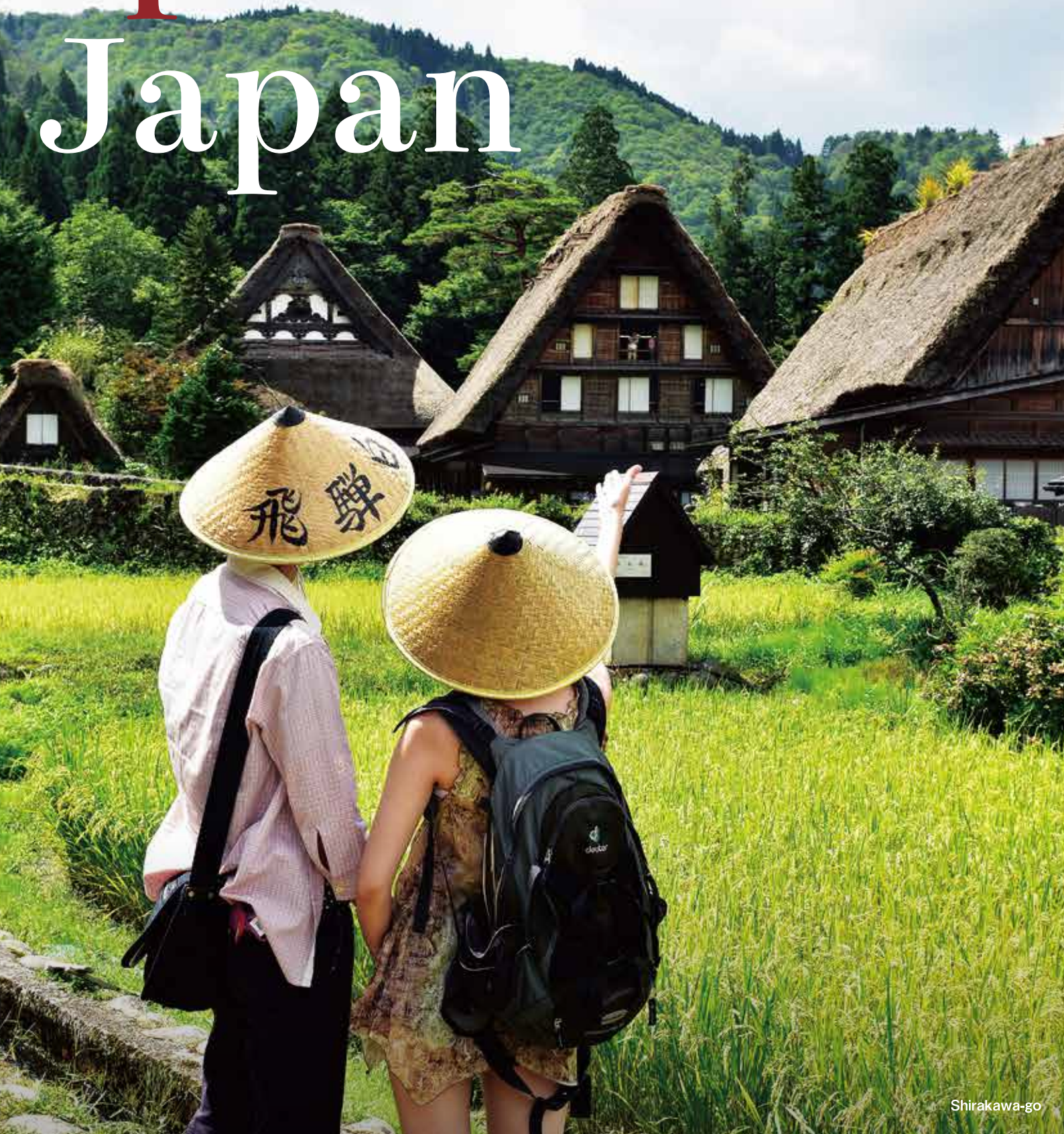


Feel the Spirit of Japan

“Mitsuboshi Kaidou”
Three-Star Road



Area Information

A Trip along the “Mitsuboshi Kaidou” Three-Star Road

Kanazawa, Gokayama, Shirakawa-go, Takayama and Matsumoto have some of the most wonderful resources for tourism in Japan, including the World Heritage Site and tourist sites featured in the Michelin Green Guide Japan as three-star attractions.

