

# JL Off the Beaten Track 5 – Okuhida Onsengo

## Tour Information

### Hotels

#### ☐ 桜が池クアガーデン **Sakuragaike Kuagarden**

Situated 8-min. away from JR Johana station, the hotel offers a large indoor pool with both walking and swimming lanes, a spa bath and indoor/outdoor hot-spring baths. Massages and facials can be requested for an extra cost, and rooms feature free Wi-Fi. All 17 air-conditioned rooms feature Mt. Hakamagoshi views, a flat-screen TV a fridge, coffee/tea makers. Japanese Yukata robes and bathrobes are provided for all guests. The private bathroom comes with a hairdryer. Check-in 14:00, Check-out 11:00 (17 rooms in total)

#### ☐ 奥飛騨ガーデンホテル焼岳 **Okuhida Garden Hotel Yakedake**

Featuring variety of open-air and indoor public hot spring baths, Okuhida Garden Hotel Yakedake offers classically furnished Western rooms and traditional tatami matted Japanese rooms with private facilities. There is a restaurant on-site with breakfast and Indian cuisine, as well as a banquet hall that serves locally raised premium Japanese beef and other local specialties. Fukuji Onsen Morning Market is a 15-minute walk from the hotel. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the property. Check-in 15:00, Check-out 10:00 (85 rooms in total)

#### ☐ 穂高荘 山がの湯 **Hotakaso Sanga no Yu**

Conveniently located a 3-minute walk from Hirayu Onsen Bus Terminal, Hodakaso Sangano Yu offers traditional Japanese rooms with private facilities. There are indoor and outdoor large hot-spring baths for men and women and a women's only 'Ganbanyoku (bedrock bath)'. In addition, two charter open-air baths are available at additional charge. Japanese restaurant 'Yamabudo' and 'Himetake' feature well-known Hida beef (Kuroge wagyu) as main dish. Hodakaso Sanga no Yu is the ryokan to enjoy Okuhida's hot springs and Kaiseki cuisine. Wi-Fi is available in the lobby area. Check-in 15:00, Check-out 10:00 (57 rooms in total)

#### ☐ トヨタ白川郷自然学校 **TOYOTA Shirakawago Eco Institute**

Featuring indoor and outdoor hot-spring baths, a French restaurant, nature tours and activities, TOYOTA Shirakawago Eco Institute offers spacious rooms with high ceilings and forest views. Some rooms have a private bathroom, and some have Japanese futon bedding and tatami matted floor. All rooms are air-conditioned. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the property. A complimentary pick-up from Shirakawago Bus Stop is available, a 10-minute drive away. Check-in 15:00, Check-out 10:00 (31 rooms in total)

#### ☐ 金沢東急ホテル **Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel**

Nagamachi Samurai District is just a 2-minute walk from the hotel. Kenroku-en Garden is less than a 10-minute walk. JR Kanazawa Station is 10-minutes away via bus and 6-minutes away via taxi. Featuring 3 dining options Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel offers comfortable and modern rooms with private facilities. Hotel guests can use the fitness gym on the 2nd floor for free. Free Wi-Fi is available in all areas. Check-in 14:00, Check-out 11:00 (232 rooms in total)

## Points of Interest

### ☐ 高岡 **Takaoka**

Divert off the golden route to a town less travelled. Though not as large or central as Toyama City, Takaoka offers a mix of old-world refinement and modern convenience. Boasting such highlights as Zuiryuji Temple (national treasure), the abundant green space of Takaoka Castle Park, and one of Japan's three Great Buddha statues, the city attracts visitors year-round. You may arrive thinking it's a wonderful place for a day trip and leave thinking it would be the perfect place to live.

