

Tourist map of Yamanaka Onsen and Hokuriku area



Access to Yamanaka Onsen

Train	To JR Line Kaga Onsen Station		
	○ Tokyo – Hokuriku Shinkansen (Kagayaki or Hakutaka) – Kanazawa – Hokuriku line express (Shirasagi or Thunderbird) – Kaga Onsen station	Approx 2 hours 55 minutes	
	○ Tokyo – Tokaido Shinkansen (Hikari) – Maibara – Hokuriku line express (Shirasagi) – Kaga Onsen station	Approx 3 hours 50 minutes	
	○ Kyoto – Hokuriku line express (Thunderbird) – Kaga Onsen station	Approx 1 hour 45 minutes	
	○ Osaka – Hokuriku line express (Thunderbird) – Kaga Onsen station	Approx 2 hours 20 minutes	
	○ Nagoya – Tokaido Shinkansen (Hikari) – Maibara – Hokuriku line express (Shirasagi) – Kaga Onsen station	Approx 2 hours 10 minutes	
Airplane	To Komatsu airport		
	○ From Haneda	Approx 1 hour	
	○ From Narita	Approx 1 hour 20 minutes	
	○ From Sapporo	Approx 1 hour 45 minutes	
	○ From Sendai	Approx 1 hour 10 minutes	
	○ From Fukuoka	Approx 1 hour 30 minutes	
Automobiles	Via Hokuriku Expressway Kaga I.C.		
	○ Tokyo – Kanetsu highway – Hokuriku Highway – Katayamazu I.C. – Yamanaka Onsen	Approx 6 hours 15 minutes	
	○ Tokyo – Tomei highway – Meishin highway – Hokuriku highway – Kaga I.C. – Yamanaka Onsen	Approx 6 hours 30 minutes	
	○ Osaka – Meishin highway – Hokuriku highway – Kaga I.C. – Yamanaka Onsen	Approx 3 hours 30 minutes	
	○ Nagoya – Meishin highway – Hokuriku highway – Kaga I.C. – Yamanaka Onsen	Approx 2 hours 40 minutes	
	○ Kanazawa – Hokuriku highway – Katayamazu I.C. – Yamanaka Onsen	Approx 1 hours	

Hokuriku Shinkansen running between Kanazawa and Tokyo was put into service on March 14th 2015. Hokuriku Shinkansen made it 1 hour and 20 minutes faster to travel from Tokyo to Kanazawa.

Train	To Komatsu airport		
	○ From Haneda	Approx 1 hour	
	○ From Narita	Approx 1 hour 20 minutes	
	○ From Sapporo	Approx 1 hour 45 minutes	
	○ From Sendai	Approx 1 hour 10 minutes	
	○ From Fukuoka	Approx 1 hour 30 minutes	
Airplane	Via Hokuriku Expressway Kaga I.C.		
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Yamanaka Onsen Tourist Association / Yamanaka Onsen Ryokan Cooperative
C/O Yamanaka Onsen Bunka Kaikan, To 5-1, Nishikatsuragi-machi, Yamanaka Onsen, Kaga-shi, Ishikawa Pref. Call / +81-761-78-0330 Fax / +81-761-78-0332

www.yamanaka-spa.or.jp





The Legendary Onsen and its 1300 years of history.

Part of the Hot Spring complex known as Hokuriku-Kaga-Onsen-kyou, the Yamanaka Onsen is surrounded by the serenity of the Hakusan Mountain Range and has a long history of 1300 years. It is said it was discovered during the Nara Period by a famous high priest named Gyouki, who built a small shrine from a log which was dedicated to the Healing Buddha Yakushi, the hot spring's protector. It is said that many who visited Yamanaka had their illnesses cured and fatigue healed in the hot spring. Due to the conflicts of the subsequent turbulent age, the hot spring was in ruins for a period of time.

During the Jishō era at the end of the Heian Period, Hasebe Nobutsura - military commander of the Noto Peninsula manor - was hunting with falcons when he found an egret healing wounds on its legs in a stream on the shady side of a mountain. When Nobutsura excavated the site, a 15-centimeter statue of the Buddha of Healing and Medicine was found, and water started bubbling out of the spring. It is said that Nobutsura built 12 palaces there, which marked the beginnings of the Yamanaka Onsen.

