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Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter

2012
Summer
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TOP NEWS



Tour Ishikawa Prefecture with Your Smartphone!



↑ Tourism App for iPhone
← Tourism App for Android



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Summer Fun in Ishikawa



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TOP
NEWS

Tour Ishikawa Prefecture with Your Smartphone!

Ishikawa Prefecture has created the "Ishikawa Travel Guide" app, a multilingual tourism app for the Android platform. The app features sample tours and a wealth of information about Ishikawa Prefecture. Download the app and try it out!



Main Features of "Ishikawa Travel Guide"

- Available in Japanese, English, Chinese (Traditional and Simplified), and Korean
- Free
- Information about tourist facilities, lodging facilities, and access
- 20 themed sample tours of Ishikawa
- Ample tourist support information about things like information centers and coin lockers make traveling easy!

[Ishikawa Travel Guide] http://hot-ishikawa.jp/f-lang/app/index_en.html

<Tourism App for Android>



Ishikawa Prefecture has also developed a tourism app for the iPhone. iPhone users, please use this app!

Go here to download the iPhone app:

<http://itunes.apple.com/jp/app/ishikawa-travel-guide/id412377293?mt=8>

<Tourism App for iPhone>



Establishment of the Ishikawa Interpreter Guide Association

On April 1, Ishikawa's numerous interpreter guides established the Ishikawa Interpreter Guide Association. Contact the association when you need an interpreter guide.

Languages offered: English, Mandarin, Thai, French

*Please contact the Ishikawa Interpreter Guide Association directly at:

kanazawa_guidelink@hotmail.co.jp

Kenrokuen Garden Ranked #1 in Europe, #6 in the World for Most Popular Tourist Destinations in Japan Among Foreign Travelers by "TripAdvisor", the World's Largest Social Travel Site

TripAdvisor conducted the "Most Popular Tourist Destinations in Japan Among Foreign Travelers" survey from April 2011 to March 2012.

Kenrokuen Garden ranked #1 among Europeans and #6 worldwide.

[TripAdvisor] http://www.tripadvisor.jp/pages/HotSpotJapan_2012.html

PICK OF THE SEASON

Summer Fun in Ishikawa

Noto's Kiriko Float Festivals

From the beginning of July to the middle of September, the cities and towns of the Noto Peninsula will play host to a variety of Kiriko float festivals. Kiriko are large lanterns whose purpose is to escort the gods as they make their way through the streets at night. Here is a brief description of just a handful of the festivals:

MAP-1 Abare Festival

■ July 6 (Friday) –7 (Saturday) Ushitsu, Notocho Town
This vigorous festival features about 50 Kiriko floats and wild dancing around large burning torches.

MAP-2 Hassaku Festival

■ August 28 (Saturday) –29 (Sunday) Shika Town
This festival features the most number of Kiriko floats of any festival in the Noto, and it is said that over 100 floats are carried through the town during the festival.

MAP-3 Takojima's Autumn Festival

■ September 10 (Friday) –11 (Saturday) Takojima-machi, Suzu City
With a full coat of lacquer and elegantly carved designs, the strikingly beautiful Kiriko floats of this festival stand out from other floats around the Noto.

[Noto Kiriko Float Festivals HP]

*The homepage is only in Japanese, but there are videos of the various Kiriko float festivals available for viewing.

<http://shofu.pref.ishikawa.jp/shofu/kiriko/index.html>



Fireworks Festivals

Summer nights in Japan would be incomplete with the glow of fireworks lighting up the skies. From July to September, fireworks shows will take place throughout the prefecture. Make sure you don't miss them!

MAP-4 Wakura Onsen Summer Fireworks Show

■ August 9 (Thursday) Nanao City
This fireworks show features 36-inch shell fireworks, the largest size in the Hokuriku Region. Come watch the fireworks light up the night sky over the waters of the Nanao Bay.

MAP-5 Katayamazu Onsen Summer Evening Fireworks Show

■ July 28–August 26 (Every day) Kaga City
Every night, you can watch the glow of fireworks reflect off the surface of Lake Shibayama.

