

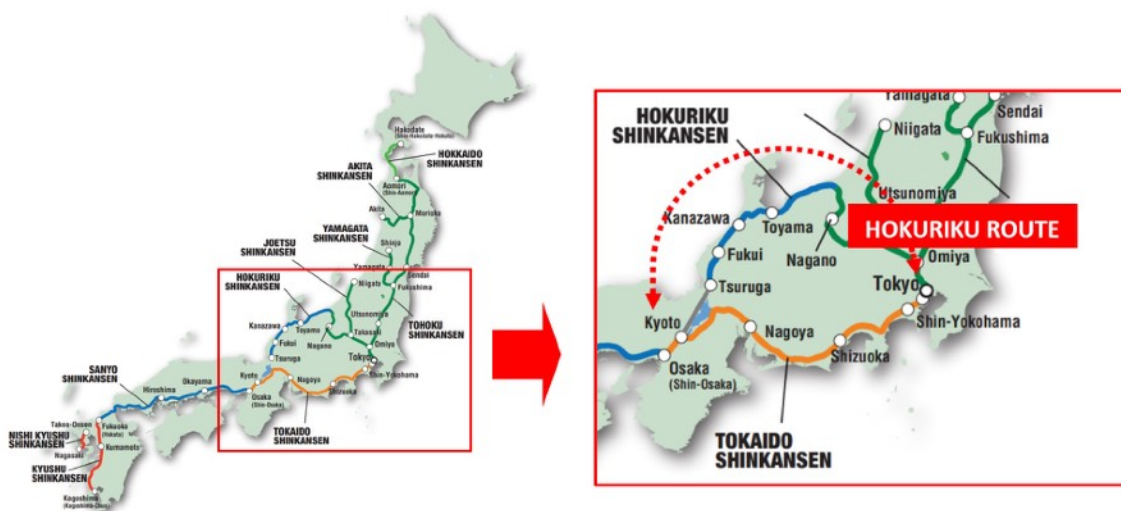


March Hokuriku Shinkansen Extension!



The attractive but relatively unknown Hokuriku area will become more accessible from both Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka with the extended Shinkansen. If you are planning to visit Osaka and Kyoto, we recommend using Hokuriku Shinkansen trains and enjoying the attractions of this region, especially Kanazawa and Fukui Prefecture!

Japan's bullet trains are constantly evolving, and on March 16, 2024, the Hokuriku Shinkansen line from Tokyo to Kanazawa on the Japan Sea coast will be extended to Tsuruga City in Fukui Prefecture. The Hokuriku area is full of undiscovered treasures, offering food, spectacular scenery, traditional crafts, and zen experiences. The extension of the Shinkansen line will provide easier access to the Hokuriku area. If you are planning to visit Kyoto and Osaka, the area around the extended Hokuriku Shinkansen Line is full of attractions and is definitely recommended. Traveling on this route you can also enjoy beautiful views of the Sea of Japan and the Tateyama Mountain Range from the windows of the Shinkansen.



Below we introduce some of the many charms of Hokuriku, especially the many attractions in the historic city of Kanazawa, and interesting places to visit in Fukui Prefecture, accessible through Fukui City and Tsuruga. The new Shinkansen extension to Tsuruga speeds up train times from Tokyo to this area, making a trip between Tokyo and the Kansai Region (Kyoto and Osaka) using the Hokuriku Shinkansen even more attractive. The route from Tokyo to Kansai via Hokuriku allows for endless possibilities: stops on your way to Kyoto, or on the way back, or both. From Tokyo to Kyoto or Osaka the total travel time will be reduced by almost an hour. And for the first time tourists can travel directly by high-speed trains to Fukui and Tsuruga. We strongly encourage you to consider a Hokuriku trip at least one way when traveling between Tokyo and Kyoto/Osaka. The route is longer than the Pacific Coast route, but it offers so many fascinating places to visit.

Kanazawa: Hokuriku's Sightseeing Hub



Tsuzumi-mon Gate at Kanazawa Station



This large city in Ishikawa Prefecture, is 2 hours and 30 minutes from Tokyo on the Hokuriku Shinkansen; it attracts many visitors with its air of olden times. Upon arrival at Kanazawa Station, you will first be overwhelmed by the Tsuzumi-mon Gate. This impressive 13.7-meter-high gate, supported by two thick pillars, was designed to resemble a drum used in the traditional Noh drama, a specialty of Kanazawa.

Kanazawa Station has been selected as one of the most beautiful train stations in the world by major travel magazines. The centerpiece of Kanazawa is Kenrokuen Garden, one of the three most famous gardens in Japan. The Higashi Chaya District is a preservation district with many traditional buildings; its streets are lined with 300-year old teahouses that are now renovated and converted into souvenir shops and restaurants. The Omicho Market, known as the "kitchen for residents of Kanazawa," is a lively place with fresh crabs and fish, and popular restaurants where you must wait in line to taste the freshest fish. After experiencing all this history and tradition, we recommend visiting the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, where you can see, touch, and feel contemporary art. Kanazawa is also a good access point for a day trip to the World Heritage Site of Shirakawa-go with its steep-roofed farmhouse, nestled deep in the mountains.