Yamanaka was praised by the famous haiku poet Basho as one of the 3 most renowned hot springs in Japan.

Master of the poetic form known as "haiku", Matsuo Basho went with his disciple Sora on a trip known as Narrow Road to the Deep North. During the trip, he visited Yamanaka Onsen in the second year of the Genroku Period. There he wrote a poem praising Yamanaka as one of the three most renowned hot springs in Japan, along with Arima and Kusatsu.

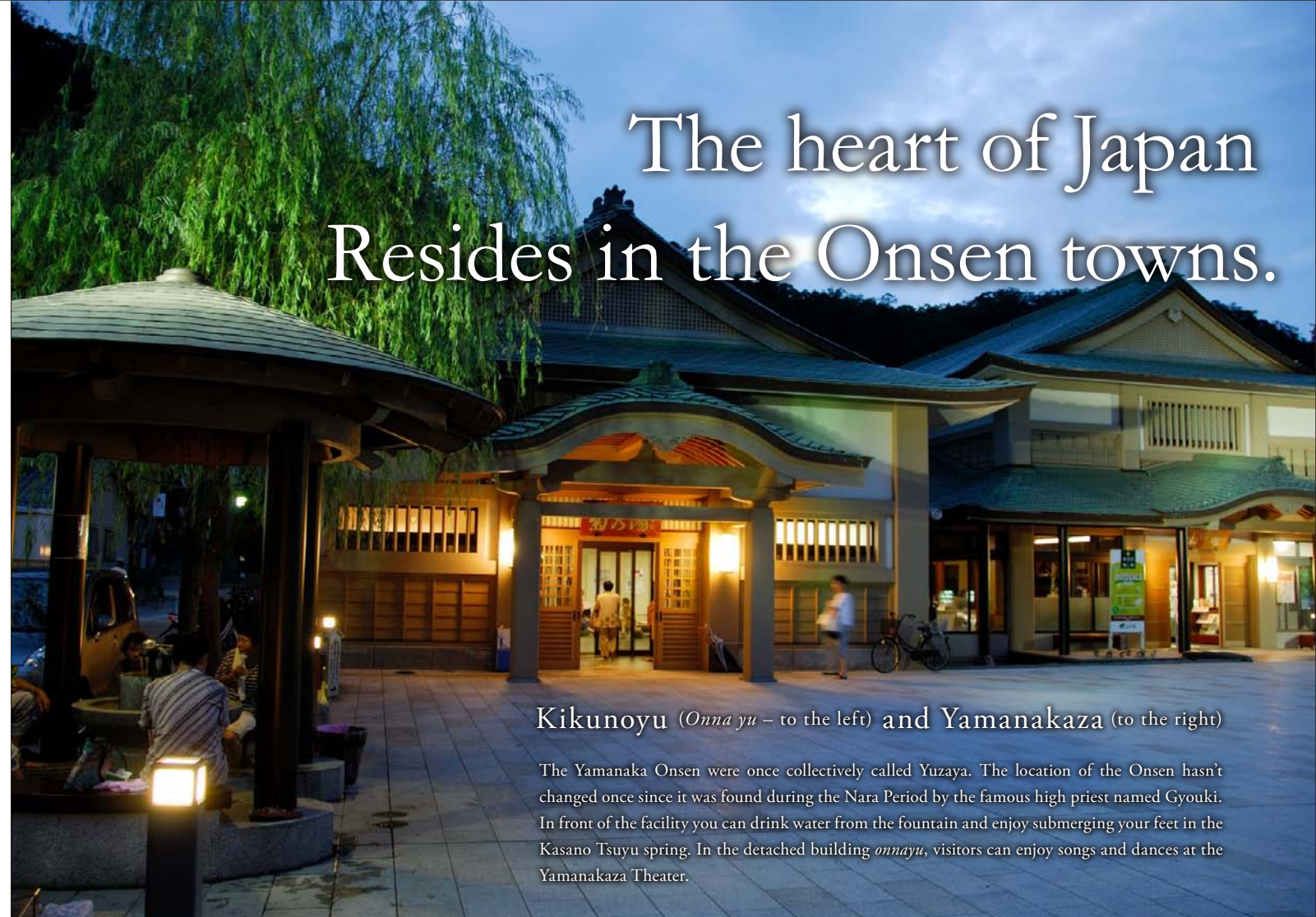
"At Yamanaka No need to pick chrysanthemums The aroma of the hot springs"

