

# Introduction of Kaga City

English

A Journey into Kaga

加賀街道の  
旅

The lofty, majestic Mt. Hakusan,  
the deep blue Daishoji River reminiscent of  
Aode Ko-Kutani porcelain...

Kaga, with its abundance of serene nature, is featured in  
Matsuo Basho's haiku compilation  
"The Narrow Road to the Deep North".

Kaga boasts the hot spring water used for bathing by  
Kitaoji Rosanjin, the obscure penman who kept  
Matsuo Basho in the town for as long as nine days.  
That hot spring, which is truly a blessing of the earth,  
brought the gifts of culture and visitors to this area.

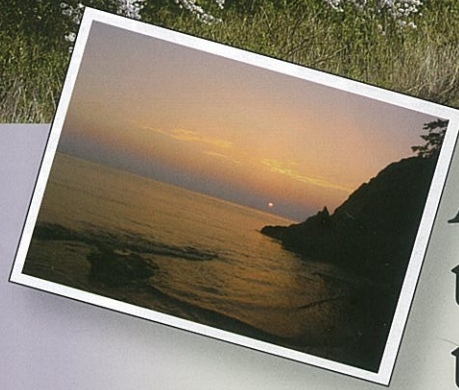
## Kaga City,

Ishikawa Prefecture

• Kanazawa

• Tokyo





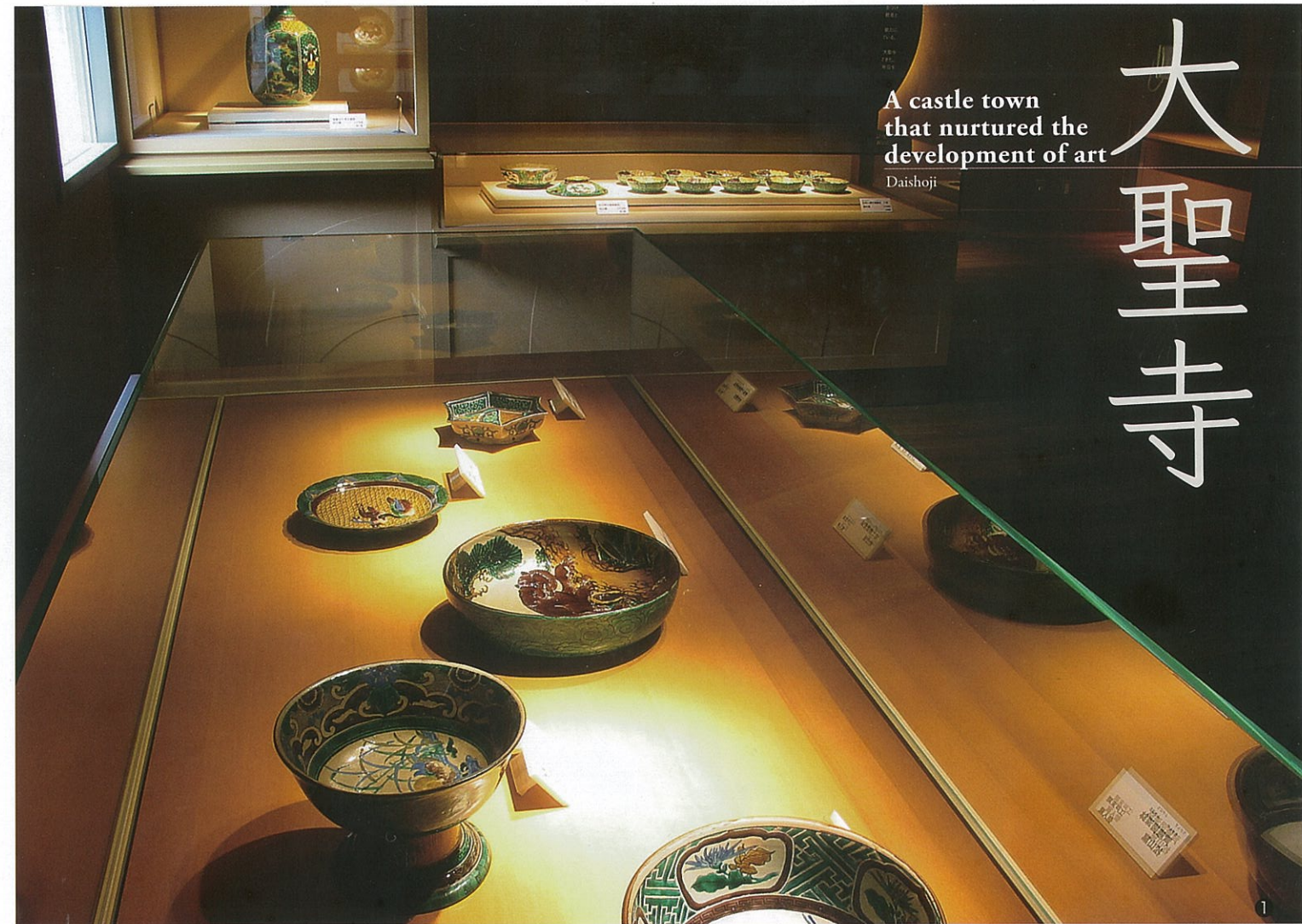
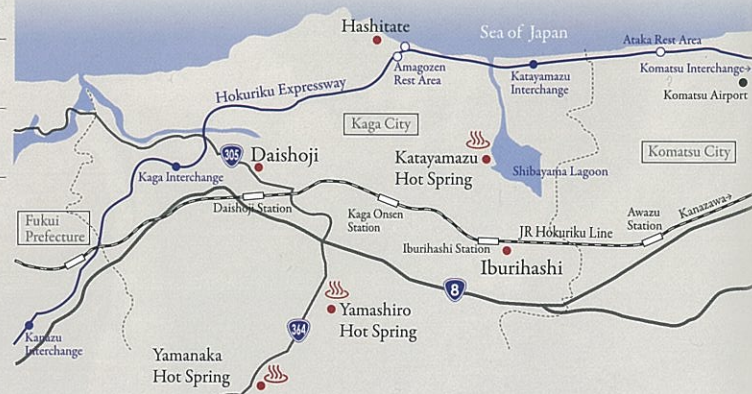
# At the foot of the sacred mountain, the road opens up to the sky

