



Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter

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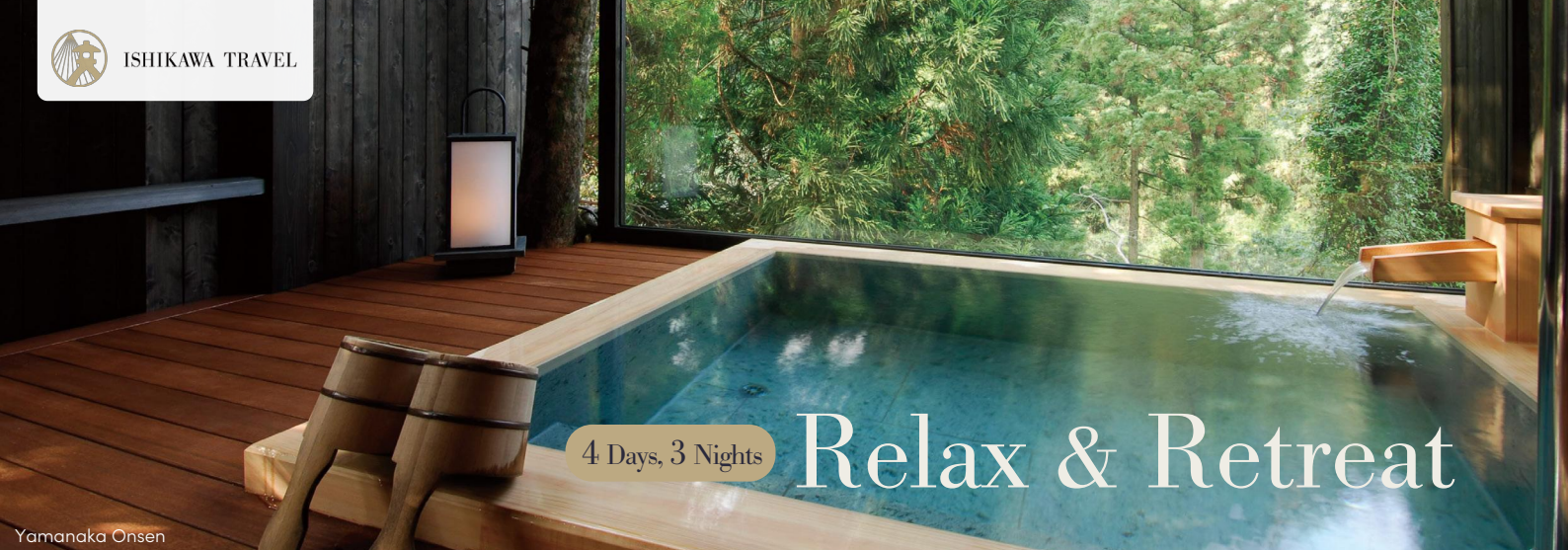
Feature

PLAN NOW, TRAVEL LATER

Many of us have postponed our holidays, or at worst cancelled, due to Covid-19. But now it is time to start planning our next trips.

On this edition, you will find the two suggested itineraries that help you create the most interesting, exciting and safest travel plans in Ishikawa.

ISHIKAWA, JAPAN



4 Days, 3 Nights

Relax & Retreat

Yamanaka Onsen



Kenrokuen Garden



Nagamachi Samurai District



Hiyo Koke no Sato Moss Garden

DAY 1

AFTERNOON

The trip begins with a visit to **Kanazawa Castle**, in the heart of Kanazawa. Once the home of the Maeda Clan, the feudal lords who ruled the Kaga Domain, this castle has since been rebuilt and is now open to the public. Spend some time exploring the impressive castle grounds and incredible structures like the tall stone walls, then enjoy a stroll through the feudal lord's spectacular **Kenrokuen Garden**, a stone's throw away. The **Nishida Family Garden** once belonged to a samurai family who served the Kaga Domain, and it's where you'll find Kanazawa's oldest tea room, where tea ceremony teachers teach more than just tea etiquette: learn about philosophy, and how to calm the mind.



