

# Map of the Region



# DISCOVER ISHIKAWA

KANAZAWA | NOTO | KAGA | HAKUSAN

## Event Calendar

<b>January</b>	Kaga-tobi Dezomeshiki Festival Kanazawa City
<b>February</b>	Snowman Festival Hakusan City Giant Oyster Festival Anamizu Town
<b>March</b>	
<b>April</b>	Gojinjo Daiko Drum Performances Wajima City (Apr. - Nov.) Kawadoko Riverside Terrace at Kakusenkei Gorge Yamanaka Onsen (Apr. - Nov.)
<b>May</b>	Seihakusai Festival Nanao City Otabi Festival Komatsu City
<b>June</b>	Hyakumangoku Festival Kanazawa City
<b>July</b>	Abare Festival Noto Town Yamashiro Daidengaku Performance Yamashiro Onsen
<b>August</b>	Wajima Taisai Festival Wajima City
<b>September</b>	Okuma-Kabuto Festival Nanao City
<b>October</b>	Horai Festival Hakusan City Shiroyone Senmaida Rice Terraces Light-Up Wajima City (Oct. - Mar.)
<b>November</b>	Yamanaka Onsen Onabe Hot Pot Event (Nov. - Mar.) Yamanaka Onsen
<b>December</b>	Aenokoto Ritual Noto Peninsula

## Traveling to and from Ishikawa

<b>Tokyo</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kanazawa—2 hr., 30 min.—Tokyo (by Hokuriku Shinkansen)</li> <li>Komatsu Airport—1 hr., 5 min.—Tokyo (Haneda Airport)</li> <li>Komatsu Airport—1 hr., 20 min.—Tokyo (Narita Airport)</li> <li>Noto Satoyama Airport—1 hr., 5 min.—Tokyo (Haneda Airport)</li> </ul>
<b>Kyoto</b>	Kanazawa—2 hr., 10 min.—Kyoto
<b>Osaka</b>	Kanazawa—2 hr., 30 min.—Osaka
<b>Nagoya</b>	Kanazawa—2 hr., 30 min.—Nagoya
<b>Shirakawa-go</b>	Kanazawa—1 hr., 15 min.—Shirakawa-go
<b>Takayama</b>	Kanazawa—2 hr., 15 min.—Takayama
<b>Overseas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Komatsu Airport—1 hr., 40 min.—Seoul</li> <li>Komatsu Airport—2 hr., 10 min.—Shanghai</li> <li>Komatsu Airport—3 hr.—Taipei</li> </ul>



The official Ishikawa Travel Guide  
ishikawatravel.jp



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# Welcome to Ishikawa

## The Hidden Gem of Central Japan

Ishikawa offers unforgettable experiences through all four seasons. Whether it's enjoying the beautiful cherry blossoms in spring, watching the lively Kiriko float festivals in Noto in summer, exploring the dramatic landscapes of Natadera Temple under the autumn colors, or savoring the incredible seafood in winter, there's always something to love here.

## History and Culture

Ishikawa's history dates back to the powerful Maeda Clan, who were once the feudal lords of this region. Rather than striving toward military dominance, they focused their wealth on cultural endeavors, inviting artists and artisans from around Japan to set down roots here and establish local industries and arts. Even today, traditional culture is still a part of life in Ishikawa: delicate *wagashi* sweets are still a popular treat because of the Maeda Clan's fondness for tea ceremony, performing arts like Noh have developed with unique regional styles, and centuries-old townscapes can still be found here — perfect for a charming stroll.



## Nature and Traditional Lifestyles

Step outside the city and explore the incredible natural beauty of Ishikawa: breathtaking coastlines, spectacular mountains, and warm rural hospitality. Whether you're looking for fun and excitement in the great outdoors, or just a chance to experience a life lived closer to nature, you're sure to make lasting memories.

## World-Famous Food Culture

Ishikawa boasts an extraordinary local food culture, with dishes both traditional and modern. Savor a sumptuous Kaga Kaiseki multi-course meal made with unbelievably fresh seasonal seafood and unique, locally grown Kaga vegetables, all served beautifully on traditional locally made tableware. Or relax with some delicious local sake, or perhaps some *matcha* green tea and *wagashi* sweets.



## Old Meets New

In addition to its rich traditional culture, Ishikawa offers plenty of modern conveniences, spectacular contemporary art and architecture, great food and drinks, high-speed Shinkansen train access, and much more.



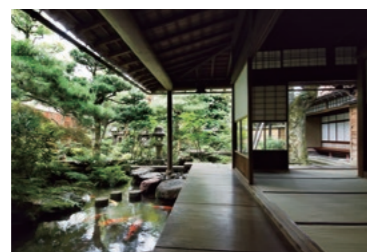
## The Kingdom of Traditional Arts & Crafts

Ever since the day of the samurai, Ishikawa's artisans have produced traditional crafts like gold leaf, colorful Kutani Porcelain Ware elegant Kaga Yuzen dyed silk, beautiful and durable Wajima Lacquerware, and the rich wood grain of Yamanaka Lacquerware. Likewise, traditional performing arts like Noh remain a part of the local culture.