加賀街道の旅

Although situated quite a distance from Kanazawa, this area has an aesthetic sense reminiscent of the Hyakumangoku culture of the wealthy Kaga clan.

Kaga City is made up of the six areas of Daishoji, founded by the Daishoji clan, the three hot springs Yamanaka, Yamashiro and Katayamazu, Hashidate on the Japan Sea, and Iburihashi facing the old main road. Just as the three hot spring areas look completely different, these six towns each have their own history and distinctive lifestyle. On sunny days, the noble, awe-inspiring Mt. Hakusan is set off prominently against the blue sky. The mountain is said to be the mother of Kaga.

This is the region that produced the mountaineer and literary scholar Kyuya Fukada, and the snow scientist Ukichiro Nakaya, and attracted many historical figures such as Basho and Rosanjin. The four seasons and land of the sacred mountain harbor a mysterious charm.



A castle town that nurtured the development of art  
Daishoji

大聖寺

## In the spring,

you can admire the night cherry blossoms floating on the river surface of the former Daishoji River, as seen from Choryu-tei. In the autumn, Japanese bush clover that looks like it has a dusting of snow, blossoms in all its glory at Jisshoin Temple. The refined aspect of the cherry blossoms and bush clover no doubt has its origin in the rich history of the town of Daishoji.

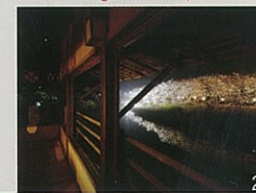
After the Enu no Kuni, that began in the fifth century, and the Ikko-Ikki revolt in favor of farmers' self-government, the Daishoji clan came into being as a branch of the Maeda family of the Kaga fiefdom. After that, during the 230 years until the end of the 19th century, there were mansions owned by feudal lords and samurai residences at the foot of Mt. Kinjo, with craftsmen who made bows and guns on the eastern side, and the Yamanoshita Temples for protection on the

southern side. The layout was that of a typical castle town. Although small-scale, a cultural area with an atmosphere reminiscent of Kaga Hyakumangoku culture developed here.

The main product of that culture is Kutani porcelain, which originated as an undertaking of the Kaga clan. The dynamic brushwork and bright colors are of a high artistic caliber. The beauty of Kutani, as well as its precursor Ko-Kutani porcelain, can be fully appreciated at the Kutaniyaki Art Museum. ①

Daishoji is also the birthplace of mountaineer and author Kyuya Fukada, known for his list of 100 famous mountains in Japan. At dusk on clear winter evenings, a rose-colored Mt. Hakusan appears above the rooftops – a sight that has been called “the ultimate in beauty”. Daishoji, the town that Fukada loved, is a place where rustic nature and traditional culture are an integral part of everyday life.

2. "Choryu-tei", the lounge where feudal lords hung fishing lines from an armchair window. The nighttime cherry blossoms along the former Daishoji River, viewed from the sukiya-style tearoom, have a magical beauty.

