

Off the Beaten Path
Fukui, Japan

Ichijodani Asakura Clan Ruins

Travel somewhere Off the Beaten Path

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Miyanoshita Cosmos Park

Each year during the fall, a massive field of cosmos flowers bloom in the Miyanoshita area of Fukui City. The pink and white flowers blanket the area, attracting guests from all over. There is also a festival held during the blooming season, adding to the already lively atmosphere.

Introduction

Hello, my name is Taiga, the creator of this guidebook. Originally from California, USA, I've been living in Fukui since 2018. This guidebook is a project I made for Fukui City while working at the international affairs section, and I hope to showcase the many wonderful spots Fukui has to offer. Residents of Fukui Prefecture often refer to the northern and southern halves of Fukui as Reihoku and Reinan, respectively. This guidebook covers the northern half, Reihoku.

When I first arrived in Fukui, I had to take a bus from Komatsu Airport to Fukui Station. I recall enjoying the beautiful scenery that I had passed along the way. The vast fields of rice alongside the forested mountain backdrop was a scene unlike anything I had gotten to experience back in my home state of California.

With the help of many people across Fukui, we made this guidebook in hopes of showing off the appeal of Japan's countryside. There is a certain charm to the rural areas of Japan that is hard to find elsewhere.

In order to make this guidebook, I had the opportunity to travel around to the various tourist spots within Fukui to photograph them. These places were often in the rural areas, away from the city center. From beautiful Japanese structures to natural wonders, it was an absolute joy every time. I tried my best to capture the beauty of each place through my photography but I feel like it wasn't possible to do so in one picture.

I felt as though many of these areas were hidden treasures, as they aren't as widely well known as more popular destinations in Japan. To think that many more of these locations exist throughout all of Japan waiting to be discovered is exciting. It made me realize that if I were to travel once again, I would want to go Off the Beaten Path.



Taiga Ishibashi
Fukui City International
Cultural Ambassador (FCA)

Fukui Top 3

Although Fukui is full of hidden gems, there are a few places that are quite well known nationally. These 3 locations are Fukui's most popular tourist destinations, where each even receive visitors from overseas. For those visiting Fukui for only a short duration, you can't go wrong with visiting any of these spots.

Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum

This dinosaur museum is one of the largest in the world and houses over 40 dinosaur skeletons. The museum was built due to many dinosaur fossils being excavated within Fukui. In fact, there are many newly discovered species that were named after Fukui such as the Fukuiraptor, Fukuititan, Fukuisaurus, and more.

The museum has many exhibitions such as Dinosaur World, Dino Lab, Earth Sciences, and History of Life. Recently, the museum was expanded with the new area having a modern art display of the dinosaur species discovered in Fukui.



Daihonzan Eiheiji Temple

Founded in 1244, Eiheiji Temple is one of the largest monasteries in Japan and is one of the two head temples of the Soto school of Zen Buddhism.

Eiheiji Temple offers a Zen experience for visitors who would like to have a taste of Zen training. Notable Zen practices within this temple include zazen (sitting Zen) and chanting sutras. Everyday activities such as eating and cleaning are also an important part of this temple's practices.



Fukui Tourist Information Center

On the east side of Fukui Station, there is an information center that is an excellent resource for those traveling around Fukui. They also have a staff member who can provide information in English and an app that can connect them to other languages for translations.

Information:
Address: Fukui City, Teyose 1-Chome 1-1
Hours: 8:30 ~ 19:00



Tojinbo Cliffs

Tojinbo is a seaside cliff located on the Echizen Coast. The cliffs have a unique appearance from being made up of columnar rocks formed through volcanic activity.

The street leading up to the cliffs is lined with stores and cafes selling a wide assortment of souvenirs, fresh seafood, ice cream, and more. There is also a boat tour that visitors can take to view the cliffs from the sea, which gives a different perspective from that on land.

Vibrant Spring

Hinogawa River Rapeseed Flower (Nanohana)

A common sight during the spring season are the iconic yellow rapeseed flowers. On the banks of Hinogawa River, the vibrant yellow of the rapeseed flowers, the gentle pink of the cherry blossoms, and the light blue sky paints a lovely pastel scene.

The arrival of the spring season in Japan is heralded by the cherry blossoms blooming throughout the country. Even though the iconic flower is quick to disappear, other beautiful flowers bloom in its place: rapeseed flowers, azaleas, peach blossoms, wisteria, and many more.



Peach Blossoms (Hanamomo)



Kadohara Station

Peach blossoms are an iconic flower in Japan, which is at times mistaken for cherry blossoms. Every year during late April, people flock to this rural train station to view the beautiful pink and white flowers.



Wisteria (Fujinohana)

Murasaki Shikibu Park

These mesmerizing purple flowers can be found blooming late April to early May at Murasaki Shikibu Park, which is named after the famous historical author who wrote *The Tale of Genji*.



Roses (Bara)

Koibito-ni-Sasageru Rose Garden

Roses aren't as common in Fukui as they are overseas but the flower is popular nonetheless. This little rose garden looks as if it came out of a fairy tale. The roses bloom late May.



Azaleas (Tsubaki)

Nishiyama Park

Nishiyama Park is known for the 50,000 azaleas that cover the park in a cascade of colorful flowers. They usually bloom early May and a festival is held at the park during the blossom season. The park also draws visitors in with its small zoo that features the popular and adorable red pandas.



Cherry Tree Rows

A popular way to view cherry trees is to take a stroll along one of the many cherry tree rows that line the banks of rivers in Japan. Fukui has many cherry tree rows, each with different characteristics, making it worthwhile visiting them all.

Kirameki Road Nakagawa

This stunning cherry tree row features *koinobori* (carp streamers) over the local Asouzu River. The colorful carp and paper lanterns with the pink cherry blossoms makes a beautiful scene.



Benten Ryokuchi Park

Benten Ryokuchi Park's cherry tree row stretches along 1.5 km and is a very popular cherry blossom viewing location for locals. The park runs alongside the Kuzuryu River and is surrounded by mountains. Every year a festival is held at park, where lanterns light up the cherry blossom trees at night for one week.

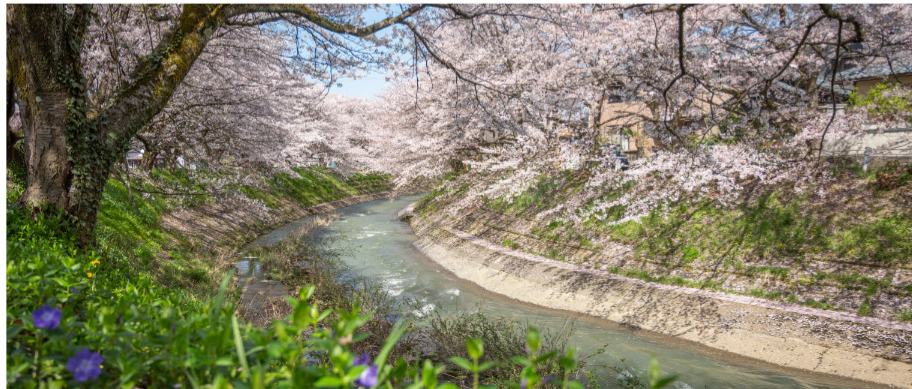
Aratazaka

This beautiful stretch of road lined with cherry trees is named after a character from the popular manga and anime series, *Chihayafuru*. The manga/anime is centered around a traditional Japanese card game called *karuta*. Fans of the series often visit this spot, some of whom even dress in traditional *karuta* attire.



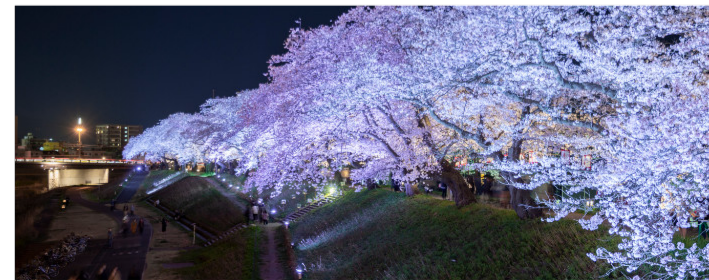
Asuwa River

One of the most popular cherry tree viewing locations in Fukui, it is a short 15-minute walk away from Fukui Station. The cherry tree row spans an impressive 2 km and runs along the bank of Asuwa River. During the blossom season, the Fukui Sakura Festival takes place with many stalls being set up along the river bank. At night, the cherry trees and paper lanterns are lit, giving the trees a magical appearance.



