



**Kanazawa**  
is set to begin service for the  
**Hokuriku Shinkansen in Spring 2015**  
~It will take only 2.5 hours to travel  
from Tokyo to Kanazawa~



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# Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter

Spring is here!  
Come and see the cherry blossoms of Ishikawa!

Feature

## Kenroku-en Garden, Kanazawa Castle

MAP-1

Beautiful cheery blossoms bloom brilliantly every spring. Kenroku-en has a bridge known as Hanamibashi (flower viewing bridge) and the name was derived from the spectacular views of the cherry blossoms that can be seen from there. A light display will be held in Kenroku-en during the bloom period.

- Bloom period : Early April to mid April every year
- Light display period : Around 1 week during the cherry blossom bloom period (18:00 - 21:30 annually)
- Access : 15 minutes by bus from Kanazawa Station, alight at Kenroken-shita bus stop

## Must See!!

### Recommended cherry blossom spot

(Reference) 2013  
[ Peak bloom period ]  
Kanazawa...5 Apr  
Wajima...16 Apr  
[ Bloom date ]  
Kanazawa...30 Mar  
Wajima...7 Apr

Cherry blossom bloom period in Ishikawa currently forecasted for around  
**3rd April (Thu) >>>**

### [Inside Info!]

## The highly regarded yearly Kenroku-en light display will also take place in March!

[Light display period]

**Thu 20 Mar 2014-**

**Sun 23 Mar 2014**

**18:30-21:00 (Scheduled)**

The Kenroku-en light displays, which can be considered as Ishikawa's No.1 tourist spot, will also be on show in March. For those that have busy schedules in April, why not come a bit early and see the lights in March?

The station's official name is Noto-Kashima Station, but come spring time the station is known as Sakura Station as the two station platforms are covered with blooming sakura cherry blossom flowers that create a magnificent tunnel of sakura. Reservations can be made with Noto Railway to ride through the Noto Sakura Station! (Reservations accepted until one month in advance)

- Enquiries : Noto Railway Company (TEL : 0768-52-4422)
- Acceptance period : All year service (excluding morning/evening commute times) 365 days a year
- Number of people : Approx. 80 (Subject to discussion)
- Time required : Approx. 40-60 minutes
- Fee : 30,000 Yen~(Confirmation required)
- Other : Train operation course will need to be discussed

## Noto Cherry Blossom Station (Noto Railway Anamizu Station)

MAP-2

## Utatsuyama Park

MAP-1

You can get a great view of Kanazawa city centre from Bokodai located at the summit and the views of the cityscape and cherry blossoms at night are simply breathtaking. Other beautiful sights can be found with the rows of cherry blossom trees that continue all the way to the top of the mountain.

- Access : 20 minutes by car from JR Kanazawa Station  
※We recommend using a rent-a-car service or taxi as public transport can be inconvenient





**Kanazawa—Takayama**  
more expressway buses to  
and from Shirakawa-go!

The number of expressway buses connecting JR Kanazawa Station and Takayama City in Gifu Prefecture are set to increase from April 2014. The route has been rated as a 3 star tourist site in the Michelin Green-guide and is a popular course for travelers from abroad.



**Komatsu Airport—Kaga Onsen Station, shuttle buses will increase to 5 return buses daily!**

The “CANBUS” shuttle bus that goes to and from Komatsu Airport and JR Kaga Onsen Station will have 2 morning return buses (Komatsu departure 9:40, 11:30) and 3 afternoon return buses (Komatsu departure 14:45, 16:30, 17:50). Getting to Kaga after touching down at Komatsu Airport has never been easier!



**CANBUS**  
(The website has information in various languages)  
<http://www.kaga-can-bus.com/>

**Recent Topics**

**Japanese “Washoku”  
cuisine has been registered as  
a World Cultural Heritage!**



“Washoku” (Japanese cuisine) was registered as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in December 2013. Kanazawa in Ishikawa Prefecture is famous for its Kaiseki Ryori (Traditional Japanese haute cuisine). There are even websites in English now to introduce the relaxing high-class Japanese restaurants in Kanazawa to foreigners.

**Asadaya**

MAP-1

Asadaya has been in business since 1867. You can enjoy the full flavours of Kanazawa in the peaceful rooms looking over the elegant courtyard. Kaga cuisine can be enjoyed to the full with the carefully selected furniture, tableware, seasonal seafood, sweet shrimp, crabs, mountain ingredients and other ingredients that will cater for the customers' taste for each of the four seasons.

- Location  
23 Jikkenmachi, Kanazawa City
- Access  
8 minutes by taxi from Kanazawa Station (Going by taxi is recommended as the streets can be difficult to navigate)

<http://www.asadaya.co.jp/ryokan/english.html> (English)

**Zeniya**

MAP-1

Zeniya shows great hospitality of the highest level to its customers presenting delicate fresh ideas tied in with seasonal offerings. Everything from the tableware to the interior is presented in a way that will forever remain in your memory.