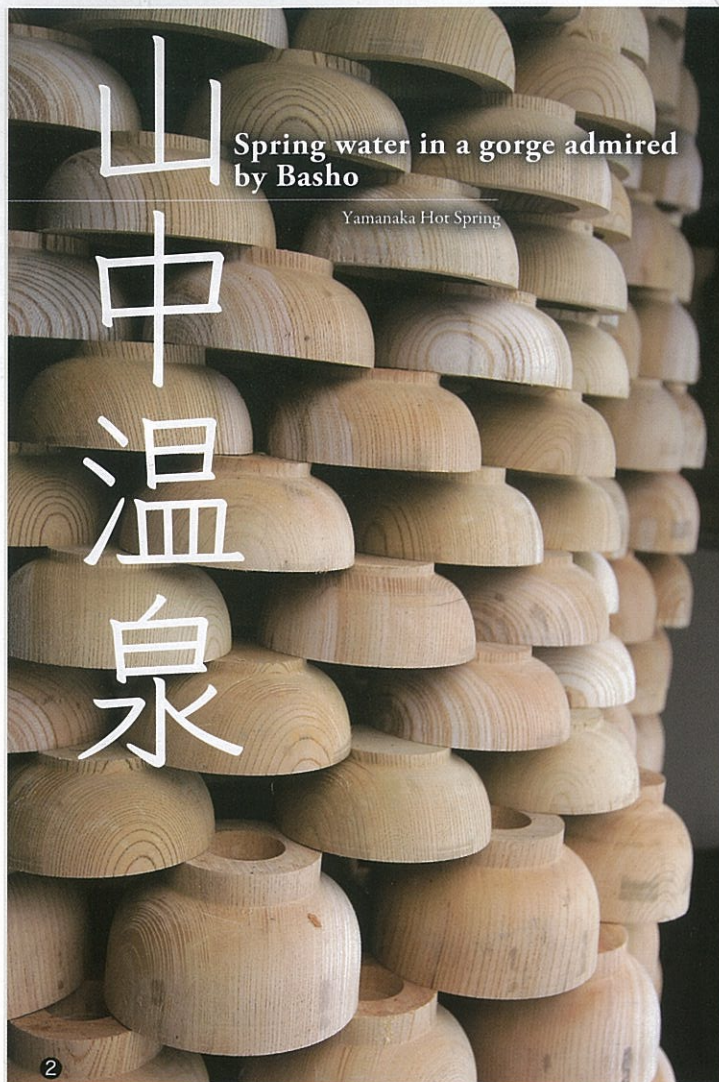


3. It is said that people who walk under a wreath made from Indian rice as part of Sugo Isobe Shrine's wreath ritual rid themselves of the previous year's impurities. 4. The "Fukada Kyuya Center of Mountain Culture", housed in a renovated 19th-century building. 5. The board fencing around Jisshoin Temple has a peaceful appearance. 6. As part of the Cherry Blossom Festival, a portable shrine wends its way along Kumasaka River. 7. "Choryu-tei" on the riverbank. Visitors can enjoy gondola outings here.

Kaga Column: 1  
Sweets

Ever since the time when Kaga was the castle town of the Daishoji clan, the area has had thriving tea ceremony and ikebana cultures. Japanese sweets developed with the spread of the tea ceremony. From the simple mochi sweets that everyday people love, to fresh Japanese-style cakes, the sweets culture is still thriving to this day.





# 山中温泉

Spring water in a gorge admired by Basho

Yamanaka Hot Spring



1



A place imbued with the culture of Kutani porcelain and inn-keeping

Yamashiro Hot Spring

# 山代温泉

1

## Yamanaka

Hot Spring appears in Basho's haiku compilation "The Narrow Road to the Deep North". The poet must have liked Yamanaka a lot, because he stayed there for as long as nine days.

The fact that Basho was so attracted to Yamanaka might be explained by his haiku "No need to pick chrysanthemums / The hot springs are fragrant". The poem might indicate that the spring water was so good for healing illnesses and easing fatigue that medicinal herbs such as chrysanthemums were not required. Alternatively, he might have been attracted by the superb scenery of Kakusenkei Gorge, which he is said to have found so pleasing that he clapped at the sight of it.