### ☐ 瑞龍寺 **Zuiryu-ji Temple**

Zuiryu-ji Temple, known as the family temple of Toshinaka Maeda, the second head of the Kaga Maeda family is a national treasure of Japan. Principle temple buildings including Somon gate (main gate), Sanmon gate (temple gate), Butsuden (Buddha statue hall) and Hodo (lecture hall) were constructed in a straight line, while Zen-do (meditation hall) and Daikuri (kitchen of the temple) were arranged bisymmetrically. These buildings are surrounded by corridor galleries to be connected with each other. This is a typical Zen-style arrangement of temple buildings.

### ☐ 金屋町通り **Kanayamachi street, Rows of latticed houses**

Shortly after Toshinaga Maeda, lord of the Kaga clan, founded the castle town of Takaoka, he encouraged casting production as a stimulus measure. This brought substantial prosperity to Kanaya-machi, the cradle of Takaoka's casting. Thanks to its old latticed houses and nostalgic atmosphere, Kanaya-machi's townscape often appears in film and TV dramas. The 500m long stone road and old latticed houses complement each other superbly and the whole area transports you back to the Meiji and Taisho periods, while still looking beautiful today.

### ☐ ドラえものの散歩道 **Doraemon's Walking Road**

Takaoka city, Toyama is the hometown of Doraemon's creator, Fujiko F. Fujio. The town is actually overflowing with Doraemon related things and spots. Doraemon's Walking Road is one of them. This is a small walking road in Wing Takaoka square, right in front of Takaoka Station. Twelve bronze statues of "Doraemon" characters can be found on both sides of the road. Each statue has a cheerful expression and is unique. When you enter the station, the characters welcome you on both sides. Before you even realize it, you'll be in a happy mood.

### ☐ 富山市ガラス美術館 **Toyama Glass Art Museum, The art of glass**

Toyama is home to the most substantial number of active glassworkers in Japan, so naturally, it has an excellent museum dedicated to the craft. Conveniently located in Central Toyama, the Toyama Glass Art Museum cuts a distinctive figure in the urban landscape. The Kuma Kengo-designed building is a work of art in itself and a great advertisement for what lies within its walls. The basic entrance fee grants you access to the permanent collection on the fourth and sixth floors of the building. This includes the visually stunning Glass Art Garden with installations by Dale Chihuly that are a definite highlight.

### ☐ 城端 **Johana, Town of Silk**

Johana, known as the Little Kyoto of Etchu (Toyama), is a temple town centered around Zentoku-ji Temple. The financial power acquired through flourishing silk production in the Edo Period can be seen in the brilliant Hikiyama floats paraded in the annual festival.

#### ☐ 井波 **Inami**

Inami, founded in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century and developed as a temple town of Zuisen-ji Temple, is the most famous woodcarving town in all of Japan. About 140 years ago, a major fire broke out in the temple. According to legend, the dragon carved in the temple gate climbed up a pine tree and spewed water over the temple gate, saving it from the fire. The town has a unique, calming atmosphere, with over 100 carving studios on the main road and woodcarvings placed in various areas, from bus stops to home signs.

#### ☐ 五箇山 **Gokayama**

With scenery remaining unchanged since long ago, people still live in World Heritage Site 'Gokayama'. Visit and learn about the wisdom needed to survive within harsh natural conditions of this snow heavy region, and the magic of the Gassho-zukuri (thatched roof) homes that are constructed without any nails. Experience firsthand one of the traditional local industries by making your own wash (Japanese paper) at Gokayama Washi no Sato.

#### ☐ 高山 **Takayama**

The heart of Takayama city, the Sanmachi area of preserved buildings, attract tourists from all over the country. You could spend a whole day wandering these old streets, buying souvenirs from many craft shops, sampling local tea and digging into local treats like Takayama Ramen, Mitarashi Dango (rice dumplings) and Pickled Vegetables. A number of Sake breweries are also located either in or nearby the Sanmachi district. Most offer tastings and the Harada brewery offers tours as well.

