



Takeno: Spring Break at one of Japan's Best Beach Towns



Planning on kicking it back for spring break in Kinosaki Onsen? While the allure of hot spring hopping in a yukata underneath cherry blossom blooms may already be the ideal fantasy come to life for spring breakers in Japan, consider an extra night in the area with a stay in Takeno - only one train stop away from Kinosaki Onsen and home to one of the top 100 beaches in the country. Check our list below for some beachy springtime fun in Takeno, complete with aquamarine waves and soft sandy shores:

Stroll the Neighborhood



A storybook setting unfolds as soon as visitors step foot off the train at Takeno Station. Sleepy narrow roads are lined with cozy retro yakisugi (charred cedar) homes, an architectural hallmark of the fishing and beach town. In addition to painting Takeno with retro sea-faring charm, the cedar boards flanking homes also serve a utilitarian purpose. Due to the strong salt winds blowing in daily from the Sea of Japan, Takeno's homes opted for

these charming wooden edifices instead of the usual brick or paneling because of cedar's resilience against the blustering sea winds.

All Aboard for Monster Cave



Find your sea legs! We're going out on the waves with your choice of a paddleboard or kayak accompanied by a certified local guide. Traverse the crystal waters of the Sea of Japan and appreciate the local wonder of Hasakari Rock, a fallen stone that evaded peril from the waters below by wedging itself in between two slabs of rock. Continue to venture into the rocky mouth of Monster Cave, created when an ogre smashed a piece of the coastline and tried to steal it for himself.



Where to Eat: Yashio



Newly renovated and run with heart by two local chefs, Yashio is a reservation-only restaurant in a wooded sanctuary along the Takeno River. Leave your dinner to the professionals, and savor the clean, natural flavors of locally sourced seafood, game, and vegetables. With three course options ranging in size and taste from seafood to hunted game, visitors looking for the perfect combination of upscale cuisine

and local charm will feel right at home with every scrumptious bite.

Spring Clean the Beach

Give back to Mother Nature this spring with a good old beach cleaning! The Takeno Children's Experience Village's beach clean and salt-making activity is a marvelous experience where participants give back to the earth and receive its bounty in return. After uncovering debris washed up by winter waves onto Takeno Beach, fire up the village stove and help locals in their efforts to maintain their centuries-long heritage of producing sea salt for cooking. Of course, you'll be able to bring home some of the salt and other tasty goodies as thanks!



Hike Nekozaki Peninsula



The northernmost point of Hyogo Prefecture doesn't disappoint no matter the season, and each spring more and more visitors are trekking up this peninsula for a glimpse of panoramic ocean views and wild cherry blossom blooms. The 2-hour walk roundtrip from Nekozaki Peninsula's lighthouse tip and back to the beach can be done solo, but

those nervous about making the trip alone need not worry - a local geopark guide and interpreter are happy to make the trip with you.

Looking for a place to stay? Check out Takeno's beachside accommodations [Uminone](#) and [Okukinosaki Seaside Hotel](#).



[Toyooka](#) is a downtown area home to the Oriental White Stork, a bird that was revived from extinction in this very town. The city's efforts restored the Oriental White Stork population, and now over 300 fly the skies of Japan. Toyooka is also known

Leveille (info@toyooka-tourism.com) website: visitkinosaki.com a town of time-honored hot springs dating back 1300 years ago. It is home to seven public bathhouses, all located within walking distance of each other and the train station. Guests are encouraged to wear yukata and geta,



[Izushi](#) is the resident castle town, popular for its nostalgic atmosphere



winter, one can go skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and