Outings around Fukui

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Fukui Convention Bureau website "Fukui City Navigation"

http://www.fukuicity-navi.com/citynavitop.html

Fukui City Tourism Development Office
The road lined with cherry trees extends from Kida Bridge to Shinakari Bridge. The blossoms are at their best at the beginning of April. The site has been selected as one of the 100 best places for cherry blossom viewing in Japan, and people come from all over the country to admire the blossoms. The nighttime scene of illuminated cherry blossoms is magical. "Nanohana Road" extends from Shinakari Bridge to the area of Ose Bridge. The best period to see the flowers starts in mid-April.

Fukui Spring Festival
The highlight of this festival, which is held in every April, is the “Echizen Historic Pageant”. The leading characters are the powerful military commander Katsue Shibata and his wife. The parade of 1,100 warriors wending their way through Fukui City is a magnificent sight to behold.

Hotoke-no-Mai
Buddhist dance
This Buddhist ritual takes place every second year (odd-numbered years) on April 18 at Itosaki Temple, a temple of the Chisan branch of the Shingon sect of Buddhism. Eight dancers dressed in golden Buddha masks and black Buddhist robes dedicate a graceful dance. Designated as a national intangible folklore cultural asset.

Bakabayashi
This local performing art, which boasts a history of 300 years, is presented on May 24 at Homusubi Shrine, the shrine where generations of Fukui lords prayed. Thirty-seven masks and humorous movements combined with the beating of drums draw laughter from the audience. Designated as a prefectural intangible cultural asset.
Summer thoughts

The radiant beauty of Fukui’s flowers heralds the arrival of summer. About 15,000 colorful hydrangea plants-blue, purple and other colors-greet people walking up the Mt. Asuwa path. Bright, contrasting purple and white irises are also a feature of summer. A stroll through the fresh greenery and flowers is sure to be refreshing.

Mt. Asuwa’s ‘Ajisai Road’ is a good route for a stroll that allows you to admire hydrangeas, the official flower of the city of Fukui. They are at their best from mid to late June. Daianzenji Temple is famous for its 100,000 iris plants of 60 varieties, which bloom in June and are the highlight of an annual iris festival.

Fukui Phoenix
Fireworks Display
This fireworks display is the grand finale of Fukui Phoenix Festival. It features about 6,500 fireworks that are set off from the banks of the Asuwa River and make a dynamic, colorful show in Fukui’s night sky. The 300-meter Niagara display is truly spectacular.

Fukui Phoenix Festival
This is Fukui City’s largest summer festival. It is held every year on the first Sunday of August, the preceding Saturday and the following Monday, and features rows of street stalls and various events including “Yosakoi Itchorai”. During the festival the city is filled with an air of excitement.

Beach opening
At the beginning of July, the famous beaches of Takasu, Ayukawa and Koshino are opened. At Ayukawa Beach there is a Shinto ritual to prevent accidents at sea, after which turban shells and peaches are thrown into the water. Local elementary school children enjoy searching for these as part of their first swim of the season.
Autumn yearning

At Fukui Miyanoshita Cosmos Garden flowers cover an area 10 times the size of Tokyo Dome. On weekends during the Cosmos Festival visitors can tour the garden by "flower-viewing tractor". There are also fields of white buckwheat flowers, and a train that runs through the flower gardens. The best time to visit is from mid-September through October.

**Miyama Soba Festival**

This festival is held every year from the end of October to the beginning of November, to coincide with the buckwheat harvest. With events such as sales of agricultural products and local specialties from Miyama and soba-eating contests, visitors can fully enjoy Miyama's nature and soba.

**Hokodashi Shinto Ritual**

This heroic Shinto ritual is held every September in Higashikobara Town, in the Miyama district (Kaba Hachiman Shrine). Local youth wildly beat green bamboo logs as they go around the shrine pavilions. At dawn the portable shrine is submerged in the river. The ritual has a history of over 500 years.

**Koshino Autumn Festival**

This is the Koshino district’s largest autumn festival. It is held every year from October 8 to 10. Shinto music and dance, festival drumming and a portable shrine procession create a lively, festive atmosphere. The festival also symbolizes people’s wishes for a plentiful catch of fish and a bountiful harvest; in every household special meals are prepared.
Fukui in bloom

Winter enjoyment

From winter to early spring Echizen daffodils embellish the coastline with their elegant aroma and pretty blossoms. These pure, beautiful, dignified flowers are sometimes called "flowers in the snow". When there are snow flurries in bitterly cold weather, white droplets dance wildly in the rough waves of the Japan Sea, creating what are known as "wave blossoms". This fantastic winter scene created by Mother Nature is so lovely that it makes you forget the coldness.

