

Splendors of Ishikawa *japan*

うつくしきい
しかわ





*A traditional culture
that is still very much alive*

Geisha girl in a Chaya area



Higashi Chaya Area (Kanazawa City) (map A1)



Nishi Chaya Area (Kanazawa City) (map A2)

In Ishikawa Prefecture, traditional Japanese culture is still very much a part of daily life; it is a defining characteristic of the people who live there. The origin of this strong culture dates back to the Edo period, when the Maeda clan, who ruled the area, used their wealth to promote culture and education. In particular, Kanazawa, which is the capital of Ishikawa Prefecture, flourished as one of Japan's greatest castle towns. Fine arts such as tea ceremony, Noh play, music and dance became very popular, and crafts of lacquerware, ceramic ware, dyeing, gold leaf also developed as indispensable elements of interior decoration, implements and clothing.

The love of culture has been passed down to this day, and people take classes in cultural activities of daily life such as the tea ceremony and flower arranging, as well as traditional performing arts such as Noh plays and Japanese music and dance. There are still Chaya districts (former amusement areas) that have retained their Edo-period atmosphere, and many old shrines and temples, which fascinate visitors.



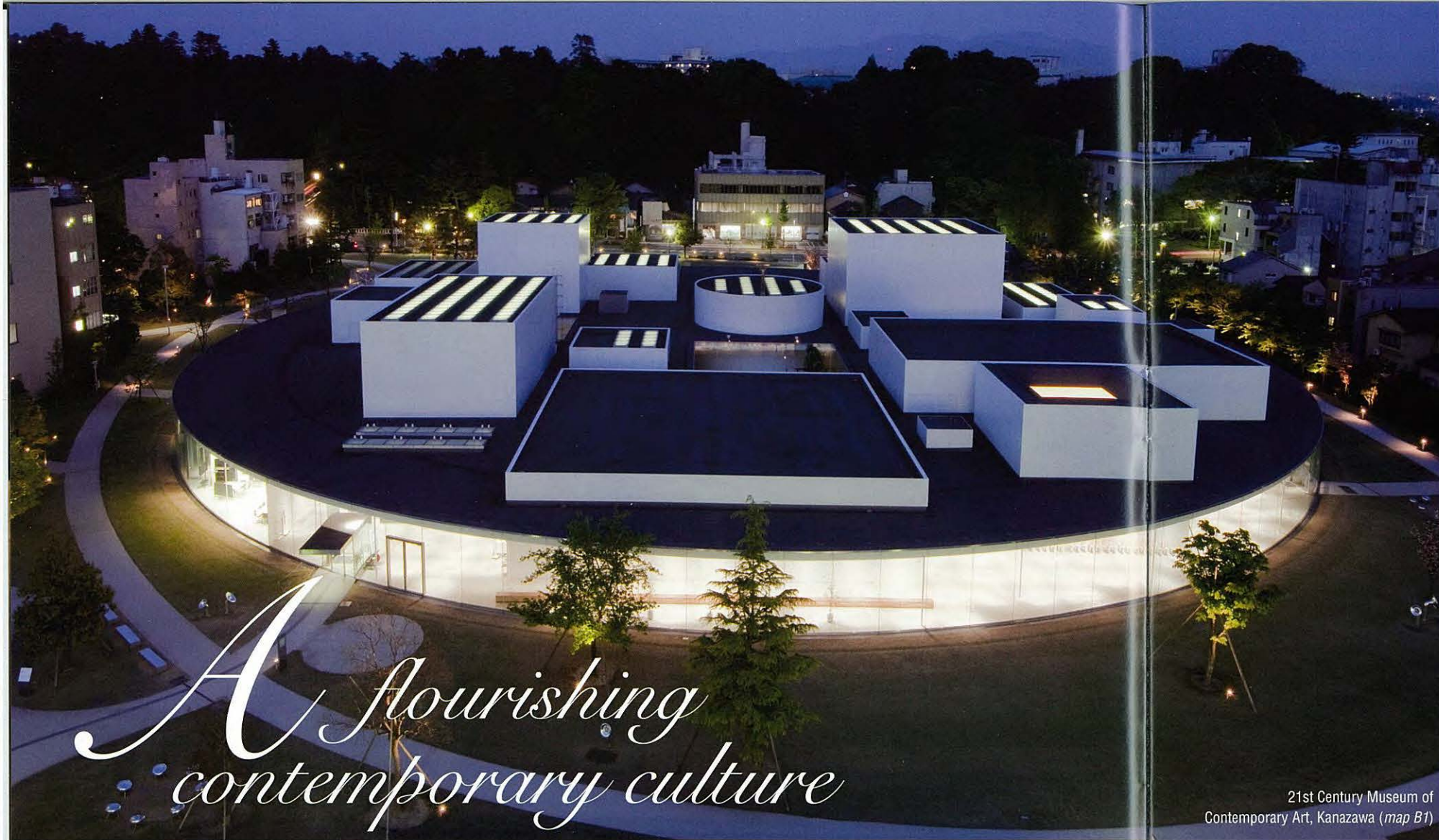
Japanese confectionery,
an essential item for the tea ceremony