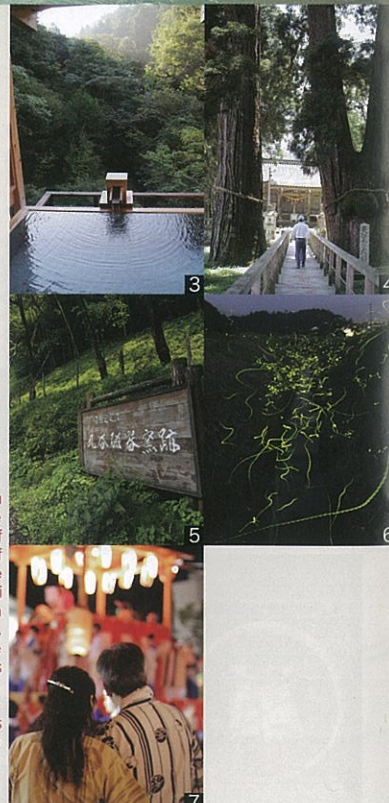
Reflections of leafy shade on the water, unusually shaped rocks dotted here and there, unique bridges ... The one-kilometer path from Korogi Bridge to Kurotani Bridge allows you to enjoy the beauty of the gorge through which the Daishoji

River flows. ①

The "Yuge Kaido" road that goes through the hot spring village, and the public bath area are also not to be missed. You will be tempted to drop into some of the many shops: souvenir shops and galleries selling craft items, sake breweries and traditional Japanese sweet shops, among others. Yamanaka's most well-known traditional craft is Yamanaka lacquerware, produced by means of sophisticated wood-turning techniques. ② This type of lacquerware, which highlights the beauty of the wood grain, is loved by people all over the world. Yamanaka has the highest production in Japan.

If you continue 10 km beyond Yamanaka Hot Spring Village, you will find the remains of the old Kutani kiln in the former Kutani Village, deep in the mountains. This is where Kutani porcelain originated. Beyond that is the prefectural forest park, which visitors come to enjoy all year round.

3. Outdoor baths provide a chance to soak at leisure while enjoying the beauty of nature. 4. The "Big Cedar of Kayano" at Sugawara Shrine. 5. The remains of the old Kutani kiln are a tranquil window on the past. 6. In early summer, the light of fireflies fills the countryside. There are tours to see the fireflies. 7. Yamanaka's greatest event - the "Koi Festival". Revelers dance in a circle to the festival music of Yamanaka.



8. The "Yuge Kaido" road, which links Korogi Bridge to the public bath, is the main attraction of a stroll through the hot spring area. Enjoy shopping and eating out in the atmospheric village.



Kaga Column: 2  
Public baths

"Kiku no Yu" is Yamanaka's public bath. It is referred to as "Yuzaya", and has long been cherished by local residents. At 6:30 a.m. the regulars who like morning baths arrive in droves. Soon the large bath is alive with chatter.



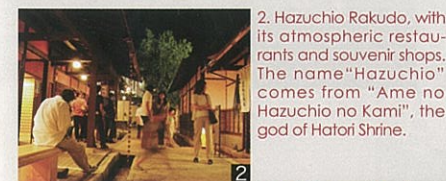
## Yamashiro,

where the warlord Akechi Mitsuhide is said to have come to soothe his wounds, has since ancient times been known all over Japan as a hot spring area. Literary figures such as Yosano Tekkan, Yosano Akiko, Izumi Kyoka and Yoshii Isamu have visited Yamashiro, and Kitao Rosanjin had a particularly strong connection to the area.

Rosanjin was a cultural figure of the Showa era who had many titles, including author, epicurean and ceramic artist. It was the innkeepers of Yamashiro Hot Spring who helped him develop his talents. While living in the annex of an inn, Rosanjin carved signs, developed his palate, and learned pottery techniques from the master potter Suda Seika. That annex is now open to the public, and if you go there and gaze at the moss-covered courtyard, you will likely get a sense of the atmosphere of Rosanjin's time. ①

This type of cultural ambience is also evident at the birthplace of Kutani porcelain. The Yoshidaya kiln used by the wealthy merchant Toyoda Denemon to fire exquisite ceramic works called Ko-Kutani porcelain, is located in Yamashiro. At the Ancient Kutani Kiln Exhibition Center, visitors can see enormous ruins, and try their hand at decoration and turning pottery on a potter's wheel.

The hot spring area has many features that make it a good place to walk around and enjoy resting here and there. These include Yunogawa around the public bath area and the atmospheric Hazuchio Gakudo, as well as the Yakuo-In hot spring temple, which has a deep relationship with the high priest Myogaku, who compiled the syllabary of the Japanese language.



2. Hazuchio Rakudo, with its atmospheric restaurants and souvenir shops. The name "Hazuchio" comes from "Ame no Hazuchio no Kami", the god of Hatori Shrine.