Yoshinose River

Yoshinose River is a popular spot among locals, as it is located right next to a large shopping mall. Since it is easily accessible, the elderly and families with young children can often be seen enjoying the cherry blossoms here. The cherry tree row is also illuminated at night every year when they bloom.





Cherry Tree Spots

Cherry blossom season is one of the most popular times of the year to visit Japan. Fukui sees a surge of travelers during this time because of its many beautiful cherry blossom locations.

Maruoka Castle (1)

First established in 1576, it is only one of twelve castles that has kept its original *tenshu*, or castle keep, in Japan. The castle is surrounded by over 400 cherry blossoms that bloom during April. During the night it is lit up and paper lanterns light the way along the paths to the castle. The interior of the castle can also be explored with the top floor offering an amazing 360 degree view of the land.

Asuwa Shrine (2&3)

Asuwa Shrine is famous for its approximately 380-year-old cherry tree that has been cared for by Asuwa Shrine's priests for generations. The weeping cherry tree has a magnificent dome shape with its branches spreading out 20 meters in every direction. The impressive tree is also lit up at night, giving it an otherworldly appearance. The shrine can be accessed by climbing the nearby Atagozaka staircase.



Sakura Dori

One of the main streets in Fukui City is aptly named Sakura Dori because of the cherry trees that line it. The street also features a pedestrian bridge that is a popular photo spot. It offers a nice vantage point of the street and the intersecting Phoenix Dori in which the Fukui Railway passes through. For those who prefer urban cherry tree viewing, this is the perfect spot.



Fukui Castle Ruins

Near Fukui Station are the ruins of Fukui Castle, which is where the prefectural government hall now stands. While most traces of the old castle no longer exist, the moat remains intact. The moat now features cherry trees, making it a popular spot to visit. With recent reconstruction projects such as the pictured Orouka Bridge, the ruins are a good place to feel the history of Fukui.



Shiomi Park

This is a small park located at the point where two rivers meet. Lately the park has garnered attention for its gorgeous cherry tree tunnel that many use as a photo spot. The park is also only a 10-minute drive away from Tojinbo Cliffs (P. 4), making it the perfect spot to stop by along the way.



Kakyo Park

This park is popular for its seasonal cherry blossoms during spring and red leaves during autumn. There is also a shrine right next to the park, giving the park a very Japanese aesthetic. There is also a trail that leads up the mountain with a nice viewpoint at the top.

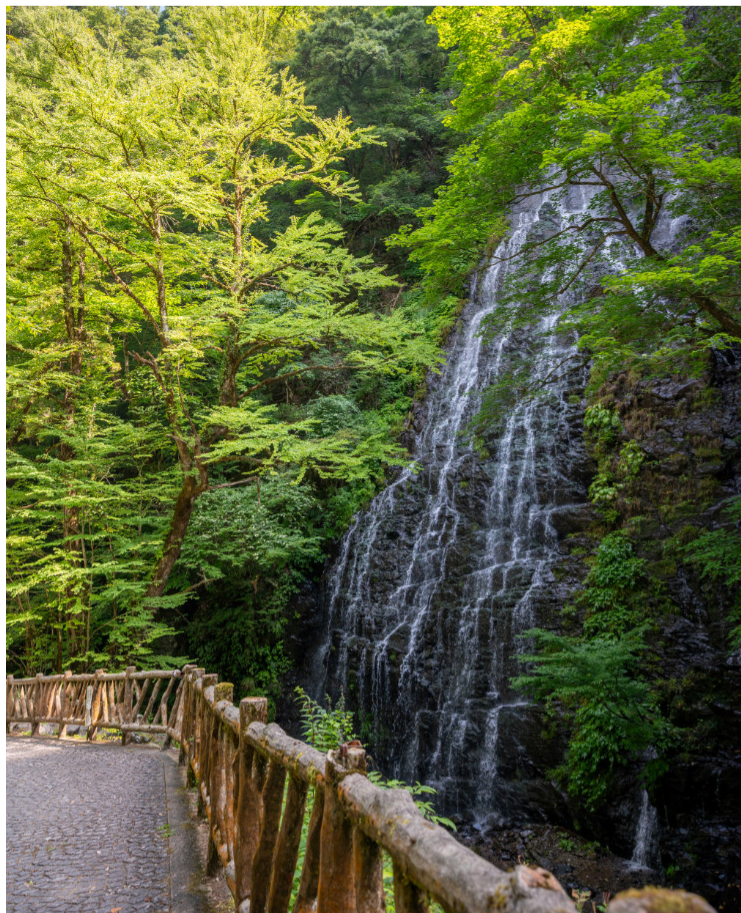
Splendid Summer

The summer in Japan is very hot and humid but it is the perfect season to enjoy many of the places in Fukui. Enjoy the rich greenery of the countryside and the many summer festivals that are a staple of Japanese culture.



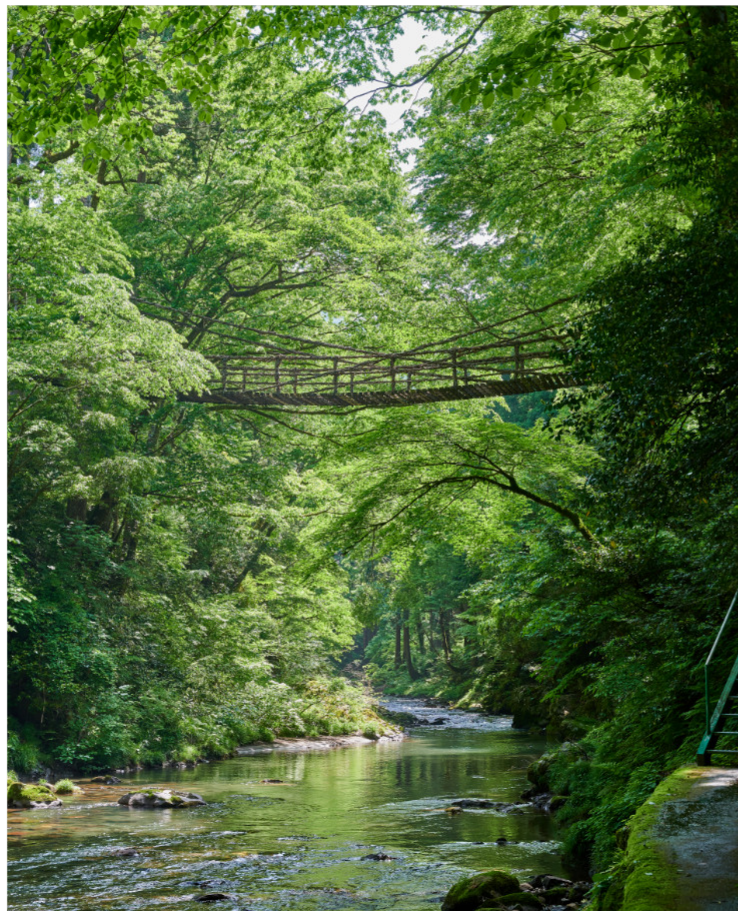
Countryside Scenery

Rice fields are a common sight in the rural areas of Japan, so they are nothing special to locals. However, for those from overseas, they can be special. This rice field in Ono City, next to Starland Sakadani, was recently featured in the music video of a popular Japanese band called Mrs. GREEN APPLE, garnering national attention.



Kazura Bridge

This rope bridge made from natural vines spans a distance of 44 meters and 12 meters in height. In Japan, students often do *kimodameshi*, tests of courage, during the summer. Try your hand at your own *kimodameshi* by crossing this swaying bridge. Another way to enjoy the bridge is to admire it from below while wading in the nice, cool river.



