



# Discovering Tsuruga!

TSURUGA CITY GUIDE 2023

# A City Transformed: The New Home



## TSURUGA POLT SQUARE otta Has Opened Right Next to Tsuruga Station

When the Tsuruga-Kanazawa portion of the Hokuriku Shinkansen line starts operation in March 2024, Tsuruga Station will become the first station of trains going to Kanazawa and Tokyo, as well as Kansai and Chukyo regions. It will also become the last station of trains coming from those areas. Located right outside of the station's West Exit, otta is a multipurpose complex fitting for its role as the gateway to Tsuruga. Designed to serve as the base for bringing liveliness to the city and for interactions between local residents and visitors, the complex features a hotel, restaurants, stores, a childcare support facility, an educational and awareness-raising facility, and the Station West Square Park.



▲otta website



# of the First and Last Station

## Tsuruga-Kanazawa Portion of Hokuriku Shinkansen to Open on March 16, 2024!

### Hokuriku Shinkansen

Tsuruga–Tokyo:  
3 h and 8 min.

Tsuruga–Nagano:  
Approx. 1 h and 50 min.

Tsuruga–Kanazawa:  
Approx. 45 min.

### The Design Concept

#### Floating in the Sky: A Station Surrounded by Nature and Overlooking the Port

The *shinkansen* platforms offer the view of Tsuruga Bay. Symbolizing Tsuruga's prosperity as a port city, the floors of these platforms are finished with wood tiles evocative of a ship deck and the waiting rooms have a design themed on ships.

### Japan's First: A Completely New Station Building Structure

Featuring a three-tire structure, the platforms of the existing express trains are on the station's first floor, the concourse is on the second floor, and the platforms of *shinkansen* trains are on the third floor. At this very unique station building, you can change from a *shinkansen* train to an express train or vice versa mostly just by going up and down on an elevator or an escalator.

## The Highest-Ever Shinkansen Station

Equivalent to a 12-story building **37m**



# Tsuruga: A City that Has Prospered on Its Railway and Port



## Scheduled Services from Port of Tsuruga



A domestic ferry ride connecting Tsuruga and Hokkaido



A domestic roll-on/roll-off (RORO) ship ride connecting Hokkaido and Kyushu via Tsuruga



An international container RORO ship ride connecting Tsuruga and Busan, South Korea



Having a good natural port, Tsuruga has prospered as a trading post connecting Japan and the Asian continent from old times.

Including *kitamaebune* ships, which sailed between Hokkaido and Tsuruga, many ships called at Port of Tsuruga during the Edo period (1603-1867), filling the city with goods and merchants. This prosperity led to Tsuruga being called “the capital of the Hokkoku region.”