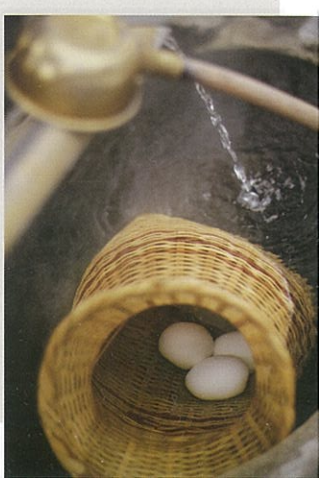


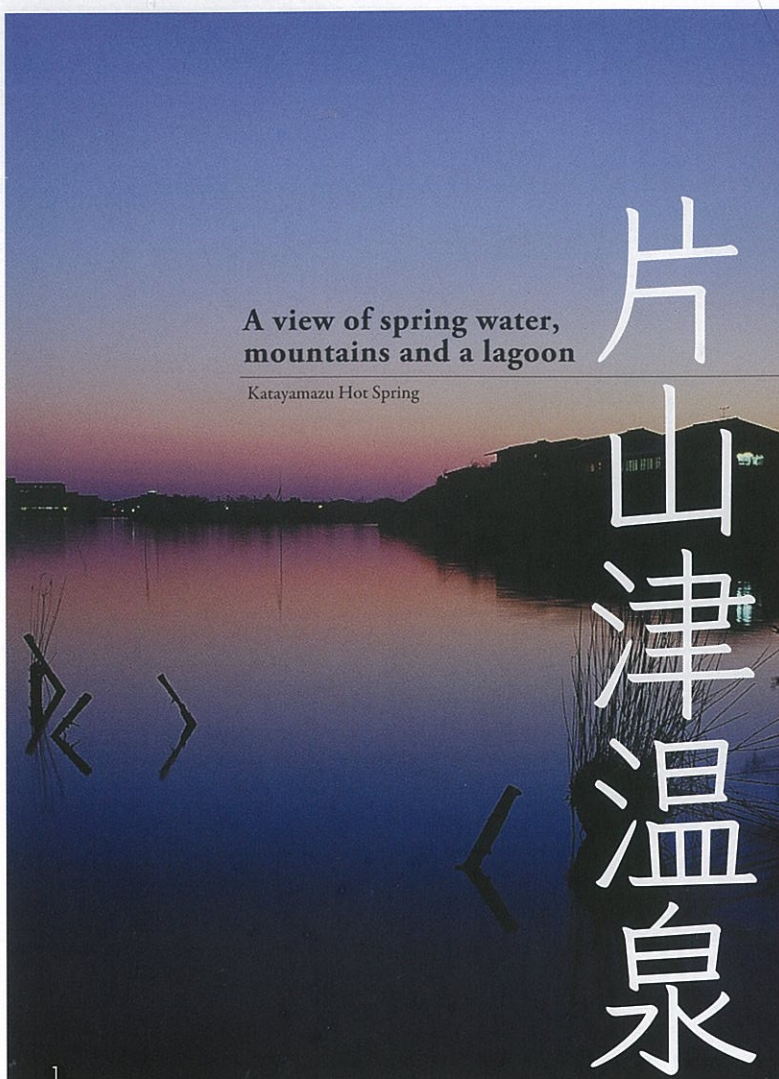
3. The Yamashiro Daidengaku festival, with its mystical rhythm and dance, echoes across the night sky in summer. 4. The atmospheric Suda Seika Kutani Kiln. Don't miss the sign carved by Rosanjin. 5. Visitors to the Ancient Kutani Kiln Exhibition Center can try making pottery with a kick-wheel. 6. The Spring boasts a history of 1,300 years and still spews forth spring water today. In the center of the hot spring area, there is a large foot bath.



Kaga Column: 3  
Hot spring eggs

Hot spring eggs are a specialty of Yamashiro. These eggs are cooked slowly in spring water for eight hours, at a temperature of 66 degrees. They have a characteristic taste and a faint sulfuric aroma. The eggs can be purchased at the entrance to the public bath, where you will see a red banner. Individually wrapped with care, they are popular as souvenirs.





A view of spring water, mountains and a lagoon

Katayamazu Hot Spring

# 片山津温泉



2



1



# 橋立

The spirit of the Kitamae ship owners  
Hashitate

2

## Katayamazu

Hot Spring was opened for business in the latter half of the 19th century. The hot spring was discovered back in the time of the second lord of the Daishoji clan, Maeda Toshiaki, but because the source was at the bottom of Shibayamagata Lagoon, ❶ it took a great deal of skill and time to develop it. In 1876, difficult excavation and landfill work was undertaken to establish two inns, and when they were ready, people were entertained for free and the whole village celebrated. In the middle of the lagoon is Ukimido floating temple, which enshrines the gods Benten and Ryujin, of a local hot spring legend. There are also houseboats in Yunomoto Park, which is adjacent to Ukimido. In summer there are fireworks over the lagoon, and

elegant boating pastimes are available, such as going around the lagoon by boat to various hot spring baths.