Ryusogataki Falls

A nice way to cool down during the humid summers of Japan is to take a trip to one of the many waterfalls across the country. Ryusogataki Falls is a impressive 60-meter tall waterfall located deep within the countryside. At the base of the waterfall, people can enjoy the nice, cold water. The water fans out over a wide area, rather than onto one spot, so this waterfall is far more gentle compared to others.



Camping

Campsites in Japan usually have a lot more facilities than those overseas. A good example of this is Garagarayama Spa & Camp, which has a kitchen, coin shower, cottages, and more. These facilities make camping easier and more fun to enjoy for a wider range of people. Camping is a great way to experience Fukui's beautiful nature.

Phoenix Festival

Summer is the season for festivals in Japan, with firework shows often being the main attraction. Within Fukui, one of the largest festivals is Phoenix Festival which features dances, marching bands, festivals stalls, and an amazing firework show. This show is held on the banks of Asuwa River and can be enjoyed from a pretty close distance. The festival is usually held in early August.



Summer Bloom

While spring is more well known for flowers, there are many that bloom during the summer as well. Fukui has a wide assortment of flowers that visitors can only see during the sunny season.

Yuri-no-Sato Park *Lily (Yuri)*

Every year, the fields of lilies blooming at Yuri-no-Sato Park attract guests from all over. The flowers bloom in an array of beautiful colors. Guests can also purchase a variety of different plants and flowers for their own gardens or homes at the park's "Hana-no-Eki".



Sunflowers *(Hinawari)*



Ikegami Sunflower Park

Sunflowers are one of the most iconic summer flowers, so there are many sunflower fields all around Fukui. They usually bloom during late July to early August. The field of vivid flowers makes for the perfect photo location. The park is also located near the coast, making for a nice drive route.

Lake Kitagata

On the bank of Lake Kitagata, there is an iris garden filled with many different types of irises. The flowers bloom during June in lovely shades of purple and yellow. Combined with the view of the surrounding wind turbines, the garden has a very charming atmosphere. An iris festival is also held here mid-June.



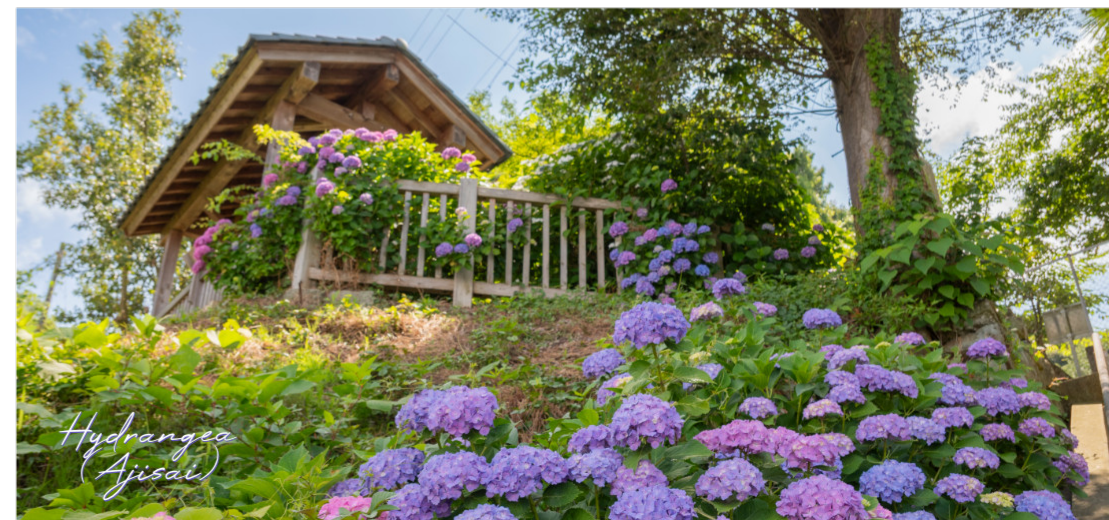
Lotus *(Hanahasu)*

Hanahasu Park

Hanahasu Park houses around 130 different types of lotus flowers gathered from across the world. The flowers bloom during the morning summer hours of late June to early August. A festival is also held at the park during the season, where guests can enjoy various activities involving lotuses.

Mt. Asuwa

The month of June in Japan sees a lot of rainfall, which is when the hydrangeas bloom. A good place to view hydrangeas in Fukui is Mt. Asuwa, which even has a road named Aji Sai Road, which is lined with them. The mountain also is home to many nice cafes, making it worthwhile to visit during the blooming season.



Hydrangea *(Aji Sai)*



Beat the heat by taking a drive down to Echizen Coast. There are plenty of ways to enjoy the sea through its beaches, cafes, and islands. At the end of the day, enjoy the beautiful sunset.



Seaside Cafes

The Echizen Coast is a popular route to drive, as the road runs parallel to the sea. Along this route, are many interesting cafes which gives travelers a nice place to rest. Café Mare is one such cafe, which is popular for its outdoor area that overlooks the sea. Enjoy a cool, refreshing drink while bathing in the sea breeze for a relaxing afternoon.



Mikuni Sunset Beach

Enjoy the sea at Mikuni Sunset Beach, which is one of the more popular beaches in Fukui. The beach also has a pier, which is perfect for strolling or even fishing.



1

Echizen Coast Sunsets

Since the Echizen Coast is located on the west side of Japan, it is the ideal spot to watch the sunset. Watching the sun slowly sink into the sea is a relaxing way to spend the end of the day.

Hokojima Island (1) is a very small island that is so close to the coast that visitors can access it via a small bridge. A trail leads all the way to the top of the island, where a small shrine rests. The silhouette of the rocky island against the sunset is a very picturesque scene.

Benkei-no-Sentaku Iwa (2) is a rocky outcrop, which is said to be the place where the historical figure, Benkei, stopped to wash his clothes on his journey through the area. The rocks have been shaped by the rough waves of the Sea of Japan.



2



Oshima Island

Located a few minutes away by car from Tojinbo Cliffs (P4) is Oshima Island, a small island that is connected by a vermilion bridge. The island is revered as a sacred spot by the locals. Visitors can explore the island by traversing the route that loops around its entirety. Make sure to go through the island clockwise, as locals will say going around counter-clockwise will result in a curse.

There is also a Shinto shrine that has a *torii* gate where visitors can view Tojinbo Cliffs from afar. The iconic red gate surrounded by nature makes for the perfect photo.





Vivid Autumn

In Japan, autumn leaves are called momiji, and are popular for their vibrant colors. Areas with an abundance of these colorful leaves see large amounts of visitors during the fall season. Among these spots, bodies of water and Japanese-style gardens are especially popular for their beauty.

Karikomi Pond

One of Fukui's most popular autumn destinations. The pond reflects the surrounding fall trees, giving it an almost artistic appearance. Alongside Mt. Sannomine in the background, the pond makes for the perfect photo spot.



Yokokan Garden

An old Japanese garden located within the heart of Fukui City, complete with a villa that guests may enter. Enjoy the view of the koi-filled pond and colorful autumn leaves. The garden also features many different seasonal plants, which gives the garden a different atmosphere each season.

The garden was created during the Edo Period and used to be the vacation villa of the Matsudairas, who were a feudal family of the Fukui Domain. The garden has been recognized as a Nationally Designated Place of Scenic Beauty.

For over 10 years, Yokokan Garden has been consistently ranked in the top 10 in a list of nearly 1,000 gardens created by an American magazine that specializes in Japanese gardens.



Lake Kuzuryu

This massive, man-made freshwater lake that lies on the edge of Fukui. The lake was created in 1986 when the Kuzuryu Dam was built. It is a popular destination during the fall season due to the colorful foliage that covers the mountains around the lake.

The bridge pictured is Hakogase Bridge and is a fantastic photo location. The 266-meter bridge crosses the lake and can be traversed on foot or by car. Its orange color matches perfectly with the surrounding fall leaves.

Kyoyo Garden

This garden is the embodiment of Japanese-style beauty, with its Japanese architecture, koi fish, and colorful autumn leaves. Visitors can enjoy a stroll along the many paths around the garden before stopping for a rest in the garden's pavilion.