Kazuemachi Chaya Area (Kanazawa City) (map A3)

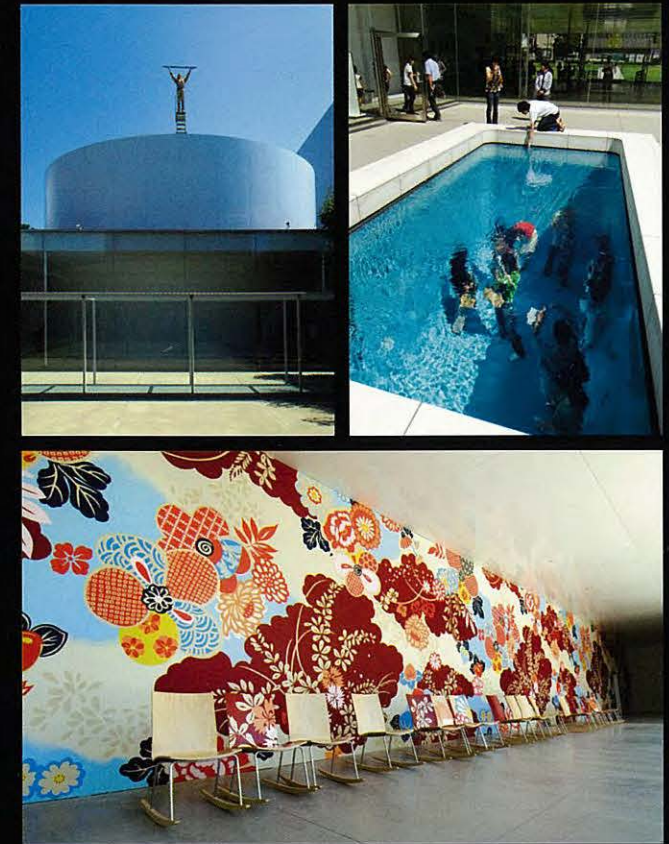


Ishikawa Noh Theater (Kanazawa City) (map A4)



A flourishing contemporary culture

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (map B1)



Commissioned work
(21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa)
1. The Man Who Measures the Clouds, Jan FABRE
2. The Swimming Pool, Leandro ERLICH
3. People's Gallery 09.10.04-21.03.05, Michael LIN

Ishikawa Prefecture has not only preserved its traditional culture but the prefecture also has a progressive spirit that is conducive to the introduction of new ideas. A friendly competition between the old and the new produces a creative energy, fostering Ishikawa's rich cultural landscape.

The 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, which opened in 2004, is one example of this cultural richness. The circular, glass-walled building that houses the museum can be said to be a work of art in itself, and its collection of modern and contemporary works from both Japan and abroad attracts a great deal of attention. The museum has been featured in magazines such as Newsweek and Beaux Arts.

