

{The best way to enjoy summer!}

~Japan's Best Hot Spring Town, Kinosaki Onsen~

## Summer Festivities in Kinosaki Onsen

The summer is an exciting time for Kinosaki Onsen, as there is a big summer festival period! This period stretches from the end of July through almost the entire month of August. Every day during this time, the town holds the Shrine Festival. Food stalls and games are set up at Shisho Shrine next to Goshono-Yu, one of the seven public bathhouses. On selected days at 9 pm, there are fireworks above the Otani River, reflecting an explosion of colors onto the water. On the very last day of festivities, August 25<sup>th</sup>, people gather along the river for the Lantern Festival, one of the most magical events in Kinosaki Onsen.



Hundreds of festivalgoers participate in making lanterns, where afterwards they write wishes on them, put a candle inside, and watch them float down the river. Everyone is welcome to make their own lantern for free. There is going to be a special platform on the river in order to let the lanterns go. This festival truly reflects the beauty of the summer in Kinosaki Onsen.

The Furusato Festival, which takes place on August 6<sup>th</sup>, is a festival where you can enjoy food and game stalls, as well as performances such as taiko (Japanese drums). During Obon, an annual Buddhist event for commemorating one's ancestors, you can participate in traditional folk dancing known as Bon Odori (Obon Dance).

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Schedule of Events:

- July 26<sup>th</sup> **Fireworks Display & Shrine Festival**
- July 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Shrine Festival
- July 29<sup>th</sup>-August 2<sup>nd</sup> **Fireworks Display & Shrine Festival**
- August 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Shrine Festival
- August 5<sup>th</sup> **Fireworks Display & Shrine Festival**
- August 6<sup>th</sup> **Kinosaki Furusato (Hometown) Festival, Fireworks Display, & Shrine Festival**
- August 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> **Fireworks Display & Shrine Festival**
- August 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Shrine Festival
- August 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> **Obon Dance & Shrine Festival**
- August 16<sup>th</sup> **Miss Yukata Contest, Fireworks Display, & Shrine Festival**
- August 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Shrine Festival
- August 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> **Fireworks Display & Shrine Festival**
- August 24<sup>th</sup> Shrine Festival
- August 25<sup>th</sup> **Lantern Festival, Fireworks Display, & Shrine Festival**

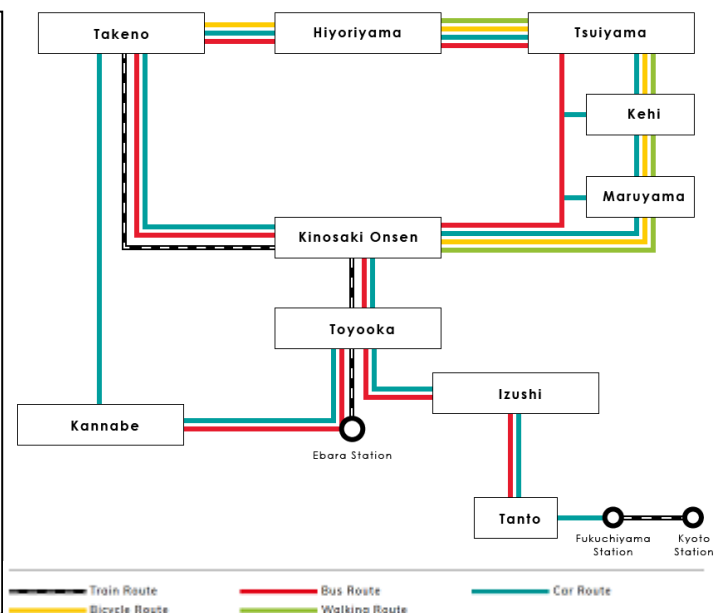
The summertime in Kinosaki Onsen transports its travelers back to a traditional, nostalgic era of Japan. With everyone wearing yukata and geta, onsen-hopping, visiting food stalls, and engaging in classic festival events, Kinosaki is the perfect destination for experiencing traditional Japan in the summer. To make your stay even more memorable, we recommend staying 2-3 nights in order to visit Kinosaki's surrounding towns that each have their own appeal and charm.

Learn more about Kinosaki Onsen's summer festivals here:

<https://visitkinosaki.com/events/summer-festivals-in-kinosaki-onsen-2019/>

**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: Visit Takeno Beach in the morning  
Explore Izushi Castle Town in the afternoon, have Izushi Sara Soba for lunch  
Return to Kinosaki for the festivities
- 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.