The garden is located next to Nishiyama Park, which is featured on page 6. The park has about 1,600 maple trees within its grounds, making it the ideal spot for a nice autumn day out.





Sparkling Winter

Fukui sees significant snowfall during the winter months, alongside the rest of the Hokuriku area. The snow blanketing the landscape is a beautiful sight to behold. Fukui also sees the blooming of the daffodil flowers along the Echizen Coast.

Winter Sports

Due to the abundance of snow that falls on the mountains in Fukui, winter sports are easily accessible. Many ski resorts can be found in Fukui, which includes the pictured Jam Fukui Katsuyama Mountain Resort. Enjoy the view of the surrounding landscape from on top of the slopes.



Echizen Ono Castle Town

Overlooking the city is the iconic Ono Castle (1). The castle was originally built in 1575, with the current castle having been rebuilt in 1968 with the help of many references. The castle is accessible via a short hike up a mountain, and the interior of the castle serves as a museum. At the top, visitors can get an amazing view of the entire surrounding landscape.

During February of each year, a snow festival called Echizen Ono Winter Story (2) is held at and around Echizen Ono Yui Station. The festival has lanterns made from snow that give the area a very comforting atmosphere. Guests can also enjoy a plethora of delicious foods from the food trucks during the festival.



Awara Onsen

Awara Onsen is a natural hot spring area, where many hot spring hotels and *ryokan* (Japanese Inn) are located. Taking a dip in the warm baths during the cold season is an amazing experience that everyone should try at least once.

There is also a facility called Ashiyu (1), which is a free hot spring for your feet only. It is especially popular during the winter months, as it is a fantastic way to quickly warm up. At night, the facility is lit up, giving it a very cozy aesthetic.

After warming up in the baths, try out some local cuisine and drinks at Yukemuri Yokochi (2). It is a facility that is comprised of multiple *yatai* stalls and serves a wide assortment of dishes. Each stall can only fit a few people, making the experience more personal.

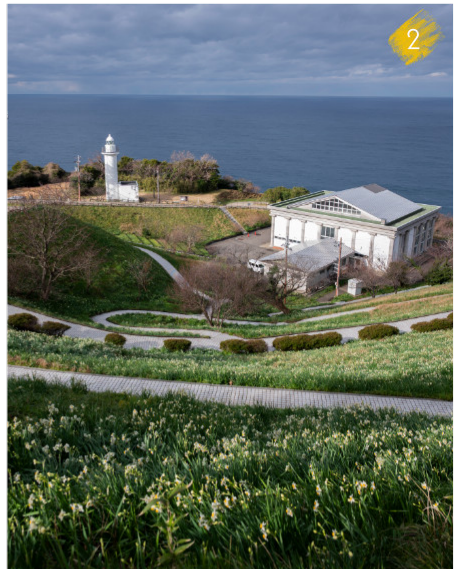


Daffodils (Suisen)

The symbol flower of Fukui Prefecture is the daffodil, which bloom during the winter months along the Echizen Coast. Fukui has the largest area dedicated to daffodils in Japan, and even have a couple of specialized facilities like Suisen-no-Sato Park and Suisen Land.

At Suisen-no-Sato Park (1), visitors can view daffodils in bloom all year in their green house. Outside of the nearby Koshino Furusato Shiryokan, fields of daffodils bloom on the cliffs overlooking the sea.

Suisen Land (2) is a park full of daffodils with a free-to-enter garden house in the center, where visitors can relax. There is also a lighthouse at the park, which is a popular photo spot.





Tranquil & Serene

One of the best parts of Fukui are the uncrowded and quiet tourist spots that exist throughout the area. Many of these places are also very beautiful and at times, breathtaking.

Heisenji Hakusan Shrine

Established over 1,300 years ago, this place first served as both a temple and a shrine until the decree to separate Shinto and Buddhism. During its prime, the area housed thousands of monks. Rich green moss makes this beautiful area a popular spot to visit.

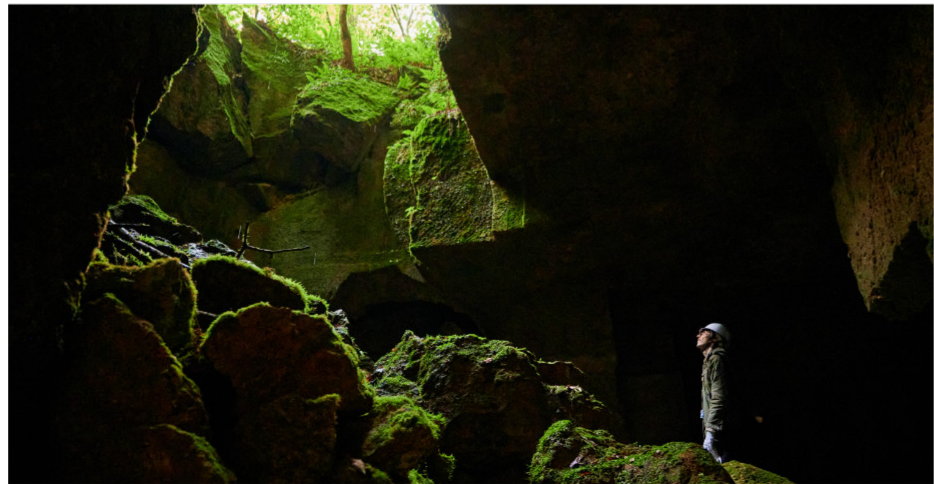


Tangando

The old hut was built during the Edo Period by a doctor named Yamamoto Zuian in the pit of a old stone quarry. There, they mined *shakudani* stone, which was used in construction all around Fukui. The place also served as a secret meeting place by important historical figures, like Lord Matsudaira. The site now is home to a modern restaurant with a beautiful view of the surrounding garden.

Miyadani Stone Quarry

The quarry is a remnant of the days where people had to mine stones by hand, which were used for building. Only available to visit as part of a guided tour, this old stone quarry offers a truly unique sight. The man-made cave has many grooves on its walls that show how the stone was cut out. Parts of the ceiling open up to the outside world, letting in sunlight which gives the area an ethereal beauty.



Ichijodani Asakura Clan Ruins

This area was once a large town before it was razed by Oda Nobunaga. It is an important historical site, and was even being designated as a Special Historic Site by the government.

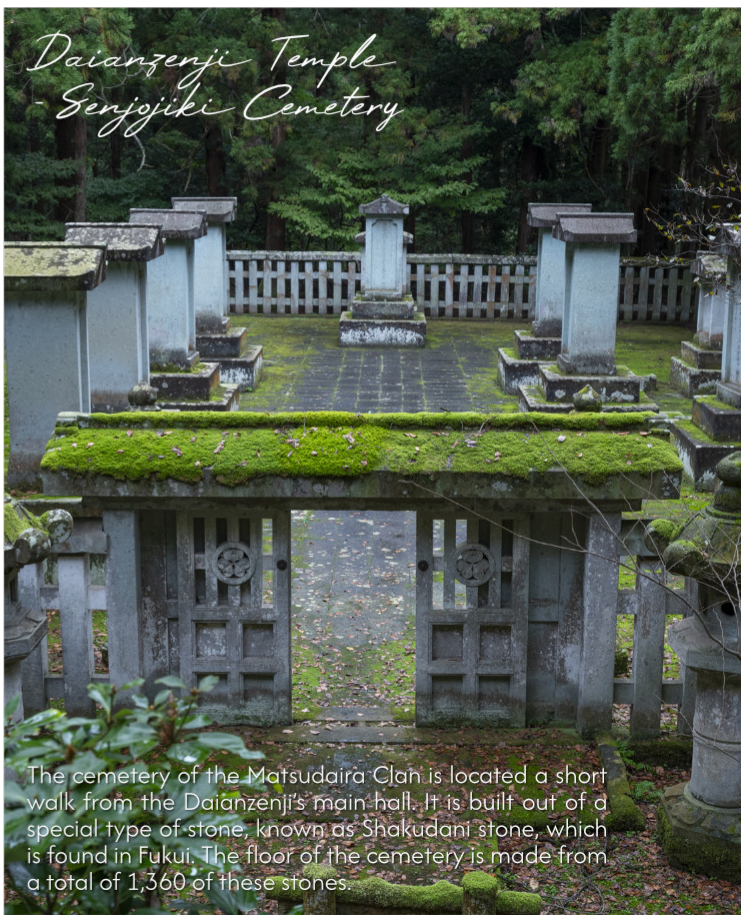
In order to showcase how the town looked like before its destruction, there is a portion that was restored using building techniques from the era. This restored townscape sometimes features people in periodic outfits, which makes guests feel as though they've traveled through time.

