

Kanazawa, Japan: Best Places to Visit



Kanazawa, located on the western coast of Japan, is a city known for its rich history, traditional culture, and beautiful natural landscapes. The city is famous for its well-preserved Edo-era districts, including the charming geisha district of Higashi Chaya, and the historic samurai district of Nagamachi. Visitors can explore the beautifully landscaped Kenrokuen Garden, one of Japan's most celebrated gardens, and the impressive Kanazawa Castle, which offers a glimpse into the city's feudal past.

Kanazawa is also renowned for its traditional crafts, including gold leaf production and intricate lacquerware, which can be

experienced at the city's many artisan workshops and galleries. The city's food scene is equally impressive, with a wide variety of fresh seafood, local sake, and regional delicacies to savor.

In addition to its cultural attractions, Kanazawa is a gateway to the nearby Noto Peninsula, a rugged and scenic coastal region known for its picturesque fishing villages, sandy beaches, and dramatic cliffs. With its blend of history, culture, and natural beauty, Kanazawa offers international tourists a unique and authentic Japanese experience that should not be missed.

What is the best time to visit Kanazawa, Japan?

The best time to visit Kanazawa is during the spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) when the weather is mild and the cherry blossoms or fall foliage are in full bloom.

Is Kanazawa, Japan a safe city for tourists?

Yes, Kanazawa is generally a safe city for tourists. It has a low crime rate and is known for its friendly and helpful locals.

How do I get around Kanazawa, Japan?

Kanazawa has an efficient public transportation system including buses and a modern streetcar. Taxis are also readily available for getting around the city.

Are credit cards widely accepted in Kanazawa, Japan?

Credit cards are widely accepted in Kanazawa, especially in hotels, department stores, and larger restaurants. However, it's always a good idea to carry some cash for smaller establishments.

What is the tipping etiquette in Kanazawa, Japan?

Tipping is not customary in Japan, including Kanazawa. Exceptional service is already included in the price, so tipping is not expected.

What is the nightlife like in Kanazawa, Japan?

Kanazawa has a vibrant nightlife with a mix of traditional izakayas, modern bars, and live music venues. The Higashi Chaya District is particularly known for its atmospheric nightlife.

What is the local cuisine in Kanazawa, Japan?

Kanazawa is known for its fresh seafood, particularly sushi and sashimi. It also has a rich tradition of kaiseki (multi-course) dining and local specialties such as gold leaf ice cream and wagashi (traditional Japanese sweets).

What are the traditional festivals and celebrations in Kanazawa, Japan?

Kanazawa hosts several traditional festivals throughout the year, including the Hyakumangoku Matsuri in June, the Asanogawa Fireworks Festival in August, and the Kanazawa Castle Park Cherry Blossom Festival in April.

Trip Summary

Day 1

- ① Kanazawa Castle Park [Google Maps](#)
- ② Kanazawa Castle Ruins [Google Maps](#)
- ③ Ishikawa-mon Gate [Google Maps](#)
- ④ Gyokuseninmaru Park [Google Maps](#)
- ⑤ Oyama Shrine [Google Maps](#)
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- ⑭ Nishi Chaya District [Google Maps](#)
- ⑮ Nomura Clan Samurai Home [Google Maps](#)

① Kanazawa Castle Park

1-1 Marunouchi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-0937, Japan

Kanazawa Castle Park is a historic site in Kanazawa, Japan, famous for its well-preserved Edo-period architecture and beautiful gardens. Visitors can explore the castle grounds, including the iconic Ishikawa-mon Gate and watchtowers, and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. It's a must-visit for history and architecture enthusiasts.



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② Kanazawa Castle Ruins

1-1 Marunouchi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-0937, Japan

Kanazawa Castle Ruins in Kanazawa, Japan, are famous for their historical significance and beautiful gardens. The ruins offer a glimpse into Japan's feudal past and are a must-visit for history

enthusiasts. The site also provides stunning views of the surrounding city and is a great spot for photography.



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③ Ishikawa-mon Gate

1-1 Marunouchi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-0936, Japan

Ishikawa-mon Gate is a historic landmark in Kanazawa, Japan, known for its impressive architecture and significance as the entrance to Kanazawa Castle. Visitors can admire the traditional design and learn about the city's feudal past. It's a must-see for anyone interested in Japanese history and culture.