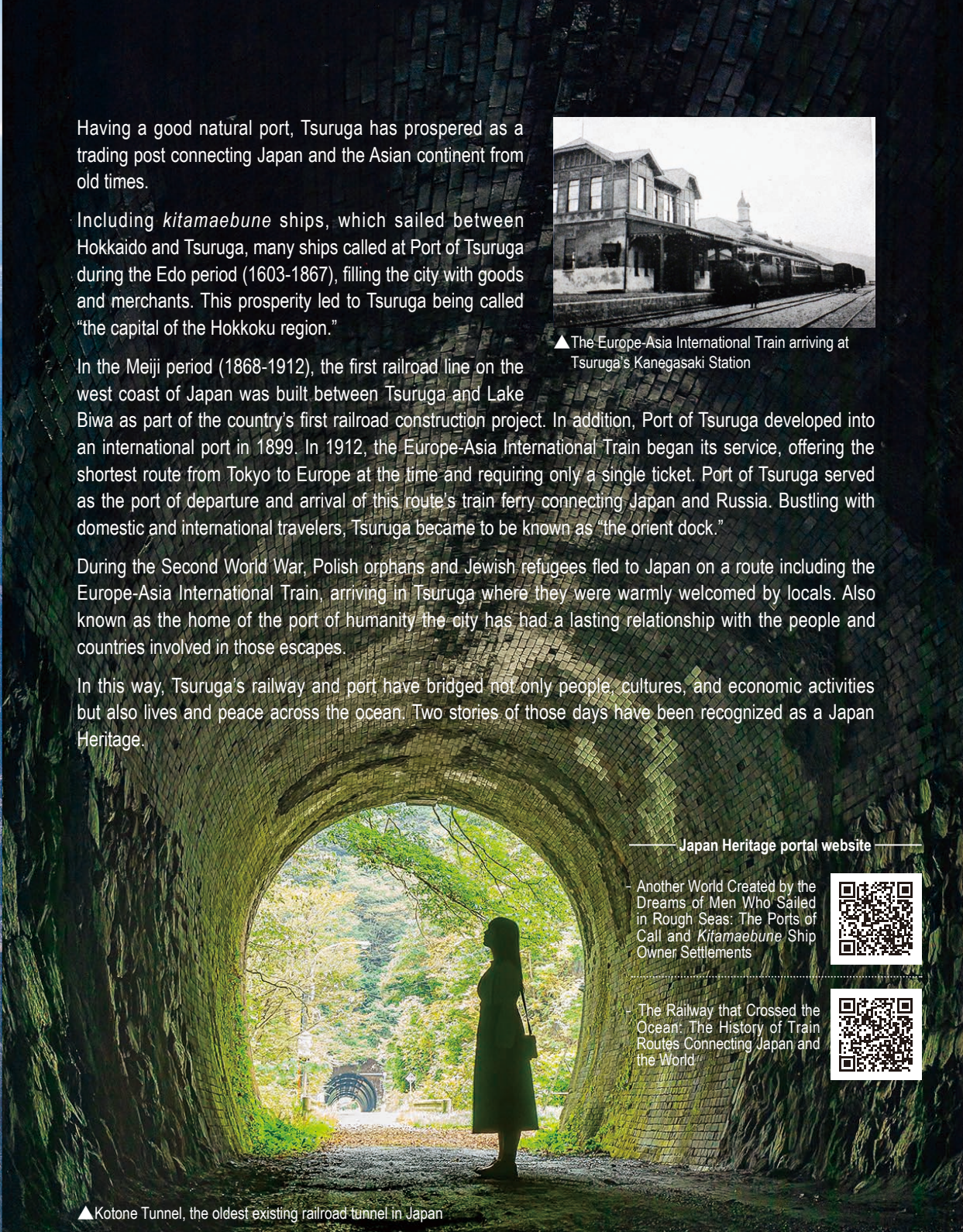
In the Meiji period (1868-1912), the first railroad line on the west coast of Japan was built between Tsuruga and Lake Biwa as part of the country’s first railroad construction project. In addition, Port of Tsuruga developed into an international port in 1899. In 1912, the Europe-Asia International Train began its service, offering the shortest route from Tokyo to Europe at the time and requiring only a single ticket. Port of Tsuruga served as the port of departure and arrival of this route’s train ferry connecting Japan and Russia. Bustling with domestic and international travelers, Tsuruga became to be known as “the orient dock.”

During the Second World War, Polish orphans and Jewish refugees fled to Japan on a route including the Europe-Asia International Train, arriving in Tsuruga where they were warmly welcomed by locals. Also known as the home of the port of humanity the city has had a lasting relationship with the people and countries involved in those escapes.

In this way, Tsuruga’s railway and port have bridged not only people, cultures, and economic activities but also lives and peace across the ocean. Two stories of those days have been recognized as a Japan Heritage.



▲The Europe-Asia International Train arriving at Tsuruga’s Kanegasaki Station



▲Kotone Tunnel, the oldest existing railroad tunnel in Japan

Japan Heritage portal website

- Another World Created by the Dreams of Men Who Sailed in Rough Seas: The Ports of Call and *Kitamaebune* Ship Owner Settlements



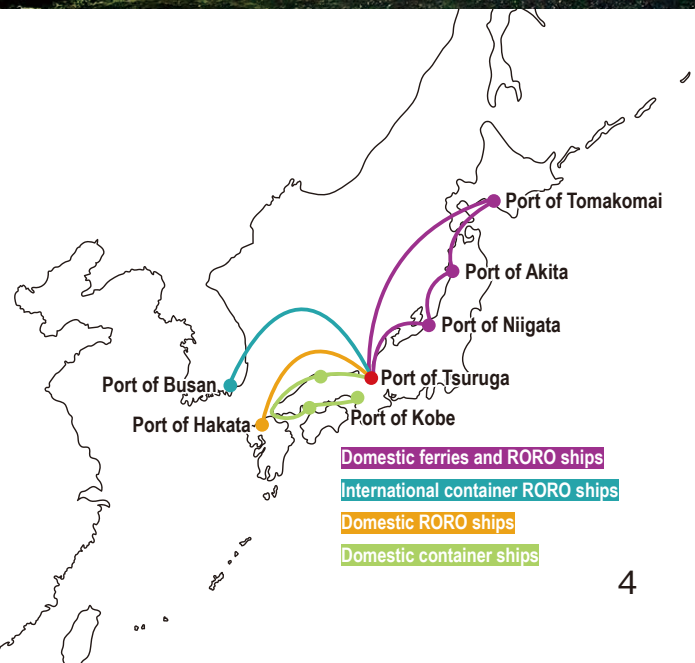
- The Railway that Crossed the Ocean: The History of Train Routes Connecting Japan and the World