Kanazawa Castle

EVENING

Kanazawa is the perfect place to experience truly outstanding **sushi**. Whether you prefer casual or fancy atmospheres, either way, the city is full of restaurants where expert chefs serve sushi made with fresh, delicious seafood from the Sea of Japan. (Overnight stay in Kanazawa)



Sushi

DAY 2

MORNING

This museum's simple yet distinctive architecture creates a space ideal for contemplation. Next, take a walk back in time through the **Nagamachi Samurai District**, where you can still see exquisite old houses that date back to the age of the samurai. The **Nomura Residence** here is open to the public; it's a great place to learn about how people lived long ago, or simply enjoy a peaceful moment with an elaborately beautiful garden and a koi pond.

Get an early start with a visit to **Daijōji Temple** for zazen seated meditation: look inward and confront yourself in this calm, quiet place. Afterward, delve a little deeper into Zen with the teachings of Daisetz Suzuki, who shared Zen with the world, at the **D. T. Suzuki Museum**.

AFTERNOON

As you head south from Kanazawa toward Kaga, why not stop along the way at **Hiyo Koke no Sato Moss Garden**? This garden features numerous types of moss, all hand-tended by the locals. Then, continue south to the hot spring towns of **Kaga Onsen**. This region is known for its four distinct hot springs, each said to have its own effects. One of these hot spring towns, **Yamashiro Onsen**, boasts some 1,300 years of history, and here you'll find Kosoyu, a public bath that still operates the old-fashioned way — no showers! After a warm soak, head over to **Iroha Soan**, once the home of Rosanjin, one of Japan's greatest artists, to relax with tea and a view of a lovely garden.

EVENING

Head to a **ryokan** for an overnight stay and an open-air bath, and savor a luxurious dinner, made with local ingredients and served on locally made tableware — a veritable feast for the eyes! (Overnight stay in Yamashiro Onsen)



Yamashiro Onsen

DAY 3

MORNING

Start the day with the **Kutani-yaki Kiln Exhibition Hall**: see the remains of an old kiln first used to make gorgeous ceramics here about two centuries ago, meet the artisans who make them today, and learn more about their history. You can even indulge your creativity by shaping clay on a pottery wheel or painting your own ceramics!

AFTERNOON

Take your time at the **Kutani-yaki Art Museum**, enjoying ceramic masterpieces with distinctively bold, colorful designs. Then, follow up this carefully crafted artisanal beauty with some natural beauty, with a trip out to **Cape Amagozen and Kasa Point**. These offer a spectacular panoramic view of the Sea of Japan all around — if your timing is right, you can even watch the sun set into the sea.

EVENING

Finish your day in the charming hot spring town of **Yamanaka Onsen**, surrounded by mountain greenery and the calming sound of the river that runs along the town. (Overnight stay in Yamanaka Onsen)

DAY 4

MORNING

Start your last morning early, with a nature walk along **Kakusenkei Gorge**: this beautiful gorge runs along Yamanaka Onsen, with a 1.3 km walking path that makes it perfect for a casual stroll. After getting some fresh morning air, head back to Yamanaka Onsen for a walk around town, or take a break at a *kawadoko* riverside café. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy however you'd like!