A passage of the Noh chant "Kikujidou" says those who drink the drops of a chrysanthemum will achieve longevity. The poet Basho cites the passage saying that in the springs of Yamanaka you can achieve longevity without having to drink the drops. He supposedly appreciated the Yamanaka Onsen very much, and spent a total of 9 days here.

Strolling in the city of Yamanaka Hot Onsen, you can follow the steps of the poet walking by the stone monument "Kuhi" inscribed with a haiku poem, the Bashō Palace and Temple and its Kikunoyu Onsen, among other places he visited a long time ago.



The heart of Japan Resides in the Onsen towns.



Kikunoyu (*Onna yu* – to the left) and Yamanakaza (to the right)

The Yamanaka Onsen were once collectively called Yuzaya. The location of the Onsen hasn't changed once since it was found during the Nara Period by the famous high priest named Gyouki. In front of the facility you can drink water from the fountain and enjoy submerging your feet in the Kasano Tsuyu spring. In the detached building *onnayu*, visitors can enjoy songs and dances at the Yamanakaza Theater.

The Yamanaka Onsen, with its long history, is home to many Japanese-style "*ryokan*" hotels. By soaking in the Onsen, you can feel the warmth in your core - body and soul. This feeling makes clear the reason why the Japanese are so fond of Onsen.

Each one of the Japanese-style "*ryokan*" hotels is proud to serve delicious exclusive dishes, so you can feel the welcoming Japanese hospitality in your body and soul.



Cuisine, art and kindness.
A warmhearted welcome.

Yamanaka Onsen brings to the world
an absolute commitment to
Japanese cuisine.

Some chefs born and currently active in Yamanaka Onsen represent the highest degree of Japanese cuisine' s refinement.

Growing up in the constant competition among the Japanese-style “*ryokan*” hotels, these chefs’ abilities go beyond Japanese cuisine, giving birth to free original ideas that are highly praised by visitors from all over the world

This absolute commitment to Japanese cuisine is honored by all the people who make a living in Yamanaka Onsen. Visitors can get a glimpse of this through the heartwarming welcome displayed during events such as the service “*Oonabeno Furumai*” (Big Pot) which uses home-grown ingredients.



Fully enjoy the fresh seafood
from the Sea of Japan



Even though located in the mountains, unbelievably fresh seafood is delivered here from the nearby Kaga City and Hashitate Gyoukou Port near the Sea of Japan. Enjoy the deliciousness even more so during winter when the crabs “*zuwaigani*” and “*koubakogani*” present us with their mouthwatering taste. As Hashitate Gyoukou Port is near to the crab fishing grounds, fresh seafood can be savored on the very same day it was caught. Visitors can also enjoy “*buri*” (Japanese amberjack or yellowtail) and “*amaebi*” (deep-water shrimp) to their heart’s content.

Refined skill and instruments are used to prepare the most delicious food that is served in the magnificent Japanese lacquer ware and Kutaniyaki porcelain. From ancient times travelers from distant places who came to Yamanaka to heal in the splendid effervescent waters have experienced the warmth and refinement of our cuisine.



Even while surrounded by nature,
visitors can enjoy authentic Japanese cuisine.

If you come to Yamanaka, having lunch at Kakusenkei Gorge Promenade is a must. Enjoy the scenery and the real taste of Japan. The Japanese-style “*ryokan*” hotels and restaurants throughout the city offer lunch boxes that display their chefs’ superb skills. Visitors can make advance orders for “*kawadoko*” lunch boxes at every shop in Yamanaka.

(Please confirm at your hotel the locations in which you can make the reservations).



SPRING

Ayatori-hashii Bridge

The name of this bridge comes from a traditional Japanese game called "*Ayatori*" (Cat's Cradle). Designed by Hiroshi Teshigahara, a Japanese film maker and son of the founder of the Sogetsu school of Ikebana, it measures 80 meters in length and its "S" shape mimics the form of a dragon rising into the sky. At night, the bridge is lit up, offering a different yet equally impressive view of the gorge that visitors come back every year to see.