#### ☐ 飛騨高山祭りの森 **Hida Takayama Maturi no Mori**

Located outside of Takayama's city center, the Maturi no Mori (まつりの森, lit. "Festival Forest") showcases the key aspects of the Takayama Festival, which takes place for two days each spring and autumn. The festival is known as one of Japan's three most beautiful, along with Kyoto's Gion Matsuri and the Chichibu Yomatsuri. At the main exhibition space, a number of magnificent, life-sized replica floats are displayed, offering visitors a close view at their elaborate designs, decorations and karakuri dolls. Karakuri are marionettes which are a key feature in the Takayama Festival.

#### ☐ 奥飛騨温泉郷 **Okuhida Onsengo**

Known as one of the best weekend getaway destinations for Onsen Lovers, Okuhida Onsengo is scattered with five rural and rustic hot spring villages; Hirayu 平湯, Fukuji 福地, Shin-Hirayu 新平湯, Tochio 栃尾 and Shin-Hotaka 新穂高. All are conveniently accessible on the same bus route. Located in the center of Japan, Okuhida Onsengo can be easily accessed by public transportation from Tokyo, Matsumoto or Takayama. Stay overnight in one of the many hotels with indoor and outdoor baths for guests or take a day trip and enjoy the many public baths available.

#### ☐ 新穂高ロープウェイ **New Hotaka Ropeway**

Don't miss a spectacular panoramic view of the Northern Japan Alps from the observation deck at the cable car terminus. The first leg of the ropeway stops at Nabedaira Kogen, which is the beginning of hiking trails. It is also the site of the Visitor Center, restaurants, a public bath. The second leg to the upper station is made in massive double-decker cable cars.

#### □ 白川郷 **Shirakawago**

Recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, this beautiful traditional village is the definition of picture-postcard perfect. Many of the buildings have been turned into museums, explaining the history of the region, the special architectural style, and features, and some of the key industries of Shirakawa-go. Shirakawa-go rewards return visits, as the shifting seasons bring out different aspects of the town. From the bright cherry blossom through the verdant summer, the fiery autumn leaves and the silent, white winter, Shirakawa-go always looks splendid.

#### □ 金沢 **Kanazawa**

Kanazawa was one of the most important centers for culture and art during the Edo period and remains a haven for art enthusiasts and culture vultures. This city contains museums and workshops on everything from gold leaf to samurai. Don't miss a visit to Kenrokuen Garden, one of Japan's most iconic landscape gardens, dining on impeccably fresh seafood from the Sea of Japan, shopping for traditional Japanese crafts such as gold-decorated lacquerware and Kutani-yaki pottery. Immerse yourself in the lifestyle of the samurai with a stroll through narrow streets lined with old earthen walls in the Nagamachi Samurai district, located near Kanazawa castle park. There you can glimpse inside the life of a samurai at the Casa Samurai Nomura, a restored home with a beautiful small garden.

#### □ 兼六園 **Kenrokuen Garden**

Kenrokuen Garden is the focal point of Kanazawa and has a long and celebrated history. The garden was created over the span of several hundred years by the Maeda family, and today is one of the best examples of a strolling-style Japanese landscape garden. The garden offers something to enjoy whatever the season. "Kenrokuen" means "garden that combines six characteristics." These six characteristics are spaciousness, seclusion, artifice, antiquity, water-courses and panoramas. Not every garden in Japan can combine all of these features but Kenrokuen does.

#### □ 金沢 21 世紀美術館 **The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum of Contemporary Art**

The 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa was designed with the concept of a 'town square' in mind. Because of its circular architectural design, the museum lacks a 'proper' front and back entrance. Located in the center of the city and surrounded by a park with open-air installations and greenery, the museum attracts over one million visitors per year, eager to explore the interactive installations, permanent collections, and temporary exhibitions. The museum is located right in the center of Kanazawa and in the vicinity of Kanazawa Castle and Kenrokuen Garden, which enables travelers to visit both of these sights.

