



「石川県からのお知らせ」8月号で、今年の兼六園の外国人来場者数が過去最多記録を更新する見込みだとお知らせしたところですが、訪日外国人数も、震災前の2010年を超えて過去最高となったようです。

思い起こせば、東日本大震災をきっかけに、日本の、石川県の元氣をお届けしようと思った「石川県からのお知らせ」、数字で見える日本の元氣をお届けできる限りです。

さて、今年は、夏の猛暑が強く印象に残っていますが、今月は秋を通り越して一気に冬が来たのではないかといいほど、冷え込んだ日々が続きました。そんな中でも、短い秋を彩るべく、北陸新幹線金沢開業を見据えて、夜の観光の魅力を高めようと県中央公園沿いのアメリカ楓通りで紅葉のライトアップが行われました。また、季節ごとの恒例行事となっている金沢城・兼六園のライトアップが行われ、大勢の来場者が幻想的な空間を楽しみました。

このように、新幹線開業に向けて石川県では、県を上げて様々な試みを展開しております。「石川県からのお知らせ」をお読みのみなさまも、ぜひ、応援のほどよろしくお祈りいたします！

最後は、食の話題の一つ。今年も加能ガニ、香箱ガニの季節がやってまいりました。カニが市場に出回ると一気に冬がやって来た気になりますが、この季節にしか食べられない風物詩、旬の味覚です。この冬はぜひ、ご家族・ご友人連れで、石川の冬の味覚を味わいに石川に里帰りされてはいかがでしょうか。

今回の新聞情報

- (1) 訪日外国人、年間最高を突破 円安、ビザ免除効果等で <http://www.asahi.com/articles/TKY201311200640.html>
- (2) 夜の金沢、輝く紅葉 アメリカ楓通り <http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/TR20131110701.htm>
- (3) 金沢城と兼六園の夜、幻想のライトアップ <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/national/news/20131124-OYT1T00518.htm>
- (4) カニ初物に人垣 近江町市場 <http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/TR20131108701.htm>

※次回は12月末にお届けする予定です。
* The next edition is scheduled to be issued at the end of December.

Back in August we wrote that Kenrokuen is about to accept the biggest number of foreign visitors in history this year. We have great news in that the record number of foreign visitors to Japan set in 2010 before the earthquake looks to be broken too.

As you may remember, Ishikawa Oshirase was launched as an attempt to show that things are going well in both Ishikawa and Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake. Now we have proof in numbers.

Whilst some of us were still getting over the fierce summer heat, Ishikawa was struck by chilly winter weather, which some say left almost no space for this year's autumn. Nevertheless, the autumn foliage was illuminated alongside the Central Park at the American maple street to boost the appeal of the night time tourist attractions in anticipation of the forthcoming Hokuriku Shinkansen service. The annual light-up event also took place in Kenrokuen and Kanazawa Castle allowing numerous visitors to enjoy the magical atmosphere. As you can see, Ishikawa is constantly making attempts to improve before the opening of the Shinkansen line. We will be counting on your support too!

And finally, one topic on food. The season of Kano crab and Kobako crab has arrived. When crabs make it to the market stalls it is normally a good indicator that winter has come. Why not come back to Ishikawa with your friends and family this winter and enjoy the best seasonal food and local sake!

Recent News

(1) According to Japan National Tourist Organization, as of the end of October the number of foreign visitors in Japan amounted to 8.66 million people breaking the previous record of 8.66 thousand back in 2010. Japan has seen an increase in wealthy tourists as well as tourists from Southeast Asia. The number of group travelers from China, which once sank after the Senkaku isles problem, has returned to its original level as well. Coupled with the cheap yen, the July visa exemption for nationals from Thailand and Malaysia produced an enormous effect, as the government's plan for 10 million foreign visitors this year has a strong chance of being achieved provided the pace does not drop.

(2) The lights for the autumn foliage alongside the Central Park at the American maple street in Kanazawa were turned on creating a beautiful atmosphere in the city with the "Corridor of Light". The lights were put up with the intention of boosting tourism at night in anticipation of the opening Hokuriku Bullet Train service. When the prefecture turned the lights on for the first time, a vivid yellow and red landscape emerged in the surroundings of the Kanazawa Castle Park and the Shiinoki Geihinkan which combined with the nocturnal illumination created a fantastic landscape.

(3) The "Kanazawa Castle and Kenrokuen light up ~Autumn Edition~" event that illuminates Kanazawa Castle and the Kenrokuen Garden at night is being held until the 24th November. Despite the continuous rain in Ishikawa, the Prefecture was blessed with a good weather on the night of 23rd November allowing many people to enjoy the magical atmosphere in Kenrokuen Garden. Visitors came to the garden to snap photos on their phones and cameras of the illuminated red autumn leaves, kotoji stone lanterns and ropes on the pine trees that protect it from the snow.

(4) The snow crab fishing season began on 6th November and the first crabs of the season were already on sale in supermarkets all over Kanazawa the following day. At the Omicho market in Kanazawa, the voices of the market sellers shouting "First sales, First sales" echoed everywhere. Locals and tourists went with their wallets ready in search of male snow crabs and female kobako crabs. The fishing season will be shortened to 29th December to protect the fishery resources and crowds of people eager for some crab while there is still time gathered around the stalls selling kobako crabs. Crab soup was offered for 200 yen per cup during the first sales and it was so popular that it had queues of people waiting.

- 詳しい情報のアクセス先 For more information, please access the following links:
- (1) 公益財団法人石川県国際交流協会 IFIE (Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange) <http://www.ifie.or.jp/index.php>
 - (2) ほっと石川旅ねっと Hot Ishikawa Tabi-Net (Ishikawa Prefecture Tourism Guide) <http://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/>
 - (3) 石川県 Ishikawa Prefectural Government Official Website <http://www.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/>
 - (4) 首相官邸 Prime Minister of JAPAN (Countermeasures for the Great East Japan Earthquake) <http://www.kantei.go.jp/>

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e200500@pref.ishikawa.lg.jp

(問合せ先 / Contact)

IFIE (Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange)
石川県国際交流協会 TEL/FAX +81-76-262-5931/263-5931(担当:金子)