The terrace on the Echizen Coast is one of Japan’s three largest areas planted with clusters of daffodils. The daffodils start blooming around the middle of December, and are at their best around the middle of January. "Wave blossoms" can sometimes be seen on cold days from the beginning of December to the end of February, when the sea is rough, with high waves.

Daffodil festivals

Koshino Daffodil Festival (Koshino district), Daffodil and Crab Fair (Echizen Town) and Aranami Festa (Minami Echizen Town) are held to coincide with the time that daffodils are in bloom. Sales of local specialties, daffodil distribution and crab hot-pot sampling are popular attractions.

Mutsuki Shinto ritual

This Shinto ritual performance is dedicated to the gods with prayers for peace on earth, peace in Japan, an abundant harvest, etc. It has been passed down through the generations for about 800 years, and is performed once every four years in February in Omori Town, in the Shimizu district. Designated as a national intangible folklore cultural asset.
Mt. Asuwa area
Beautiful Nature Walk

Asuwa Shrine
This shrine has Emperor Keitai as its main enshrined deity. It received its domain dedication from Mr. Asakura in the period of civil war, and was also the place of worship of the Matsudaira family, feudal lords of Fukui in the Edo period. The 350-year-old weeping cherry tree in the shrine's precincts has been designated as a natural monument of the city.

Teahouses on Mt. Asuwa
The area is dotted with about 10 teahouses, where visitors enjoy the lip-smacking flavors of local specialties such as dengaku (grilled tofu with miso on a skewer), mitarashi dango (dumplings with sweet soy sauce) and buckwheat noodles with grated daikon radish. The sights and flavors of Mt. Asuwa will make you like the area more. There are restaurants open for lunch and evening parties, as well as souvenir shops.

Mt. Asuwa
This mountain is the symbol of the nature of Fukui City. The various flowers and trees that blossom in each season make it popular among local residents as a place to go for walks. Because it is dotted with many shrines and temples that trace the history of Fukui, parks and stone monuments, it is a perennial favorite for historical sightseeing.

● Access to entrance to Mt. Asuwa / Kokenjizaka Slope (near Mt. Asuwa Tunnel)
- From the Hokuriku Expressway Fukui I.C. take National Route 158 westward for about 15 min.
- At the Eki-mae Shotengai bus stop take the West Route "Smile" Community Bus (for Terute/Asuwa), and get off at "Atagozaka" (about 20 min).
- From Keifuku Bus Terminal (near JR Fukui Station) take the bus for the Red Cross Hospital, and get off at "Koen-shita" (about 7 min).
- From JR Fukui Station take the Fukui Railway Fukubu Line to "Koen-guchi" and walk for about 5 min.

Mt. Asuwa Amusement Park
This park features a popular mini zoo with adorable ponies and rabbits, palm civets from Hangzhou, China, and red kangaroos that were a gift from Kumamoto City. The playground equipment is fun for the whole family.
0776-34-1680
Ichijodani
Historical Sights Walk

Ichijodani

Ichijodani is a mountain village in the southeastern part of Fukui City. It was here that the Asakura warring lords who ruled Echizen lived for 103 years. The area, which prospered as a castle town, is still dotted with ruined residences and gardens of that period. With the sublime sound of Ichijo Waterfall, and a local legend about the swordsman Sasaki Kojiro, the surrounding area is known for its beautiful nature and romantic history.

Access to Restored Townscape, Ichijodani Asakura Clan Ruins
1. From the Hokuriku Expressway Fukui I.C. take National Route 158 eastward for about 8 min.
2. From Keifuku Bus Terminal (near JR Fukui Station) take the bus for Jokyoji Temple / Kanamata, and get off at "Fukugen Bukeyashiki-mae" (about 30 min).
3. From JR Fukui Station take the Etsumi North Line to "Ichijodani" and walk for 20 min.

Garden of the Suwa Yakata Ruins

The house that once stood here is said to have been built by the fifth Lord Yoshikage for his fourth concubine "Koshosho". The largest garden in the Asakura Clan Ruins, it has maple trees that are especially beautiful in autumn.