In this "kingdom of traditional crafts", there is an increasing number of artists working with glass and other new media. Also, along with traditional Japanese music such as koto, nagauta, subayashi and shamisen, Western music is also very popular. In 2008, Kanazawa became the seventh city in the world to hold the La Folle Journée event, and there is an annual jazz festival that attracts a huge audience.



Tsuzumi-mon (Kanazawa City) (map B2)



Notojima Glass Art Museum (Nanao City) (map B3)



Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa (Ishikawa Ongakudo Hall) (map B4)



Kutaniyaki Art Museum (Kaga City) (map C1)



Ishikawa Prefectural Museum for Traditional Products and Crafts (Kanazawa City) (map C2)



Omicho Market (Kanazawa City) (map C3)



Kaga maki-e lacquerware decoration process

Japan's famous Wajima lacquerware



Sushi

With 36 crafts that include lacquerware, ceramic ware, dyed silk and metalwork, Ishikawa Prefecture ranks with Kyoto as a Mecca of traditional crafts, which are characterized by exquisite technique and a refined sense of beauty. Made using techniques that have been handed down through the generations, they also reflect the needs and tastes of the age in which they are made, and thus have been constantly evolving. Ishikawa has produced many of the best artisans in Japan, and the prefecture has many art galleries and museums that feature outstanding works.

Ishikawa Prefecture is also known as a "treasure-trove" of food, as it offers an abundance of fresh, tasty ingredients of all kinds. Elegant Japanese dishes served in Kutani ceramic ware and Wajima lacquerware are truly a delight for both the eyes and the palate. You are sure to take home wonderful memories of the warm welcome you receive. Please enjoy the authentic flavor of the carefully prepared dishes that Ishikawa has to offer.



Outstanding crafts and food



Traditional Kaga cuisine "Jibu-ni" (stewed duck with vegetables)

Refreshing seasonal beauty

Ishikawamon Gate, Kanazawa Castle (Kanazawa City) (map D1)

Ishikawa Prefecture has four distinct seasons. In the spring, the cherry blossoms put on a brilliant display, and Kanazawa Castle and Kenrokuen area bustle with people who come to admire these blossoms. The season of fresh greenery follows after the cherry blossoms, and as the summer heats up, the foliage turns a deeper green.

In the fall, the beautifully colored leaves start appearing in the mountains and gradually advance down the slopes. Bright gradations of red, orange and yellow elicit sighs of admiration. Winter brings snow. The fields, mountains and towns are covered with a beautiful, peaceful blanket of white.



Sojiji Temple (Wajima City) (map D6)



Shirayama Hime Shrine (Hakusan City) (map D7)

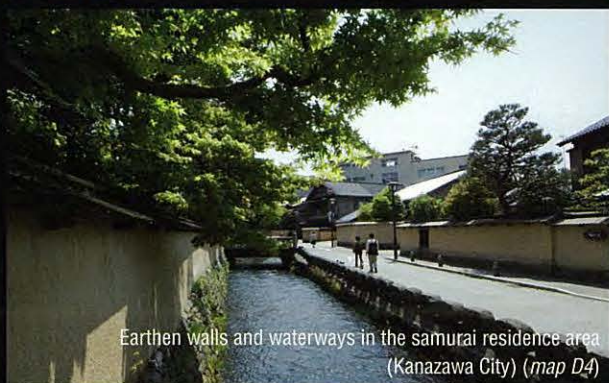
Garden of Natadera Temple (Komatsu City) (map D8)



Kenrokuen Garden, one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan (Kanazawa City) (map D2)



Kanazawa Castle Park (Kanazawa City) (map D3)



Earthen walls and waterways in the samurai residence area (Kanazawa City) (map D4)



Ishikawa Prefectural History Museum (Kanazawa City) (map D5)

Excitement and energy

Festivals that have been passed down through the generations since ancient times are still celebrated as important events. In the kiriko festival, which is unique to the Noto Peninsula, huge kiriko lanterns are paraded around town to the sounds of vigorous chanting. During the period from July to September, kiriko festivals are held in more than 100 communities.

