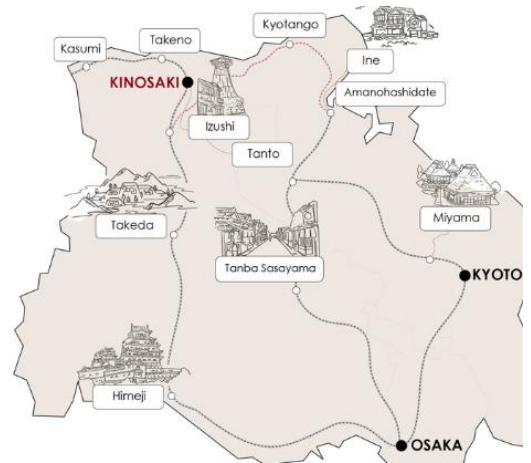




Plan Your Journey From Osaka & Kyoto Kinosaki Onsen's Surrounding Towns & Treasures



Kinosaki Onsen is a legendary town of seven mystic hot springs, traditional arts, and whimsical scenery. After the first step into Kinosaki hot spring, visitors may find themselves wishing they never had to leave. While this small town is a treasure trove of magnificent Japanese wonders, venturing out to the surrounding areas provides experiences just as astounding and memorable.

On your way to and from Kinosaki Onsen via Kyoto and Osaka, uncover destinations beyond the beaten path. Below are just a sampling of some of the region's wonderful towns - breathtaking settings home to stunning ruins, serene beaches, and historic villages.

[Amanohashidate Sandbar](#)

A 1.5-hour train ride from Kinosaki Onsen, Amanohashidate is one of Japan's three most scenic views. Visitors can explore the area from mountaintop viewpoints and by foot while strolling the sandbar from one coastline to another.



[Ine Fishing Village](#)

An additional 30-minute car ride from Amanohashidate, Ine is a small fishing town adorned with picturesque boathouses floating upon a sea of glassy, aquamarine waters. Visitors can explore the seaside townscape aboard sightseeing boats and ferries.

[Takeda Castle Ruins](#)

2 hours by train from Kinosaki Onsen, the Takeda Castle Ruins are Japan's very own Machu Pichu - a castle in the sky boasting spectacular views and hiking no matter the season. Autumn welcomes the "sea of clouds," a natural phenomenon gliding beneath the mystical ruins.





Miyama Thatched Roof Houses

Charming cottages line the mountainside roads of this quaint town. These homes stand tall and proud thanks to their “kayabuki” thatched roofs, a traditional architectural practice common in the area.

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Yosano Silk Town

Yosano is a town known for its production of silk crepe (chirimen). In fact, at the height of production, 70% of Japan’s production of silk crepe originated in Yosano and the surrounding area. You can still see lavish old silk merchant houses lining the high street of the town, known as the “Silk Road.”



Kasumi

Just immediately west of Kinokasa Onsen lies the town of Kasumi. With world-famous Tajima Beef farms and a Snow Crab fishing port, Kasumi is a town home to several Japanese wonders. While this quiet town is famed for its astounding culinary prowess, cultural wonders also dot the area, including the great Tajima Buddha at Chorakuji Temple and Daijoji Temple with stunning interior paintings by Oukyo Maruyama, one of the most important artists from Japan’s samurai era.



Kyotango

Kyotango is the northernmost part of Kyoto Prefecture and borders along the Sea of Japan. Here you will find an expanse of beautiful scenery where an eternal natural history still remains. Geological formations command the horizon and some are designated as important heritage sites.



Tanba Sasayama Castle Town

Wander a preserved Japanese historic district and taste black soybean delicacies in this historic castle town south of Kinokasa Onsen. Various traditional homes have been renovated into charming cafes where guests can try black soybean treats and have an up-close view of local pottery.

Himeji Castle

Located just 1.5 hours away from Kinokasa Onsen, Himeji Castle, also known as the “White Heron Castle,” dates back to the 14th century and is the best-preserved castle in Japan. It is also frequently referred to as “the most beautiful castle in Japan.”





[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 samurai-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.

