

Japan Tourism Topics

1. Bold and Beautiful Ginza-Pop Designs at The Royal Park Hotel Ginza 6-chome, Opening May 30, Tokyo



©The Royal Park Hotel Ginza 6-chome

In the heart of Tokyo's upscale Ginza district, the vibrant and modern the Royal Park Hotel Ginza 6-chome is set to open its doors on May 30th. Weaving the iconic willow trees and ginkgo-lined streets of Ginza into the traditional color schemes and motifs of the Kabuki-za theater, it creates a harmonious coexistence of retro and modern aesthetics. With convenient access from the airport and to the city center, the hotel provides guests with the opportunity to indulge in shopping, sightseeing and cultural experiences at the traditional theater. Located near landmarks like the Kabuki-za theater, Tsukiji Outer Market, and an array of major department stores and luxury boutiques, the hotel is perfectly poised for both business and leisure travelers. With reservations currently open, this soon-to-be Ginza hotspot invites guests to immerse themselves in an innovative fusion of traditional and modern allure in a convenient location close to all of the exciting action happening in the city.

[The Royal Park Hotel Ginza 6-chome](#)

2. Luxury and Relaxation at a Famous River Valley Onsen at Hoshino Resorts KAI Akiu from April 25, Miyagi

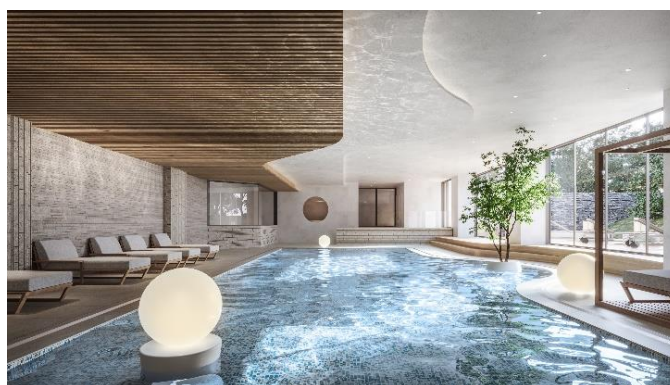


©Hoshino Resorts

Hoshino Resorts KAI Akiu is set to open its doors on April 25th, amidst Sendai's picturesque Akiu Onsen, a hot spring spot destination with over 1,500 years history. Embraced by the beauty of each season, this luxurious retreat invites visitors to savor the tranquility and natural splendor that Akiu Onsen has to offer. Each room overlooks the river valley and features a spacious sitting area painted in calming colors inspired by the natural surroundings, plus a panoramic window that floods the room with natural light and offers breathtaking views. Up to four guests can stay in a large standard room and a special room can accommodate up to eight people. Guests can easily enjoy all the spectacular regional attractions when staying in Sendai, considered to be the gateway of Tohoku sightseeing.

[Hoshino Resorts KAI Akiu](#)

3. A Forest Spa Retreat at nol hakone myojindai opens May 17, Kanagawa



THERMAL POOL image

Rejuvenate your body and mind at "nol hakone myojindai," a spa hotel set to rebrand and reopen its doors on May 17th. The philosophy behind "nol" (Naturally, Ordinarily, Locally) is to provide guests with an opportunity to enjoy Hakone's serene Miyagino luxury cottage area in their own way, fostering a sense of individuality and relaxation in this quiet hideaway. The hotel boasts its own natural hot spring source from Miyagino, offering guests a chance to unwind in soothing Onsen waters in a tranquil environment surrounded by lush forest greenery. Guest can also enjoy a comfortably warm indoor thermal pool beautifully illuminated like a starry sky at night by fiber-optic lighting. Totonoi Terrace, a wooden deck connected to the saunas and pool, allows guests to take in the natural breeze and appreciate the marvelous view of Hakone's mountains. The modern resort features a health-conscious Italian restaurant that uses a variety of local ingredients. Book your stay now to embark on a journey of wellness and indulgence in the very heart of Hakone.