The four the scenery for

Kakusenkei Kawadoko

Close to Ayatori-hashii Bridge, this is a popular spot next to the river where you can see with your own eyes the clearness of the river water and the rich colors of the plant life lining the gorge. It is open from April to October and features Japanese sweets.

Kakusenkei Gorge Promenade

This must-see attraction in Yamanaka Onsen was once said to have inspired the poet Matsuo Basho to write the poem,

"Here the joy of a good outdoor walk".

Enjoy a leisurely stroll while appreciating the beauty of the waterfalls and the unique rock formations accentuating the deep blue pools of water.

SUMMER

AUTUMN

Kurotanibashi Bridge

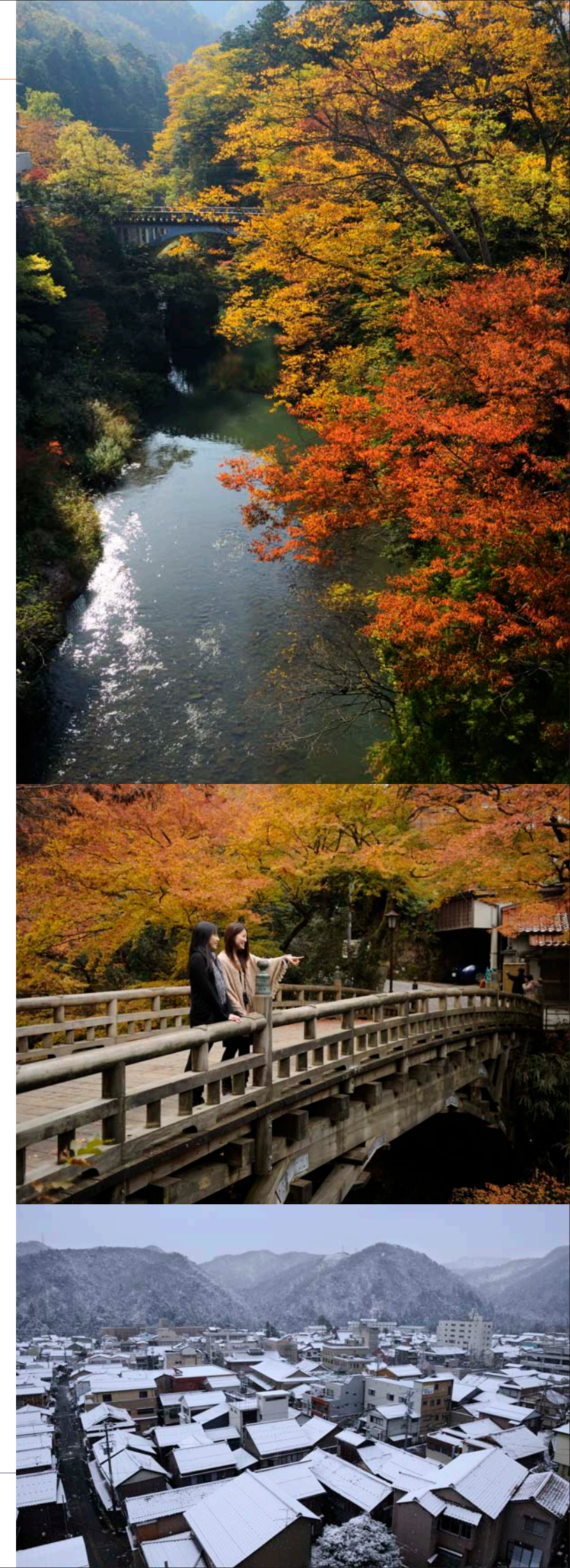
In the past, this imposing, arched, stone bridge, reminiscent of Taisho Era architecture (1912-1926), served as the gateway into the Yamanaka area. Feel the warmth of the autumn colors as they engulf this magnificent bridge.

seasons weave you to explore.

Kohrogi-bashi Bridge

This beautiful bridge, constructed entirely from Japanese Cypress, is one of Yamanaka Onsen's most famous sightseeing spots. Enjoy the magical winter scenery while admiring the expert craftsmanship of the bridge.

