

The digital signage at Square Zero, Tokyo Station
Photo: Courtesy of JR East



Shimonada Station in Futami-cho, Iyo City, Ehime Prefecture
Photo: Courtesy of Iyo City Tourism Association



Japan's Cool Train Stations



A fox walks alongside the drift ice near Kitahama Station, Hokkaido
Photo: Courtesy of Muramatsu Taku



Nitama, the current stationmaster of Kishi Station, Wakayama Prefecture
Photo: Courtesy of Wakayama Electric Railway Co., Ltd.

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ince the opening of Japan's first railway 150 years ago (1872), train stations have played a major role in the nation's modernization, especially in urban development. Today, many stations in Japan function not only as transportation hubs but also as shopping and cultural centers, while some serve as destinations in themselves owing to the sights and facilities that can be enjoyed there. In this month's issue, we introduce some of Japan's fun-to-visit train stations.

