

Published by Tourism & Exchange Bureau of Ishikawa Prefecture



2012
Winter
Edition
Vol.14

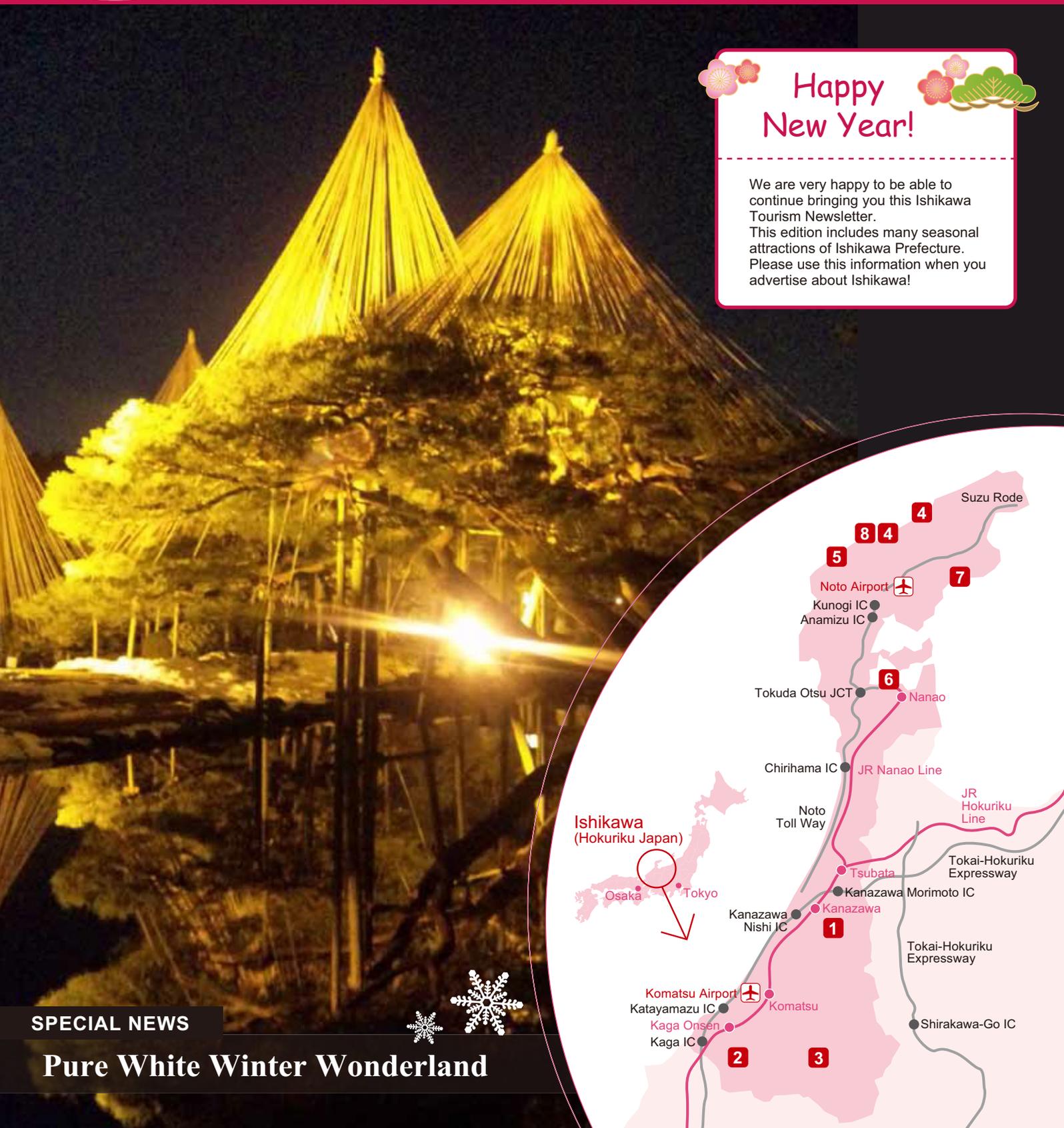
Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter

TOP NEWS

Yukizuri – The Symbol of Ishikawa Winters



We are very happy to be able to continue bringing you this Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter. This edition includes many seasonal attractions of Ishikawa Prefecture. Please use this information when you advertise about Ishikawa!

