

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.