WINTER





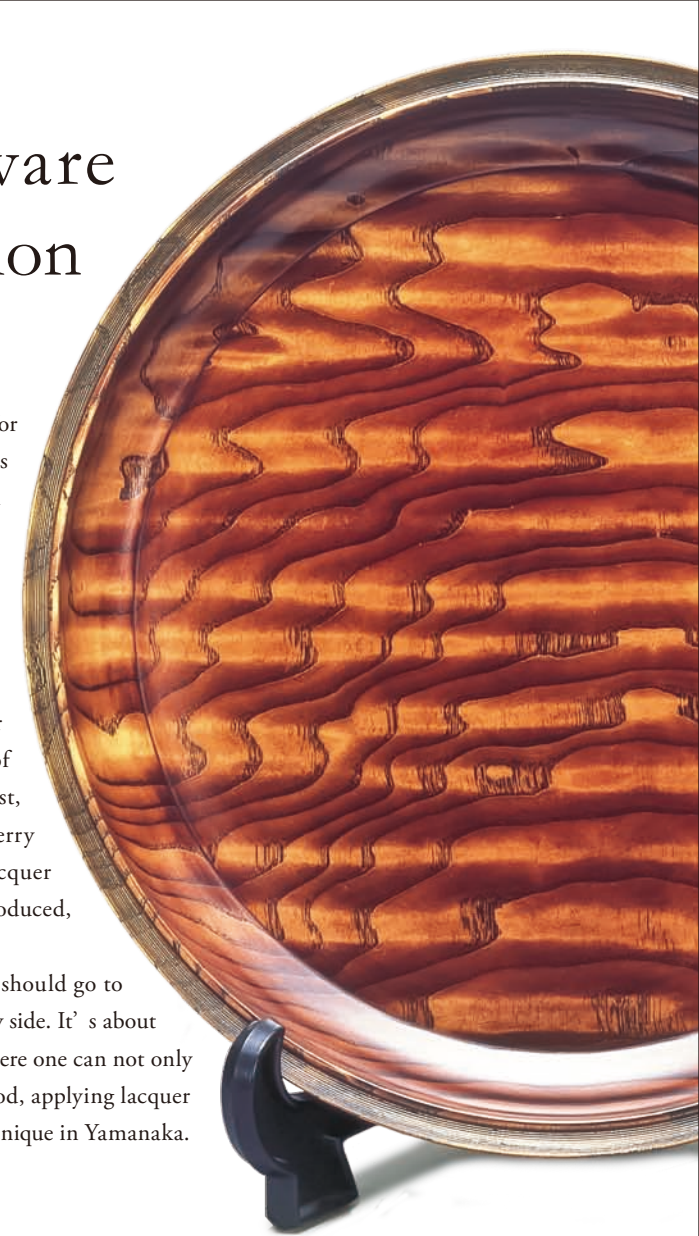
The thread of tradition.
Home of culture and art.

Hometown to lacquer ware with the biggest production quantity in all Japan

Lacquer ware is an original Japanese product. It is called “Japan” in English for that reason. Among all lacquer ware production areas, Yamanaka lacquer ware is known to be high standard. Since the Edo period to modern times, this area has given birth to famous woodwork craftsmen. High-level techniques in decorative and delicate woodcarving have been passed down from generation to generation, making Yamanaka into the biggest production area of wood turned products in Japan.

Yamanaka lacquer ware traces its history back to the Azuchi Momoyama period. It is believed that in the Tensho period (1573-1592) a woodwork master moved from the mountain region of Echizen to Masago village upstream of Yamanaka town and imparted the skills and technique of woodturning. At first, woodenware was made using only the beauty of the wood from zelkova, cherry birch and horse-chestnut trees. Later on with the coming of Edo period, lacquer techniques and makie techniques (lacquer with inlaid gold or silver) were introduced, and it is how Yamanaka lacquer ware has remained till nowadays.

