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# Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter

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TOP NEWS

## “The Rising Dragon Tour” – A New Sightseeing Route



### SPECIAL NEWS

And the No. 1 is from Ishikawa!



PICK OF THE SEASON

### Blossom viewing and Festival Information



TOP NEWS

# “The Rising Dragon Tour” – A New Sightseeing Route

“The Rising Dragon Tour” gets its name from the shape of the sightseeing route, which extends from the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture (the dragon’s head) to Central Japan International Airport in Aichi Prefecture. Since 2012 is the Year of the Dragon, a tour on this auspiciously named route will undoubtedly bring great luck and fun for all!



## 1 Sample Tour

Arrive at Central Japan International Airport, depart from Komatsu Airport;

(3 nights and 4 days)

- 1 Central Japan International Airport  
→Nagoya Castle→Takayama City  
→Overnight stay in Takayama
- 2 Alpine Route  
→Overnight stay in Toyama City
- 3 Kanazawa Nagamachi Samurai Residence District→Kenrokuen Garden→Higashi Chayagai Teahouse District→Overnight stay in Wakura Onsen
- 4 Chirihama Beach Driveway  
→Komatsu Airport

## 2 Sample Tour

Arrive at Central Japan International Airport, depart from Komatsu Airport;

(4 nights and 5 days)

- 1 Central Japan International Airport  
→Nagoya Castle→Gujou Hachiman  
→Overnight stay in Takayama City
- 2 Takayama→Shirakawa-go Village  
→Hakusan Super Rindo Forest Road  
→Overnight stay in the Kaga Onsen Resort Area
- 3 Yunokuni-no-Mori→Natadera Temple  
→Kenrokuen Garden→Higashi Chayagai Teahouse District→Overnight stay in Kanazawa
- 4 Omicho Market→Nagamachi Samurai Residence District→Chirihama Beach Driveway  
→Overnight stay in Wakura Onsen
- 5 Wajima Morning Market→Komatsu Airport

**Kenrokuen Garden and Kanazawa Castle Park (Kanazawa)**

MAP-1

Kanazawa Castle Park, located right next to Kenrokuen Garden, one of Japan's three most beautiful gardens, is one of the most famous hanami spots in Ishikawa Prefecture.

■ Cherry Blossom Season: early April (the signature Asahi cherry blossoms and Chrysanthemum cherry blossoms in Kenrokuen Garden bloom from mid to late April.)

■ Access: 15 minutes by bus from JR Kanazawa Station; get off the bus at "Kenrokuen-shita" and walk about one minute to Kenrokuen Garden.

**Noto-Kashima Station (Anamizu-machi)**

MAP-2

Noto-Kashima Station is also called "Sakura Station" because in April it is enveloped in a tunnel of sakuras (cherry blossoms).

■ Cherry Blossom Season: mid-April

■ Access: Get off at Noto-Kashima Station on the Noto Railway (approx. 2 hours from JR Kanazawa Station)

■ For more information: Anamizu Tourism Exchange Promotion Office (Tel: 0768-52-3790)

**Daishoji Riverboat Cruise (Kaga)**

MAP-3

Take a slow cruise on a gondola down the historic Daishoji River, which runs through Daishoji, a castle town from the Edo Period. The man-oared gondola gives you a great view of the blossoming cherry trees on the riverbank. (Time required: about 30 minutes; boats are canceled in bad weather)

■ Cherry Blossom Season: early- to mid-April

■ Access: 20-minute-walk from JR Daishoji Station

■ For more information: Daishoji Kawakudari no kai (Tel: 0761-72-6662)

<http://po5.nsk.ne.jp/~shiseki/6662/>

Daishoji Riverboat Cruises HP (Japanese)



**Kutaniyaki Pottery Festival (Nomi, Ishikawa)**

MAP-4

This festival is held every year from May 3 to May 5. About 50 Kutani shops and stalls are set up for the occasion and they line the venue with some 20,000 items, ranging from high-end Kutaniyaki pottery to everyday wares. This treasure trove is an absolute must-see.

■ Dates: May 3 (Mon.) – May 5 (Wed.)

8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. (until 6:00 p.m. on May 5)

■ Access: About 70 min. by Hokutetsu Bus from JR Kanazawa Station East Exit to "Terai Chosha-mae"; get off at the last stop

**Seihakusai Festival**

MAP-5

-Designated as a National Important Intangible Cultural Property-

Seihakusai Festival is the largest festival in the Noto. Huge festival floats called deokayama (12 meters tall, with wheels measuring 2 meters in diameter, and weighing almost 20 tons) are paraded through the narrow streets of the town.

■ Dates: May 3 (Mon.) – May 5 (Wed.)

■ Access: Approximately 50 min. from JR Kanazawa Station to Nanao Station by limited express train

**Otabi Festival (Komatsu, Ishikawa)**

MAP-6

This spring festival, held at Komatsu's Ubashi Shrine and the Moto-ori Hiyoshi Shrine, is called "Otabi Matsuri". Eight festival floats (called hikiyama) are put on display throughout Komatsu City, but the main attraction is the Children's Kabuki Performance, which takes place every year on the stages inside two of the floats. Every year, about 200,000 people visit this festival.

■ Dates: May 11 (Fri.) – May 14 (Mon.)

■ Access: 15 min. by bus from Komatsu Airport to Komatsu Station



**"Four Seasons Uchiwa Serving Plates" – Souvenir Grand Prize Winner!**

On January 13, 2012 the Japan Tourism Agency held the "Japanese Souvenir Contest 2012" to see which souvenirs foreign visitors love the most. Out of the 720 entries, the "Four Seasons Uchiwa Serving Plates" sent in by Sakuda Gold & Silver Leaf Co., based in Ishikawa, were awarded the highest prize. Come to Ishikawa and buy one of these top-rated souvenirs to take home with you!

<http://www.goldleaf-sakuda.jp/> (Japanese and English)

**Kagaya - Number One in Japan for 32 Straight Years!**

MAP-7

In the 37th edition of "Japan's Top 100 Hotels and Ryokans Rated by Industry Professionals", the Wakura Onsen ryokan, "Kagaya", was selected as the top ryokan in all of Japan for the 32nd year in row. A ryokan that everyone wants to visit, come enjoy its first-rate excellence in everything from food to atmosphere, and have a time to remember.

<http://www.kagaya.co.jp/index.php>

(Japanese, English, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, and Korean)

**CANBUS line to Komatsu Airport opens on April 14!**

SPECIAL NEWS

Komatsu Airport will be added to the Kaga CANBUS loop line. The loop will connect Komatsu Airport and Kaga Onsen, and will be available starting on April 14, 2012.

■ Two round-trips per day, around 11:00 and 16:00 (tentative)

■ Route (tentative):

JR Kaga Onsen Station – Katayamazu Onsen – Komatsu Airport

<http://www.kaga-can-bus.com/> (Japanese)

※More specific information will be available once details and schedules have been determined.