## Port of Tsuruga: Developing into a Modern Port

In addition to the scheduled services to and from Japan’s main ports like Port of Tomakomai, Port of Hakata, and Port of Kobe, Port of Tsuruga also provides scheduled services to and from Port of Busan, South Korea.

Functioning as a backup for ports on Japan’s east coast, the role of Port of Tsuruga will become increasingly important as the modal shift to marine transportation progresses in view of the shortage of drivers in the transportation industry and the need to reduce carbon emissions.



# Tsuruga's Best Food!



▲ Tsuruga Tourism Association website

## The City's Specialties



(Producer's Voice)

The best things about Tsuruga red seabreams are their bouncy flesh and strong flavor. These branded fish are painstakingly raised, watching over each fish carefully. I hope you give them a try!



**Tsuruga Red Seabream Aquaculturist**

**Hideki Nakamura**

(Chairman, Tsuruga Saltwater Aquaculture Association)

## Tsuruga Red Seabream

Facing the Sea of Japan, the waters of Tsuruga Bay are rough during the winter and it often snows heavily in the area. As Tsuruga red seabreams are raised at a slow pace under these harsh conditions, their flesh is firm and springy. They also have strong vitality for withstanding sudden changes in water temperature. Providing a nutritious feed including crab shells results in high-quality flesh, good color, and just the right amount of fat. Whether you grill, boil, or eat them raw, Tsuruga red seabreams taste the best any way they're served.

## Furusato Nozei (Hometown Tax) Donation Program

Furusato Nozei, Tsuruga City  search

**Popular Gifts (2022)** We send Tsuruga-unique gifts in return for the donations.



Large peeled shrimp



Pre-cut fresh snow crab



Grilled eel





### Tsuruga Pufferfish

Japanese puffer raised in Tsuruga Bay are called Tsuruga pufferfish. As the water temperature of the bay is lower than that of other areas due to snow meltwater, their flesh is firm and packed with flavors. They can be served in a variety of ways, including raw, boiled, grilled, or deep-fried.

### Higashiura Tangerine

Located in northeastern Tsuruga, the Higashiura district facing Tsuruga Bay has been a producer of a variety of tangerine called *unshu mikan* since the 19th century. Tangerines from this area feature a nostalgic taste with just the right sourness and a well-defined flavor.

(Producer's Voice)

I hope you enjoy the elegant taste with outstanding flavors!



**Kelp shredding specialist**

**Akio Bessho**

(Commended by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare as a Contemporary Master Craftsperson)

### Shredded Kelp

Tsuruga is one of Japan's main producers of processed kelp, accounting for about 85% of the national production of manually shredded kelp. Shaved with a knife by specialists, Tsuruga's shredded kelp is like sheer silk.



## Energy Diversification Project

Tsuruga City was the first municipality in the Hokuriku region to be selected as a Leading Decarbonization Area by the Ministry of the Environment. We are working on generating a variety of energy sources including nuclear power, hydrogen energy, and renewable energies.



### Nuclear Power

The city is home to nuclear power plants, which play an important role in achieving both stable electricity supply and carbon neutrality.



### Hydrogen Energy

We are conducting various hydrogen demonstrations using hydrogen produced with electricity generated by renewable energies and nuclear power.



### Renewable Energies

Solar power and other renewable energies generated in the city (which are no longer eligible for the national Feed-in Tariff program) are supplied to local public facilities.

## Child Benefit for the First Child at Birth

The city pays a child benefit allowance (100,000 yen) for a first child at birth to help cover the initial expenses.

