



Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter

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Feature

A TRIP THROUGH SPRING IN ISHIKAWA PREFECTURE

In this issue, we hope to provide the inspiration for your next travel itinerary through the theme of spring.

ISHIKAWA, JAPAN



4 Days, 3 Nights

Sakura & Tourist Train



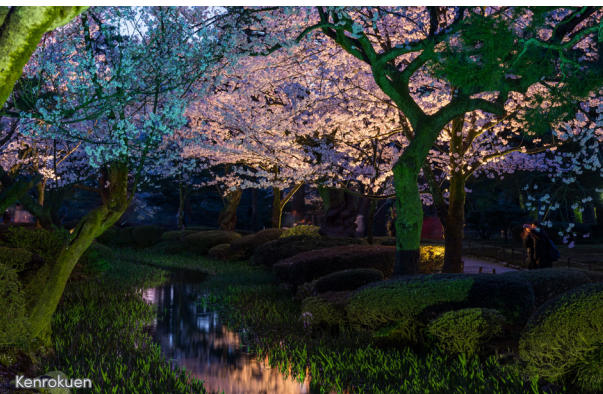
Higashi Chaya District



Kazuemachi Chaya District



Sushi



Kenrokuen



Wajima lacquerware



Wajima lacquerware



Senmaida Rice Terraces

DAY 1

AFTERNOON

Your trip starts in the **Higashi Chaya District**, an old townscape with traditional teahouse architecture dating back 200 years. After visiting a teahouse, an integral part of Kanazawa's cultural heritage, visitors can enjoy local sweets and take a rest at a café. Next, head to the **Kazuemachi Chaya District**, where cherry blossoms bloom along the river. Enjoy the views from the bridge and opposite bank, or take a stroll under the rows of sakura. Make your way through the narrow streets to the foot of the kuragari-zaka slope where you'll find a lone cherry blossom standing serenely among a carpet of petals.



Kazuemachi Chaya District

EVENING

Before dinner, visit **Kenrokuen**, one of the most beautiful traditional gardens in Japan. Created with the utmost care and skill, the garden is home to 420 cherry blossoms of over 40 different varieties, and offers beautiful spring scenery. Next to Kenrokuen is **Kanazawa Castle Park**, with 400 cherry blossoms of its own. Here you can enjoy the beautiful contrast between the white of the castle and the striking pink of the sakura. Kenrokuen and Kanazawa Castle are lit up after sunset, creating a fantastic scenery different from that during the daytime. For dinner, go out for **sushi**, a specialty of Ishikawa. There are many sushi restaurants in Kanazawa of which to choose, where skillful chefs prepare fresh fish from the Sea of Japan.



Kanazawa Castle Park

DAY 2

MORNING

Take the express bus to Wajima. Ipponmatsu Park, well known as a sakura-viewing spot, becomes enveloped with 980 cherry blossoms in spring. Azaleas and wildflowers also come into bloom at the same time to make a beautiful collaboration with the sakura.

AFTERNOON

In the afternoon, visit a **Wajima lacquerware** artist's studio. After observing the process up close and learning how Wajima lacquerware is made, you can try your hand at making a souvenir of your trip. After experiencing traditional crafts, visit the **Wajima Kiriko Art Museum** to get a taste of local festival culture. During the festivals held in this area, large sacred lanterns called kiriko are vigorously carried through town by local shrine parishioners. With 30 kirikos on display, along with the sounds of flutes and drums echoing through the museum, visitors can get a realistic sense of the festival atmosphere.

EVENING

Venture out a little further for a stroll around the **Senmaida Rice Terraces**, one of Noto's most famous landscapes, where over 1,000 rice paddies stretch out in layers across the steep slopes to the sea. Enjoy the color contrast of the paddies and the Sea of Japan while marveling at the efforts of the people who continue to maintain the area by hand. (Stay overnight in Wajima)



Wajima Kiriko Art Museum

DAY 3

MORNING

First, visit the **Wajima Morning Market**. 200 stalls selling fresh seafood, vegetables, and folk crafts line the road, with the cheerful calls of vendors resounding through the streets. After shopping and having a chat with the old ladies from the stalls, move on to Anamizu and take the **Noto Satoyama-Satoumi Sightseeing Train** to **Wakura Onsen**. The train stops at various locations where you can take in the scenery of Noto's sea and mountains through the window. **Noto-Kashima Station** offers a spectacular view from the platform where 100 cherry blossoms stand in a row across the tracks. Nearby, you can see boramachi-yagura, towers used for a traditional method of fishing mullet. Fishermen wait on top of these tall wooden structures, carefully watching the movements of the mullet before pulling up their nets with precise timing.

