



A New Look for an Ancient Hot Spring Town Kinosaki Onsen's Revamped Ryokan Accommodations



Onishiya Suishoen's garden and Noh stage to the left

As a hot spring town that prides itself with an unchanging cozy atmosphere lasting for over 1,300 years, Kinosaki Onsen has also welcomed various revamps for its traditional ryokan accommodations, further enhancing guests' enjoyment of this ancient and tranquil town. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kinosaki Onsen took the temporary lack of visitors as an opportunity for some new renovations.

Blending Traditional Ambiance with Modern Comforts

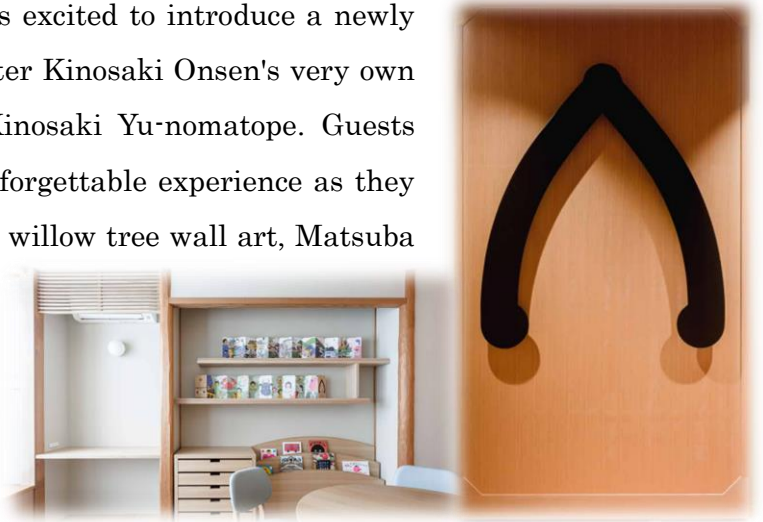
Onishiya Suishoen: A traditional ryokan known for a gorgeous decorative Noh stage that displays videos of shows in its central garden, Onishiya Suishoen is ecstatic to announce all-new guestroom renovations including rooms with western-style beds, rooms designed with a chic mix of western and Japanese architecture, and in-room private hot spring baths, all providing foreign visitors with the comforts of home in a traditional Japanese setting.

Nishimuraya Hotel Shogetsutei: Nishimuraya Honkan's larger, western and Japanese-style counterpart, is widely known as Kinosaki Onsen's premier hotel for group tours as well as international visitors, and has recently added a gym to its long list of amenities. In addition to the elegant lobby lounge, outdoor pool (seasonal), and luxurious Italian restaurant, those specifically looking for an accommodation equipped with a brand-new gym are especially encouraged to consider spending a night at Nishimuraya Hotel Shogetsutei.



Nishimuraya Hotel Shogetsutei's new gym
(Photo by Daijirou Okada)

Kinsui: The stylish and quaint ryokan Kinsui is excited to introduce a newly renewed Japanese-style guestroom, designed after Kinosaki Onsen's very own onomatopoeia picture book cleverly entitled Kinosaki Yu-nomatope. Guests young and old can enjoy a truly unique and unforgettable experience as they open the geta-shaped door and are greeted with willow tree wall art, Matsuba Crab illustrations, and an Oriental White Stork-design light fixture. Children will especially delight in the room's playground-style tunnel.



Kinsui guestroom and geta-shaped door

UTSUROI TSUCHIYA ANNEX:



An egg chair in a guestroom

Highly popular among young international travelers, the cafe-hotel hybrid UTSUROI TSUCHIYA ANNEX has begun to offer overnight plans without kaiseki and breakfast meals, but with all of the comforts of a cozy and stylish hideaway in the center of town. In their room, guests can relax in one of UTSUROI's iconic egg chairs, admiring the passersby below before savoring a bite to eat at the downstairs cafe.

Kobayashiya: A beautiful ryokan with roots in pottery-making, Kobayashiya has re-opened its doors with an all-new cozy lobby area stocked with books from around the world for guests to read, along with sleek private hot spring baths available for guests to reserve during their stay. Those looking for an especially luxurious stay are encouraged to inquire about Kobayashiya's three-room suite overlooking town.



Kobayashiya's renovated guestrooms and lobby

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[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 home to the Oriental White Stork, a bird that was revived from extinction in this very town. Tour the storks' natural habitat with an English-speaking guide and learn about the town's sustainability efforts, such as stork-friendly farming methods, to keep stork populations thriving and healthy.



[Izushi](#), lovingly referred to by locals as “Little Kyoto,” is popular for its nostalgic atmosphere of Edo-era Japan. Together with an English-speaking guide, tour Izushi Castle Ruins, Shinkoro clock tower, and Eirakukan Kabuki Theatre. Enjoy Izushi Sara Soba for lunch, buckwheat noodles served on five small plates.

[Kannabe](#) is a mountainous area teeming with natural wonders and scenic views. Take flight into the highland skies on a paragliding adventure, hike a lava flow trail with an experienced guide, and enjoy relaxed camping and picnic spots together with the town's locals.



[Takeno](#) is a quaint fisherman town that is a hidden gem among the northern coast of Hyogo Prefecture. Enjoy a plethora of outdoor activities such as sea kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and hiking Nekozaiki Peninsula, the northernmost point in Japan's Hyogo Prefecture.

[Tanto](#) is a quiet countryside town with magnificent nature—including a festival of tulips in the spring and sunflowers in the summer.

