



2020
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Spring
Edition

Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter

Spring News

Recommended Events

Nothing says spring in Japan quite like cherry blossoms! Come visit one of Ishikawa's many famous sakura-viewing spots and enjoy the beauty of spring.

Kanazawa Castle/ Kenrokuen 1

Blooming Period Early-to-Mid April

Kenrokuen Garden, one of Japan's three most famous gardens, and Kanazawa Castle, symbol of Kanazawa's feudal past, are both great locations to view beautiful cherry blossoms in the spring.

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

<http://www.pref.ishikawa.jp/siro-niwa/kenrokuen/e/index.html>



Kanazawa

Column

Bento Culture

Bento boxes, from those handmade using seasonal ingredients to ekiben (lunch boxes sold at train stations), have become a large part of Japanese food culture, and at Kanazawa Station, the gateway to Ishikawa, you have plenty to choose from. One way to enjoy Japanese culture is to buy an ekiben before you get on the train and eat your lunch on board. Japanese people also go out to see the cherry blossoms in the spring with a bento box. The following three spots are places where you can enjoy cherry blossom viewing with a bento box in Ishikawa Prefecture.



Toshiie Gozen, a modern arrangement of what successive lords ate at banquets in the castle.

Photo: Otomoro

Kanazawa

Saigawa Riverbed 4

Blooming Period Early-to-Mid April

Cherry blossom trees run down both banks of the Saigawa River to make picturesque sakura tunnels. Why not have a picnic on the riverbed lawn while admiring the cherry blossoms?

Access 15min by Hokutetsu bus from Kanazawa Station → 10min on foot from Katamachi

https://www.kanazawa-kankoukyoukai.or.jp/photo/detail_71.html



Kaga Area



Komaruyama Castle Park 3

Blooming Period Mid-April

A park with the ruins of Komaruyama Castle, which was built by Toshiie Maeda, Lord of the Kaga Domain. There are about 200 cherry blossom trees with many varieties including Yoshino cherry, weeping cherry, and Yaezakura on display. Looking down at the streets at night, whose cherry blossoms have been illuminated by paper lanterns, is truly a sight to behold.

Access 51min by limited express train from Kanazawa Station → 10min on foot from JR Nanao Station

<https://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/english/kanko/20034.html>



Noto Area

Kibagata Park 2

Blooming Period Early April

A row of 1,700 cherry blossom trees line a 6.4km path surrounding Lake Kibagata, creating a beautiful sakura tunnel. From the north garden to the west garden, you can enjoy a superb view capturing the lake, cherry blossom trees and Mount Hakusan in the distance.

Access 35min by local train from Kanazawa Station → 20min on foot from JR Awazu Station

<http://park18.wakwak.com/~kibagata/info.html>

Shamisen Experience 1

At Shamisen no Fukushima, located near the Higashi Chaya area, you can see the manufacturing process of the instrument indispensable for geiko dance, while also having a go at playing it yourself.

- ◆ **Date/Time** Every day 10:00-16:00
(reception closes at 15:00)
*Closed every Tuesday from December to February
Sundays, National holidays, 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month
- ◆ **Venue** Shimasen no Fukushima
- ◆ **Fee** 500 yen (inc. shamisen experience, matcha tea and Japanese sweets)

<http://kanazawa-experience.com/program/shamisen-practice/>



Tumbling Doll Painting Experience 1

You can decorate a "Kaga Hachiman Okiagari", a traditional Kanazawa craft. Everyone from children to the elderly can easily take part.

- ◆ **Date/Time** Every day (exc. building holidays) 11:00-16:00
(reception closes at 15:00)
* Closed every Tuesday from December to February
- ◆ **Duration** 30min
- ◆ **Venue** Ishikawa Local Products Center 2F
- ◆ **Fee** 1050 yen



<https://kanazawa-kankou.jp/en/#kagahachiman>

Personal Seal Making Experience 1

You can make your very own stamp by blowing your name on glass using high-pressure air and abrasive sand.