Restored Townscape

A street of this once-thriving castle town, which has been almost completely restored to its original appearance. There are guides who can give you detailed explanations (for a fee). Designated as a national special historic spot.

Ichijo Waterfall

This magnificent two-meter wide waterfall drops fine threads of water from a height of 12 meters. According to legend, it was created by Taicho Taishi after he had completed his ascetic training at its location. It is also famous for being the place where the swordsman Sasaki Kojiro, Miyamoto Musashi’s rival, trained.
Miyama / Eiheiji Temple
Fukui Countryside Walk

Miyama
This area’s bountiful nature includes beautiful mountains and babbling brooks. It is a place where you can get a firsthand feel for seasonal changes, and experience the wonder of nature in the Fukui countryside. Temples standing silently among peaceful groves of trees calm and soothe the soul. Local activities that include walking in the woods, other outdoor activities and soba-making make this a great place to visit.

- **Access to Mirakuru-tei:**
  From Fukui I.C. take National Route 158 eastward for about 10 min.
- **Access to Ijira-kan:**
  From Fukui I.C. take National Route 158 eastward and turn onto National Route 476. (About 25 min.)
- **Access to Eiheiji Temple:**
  From Fukui-kita I.C. take National Route 416 eastward for about 20 min.
  From Fukui IC take National Route 158 eastward, and then National Route 364 northward. (About 20 min.)

Shotokuji Temple
A venerable temple of the Shinshu Takada sect of Echizen. It houses prefectural cultural assets such as a statue of Prince Shotoku said to have been made by himself, and a "folding screen depicting a white elephant and children playing together".  

Echizen soba with grated daikon radish
This dish consists of al dente buckwheat noodles topped with grated, hot daikon radish. The city has many famous soba restaurants that offer these simple, yet flavorful noodles, which are attracting attention as a macrobiotic dish.

Sweetfish sushi
Sweetfish are bountiful in areas with clear streams. The aroma of vinegared rice, ginger and sweetfish is irresistible. Sold only from July to September. 0776-96-4008(Sajidaira)

Eiheiji Temple
The head temple of the Soto sect, founded about 750 years ago by Dogen Zenji. Monks train in the seven main buildings and the more than 70 halls. 0776-63-3102

Miyama Choju Soba Dojo Gottsuosan-tei
Here you can learn the art of soba-making from a local expert. There is also a restaurant where you can taste the freshly made soba. 0776-90-1144
Echizen Coast

This coastline, which has been designated as a quasi-national park, is ideal for feeling the sea breeze as you drive along. You will be impressed by the tranquil yet occasionally rough Japan Sea, surprised by the unusual rock formations of Tojinbo Cliffs, and spiritually uplifted by the pretty daffodils. Fukui’s representative winter specialty, Echizen crab, is a delicacy not to be missed.

Access to Tojinbo Cliffs:
- From the Hokuriku Expressway Fukui-kita I.C. take National Route 416 in the direction of Mikuni/Awara for about 50 min.
- From JR Fukui Station take the Echizen Railway Mikuni Awara Line to "Mikuni Station", and transfer to a bus for Tojinbo Cliffs. (About 1 hour)

Access to Echizen Coast (Echizen Suisen-no-Sato Park):
- From the Hokuriku Expressway Fukui I.C. take National Route 8 in the direction of Sabae, and turn onto National Route 365 in the direction of Echizen Coast (about 1 hour).
- From Keifuku Bus Terminal take the Gumizaki Line bus, and get off at "Echizen Suisen-no-SatoKoen" (about 1.5 hours).

Daianzenji Temple

Built in 1658 by the fourth feudal lord of Fukui, Matsudaïra Mitsumichi, this is the family temple of the Fukui lords. Lay sermons that clearly explain the spirit of Zen, vegetarian dishes, training in Zen meditation (all reservations required), and beautiful irises in early summer attract many visitors. ☎️0776-59-1014

Takasu / Ayukawa / Koshino Beach

The beaches along the Echizen Coast are known for the clearness of the seawater. There are activities to enjoy all year round-marine sports, fishing, going for drives, etc.

Tojinbo Cliffs

These dynamic, impressive pyroxene andesite prismatic structures are the only such rock formations in Japan, and only one of three in the world. The 50-meter high sheer rock faces that stretch out along one kilometer of coastline look like a giant sculpture created by Mother Nature. The rock faces are well worth seeing from the vantage point of a pleasure boat. Designated as a national natural monument.