FUKUI: EASIER ACCESS TO ITS MANY “HIDDEN TREASURES”



Fukui Station



Zazen experience at Daianzenji



Echizen Gani Crab

The new extension of Shinkansen service to several stations in Fukui Prefecture will allow easier access to many interesting sites. In Fukui you can relax and enjoy yourself with a hot springs experience, or a day of Zen meditation, or just sampling the delicious crab from the Sea of Japan. The following are just a few of Fukui's offerings:

Dinosaurs! : Many dinosaur fossils have been discovered in Fukui Prefecture. A large dinosaur welcomes you at Fukui Station. The Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum is one of the largest museums in the world, and its vast pillarless space is filled with dinosaur skeletons, fossils and specimens, dioramas, and reconstructed models, allowing visitors to see powerful dinosaurs close up.

Zen : Fukui Prefecture is home to the magnificent Eihei-ji Temple, the head temple of the Soto sect of Zen Buddhism and a center for Zen practice. Some Zen temples may welcome visitors for zazen meditation. What better way to experience Japan while alleviating the stress that comes with busy travel?

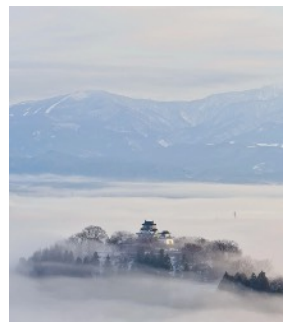
Cuisine : Fukui is celebrated for its delicious crab, harvested from the cold waters of the Sea of Japan. It is in season from November through March. You can also indulge in Echizen soba with grated radish, or shojin-ryori which is wholesome Buddhist vegetarian dining.



Echizen lacquerware



Echizen washi paper



Echizen Ono Castle



Tojinbo

Onsen / Hot springs : The ultimate Japanese experience is to soak in a hot springs and enjoy the pampering of an onsen inn. In Fukui we can recommend Awara Onsen, a charming town with many inns, restaurants and a 140-year history.

Local Crafts : Fukui is home to many crafts that have been handed down from generation to generation. These include Echizen lacquerware and Echizen washi paper with a history of over 1,500 years. Echizen cutlery also boasts a history of 700 years and is used by the world's top restaurants and chefs. Another, and more unusual craft is the famous SABAE brand of eyeglasses. There are opportunities to try your hand at these crafts where you can learn directly from Japanese craftsmen, making your own lacquerware, paper, knives or even eyeglasses! Why not give it a try?

Scenic locations and events : Fukui offers a variety of outdoor sites: Echizen Ono and Maruoka castles, the ocean cliffs at Tojinbo.

Hokuriku Shinkansen Service: First Class of Shinkansen GranClass



Inside of the GranClass



Refreshmen

Do you know our [GranClass](#) seating? This is a service offered only on the Hokuriku Shinkansen as well as the Tohoku and Hokkaido Shinkansen and the Joetsu Shinkansen. It is true first-class accommodation with 18 seats per car providing the ultimate in comfort and privacy, where you can enjoy amenities and hospitality from the onboard attendants. Beverages, including alcohol, are served along with Western and Japanese refreshments made from carefully selected seasonal ingredients. There is also an exclusive lounge at Tokyo Station that can be used on the day of your "GranClass" trip. Reservations can be made at [JR-EAST Train Reservation](#) one month prior to boarding.

What kind of ticket should I buy and how to make a reservation?

The ticket you buy depends on your price or time preferences, but here are two examples.

(1) [Hokuriku Arch Pass](#) with round-trip Hokuriku Shinkansen is a good deal.

For those who want to save money, we recommend the [Hokuriku Arch Pass](#) for a round trip from Tokyo to Kyoto or Osaka and back, using the Hokuriku Shinkansen both ways. Pass is valid for 7 consecutive days. Price is 30,000 yen starting 3/16/24. (Approx. US \$200 at \$1 = ¥150) This rail pass covers the Shinkansen from Tokyo to Tsuruga and express trains to Kyoto and Osaka. It also includes rail in the Tokyo area including Narita and Haneda airports; also rail in the Osaka and Kansai area including Kansai Airport. Purchases and seat reservations can be easily made online in advance. * Additional GranClass and express fares will be charged for GranClass use.

Hokuriku Arch Pass
Unlimited-ride Pass for affordable trips in Tokyo/Osaka and Hokuriku areas!

Price
Adult 30,000yen (12 year old or older)
Child 15,000yen (6-11 year old)

How to Purchase
1. On the website
2. At an overseas travel agency
3. At an overseas travel agency

Valid period 7 consecutive days

Expiry The pass is valid for 7 consecutive days from the date of purchase. The pass is valid for 7 consecutive days from the date of purchase. The pass is valid for 7 consecutive days from the date of purchase.

Route Map
The map shows the route from Tokyo to Osaka/Kyoto and back, including the Hokuriku Shinkansen and express trains. The route includes Tokyo, Narita Airport, Haneda Airport, Osaka/Kyoto Area, and Hokuriku Area (Fukui, Kanazawa, Toyama, Tsuruga).

(2) One-way Hokuriku Shinkansen and one-way Tokaido Shinkansen use

If you don't want to take the same route, why not take the Hokuriku Shinkansen one way and the Tokaido Shinkansen the other way, using the [JAPAN RAIL PASS](#) (1, 2 or 3 weeks) or a standard ticket?

Let's go and discover some of Hokuriku's hidden treasures!



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