

The Best Places Around Kinosaki Onsen to Rub Elbows with the Locals



Venturing off the beaten path may be a daunting feat for many visitors to Japan, but rest assured that a visit to the rural hot spring town of Kinosaki Onsen and the surrounding areas will leave you with new friendships that will last a lifetime! Locals in and around Kinosaki Onsen are no stranger to travelers, and many have found a long-lasting friend in many visitors to the area. Don't be shy!

Here's where you'll find the locals:

[Jizo-Yu Bathhouse](#)

Out of the seven bathhouses dotting Kinosaki Onsen, Jizo-Yu has historically been the go-to for local bath-goers. Many Kinosaki locals, just like tourists, use the seven bathhouses in town each and every day. Out of the seven, Jizo-Yu and its family-friendly facilities, such as a lukewarm bath for children, seem to draw the most locals out of all the hot springs in town! Make sure to pay Jizo-Yu a visit on your pre-bedtime stroll.



[Snack Pub Hopping](#)



It's a Kinosaki tradition to follow a session of soaking in a hot spring with a cold drink. But don't just opt for a vending machine! Kick it old-school with a Kinosaki Onsen local on a pub hopping tour of the town's friendliest bars! Also known as "snacks" in Japanese, the retro-style pubs are a part of Kinosaki Onsen's local culture. Go beyond the guidebooks and experience a truly authentic experience with the town's locals under the wing of a snack bar pro!

[Waterfall Meditation at Hokkeji Temple](#)

A visit to Hokkeji Temple in Tanto Farming Village provides travelers with the chance to meet with Reverend Yoshiki, a local English-speaking Buddhist monk. Travel by car with Reverend Yoshiki from Kinosaki Onsen to Hokkeji Temple to learn about the tradition of "takigyō" (waterfall meditation) while experiencing a session for yourself. Over a cup of tea, visitors can talk with Reverend Yoshiki about any worries in their hearts. He is more than happy to listen!



[Silk Onsen](#)



Located near Hokkeji Temple, Silk Onsen is an all-inclusive hot spring resort still widely unknown to international travelers. After a day of waterfall meditation at Hokkeji Temple, travelers can spend the night here and enjoy the unique silky hot spring waters with locals driving in for their nightly bath. The vast night sky sparkling above Silk Onsen's outdoor bath is a prime stargazing spot!

[DIY Seafood Dinner and Stay at Yashio](#)

A quaint harborside accommodation and restaurant, Yashio is located in Takeno, a local fisherman's town just one train stop away from Kinosaki Onsen and home to one of Japan's top 100 beaches. Under the expertise of Yashio's sushi chef owners, slice up a fish and roll authentic sushi using only the freshest fish caught directly from the nearby Sea of Japan. After your private lesson, savor the fruits of your labor with a homemade dinner and your sushi rolls before checking into your private house next door! Feel free to chat up the chef during your meal. They'll be happy to answer any questions about the ingredients or give suggestions for sightseeing around town!



[Kitamaekan Hot Spring](#)



Kitamaekan is just on the edge of Takeno Beach, housing a history museum on the first floor and a scenic hot spring on the second. After checking out of Yashio, take a soak in the nearby Kitamaekan building's tattoo-friendly seaside hot spring! The chances are high that you'll run into some locals also taking their daily bath. The hot spring features indoor and outdoor sections of the bath - don't miss the impressive ocean views of Takeno Beach!

Check Visitkinosaki.com for more



[Kinosaki Onsen](#) is a town of time-honored tradition dating back 1300 years ago. It is home to seven tattoo-friendly public hot springs, all located within walking distance of each other. Guests wear yukata and geta, stroll through the town, and enjoy onsen-hopping.

[Toyooka](#) is home to the Oriental White Stork, a national natural treasure that was revived from extinction in this very city. Toyooka's efforts restored the Oriental White Stork population, and now over 300 fly the skies of Japan. Toyooka is also known as one of Japan's largest producers of handbags.



[Izushi](#) is a residential 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 Japanese-style clock tower. The town's specialty is Izushi Sara Soba, buckwheat noodles served in small portions on five plates.

[Kannabe](#) is a mountainous area with outdoor activities year-round and a perfect destination for adventure travelers. In the winter, visitors go skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and sledding, and during the green season, camping, paragliding, fishing, and tree climbing are popular pastimes.



[Takeno](#) is a quaint fishing and beach town with landscapes part of the UNESCO San'in Kaigan Geopark. Takeno beach has clear, blue waters while the surrounding mountains offer great hiking opportunities. Visitors stroll through the peaceful town, discovering small shops and traditional cedar wood homes.

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