Kanazawa



Kenrokuen Garden

A castle town where old meets new

Kanazawa has developed around Kanazawa Castle, and features a historical atmosphere. Kenrokuen Garden, with its lovely seasonal characteristics, is one of the most beautiful gardens in Japan.

Gokayama, Nanto



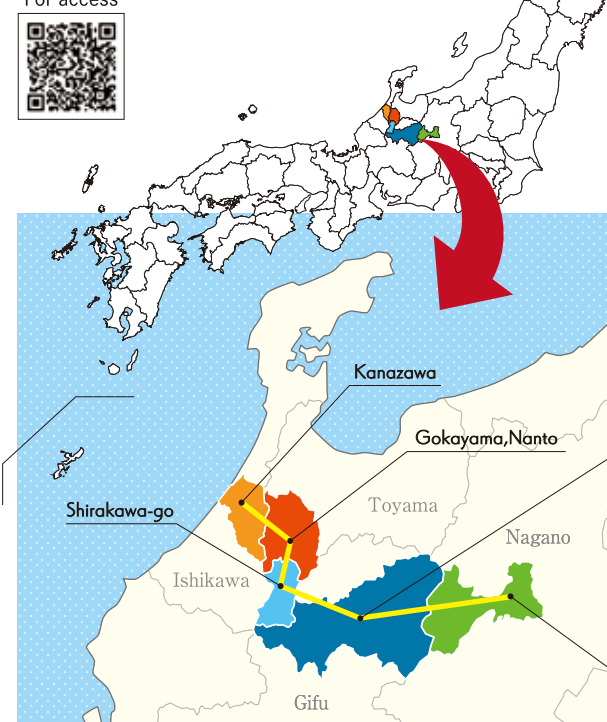
Ainokura Gassho-style Village (World Heritage)

Enjoy this unspoiled Japanese mountain village landscape.

Nanto City features seasonal natural beauty and Japanese traditional culture. Gokayama is a village where people live in gassho-style thatched-roof houses. It is a “Living World Heritage”.

Area Map JAPAN

For access



Gokayama Tofu



Gokayama, Nanto

This tofu allows you to savor the original taste of soybeans. It is condensed tofu made according to a traditional method. The blocks of tofu are firm enough to retain their shape even when tied together with straw.

Suttate Nabe (Hot pot)



Shirakawa-go

The simple and mild-flavored suttate nabe is made with a ground-soybean broth. Gohei-mochi, rice cakes coated with a sweet and salty sauce, is another local food.

These areas are blessed with abundant ingredients that have allowed for the development of a food culture featuring distinctive local dishes. The residents use their fermentation skills to make sake, soy sauce and pickles. You can enjoy delicious local sake in any town you visit.

Sushi & Seafood



Kanazawa

As it is located on the Sea of Japan, Kanazawa is blessed with abundant seafood. You can enjoy various types of sushi all year round in its many

Hida Beef



Takayama

Thanks to the distinctive weather of this area, Hida beef is renowned in Japan for its quality. Mitarashi dango (dumplings with a soy sauce) is a local food with a long history.

Toji Soba



Matsumoto

Matsumoto is known for its buckwheat production. Toji-soba is one of the soba noodles in a soup with many ingredients. It is eaten like a Japanese shabu-shabu.

These areas have had close relationships with each other since long ago. They have maintained their traditional culture and skills, and they attract tourists for their authentic Japanese culture, which is characterized by abundant nature, hot springs and food specialties.

Shirakawa-go



Shirakawa-go (World Heritage)

A beautiful mountain village that has retained its traditional lifestyle

Here you will find the unspoiled landscape of a Japanese village, and as people still live there. In winter, the illuminated village creates a fantastic scene.

Takayama

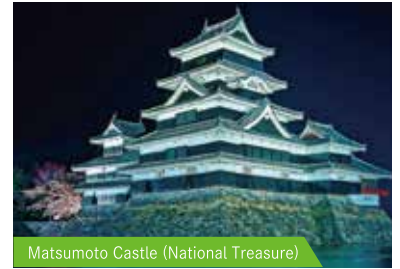


Old streetscape

A historical town with beautiful nature

In Hida Takayama, cultures from the east, west, north and south have been meeting and mixing since ancient times. The townscape and culture have been preserved and traditional culture is still alive today.

Matsumoto



Matsumoto Castle (National Treasure)

Explore the majestic castle and the Japan Alps

Matsumoto has two areas: a city area surrounding Matsumoto Castle and a mountain resort area. Matsumoto Castle is one of the oldest in Japan. The tower is beautiful not only during daytime, but at night, when it is illuminated.



