

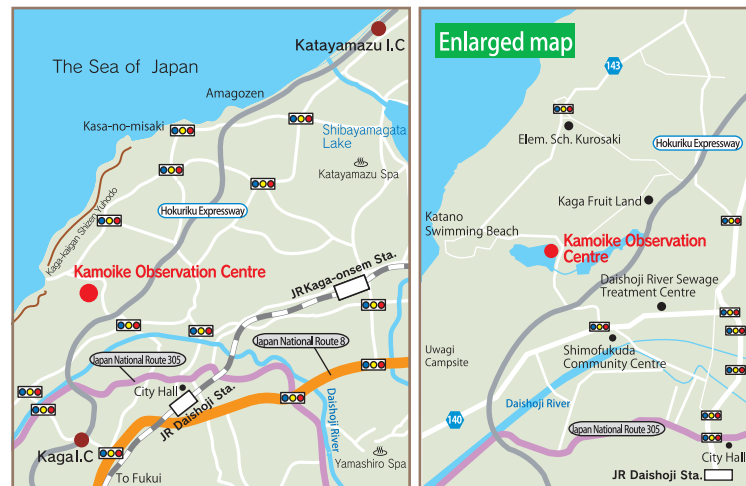


We offer children great opportunities to learn the importance of nature through interesting outdoor activities, such as bird watching and rice planting.

Kamoike Observation Centre

Kaga City Kamoike Observation Centre was established by the Kaga city government in 1984. You can learn the ecosystem and the history of the pond by looking at our collection of wondrous artifacts displayed or by playing some of our educational quiz games. The centre is located by the pond, so you can clearly see the birds resting in water through the telescopes set up by the windows. We have a wide selection of puzzles and picture books for children, so parents please bring your little ones! On weekends, many kinds of events are held, so you can feel much closer to the pond. Further, rice paddies near the pond are the favorite place of Greater White-fronted Goose and Bean Goose. Rice planting in spring and harvesting in autumn in these paddies are a special experience only to be had at Kaga City Kamoike Observation Centre.

ACCESS



- Located 11km from JR Kaga-onsen Station...20 minutes by car
40 minutes by Canbus Coastal Route
- Located 4km from JR Daishoji Station...10 minutes by car
- 15 minutes by car from Hokuriku Expressway Kaga I.C

INFORMATION

Admission Fee

Individual	350 yen
Group (20 people or more)	290 yen
Senior (75+)	170 yen
Junior(18-) or the handicapped*	None

Hours

9:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m. (entering is permitted until 4:30 p.m.)

Closed day	None
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- Group (20 people or more) need a reservation in advance
- The parking lot accommodate up to 44 small-sized cars, 5 large-sized car
- ※ The handicapped who want to enter free of charge, please show the identification book called 'Shougaisya-techo' at the reception.

Address

Kaga City
Kamoike Observation Centre
 Ne 2-1, Katano Town, Kaga City, Ishikawa Prefecture, 922-0564
 Telephone : 0761-72-2200 Fax : 0761-72-2935
 Website: www.kagashi-ss.co.jp/kamoike/
 E-mail: kamoike@kagashi-ss.co.jp



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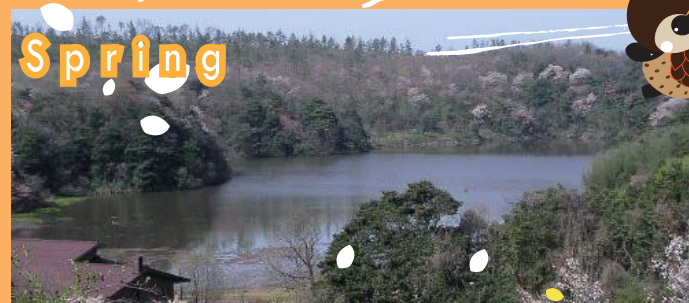
twitter.com/katanokamoike



Kaga City Kamoike Observation Centre

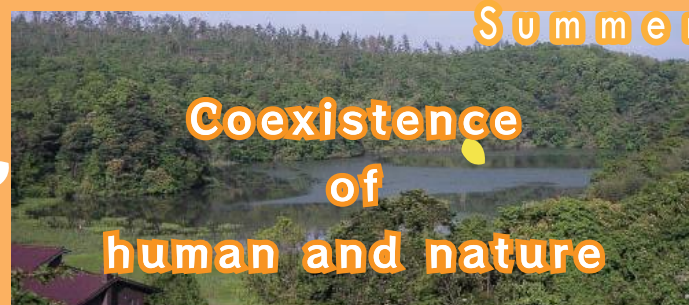
A pond rich in wildlife through four seasons