Echizen crab

Echizen crab, or snow crab, is the king of seafood from the Japan Sea. The male is called "zuwaigani", and the female "seikogani". Freshly boiled, these crabs are full of delicious, sweet juice. The miso (organs) and eggs are delicacies enjoyed by connoisseurs.

Deep-water shrimp

Shrimp with a melt-in-your-mouth sweetness and smooth texture. Those with transparent blue eggs are a real delicacy.
Shimizu Area
Relaxing Route

Shimizu
This area’s typical Japanese landscape is beautiful throughout the changing seasons—wet rice fields in spring, green rice fields in summer, golden ears of rice in autumn and the white snow of winter. Health-related facilities such as a sports center and hot spring baths are centrally located. The area also has historical features such as the 800-year-old "Mutsuki Shito ritual" and ancient burial mounds.

SST Land
A wide selection of facilities for adults and children to enjoy athletics, mini golf, etc. "Dowa-no-Mori" has a lot of charming play equipment for small children.
☎0776-98-2752 (April-November)

Bushugaike Pond
This pond is known for the dragon-god legend it is associated with, and it is also famous as a place for rain prayers.

Saiunji Temple
The weeping cherry trees in the precincts of Saiunji Temple, located in the mountains of Ochi, has been designated as a natural monument by the city.

Shinchan Miso
This handmade, natural miso (fermented soybean paste) is made from local ingredients and exposed to music during the fermentation process. Sold at the farm stand "Nyu Zenyasai".

Local sake
A smooth sake made from the rare variety of brewer’s rice called "Amatsu Shinriki".
☎0776-98-5166 (Nishioka Kawamura Sake Brewery)
Sightseeing taxi
Fukui Prefecture Taxi Association
☎(0776)34・1722

Hotels/Inns
Fukui City Hotel Business Association
☎(0776)22・7449

Souvenirs
Fukui specialty products

- Habutae mochi
- Scallion
- Mizu yokan (sweet bean jelly)
- Echizen crab
- Deep-water shrimp
- Echizen oroshi soba
  (buckwheat noodles with grated daikon radish)
- Echizen sea urchin
- Grilled mackerel sushi
- Local sake
- Heshiko (preserved fish with soybean paste)

For more information, please contact:
Fukui City Sightseeing and Local Product Center
(in Phoenix Plaza)
☎(0776)20・5080

"Smile" Community Bus
The "Smile" Community Bus is convenient for getting around the urban area of Fukui City.
It takes one and a half hours to do a circular route (there are four routes), for the low fare of 100 yen.

Smile Bus "Ima Doko" Service
This service lets you know which stop the bus is approaching.

Internet Information Service
Enables you to search for information with your PC or mobile phone.
http://smile.ftmo.co.jp/

For more information, please contact:
Fukui Town Management Organization Co., Ltd.
☎(0776)30・0330  http://www.ftmo.co.jp/

Fukui City Tourism Development Office
http://www.city.fukui.lg.jp
10-1, Ote 3-chome, Fukui 910-8511  ☎(0776)20・5346

Fukui Tourist Information Center
(in JR Fukui Station)
1-1, Chuo 1-chome, Fukui 910-0006  ☎(0776)20・5348

Fukui Convention Bureau
http://www.fukuicity-navi.com/index.asp
Phoenix Plaza 1st Floor, 13-6, Tawara 1-chome, Fukui 910-0018  ☎(0776)20・5151
From Tokyo

- By Tokaido Shinkansen, via Maibara and Hokuriku Line Limited Express: 3 hours and 25 min.
- By Tomei, Meishin, Hokuriku Expressway (Tokyo I.C. - Fukui I.C.): 6 hours and 20 min.
- Tokyo Station Yaesu South Exit - Fukui: 8 hours and 10 min.
- Haneda - Komatsu - (connecting bus) - Fukui: 2 hours and 15 min.

From Osaka

- By Kosei Line Limited Express: 1 hour and 50 min.
- By Meishin, Hokuriku Expressway (Suita I.C. - Fukui I.C.): 2 hours and 35 min.

From Nagoya

- By Hokuriku Line Limited Express: 2 hours
- By Meishin, Hokuriku Expressway (Nagoya I.C. - Fukui I.C.): 2 hours and 15 min.
- By Tokai-Hokuriku Expressway via Hakusui I.C.: about 3 hours
- Meitetsu Bus Center - JR Nagoya Station - Fukui: 2.5 hours