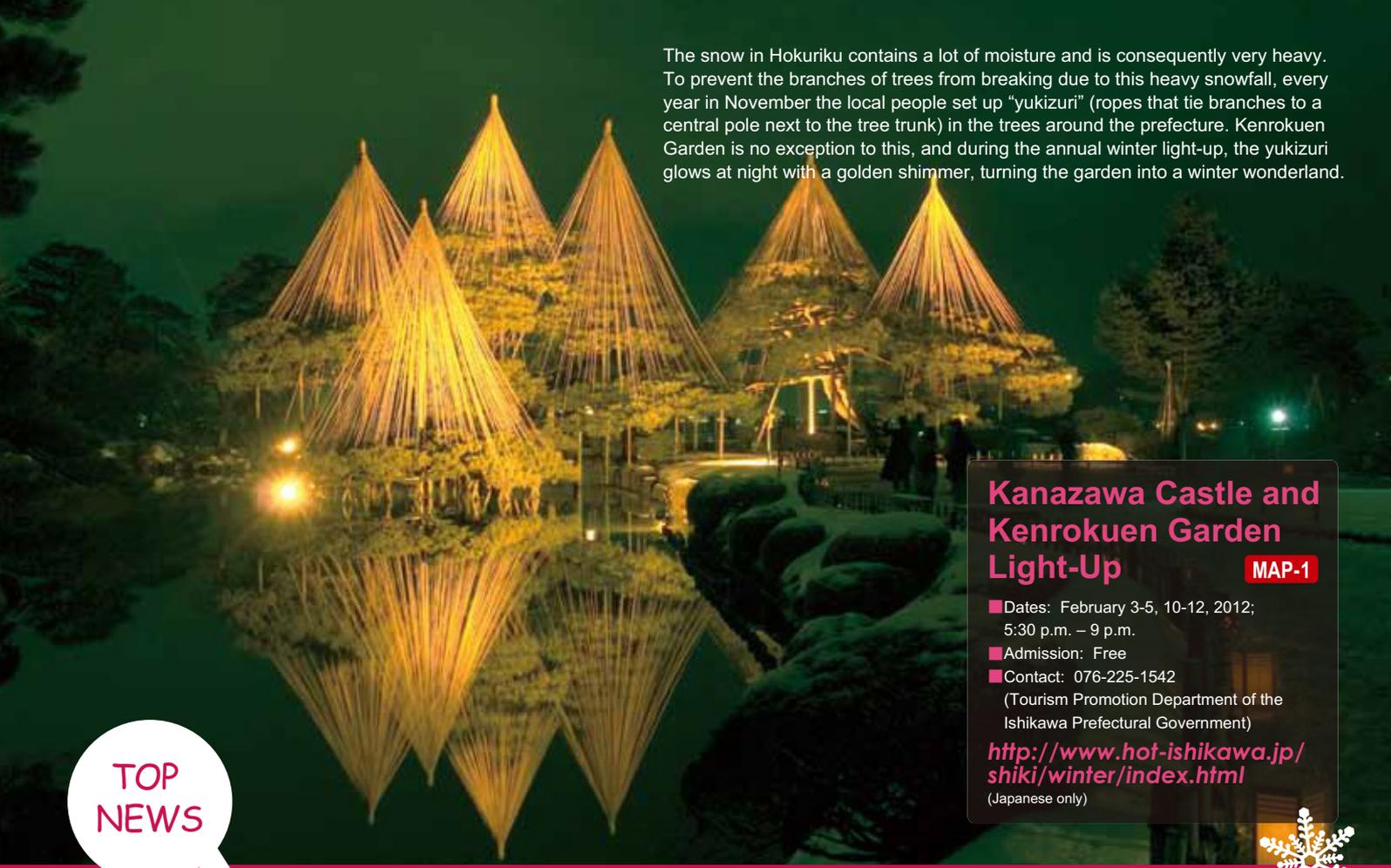


SPECIAL NEWS



Pure White Winter Wonderland

The snow in Hokuriku contains a lot of moisture and is consequently very heavy. To prevent the branches of trees from breaking due to this heavy snowfall, every year in November the local people set up "yukizuri" (ropes that tie branches to a central pole next to the tree trunk) in the trees around the prefecture. Kenrokuen Garden is no exception to this, and during the annual winter light-up, the yukizuri glows at night with a golden shimmer, turning the garden into a winter wonderland.



