



Seize the Days! 4 Nearby Kinokasa Onsen Excursions

A visit to Kinokasa Onsen easily fills up one or even two days full of hot spring hopping, savoring Tajima wagyu beef, shopping for traditional crafts and more. Why not tack on another day of exploring the wonders of Kinokasa's surroundings?

[Izushi Castle Town](#)



Izushi is a castle town popular for its nostalgic atmosphere of old Japan. The town has many interesting attractions, including the Izushi Castle Ruins, Samurai House Karoyashiki, and Eirakukan Kabuki Theater. There are also many local specialties such as Izushi Porcelain, Yanagi-gori (willow craft), and Izushi Sara Soba noodles served on five small plates!

Access: Take the local Zentan Bus from Kinokasa Onsen Bus Station to Izushi Bus Station.

[Takeno Beach & Fishing Village](#)

Takeno Beach is proudly dubbed as one of Japan's absolute best beaches. Sky blue waters and soft sandy shores await after a 15-minute walk north across the Takeno River and through town.

The sleepy narrow roads of the town are lined with cozy retro yakisugi (charred cedar) homes, an architectural hallmark of the area. As part of the UNESCO San'in Kaigan Global Geopark, incredible volcanic rock formations line the coast.

Access: Take the local San'in Line train from Kinokasa Onsen Station to Takeno Station.



Coastal Kinosaki (Hiyoriyama)

The dramatic coastline just north of Kinosaki Onsen is home to the Dragon Palace. This legendary palace, inspired by the Japanese folk tale Urashima Tarō, emerges among the waves a few meters from the shore. At dawn, from September to November (depending on the weather), a cascade of clouds from the inland breaks over the palace in the light of the sun's first rays.

Year-round, visitors can also enjoy Kinosaki Marine World, a local aquarium sitting atop the seashore.

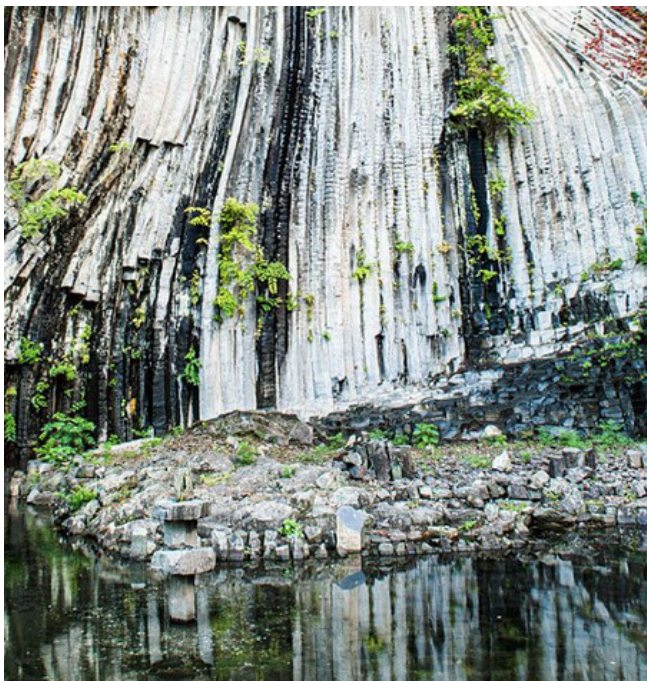
Access: Take the local Zentan Bus from Kinosaki Onsen Bus Station to Hiyoriyama Bus Station OR rent a bicycle at SOZORO Tourist Information Center.



Genbudo Caves & Hachigoro Toshima Wetlands

Bicycling through the leisurely flat terrain just east of Kinosaki Onsen lands visitors at Genbudo Park, home to the five beautiful basalt Genbudo Caves with over 1.6 million years of geological history. On the way back to the hot springs, visit the Oriental White Stork, one of Japan's designated national natural treasures, at Hachigoro Toshima Wetlands

Access: Rent a bicycle at SOZORO Tourist Information Center.





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 400 fly the skies of Japan. Toyooka is also known as one of Japan's largest producers of handbags.



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, hiking, paragliding, fishing, and tree climbing are popular pastimes.



Tanto is a quiet countryside town with magnificent nature including hot springs, a giant field of tulips in the spring, brilliant red-leaved trees in the fall, and waterfall meditation.



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 within walking distance. Guests wear yukata and geta, stroll through the town, and enjoy onsen-hopping.



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.



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.