Two of Ishikawa's most famous spring festivals are Seihaku-sai Festival, which boasts of Japan's largest float, and Otabi Festival, which features children's performances of kabuki plays on gorgeous floats decorated with lacquer, gold leaf and carvings. The Kanazawa Hyakumangoku Festival celebrates Maeda Toshiie's taking over of Kanazawa Castle, and its highlight is a magnificent samurai parade. The energetic Gojinjo Daiko masked drummers, who perform to scare away demons, have been designated as an intangible folk cultural asset by Ishikawa Prefecture.



Seihaku-sai Festival (Kanazawa City) (map E2)



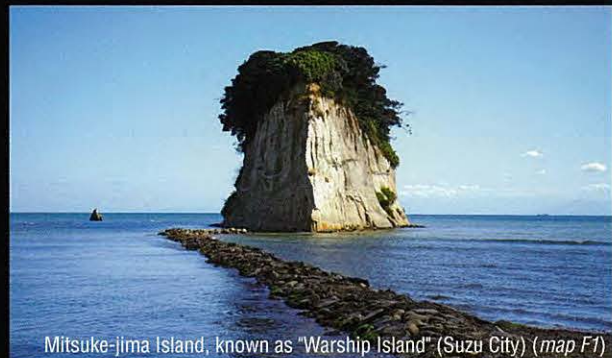
Gojinjo Daiko drumming performance (Wajima City) (map E3)



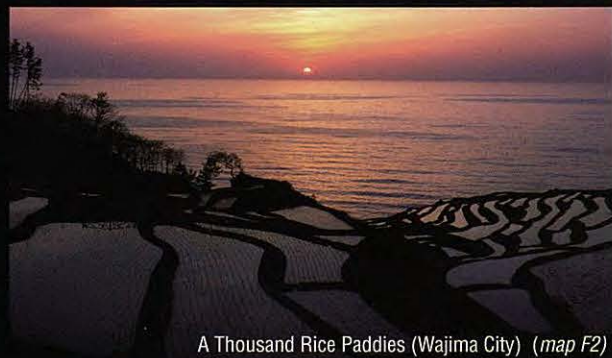
Kanazawa Hyakumangoku Festival (Kanazawa City) (map E4)



Otabi Festival (Komatsu City) (map E5)



Mitsuke-jima Island, known as "Warship Island" (Suzu City) (map F1)



A Thousand Rice Paddies (Wajima City) (map F2)



Yase Cliff (Shika Town) (map F3)

The art of nature

Noto Kongo rock formation (Shika Town) (map F4)



Uba-ga-taki (Hakusan City) (map F5)

Because Ishikawa has a peninsula that juts out into the Sea of Japan, it is a prefecture where changes in nature in both seaside and mountain areas can be enjoyed. Mount Hakusan, now a national park, is one of the three most famous mountains in Japan, and the place of origin of the Hakusan religious faith. There are also quasi-national parks along the coastlines of Kaga and Noto.

The mountainous area of Ishikawa Prefecture is densely forested, and dotted with beautiful waterfalls and gorges. The coastline also has amazing attractions, which include unusually shaped rocks and reefs that have been formed naturally over the years, as well as the only beach in Japan on which you can drive your car along the water's edge.

And last but not least, when you visit Ishikawa, you will experience the lives and warmth of the people who live in harmony with nature, in both mountain and seaside villages.



Mt. Hakusan shining in the sunset (map F6)