Visitors can also visit the Fukui Prefectural Ichijodani Asakura Family Museum nearby, where they can learn more about the area and history of the ruins.



Echizen Daibutsu (Great Buddha)

A 17 meter tall Buddha that leaves visitors with a sense of awe. This Buddha statue is the largest sitting Buddha inside of a building in Japan. The spacious area also contains 1,281 smaller Buddha statues on the walls.



Daianzenji Temple Senjojiki Cemetery

The cemetery of the Matsudaira Clan is located a short walk from the Daianzenji's main hall. It is built out of a special type of stone, known as *Shakudani* stone, which is found in Fukui. The floor of the cemetery is made from a total of 1,360 of these stones.

Artisanal Crafts

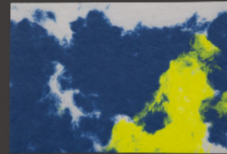
Fukui has numerous traditional crafts and industries that produce high quality goods and are popular worldwide. In recent times, the crafts in the area have seen a surge in popularity which has helped ensure their continued survival.



Echizen Washi

Echizen Washi is handmade traditional Japanese paper, which has been made for hundreds of years. Washi paper is traditionally made using Japanese mulberry, gampi, or mitsumata plant fibers. The plant is first stripped, boiled, cleaned, and beaten resulting in pulp. The pulp is then put into cold water and combined with a substance called *neri*, which adds viscosity to the mixture. The pulp mix is then scooped into a mold, which is rocked back and forth to spread the fibers into layers. After enough layers are added, the pulp is dried and a strong, beautiful paper is completed.

The main area where people can enjoy this craft is at and around Echizen Washi Village, which has multiple museums, stores, and workshops. Also located nearby is Okamoto/Otaki Shrine, which is dedicated to the paper goddess, Kawakami Gozen, who is said to have brought the craft to the area years ago.



Echizen Lacquerware

Lacquerware has a long history spanning thousands of years in Asian countries. Echizen Lacquerware itself has existed for over 1,500 years with techniques being passed down for many generations. Visitors can learn more about the craft and buy lacquerware at Echizen Lacquerware Hall (Urushi-no-Sato Kaikan).

Lacquerware has many different processes, which are handled by different specialized artisans. First the wooden base of the items are made by a woodworker, who make either rounded objects (bowls, dishes) or rectangular objects (trays, boxes). Then, the items have a coating layer of lacquer applied by a *nushi*. Finally, they may then be decorated by craftsmen who specialize in *maki-e* (pattern drawing), and/or *chinkin* (gold inlaying).



Echizen Cutlery

Echizen Cutlery, also known as Echizen Uchihamono in Japanese, is a traditional craft that produces high quality cutlery. The craft is said to date back to the 14th century when a sword smith from Kyoto named Chiyo-zuru Kuniyasu came to the Echizen area and started producing sickles and tools for the farmers. Eventually, the same techniques were used to produce kitchen knives, which the most popular product of Echizen Cutlery today.

There are two major areas involving Echizen Cutlery; Takefu Knife Village and Hamono-no-Sato, each of which are surrounded by many stores and workshops involved in the craft. Fans of knives have been visiting from all over the world to see their favorite craftsmen.



Echizen Chests

Echizen Chests are usually handcrafted from Japanese zelkova and paulownia wood. They are then coated with lacquer and fit with a special heart-shaped iron fitting called *inome*, which are crafted using Echizen Cutlery techniques. The entire chest is made without the use of nails and are instead put together using joinery techniques. The result is a beautiful and unique chest that can only be found in this region.

The history of the chest dates back to when a feudal lord gathered skilled artisans to the area who worked together to produce the high quality chests, transforming the area into a high commercial area. Traces of this can still be found in Echizen Tansucho Dori, which is a street lined with Echizen Chest-making workshops and stores.



Echizen Pottery

Echizen Pottery is one of Japan's six ancient kilns which has existed since the Heian (794~1185) and Kamakura (1185~1333) eras. Echizen, Seto, Tokoname, Shigaraki, Tamba and Bizen, make up the six kilns and have been designated as Japan Heritage sites in 2017. Each kiln has their own characteristics, which results in the unique pottery that each one makes.



Echizen Pottery utilizes local clay and is usually made without the use of enamels or patterns, resulting in a natural texture. Echizen Pottery, are usually items used in everyday life such as cups, pots, and jars. For those interested in the craft, Echizen Pottery Village is where the craft is centered and is comprised of many workshops, stores, and a museum dedicated to pottery made in the area.



Glasses

Sabae City is well known for its eyeglass production industry, with the area producing about 95% of all optical frames within Japan. The area was the first in the world to succeed in producing titanium optical frames. Production of eyeglasses began here as a way of earning extra income during the winter, as snowfall is heavy in the region. This grew into the area now being home to over 100 companies dedicated to eye-wear.

A good place to learn about the history and production of eyeglasses is at the Megane Museum. The museum also has a store that will help you find the best glasses for you. There are also many other stores in the area that all have their own unique eyeglasses, making it worth shopping around.



Textile

Textiles have a long history in Fukui, as silk used to be produced in the area. In present times, synthetic fabrics such as polyester are now manufactured in the area. The textiles produced are used in a wide assortment of industries such as fashion, construction, automotive, medicine, and more.

Pictured is the Yumeole Katsuyama Textile Factory Museum, where visitors can check out historic weaving machines, silkworm cocoons, and experience weaving their own fabrics by hand. Once a textile factory that operated from 1905 to 1998, the facility is now designated as a cultural asset.



Local Cuisine

Fukui has an abundance of delicious cuisine, with many of the ingredients being produced within the prefecture. From rich agriculture to freshly caught seafood, there is a lot to enjoy in the area.



Locally Grown Rice

Fukui is well known for its significant rice production. The rice produced in the prefecture is also of high quality due to the abundance of fresh, clean water from the mountains and rivers around Fukui.

Fukui is where the famous brand of rice, *Koshihikari*, was first developed in 1956. The rice is now cultivated in about 36% of Japan's total rice paddies, and is widely considered to be Japan's number one rice brand. Recently, another brand of rice named *Ichihomare* was been created in Fukui and has been gaining popularity.

Some parts of Fukui have also begun incorporating organic farming methods, which requires more work but is kinder on the environment. These farming practices have brought back the Oriental White Stork, which was once extinct in Japan in some of these areas.



Echizen Gani Crab

These crabs caught off the coast of Echizen are famous all across Japan for their quality and taste, and are only caught during the fall and winter season. The crabs can be recognized by the distinct yellow tags that prove they were caught in this region. In order to maintain the quality of the crabs, they are auctioned right after being caught, and are quickly brought to customers.

Certain crabs that meet a strict standard of large size and quality are given the brand of *kiwami*. Only around 1% of the crabs caught each year meet this standard. These crabs can easily sell for over 100,000 yen with some even being sold for 300,000 yen.

The crabs are a delicacy and can be found in high-end *ryokan* (Japanese inns) and restaurants all across Fukui during the season. Lately crab bentos have also been sold at Fukui Station for those looking to enjoy the crabs while on the go.



Echizen Oroshi Soba

Echizen Oroshi Soba is a local version of the soba (buckwheat) noodle dish that features grated radish, green onions, and bonito flakes. The grated radish adds a bit of spiciness to the noodle dish that pairs well with the dashi. Soba restaurants can be found all over Fukui Prefecture, with many of them making their own soba noodles from scratch. The process involves many steps and can take years to master.



Sauce Katsudon

A soul food of Fukui, which is comprised of crispy fried pork cutlets covered in a sweet and savory sauce on top of a bowl of warm rice.