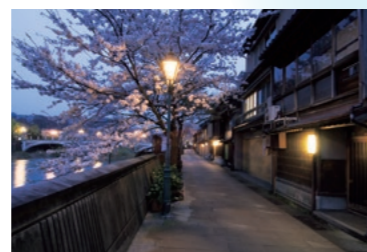




**1 Kenrokuen Garden**  
Renowned as one of Japan's finest gardens, with exquisite beauty year-round: enjoy seasonal nighttime light-ups, or the iconic yukizuri supports that protect trees from the heavy winter snows.



**2 Nagamachi Samurai District**  
Step back in time, minutes from downtown Kanazawa. Nagamachi is a quiet, historic neighborhood, home to actual samurai residences like the Nomura Residence, as well as traditional gardens, beautiful earthen walls, and peaceful canals.



**3 Three Teahouse Districts of Kanazawa**  
Kanazawa still has three charming geisha entertainment districts, Higashi, Nishi and Kazue-machi, complete with beautiful old wooden buildings. Walk through one at night, and you might just hear shamisen music – or laughter.



**4 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa**  
With its beautiful architecture, the building itself is practically one of the exhibits at this unique art museum. Don't miss the Swimming Pool, an iconic art installation.



**5 Omicho Market**  
This lively market boasts some 180 shops, where pros and home cooks alike shop for fresh seafood, fruit, vegetables, and more. The perfect place to get incredibly fresh sushi.



**6 D.T. Suzuki Museum**  
Escape the noise of the outside world at this tranquil, introspective museum, just ten minutes from Kenrokuen Garden. Learn about Daisetsu Suzuki, who worked to share Zen Buddhism with the world.

# Kanazawa

Old and New Live Side by Side

The city of Kanazawa was once Japan's cultural capital: the wealthy Maeda Clan ruled the area, demonstrating their power not through military might, but through crafts and cultural endeavors. Even today, a love for traditional art and culture can be found throughout this modern city.

# 金沢



# 能登

**Noto**  
Natural Beauty and Rustic Charm

Head north from Kanazawa to explore the Noto Peninsula: you'll find that even today, the region is home to traditional lifestyles lived close to nature. Whether you're looking for lush, soothing greenery, the friendly warmth of the locals, or the romantic scenery of the rugged coastline, there's plenty to discover.

**7 Shiroyone Senmaida Rice Terraces**  
These terraced seaside rice fields are naturally beautiful all through growing season. From harvest time in October through planting season in March, the fields light up with 25,000 colorful LEDs.

**8 Wajima Morning Market**  
One of Japan's largest morning markets, held nearly every morning. The town's roads are lined with friendly sellers offering fresh produce, seafood, crafts, and more – a thousand-year-old local tradition.

**9 Wajima Kiriko Art Museum**  
The Noto Peninsula is famous for the Kiriko festivals held throughout the region each summer. This museum offers a year-round look at these spectacular floats.

**10 Farm Stay**  
Farm stay destinations like Shunran no Sato offer visitors a chance to stay at guest houses run by local farmers, and experience the Noto Peninsula's traditional sustainable ways of life through the warm hospitality of friendly locals.

**11 Rokkozaki Lighthouse**  
Make your way to the very tip of the Noto Peninsula, and you'll find this historic lighthouse. Enjoy the romantic setting, and perhaps even a breathtaking sunset over the sea.

**Hands-on Experiences**  
Go beyond simply seeing the sights, and experience the local culture firsthand. Try local crafts, like using gold leaf to decorate a dish, a pair of chopsticks, or a mirror. Learn about the local food culture by making traditional wagashi sweets or participating in a tea ceremony. Or simply enjoy a walk around town, dressed in a beautiful kimono.

**12 Natadera Temple**  
This 1,300-year-old temple is dedicated to religious faith in Mt. Hakusan. The soundings are dotted with picturesque rock formations and other magnificent sights. Walk around the remarkable natural features, and you're sure to feel profound awe toward nature, too.

**13 Kakusenkei Gorge**  
Located next to the quaint hot spring town of Yamanaka Onsen, this gorge offers unique bridges and walking paths through incredible natural beauty. Visitors can relax and enjoy a bite to eat at the kawadoko riverside terrace, from April through November.

**14 Hakusan Ichirino Onsen Ski Resort**  
A must-visit for lovers of winter sports, just an hour from Komatsu Airport and Kanazawa Station. Spend the day skiing or snowboarding down some of Ishikawa's largest slopes, then relax afterward with a hot spring bath.

**15 Hakusan Shirakawa-go White Road**  
The historic towns of Shirakawa-go and Hida Takayama aren't far from Ishikawa; a drive on the White Road through the mountains offers unforgettable views – and great nature walks – along the way there.

**16 Kitamaebune Ship Museum**  
Dedicated to the Kitamaebune trading ships that once sailed along the coast of Japan and brought prosperity to this area. Hashitate was once known as the wealthiest town in Japan, and the area still retains its old-fashioned charm, too, with delicious seafood available from the nearby fishing port.

# Kaga & Hakusan

Recreation and Relaxation in the Great Outdoors

The southern part of the prefecture has plenty to offer, too. The Kaga area boasts many famous hot spring towns, like Yamanaka, Yamashiro, Katayama and Awazu, while the Hakusan area is home to incredible sight slopes and beautiful nature trails, as well as a historic, old-fashioned town that once played a key role in nationwide trade.



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