Among the inns by the lagoon is the Nakaya Ukichiro Museum of Snow and Ice. ❷ Katayamazu is the hometown of Nakaya Ukichiro, the world-renowned scientist who said that "Snow is a letter sent from the heavens". In the museum visitors can make snow crystals and see many interesting exhibits. The glass-enclosed tea room is an ideal place from which to admire Mt. Hakusan across the lagoon. Katayamazu Hot Spring seems to open up towards the sky; its location beside the lagoon gives it a feeling of vastness.



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3. The design of the six-cornered towers of the Nakaya Ukichiro Museum of Snow and Ice is based on snow. Mt. Hakusan can be seen in the background. 4. Ice pendants are made using a heat conduction technique. 5. For about one month in the summer, there are fireworks every evening. The large flower-type fireworks that brightly color the night sky and the lagoon are a summer tradition.



3. There is a legend associated with Cape Amagozen. When Minamoto no Yoshitsune and his entourage were exiled from the capital, Amagozen is said to have jumped off the cape to avoid being a burden. 4. The Kitamae Ship Museum was once the residence of the Sakaya family, who were Kitamae ship owners. No expense was spared in its construction. 5. Zorokuen, the residence of a Kitamae ship owner. There is a good view of the garden, which contains special rocks transported there from places all over Japan.



4



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6. Right: In the evening, returning fishing boats line up in the port and unload their various catches of seafood. Auctions are held at night.

## At one point

in history, Hashitate was called "the wealthiest village in Japan". According to records from the end of the 18th century, as many as 48 Kitamae ship owners doing business between Osaka and Hokkaido lived in the village of Hashitate. Those ship owners provided the Daishoji clan with financial support. Hashitate, with its streets lined with the luxurious houses of Kitamae ship owners, has been designated as an area of traditional architectural significance worthy of preservation. It is well worth a leisurely stroll. The street lined with board fencing that runs between Zorokuen (the residence of a Kitamae ship owner) and the Kitamae Ship Museum is Yamazaki-dori ❶. The street lined

with a blue stone wall that runs between the Banyara restaurant and the Kitamae ship owners' graveyard is Shinmachi-dori. The road that goes through the town, from which there are good views of red roof tiles and Mt. Hakusan, is called Panoramic Road. Every street has elegant residences that once belonged to ship owners, and shows evidence of how wealthy a town Hashitate once was.

The Echizen-Kaga Coast, which is a quasi-national park, has outstanding marine scenery. Cape Kasano, which has beautiful sunsets, and Cape Amagozen, are ideal places from which to get a panoramic view of the Japan Sea.

Hashitate has a thriving fishing port. It is known for its winter catches of crab, and gourmets come from all over Japan to enjoy fresh snow crab. ❷

Kaga Column: 4  
Foot bath

There is a footbath with a wooden deck in the park in the middle of the hot spring area, which also boasts a great expanse of lawn and a pond. As there is just enough space for two people to take a footbath facing one another, it is an ideal place to have a chat. There are rocks at the bottom of the bath for massaging your feet and easing the fatigue of your trip.



## A town that retains its hostel-town atmosphere

Iburihashi

# 動橋

Two papier maché figures crash into one another in the Guzu-yaki Festival. A "guzu" is a sculpin (fish) that has turned into a monster. In the end the papier maché figures are put into a blazing fire.



Iburihashi bustled as a hostel town on the Hokuriku Way during the feudal period. The town still has old establishments such as sake breweries founded in the Edo period and tea manufacturers that make Kaga Bocha. The Hashimoto sake brewery, with a vaulted ceiling, also has a sake museum. There are also historical attractions such as Joshoji Temple, where the priest Renyo is said to have stayed.



Kaga Column: 5  
Seasonal fish

Hashitate has one of the best fishing ports on the Japan Sea coast. Local residents always have fresh fish and dried marine products on their dining table. In addition to deep-water shrimp and crab, there are large catches of fatty seafood caught by means of large-scale dragnet fishing boats. Visitors can enjoy dishes made of seafood from the Japan Sea at seafood restaurants and inns run by fishermen, and there are also many fish shops.

