



2018
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Spring
Issue

Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter

Recommended Spring Events and Information

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

Blooming Season
.....
Early-to-Mid
April



Kanazawa Castle and Kenrokuen Garden (Kanazawa) 1

Kenrokuen Garden, one of the three most famous gardens in Japan, and Kanazawa Castle, the symbol of the Kanazawa's history as a castle town, both feature gorgeous sakura blossoms. Admission is free for about a week (April 8th to 16th last year) to coincide with the blooming period. You can also enjoy the sight of the sakura blossoms at night, as the trees are illuminated from 18:00-21:30.

- Access
- 20min via Kanazawa Loop Bus
 - Bus from Kanazawa Station, get off at Kenrokuen-shita/Kanazawa Castle bus stop

Sakura Trees along the Asano River 1

The charming riverside area near the Higashi and Kazuemachi teahouse districts is lined with rows of sakura trees which bloom beautifully in spring. You can also see the Asanogawa Bridge, a nationally-registered tangible cultural property, and the beautiful wooden Umeno Bridge.

- Access
- 15min via Kanazawa Loop Bus from Kanazawa Station, get off at Hashibacho bus stop



Daishōji Pleasure Boat (Kaga Area) 2

Take a cruise along the Daishōji river in a covered boat while enjoying the scenery of the historical castle town along the riverbank. Along the banks of the nearby Kumasaka River, the sakura blossoms are gently lit by paper lanterns at night, making for a beautiful sight. At the nearby Kaga Shinmeigu Shrine, a sakura festival is held from April 14th to 15th—open-air shops open along the road leading up to the shrine, as festival floats and lion-dance troupes parade around the town.

- Access
- ~50min via local train from Kanazawa Station, get off at Daishōji Station, then ~15min walking



Flower- Viewing Spots in Ishikawa

What Sakura Mean to the Japanese

Since ancient times, Japan has been a country where the changing of the seasons has been an intimate part of people's daily lives, as well as Japanese culture and customs. While each season has its own unique charms, after the long and harsh winter, the beauty of the sakura blossoms make spring stand out as one of the most popular seasons. Every year, when the blossoms are in full bloom, people gather beneath the sakura trees to eat, drink and be merry, enjoying the season to the fullest. Ishikawa has many viewing spots famous for their beautiful sakura where you can enjoy the beauty of spring.

Blooming Season
.....
Mid-to-Late
April



Komaruyama Park (Noto Region) 4

The remains of Komaruyama Castle, located on a small hill overlooking Nanao bay, were re-purposed to create a beautiful garden park which is now a famous spot for viewing sakura blossoms.

- Access
- depuis la gare de Kanazawa, env. 50 min en train express → descendre à la gare de Nanao, puis 5 min de marche



Noto Sakura Station (Noto Region) 4

Visitors to this station are met with a tunnel of over 100 blooming sakura trees whose boughs stretch over the station's platform. The "Noto Satoyama-Satoumi" tourism train lowers its speed while passing through the area so that passengers can enjoy the beautiful sights of Noto's scenery at a leisurely pace. Packages including food and drink are also available.

- Access
- ~1hr via limited-express train from Kanazawa Station to Wakura Onsen Station, transfer to Noto Rail line, then ~30min via Noto Satoyama-Satoumi train

● Events

Geisha Evenings in Kanazawa 1

Dates: March 26th, 28th, and 30th April 2nd-20th (excluding weekends) **Time:** 18:00 to 19:00
Enjoy seeing Kanazawa's traditional music and dances performed by local geisha, with English-language guidance available. You can also participate in traditional games with the geisha. The hostess of the geisha establishment will also explain the cultural background of geisha in English.

Location Kaikaro Teahouse **Apply** Online

Access ~15min via Kanazawa Loop Bus, get off at Hashibacho bus stop

<http://geishaevenings.jp/index.html>

Hyakumangoku Festival 1

Date and time: June 1st-3rd, Hyakumangoku parade held on June 2nd (starting at 14:20 in front of Kanazawa Station East Exit, arriving at Kanazawa Castle at 16:00)

Hyakumangoku Festival celebrates the ascendance of Lord Toshiie Maeda to Kanazawa Castle. Toshiie was the first feudal lord of Kaga Domain, whose riches (a yearly income of one million units of rice, or Hyakumangoku) were second only to that of the Tokugawa Shogunate itself. The main event of the festival is a parade which re-creates the lord's grand entrance into Kanazawa Castle, and features horse-mounted samurai in traditional armor, a variety of musical performance troupes, and acrobatics performances by firefighters called "Kaga Tobii". Seats for viewing the parade near the Ishikawa-mon entrance of Kanazawa castle are available (reservation required, ¥2,500, reservations accepted in March-April). During the festival, other events such as tea ceremonies and Noh theater performances are also held.

