



4月といえば桜の季節です。今年も4月上旬から県内各地で桜が見ごろとなりました。毎年観桜期に無料開放される兼六園では、あいにくの天気が続きましたが、たくさんの方々が訪れてお花見を楽しみました。

さて、北陸新幹線の開業で盛り上がっている石川県ですが、兼六園に隣接する金沢城公園では、新幹線開業後の3月14日から31日の来園者数が前年同期に比べて約3倍に増えました！

また、ゴールデンウィークが目前に迫る中、東京都内のある大手旅行代理店では北陸新幹線の開業に伴い、北陸へ向かう4～6月のツアーはなんと前年比5倍の売れ行きとのこと。大変嬉しいことですね。

盛り上がっているのは新幹線だけではありません。金沢港には12日に今年初めてのクルーズ船としてイギリスの豪華客船が寄港しました。金沢港には今年1年間でクルーズ船が20回寄港する見通しになっています。国内、国外問わず石川県を訪れていただく皆様に石川ファンになってもらえるよう、おもてなしに磨きをかけていきたいと考えています。

今回の新聞記事

- (1)花曇り、人の波 兼六園、花見客繰り出す
<http://headlines.yahoo.co.jp/hl?a=20150406-00234536-hokkoku-117>
- (2)金沢城の来園者3倍に 新幹線開業後、兼六園に肉薄
<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/H20150402101.htm>
- (3)GW、北陸の旅に予約殺到 首都圏発、前年比5倍に
<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/H20150403102.htm>
- (4)クルーズ船、今年初寄港 英国から金沢に
<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/H20150413104.htm>

※次回は5月末にお届けする予定です。
* The next edition is scheduled to be issued at the end of April.

April, the month of cherry blossoms and the whole prefecture had plenty of pink plumes to see at the beginning of the month. As with previous years Kenrokuen had free entry to the garden during the blooming period and despite the ominous weather many visitors came to see the cherry blossoms.

The Hokuriku Shinkansen which has been causing excitement around the prefecture also played a massive role, as both Kanazawa Castle and Kenrokuen Garden saw three times more visitors than usual between 14th March and 30th March.

In addition, major travel agencies have been seeing demand for April-June Hokuriku tours rising to five times more than the previous year. No doubt the Hokuriku Shinkansen has had a part to play and we are absolutely ecstatic about this.

The Hokuriku Shinkansen is not the only thing to get excited about. On 12th April the first cruise liner for the year docked at the port of Kanazawa coming all the way from England. We will be seeing many more with around 20 cruise ships coming to the port this year. It is exciting to see so many people from Japan and around the world taking an interest in Ishikawa and we hope to welcome more.

Recent News

(1) Waves of people at a cloudy Kenrokuen Garden for cherry blossom season

Every year during the peak blooming season admission to Kenrokuen is free, and crowds of visitors came to visit the garden under cloudy skies to get a full spring feeling with the cherry blossoms.

(2) Three times more visitors to Kanazawa Castle since Shinkansen opening - numbers competing with Kenrokuen Garden

Since the arrival of the Hokuriku Shinkansen the number of visitors to Kanazawa Castle have tripled in comparison to the same period last year. Until now, Kanazawa Castle has only had 60% of the number of visitors to Kenrokuen Garden, however since the opening of the bullet train line the number of visitors to the castle park has over taken the garden.

(3) Flood of reservations for trips to Hokuriku from Tokyo for Golden Week. Five times more than last year.

With the start of the Hokuriku Shinkansen service, there has been a surge of reservations for trips to the three Hokuriku prefectures. According to major travel companies in Tokyo, there have been five times more reservations for April-June Hokuriku tours, and reservations for the long break in September have already begun.

(4) England to Kanazawa cruise ship first docking this year

The first cruise ship for the year, a liner from England, docked at Kanazawa port on 12th April with around one hundred passengers enjoying Kenrokuen Garden and other tourist spots. Twenty cruise ships are expected to arrive at the port this year.

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)石川エクスプレス Ishikawa Express (Multilingual Webmagazine) <http://www.ifie.or.jp/express/>
- (3)ほっと石川旅ねっと Hot Ishikawa Tabi-Net (Ishikawa Prefecture Tourism Guide) <http://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/>
- (4)石川県 Ishikawa Prefectural Government Official Website <http://www.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/>
- (5)首相官邸 Prime Minister of JAPAN (Countermeasures for the Great East Japan Earthquake) <http://www.kantei.go.jp/>

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