TOP NEWS

Kanazawa Castle and Kenrokuen Garden Light-Up

MAP-1

■ Dates: February 3-5, 10-12, 2012;
 5:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 ■ Admission: Free
 ■ Contact: 076-225-1542
 (Tourism Promotion Department of the
 Ishikawa Prefectural Government)
<http://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/shiki/winter/index.html>
 (Japanese only)



Yukizuri – The Symbol of Ishikawa Winters



In Ishikawa, you can see a variety of yukizuri:

➡ Kohrinbo Tree Fantasy

MAP-1

In the winter, the 36 keyaki trees lining the path from Kohrinbo to Musashi come to life with 110,000 brilliant LED lights.

➡ Gold-Leaf Yukizuri (around the Musashi District of Kanazawa)

MAP-1

Craftsmen have used their traditional gold-leaf arts to reinterpret the traditional winter spectacle of yukizuri into a beautiful golden light-up.



Enjoy Kanazawa's night view from the Kanazawa Light-Up Bus!!



This bus makes stops at various light-up spots in the city. You can enjoy the various night scenes of Kanazawa on this cute bonnet bus.

MAP-1

■ Dates and Time of Operation: Every Saturday (except from Dec. 29 to Jan. 3),
 7 p.m. – 8:50 p.m. (runs every 10 minutes)
 ■ Fare: 200 yen per ride
 ※A Kanazawa Light-Up Bus Multiple Ride Pass is also available at a bargain price of 300 yen for adults! Passes can be purchased at the Hokutetsu Ticket Center at JR Kanazawa Station's east exit or at selected hotels.

http://www.kanazawa-kankouyoukai.gr.jp/feature_lightupbus/index.html
 (Japanese and English)



Yukizuri-Inspired Sweets!!

Baked Sweets: YUKIZURI

World-renowned patissier Hironobu Tsujiguchi, a native of Ishikawa Prefecture, has created these baked sweets out of local ingredients found in the Noto, such as plums, eggs, salt, and rice. The sprinkled sugar on the outside resembles the snow on yukizuri, while a bite into the pastry itself reveals the delicate and fragrant taste of plums.

MAP-1

http://www.kagaya.co.jp/le_musee_de_h/#/menu/
 (Japanese only)



◀ Kakusenkei Gorge "Kohrogi Bridge" MAP-2

Kohrogi Bridge, which is in Kakusenkei Gorge in the Yamanaka District of Kaga, boasts a beautiful winter landscape.

- Access: 30-minute bus ride on the Kaga Onsen Bus bound for Yamanaka Onsen from JR Kaga Onsen Station; get off the bus at Yamanaka Onsen
- Contact: 0761-78-0330 (Yamanaka Onsen Tourism Association)

<http://www.yamanaka-spa.or.jp/index.html> (Japanese and English)

◀ Snowman Festival MAP-3

In this annual Snowman Festival, the villagers build over 2000 snowmen, lighting them up with candles at night to create a fantasy-like atmosphere.

- Dates: January 27, 2012 (Friday) Kuwajima Snowman Festival February 3, 2012 (Friday) Shiramine Snowman Festival
- Access: 100-minute bus ride from JR Kanazawa Station; short walk to the festival after getting off the bus at Shiramine
- Contact: 076-259-2721 (Shiramine Tourism Association)



Wavaes

◀ Nami no Hana MAP-4

One of the representative winter scenes of the Noto, the waves hitting the coastline froth up like snow in the harsh winters due to mucus secreted by the plankton floating at the top of the water. Come witness this spectacular phenomenon!