Location Central Kanazawa Images provided by Kanazawa City Government



Seihakusai Festival 4

Date and time: May 3rd-5th (Starting at 21:00 on the 3rd)
At over 12 meters tall and weighing over 20 tons, the Seihakusai festival floats are the largest of their kind in Japan. Three of these massive floats are paraded all around Nanao throughout the festival, which is registered as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. Tourists can also try their hand at pulling the floats.

Planned gathering spots for the three floats Ōtokonushi Shrine (May 4th ~12:30), Noto Shokusai Market (May 5th ~11:15), Nanao Station (May 5th ~12:45), Taihei Bridge (May 5th ~14:30)

Location Central Nanao

Access ~50min via limited express train from Kanazawa Station, get off at Nanao Station

Otabi Matsuri 5

Date and time: May 11th-13th (10:00 to about 20:00)
The 8 floats are gathered together on the 12th, while the children's Kabuki performances are held multiple times throughout the day every day of the festival

With over 350 years of history and featuring Kabuki performances by children atop gorgeously decorated festival floats, Otabi Matsuri is one of Ishikawa's most famous festivals. The 8 gorgeous illuminated floats and the children's Kabuki performances are must-sees.

Location Uhashi Shrine, Moto-Orihiyoshi Shrine

Access 20min via limited express train from Kanazawa Station to Komatsu Station, then 3min walking from Komatsu Station Western exit



Yamashiro Onsen Shōbuyu Festival 6

Date and time: June 4th-5th (19:00 to about 21:00)

In Japan, there is a custom of taking a bath with iris petals on May 5th for good luck and to prevent illness and misfortune for the next year. At Yamashiro Onsen's Shōbuyu Festival, held every year on June 4th and 5th (May 4th and 5th by Japan's old lunisolar calendar), strapping young men parade a portable shrine around the hot spring town and throw iris blooms into the baths at Yamashiro Onsen's Kosouyu bathhouse. Similar festivals are held at the same time at Yamanaka, Katayamazu, and Awazu onsens.

Location Yamashiro Onsen

Access 30min via limited express train from Kanazawa Station to Kaga Onsen station, then ~15min min by bus bound for Yamanaka Onsen, get off at Yamashiro Onsen bus stop



● Topics

Masuhogaura Beach 3 One of the three most famous spots for beachcombing in Japan, the small pink "sakura" shells that are washed ashore from November to March are said to bring happiness, and are used in decorative shellwork. Sunsets on the beach are beautiful, and can be enjoyed from a bench which, at 460m in length, was once registered as the longest bench in the world in the Guinness Book of World Records. Here you can enjoy the springtime with a calming walk along the beach while collecting sakura shells.

Access 30min via limited express train from Kanazawa Station, get off at Haku Station, then ~55min by bus to Togi bus stop, then ~10min walking

Interpreter Guide Search Website 1

Demand for multilingual tour guides across Ishikawa is on the rise,

and in response a new website catering to tourists has been made available, allowing tourists to search for interpreter guides.

<http://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/english/media/documents/20170801multilingual.pdf>



● News

New Hotel Openings in Kanazawa 1

① Unizo Inn Kanazawa Hyakumangoku Dori **Opened November 11th 2017**

<http://www.unizo-hotel.co.jp/en/inn-kanazawa/h/>

② Hotel Livemax Kanazawa Ekimae **Opened December 1st 2017**

<https://www.hotel-livemax.com/ishikawa/kanazawast/>

③ Hotel Wing International Premium Kanazawa Ekimae **Scheduled to open April 1st 2018**

<https://www.hotelwing.co.jp/kanazawa/>

④ Hotel Vista Kanazawa

<https://www.hotel-vista.jp/kanazawa/> **Scheduled to open May 1st 2018**



Tiger Air Taiwan 5

Flights Between Komatsu and Taiwan



Starting on January 18th, Tiger Air Taiwan will be running regular flights between Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport in Taipei and Komatsu International Airport twice a week. Flights from Taipei will depart on Thursdays at 7:00 and Sundays at 10:55, while flights from Komatsu will depart on Thursdays at 11:45 and Sundays at 15:35. Combined with the 5 scheduled flights run every week by Eva Air, these new flights mean there will be daily flights between Komatsu and Taipei.

New High-Speed Bus Between Kansai and Kaga Onsen Town 2

A new high-speed bus, the "Blue Liner Kaga Yontō", will begin operating in November 2017, connecting Kaga Onsen Town and the Kansai region.