- Location  
2-29-7 Katamachi, Kanazawa City
- Access  
10 minutes by taxi from Kanazawa Station (Going by taxi is recommended as the streets can be difficult to navigate)
- Open hours  
Lunch... 12:00~14:00  
Dinner... 17:00~22:00 (Reservation required)
- Scheduled holidays  
Irregular holidays on Sundays

<http://zeniya.ne.jp/english/> (English)

**Kinjohro**

MAP-1

Kinjohro is a long standing high-class Japanese restaurant located in the Asano River neighbourhood. The Japanese architecture which has been constructed with the greatest of care and the chic serene garden leave a traditional elegance which can be enjoyed with the lavish Kaga cuisine made from ingredients grown in Noto, Hakusan and Kanazawa.

- Location  
2-23 Hashibacho, Kanazawa City
- Access  
Approx 12 minutes by Kanazawa Loop Bus from Kanazawa Station East Exit bus stand No.3, alight at Hashibacho (in front of Kinjohro)
- Open hours  
11:00~21:00
- Scheduled holidays  
None (Excluding end and beginning of the year)

<http://www.kinjohro.co.jp/english/index.html> (English)

**Reverse route for the  
Kanazawa Loop Bus!**

The Kanazawa Loop Bus is a highly useful bus service that goes around the popular tourist spots of Kanazawa starting at Kanazawa Station East Exit. Until now there has only been a route that goes in a clockwise direction, but from April there will be a route that goes in the opposite direction which will enable you to enjoy sight-seeing more efficiently.



Kanazawa East Exit

> Korinbo

> Hirosaka • 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum of Contemporary Art

> Hashibacho

> Kanazawa Station East Exit

The one day pass priced at **only ¥500 for one adult** is a great deal for the convenient bus service.

# Performing Arts of Ishikawa

The part of Ishikawa Prefecture that was ruled by the Maeda family of the Kaga Domain during the Edo period was known as "Kaga Hyakumangoku" for its land of riches.

"Hyakumangoku" (one million koku) refers to the units of rice harvested in which one koku is measured as the amount of rice to feed one adult for one year. So in other words, rice was harvested to sustain one million people for a year. It is said that the Kaga Domain during the early Edo period (around 1650) had a population of 500,000 and the fact that there was an abundance of unused rice reserves in the food supply showed that the Maeda family had extremely wealthy feudal lords.

However they were always under the watch of the Tokugawa shogunate who would not allow the wealth to be used to reinforce castles or to invest in weapons. To avert the attention of the Tokugawa family, the wealth was invested in the promotion and development of culture and arts such as tea ceremonies.

In the first of the Pure Japan series we looked at the development of tea culture and Japanese confectionary.

Performing arts developed in Ishikawa in the same way and are still going to this day. So what performing arts does Ishikawa have exactly?



## Kaga Hosho (Noh)

The Hosho Style of Noh Theatre started with the support from the 5th Maeda Lord that ruled the Kaga Domain during the Edo period. Even to this day this traditional culture has been continued thanks to the efforts of private companies.



### Noh Where can I experience Noh?

#### Kanazawa Noh Museum

MAP-1

**Location** 1-2-25 Hirotsaka, Kanazawa City  
**Access** By bus from JR Kanazawa Station, alight at Korinbo – 5 minute walk

<http://www.kanazawa-noh-museum.gr.jp/index.html>



The accompanying of the shamisen musical instrument with the Noh theatre performances also developed during this time. You can observe how shamisen are made and even try playing on one at the only handcrafted shamisen specialist shop Fukushima Sangenten that has been in business since the latter half of the Edo period.

#### Fukushima Sangenten

MAP-1

**Location** 1-1-8 Higashiyama, Kanazawa City  
**Access** By bus from JR Kanazawa Station, alight at Hashibacho – 1 minute walk

<http://www.k2.dion.ne.jp/~sangen/>

## Kanazawa-Subayashi

Subayashi are performances that are a part of Noh in which songs are performed with shamisen but do not include any dance. Subayashi has been regarded across Japan at the highest level for its classy and gracious splendor and high level of skill, and it can be said that the regional characteristics of this art really stand out.

## Hikiyama Children's Kabuki

When the Maeda family retired to Komatsu Castle in 1640, the samurai, craftsmen and merchants started to reside near the castle and this is where the industry and culture of Komatsu developed. Hikiyama Children's Kabuki started bringing together the townspeople with their culture, economic power and spirit, and the craftsmen with their techniques. The town magistrate had to regulate the performances more often than not due to the over excitement that was generated.

Find out more about Kabuki in Komatsu here (English page)  
<http://www.komatsuguide.jp/index.php/article/detail/kabuki/en/>



### Kabuki Where can I experience Kabuki?

#### Komatsu Hikiyama Gallery MIYOSSA

MAP-3

※A variety of Kabuki workshops can be tried out here.

**Location** 72-3 Yokaichicho, Komatsu City  
**Access** Take the train from JR Kanazawa station to JR Komatsu Station, 7 minutes walk from station

<http://www.city.komatsu.lg.jp/5742.htm>