- Season: Mid-November to late-February, on days where the waves are high
- Location: Sosogi Coastline, Wajima City; Kamogaura Coastline
- Contact: 0768-23-1146 (Tourism Department of Wajima City)

<http://www.city.wajima.ishikawa.jp/yorankaine/naminohana.htm> (Japanese only)

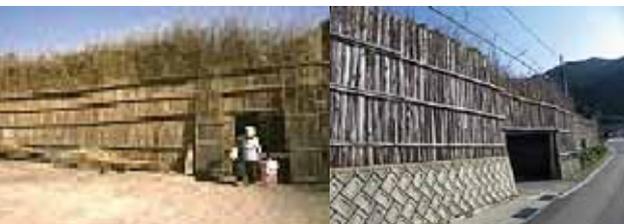


◀ Kenrokuen Garden MAP-1

The landscape of Kenrokuen Garden in the winter is truly a sight to behold.

- Access: 15-minute bus ride from JR Kanazawa Station; 1-minute walk after getting off the bus at Kenrokuen-shita
- Contact: 076-234-3800 (Kanazawa Castle and Kenrokuen Garden Managing Office)

<http://www.pref.ishikawa.jp/siro-niwa/kenrokuen/> (Japanese and English)



◀ If you come to the Noto Peninsula and Wajima City... MAP-5

You will see a lot of high fences built around houses lining the coastline. These bamboo fences are built to protect the houses from the fierce ocean winds in the winter. They are a testament to the wisdom of the Okunoto people who have had to live alongside and survive in harsh natural conditions.

- Location: Osawa District, Wajima City
- Access: 40-minute bus ride on the bus bound for Nishiho District from Wajima Station Furatto-Homu; get off at Kami Osawa

Wind



Lady Kaga!?

Playing on the name of popular American singer Lady Gaga, 100 ladies from the Kaga area have formed a group to boost PR for Kaga City, calling themselves, "Lady Kaga". The members of this group come from local Japanese inns and businesses, and they have already gained much fame and publicity through their hit internet commercial. Come and experience the hospitality that Lady Kaga has to offer!

<http://ladykaga.me/> (Japanese only)

Prize-Winning Tenmaigu Sake

This past September, Ishikawa Prefecture's Shata Shuzou's Tenmaigu sake, prepared in the yamahai brewing method, beat out 120 other Japanese competitors to take the top golden prize in the Junmaishu Division of the Sake Category at the International Wine Challenge Fair held in England. This sake is fermented with natural lactic bacteria which gives it a unique flavor and fragrance which you will definitely enjoy.

<http://www.tengumai.co.jp/> (Japanese, English, and Chinese)

Noto Winter Gourmet Tour

In the winter season, come to the Noto to experience a variety of delicious cuisines and extremely fresh seafood!

■ Main events:

MAP-6 "Fireworks at Wakura Onsen & Seafood Nabe Fair" January 8 (Sunday) 11:00 a.m. - 9 p.m. Venue: Wakura Onsen Seaside Park

MAP-7 "Yellowtail Winter Festival at Noto-machi" January 22 (Sunday) 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Venue: Ushitsu Shopping District

MAP-8 "Thanksgiving Festival at Wajima Morning Market" February 12 (Sunday) 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Venue: Wajima Morning Market

Please refer to the website for more delicious and mouth-watering events!

<http://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/notohaku/> (Japanese only)



PICK OF THE SEASON

Something Interesting About Snow Zuwai-gani Crabs (or Kanoh-gani) from Ishikawa

Blue tags are put on snow zuwai-gani crabs (or kanoh-gani) from Ishikawa Prefecture. Similarly, echizen-gani crabs from Fukui Prefecture are marked with yellow tags, while Tottori Prefecture's matsuba-gani crabs are marked with red tags on their claws. The tags also include the name of the port where they were caught. Crabs caught abroad or offshore of Hokkaido have no tags on them.



↑See the blue tag!↑

↑Koubako crabs↑

What is Kobako-gani Crab?

Kobako-gani crab is the female species of snow zuwai-gani crab and is said to be most delicious when boiled. This is a small crab, but its meat is more succulent than other crabs, and the ovaries hidden within the shell is prized for its rich taste. Kobako-gani crab can be found at many dinner tables in Ishikawa Prefecture.