Press Release

Kinosaki Onsen, Toyooka Tourism Innovation

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~Tattoo-Friendly Onsens and Spacious Ryokans~ From Rugby World Cup Matches to Kinosaki Onsen



The ninth Rugby World Cup is coming to Japan! Two of the venues for the matches are conveniently located in the Kansai Region, the cultural center and historical heart of Japan. The seven matches being held in the Kansai are not only a great opportunity to watch the beloved sport, but to explore this region, including a more off-the-beaten path location just 2 1/2 hours away: Kinosaki Onsen.

Kinosaki Onsen is a town located in the northern part

of Hyogo Prefecture, and is becoming more and more well-known both inside and outside of Japan! In Kinosaki Onsen, one can stay in a traditional ryokan and visit the seven public hot spring baths. Many tourists will wear yukata and stroll along the willow and cherry blossom-lined river, visiting interesting shops and delicious cafes along the way. It is a town filled with the tradition and culture of old Japan.

Kinosaki Onsen prides itself on its ryokans that are full of history, relaxation, and hospitality. A ryokan's traditional tatami rooms are known for being more spacious than your typical hotel or Airbnb, and often include luxurious meals known as kaiseki-ryori. Come relax and get away from the busy cities and enjoy this quiet, charming town.

If you are one of the many visitors to Japan with tattoos, you likely know of typical rules regarding tattoos in the onsen and the various methods used to cover them up. Kinosaki Onsen, however, allows tattoos of all shapes, sizes, and colors in all seven public baths! Come as you are to Kinosaki Onsen to forget about all of your worries and relax in the soothing bath waters.



In between RWC matches (in Osaka and Kobe), Kinosaki Onsen is a 2 1/2-hour train or bus ride away. JR Limited Express trains are convenient for access from both JR Osaka and Sannomiya (Kobe) stations, and are covered by the Japan Rail Pass. There is also a highway bus that offers quick, safe, and affordable travel between both Osaka & Kinosaki and Kobe & Kinosaki. Kinosaki Onsen Tourist Information SOZORO's website has more information <u>here</u>. Enjoy Kinosaki Onsen for a great, relaxing getaway during your trip to Japan!

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Rugby World Cup for the first time in Asia. The two venues for the RWC that are in the Kansai Region are Kobe Misaki Stadium in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture and the Hanazono Rugby Stadium in Osaka.

The schedule of these matches are as follows:



Kobe City Misaki Park Stadium is a football stadium that features a retractable roof and housed matches for the 2002 FIFA World Cup. The Hanazono Rugby Stadium is the oldest dedicated rugby union stadium in Japan, opening in 1929 and home to the annual National High School Rugby Tournament.





JAPAN'S BEST HOT SPRING TOWN: KINOSAKI ONSEN



<u>Toyooka</u> 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.



<u>Kannabe</u> 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.



<u>**Tanto</u>** 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.</u>







<u>Kinosaki Onsen</u> 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.



<u>Izushi</u> 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.



<u>Takeno</u> 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.

