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KANAZAWA

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05



Discovering Japanese Hospitality at a Traditional Ryokan in Kaga City

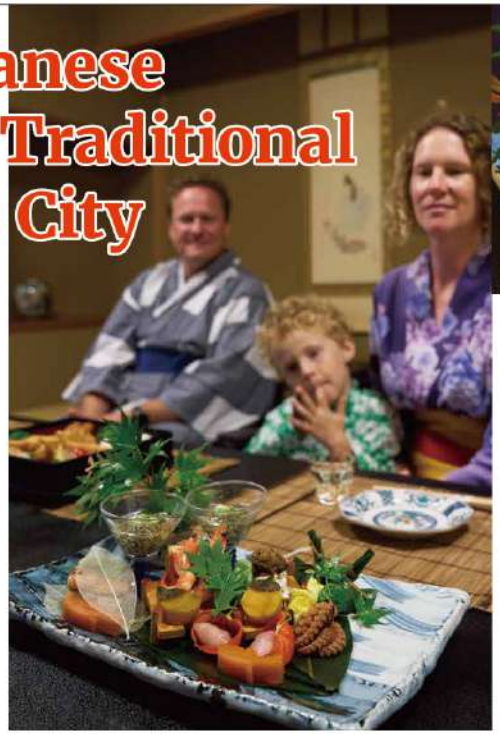
Hop on the Shinkansen to Enjoy Onsen in Kaga City!

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Discovering Japanese Hospitality at a Traditional Ryokan in Kaga City

In search of a special family experience, we spontaneously decided to spend a night at an authentic traditional ryokan. Of Ishikawa's many hot spring towns, we chose Yamashiro Onsen and booked a room at Tachibana Shikitei.




Local Flavors to Savor


Morning Walk at AIUEO Forest

A Haven of Peace Just a Stone's Throw from Kanazawa


Ryokan Shuttle Service

After leaving Kanazawa, we had only just settled into our seats on the Shinkansen when we found ourselves already arriving at Kagaonsen Station! After a brief stop at the tourist office to gather ideas for nearby activities, we headed to the exit, where the shuttle to the ryokan was waiting for us.

At Tachibana Shikitei, we were warmly welcomed by the ryokan hosts dressed in elegant kimonos. We were then shown to our traditional room, which was spacious enough for our son to excitedly explore every corner. "There's even a wooden swimming pool!" he exclaimed, pointing to our private outdoor bath made of Japanese cypress (*hinoki*).


Strolling Yamashiro Onsen

The kind staff then helped each of us put on a traditional yukata, and with a few precise, practiced gestures, we were ready.


A Traditional Tea Welcome

Before heading out, my husband and I enjoyed a delicious cup of matcha while sitting in front of the *tokonoma*, the traditional decorative alcove displaying seasonal artwork and flower arrangements. We were enchanted by the aesthetics and subtle details surrounding us.

Discovering the Discreet Charm of Yamashiro Onsen


Sweet Onsen Treats

Exploring at the rhythm of our *geta*, the famous Japanese wooden sandals, was great fun. Yamashiro Onsen was particularly charming, with its shops offering local specialties, regional crafts, and original souvenirs. Visitors can also take part in a variety of creative experiences and workshops.

In the center of the square stands the old public bath, offering the perfect setting for a souvenir photo. But our son had something else on his mind: he spotted a shop selling a very special type of ice cream topped with an *onsen tamago*, a soft-cooked egg with a unique and surprising texture.

Just a few steps away, we came across a free public foot bath, allowing us to enjoy a relaxing break before heading towards the magnificent Yakuoin Onsenji Temple, which as we soon learned, played a key role in Japanese culture. It is said that at this very temple, in the ninth century, the priest Myōkaku Shōnin developed the Japanese syllabary table that became the basis for the one used today.


Yakuoin Onsenji Temple

At the Heart of Japanese Hospitality


Until Next Time

Dinner time soon arrived, marking the beginning of an indescribable experience. Time slowed down and all our senses were awakened. As we waited in our room, with its refined and understated decoration, a succession of small dishes, created according to the chef's intuition, were brought in, each showcasing local and seasonal products. Kutani porcelain dishes were used to enhance each ingredient, while the freshness of the sake paired wonderfully with the delicacies being served. For our little samurai in the making, the chef prepared a three-star-worthy children's menu, where carrots were transformed to take on the appearance of koi.

After dinner, the staff prepared our room for the night, carefully laying out the futons. We ended the day in our small private outdoor onsen, allowing our souls to relax amidst the gentle rhythm of the evening breeze.


A Family Kaiseki Dinner

The next day, we enjoyed a delicious breakfast in the comfort of our room, where we already felt completely at home after only a single night.

The refined hospitality, defined by a personalized and discreet service that one does not find in a simple hotel, made us feel very comfortable. The entire time, we knew that we were experiencing something truly special. This little stay at Tachibana Shikitei will remain engraved in our memory as one of the most authentic and precious experiences we have shared as a family in Japan. The easy access from Kanazawa made the journey very comfortable, even with a young child.


Souvenir Shop at Tachibana Shikitei

Before returning to Kanazawa, we made one last stop at the nearby AIUEO Forest, where our son happily ran through the trees as we strolled across the wooden footbridge to the observation platform. The architecture blends in beautifully with the surrounding nature, which is particularly splendid in autumn.