#### □ 高山右近 **Takayama Ukon, Kanazawa and Manila**

In 1587, Hideyoshi Toyotomi, the then de facto ruler of Japan, decreed that Christian missionaries should be expelled. In 1613, The Tokugawa Shogunate outlawed Christianity. However, Ukon Takayama did not abandon his faith or succumb to such religious oppression. He relinquished his wealth and position as daimyo (feudal lord) and stayed steadfast to his belief. His devotion strongly moved and impressed people far and wide. Pope Sixtus V sent a letter in his praise. After Hideyoshi's decree, Ukon went to Kanazawa, the capital of Kaga province, whose ruler Toshiie Maeda took Ukon under his protection. (He lived in Kanazawa for 26 years. It is said that his first house was located in the northeast of the present site of the Kanazawa 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum.) Ukon built himself a house there but when Christianity was banned, he was forced into exile overseas. He sailed from Nagasaki to Manila in the Philippines, where he arrived safely but shortly died of disease in 1615. A statue of Ukon stands in Plaza Dilao, a square near the area associated with Ukon in Manila. The municipal government of Manila declared Dec. 21 as Takayama Ukon Day in his honor in 2018.

☐ 年間気温 Annual Temperature

金沢 Kanazawa

| Temp. °C | Jan | Feb | Mar  | Apr  | May  | Jun  | Jul  | Aug  | Sep  | Oct  | Nov  | Dec  |
|----------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Max.     | 6.8 | 7.3 | 11.0 | 16.9 | 21.6 | 25.0 | 28.8 | 30.9 | 26.6 | 21.3 | 15.5 | 10.2 |
| Min.     | 0.9 | 0.7 | 3.0  | 8.2  | 13.1 | 18.0 | 22.3 | 23.7 | 19.5 | 13.3 | 7.7  | 3.4  |

高山 Takayama

| Temp. °C | Jan  | Feb  | Mar  | Apr  | May  | Jun  | Jul  | Aug  | Sep  | Oct  | Nov  | Dec  |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Max.     | 3.0  | 4.2  | 9.1  | 16.9 | 22.3 | 25.7 | 29.0 | 30.7 | 25.6 | 19.2 | 12.7 | 6.2  |
| Min.     | -5.1 | -5.2 | -2.0 | 3.2  | 9.0  | 14.6 | 18.9 | 19.7 | 15.7 | 8.5  | 2.4  | -2.1 |

白川郷 Shirakawago

| Temp. °C | Jan  | Feb  | Mar  | Apr  | May  | Jun  | Jul  | Aug  | Sep  | Oct  | Nov  | Dec  |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Max.     | 2.6  | 2.7  | 7.1  | 14.9 | 20.7 | 23.9 | 27.0 | 28.7 | 23.9 | 18.2 | 12.3 | 5.4  |
| Min.     | -4.4 | -4.9 | -2.3 | 2.8  | 8.2  | 13.9 | 18.0 | 19.1 | 15.0 | 8.2  | 2.6  | -2.0 |

奥飛騨温泉郷 Okuhida Onsengo

| Temp. °C | Jan  | Feb  | Mar  | Apr  | May  | Jun  | Jul  | Aug  | Sep  | Oct  | Nov  | Dec  |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Max.     | 1.7  | 2.6  | 7.2  | 15.1 | 20.5 | 23.9 | 27.2 | 28.9 | 23.8 | 17.6 | 11.2 | 4.8  |
| Min.     | -6.2 | -6.4 | -3.1 | 2.2  | 7.2  | 12.2 | 16.4 | 17.3 | 13.5 | 6.6  | 1.1  | -3.2 |

東京 Tokyo

| Temp. °C | Jan | Feb  | Mar  | Apr  | May  | Jun  | Jul  | Aug  | Sep  | Oct  | Nov  | Dec  |
|----------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Max.     | 9.6 | 10.4 | 13.6 | 19.0 | 22.9 | 25.5 | 29.2 | 30.8 | 26.9 | 21.5 | 16.3 | 11.9 |
| Min.     | 0.9 | 1.7  | 4.4  | 9.4  | 14.0 | 18.0 | 21.8 | 23.0 | 19.7 | 14.2 | 8.3  | 3.5  |