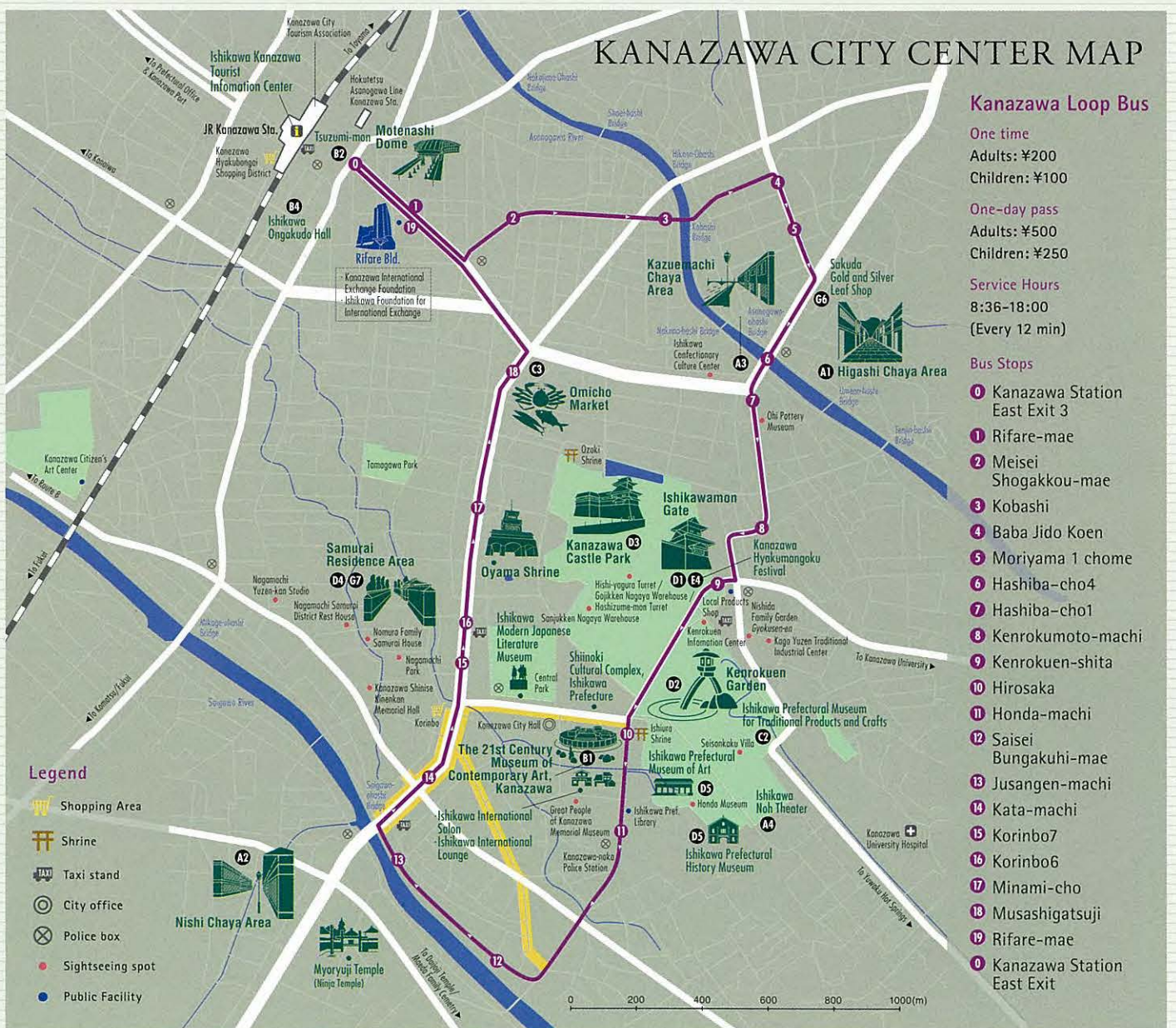
Koorogi bridge in Kakusen-kei Gorge (Kaga City) (map F7)



Mt. Hakusan seen from Shibayama Lagoon (Kaga City) (map F8)



KANAZAWA CITY CENTER MAP



Kanazawa Loop Bus

- One time**
Adults: ¥200
Children: ¥100
- One-day pass**
Adults: ¥500
Children: ¥250
- Service Hours**
8:36-18:00
(Every 12 min)
- Bus Stops**
- 0 Kanazawa Station East Exit 3
 - 1 Rifare-mae
 - 2 Meisei Shogakkou-mae
 - 3 Kobashi
 - 4 Baba Jido Koen
 - 5 Moriyama 1 chome
 - 6 Hashiba-cho4
 - 7 Hashiba-cho1
 - 8 Kenrokumoto-machi
 - 9 Kenrokuen-shita
 - 10 Hirosaka
 - 11 Honda-machi
 - 12 Saisei Bungakuhi-mae
 - 13 Jusangen-machi
 - 14 Kata-machi
 - 15 Korinbo7
 - 16 Korinbo6
 - 17 Minami-cho
 - 18 Musashigatsuji
 - 19 Rifare-mae
 - 0 Kanazawa Station East Exit

