display.

Period	First Sat. & Sun. of June (Every year) (Hyakumangoku Parade is held on Saturday from 14:00 to 18:10.)
Location	Central part of Kanazawa (JR Kanazawa Station East Exit - Kanazawa City Hall - Kanazawa Castle Park)



Kaga Yuzen Toro Nagashi (Lantern Floating Ceremony)

This Ceremony displays the appreciation of the people towards Asanogawa River, which played an important role in the traditions of Kaga Yuzen Silk Dyeing. The Ceremony is also carried out in the remembrance of the works of past authors and to pray for the traditional arts and crafts industry to further prosper into the future.

Period	First Friday of June, 19:00-21:00
Location	Asanogawa riverside (close to Hashiba-cho koban-mae Bus Stop)



KANAZAWA AREA



金沢

Kanazawa, which was once a feudal castle town, is home to Kenroku - en Garden - one of the three most famous gardens in Japan - as well as many historic districts and cultural assets. It is also the main city of the Hokuriku region that brings together the best of the old and the new.



4 Omi-cho Market

Omicho is known as "Ishikawa's Kitchen". There are about 180 shops selling fresh fish, vegetables, fruits and meat. The busiest time for these shops is the winter time when winter delicacies such as Amaebi (Sweet shrimp) and Zuwaigani (Snow crab) are available.

Hours	9:00-18:00
Access	10 minutes by bus from JR Kanazawa Station. Get down at Musashi-ga-Tsuji

5 Kenroku - en Garden

Being one of the 3 Great Gardens of Japan, Kenrokuen is also designated as a National Special Place of Scenic Beauty. Visitors can enjoy the unique scenery of the Garden which changes with each passing season.

Hours	3/1-10/15: 7:00-18:00 10/16-End of February: 8:00-17:00 Open All Year Round
Admission	Adults: ¥310 Children: ¥100
Access	15 minutes by bus from JR Kanazawa Station. Get down at Kenrokuen Garden. 1 minute walk from the stop.



6 Kanazawa Castle Park

Surrounded by greenery, this Park is a symbol of Kanazawa Castle's historical and cultural heritage. The structures such as Hishi-yagura, Gajikken-nagaya, Hashizumemon tsuzuki-yagura were restored and are known as the biggest wooden structures constructed after Meiji Period (1868-1912).

Hours	3/1-10/15: 7:00-18:00 10/16-End of February: 8:00-17:00 Open All Year Round
Admission	Adults: ¥310 Children: ¥100 (Hishi-yagura etc)
Access	15 minutes by bus from JR Kanazawa Station. Get down at Kenrokuen Garden. 1 minute walk from the stop.



Three Teahouse Districts (Chaya-gai) of Kanazawa 1 Higashi (East) Chaya, 2 Nishi (West) Chaya, 3 Kazue-machi Chaya Teahouse Districts

These 3 Teahouse Districts still preserve an exotic atmosphere typical of Kanazawa's traditions. Especially, Higashi Teahouse District, which is the biggest among the three is said to equal Kyoto's Gion Teahouse District in status.

Access	[Higashi Chaya-gai/Kazue-machi Chaya-gai] 15 minutes by bus from JR Kanazawa Station. Get down at Hashiba-cho Bus Stop. [Nishi Chaya-gai] 14 minutes by bus from JR Kanazawa Station. Get down at Hirokoji Bus Stop.
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Experience Japanese style entertainment



7 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

This Museum focuses on the modern day art and is situated in the center of Kanazawa. The Museum offers a visitor friendly atmosphere where one will look forward to interesting encounters and experiences.

Hours	10:00-18:00 (Free Zone:9:00-22:00;Fri. & Sat.: 09:00-20:00) Mondays
Closed	
Admission	Adults: ¥360
Access	10 minutes by bus from JR Kanazawa Station. Get down at Korinbo. 1 minutes walk from Hiroaka or Hiroaka 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art Kanazawa.