We leave (not before trying the public onsen) happy and refreshed.


Kaga City Tourist Information Centre Kaga Tabimachi Net



18 mins by Shinkansen from Kanazawa!


Arriving at Kagaonsen Station

Writer/Model: Lucy Franz



Originally from the south of France with German roots, Lucy worked for many years in the fashion and textile industries before moving to Kanazawa with her family in 2019. She enjoys sharing her favorite places and experiences with fellow travelers through tailor-made guided tours in the Hokuriku region.

Special Thanks



Tachibana Shikitei
Historic Ryokan Hospitality Since 1868
16 Manshoen-dori, Yamashiro Onsen
0761-77-0001

Three Hot Spring Towns in Kaga

Hop on the Shinkansen to Enjoy Onsen in Kaga City!

Connected to Kanazawa by the Hokuriku Shinkansen line, Kaga City is near both the mountains and the sea, features a historic castle town, and is dotted with traditional villages. The region's diverse natural beauty supports seasonal ingredients, traditional crafts such as lacquerware and pottery, and Japan's cherished hot springs. The three hot spring towns—Yamanaka, Yamashiro, and Katayamazu—attract many tourists, including families enjoying day-use baths and groups staying at ryokans to fully experience the hot springs and local cuisine. The journey from Kanazawa Station to Kagaonsen Station takes just 18 minutes by bullet train. Don't miss the chance to enjoy Kaga's renowned hot springs!





Katayamazu Onsen

Katayamazu Onsen is a serene town located on the tranquil shores of Lake Shibayama, offering restorative hot springs and resplendent views. The town's mineral-rich baths are fed by a hot spring at the bottom of the lake. Unlike the bathhouses of Yamanaka and Yamashiro Onsen, Katayamazu Onsen features a striking and contemporary public bath designed by the celebrated architect, Yoshio Taniguchi. Katayamazu Onsen is enchanting all year round. In addition to winter onsen bathing, you can enjoy the lake and its beautiful views throughout the seasons. Cycle around the lake on a scenic 7km bike trail, or take advantage of boat rides and fishing excursions available from spring to autumn.

Visit visitkaga.jp to find out more about Katayamazu Onsen.
https://visitkaga.jp/discover-kaga/onsen/katayamazu-onsen



Yamashiro Onsen

Nestled at the foothills of the sacred Mount Hakusan, Yamashiro Onsen is home to historical sites and the renowned Kutani-yaki porcelain, famous for its intricate patterns. Rejuvenate in Yamashiro Onsen's two public bathhouses, known for their medical waters that are said to relieve joint and muscle pain and help to clear skin complaints. In the town centre, you'll find Ko-soyu, a unique bathhouse that spectacularly recreates the architecture and bathhouse culture of the Meiji era (1868-1912). The other bathhouse, Soyu, is a modern facility with multiple baths and standard equipment.

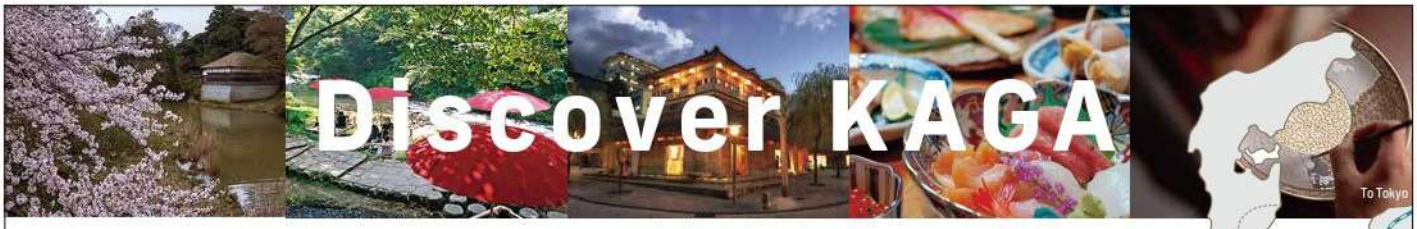
Visit visitkaga.jp to find out more about Yamashiro Onsen.
https://visitkaga.jp/discover-kaga/onsen/yamashiro-onsen



Yamanaka Onsen

Hidden in the mountains along the Daishoji River lies the scenic town of Yamanaka Onsen. In an open square at the heart of the town, you'll find Kiku no Yu, a historic public bathhouse that has been welcoming visitors for 1300 years. In addition to the public bathhouse, lavish ryokans (Japanese inns) throughout the town offer onsen bathing, with some providing day-bathing options for non-guests. Take a moment to appreciate the scenery, considered some of the most spectacular in the region. Be sure to stroll down Yuge Kaido Street, where you can shop for local specialities such as Yamanaka lacquerware and sake.

Visit visitkaga.jp to find out more about Yamanaka Onsen.
https://visitkaga.jp/discover-kaga/onsen/yamanaka-onsen



Stretching from the Sea of Japan's curving coastline up into rugged, mountainous terrain, impossibly picturesque Kaga City enjoys the best of all worlds. Flourishes of the area's rich historical, cultural and artistic heritage are everywhere to be seen. From relaxing hot springs and magnificent vistas, to natural wonders and the freshest seafood around, Kaga offers it all.



18 mins by Shinkansen from Kanazawa!



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