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## Childcare Facilities for Sick and Recovering Children

For parents who can't miss work to take care of their child who was injured or suddenly became ill, we have facilities that provide temporary care based on the diagnosis of their family doctor.

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## Experience-Based Parenting Support Program

We provide activities for experiencing nature and art through childcare and other facilities, including mountain walks and concerts.

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## Reducing the Burden of Parents with ICT

To make communication easier and more convenient, we have adopted systems that use information communication technology (ICT) at childcare facilities and after-school care facilities. We also provide a variety of information through our parenting support information website to alleviate the burden and concerns of parents.

Tsuruga Parenting Support  
Information Website  
KOSODATE TSURUGA



# Japan's Most Parenting-Friendly City





# Tsuruga By The Numbers

As of Sep. 27, 2023



Population: **63,032**



Households: **29,129**

**No waiting list for daycare facilities!**  
A city that provides reliable parenting support.

Daycare facilities: **21**

Kindergartens: **3**

Certified childcare centers: **4**



Elementary schools: **11**

Junior high schools: **6**

High schools: **4**

Universities: **2**

After-school care facilities: **14**

Taking care of elementary school students whose parents are at work during the daytime, after-school care facilities support the students' daily lives and provide fun activities to ensure their sound development.

Tsuruga Station  
(Shinkansen Station Building)

The highest-ever *shinkansen* station

Height: **37** meters



Toyo Keizai Inc.'s  
Liveability Ranking 2022

**16<sup>th</sup>** out of **812** cities and wards



Thinking about moving to Tsuruga?

Relocation to Tsuruga promotion website  
KURAS TSURUGA

Cargo tonnage handled by  
Port of Tsuruga

Data of 2021

**1,674** t/y

Ranking of ports on the  
main island's west coast

**No. 2**



Japan Heritage: **2** stories

- The Railway that Crossed the Ocean:  
The History of Train Routes Connecting Japan and the World
- Another World Created by the Dreams of Men Who Sailed in Rough Seas:  
The Ports of Call and *Kitamaebune* Ship Owner Settlements

National cultural properties: **20**

Prefecture- and city-designated cultural properties: **177**

One of Japan's three XX: **2**

- One of Japan's three large wood *torii* gates: Kehi Shrine
- One of Japan's three great pine groves: Kehi Pine Grove

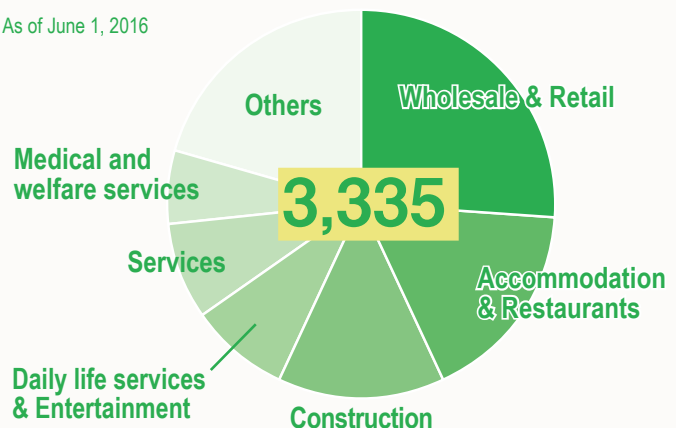
Amount of Furusato Nozei donation: Data of 2021

Ranking within Fukui: **No. 1**

National ranking: **No. 8**

## Number of private businesses

As of June 1, 2016



# Getting to Tsuruga

## By car

Kanazawa	Approx. 90 min.	(130 km on Hokuriku Expressway)
Nagoya	Approx. 90 min.	(125 km on Meishin Expressway and Hokuriku Expressway)
Kyoto	Approx. 90 min.	(125 km on Meishin Expressway and Hokuriku Expressway)
Osaka	Approx. 2 hours	(160 km on Meishin Expressway and Hokuriku Expressway)

## By Hokuriku Shinkansen

Tokyo	3 h 8 min.	(Hokuriku Shinkansen Kagayaki or Hakutaka)
Nagano	Approx. 1 h 50 min.	(Hokuriku Shinkansen Kagayaki or Hakutaka)
Kanazawa	Approx. 45 min.	(Hokuriku Shinkansen Kagayaki or Tsurugi)