8 Naga-machi Buke Yashiki District

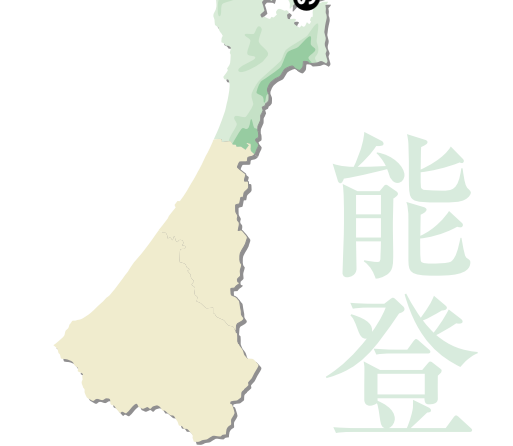
The atmosphere of Kanazawa of the feudal times still lingers in this area, where irrigation canals and old houses with mud doors and gates lined the streets that once belonged to Kaga Clan Samurais.

Access	15 minutes by bus from JR Kanazawa Station. Get down at Korinbo. 3 minutes walk from Korinbo. (Nichigin-mae)
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9 Notojima Aquarium

Notojima Aquarium is located on a small island called Notojima in Nanao Bay. The Aquarium has over 4000 sea creatures of 500 varieties and is one of the biggest aquariums in Japan in terms of the number of species kept at the aquarium. Visitors can also enjoy a dolphin and seal show along with Sea Otters' Feeding Show. Don't forget to see the "Dolphins' Paradise" too! Dolphins' Paradise which was opened in April of 2007, is Japan's one of the biggest tunnel shaped tanks.

Hours	9:00-17:00 (Last Admittance at 16:30) (12/1-3/19: 9:00-16:30)
Closed	12/29-1/1
Admission	Adults: ¥1,850 Children: ¥510
Access	Take a bus going to "Rinkai Koen" from JR Wakura Onsen Station and get down at the last stop (approximately 30 minutes).



The Noto Peninsula has two faces: while its west coast is rough and wild, the east coast is soothingly calm. Noto is famous for the Kiriko festivals held all over the Peninsula during the summer, as well as the renowned Wakura onsen resort.

10 Ishikawa Wajima Urushi Art Museum

Wajima is famous for its production of high quality lacquerwares. Wajima Urushi Art Museum is the first museum dedicated to Wajima Lacquerware, where a collection of Wajima Lacquerwares as well as other lacquer works from other parts of the world are displayed inside the Museum.

Hours	9:00-17:00 (Last Admittance at 16:30) Year-end (12/29-12/31; Exhibition Preparation Period)
Closed	
Admission	Adults: ¥620
Access	Take the "Coastal Course" of the Community Bus from Wajima Furatto Homu and get off at "Shitsugei Bijutsukan" Bus Stop.



11 Sojiji Temple (Soto Sect)

Originally founded in 1321, the Head Temple was relocated to Yokohama in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1910, making the present temple the "Father Temple" of the Soto Sect. One can still see the grand temple gate made of Zelkova Trees and other structures such as the Buddha Hall and Treasure Hall. Visitors can also experience Zen meditation and enjoy Buddhist vegetarian meals. (Reservations Required)

Hours	8:00-17:00 Open All Year Round
Admission	Adults: ¥400
Access	Take the bus bound for Monzen form Wajima Furatto Homu for 35 minutes.



12 Senmaida Rice Terrace

Designated as a National Scenic Spot on January 29th, 2001, Shiroyone's Senmaida has more than 2000 small rice paddies spread almost geometrically in an area of 12,000 km² and thus create a beautiful and bright landscape on the background of the blue sea.

Access	15-minute drive from Wajima Furatto Homu
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13 Wajima Morning Market

The wives of local farmers and fishermen from nearby towns will set up about 200 stalls that line the streets of the Morning Market at the break of dawn to sell fresh seafood, vegetables and other products.

Hours	8:00-12:00 (noon)
Closed	2nd wednesday and 4th wednesday of every month, 1/1-1/3
Access	10-minute walk from Wajima Furatto Homu