Spring

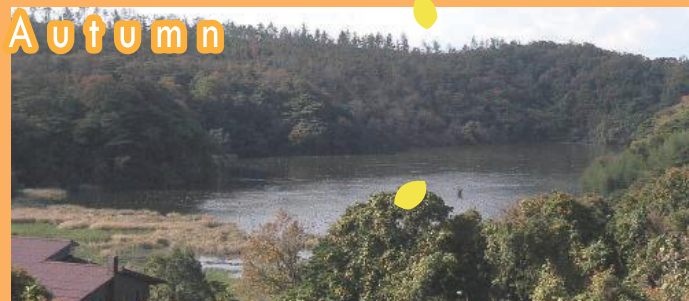


Summer

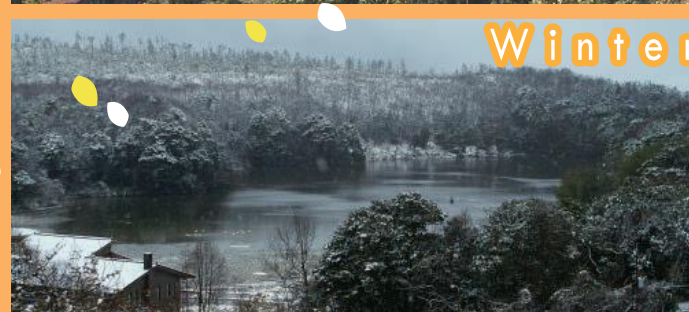
Coexistence
of
human and nature



Autumn



Winter



Welcome!
This is Katano-Kamoike
Live in harmony with nature



Katano-Kamoike is the Ramsar wetland where you can feel close to wildlife, especially birds.



You can have wonderful experience in nature through various programs at Kaga City Kamoike Observation Centre. Visit the centre for group travels, school trips, excursions and outdoor education.



Bull-headed Shrike
(*Lanius bucephalus*)

Intermediate Egret
(*Egretta intermedia*)

Orange Daylily
(*Hemerocallis fulva* var. *Kiwano*)

Schlegel's green tree frog
(*Prinacophorus schlegelii*)

Water chestnut
(*Trapa natans*)

Miyama Stag Beetle
(*Lucanus maculiformatorius*)

Mizu-aoi
(*Monochoria korsakowii*)

Wildlife seen from spring to summer

Four seasons at Katano-Kamoike

When spring comes, wild cherry trees bloom out on the hills and frogs croak in the paddies. While locals enjoy listening to the chirping of the birds, summer arrives in silence. In summer, the white flowers of Water Chestnuts cover the surface of the pond and many insects, such as dragonflies and stag beetles, come out. In autumn, at the end of September, waterfowl such as Greater White-fronted Goose and Bean Goose come flying from Siberia. They are rare species seen only in some limited areas. As the temperature gradually goes down, the number of these rare birds coming to this area increases. At the time Mallards change their plumage and the males dance in front of the females as part of their courtship rituals. In winter, the pond gets crowded because 3000 of ducks and their natural enemies, such as Mountain hawk eagle and Northern Goshawks gather around the pond. In February, there is a touch of spring in the air and the flowers get ready to bloom.

The Ramsar Site, Katano-Kamoike

Katano-Kamoike is designated as part of the Ramsar Site. The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands. The area is only 10 hectares (as large as two and half baseball fields) but it's still a rare place despite its size. There are two reasons for this: one reason is that many kind of waterfowl, such as Greater White-fronted Goose and Bean Goose use this pond as a resting place during winter. The other is the coexistence of the local people and the birds in the pond. The local populace follow strict rules: they stay away from the pond and they don't open their windows to watch the birds during autumn and winter.

Wildlife seen from autumn to winter



Greater White-fronted Goose
(*Anser albifrons*)

Bean Goose
(*Anser fabalis middendorffi*)

Tundra Swan
(*Cygnus columbianus*)

Mallard
(*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Baikal Teal
(*Anas formosa*)

Mountain hawk eagle
(*Haliaeetus albicilla*)

Northern Goshawk
(*Accipiter gentilis*)

The rice paddies at the pond



In the Edo period, the people of Daishoji dug ditches and started to use a part of dried up ground of the pond as rice paddies. Cultivating the lands for rice planting prevented sediment from accumulating. Nowadays, waterfowl like to rest on the ridges between rice paddies. The numbers of rice paddies, however, have decreased because the owners of the paddies have grown too elderly to grow rice. Fortunately, some volunteer groups grow rice in the paddies in front of the centre. If you are interested in rice planting, please join us!