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④ **Gyokuseninmaru Park**

3 Marunouchi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-0937, Japan

Gyokuseninmaru Park in Kanazawa, Japan is a beautiful traditional Japanese garden famous for its serene atmosphere, stunning cherry blossoms, and historic tea houses. Visitors can enjoy a peaceful stroll through the meticulously landscaped grounds and experience the tranquility of traditional Japanese garden design.

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⑤ **Oyama Shrine**

11-1 Oyamamachi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-0918, Japan

Oyama Shrine in Kanazawa, Japan is famous for its stunning architecture and beautiful gardens. It is dedicated to Maeda

Toshiie, the founder of the Kaga domain. Visitors can explore the historic buildings, enjoy the peaceful atmosphere, and learn about the shrine's significance in Japanese history and culture.



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⑥ Kenroku-en Garden

1 Kenrokumachi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-0936, Japan

Kenroku-en in Kanazawa, Japan is one of the three most beautiful gardens in the country. Known for its stunning landscapes, serene ponds, and historic tea houses, it's a must-visit for nature lovers and those seeking a peaceful escape from the city. Don't miss the iconic Kotoji-toro lantern and the seasonal beauty of the garden.



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⑦ **21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa**

1-chōme-2-1 Hirosaka, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-8509, Japan

The 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa, Japan is a renowned cultural institution known for its innovative and thought-provoking exhibitions. The museum's unique circular design and diverse collection of contemporary art make it a must-visit for international tourists seeking a glimpse into Japan's thriving art scene.

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⑧ **Higashi Chaya District**

1 Chome-13 Higashiyama, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-0831, Japan

Higashi Chaya District in Kanazawa, Japan is a well-preserved geisha district known for its traditional wooden tea houses and

cobblestone streets. Visitors can experience the elegance of geisha culture, enjoy traditional tea ceremonies, and explore the historic architecture of this charming area.



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9 Omicho Fish Market

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Kanazawa Fish Market is a bustling and vibrant market in Kanazawa, Japan, known for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere. Visitors can experience the local fishing culture, sample a variety of seafood dishes, and witness the skillful art of fishmongering. It's a must-visit for food enthusiasts and cultural explorers.



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⑩ Kanazawa Forus Shopping Mall

3-1 Horikawashinmachi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-0849, Japan

Kanazawa Forus is a popular shopping and dining complex in Kanazawa, Japan. Known for its modern architecture and wide range of shops and restaurants, it offers a unique blend of traditional and contemporary Japanese culture. Visitors can enjoy shopping for local crafts and sampling delicious regional cuisine.



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⑪ Kazuemachi Chaya District

2-5 Kazuemachi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-0908, Japan

Kazuemachi Chaya District in Kanazawa, Japan is a historic area known for its traditional tea houses and geisha performances. Visitors can experience the charm of old Japan while strolling through the narrow streets and enjoying the authentic atmosphere. It's a must-visit for those interested in Japanese culture and history.



12 Myouryuji Temple

1-chōme-2-2-12 Nomachi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 921-8031, Japan

Myoryuji Temple, also known as the "Ninja Temple," is a unique and mysterious temple in Kanazawa, Japan. It is famous for its hidden traps, secret passageways, and defensive features, which were designed to protect the temple from intruders. Visitors should explore this fascinating temple to learn about its ninja-inspired architecture and history.



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13 Naga-machi District

Nagamachi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-0865, Japan

Naga-machi District in Kanazawa, Japan is famous for its well-preserved samurai and geisha districts. Visitors can explore traditional tea houses, merchant houses, and samurai residences, offering a glimpse into the city's rich history and culture. It's a must-visit for those interested in experiencing the traditional charm of Japan.

⑭ Nishi Chaya District

2-chōme-25-18 Nomachi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 921-8031, Japan

Nishi Chaya District in Kanazawa, Japan is a well-preserved historic area known for its traditional tea houses and geisha performances. Visitors can experience the charm of old Japan with its wooden buildings, narrow streets, and serene atmosphere. It's a must-visit for those interested in Japanese culture and history.



15 **Nomura Clan Samurai Home**

1-chōme-3-32 Nagamachi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-0865, Japan

Nomura-ke Samurai Residence in Kanazawa, Japan, is a well-preserved samurai house that offers a glimpse into the lifestyle of a samurai family. The residence is famous for its traditional architecture, beautiful gardens, and historical artifacts. Visitors can explore the elegant rooms and learn about the samurai culture.

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