



# Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter

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## MARCH 16, 2024 HOKURIKU SHINKANSEN EXTENSION FROM KANAZAWA TO TSURUGA!

### FEATURE:

### GRAND OPENING OF THE HOKURIKU SHINKANSEN EXTENSION FROM KANAZAWA TO TSURUGA

Saturday, March 16 marks a big step up in the convenience of getting from the Tokyo, Kansai, and Nagoya areas to the Hokuriku region!

**Osaka ⇄ Kanazawa: 2hr., 9 min. (now 22 min. faster!)**

**Nagoya ⇄ Kanazawa: 2hr., 9min. (now 16 min. faster!)**

(Transfer required at Tsuruga Station onto the Hokuriku Shinkansen line, for trips to/from the Kansai and Nagoya areas)





## Must-See Spring Destinations in Kanazawa and Kaga

Here are just a few of the highlights of spring in Ishikawa, now easier to visit than ever with the newly extended Hokuriku Shinkansen line!



### 金沢 KANAZAWA

#### ● Kenrokuen Garden & Kanazawa Castle Park

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<https://www.pref.ishikawa.jp/siro-niwa/english/top.html>

Where better to see the beautiful cherry blossoms, than one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan and the castle that serves as a symbol of Kanazawa? And then in mid-May, the irises come into bloom, for beautiful purple flowers to enjoy amid the fresh greenery.



#### ● Kanazawa Cultural Zone Pass

<https://odekakepass.hot-ishikawa.jp/index.html>

This two-day ¥1,000 pass is good for free admission to sixteen different places in central Kanazawa — and visitors can also show theirs at participating shops and restaurants for discounts on food, drinks, hands-on workshops, and more. The perfect way to discover everything this cultural capital has to offer!



### 小松 KOMATSU

#### ● Natadera Temple & Komatsu Udon Noodles

<https://natadera.com/EN/?welcome=hide> ▶MAP ▶MAP

There's lots to see at this temple, and it's easy to see why it's been nationally designated an Important Cultural Property and a National Place of Scenic Beauty. Natadera Temple is always a popular destination, especially for cherry blossoms in spring and the fresh greenery in summer. On your way out, grab a lunch at Hanayamatei by the temple entrance: Komatsu udon noodles, a local comfort food.



#### ● Cerabo Kutani

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<https://cerabo-kutani.com/>  
(in Japanese only)

See, learn about, and even experience the process of making Kutani Ware, a traditional craft of Ishikawa, at this hands-on museum. In the studio, visitors can try shaping clay, painting on glaze designs, and more. There's more to enjoy for architecture lovers, too: this museum was designed by the world-famous Kengo Kuma to seamlessly integrate with the countryside landscape all around.



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## ● Nakaya Ukichiro Museum of Snow and Ice

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[https://www.tabimati.net.e.xh.hp.transer.com/spot/detail\\_256.html](https://www.tabimati.net.e.xh.hp.transer.com/spot/detail_256.html)

Learn about the work of a snow and ice researcher who was, among other things, the first person to ever create synthetic snowflakes. Visitors can try hands-on science experiments like making ice crystals or ice pendants, for an experience that's as beautiful and memorable as it is educational.



## ● Kakusenkei Gorge Kawadoko Riverside Café in Yamanaka Onsen

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[https://www.tabimati.net.e.xh.hp.transer.com/spot/detail\\_2.html](https://www.tabimati.net.e.xh.hp.transer.com/spot/detail_2.html)

Kakusenkei Gorge is already known for its beauty throughout the Hokuriku region, but it's especially nice in spring and summer. Relax at the Kawadoko riverside café with a drink and a dessert, surrounded by the rich greenery, the cool river water, and the chirping of birds.

## ● Dessert Tours in Yamanaka Onsen

<https://www.yamanaka-spa.or.jp/event/367>

Here's a fun way to explore the hot spring resort town of Yamanaka Onsen: three-packs of coupons, each good for your choice of seven different local treats! (Two new locations added in April 2024. Coupons ¥700 for three.)



## ● Kaga Onsen Passport

[https://www.tabimati.net.e.xh.hp.transer.com/kaga\\_passport/](https://www.tabimati.net.e.xh.hp.transer.com/kaga_passport/)

This popular two-day pass is a great way to explore the Kaga area, while saving money along the way! The pass includes admission to your choice of three places, from a total of 22 participating facilities. There's also a version that includes unlimited rides on the CANBUS, a local bus line that goes straight to many highlights of the Kaga area!



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# Two New Shinkansen Stops in Ishikawa: Komatsu and Kagaonsen!

The March 2024 extension of the Hokuriku Shinkansen line means two new Shinkansen stops in Ishikawa! Let's take a closer look at both.

## Komatsu



### ● Komatsu Nine

(Opened September 2023)

<https://www.komatsu9.jp/#> (in Japanese only)

▶MAP

This new facility at Komatsu Station serves to connect visitors with the people, places, and events of the local area, through sightseeing information, food, shops, and even a coworking space. It's a convenient way to try a local curry shop and other Komatsu favorites!



## Kagaonsen



### ● Kaga City Tourism Information Center

[https://www.tabimati.net/spot/detail\\_198.html](https://www.tabimati.net/spot/detail_198.html)

<https://www.tabimati.net.e.xh.hp.transer.com/kagairogasa>

▶MAP

A great place to find out all about sights to see, things to do, foods to eat, souvenirs to pick up, and places to stay overnight in the Kaga area! And this October, this tourist information center gets even better with the grand opening of its new location below the Shinkansen tracks. Visitors can also borrow umbrellas from here with a beautiful stained-glass design – perfect for rainy days, or for lovely photos on sunny days, too!



# Now Open!



### ● Train Park Hakusan

(Hakusan City High-Speed Train Visitors' Center)  
(Opened March 13)

<https://train-park.com/>

▶MAP

Train Park Hakusan is a new hands-on destination located next to the Hakusan Train Depot, the main train depot for the Hokuriku Shinkansen line. Train Park Hakusan features a Shinkansen train-driving simulator, a play space for kids themed after Hakusan City's natural environment, sightseeing information for visitors to the area, and a shop selling local favorites. There are even observation areas where visitors can see Shinkansen trains being worked on, or experience the thrill of watching Shinkansen trains zoom by at incredible speeds!



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