

1. Important information
2. Reasons of limited access
3. The schedule of Light-up event 2023
4. How to participate in the Light-up event 2023
5. Weather and dressing guide for Light-up event 2023
6. Winter gears of vehicles
7. Information of neighboring region
8. To the day trip visitors who come by public bus
9. Hakusan Taxi in Shirakawa-go
10. Illegal Acts Prohibited in Shirakawa-go
11. Enquiry Form

## 1. Important Information

Thank you for visiting the Shirakawa-go Tourist Association website.

The number of tourists will be limited during the light-up event.

Starting from 2020, the regulations of the light-up event has been changed. Please read this page with patience.

### **\* General sight-seeing without joining the light-up event**

**【For all the guests who come by car for a day trip visit, not for the light-up event】**

\*It takes about 3 hours (more or less) to visit the village.

\*Shuttle bus to the viewpoint is available from 10:00 am to 14:40 pm.

On the light-up event days, the parking lot will open for day trip vehicles only from 8:00 am to 13:00 pm.

The parking lot: Seseragi Park Parking/Midashima Parking

On the light-up event days, we won't accept any day trip visit vehicle after 13:00 pm. If you don't have reservation for the light-up event, please leave the village before 15:00 pm. If you plan to go to the viewpoint as well, then please noticed the viewpoint will close at 15:00PM. According to the previous years, it might cost 30 minutes to 1 hour to enter to the parking lot. We suggest the day trip visitor who come to the village on the light-up event day to arrive before 12:00 pm.

**【To all the travel agencies who would like to make bus parking reservations during the light-up event days】**

Seseragi Parking is available until 17:00 pm for the day trip tour bus.

☆For the Light-up tour bus, reservations are required. Please contact the tour bus company

directly to make the reservation.

**【To all the day trip visitor who come to Shirakawa-go by public bus】**

Public bus will operate as usual on the event days.

However, the last public bus departs from Shirakawa-go village at 17:30 pm.

For more details and for making reservation, please contact the bus company directly. We cannot assist you to book the bus ticket.

### **\* Drones**

The village is a residential area. The use of drones is strictly forbidden. Offenders will be penalized.

## **2. Reasons of Limited Access**

- To ease the congestion during the events
- To avoid the danger such as: tourists falling down the observation deck because of the crowd and to prevent any conflicts.

According to previous years, serious traffic congestions occurred during the light-up event. Moreover, some guests could not even enter the village after the light-up event due to lack of parking spaces.

There were also problems when distributing the admission tickets.

For example, our guest waited too long before getting an admission ticket.

Some tourists could not get a ticket even though they waited in line for a long period of time.

These situations happened during the previous years.

To avoid all the unpleasant, we decide to limit the access during the light-up event, and the visitor can't join the event without reservation.

Thank you for your understanding.

## **3. The schedule of Light-up event 2023**

The 2023 light-up events will be held six times.

Times	Event Dates	Hours
1st	January 15 (Sun)	5:30pm – 7:30pm
2nd	January 22 (Sun)	
3rd	January 29 (Sun)	

Times	Event Dates	Hours
4th	February 5 (Sun)	
5th	February 12 (Sun)	
6th	February 19 (Sun)	

#### **4. How to participate in the Light-up event 2023 & the observatory ticket**

The reservation system will be used starting from 2023. All the activities need to be booked in advance as mentioned above. Non-reserved guests will be restricted to access to the village. Please refer to the form below about how to register the following 5 activities.

For tourists who wish to stay overnight or use the parking lot.

##### **① Guest who would like to stay overnight in the village (observatory ticket included)**

- The guest who made the accommodation reservation on our HP by the lottery system .
- The guest who made the reservation directly to the accommodation by themselves

##### **② Day trip self-driving guest who made the parking lot reservation on our HP. (observatory ticket not included)**

※Parking reservation is based on the first-come-first-served.

##### **③ To the guest who come with a light-up group tour held by the travel agency (observatory ticket included only in certain plans)**

There are many light-up group tours held by travel agent. For more details or reserve the tour, please contact the travel agent directly. We cannot assist you for the light-up tour buses.

##### **④To the guest who wish to come light-up event exclusive bus (observatory ticket not included)**

There is no public bus after 17:30 pm, but only the light-up event exclusive bus will operate. All information will be announced by the bus company. For more details and to making reservation, please check their website or contact by phone directly. ※We cannot assist you for exclusive light-up event bus.

