



ほっと石川

Published by Tourism & Exchange Bureau of Ishikawa Prefecture

Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter

2013
Spring
Edition
Vol.19

TOP NEWS

Cherry Blossom Viewing in Ishikawa

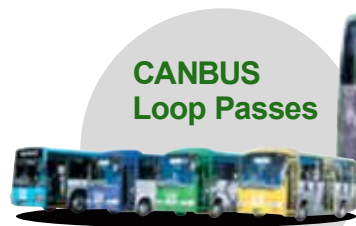


SPECIAL NEWS

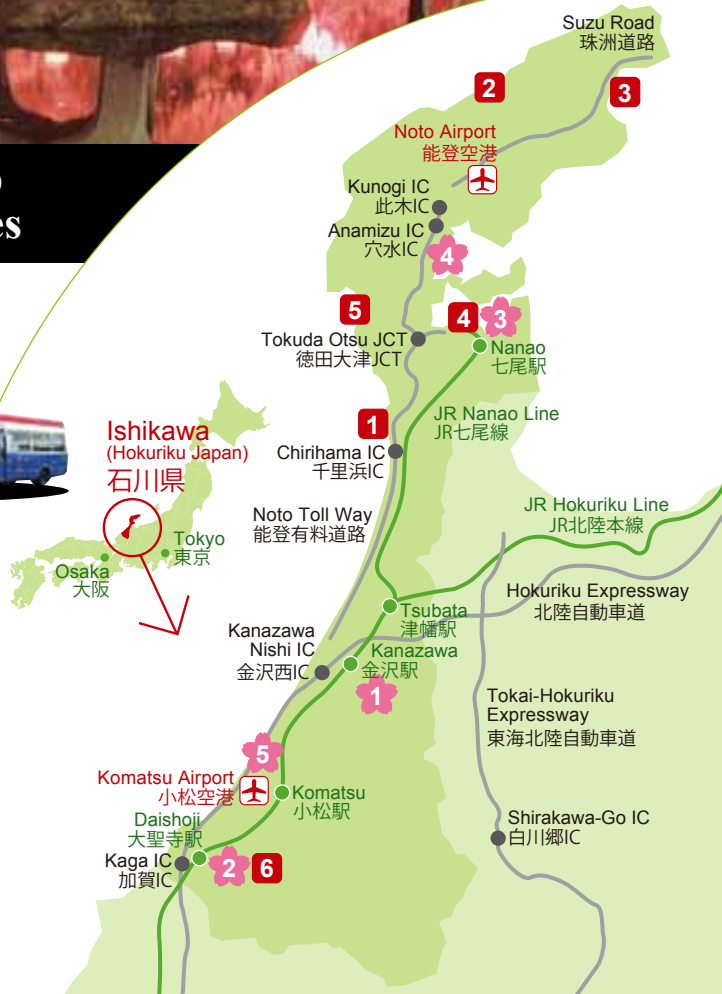
Make the Most of Your Trip With Sightseeing Loop Buses



**Kanazawa Loop
Bus 1-Day Pass**



**CANBUS
Loop Passes**



TOPICS

Information for Tourists

Cherry Blossom Viewing in Ishikawa



Cherry blossoms (sakura) are one of the most iconic images of spring in Japan. Here are some of the many fun events that will take place in Ishikawa during the cherry blossom season.

MAP 1

Kenrokuen Garden and Kanazawa Castle Park Light Up Event (Kanazawa City)

Every year, thousands of tourists visit Kenrokuen Garden and Kanazawa Castle Park for the seasonal spring light up. The short-lived cherry blossoms are illuminated at night, creating a beautiful and mystic wonderland. Admission is free. Please visit our homepage for more information.

- Light-up season: Early- to Mid-April
- Access: 15-minute bus ride from JR Kanazawa Station; 1-minute walk after getting off the bus at "Kenrokuen-shita"

<http://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/shiki/>



MAP 2

Cherry Blossom Festival (Kaga City)

This festival celebrating the Kaga Jinmeigu Shrine (also known as Yamashita Shrine) features portable shrines, traditional Japanese dancing, and lion dance performances moving throughout the town, praying for a bountiful harvest and wishing for the growth of local regional industries. Along the banks of the Kumasaka River, there is a 1 km line of cherry blossom trees which are lit up at night by paper lanterns. Visitors can also take a relaxing boat ride down the river.

- Date: April 13-14, 2013 (Saturday and Sunday)
- Access: 5-minute walk from JR Daishoji Station



MAP 3

Komaruyama Cherry Blossom Festival (Nanao)

Komaruyama Park is located on the remains of the former Nanao Castle, built by Maeda Toshiie, the first lord of the Kaga Domain. Every April, the park plays host to the Komaruyama Cherry Blossom Festival, where visitors can enjoy the over 200 cherry blossom trees from morning til night. Spend a night at Wakura Onsen and complement your stay with a relaxing day at the festival!