Volga Rice

A hearty local dish consisting of pork cutlets on top of omurice (omelette on chicken rice) and covered in a rich, savory sauce.



Habutae Mochi

Named after silk due to its texture and the fact that Fukui used to be a producer of silk.



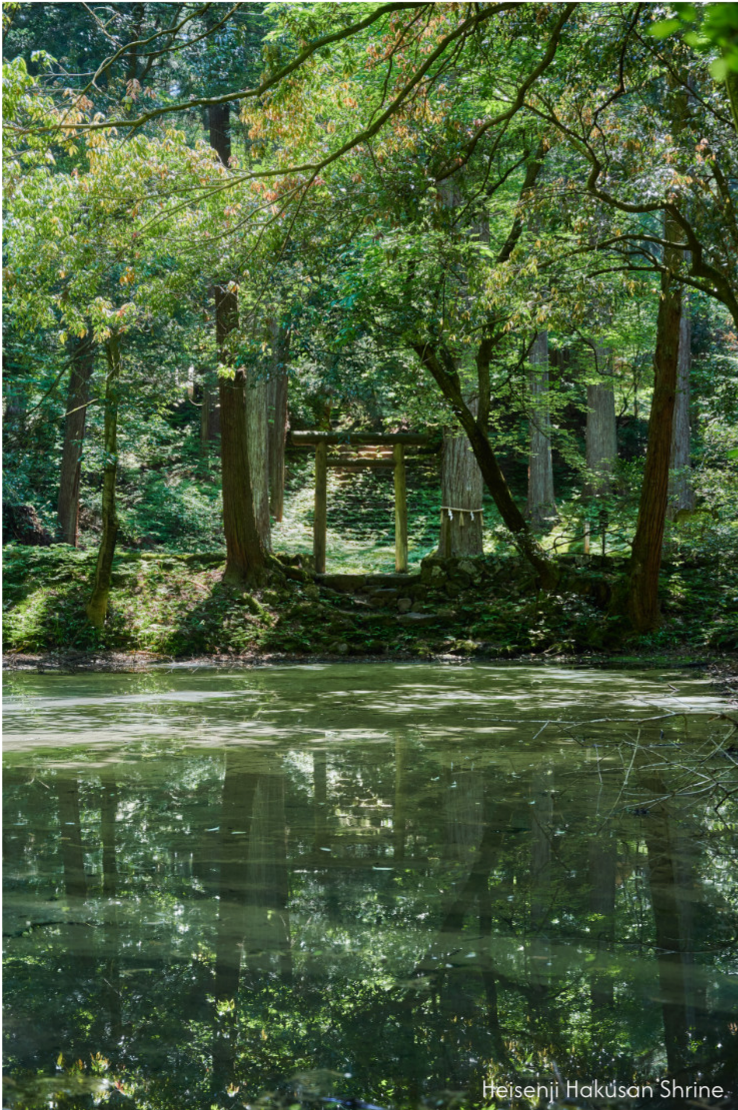
Mizuyokan

A jelly made out of red bean paste, which can be found all over Japan. However, Fukui is known for eating it during the winter while under a *kotatsu*.