##### **⑤To the guest who come to Shirakawa-go by taxi**

The same rules apply as if you are driving your own vehicle, you require a parking permit.

There is no taxi station in the village.

To acquire a parking lot permit, please apply for the parking reservation.

Parking fee is the same as general vehicles.

We cannot assist you for a taxi or rental car reservation.

#### **4. Weather and dressing guide for Light-up event 2023**

The light up event start at night, the average temperature is -10° C to 0° C, and the road is frozen. We strongly suggest to all guests wearing waterproof winter cloth, non-slippery boots and bring a flashlight.

#### **6. Winter gears of vehicles**

If you chose to come to Shirakawa-go by car, please equip your car with snow tires. (4WD car is highly recommended.) The road is always covered with ice during the winter season, please drive carefully.

#### **7. Information of neighboring region**

To the guest who to come to Shirakawa-go by taxi or car, the nearest areas are as follow:

- From Takayama (Gifu Prefecture) About 1 hour
- From Kanazawa City (Ishikawa Prefecture) About 1 hour and 10 minutes
- From Toyama City (Toyama Prefecture) About 1 hour and 20 minutes

Due to severe weather, the commuting time might be longer than indicated.

#### **Access Information from Nearby Cities to Shirakawa-go**

<https://shirakawa-go.gr.jp/access/>

#### **8. To the day trip visitors who come by public bus**

On the light-up event days, the public bus will still operate as usual.

※ No public bus will operate after 17:30 pm during the light-up event. Please check your bus schedule and reservation carefully. For more details or booking, please contact the bus company directly. We cannot assist you for any bus reservation.

#### **9. Hakusan Taxi in Shirakawa-go**

Hakusan Taxi does not operate during the light-up event days.

There are shuttle buses departing from the bus terminal to Hirase Onsen on the light-up event days. Reservation is required, we can assist you for the shuttle reservation.

#### **10. Illegal Acts Prohibited in Shirakawa-go**

Parking, getting on and off, etc. outside the designated parking lot is prohibited. Please understand and cooperate. (The following are the penalties)

- For offending vehicles, a fine of 50,000 yen per vehicle
- For related companies, they will be permanently banned from participating in the Shirakawa-go Lighting Event

- Publicize the name of the violator and the company name on the association's website

## 11. Enquiry Form

### 【How to participate】

Q: How can I participate in the Shirakawa-go Winter Lighting Event?

A: Those who do not book in advance will not be able to participate.

Be sure to make reservations according to the method instructed on the Shirakawa-go Tourism Association website.

Q: Can I stay overnight in the village?

A: It is possible. But it is needed to make the reservation of the accommodation in the village in advance.

Q: Can I go by taxi?

A: It is the same as the general vehicle. The parking lot can only be used by presenting the parking lot reservation confirmation. There is no dedicated taxi stand in the village.

First of all, please follow the reservation application procedure as a normal vehicle. (first come first served)

After you confirm the parking lot reservation, please make a reservation with the taxi company.

Parking fees are the same as for general vehicles.

※No refunds for cancellations, after the parking space has been reserved.

Q: In addition to the parking lot, are there any places where I can get on and off?

Answer: No.

For illegal vehicles, we will increase the police force and strictly control them.

### 【Observatory】

Q: How do I get a ticket to the observatory on the light-up event day?

Answer: (1) Customers who booked accommodation on the light-up event day through the Shirakawa-go Tourism Association website (2) Customers who booked the exclusive tour of the light-up event by highway bus (such as Nohi bus... ..).

Q: Who is eligible for the Observation Deck bus dedicated to the lighting event? How to get to the observatory that day?

A: You can only walk to the observatory to watch the lighting. However, we will prepare a dedicated bus to and from the observatory for people with disabilities or who have walking difficulties (reservation is required and the reason is reported to the association in advance).

Please present your ticket to the staff at the reception.

**【other】**

Q: Can I go sightseeing during the day when the lights are on? Need to reserve a parking space?

A: No reservation is required for daytime sightseeing. However, please note that if you visit Shirakawa-go on the day of the light-up, due to the preparation for the light-up event at night, we will ask the tourists (guests who do not have the reservation for the light-up event) to leave Shirakawa-go in advance.