- When: Mid-April (or when the cherry blossoms bloom)
- Access: 5-minute walk from JR Nanao Station



MAP 4

Cherry Blossom Viewing at Noto "Sakura" Station (Anamizu Town)

Noto Kashima Station is so famous for its two rows of about 100 cherry blossom trees that it is also known as Noto Sakura (Cherry Blossom) Station. During the cherry blossom season, visitors come to see the tunnel of cherry blossoms lining the train tracks and to enjoy food stalls and the festive atmosphere.

- Season: Mid-April (or when the cherry blossoms bloom)
- Access: Take the Noto Tetsudo Line to Noto Kashima Station (about 2 hours from JR Kanazawa Station)



MAP 5

Rojo Park Cherry Blossom Festival (Komatsu)

Rojo Park is situated on top of the remains of Komatsu Castle, built by Maeda Toshitsune, the third lord of the Kaga Domain. The festival features a variety of outdoor food stalls and a magical night illumination of the cherry blossom trees by paper lanterns.

- Date: Early April (or when the cherry blossoms bloom)
- Access: 15-minute walk from JR Komatsu Station

SPECIAL NEWS

Make the Most of Your Trip With Sightseeing Loop Buses

Enhance your sightseeing experience with the Kaga CANBUS and the Kanazawa Loop Bus. Here is some information about great deals on these local loop buses!



CANBUS Loop Passes

<http://www.kaga-canbus.com/>

- Period of Validity: 1 day or 2 days
- Price: 1-Day Pass: Adults ¥1,000, Children ¥500; 2-Day Pass: Adults ¥1,200, Children ¥600
- Sample Ticket:

- Pass Vendors: Inside the CANBUS; Machizukuri Kaga Office, Ltd. (CANBUS's point of departure/arrival at JR Kaga Onsen Station); Kaga Tabi Machi Net (inside JR Kaga Onsen Station); Front desks of inns/hotels in the Yamashiro Onsen, Yamanaka Onsen, and Katayamazuru Onsen Districts; Natadera Temple; Yunokuni no Mori; Motocar Museum of Japan; The World Glassware Hall; Maruhachi Seichajo Co., Ltd. (only 1-day pass is available); Kaga Fruitland; Tsuki Usagi no Sato; Yamashiro Onsen Sōyu

■ Bus Stop



- Main Tourist Destinations (Yama-Mawari Mountain Route) → Yamashiro Onsen, Natadera Temple, Yunokuni no Mori, Motorcar Museum of Japan, World Glassware Hall, Okashiyu Kagahan, etc. (Umi-Mawari Coastal Route) → Kutaniyaki Art Museum, Tsuki Usagi no Sato, Kitamaebune Ship Museum, Hashitate Fishing Port, Katayamazuru Onsen, Komatsu Airport, etc.

- Duration of One Loop and Frequency of Buses (Yama-Mawari Mountain Route One loop): about 1 hour 30 min. 11 buses per day from 8:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Umi-Mawari Coastal Route One loop): about 1 hour 20 min. 10 buses per day from 8:55 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

- Other Discounts: Display your pass to receive special discounts at 21 facilities in Kaga.



Kanazawa Loop Bus 1-Day Pass

<http://www.hokutetsu.co.jp/joshaken/kanko/shuyu.html>

- Period of Validity: 1 day
- Price: Adults ¥500, Children ¥250
- Sample Ticket:

- Pass Vendors: Inside the Loop Bus; Hokutetsu Ekimae Center (close to bus platform #1 in the bus terminal outside the East Exit of JR Kanazawa Station); Hokutetsu Group Information Center (close to bus platform #7 in the bus terminal outside the East Exit of JR Kanazawa Station); Katamachi Service Center (close to the Katamachi "Pasion-mae" bus stop); Musashi Service Center (1F of Kanazawa Sky Hotel); Kenrokuen-Shita Service Center (close to the Koshō-machi bus stop; closed on Sundays and national holidays)

■ Bus Stop



- Main Tourist Destinations: JR Kanazawa Station, Higashi Chaya District, Kenrokuen Garden, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art Kanazawa, D.T. Suzuki Museum, Ninja Temple, Katamachi, Nagamachi Samurai Residence District, Oyama Jinja Shrine, Omicho Fish Market, etc.

- Duration of One Loop and Frequency of Buses: One loop: about 40 min. Buses every 12 min. from 8:36 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- Other Discounts: Display your 1-day pass and receive discounts on admission fees at 26 tourism facilities in Kanazawa

TOPICS Information for Tourists

Noto Yūryō Toll Road Becomes Toll-Free

Starting on March 31, 2013, the Noto Yūryō Toll Road will become toll free, and the name of the road will be changed to the Noto Satoyama Kaidō (Seaside Road). Take a leisurely drive on the Noto Satoyama Kaidō and visit Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi, a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Site.