Onsen (Hot Springs)

Ishikawa Prefecture is blessed with an abundance of hot springs, from large-scale resorts to quaint small spas in the mountains, each with its own special attributes and ambiance. Discovered mostly about 1,300 years ago, Ishikawa's hot springs are famous throughout Japan for their historic significance and their healing qualities. So when visiting Ishikawa for its many wonderful attributes and attractions, why not pamper yourself with a relaxing stopover in a soothing spa?

1	Wajima Onsen	0768-22-6588	http://www.wajimaonsen.com/
2	Wakura Onsen	0767-62-1555	http://www.wakura.or.jp/
3	Yuwaku Onsen	076-235-1040	http://www.yuwaku.gr.jp/
4	Tatsunokuchi Onsen	0761-55-8509	http://www.city.nomi.ishikawa.jp/
5	Awazu Onsen	0761-65-1834	http://www.awazuonsen.com/
6	Katayamazu Onsen	0761-74-1123	http://www.katayamazu-spa.or.jp/
7	Yamashiro Onsen	0761-77-1144	http://www.yamashiro-spa.or.jp/
8	Yamanaka Onsen	0761-78-0330	http://www.yamanaka-spa.or.jp/



NOTO



Oku-Noto Salt Farm Village (map G1)



Wajima Morning Market (map G2)



Notojima Aquarium (map G3)



Chirihama Beach Driveway (map G4)

KANAZAWA



Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Art (map G5)



Sakuda Gold and Silver Leaf Shop (map G6)



Samurai Residence Area (map G7)

KAGA



Traditional Handicrafts Village 'Yunokuni-no-mori' (map G8)



Hakusan Sena Highland Ski Resort (map G9)



Yukidaruma Snowman Festival (map G10)



Getting to and from Ishikawa

By Plane

Komatsu - Seoul	1:40 h
Komatsu - Shanghai	2:20 h
Komatsu - Taipei	3:00 h
Komatsu - Narita	1:10 h
Komatsu - Tokyo (Haneda)	1:00 h
Noto - Tokyo (Haneda)	1:00 h

By Train

Kanazawa - Tokyo (via Echigo-Yuzawa)	3:47 h
Kanazawa - Tokyo (via Maibara)	4:12 h
Kanazawa - Osaka	2:30 h
Kanazawa - Nagoya	2:27 h
Kanazawa - Kansai International Airport	3:22 h

By Bus

Kanazawa - Takayama	2:10 h
Kanazawa - Shirakawago	1:15 h



Nami-no-Hana

Photo courtesy of Nohagi Naka © Nohagi Naka

When waves are blown by the wind and crash against the rocks, white foam forms and flies over the sea like flower petals. This phenomenon is referred to as "wave flowers". Wave flowers can be seen from the Noto seashore in winter on very windy days. The sea changes its aspect just as we change our temper and expression every day; it may be calm, angry or gorgeous. On this day, there was nothing special about the sea for the local residents; the photo shows the sea on a typical winter day.

中 乃 波 木

Nohagi Naka
(Photographer, Resident of Ishikawa)

The photos in this guidebook were taken by photographers who work in Ishikawa.

Website for Information on Ishikawa Tourism <http://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/>

You can download the photos of the tourist sites in Ishikawa used in this guidebook (with a few exceptions) from the website for the purpose of publicizing Ishikawa's tourist attractions.

Planning and Production by Ishikawa Tourism Bureau, Ishikawa Prefecture Tourism Federation
Supported by Ishikawa Visual Design Association, Ishikawa Photographers Association
Designed by Toshimitsu Takahashi, Kei Saito, Ayumi Koshino