Bonus Gallery



Asuwa River Cherry Tree Row



Heiseiji Hakusan Shrine



Yokokan Garden



Echizen Ono Snow Festival



Ikegami Sunflower Park



Yuri-no-Sato Park



Hanahasu Park



Mt. Asuwa



Murasaki Shikibu Park



Miyanoshita Cosmos Park

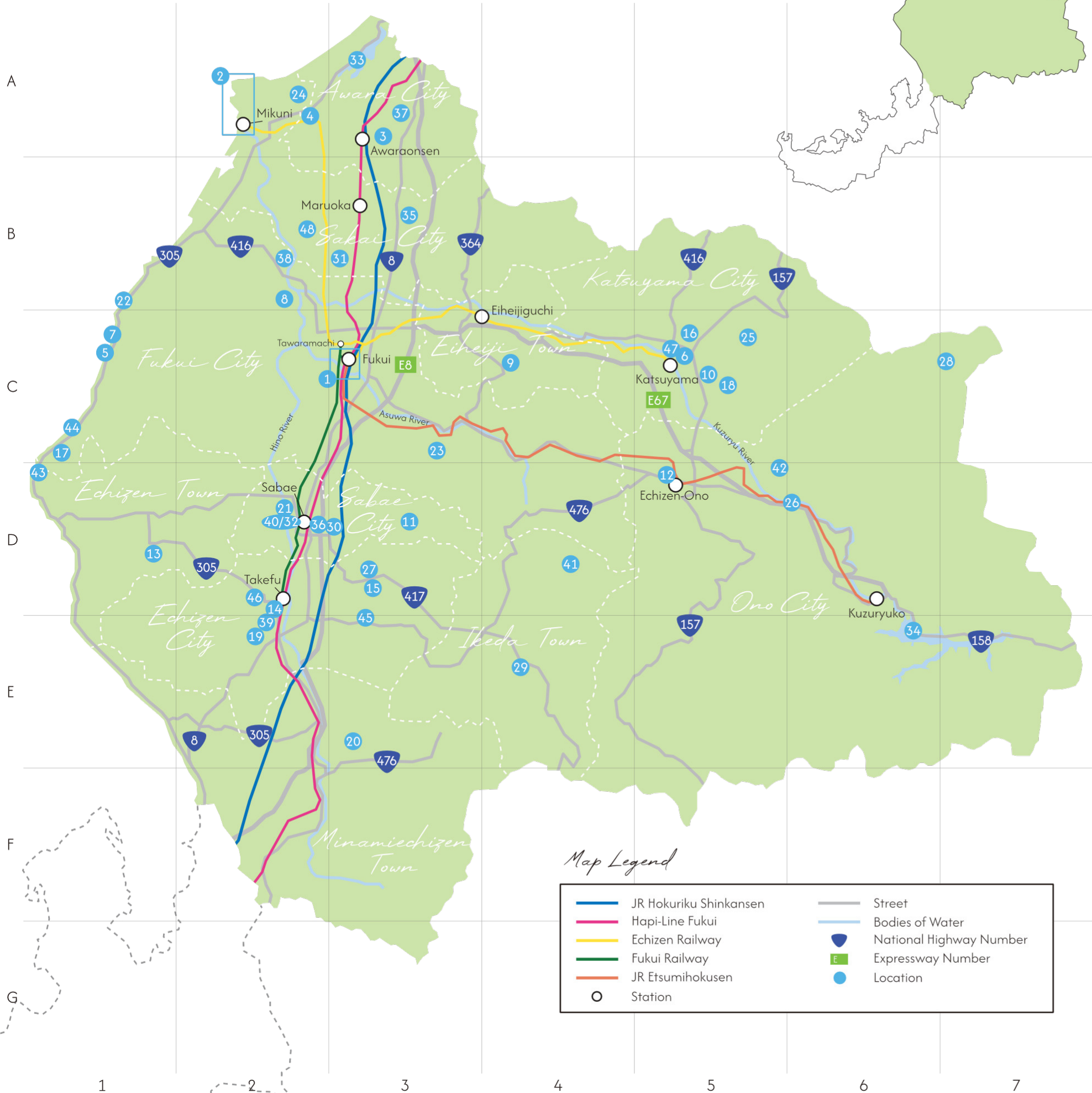


Suisen Land



Sakura Dori

Northern Fukui (Reihoku) Map



Location Guide

[A-#] - Location on map
(P.#) - Featured page

- Fukui Station Area [C-3]
 - Asuwa River Cherry Tree Row (P. 8)
 - Asuwa Shrine (P. 9)
 - Fukui Castle Ruins (P. 10)
 - Mt. Asuwa Ajisai Road (P. 14)
 - Sakura Dori (P. 10)
 - Tangando (P. 21)
 - Yokokan Garden (P. 17)
- Mikuni Area [A-2]
 - Mikuni Sunset Beach (P. 15)
 - Oshima Island (P. 16)
 - Shiomi Park (P. 10)
 - Tojinbo Cliffs (P. 4)
- Aratazaka [A-3] (P. 7)
- Awara Onsen [A-2](P. 19)
- Benkei-no-Sentaku Iwa [C-1] (P. 16)
- Benten Ryokuchi Park [C-5] (P. 7)
- Café Mare [C-1] (P. 15)
- Daianzenji Temple [B-2] (P. 22)
- Daihonzan Eiheiji Temple [C-4] (P. 4)
- Echizen Daibutsu (Great Buddha) [C-5] (P. 22)
- Echizen Lacquerware Hall [D-3](P. 23)
- Echizen Ono Castle [D-5] (P. 20)
- Echizen Pottery Village [D-1] (P. 24)
- Echizen Tansucho Dori [D-2] (P. 24)
- Echizen Washi Village [D-3](P. 23)
- Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum [C-5] (P. 4)
- Garagarayama Spa & Camp [C-1] (P. 12)
- Heisenji Hakusan Shrine [C-5] (P. 21)
- Hamono-no-Sato [E-2] (P. 23)
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- Hinogawa River [D-2] (P. 5)
- Hokojima Island [B-1] (P. 16)
- Ichijodani Asakura Clan Ruins [C-3] (Cover, P. 22)
- Ikegami Sunflower Park [A-1] (P. 14)
- Jam Fukui Katsuyama Mountain Resort [C-5] (P. 19)
- Kadohara Station [D-6] (P. 6)
- Kakyo Park [D-3] (P. 10)
- Karikomi Pond [C-7] (P. 17-18)
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- Kirameki Road Nakagawa [D-3] (P. 7-8)
- Koibito-ni-Sasageru Rose Garden [B-3] (P. 6)
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- Ryusogataki Falls [D-4] (P. 11)
- Starland Sakadani [D-5] (P. 11-12)
- Suisen Land [D-1] (P. 20)
- Suisen-no-Sato Park [C-1] (P. 20)
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Location Information

Most facilities are closed during the New Years Holiday.
Check websites for up to date information.

1. Fukui Station Area

A. Asuwa River Cherry Tree Row (P. 8)



B. Asuwa Shrine (P. 9)

Asuwa 1 Chome 8-25, Fukui City



C. Fukui Castle Ruins (P. 10)

Ote 3 Chome 17-1, Fukui City



D. Mt. Asuwa Ajsai Road (P. 14)

E. Sakura Dori (P. 10)

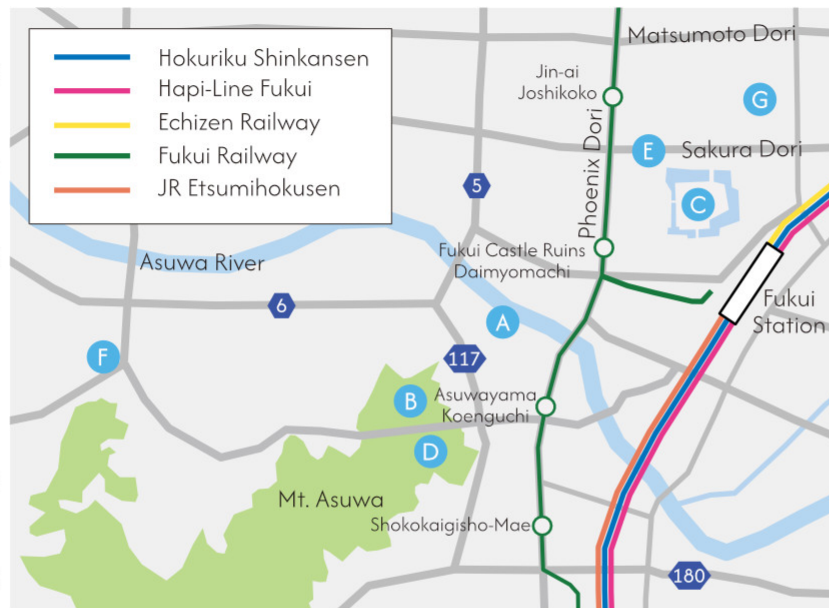
F. Tangando (P. 21)

Kamogawara 1 Chome 5-12, Fukui City



G. Yokokan Garden (P. 17)

Hoei 3-11-36, Fukui City



2. Mikuni Area

A. Mikuni Sunset Beach (P. 15)

Mikunicho, Shuku - Komegawaki, Sakai City



B. Oshima Island (P. 16)

Mikunicho Anto, Sakai City



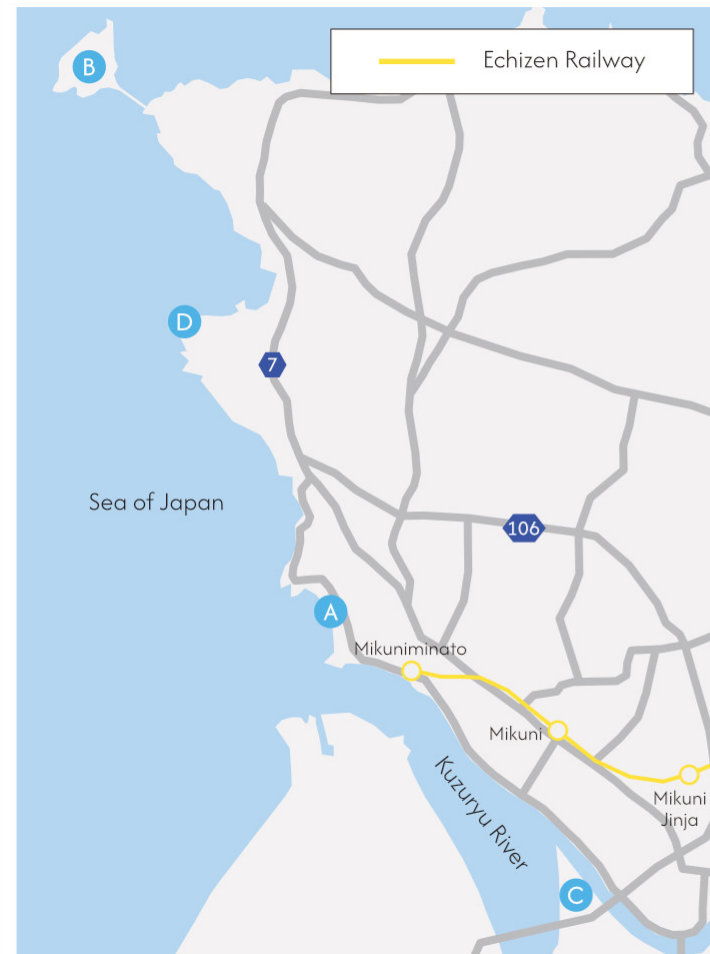
C. Shiomi Park (P. 10)

Mikunicho Mikuni, Sakai City



D. Tojinbo Cliffs (P. 4)

Mikunicho Tojinbo, Sakai City



3. Aratazaka (P. 7)

Yamamuro 36-18-1, Awara City

Information Site:

(English)



4. Awara Onsen (P. 19)

Ashiyu (Foot Hot Spring)
Onsen 1 Chome-203, Awara City

Information Site:

(English)



Yukemuri Yokocho
Onsen 1 Chome-207, Awara City

Information Site:

(English)

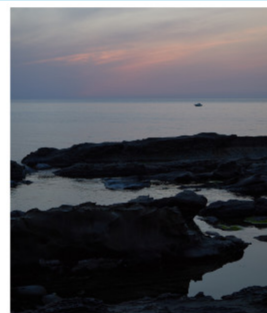


5. Benkei-no-Sentaku Iwa (P. 16)

Konyucho, Fukui City

Information Site:

(English)



6. Benten Ryokuchi Park (P. 7)

Shimotakajima, Katsuyama City

Information Site:

(English)



7. Café Mare (P. 15)

Onyuchō 70-3, Fukui City

Official Site:

(Japanese)



8. Daianzenji Temple (P. 22)

Tanotanicho 21-4, Fukui City

Official Site:

(Japanese)



Information Site:

(English)



9. Daihonzan Eiheiji Temple (P. 4)

Shihi 5-15, Eiheiji Town

Official Site:

(Japanese, English, Chinese)