If you would like to try the traditional techniques specific to Yamanaka you should go to “Rokuro-no-sato” (Wheel town) where the craftsmen’s workshops stand side by side. It’s about 5 minutes by car from Yuge road. It is a spot famous among tourists because there one can not only see exhibitions of local woodwork craftsmen’s works, but also try cutting wood, applying lacquer to it and shaping it on a spinning wheel, the last being a famous traditional technique in Yamanaka.

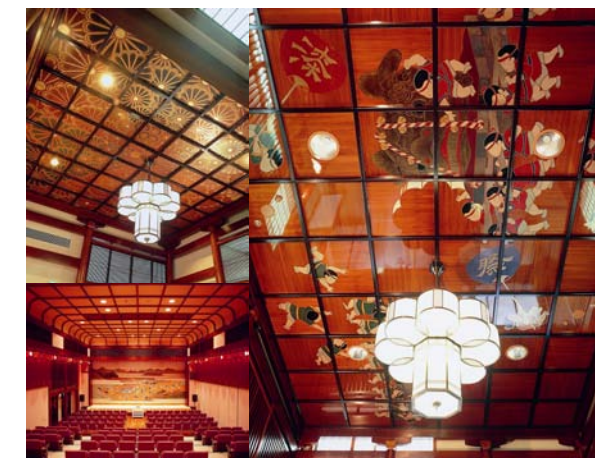


Yamanaka theater:
incorporating the style of Yamanaka lacquer ware techniques.

Two buildings that dynamically reflect the beauty of Yamanaka lacquer ware craft are the Chrysanthemum hot spring (the ladies section) and the Yamanaka theater. These two building, opened in November 2002, are a product of the combined efforts of 200 woodwork, 1200 lacquer work, and 500 gold-and-silver lacquer work masters.

Zelcova wood pillars covered with lacquer and bright gold-and-silver lacquer coffered ceiling paintings are a concentration of high-level techniques that have been passed down between the craftsmen for many years.

Yamanaka theater, possessing an elegant stage made of cypress and a back panel featuring a drawing of a pine tree, conducts performances of the “Yamanaka melody dance of four seasons” every Saturday, Sunday and National Holiday. Many tourists attend these shows, as they are known to be a good chance to experience the refined songs and dances of Yamanaka geisha.



(Right) The “Children’s festival” picture on the coffered ceiling of the theater lobby is made using polishing techniques of gold, silver and colored lacquer. It is a splendid work of art.

(Top left) This is the coffered ceiling of the Chrysanthemum hot spring lobby (ladies section), with big and small chrysanthemums produced with the polishing technique.

(Bottom left) The hall of Yamanaka theater boasts a capacity of 180 viewers. The seats are moveable so the hall can also be used for all kinds of conventions, including meetings and academic symposiums. The drop curtain is also a fine piece of art featuring a bathing scene from the “Picture Scroll of Yamanaka Hot Spring’s Origins”, woven with threads of 266 colors.

Public Wi-Fi is available throughout the theater building.

Sightseeing around Yamanaka Onsen

The Kokubunzan Ioji temple and the “Picture Scroll of Origins of Yamanaka Onsen” that show the looks of Yamanaka Onsen in days of yore.

The “Yamanaka Bushi” (“The Melody of Yamanaka”), produced here, is one of the three main folk songs of Japan. One of its verses goes “In the East there is Matsuyama mountain, in the West - Yakushi”. “O-Yakushi-san” meaning “The honored healer” is a popular name for the Kokubunzan Ioji temple, which name in turn means “The temple of the King of Medicine”. This temple is the local place of prayer for healing of all sicknesses. There is a standing porcelain statue of the Kongo Doji deity and a cane left behind by the famous poet Basho preserved here. They are both designated as important national cultural assets. The “Picture Scroll of Yamanaka Hot Spring’s Origins”, a city-designated important cultural asset, is also preserved here. The picture scroll conveys the scenery of Yamanaka Onsen from those days, featuring bathing scenes and women dressed in yukatas.



Stroll freely wearing a light yukata kimono The Yuge road

This road runs from the Chrysanthemum hot spring to the *Kohrogi*-bashi Bridge, and passes through the Yamanaka Onsen town center. Here the Yamanaka lacquer ware and Kutani pottery shops stand next to each other, along with cafés and restaurants. Apart from restaurants and cafés, and shops with delicious sweets, one can take a relaxed stroll and find huge cauldrons with soup prepared at “Machibito Tabibito Tei” (“A Restaurant for Townspeople and Travelers”) and also the Hasebe shrine commemorating the famous warrior of the Middle ages called Hasebe Nobutsura.

