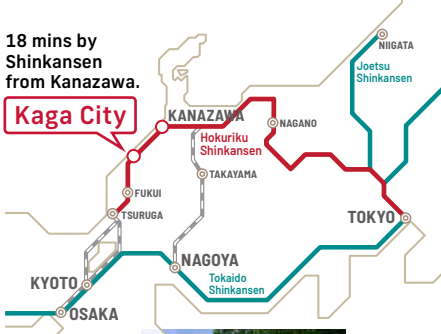
Discovering Japanese Hospitality at a Traditional Ryokan in Kaga City




A Family Kaiseki Dinner

In search of a special family experience, we spontaneously decided to spend a night at an authentic traditional ryokan. Of Ishikawa's many hot spring towns, we chose Yamashiro Onsen and booked a room at Tachibana Shikitei.

A Haven of Peace Just a Stone's Throw from Kanazawa

After leaving Kanazawa, we had only just settled into our seats on the Shinkansen when we found ourselves already arriving at Kagaonsen Station! After a brief stop at the tourist office to gather ideas for nearby activities, we headed to the exit, where the shuttle to the ryokan was waiting for us.


Easy Access from Kanazawa

At Tachibana Shikitei, we were warmly welcomed by the ryokan hosts dressed in elegant kimonos. We were then shown to our traditional room, which was spacious enough for our son to excitedly explore every corner. "There's even a wooden swimming pool!" he exclaimed, pointing to our private outdoor bath made of Japanese cypress (*hinoki*).

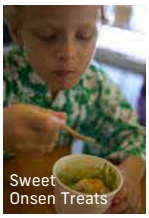
The kind staff then helped each of us put on a traditional yukata, and with a few precise, practiced gestures, we were ready.

Before heading out, my husband and I enjoyed a delicious cup of matcha while sitting in front of the tokonoma, the traditional decorative alcove displaying seasonal artwork and flower arrangements. We were enchanted by the aesthetics and subtle details surrounding us.

Discovering the Discreet Charm of Yamashiro Onsen


Strolling Yamashiro Onsen

Exploring at the rhythm of our geta, the famous Japanese wooden sandals, was great fun. Yamashiro Onsen was particularly charming, with its shops offering local specialties, regional crafts, and original souvenirs. Visitors can also take part in a variety of creative experiences and workshops.


Sweet Onsen Treats

In the center of the square stands the old public bath, offering the perfect setting for a souvenir photo. But our son had something else on his mind: he spotted a shop selling a very special type of ice cream topped with an onsen tamago, a soft-cooked egg with a unique and surprising texture.

Just a few steps away, we came across a free public foot bath, allowing us to enjoy a relaxing break before heading towards the magnificent Yakuoin Onsenji Temple, which as we soon learned, played a key role in Japanese culture. It is said that at this very temple, in the ninth century, the priest Myōkaku Shōnin developed the Japanese syllabary table that became the basis for the one used today.


Yakuoin Onsenji Temple

At the Heart of Japanese Hospitality


Local Flavors to Savor

Dinner time soon arrived, marking the beginning of an indescribable experience. Time slowed down and all our senses were awakened. As we waited in our room, with its refined and understated decoration, a succession of small dishes, created according to the chef's intuition, were brought in, each showcasing local and seasonal products. Kutani porcelain dishes were used to enhance each ingredient, while the freshness of the sake paired wonderfully with the delicacies being served. For our little samurai in the making, the chef prepared a three-star-worthy children's menu, where carrots were transformed to take on the appearance of koi.

After dinner, the staff prepared our room for the night, carefully laying out the futons. We ended the day in our small private outdoor onsen, allowing our souls to relax amidst the gentle rhythm of the evening breeze.


Until Next Time

The next day, we enjoyed a delicious breakfast in the comfort of our room, where we already felt completely at home after only a single night.

The refined hospitality, defined by a personalized and discreet service that one does not find in a simple hotel, made us feel very comfortable. The entire time, we knew that we were experiencing something truly special.


Morning Walk at AIUEO Forest

This little stay at Tachibana Shikitei will remain engraved in our memory as one of the most authentic and precious experiences we have shared as a family in Japan. The easy access from Kanazawa made the journey very comfortable, even with a young child.

Before returning to Kanazawa, we made one last stop at the nearby AIUEO Forest, where our son happily ran through the trees as we strolled across the wooden footbridge to the observation platform. The architecture blends in beautifully with the surrounding nature, which is particularly splendid in autumn.

We leave (not before trying the public onsen) happy and refreshed.

Writer/Model: Lucy Franz



Originally from the south of France with German roots, Lucy worked for many years in the fashion and textile industries before moving to Kanazawa with her family in 2019. She enjoys sharing her favorite places and experiences with fellow travelers through tailor-made guided tours in the Hokuriku region.

Special thanks to Tachibana Shikitei

Three Hot Spring Towns in Kaga



Yamashiro Onsen Soyu and Ko-soyu Public Bathhouse
Open: 6:00–22:00 | Fee: Soyu 500 yen (Ko-soyu 700 yen) | Closed: 6:00–12:00 on the 4th Wednesday of each month



Yamanaka Onsen Kiku no Yu Public Bathhouse
Open: Daily 6:45–22:00 | Fee: 500 yen | Closed: Occasionally, and on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays (open on national holidays)



Katayamazu Onsen Soyu Public Bathhouse
Open: Daily 6:00–22:00
Fee: 500 yen
Closed: Occasionally

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