■ Rental Cars Equipped With Multilingual GPS Systems! Toyota Rent-A-Car & Car Lease Ishikawa has equipped several of their vehicles with GPS systems in Japanese, English, Chinese (simplified), and Korean. Reservations are required and can be made at any of the 11 branches in Ishikawa Prefecture (convenient locations at Komatsu Airport and JR Kanazawa Station).

<http://www.toyota-rl.co.jp/>



Wajima-Go

5



Current One-Way Tolls on the Noto Yūryō Toll Road: White-Plate Vehicles: ¥1,180 Large-Sized Vehicles: ¥4,210



A relaxing and comfortable drive



Fresh Local Seafood on the Notodon Rice Bowl

- 1 Chirihama Beach Nagisa Driveway – The only beach in Japan where you can drive directly on the sand



- 2 Senmaida Thousand Terraced Rice Paddies – Great spot to take pictures and watch the sun as it sets over the ocean



- 3 Mitsukejima Island – Also known as "Battleship Island", this massive rock island rises to a height of 28 meters



- 4 Wakura Onsen – Take a dip in these natural hot spring baths as you enjoy panoramic views of the ocean

English and Traditional Chinese Guide Pamphlets Now Available For The Wajima-Go Sightseeing Bus

Take the Wajima-Go Sightseeing Bus and set out on a day-trip from JR Kanazawa Station to Wajima City in the Noto Peninsula. English and Traditional Chinese guide pamphlets are available when registering for the bus tour or when boarding the bus.

- Days of Operation: Daily
- Route: JR Kanazawa Station (7:50 a.m.) → Wajima Station (9:44) → Wajima Morning Market and Wajima Lacquerware Museum → Sōjiji-Soin Temple → Ganmon (lunch) → Chirihama Beach Driveway → JR Kanazawa Station (3:50 p.m.)
- Fare: Adults ¥7,200, Children ¥4,200 (includes cost of lunch) *Fare for those joining the tour from Wajima Station is ¥5,200 for adults and ¥3,200 for children
- Registration: Hokutetsu Railways Reservation Center (next to the bus rotary at the East Exit of JR Kanazawa Station)
- For more information: 076-234-0123 (Hokutetsu Railways Reservation Center)

← Ganmon – A large natural arch, measuring 15 meters in height and 60 meters in length

<http://www.hokutetsu.co.jp/bus/teikan/wajima/index.html>



"OMOTENASHI: A Guide to the Food of Kanazawa"

The brand-new "OMOTENASHI: A Guide to the Food of Kanazawa" is a must-have for tourists who want to fully enjoy their food experience in Ishikawa. Available for free at Komatsu Airport and JR Kanazawa Station, this guide features not only an introduction to traditional Kanazawa fare, but also provides cultural tips on how to enjoy eating at an izakaya, listings of local restaurants, information about seasonal foods, and more.

- Currently available in the following languages: English, Chinese (Traditional and Simplified), Korean, and French



Kagaya No.1 Yet Again!

MAP-4

Wakura Onsen's world-famous Kagaya retains its number one spot for the 33rd consecutive year in the 38th Annual Selection of the Top 100 Hotels and Inns in Japan as Voted on by Industry Professionals. Visit Wakura Onsen and spend a night at Kagaya to experience the best hospitality in Japan.

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

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

Wakura Onsen Ranks 12th in Japan

Wakura Onsen ranked 12th in Kankokeizai News Corporation's 26th Annual Selection of the Top 100 Onsens in Japan. With Yamashiro Onsen in 31st and Yamanaka Onsen in 38th, a total of three onsen districts in Ishikawa Prefecture made it onto the list! In addition, the following 12 Ishikawa ryokans made it onto the list of the 250 Most Popular Onsen Ryokans and Hotels in Japan:

- Yamashiro Onsen: Rurikoh, Hatori, Yunokuni Tensho, Tachibana Shiki-tei
- Yamanaka Onsen: Hanamurasaki, Kuriya Yasohachi, Kayou-tei
- Wakura Onsen: Kagaya, Aenokaze, Tadaya, Noto Raku
- Wajima Onsen: Kaiyu Noto no Sho



<http://www.kankokeizai.com/100sen/26.html>

Beniya Mukayu, Winner of the Relais & Châteaux Welcome Trophy

MAP-6

After a thorough and vigorous judging based on the highest industry standards, Yamashiro Onsen's Beniya Mukayu was awarded the Welcome Trophy in Relais & Châteaux's 38th World Trophy Competition!

■ Relais & Châteaux: Relais & Châteaux, established in France in 1954, is an association of 480 hotels and restaurants from 58 countries around the world. Boasting the finest chefs and experts in hospitality, Relais & Châteaux is a top brand name among celebrities for luxury resorts and hospitality.

<http://mukayu.com/>