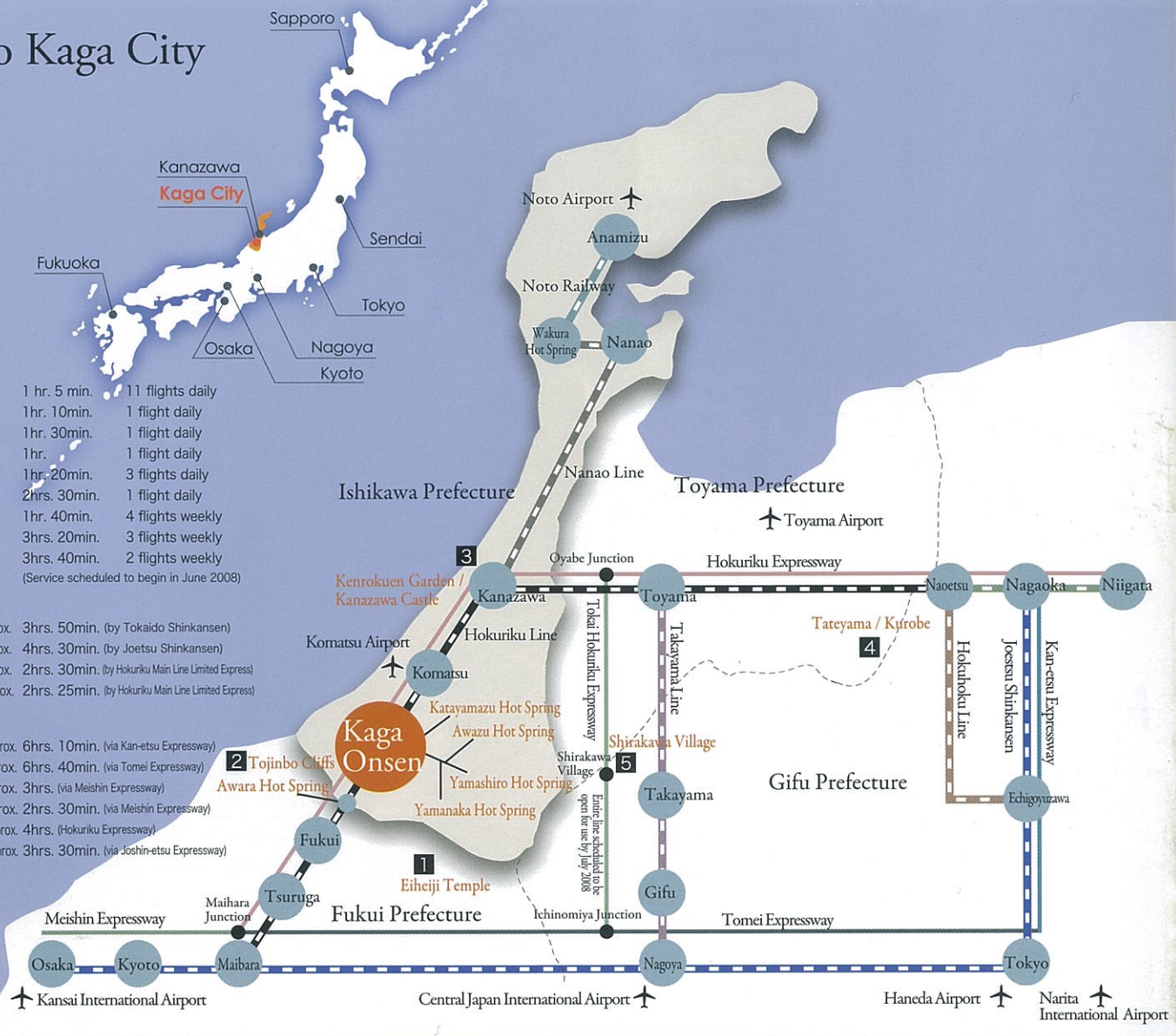


# Access to Kaga City

- ◆(By Air)
- |                            |               |                  |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Haneda - Komatsu Approx.   | 1 hr. 5 min.  | 11 flights daily |
| Narita - Komatsu Approx.   | 1 hr. 10min.  | 1 flight daily   |
| Sapporo - Komatsu Approx.  | 1 hr. 30min.  | 1 flight daily   |
| Sendai - Komatsu Approx.   | 1 hr.         | 1 flight daily   |
| Fukuoka - Komatsu Approx.  | 1 hr. 20min.  | 3 flights daily  |
| Naha - Komatsu Approx.     | 2 hrs. 30min. | 1 flight daily   |
| Seoul - Komatsu Approx.    | 1 hr. 40min.  | 4 flights weekly |
| Shanghai - Komatsu Approx. | 3 hrs. 20min. | 3 flights weekly |
| Taipei - Komatsu Approx.   | 3 hrs. 40min. | 2 flights weekly |
- (Service scheduled to begin in June 2008)