## By Tokaido Shinkansen

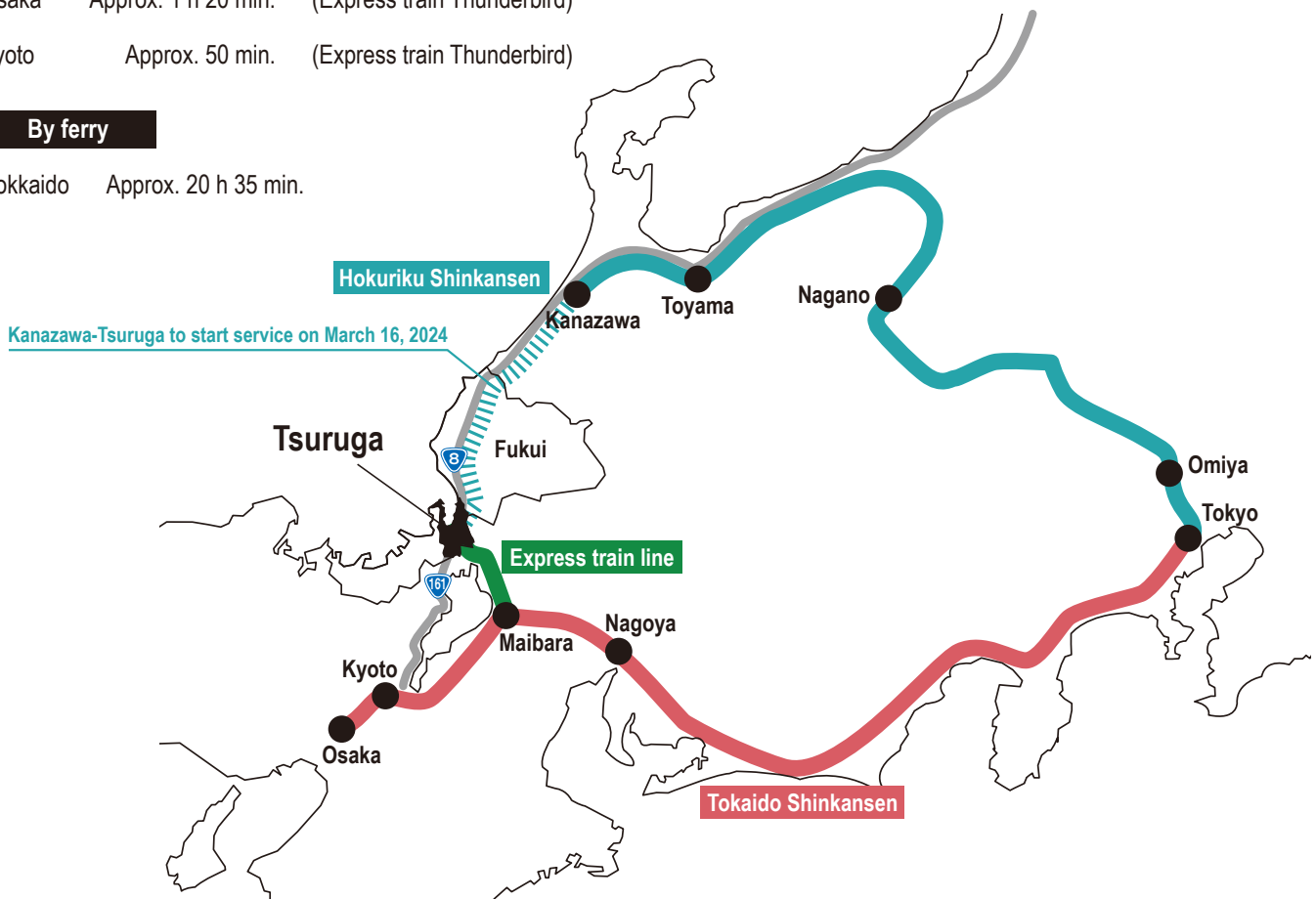
Tokyo	Approx. 3 hours	(Tokaido Shinkansen Hikari and express train Shirasagi)
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## By express trains

Nagoya	Approx. 1 h 40 min.	(Express train Shirasagi)
Osaka	Approx. 1 h 20 min.	(Express train Thunderbird)
Kyoto	Approx. 50 min.	(Express train Thunderbird)

## By ferry

Hokkaido	Approx. 20 h 35 min.
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