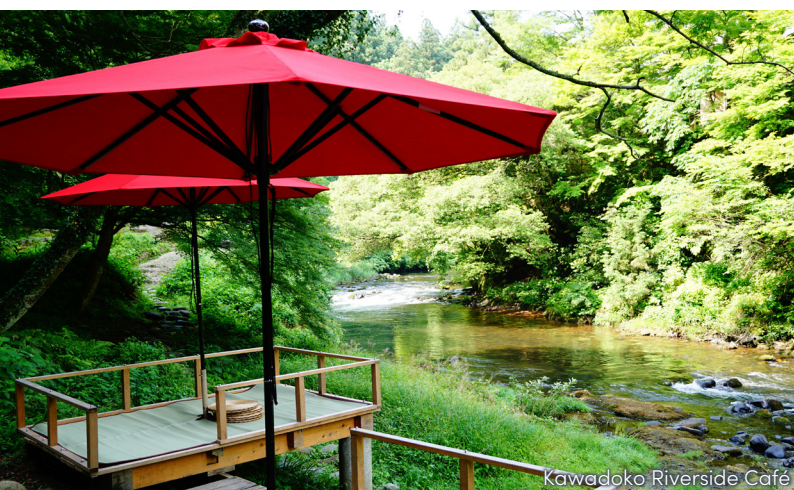
Kutani-yaki Kiln Exhibition Hall



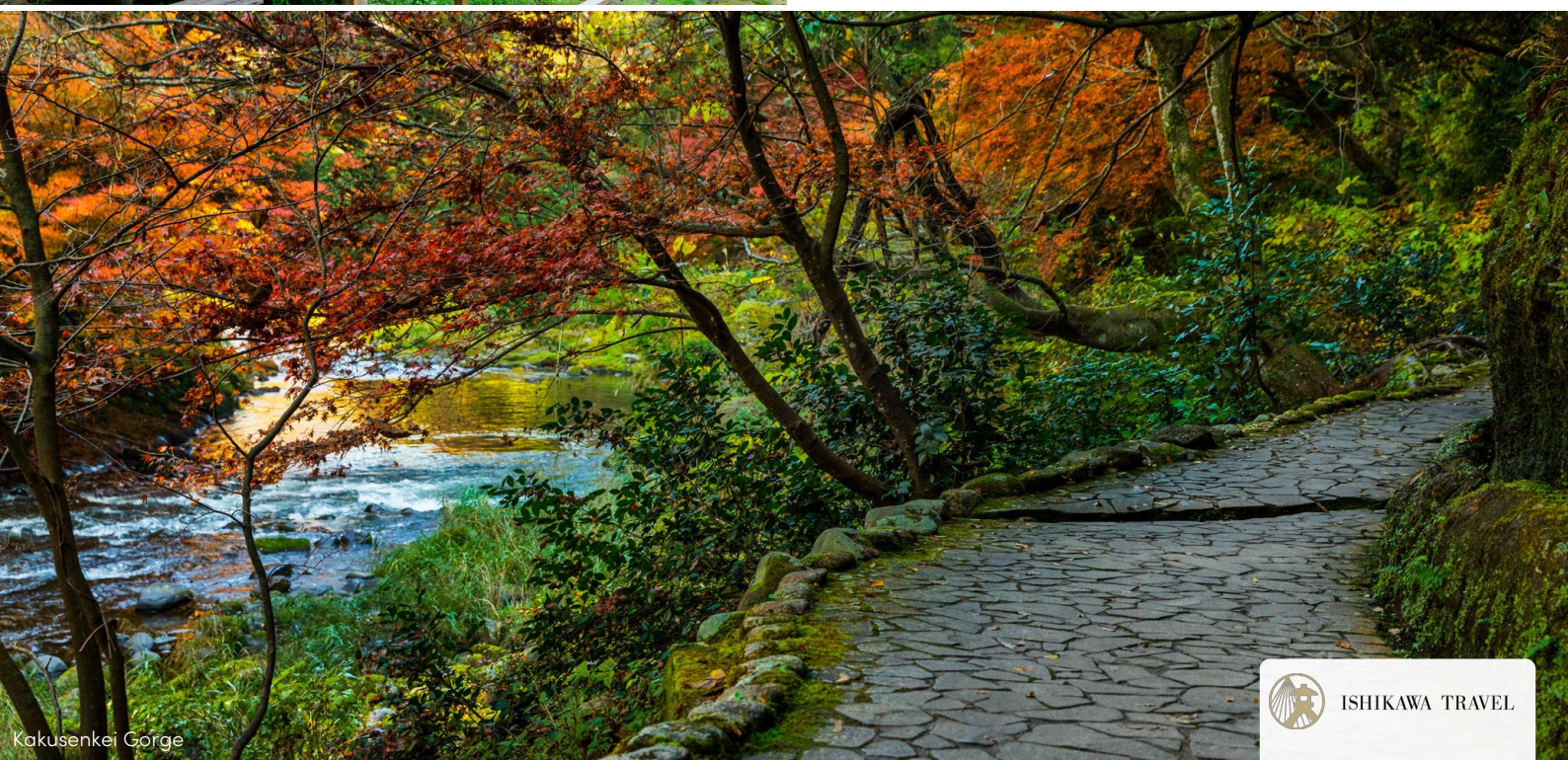
Kutani-yaki Art Museum



Cape Amagozen and Kasa Point



Kawadoko Riverside Café



Kakusenkei Gorge



ISHIKAWA TRAVEL



4 Days, 3 Nights

Nature & Cultural Adventures



Gold Leaf Experience

DAY 1

AFTERNOON

Start your trip with a walk through the **Higashi-Chaya District**, an old entertainment district full of buildings some 200 years old. Today, it's a fun neighborhood for souvenir shopping or relaxing at a café. While you're here, you can also have a hands-on **Gold Leaf Experience**, making your own one-of-a-kind decorated plate, chopsticks, and more, using gold pounded to just $\frac{1}{10000}$ mm thick by expert artisans — you can even watch them as they work!



Higashi-Chaya District

EVENING

Step out and join the locals for some lively nightlife! **Chuo Mishokugai** is tucked away in the back corners of Katamachi, Kanazawa's nightlife district. Here, you'll find an assortment of cozy little bars and restaurants, long beloved by the people of Kanazawa. (Overnight stay in Kanazawa)



Chuo Mishokugai

DAY 2

MORNING

Rent a car and head north to explore the **Noto Peninsula**! This area is difficult to get around using public transportation, but the extra effort is worth it for the breathtaking scenery. And if you're driving, the perfect place to start your day is the **Chirihama Nagisa Driveway**, the only beach in Japan where you can drive right along the surf — roll down the windows and enjoy the sea breeze! Follow the west coast of the peninsula north for more dramatic rock formations along the shore, carved out by the rough waves of the Sea of Japan, like the natural stone arch **Ganmon**, the sheer Yase Cliff, and other natural works of art.



Ganmon

AFTERNOON

The Noto Peninsula is home to traditional farmers and fishers who live in harmony with nature, and **Farmhouse Stays** are a fun and educational way to experience this lifestyle firsthand.