Appreciate the atmosphere left by the famous haiku poet Basho “The Basho Museum”

White earthen walls and metal doors give this building a distinctive appearance. This is the “Okina-ya” house (built in 1901) that was adjacent to “Izumi-ya”, where Basho stayed. It was rebuilt in 2004. There are numerous items related to Basho, including those related to his journeys, and masterpieces of Yamanaka lacquer ware on display here. One can try macha (powdered green tea) with traditional Japanese sweets while enjoying the view of the garden. Closed every Wednesday.

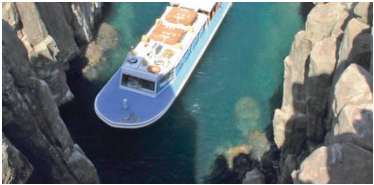


There’s still a lot more to enjoy in Hokuriku if you stretch your legs



Soto sect general headquarters Eiheiji temple

This is the biggest temple of the Soto sect, founded in 1244. Even today 200 monks live here fulltime and conduct ascetic practices day and night.
Fukui prefecture, Yoshida district, Eiheiji town, Shihhi 5-15
TEL. 0776-63-3102



Tojinbo

These cliffs have been cherished for their beautiful scenery since olden times. Looking up at the cliffs from a pleasure boat is a moving experience.
Fukui prefecture, Sakai city, Mikuni district, Tojinbo
TEL. 0776-82-5515 (Sakai city Tourism Association)



Kenrokuen garden

This famous park is representative of the gardens created by feudal lords in the Edo period. It was gradually built up by subsequent lords of the Kaga clan. Ponds, artificial mountains and tea houses are positioned beautifully around the grounds.
Ishikawa prefecture, Kanazawa city, Kenroku district 1-4
TEL. 076-234-3800



Yukai Club Yoshinoya Irokuen

Hotel with 800 years of history and elegance, still standing on a riverside of Kakusenkei gorge
Total guest rooms / 61 rooms
Call / 0761-78-1001
yoshinoyairokuen.jp

Yukai Resort Yamanaka Grand Hotel

Hotel with a set room charge all year round
Total guest rooms / 85 rooms
Call / 0761-78-2111
yamanaka-gh.jp

Yukai Resort Hana-Saichoraku

A women-only Japanese style inn.
Total guest rooms / 71 rooms
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hana-saichoraku.jp

Shirasagiyu Tawaraya

Founded 800 years ago. Open-air hot spring bath in a valley.
Total guest rooms / 52 rooms
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www.tawaraya.co.jp

Suimei Katsuragyoen

The filming location of TV drama “Haruchan”
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www.suimei.co.jp

Suzuya Konnichirou

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www.konnichiro.co.jp

Miyakowasure Inn (Place to forget the hustle of city life) Korogirou

The most beautiful gorge in Kaga
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www.koorogirou.jp

Yamanaka Onsen Kajikasou Royal Hotel

Rooms with views of beautiful gorges
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Select Grand Kaga Yamanaka

Japanese Resort Experience.
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Kissho Yamanaka

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Kuriya Yasohachi

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Kochou

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www.tubaki.com

Hanamurasaki

Selectable a la carte *Kaiseki* (special Japanese cuisine)
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www.hana-mura.com

Hokuriku Castle Burden Hotel Nihonnoyado Santouka

Relaxing hot springs and seasonal cuisine.
Total guest rooms / 108 rooms
Call 0761-78-4126
www.ryokan-santoka.co.jp

Ohanami Kyubei

Popular hotel frequently presented on TV
Total guest rooms / 49 rooms
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www.ohanami-kyubei.jp

Kagari Kisshotei

Kaga “modern” hot spring hotel overlooking Kakusen gorge and Kourogi Bridge
Total guest rooms / 45 rooms
Call / 0761-78-2223
www.kagari-kisshotei.com

Kayoutei

Small hotel with a vintage elegance
Total guest rooms / 10 rooms
Call / 0761-78-1410
www.kayotei.jp