

城崎温泉駅

平成二十七年三月廿日

One can currently see these 1300th anniversary signs all over town.



2020 is the **1300th anniversary of Kinosaki Onsen**, a historic *onsen* (hot spring) town with seven hot spring bathhouses located within walking distance of each other.

The history of Kinosaki Onsen began with a Buddhist monk named Dochi Shonin, who traveled the country to help the suffering and ill. His travels eventually brought him to Kinosaki Onsen, where he was instructed by the local oracle to pray for 1,000 days to save the people from suffering. On the 1,000th day, hot spring water came forth. This hot spring water soon became famous throughout the region and the country for its incredible healing powers. Eventually, word reached the emperor of the time. After confirming the authenticity of Kinosaki's *onsen*, he gave the title of “Guardian Temple of Kinosaki Onsen” to the temple erected by Dochi Shonin for the protection of Kinosaki, its hot spring waters, and its people.



For inquiries regarding this press release

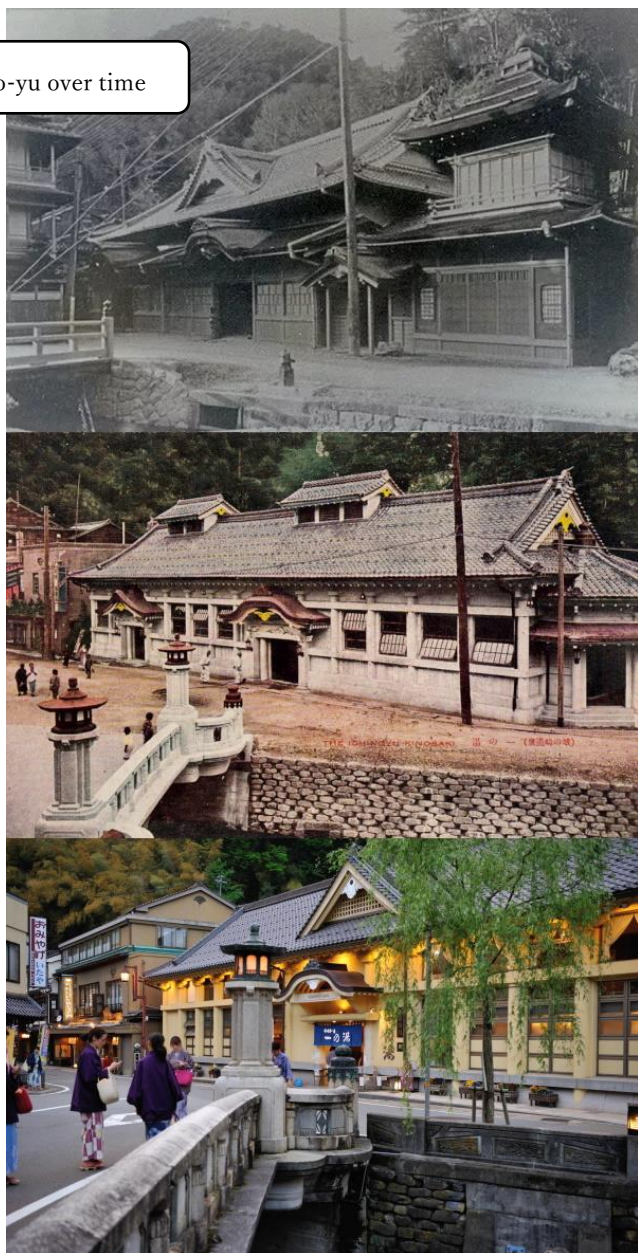
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This temple, called Onsenji Temple, houses a designated national treasure that is only fully displayed once every 33 years for three years at a time. This treasure is called *Juichimen Kanzeon Bosatsu*, or “11-faced goddess of compassion and mercy”. It can currently be seen on display in this temple, a temple almost as old as the *onsen* town itself, until April 2021. For the 1300th anniversary, various facilities in Kinosaki are offering special events/items, including special 1,300-yen menu items at select restaurants, a stamp rally, and limited-edition *sake* & sweets.

There are very few *onsen* in Japan that are as old as Kinosaki and have an actual recorded founding date. Kinosaki has been found noted in various historical documents that can authenticate its founding date to 720 AD. The discovery of a hot spring source at what today is the place of a bathhouse, Mandara-yu, is recorded in those documents.

Ichino-yu over time



Every year on April 23rd and 24th, a festival called Onsen Festival is held to commemorate Dochi Shonin. The Buddhist monks from Onsenji, the temple where visitors often come to show their gratitude to Dochi Shonin, walk around town to each of the seven public *onsen* to pray for safety and prosperity of Kinosaki Onsen.

This year, due to the coronavirus, just one of these monks performed the rituals at each *onsen*. In addition to praying to Dochi Shonin, he included a prayer regarding the coronavirus, praying for it to cease soon.

While COVID-19 is keeping folks around the world at home, we would like to bring Kinosaki Onsen to you through this trying time. We will be sending photos and information about our area. When the time is right to travel again, we'd love for you to come. In the meantime, we will be posting photos and videos, as well as live videos of the area in a new corner called 'Virtual Travel' on our Facebook and Instagram pages, so that you can virtually travel while the world is navigating towards a brighter future.

Kinosaki Onsen and Toyooka City have been preparing to make the return to travel as safe as possible with new guidelines and efforts. We hope to belatedly celebrate our anniversary with everyone soon!



[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.