Shunran no Sato

Forest

Satoyama Marugoto Hotel

EVENING

Enjoy an evening of countryside hospitality with your farmhouse stay host. Have dinner together and relax by the open hearth. (Overnight stay in Noto)



Chirihama Nagisa Driveway



Shunran no Sato

DAY 3

MORNING

Join the locals for a bit of Japanese countryside life, whether it's picking mushrooms or wild plants, making *washi* paper, or other unique experiences. You can also borrow a bicycle to take a ride around the farm fields and see the locals.

AFTERNOON

The eastern coast of the Noto Peninsula is known for its placid waters, making it perfect for marine fun! Enjoy the lake-like stillness of Nanao Bay, the deeply jagged coastline of **Tsukumo Bay**, and the incredible clarity of the sea around **Notojima Island**, all perfect for stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking, and swimming.

EVENING

Stay in a *ryokan* in **Wakura Onsen**, on the coast of Nanao Bay, and enjoy an open-air bath with a view of the sea, and a sumptuous seafood dinner. (Overnight stay in Wakura Onsen)



Wakura Onsen



Farmhouse Stays



Stand-Up Paddle Boarding off Notojima Island

DAY 4

MORNING

Begin the day with **Notojima Island**, surrounded by water known for its mirror-like calm. Until the first bridge was built here a few decades ago, this small island of roughly 3,000 people was essentially cut off from the mainland; even today, the residents still live traditional farming and fishing lifestyles. It's also ideal for **cycling tours**, led by English-speaking local guides knowledgeable in topics like the environment or biology. Ride through villages of black-tiled houses, past fishing ports, and maybe even meet some local farmers. And afterward, you can finish up your trip exploring a little more of whatever has caught your eye — after all, you're on an adventure!



Twin Bridge Noto



Cycling Tours

