

Fall Foliage near Kinosaki Onsen

Autumn means fall foliage, and Kinosaki Onsen's surrounding areas are far from lacking in these kinds of vibrant landscapes!



The countryside town of Tanto is home to Ankokuji, a beautiful temple backed by brilliant red leaves in the fall, is a Zen Buddhist temple with a known history dating back as far as 1345. It is part of the Haitoku-ji branch of the Rinzai School, which is one of the three Zen sects of Buddhism in Japan. The temple burned down in a large accidental fire in 1717, but was later rebuilt to the current building seen today. Ankokuji Temple is most famous for the 100-year-old Dodan-Tsutsuji (*Enkianthus perultas*) trees that were planted in the back of the temple when the temple's main hall was reconstructed in 1904.

In autumn, usually the middle of November, these trees become a vibrant red, making the view from the main temple look like a living painting. It is truly a one-of-a-kind sight that you do not want to miss. Visitors can take turns posing in front of the tree and taking pictures. It is best to arrive before the sun starts to set. This temple is best reached by car, which you can rent [here](#).



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Izushi is a castle town that is popular for its nostalgic atmosphere of old Japan. Here shops, homes, and other buildings retain their original charm as well as community and rural life. One great example of this are the torii gates that lead up to Izushi's castle ruins. These torii gates line the steps leading up to the castle ruins and Arikoyama Shrine, creating a tunnel effect similar to Kyoto's Fushimi Inari

Taisha. This is why Izushi is known as the Little Kyoto of Tajima (northern Hyogo Prefecture). These torii gates resemble Fushimi Inari Taisha but come without the crowds!

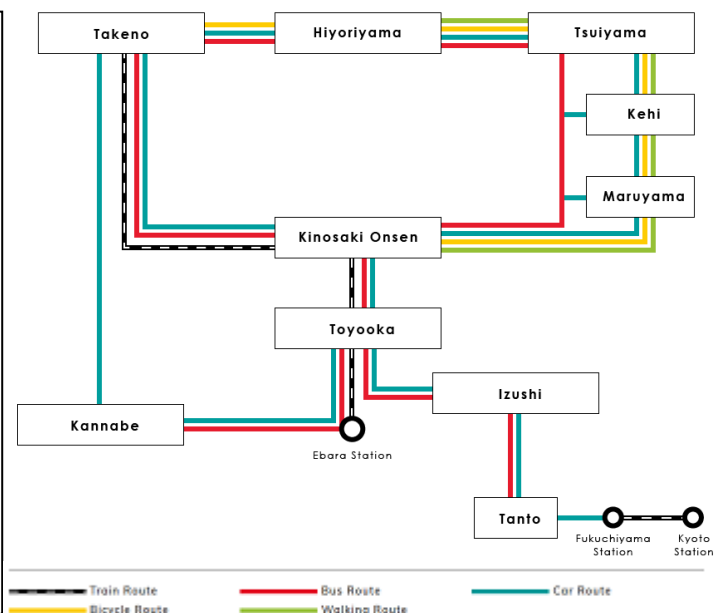
Autumn is one of the best times to visit because the fall foliage brings out the brilliant vermilion of the torii gates. The foliage comes from dozens of *momiji*, Japanese maple trees, that grow amongst the 37 torii gates. The sight is a beautiful reminder of the changing of seasons.



Izushi can be accessed by bus from Toyooka Station. From Kinosaki Onsen Station, take the train about 15 minutes to Toyooka Station before switching to a bus headed for Izushi.

Ideal visit plan: 2-3 days in Kinosaki Onsen and its surrounding areas

- Day 1: Leave Kyoto/Osaka by train to Kinosaki Onsen, explore the town
- Day 2: Go on a guided tour through Izushi Castle Town
Drive to Tanto's Ankokuji Temple for the Dodan-Tsutsuji trees before sunset
- Day 3: Have breakfast in your ryokan and then check out of Kinosaki Onsen
Return to Kyoto/Osaka





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

[Toyooka](#) is a downtown area home to the Oriental White Stork, a bird that was revived from extinction in this very town. The city's efforts restored the Oriental White Stork population, and now about 140 fly the skies of Japan. Toyooka is also known for the Genbudo Caves.



[Izushi](#) is the resident 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 clock tower. The town's specialty is Izushi Sara Soba, buckwheat noodles served in small portions on small plates.

[Kannabe](#) is a mountainous area with fun activities year-round. In the winter, one can go skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and sledding. In the warm months, one can go camping, paragliding, fishing, tree climbing, and more. Kannabe is the perfect destination for adventurers.



[Takeno](#) is a quaint fisherman town that is a hidden gem among the northern coast of Hyogo Prefecture. The beach has clear, blue waters while the mountains surrounding it offer great hiking opportunities. It is encouraged to stroll through the peaceful town, where one can find small shops and traditional landscapes.

[Tanto](#) is a quiet countryside town with magnificent nature—including a giant field of tulips in the spring and brilliant red-leaved trees in the fall.