- ◆(By Train)
- |                                     |               |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Tokyo - Kaga Onsen Station Approx.  | 3 hrs. 50min. | (by Tokaido Shinkansen)                 |
| Tokyo - Kaga Onsen Station Approx.  | 4 hrs. 30min. | (by Joetsu Shinkansen)                  |
| Osaka - Kaga Onsen Station Approx.  | 2 hrs. 30min. | (by Hokuriku Main Line Limited Express) |
| Nagoya - Kaga Onsen Station Approx. | 2 hrs. 25min. | (by Hokuriku Main Line Limited Express) |

- ◆(By Car)
- |  |               |                              |
|--|---------------|------------------------------|
| Tokyo - Katayamazu Interchange Approx.   | 6 hrs. 10min. | (via Kan-etsu Expressway)    |
| Tokyo - Kaga Interchange Approx.         | 6 hrs. 40min. | (via Tomei Expressway)       |
| Osaka - Kaga Interchange Approx.         | 3 hrs.        | (via Meishin Expressway)     |
| Nagoya - Kaga Interchange Approx.        | 2 hrs. 30min. | (via Meishin Expressway)     |
| Niigata - Katayamazu Interchange Approx. | 4 hrs.        | (Hokuriku Expressway)        |
| Nagano - Katayamazu Interchange Approx.  | 3 hrs. 30min. | (via Joshin-etsu Expressway) |



## ●Nearby sightseeing spots



### Eiheiji Temple 1

The head temple of the Soto sect of Buddhism, founded by the priest Dogen about 750 years ago. Two hundred priests undergo strict training there. 40 min. by car from Kaga City ●Eiheiji Temple, Head Temple of the Soto sect Tel: 0776-63-3102



### Tojinbo Cliffs 2

A scenic spot designated as a national scenic attraction and natural monument. The 25-m high sheer rock cliffs extend for 1 km. ●Mikuni Tourist Office Tel: 0776-82-5515



### Kenrokuen Garden / Kanazawa Castle 3

Kanazawa is known as a wealthy castle town of the feudal period. These two spots are symbols of the city. 60 min. by car from Kaga City. ●Kanazawa Castle & Kenrokuen Garden Administration Office Tel: 076-234-3800



### Tateyama / Kurobe 4

A mountain sightseeing route that passes through 3,000-meter mountains. The great outdoors can be enjoyed here in any season. 2 hrs. 20 min. by car from Kaga City. ●Tateyama-Kurobe Sales and Reservation Center Tel: 076-432-2819 ●Kurobe Gorge Railway Business Center Tel: 0765-62-1011



### Shirakawa Village / Gokayama 5

Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995, these villages have houses with traditional thatched roofs. 1 hr. 30 min. from Kaga City ●Shirakawa Village Tourism Association Tel: 05769-6-1013 ●Gokayama Tourism Association Tel: 0763-66-2468

## ●Transportation in Kaga City



### CAN BUS

A bus that links 29 sightseeing spots around Kaga Hot Spring Village, with JR Kaga Onsen Station as the terminal. There are two routes: the mountain route around Yamashiro Hot Spring and the sea route around Katayamazu Hot

Spring. Day pass: 1,000 yen, 2-day pass: 1,200 yen (half price for elementary school children) ●Machizukuri Kaga, Co., Ltd. Tel: 0761-72-7777 <http://www.kaga-can-bus.com>



### Osanpo-Go

A 40-min. tour of the sightseeing spots and natural areas of Yamanaka Hot Spring. There is a guide on the bus. People staying at an inn in Yamanaka Hot Spring can buy a pass for 300 yen (valid for 2 days). Half price for

elementary school children. General fare: 500 yen ●Yamanaka Hot Spring Tourist Association Tel: 0761-78-0330 <http://www.yamanaka-spa.or.jp>



### Eiheiji Odekake Bus

A direct bus between Yamanaka Hot Spring and Eiheiji Temple. About 3 hours, including the temple visit. Runs every day from March 1 to November 30. Fares: Adult one-way: 500 yen Elementary school children: half price

Only for guests of inns in Yamanaka Hot Spring and Yu-Yu Kan. Reservation required. ●Yamanaka Hot Spring Tourist Association Tel: 0761-78-0330 <http://www.yamanaka-spa.or.jp>

## ●Tourist information



## Kaga City Tourist Information Center

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Kaga Onsen Station yard, Sakumi-machi, Kaga city,  
Ishikawa prefecture, 922-0423 JAPAN  
<http://www.tabimati.net/> E-mail [kaga@tabimati.net](mailto:kaga@tabimati.net)