

Owani Hot Springs, Aomori Prefecture
Hoshino Resorts KAI Tsugaru Re-opens April 1st, 2019
Tsugaru Seasonal Water garden and Brand New KAI Signature Rooms

Hoshino Resorts KAI Tsugaru located in the Owani hot springs of the Tsugaru region in Aomori Prefecture, will undergo renovations of the public areas and guest rooms, reopening on April 1st, 2019. The new KAI Tsugaru features the theme of “Tsugaru Seasonal Water Garden”. All guest rooms will be converted to KAI Signature Rooms. Reservations accepted from December 1st, 2018.

Birth of “Tsugaru Seasonal Water Garden”



Background

At KAI Tsugaru’s famous pond, Tsugaru koginzashi lanterns are decorated and lighted in summer to create a surreal nightscape. Tsugaru koginzashi needlework is a traditional quilting pattern in Tsugaru. At KAI Tsugaru, the new “Tsugaru Seasonal Water Garden” and the corridors provide guests a closer relationship with the local culture and artwork of Tsugaru of each season.

Four Main Features

1 Touch Local Traditional Artwork

In addition to the Tsugaru kogin lanterns, guests can touch other artworks like Tsugaru vidro, glassware made from exquisite colored glass with a four seasons theme.

2 Experience Local Traditional Tsugaru culture

The Tsugaru Shamisen Show is put on every night as part of KAI Tsugaru activities and other special performances are also held at the water gardens. Enjoy Tsugaru shamisen music while viewing the beautiful seasonal landscape of Tsugaru.

3 Feel the Four Seasons of Tsugaru

Weeping cherry blossom trees, autumn leaves, and cedar tree decorate the water garden with different arrangements according to the season. In spring, Tsugaru Kanayama Pottery lights with cherry blossom design are presented. While in winter, snow-themed kamakuras are placed outside.

4 Tea Relaxation in the Day, Bar Relaxation in the Night

In the daytime, guests can relax while enjoying seasonal teas and juices such as cherry blossom and apple teas in the Yuagari Lounge. The lounge converts into a bar at night, where guests are able to enjoy alcohol featuring locally-brewed sake served in Tsugaru vidro glassware.

■ Reservations accepted from December 1st, 2018 ■ Reopening on April 1st, 2019

New KAI Signature Rooms



Since 2013, KAI Tsugaru has been collaborating with Iemasa Yamahata, a kogin designer born in Aomori prefecture, on the Tsugaru Kogin Project. As part of the project, the KAI Signature Room featuring shoji (paper screens) and other rooms featuring a modern style of koginzashi needlework patterns were launched in March 2015. After the renewal, all 41 rooms will transform into KAI Signature Rooms. The renovation will furnish each guest room with raised mattresses and sofa for guests to relax in modern comfort. On the other hand, shoji screens and Koginzashi designed walls are covered with

symmetrical designs, creating a relaxing and refined space.

* KAI Signature Rooms feature traditional local handicrafts that showcase the history, famous products, and essence of the region.

Tsugaru Koginzashi Needlework

A traditional handicraft displaying a motif of horizontally and vertically symmetrical rhomboids. It is said that Tsugaru koginzashi needlework is filled with detailed quilting of multiple layers of linen cloth in order to strengthen the clothes against the harsh coldness in Aomori prefecture.



Kogin Designer: Iemasa Yamahata

Kogin designer Iemasa Yamahata was born in Aomori prefecture. He was exposed to kogin needlework in Hirosaki city as a high school student. He then started a website kogin.net that espouses the charm of koginzashi needlework and started writing actively. His techniques and patterns are on display at the guest room interiors at the KAI Tsugaru. Original designs using kogin patterns based on traditional patterns are



digitized and utilizing novel materials and unexpected colors are displayed. These designs bring out the uniqueness of Tsugaru koginzashi needlework and leave a poignant impression.

Sakakura Associates architects and engineers

The current renovations will be supervised by the architecture design firm established by Junzo Sakagura, the Japanese modernist architect who apprenticed under the great Le Corbusier. A more refined space that continues to utilize current design elements is planned.

Major works: Tokyo Midtown, Gallery Saka, the apartment-style villa Oiwake Club

Hoshino Resorts KAI Tsugaru

- Address: 36-1 Aza Kamibotanmori, Owani, Owani-machi, Minamitsugaru-gun, Aomori
- TEL: +81-(0)50-3786-1144 (Reservation Center)
- Official Website: <https://www.hoshinoresorts.com/en/resortsandhotels/kai/tsugaru.html>
- from 21,000 yen / person for 1 night's stay inclusive of 2 meals
- No. of Rooms: 40 (34 Japanese-style Rooms / 6 Western-style Rooms / 1 Japanese-style Suite with Private Garden)
- Check-in at 15:00, Check-out at 12:00