AFTERNOON

Once you arrive at **Wakura Onsen**, join a dolphin-watching tour, and get in touch with Noto's nature. The waters around Notojima Island are said to be the northernmost habitat of the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, with a family of 14 dolphins currently residing there. From the boat you can get a close-up view of the dolphins living freely in their natural habitat.

EVENING

After taking an open-air bath looking out over Nanao Bay at a traditional ryokan inn, enjoy an extravagant seafood dinner. (Stay overnight in Wakura Onsen)



DAY 4

MORNING

Get up a little early and head to Yuttari Park Footpath. After strolling along the seaside promenade, take a relaxing footbath in the park and enjoy the view of Nanao Bay. Next, visit Komaruyama Castle Ruins Park, a former castle built on a small hill in the 16th century that has been transformed into a garden with over 200 cherry blossoms. After your walk, head to the Hanayome Noren Museum, which showcases bridal curtains. These curtains, a local wedding tradition, and are hung in the bride's altar room when she marries into the family. Here you can dress up in a bridal kimono and experience passing through the curtains yourself!

AFTERNOON

Head back to Kanazawa on the **Hanayome Excursion Train**. The train's exterior is inspired by **Kaga Yuzen silk-dyeing** and **Wajima lacquerware**, with the interior featuring traditional Wajima patterns that allow passengers to experience Japanese beauty in every carriage. If you make a reservation in advance, you can also enjoy a bento box lunch featuring local cuisine and seasonal ingredients from Ishikawa Prefecture. (Return home)



Wajima Morning Market



Wakura Onsen



Noto Satoyama-Satoumi Sightseeing Train



Hanayome Noren Museum



Hanayome Excursion Train



Noto-Kashima Station



ISHIKAWA TRAVEL

Spring Flower

CHERRY BLOSSOMS

Cherry blossoms
Flowering period:
Early to mid-April

Here are some spots and events in Ishikawa where you can enjoy spring flowers to the fullest.



● Kenko Road

An abandoned railroad line that has been developed and is now home to over 2,000 cherry blossoms that converge to form a tree-lined avenue. Affectionately known as "Cherry Blossom Road" by locals.

Access: 40min by car from Kanazawa Station
<https://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/spot/6405> (Japanese only)



● Rojo Park

A Japanese-style park with 130 cherry blossoms. At night, 600 paper lanterns are lit, with eager visitors gathering to see the sakura.

Access: 30min from Kanazawa Station by local train to Komatsu Station → 15min on foot
<https://www.ishikawatravel.jp/en/spots/rojo-park-cherry-blossoms/>



● Kibagata Park

The 6.4km-long parkway surrounding the Kiba Lagoon is lined with 1,700 cherry trees.

Access: 35min by local train from Kanazawa Station to Awazu Station → 20min on foot
<https://www.ishikawatravel.jp/en/spots/kibagata-walking/>



● Hahakoi Highway

The 1,500 cherry trees planted along this 4.5km road come together to form a charming pale red passageway. Recommended to enjoy as a driving experience.

Access: 25min from Kanazawa Station by car
<https://uchinadakankou.com/spot/sakurakaidou> (Japanese only)

WISTERIA

Wisteria
Flowering period:
Mid-May

● Hakusan-Roku Theme Park Yoshioka-Enchi

The wisteria trellises stretching along the road are a highlight of this spot. Visitors can also enjoy other charming scenery including a rock garden and flower beds.

Access: 50min from Kanazawa Station by car
<https://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/spot/6262> (Japanese only)

● Matto Green Park

A park with a 310m-long wisteria trellis, where visitors can stroll while being surrounded by the fragrance of flowers.

Access: 40min by car from Kanazawa Station
<https://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/spot/6166> (Japanese only)

● Myosenji Temple

The temple grounds feature a 450-year-old white wisteria tree designated as a cultural asset of the town. It grows over 1,000 bunches when in full bloom.

Access: 45min from Kanazawa Station by car.
https://www.hodatsushimizu.jp/kanko/kanko/3/4/natural_treasure/1527.html (Japanese only)

CAMELLIA

Camellia
Flowering period:
Mid-March

● Nonoichi Central Park

Visitors can view camellias carefully selected from 700 trees of 300 varieties at the Tsubaki-kan Pavilion, and 800 camellias of 200 varieties at Tsubaki-yama Hill. The park is a popular destination for visitors from both in and outside of the prefecture.

Access: 20min by car from Kanazawa Station
<https://www.city.nonoichi.lg.jp/site/camellia/2761.html> (Japanese only)

● Suzu Camellia Festival

Camellias grow in clusters along the coast of Suzu at the tip of the Noto Peninsula. In March, exhibitions of fresh flowers, paintings and local specialties are held.

Access: 2.5hrs from Kanazawa Station by car
<http://suzu-tsubaki.jp/index.php> (Japanese only)



ISHIKAWA TRAVEL