Time required for one-way trip ~6 hours

Cost (one-way) ¥2,000-3,000

	Tennōji (Osaka)	Umeda (Osaka)	Nagaokakyō (Kyoto)	Yamanaka	Yamashiro	Katayamazu	Awazu
Outgoing	09:10	09:50	10:40	14:20	14:40	15:00	15:20
Returning	19:25	18:55	18:15	14:35	14:15	13:55	13:35

Kaga Yuzen Silk Dyeing

Featuring the Five Colors of Kaga (deep red, indigo, ochre, grass green, and reddish-purple), Kaga Yuzen kimono are known for their elegant dyed designs depicting realistic images from nature or scenes from classic stories. Kaga Yuzen kimono are highly valued for their refined, subdued style, reminiscent of the style of the samurai class.

Maida Dyeing Studio 1

Cost/Time Required ◆ Kaga Yuzen dyeing activity
¥15,000 90-120min (including
30min studio tour)
Open ◆ 10:00-17:00 (closed irregularly)
Max. number of participants ◆ 20

<http://www.maida-yuzen.com/koubou>
(Japanese only)

* Reservations required, interpretation required
(no English available)



Wajima-nuri Lacquerware

With its durable lacquer and gorgeous decorative lacquer art, Wajima-nuri lacquerware is known as some of the finest in Japan. While it is of course beautiful, featuring inlaid gold and makie lacquer decorations, Wajima-nuri is also solidly made, as a powder made from local Wajima stone (a type of diatomite) is used in the undercoat of lacquer, reinforcing the more easily-damaged parts of the dish. It takes over 130 steps to make one dish, each involving a specific delicate technique. Wajima-nuri is beautiful, durable, and practical, and it only grows more beautiful with use.



Wajima Studio Nagaya 7

Cost/Time Required ◆ Gold-inlaying activity (panel) ¥2,500 90-120min
Chopstick inlaying/makie decorating 1 pair
of chopsticks ¥1,500 20-60min
Open ◆ May-August 9:00-18:00 *Reception for
activities ends at 16:00
September-April 9:00-17:00 *Reception for
activities ends at 15:30
Closed Wednesdays
Max. number of participants ◆ 40

<http://ringisland.jp/nagaya/>
(Japanese only)

* Japanese only, otherwise gestures will be used to instruct

Kaga Yuzen Kaikan 1

Cost/Time Required ◆ Hand-dyeing activity (handkerchief) ¥2,700
60min (reception for activities ends at 15:00)
Stencil dyeing activity (handkerchief, tote bag)
¥1,620 20min+
Kimono wearing activity: Reservation required, ¥2,000+
Open ◆ 9:00-17:00 Closed Wednesdays
Max. number of participants ◆ 20, reservation required for more than 5

http://www.kagayuzen.or.jp/hall_en/

* Japanese only, otherwise gestures will be used to instruct

Special Feature: Experience Ishikawa's Traditional Crafts

In the Edo period, the Maeda clan, rulers of Kaga Domain—whose riches (a yearly income of one million units of rice, or Hyakumangoku) were second only to that of the Tokugawa Shogunate itself—used their considerable wealth to promote cultural pursuits, developing the foundation for the many traditional crafts that continue to thrive to this day. Ishikawa largely avoided any damages from war, and even during times of scarcity artisans continued to pass on their techniques, allowing these traditions to survive. Today, artisans continue to draw on traditional techniques while also incorporating new styles and techniques of their own, which has resulted in the continued prosperity of Ishikawa's traditional crafts.

Kutaniyaki Ceramics

Kutaniyaki is one of Japan's most well-known types of ceramics, featuring painted pictures in the five traditional colors of red, yellow, green, purple, and deep blue. Kutaniyaki is known for its colorful painted illustrations which are bold and impactful, but also elegant and beautiful. There are many different styles of Kutaniyaki, each generation having their own unique style. Kutaniyaki is also quite popular overseas.



Kaga

Yunokuni No Mori boasts over 50 different traditional cultural activities, as well as exhibits featuring antiques both from Japan and around the world. Restaurants, tea houses, and souvenir shops are also available.

Traditional Handicrafts Village Yunokuni No Mori 2

Activities available ◆ Kutaniyaki, Kaga Yuzen, Wajima-nuri, Yamana-
ka-nuri, Gold leaf, Washi paper making

<https://yunokuni.jp/mori/en/>



Kōsen Kutaniyaki Kiln 1

Cost/Time Required ◆ Glazing activity ¥1,300-¥5,400 ~60min
(including tour of studio)
Open ◆ 9:00-17:00 *Reception for activities stops at 15:30
Max. number of participants ◆ 60

<http://kutanikosen.com/en/experience.html>

* English available, reservation required

Kutani Mangetsu 2

Cost/Time Required ◆ Glazing activity ¥1,500+ 20min+
◆ ¥2,500+ 15min+
Clay throwing activity ◆ 8:00-17:00 *Reception for activities ends at 16:30
Open year-round
Max. number of participants ◆ Glazing activity 200, clay throwing activity 5

<http://www.mangetsu.co.jp/rakuyaki.html>

(Japanese only) * Reservation required, Chinese available, otherwise interpretation required (no English available)