Cycling



Takayama

A guided bicycle tour to a beautiful mountain area. Visit a peaceful village scattered with old houses and discover the lifestyle of Takayama residents.

Winter Trekking



Shirakawa-go

Please enjoy trekking tours in the mountains near the World Heritage villages. It is fun to walk in snowshoes on more than one meter of snow.

In this area, there are castle towns with Samurai culture and mountain villages with a long history. Enjoying unique experiences in this area will allow you to get to know the local culture and understand its appeal.

Experience

Geisha Experience



Kanazawa

Geisha are still active in the 3 "Chaya" districts of Kanazawa, performing traditional songs and dances. Some tours include special experiences where you can enjoy the beauty and skills of Geisha.

Kokiriko Dance



Gokayama, Nanto

The Kokiriko dance, which is performed to an old folk song and sasara music, is part of the Kokiriko festival. You can experience dance performances and make a sasara (ancient instrument) at the festival and

Making Temari Candy



Matsumoto

Candy making has been carried out in Matsumoto for several hundred years. How about trying your hand at making cute, colorful candies like temari balls in the long-established candy shop.



Kanazawa Castle Park (Kanazawa)

After the end of a long and hard winter, many events and activities are held in celebration of the arrival of spring.

Kanazawa Castle Park is one of the most beautiful cherry blossom viewing spots in Kanazawa. The night view of illuminated cherry blossoms and the castle is superb.

Johana Hikiyama Festival (Nanto)



Garyu sakura (Takayama)

The gorgeously decorated floats of the Johana Hikiyama Festival (UNESCO intangible cultural asset) and the pastoral scenery of the rice-planting festival in Shirakawa-go village are well worth a visit.



Rice planting Festival (Shirakawa-go)



Shirakawa-go

The splendid landscape of this area immerses visitors in Japanese summer. Visitors can spend a relaxing time in Shirakawa-go village amidst the fresh greenery, enjoying the sounds of birdsongs and the murmuring of flowing streams.

Kamikochi is one of the most famous Japanese mountain resorts that people go to on a summer retreat. The view of snow-covered mountain ranges beyond Kappa Bridge is breathtaking.

Mt. Norikura Goshikigahara Forest is a vast forest with an area of 3,000 hectares. A guided tour (reservation required) visits mysterious sites such as mountain streams, waterfalls, wetlands, virgin forests and habitats of wild animals. The tour will give you a sense of Japan's distinctive nature.



Mt. Norikura Goshikigahara Forest (Takayama)



Higashi Chaya District in the dusk (Kanazawa)



Kamikochi(Kappa Bridge:Matsumoto)



The Ainokura Gassho-style Village (Gokayama, Nanto) / Photo: Makoto Nagumo

Viewing colored leaves is one of the pleasures of autumn. There are many spots from which one can enjoy panoramic views of autumn leaves.

You can enjoy unspoiled Japanese landscapes in the calm atmosphere of Gokayama, a World Heritage Site surrounded by mountains. In the evening, the illuminated scenery creates a feeling of nostalgia.

In the central areas of Kanazawa and Takayama, you can enjoy an autumn-colored townscape that harmonizes traditional buildings and colored leaves in meticulously designed Japanese gardens.

Matsumoto's Alps Park affords a commanding view of the Japanese Alps. The view of mountains with lingering snow reflecting the sunset is not to be missed.



Hida Kokubunji Temple 1,250-year-old ginkgo tree (Takayama)



Kenrokuen Garden (Kanazawa)



Mountain view from Alps Park (Matsumoto)



Nagamachi Bukeyashiki "Samurai" District (Kanazawa)

Winter is the season in which regional characteristics appear most conspicuously. It is cold with a large amount of snow, but the clean air heightens the beauty of the landscape. Nakabashi Bridge, which spans the Miya River in central Takayama, is beautiful with the surrounding landscape as a backdrop. Nighttime illumination creates fantastic scenes when snow falls over the red bridge.