Sakaami-ryo



Sakaami-ryo

Sakaami-ryo is a traditional method of catching wild ducks, which has been handed down for over 300 years. In the evening of winter, hunters wait for wild duck to come, holding a net on the hill and catching them by throwing the net up when the wild ducks come flying directly overhead. Hunters catch wild ducks with the Sakaami-ryo method only and don't use hunting rifles in order to preserve the population of wild ducks. After the Pacific War, foreign Occupation Forces began hunting ducks with firearms but the leader of the local hunters requested that the soldiers stop, thereby saving the wild duck from a population decrease. Even today, the hunters continue to monitor the area around the pond if someone disturb wild ducks.

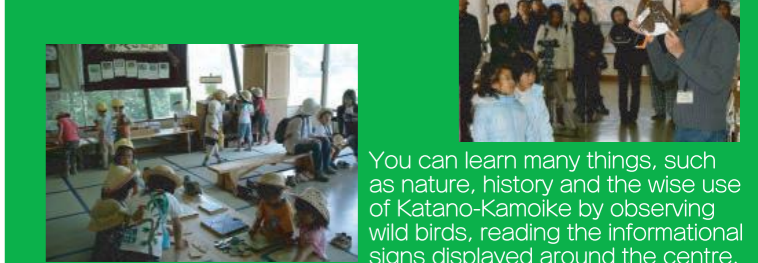
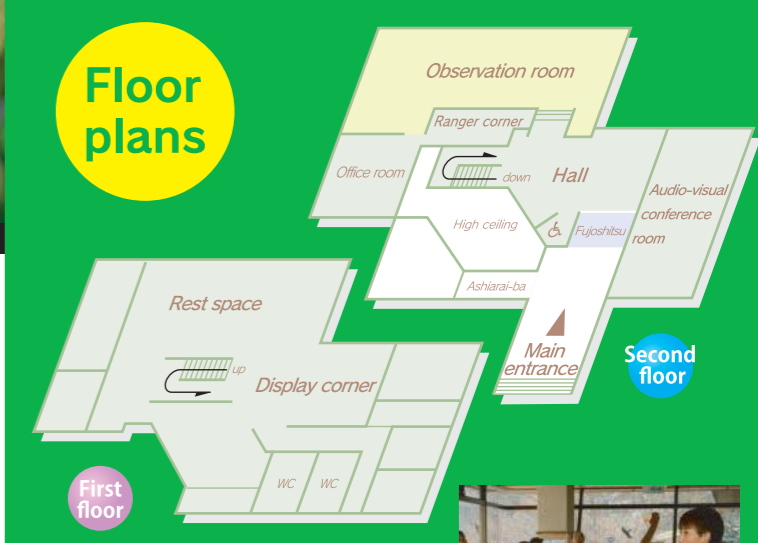
Activities to conserve Katano-Kamoike



People have been doing a number of activities to conserve the area's waterfowl, such as pouring water in the rice paddies during winter. This practice is called 'Fuyumizu-tanbo (Winterflooded rice paddies)' and the added water allows the waterfowl to easily eat their food of choice, unhusked fallen rice grains, in the paddies. If there is no water in the paddies, the rice become hard to eat for ducks. Thanks to the efforts of these activists, wild ducks continue to visit our pond.

Volunteer activities

'Kamoike-kansatsukan tomonokai' is a volunteer group consisting of people who believe that Katano-Kamoike is one of the most important places not only for the people of this area, but for the entire nation of Japan. Their mission is to tell the general public of Katano-Kamoike's importance. Group members have also been involved in various activities, such as pond conservation, creating displays for the centre, and supporting special events. Anyone who want to help conserve the pond is welcome to join this group.



You can learn many things, such as nature, history and the wise use of Katano-Kamoike by observing wild birds, reading the informational signs displayed around the centre.

Event news

We hold various events with Kamoike-kansatsukan tomonokai. Please join us.



There are many other events held at the centre. For more information on events, see the bulletin board or visit our website. <http://www.kagashi-ss.co.jp/kamoike/>