



# The Hidden Nightlife of Kanazawa

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## LOCAL'S FAVORITE DRINKING QUARTER

Kanazawa's elegant and sophisticated cultures fascinate travelers around the world. Foodies enjoy premium culinary delights it offers - multi-course Kaiseki dinner at a century-old Ryotei (Japanese traditional fine dining) and best sushi carefully prepared by a legendary master chef. Well, this is just the stage face of the city - Just like other cities in Japan - Golden Gai in Tokyo and Hozenji Yokocho in Osaka - Kanazawa has its own back-alley drinking quarters which have been favored by the locals for decades. In the back of Katamachi, the commercial center of the city, there are a couple of streets lined with izakaya pubs and bars with 'Showa' (the period between 1926 and 1989, referred to 'Golden Age' when Japan experienced the dramatic economic growth) nostalgia still alive. Shintenchi, literally meaning 'New World', started to flourish some seventy years ago with 65 small businesses - small restaurants,

sushi bars and coffee shops. Still today, local office workers and students are flocking to this district to party at karaoke bars and shop at a record shop and a vintage clothing store. In the end of the Shintenchi street, you will come across an even more retro lane just like a movie set. In Chuo-Mishokugai, literally meaning 'central gourmet street', merely two-meter-tall hall-in-the-wall establishments, which once used to be mobile stalls, are standing side by side. All the taverns and bars in these areas are rustic and reasonably priced, yet serve the best quality local dishes of the season. More than anything, most of them have less than 10 counter seats, which enables you to enjoy casual chats with regular customers. Do not be afraid and take an adventure even if you do not know a lot of Japanese. Warm and friendly drinkers will welcome you and help make the best memory in Japan!