The Ainokura Gassho-style Village (Gokayama, Nanto)



Mt. Norikura Snow Resort (Matsumoto)

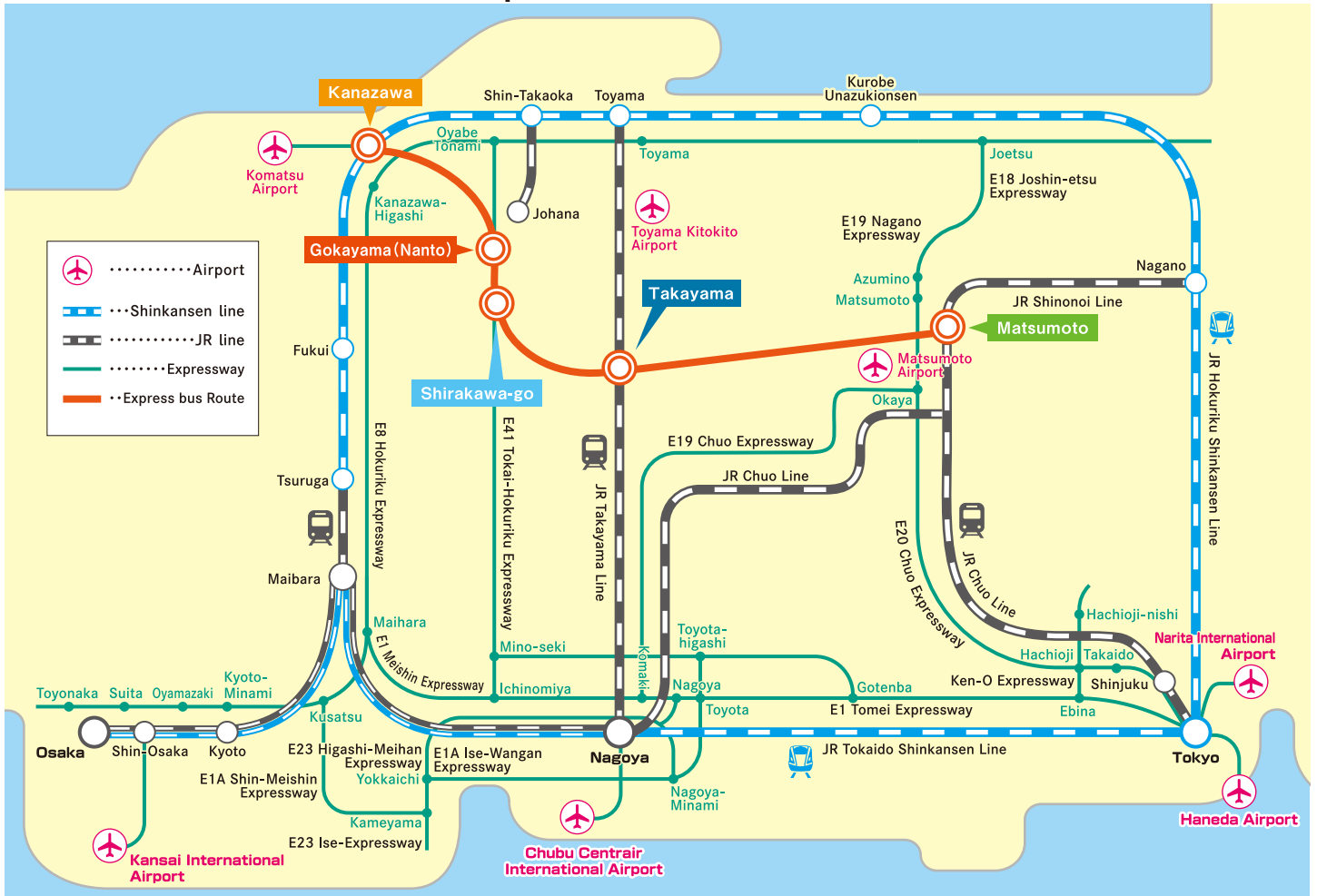
At the large winter resort surrounded by the 3,000 m-high Japanese Alps, you can enjoy various snow activities and relax in the nearby hot springs.

The Gokayama illumination event features snow and light. The scenery illuminated with candles is a nostalgic image for many Japanese people.



Nakabashi Bridge (Takayama)

Map & Directions



[Time required by Express bus]



— The starting point of Three-Star Road —

● From Tokyo to Kanazawa (Airplane, JR Shinkansen Line, Bus)



● From Tokyo to Matsumoto (JR Line)



● From Nagoya to Kanazawa (Meitetsu, JR Line)



● From Nagoya to Matsumoto (JR Line)



● From Osaka to Kanazawa (JR Line)



● From Osaka to Matsumoto (Airplane)



Check the Three-Star Road Websites for further information.



<https://www.mitsuboshi-kaidou.com/en/>

- Access
- Hospitality ● Itineraries
- Other information

Scan the code for details.