10. Echizen Daibutsu (Great Buddha) (P. 22)

Katase Aza 50-1-1, Katsuyama City

Official Site:

(Japanese)



Information Site:

(English)



11. Echizen Lacquerware Hall (P. 23)

Nishibukurocho 40-1-2, Sabae City

Official Site:

(Japanese, English, Korean, Dutch, Chinese)



12. Echizen Ono Castle (P. 20)

Shiromachi 3-109, Ono City

Official Site:

(Japanese)



Information Site:

(English)



13. Echizen Pottery Village (P. 24)

Ceramic Art Center
Ozowara 7-8, Echizen Town

Official Site:

(Japanese)



Information Site:

(English)



14. Echizen Tansucho Dori (P. 24)

Motomachi ~ Honmachi,
Echizen City

Information Site:

(English)



15. Echizen Washi Village (P. 23)

Shinzaikecho 8-44, Echizen City

Official Site:

(English)



16. Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum (P. 4)

Murokocho Terao 51-11,
Katsuyama City

Official Site:

(Japanese, English, Chinese)



17. Garagarayama Spa & Camp (P. 12)

Akasakacho 66-84, Fukui City

Official Site:

(Japanese)



18. Heisenji Hakusan Shrine (P. 21)

Heisenjicho Heisenji 56,
Katsuyama City

Official Site:

(Japanese)



Information Site:

(English)



19. Hamono-no-Sato (P. 23)

Echizen Chiyozuru-no-Yakata
Ikenokamicho 48-6-1, Echizen City

Official Site:

(Japanese)



Information Site:

(English)

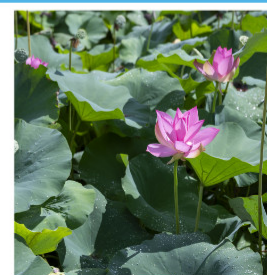


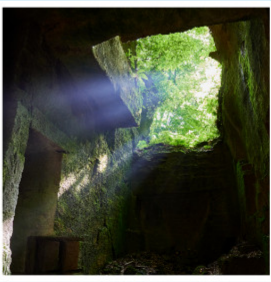
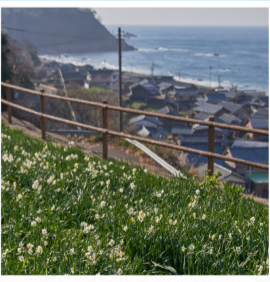
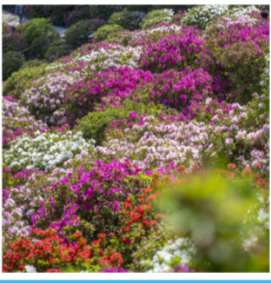
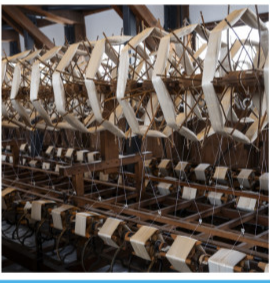
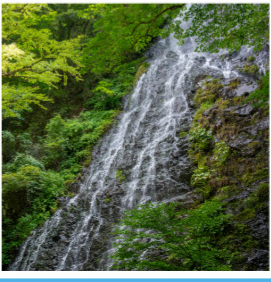
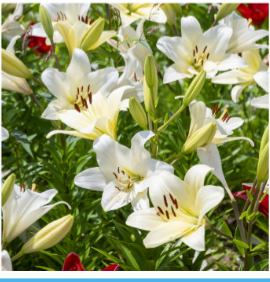
20. Hanahasu Park (P. 14)

Nakagoya 64-41,
Minamiechizen Town

Information Site:

(English)



21. Hinogawa River (P. 5) Arisadacho 3 Chome -7, Sabae City Information Site: (Japanese)  	28. Karikomi Pond (P. 17-18) Kamiuchinami, Ono City Information Site: (Japanese)  	35. Maruoka Castle (P. 9) Maruokacho Kasumicho 1 Chome -59, Sakai City Official Site: (Japanese)  Information Site: (English)  	42. Starland Sakadani (P. 11-12) Minomichi 1-4, Ono City Official Site: (Japanese)  Information Site: (English)  
22. Hokojima Island (P. 16) Minamisugouchi, Fukui City Information Site: (English)  	29. Kazura Bridge (P. 11) Doaisarao 14-5, Ikeda Town Information Site: (English)  	36. Megane Museum (P. 24) Shin-yokoe 2 Chome -3-4, Sabae City Official Site: (Japanese)  Information Site: (English)  	43. Suisen Land (P. 20) Chigadaira 27-1-2, Echizen Town Information Site: (English)  
23. Ichijodani Asakura Clan Ruins (Cover, P. 22) Kidonouchicho 28-37, Fukui City Official Site: (Japanese)  Information Site: (English)  	30. Kirameki Road Nakagawa (P. 7-8) Nakanochi 56-41, Sabae City Information Site: (Japanese)  	37. Miyadani Stone Quarry (P. 21) Miyadani, Awara City Only accessible with tour group. Information Site: (English)  	44. Suisen-no-Sato Park (P. 20) Ikuracho 43-25, Fukui City Information Site: (English)  
24. Ikegami Sunflower Park (P. 14) Mikunicho Ikegami 48, Sakai City Official Site: (Japanese)  Information Site: (English)  	31. Koibito-ni-Sasageru Rose Garden (P. 6) Haruecho Zuioji Chuo 314, Sakai City 	38. Miyanoshita Cosmos Park (P. 1-2) Egamicho 37-7, Fukui City Information Site: (English)  	45. Takefu Knife Village (P. 23) Yokawacho 22-91, Echizen City Official Site: (Japanese)  Information Site: (English)  
25. Jam Fukui Katsuyama Mountain Resort (P. 19) 170-70, Katsuyama City Official Site: (Japanese)  Information Site: (English)  	32. Kyoyo Garden (P. 18) Chosenjicho 1 Chome -10, Sabae City Information Site: (Japanese)  	39. Murasaki Shikibu Park (P. 6) Higashisenpukucho 20-369, Echizen City Information Site: (English)  	46. Yoshinose River (P. 7) Kamiodacho 30-14-11, Echizen City Information Site: (Japanese)  
26. Kadohara Station (P. 6) Nishikadohara, Ono City Information Site: (Japanese)  	33. Lake Kitagata (P. 14) Kitagata, Awara City Information Site: (English)  	40. Nishiyama Park (P. 6) Sakuramachi 3 Chome -8-10, Sabae City Information Site: (English)  	47. Yumeole Katsuyama (P. 24) Showamachi 1 Chome -7-40, Katsuyama City Official Site: (Japanese)  Information Site: (English)  
27. Kakyo Park (P. 10) Awatabecho 17, Echizen City Information Site: (English)  	34. Lake Kuzuryu (P. 18) Kuzuryu Dam Nagano 33, Ono City Information Site: (English)  	41. Ryusogataki Falls (P. 11) Omoto, Ikeda Town Information Site: (Japanese)  	48. Yuri-no-Sato Park (P. 13) Haruecho Ishizuka 21-2-3, Sakai City Official Site: (Japanese)  Information Site: (English)  

Fukui Access



From Tokyo

*All travel times are approximate.

Train: Hokuriku Shinkansen	2 hours and 50 min.
Car: Highway	6 hours and 20 min.
Plane: Haneda Airport - Komatsu Airport > Bus to Fukui	2 hours and 15 min.

From Osaka

Train: Thunderbird > Hokuriku Shinkansen	1 hour and 50 min.
Thunderbird > Hapi-Line Fukui	2 hours and 30 min.
Car: Highway	2 hours and 30 min.

From Nagoya

Train: Shirasagi > Hokuriku Shinkansen	2 hours and 10 min.
Shirasagi > Hapi-Line Fukui	2 hours and 50 min.
Car: Highway	2 hours and 15 min.
Bus: Highway Bus	2 hours and 50 min.

Social Media:



fukui.wanderer (EN)



fca_japan (EN)



bienvenue_a_fukui (FR)



fukuicity_tw (TW)

Fukui City International Affairs Section
Inquires: kokusai@city.fukui.lg.jp
Published: June, 2026