- ◆ **Date/Time** Every day (exc. building holidays) 10:00-16:00
(reception closes at 15:00)
*Closed every Tuesday from December to February
- ◆ **Duration** 40min
- ◆ **Venue** Ishikawa Local Products Center 3F
- ◆ **Fee** 1880 yen

<https://kanazawa-kankou.jp/en/#suna>



Noh Mask Wearing Experience 1

Kanazawa's feudal lord is well known for having promoted Noh theatre. At the Kanazawa Noh Museum, you can experience wearing real Noh masks and costumes for yourself!

- ◆ **Date/Time** 10:00-16:00
- ◆ **Duration** 10-20min
- ◆ **Venue** Kanazawa Noh Museum
- ◆ **Fee** Free
(Museum entry fee: 300 yen)

<https://www.kanazawa-noh-museum.gr.jp/english/>



Calligraphy Experience 1

Choose your favorite kanji to write on a Japanese fan with a calligraphy brush. English assistance available.

- ◆ **Date/Time** No scheduled holidays
- ◆ **Duration** 1 hour
- ◆ **Venue** Sofuan
- ◆ **Fee** 1800 yen

* Reservation required using the form below

<https://www.kanazawa-sofuan.jp/calligraphy-reservation/>



Reopening of Kenjotei/Kaikaro ❶

Located next to Kenrokuen Katsura Sakaguchi, the historic Kenjotei, which has been running for over 100 years, has been reborn as a sophisticated space by world-renowned architect Kengo Kuma. You can enjoy a fusion of Kanazawa's craft and food culture with

- ◆ **Location** Kanazawa Kenrokucho 1-19
- ◆ **Opening hours** First floor/Café: 10:00-16:30
Second floor/Breakfast: 8:00-10:30
(Only available on Sundays from March to November)
Lunch: 11:00-15:00
Dinner: 17:00-21:00 (Saturdays only)
Tuesday (May be subject to change depending on season)
- ◆ **Holidays**
- ◆ **TEL** +81-76-222-1600



The first-floor café space of the teahouse Kaikaro, sister store of Kenjotei, has also been renovated. It can be found in the Higashi Chaya district, having been reopened as the Kaikaro Café.

<https://www.kaikaro.jp/eng/index.html>

<https://www.kenrokuen.jp/index.html> (Japanese only)

Kanazawa Port Cruise Terminal to be completed in spring 2020 ❷

The new Kanazawa Port Cruise Terminal will be located at Kanazawa Port, where the number of cruise ship calls has been increasing rapidly in recent years. On the first floor, there will be a CIQ /waiting area where there is enough space for two cruise ships to berth at the same time. On the second floor there will be a study area where you can learn about the port, along with seminar rooms, restaurants and a covered observation deck. The sea side of the building shall be entirely covered with glass, making it a facility where you can fully enjoy the view of the port.



Ishikawa Kanazawa Chuo Tourist Information Center (provisional name) opening in spring 2020 ❸

A new tourist information center will be opened in Minamicho, Kanazawa City to improve support for travelers who enjoy walking around the town. The new tourist information center will provide a one-stop service ranging from consultation with staff who can speak foreign languages to proposals and arrangements, as well as luggage storage, courier services, and SIM card sales.

2020 Oku Noto International Art Festival September 5 (Sat) - October 25 (Sun) ❹

Suzu is located at the tip of the Noto Peninsula and holds the cutting-edge Oku Noto International Art Festival, where local traditions and the sensibilities of artists invited from around the world resonate. The art festival, most recently having been held 3 years ago, aims to further evolve while unearthing the potential of the land together with leading artists.

<https://oku-noto.jp/index-en.html>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnCvLnMlfok&feature=emb_title

New Hotel Openings in Kanazawa ❺

◆ Daiwa Royal Hotel D-PREMIUM Kanazawa

https://www.daiwaroyalhotel.jp/en/kanazawa/?stt_lang=en

Opened on October 1, 2019

◆ Hotel Forza Kanazawa

<https://www.hotelforza.jp/kanazawa/en/>

Opened on October 1, 2019

◆ Agora

<https://www.agora-kanazawa.com/en/>

Opened on November 1, 2019

◆ Henna Hotel Korimbo Branch

<https://www.hennahotel.com/kanazawa-korimbo/>

Opened on December 24, 2019

◆ Tokyu Stay Kanazawa

<https://www.tokyustay.co.jp/e/hotel/KZ/>

Scheduled to open on February 13 2020