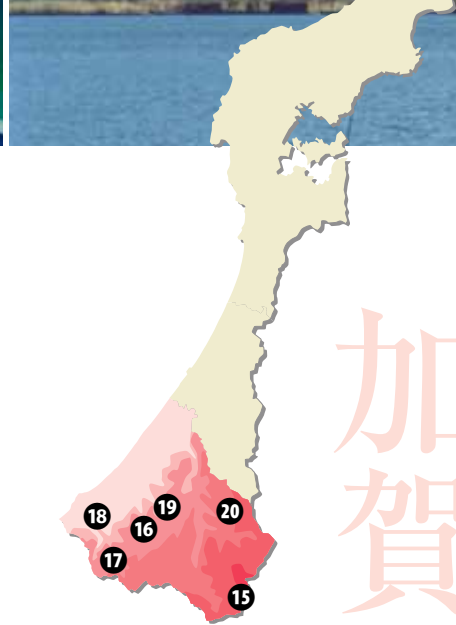


14 Nafune Gojinjo Taiko (Traditional Drums)

The Gojinjo Drum Performance is a traditional folk entertainment in the Nafune area. It is said that the drummers wearing ghost masks and seaweed hair fought off the armies of Kenshin Uesugi who tried to attack the area in 1577. Nowadays this is performed during festivals and it is considered as one of the Prefectural designated intangible folk cultural assets. You can enjoy the powerful Gojinjo Taiko Drum Performance for free every night between the end of April and the end of November at "Furatto Homu" in Wajima.



NOTO AREA KAGA AREA



The Kaga region is famous for its many Onsen resorts including Yamanaka Onsen, Yamashiro Onsen, Katayamazu Onsen and Awazu Onsen. Mt. Hakusan, one of the most famous mountains in Japan, is a national park with a rich variety of alpine plants and wild flowers and is bustling with ski-lovers in winter.



16 Natadera Temple

Established in A.D.717, Natadera Temple has magnificent scenery of beautiful rocks and seasonal flowers. It is also a well-known scenic spot for autumn foliage viewing since olden times.

Hours	08:30-16:45 (12/1-2/25: 08:45-16:30) Open All Year Round
Admission	Adults: ¥500
Access	Take the CANBUS from JR Kaga Onsen Station and get off at Natadera Bus Stop; or take Route 8 from Hokuriku Expressway Kaga I.C. or Komatsu I.C.

17 Kakusenkei Gorge

With the Koorogi-bashi Bridge on one end and the Kurotani-hashi Bridge on the other, this 1.3km gorge brings out the seasonal beauty with its strangely shaped rocks, bizarre stones, waterfalls and all the deep water pools that are colored in bluish green. Visitors can visit famous spots such as the Basho-do Hut, Ayatori-hashi Bridge and the Koorogi-bashi Bridge.

Access	Take the Kaga Onsen Bus bound for Yamanaka Onsen at the JR Kaga Onsen Station and get off at Yamanaka Onsen Station.
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18 Kutaniyaki Museum of Art

This Museum displays arts and exhibits of Kutaniyaki Porcelain, which has over 350 years of history and is one of the most famous ceramic wares in Japan. Located inside the Ko-Kutani-no-Mori Park, visitors can learn about the arts of Kutaniyaki Porcelain while enjoying the beautiful scenery of the Park.

Hours	09:00-17:00 (Last Admittance at 16:30)
Admission	Adults: ¥500
Access	5-minute walk from JR Daishoji Station; 3-minute walk from CANBUS "Ishikawa-ken Kutaniyaki Bijutsukan/Yamanashita Ji-Ingun" Bus Stop



19 Mt. Hakusan

Mt. Hakusan is one of "Japan's Three Most Famous Mountains" (The other two being Mt. Fuji and Mt. Tateyama). Mt. Hakusan has been revered since ancient times as the "mountain of the white gods". Many natural features such as the alpine flora and beech forests can be found within Mt. Hakusan National Park that is also a source of peaceful views and abundant water.

Mt. Hakusan has three peaks: "Gozen-ga-mine" (2,702m), "O-nanji-ga-mine" (2,684m) and "Ken-ga-mine" (2,677m) and the snow remains on the summit even in the summer.



19 Traditional Handicrafts Village "Yunokuni-no-mori"

Old houses with thatched roofs were moved to the current location and created this Village of Traditional Arts. Visitors can observe the process of making these articles as well as try their hands on making their own souvenirs by using some of the techniques.

Hours	08:30-17:00 (12/1-2/20: 09:00-16:30)
Admission	Adults: ¥540
Access	35-minute ride on the CANBUS from JR Kaga Onsen Station, or 20-minute drive from Kaga I.C. or Komatsu I.C.



20 Mt. Hakusan Ski Resorts

To make full use of the grand nature of Mt. Hakusan, Ski Resorts with slopes geared towards beginners as well as advanced skiers are built for snow sports lovers. Some of the many resorts are Sky Shishiku Ski Resort, Kanazawa Seymour Ski Resort, Hakusan Ichirino Onsen Ski Resort.

Access	30 to 60-minute drive on the National Road 157 from Kanazawa (Direct transportation available from JR Kanazawa Station during winter time)
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