

Spectacular Spring Fun in Kinosaki Onsen



A blustery spring day on the charming streets of Kinosaki Onsen is a dream for many traveling cherry blossom chasers – and for good reason! While the local landscapes paint natural masterpieces across the hot spring town and its surrounding areas all throughout the year, the great outdoors truly dazzle in April with strokes of fleeting pink cherry blossom blooms. Stay awhile and enjoy an extended spring vacation in Kinosaki Onsen with some of the area’s best outdoor escapades.

[Buddhist Reading, Sutra Copying, and Waterfall Meditation Experience at Hokkeji Temple](#)

Visitors to Kinosaki Onsen in search of a spiritual cleansing are welcome to experience a Buddhist retreat at Hokkeji Temple, a sanctuary cloaked in the mountainside verdure of Tanto Farming Village. Reverend Yoshiki, the temple’s English-speaking monk, welcomes all who wish to learn about the religious tradition of “takigyō” (waterfall meditation) while having the rare chance to experience a session for themselves. As the freshly melted snow merges with the waterfall’s stream and falls atop your shoulders, refresh your soul for the green season.



[Outdoor Barbecue in the Kannabe Highlands](#)



This spring break: no prep, no grocery shopping, just you, your friends, and some of the world’s best beef barbecue. In the Kannabe Highlands south of Kinosaki Onsen, savor the taste of Japan’s legendary Tajima beef at a countryside garden terrace surrounded by lush mountainscapes. No need to lift a finger, just bring yourself and an appetite for the scrumptious, marbled, melt-in-your-mouth meat that is characteristic of Tajima beef, the origin of Kobe beef.

[Oriental White Stork Watching](#)

With an English-speaking guide, hop into a private car bound for some of the world's best spots to observe the Oriental White Stork in its natural habitat. During the spring, visitors can see newly hatched chicks with their parents in nesting towers. These majestic birds, now honored with the title of "national natural treasure," were once completely extinct in the Japanese wilderness, but with trial and error, a Toyooka City breeding program successfully returned them to the wild. While traveling to local wetlands, rice fields, and even across the Maruyama River by boat, learn about the ecology of the storks and the city's commitment to fulfilling their promise of returning them to Japan's skies.



[Cycle to Hidden Treasures](#)



There's no need to choose between relaxing hot springs, quaint countryside, and dramatic seaside views with a visit to Kinosaiki Onsen – a guided cycling tour covers all three! Get your wheels turning in Kinosaiki Onsen and head out for a cycling adventure alongside vast rice paddy landscapes with a local as your guide. As you peddle your way to the Sea of Japan and back towards Kinosaiki Onsen, views of charming farmhouses and local wildlife will accompany you to various sights only a few tourists find, such as the mythical Dragon Palace atop a small island out at sea.

[Willow Crafting and Boat Adventure at Genbudo Museum](#)



An expedition of ancient Toyooka awaits with a visit to Genbudo Museum and Park! Home to five stunning basalt caves just south of Kinosaiki Onsen, visitors to Genbudo Museum and Park not only have the chance to see these 1.6-million-year-old wonders in person – with a reservation, guests can also experience the ancient art of willow crafting after venturing out onto the nearby Maruyama River in a boat with a local guide. Living history is abundant swimming in and flying above the water, and lucky adventurers may spot Toyooka's own beloved treasure, the Oriental White Stork, overhead.



[Kinosaki Onsen](#) is 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, stroll through the town, and go onsen-hopping.

[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 for the Genbudo Caves.



[Izushi](#) is the resident castle town, popular for its nostalgic atmosphere of Edo-era Japan. It is home to many interesting attractions such as castle ruins, a samurai house, a kabuki theater, and a clock tower. The town's specialty is Izushi Sara Soba, buckwheat noodles served in small portions on small plates.

[Kannabe](#) is a mountainous area with fun activities year-round. In the winter, one can go skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and sledding. In the warm months, one can go camping, paragliding, fishing, tree climbing, and more. Kannabe is the perfect destination for adventurers.



[Takeno](#) is a quaint fisherman town that is a hidden gem among the northern coast of Hyogo Prefecture. The beach has clear, blue waters while the mountains surrounding it offer great hiking opportunities. It is encouraged to stroll through the peaceful town, where one can find small shops and traditional landscapes.

[Tanto](#) is a quiet countryside town with magnificent nature—including a giant field of sunflowers in the summer and brilliant red-leaved trees in the fall.