MAP-6 Hokkoku Fireworks Show in Kanazawa

■ July 28 (Saturday) Kanazawa City
12,000 fireworks will light up the night sky along the Saigawa River which flows through Kanazawa.

MAP-7 Kawakita Festival

■ August 4 (Saturday) Kawakita Town
With a total of 20,000 fireworks, this is the prefecture's largest fireworks show. The finale itself features 2,000 fireworks being set off continuously.

SPECIAL NEWS

Fun Interactive Activities

MAP-8 Sky Shishiku

Skishiku Kōgen, with an elevation of 650 meters, is famous for its aerial and winter sports and for its panoramic view of the plains of Kanazawa. Try out the Challenge Course, for beginners who want to try paragliding individually from ground level, or the Tandem Flight Course, where you jump from the top of the highlands and fly through the skies with a trained instructor.

■ Operation: Closed in rough weather; Challenge and Tandem Flight Courses are closed on Tuesdays ■ Hours: 9:30–17:00 ■ Cost: Round-trip on the gondola ¥1000, Challenge Course ¥2500 * Reservations necessary for the Tandem Flight Course ¥7000

■ Access: 40 minutes by bus from JR Kanazawa Station, 5 minutes by car from Hokutestu Rail Tsurugi Station ■ Contact: 076-272-0600 (Sky Shishiku)

MAP-9 Okunoto Salt Farm Village

The Aghema method of salt farming has been passed down in the Noto for about 400 years. Currently, the Noto is the only place in Japan that still practices this method of salt farming. From May to September, you can come to the village to try your hand at farming salt outdoors using this traditional technique. It makes for a great summer experience!

■ Hours: 9:00–17:00 ■ Admission Fee: Salt Farming Workshop 500+ yen (Reservations necessary) ■ Closed days: Open all year round ■ Contact: 0768-87-2040 (Okunoto Salt Farm Village)

[Okunoto Salt Farm Village HP] (Japanese and English)

<http://www.okunoto-endenmura.jp/>

MAP-10 Ishikawa Zoo "Night Zoo"

During Ishikawa Zoo's "Night Zoo" event, habitats and exhibits are lit up, and visitors can observe the behavior and lifestyles of various nocturnal animals that can't be seen during the daytime.

■ Night Zoo Days: August 11(Sat.) 12(Sun.) 18(Sat.) 19(Sun.) 25(Sat.) 26(Sun.), September 15(Sat.) 16(Sun.) 22(Sat.) 23(Sun.), October 6(Sat.) 7(Sun.) ■ Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (During "Night Zoo", the zoo is open until 9 p.m.) ■ Admission Fee: ¥810 ■ Access: approximately 60 minutes by bus from JR Kanazawa Station; get off at the "Ishikawa Doubutsuen" stop ■ Contact: 0761-51-8500 (Ishikawa Zoo)

[Ishikawa Zoo HP] *Zoo maps in English, Chinese, and Korean are available for download

<http://www.ishikawazoo.jp/guide/map3/index.html>

MAP-11 Notojima Aquarium

Home to about 40,000 animals representing about 500 species of marine life native to the waters off the Noto Peninsula, this aquarium features a variety of attractions such as the Dolphins and Sea Lion Show, Sea Otter Feeding Time, Penguins Go For A Stroll, and the Seabream's World of Light and Sound. Visitors can come here to get an interactive aquarium experience through activities like feeding animals and petting dolphins on the beach. The aquarium is also famous for having the only whale shark exhibit on the Sea of Japan coast. Bring your family and come see for yourself!

■ Admission Fee: Adults ¥1800, Children ¥500 (Discount available for groups)(Dolphin Fureai Beach Adults ¥2000, Children ¥1000) ■ Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (closes at 4:30 p.m. from December 1 – March 19) ■ Access: approximately 1 hour by car from Kanazawa; approximately 30 minutes by bus from Wakura Onsen ■ Contact: 0767-84-1271 (Notojima Aquarium)

[Notojima Aquarium HP] (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean)

<http://www.notoaqua.jp/>