[nol hakone myojindai](#)

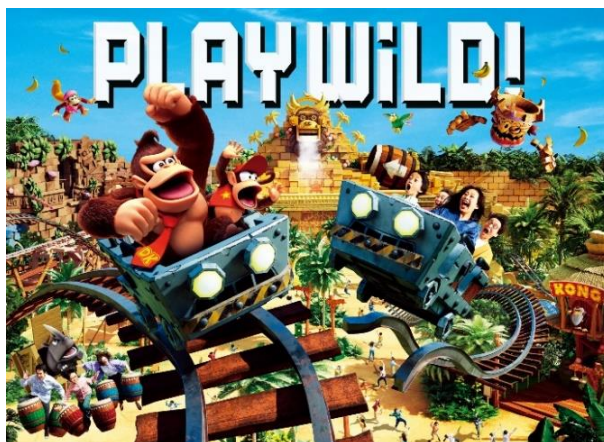
4. Celebrations among the towering Yama floats at the Inuyama Festival, April 6 – 7, Aichi



The Inuyama Festival is a religious event dedicated to the deity enshrined at Haritsuna Shrine (near Inuyama Castle), its focal point being the procession of impressive Yama (three-tiered floats). Accompanied by the enchanting sounds of flutes and drums, these intricately decorated creations showcase lifelike mechanical puppets known as Karakuri Ningyo which are skillfully manipulated by master puppeteers. As night falls, the floats are illuminated with a mesmerizing display of 365 lanterns each, as they parade through the town's scenic streets as the powerful Inuyama Castle proudly watching over. The scene is a dazzling spectacle, reminiscent of a vivid Ukiyo-e painting. The festival will be held on April 6th and 7th, when colorful blossoms will be painting the city in pink hues. Inuyama city is just 30 minutes ride from Nagoya.

[Inuyama Festival](#)

5. Go Wild in Donkey Kong Country at Universal Studios Japan Opening Soon, Osaka



Images courtesy of Universal Studios Japan, © Nintendo
TM & © Universal Studios. All rights reserved.

In Spring 2024, the Universal Studio Japan's Super Nintendo World™ will unveil Donkey Kong Country, a new area with lush greenery centered around the world of Donkey Kong, with themed food, attractions, and special merchandise. One of the many highlights is the interactive smartphone-linked theme park experience, which has captivated guests since its introduction in the Super Nintendo World. In the vibrant new area, guests can act like they are part of the DK crew, actively participating in a Donkey Kong adventure by interacting with the attraction. Another thrilling addition is an innovative roller coaster ride through the jungle, featuring the mines of The Golden Temple. Many guests are bound to scream in excitement as minecarts jump over broken tracks and traverse the unpredictable world of Donkey Kong Country.

[Universal Studios Japan Donkey Kong Country](#)

6. Spectacular Floats and Marionettes at the spring Takayama Festival, April 14-15, Gifu



©Takayama city

The ever-charming city of Hida Takayama in Gifu prefecture comes alive during the spring Takayama Festival, which is included on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. This festival, which is said to have started between the late 16th century and 17th centuries, features two main events — the Spring Sanno-Matsuri and the Autumn Hachiman-Matsuri. During the spring celebration, which takes place on April 14th and 15th, 12 beautifully adorned festival floats, known as Yatai, take center stage. The floats are a spectacle in themselves since each one has unique decorations. Three of them even feature marionette shows with intricately designed dolls that seem almost lifelike as they move. Joining the procession are the Shishimai (lion dance) performers and others who dazzle spectators with their breathtaking energy and skills. The highlight of the festival includes a mesmerizing night procession on April 14th, adding a delightful touch of enchantment.

[Spring Takayama Festival \(Sanno Matsuri\)](#)

7. Taste the Enduring Sake Legacy with a Modern Twist at Fumimoto Brewery, Kochi



Making a Sake based cocktail

© fumimoto brewery

After 120 years in business, the renovated Fumimoto Brewery reopened in 2023 to carry on the Sake-making legacy, which was born from the pristine water of Shimanto River, praised as one of the clearest streams in Japan. Part of the brewery's main building has been converted into a pairing bar where guests can enjoy excellent Daiginjo-Sake (the highest quality sake brewed from polished rice) made with Niida Rice (a fragrant variety of rice grown in the region), outdoor BBQ and other dishes made with local Kochi ingredients. While maintaining its charming exterior, the inside presents a blend of traditional and modern design. To protect the environment that has blessed this area with clean water and delicious rice, the brewery uses lightweight, durable spouted bottles that reduce waste during transport and can be used safely when camping. From spring 2024, Fumimoto Shuzo will offer an authentic Sake brewery tour plan that will include a temple stay at the nearby Iwamotoji Temple.

[fumimoto brewery](https://www.fumimoto-brewery.com/)

8. From Peaks to Paddleboards: Diverse 5-Day Expedition Across the Dynamic Kyushu Landscape, Oita



Located in the northeastern part of Kyushu, the region stretching from Beppu to the Kunisaki Peninsula offers a diverse array of experiences that engage all five senses. The area features distinctive rocky peaks formed by volcanic activity and is known for the unique mountain-worship culture known as "Rokugo Manzan." This five-day tour is an enriching journey that includes a variety of experiences all in one place such as trekking, cycling, marine activities and enlightening walks through historic and culturally significant destinations along the Kunisaki Peninsula Minemichi Long Trail and other scenic paths. Before visiting the Fukiji Temple among the mountains where it is possible to participate in morning Zazen meditation, visitors have the opportunity to explore the area's rich cultural heritage by relaxing in traditional gardens and savoring local culinary delights.

[A trip to the Kunisaki Peninsula](#)

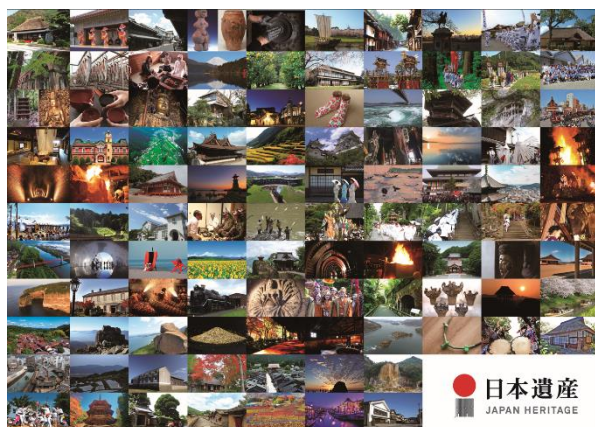
9. Paddle into Paradise on an Enchanting Submerged Forest Canoe Tour from Late March, Yamagata



Embark on an outdoor adventure in Yamagata, from late March through May. This hidden gem, known to only a select few until recent years, has rapidly gained recognition as one of Japan's most remarkable destinations. At the foot of the Iide Mountains, Lake Shirakawa transforms as the spring thaw causes water levels to rise, creating an enchanting scene of a submerged forest that can only be witnessed once a year in this season. In this region, you can witness a stunning view of budding willow trees and lingering snow on Mt. Iide. On calm days, the surface acts as a mirror reflecting the sky and verdant mountains. Explore this extraordinary landscape by canoe, kayak and stand-up paddleboard while being guided by experts who can safely lead even those with very limited or no experience.

[Yamagata Experience: Suibotsurin Canoe Tour](#)

10. Unveil Authentic Japan Designated by Visiting the Informative Japan Heritage



Japan Heritage is recognized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs and is a story that tells of Japanese culture and traditions through the historical attractions and characteristics of a region, inviting visitors to journey further into the country's rich history and culture encompassing craftsmanship, gastronomy, spirituality, and deep appreciation of nature. Japan Heritage's content features 104 fascinating Japan Heritage sites, 10 of which are described in length on the website below. Witness the artistry of tinware crafted in Takaoka, Toyama and visit long-established Sake breweries, taste the tradition infused in a refreshing cup of green tea in Kyoto, take a spiritual journey on a sacred pilgrimage in Shikoku, embark on a path of enlightenment with a Yamabushi (mountain priest) through the Dewa Sanzan, and more. Visit the official website to view more pieces of Japan Heritage ready to be explore.

[Japan Heritage Official Site](#) | [Stories and travel information](#) | [JNTO](#)

[Japan Heritage For Travel Agents](#)

Notes:

- *Item 7, 8, 9 is based on information from JNTO Partners.*
- *The above details are correct as of the time of publication, and are subject to change.*

If you'd like to download photos and videos of Japan's tourist attractions, please visit the [Japan Online Media Center \(JOMC\)](#)

For media inquiries, including requests to use photographs, please contact the JNTO Press at media_inquiry@jnto.go.jp