

2017  
No.35  
Spring

# Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter

## Golden Tea Room

You can view a tea room which was decorated with over 40,000 sheets of the highest-quality gold leaf.



### Hakuza Main Store

Ten min. walking from Higashi Chayagai  
Open 9:00~18:00 every day  
<http://hakuza.co.jp/english/index.html>

## Golden Samurai Helmet and Armor

Here in the Golden Room, decorated by thousands of sheets of gold leaf, you can view a restoration of the gold-leafed helmet and armor of Maeda Toshiie, the first feudal Lord of Kaga Domain.



### Hakuichi Workshop and Store

Close to West Kanazawa Interchange;  
20 min. by car from Kanazawa city center)  
Open 9:00~18:00 every day  
<http://www.hakuichi.co.jp/en/>

## Golden Washroom

Enjoy the gorgeous feel of these washrooms, decorated with pure gold (women's washroom) and platinum (men's washroom) leaf.



### Gold Leaf Workshop Sakuda

Higashi Chayagai  
Open 9:00~18:00 every day  
<http://goldleaf-sakuda.jp/en/>

## Golden Storehouse

This storehouse, the outer wall of which is decorated with a blend of pure gold and platinum leaf, is a must-see.



### Hakuza Hikari-kura

Higashi Chayagai  
Open 9:30~18:00 (17:30 in winter) every day

See Gold Leaf

TOPICS

# Spots where you can see, feel, and experience gold leaf

Gold leaf, the traditional craft Ishikawa Prefecture is best known for. The gold-leafing craft developed in Ishikawa due to the efforts of the Kaga lords to promote traditional crafts in the Edo period, resulting in the fostering of highly-skilled craftsmen, as well as the prime natural conditions such as climate and water quality. Ishikawa currently produces 99% of all gold leaf nationwide, and gold leaf from Ishikawa is used in everything from household Buddhist altars and ritual implements, to lacquerware, and even to such famous buildings such as Kinkaku-ji and Nikko Toshogu.

Feel Gold Leaf

Make your own original piece of gold-leafed art using a design of your own choosing.

■ Gold Leaf Workshop Sakuda  
Higashi Chayagai  
Open 9:00~18:00 every day  
Fee: From ¥600~  
Maximum number of participants: 50  
Time: ~60 minutes

Reservation required

■ Kanazawa Katani  
5 minutes walking distance from Omicho Market  
Open 9:00~17:00 (Closed 12/30 to 1/3)  
Fee: From ¥900~  
Maximum number of participants: 40  
Time: ~60 minutes

Reservation required

■ Imai Gold-leafing Hirosaka Store  
Near the Kanazawa 21st Century Art Museum  
Open 10~18:00 Closed Mondays  
Fee: From ¥600~  
Maximum number of participants: 5  
Time: ~5 minutes

Reservation not required



At Hakuichi, a gold leaf shop in Higashi Chayagai, you can enjoy the luxurious taste of soft-serve ice cream decorated with a sheet of edible gold leaf.

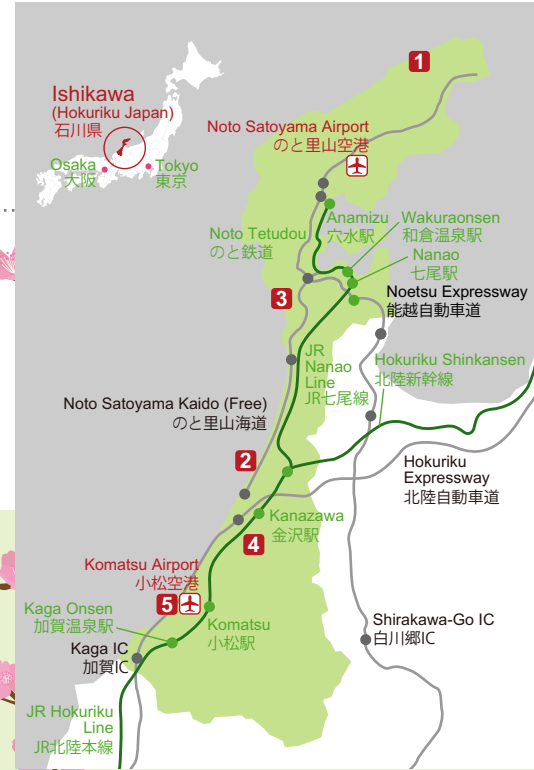


Taste Gold Leaf

Gold leaf is made by smelting gold ore and then flattening the resulting gold to 1/10,000th of its original thickness. At Kanazawa's gold leaf shops, you can see skilled gold leaf craftsmen at work, using delicate techniques to flatten out and cut the gold into shape.



Learn About Gold Leaf





## “Oku-Noto International Art Festival” to be held this autumn

From September 3rd to October 22nd, the first ever Oku-Noto International Art Fair will be held in Suzu-shi, Oku-Noto. Over 50 pieces by cutting-edge artists from Japan and overseas will be on display along the cape, and in abandoned train stations, public facilities, and unoccupied houses around the city.

### Art Viewing Passport

Your passport to view the art featured in the Art Festival. By showing your passport, you can receive various benefits such as discounts at restaurants, lodging facilities, and events. Advance tickets will go on sale in late May, 2017. Available for purchase at various ticket vendors.

Price list: Day-of/Advance Ticket  
Standard: ¥2,500/¥2,000  
High School Students: ¥1000/¥800  
Elementary/Middle School Students: ¥500/¥300

Check out the event's homepage online for details on featured artists as they are announced.

Homepage: <http://oku-noto.jp/en/>



### NEW OPEN

## Largest Aeon Mall in Hokuriku Open for Business

The new Aeon Mall Shin-Komatsu, the largest Aeon mall in the Hokuriku region, is now open. With over 160 specialty shops including fashion shops, a restaurant area where you can enjoy gourmet Hokuriku cuisine, and a monument decorated with platters designed by local Kutani ceramic artists, it's a perfect spot for tourists. Accessible by car from Komatsu airport (~15 min).

Homepage:  
<http://shinkomatsu-aeonmall.com/>  
(Japanese webpage with automatic translation available)



### NEW OPEN

## Samurai Museum Opens

A new samurai museum where visitors can experience Kanazawa's traditional arts has opened near Kenrokuen garden. Inside, visitors can try on samurai armor and clothes from the Edo period, and also practice traditional crafts.



### NEW OPEN

## Now Accepting Entries for the 2017 Kanazawa Marathon

The Kanazawa Marathon, where participants from across the country and overseas gather to run through the charming streets of Kanazawa, will be held again this year. Registration for participants from overseas started on March 1st.

### Kanazawa Marathon 2017

- Date and Time of Event: October 19th (Sun) 2017  
Starts at 8:50/Ends at 3:30
- Route: Starts at Hirosaka Road in Kanazawa (in front of Shiinoki Reception Hall) and finishes at the Ishikawa Athletics Stadium.
- Eligibility: Must have been born before April 1st, 1999
- Participation Fee: ¥10,000

Marathon Homepage:  
<http://kanazawa-marathon.jp/outline/english.html>



# A Journey through Samurai History

Thanks to the efforts by the Kaga Domain to support cultural pursuits from the 17th to 19th centuries, and the fact that Ishikawa has been largely untouched by war and natural disasters, the culture of the old samurai districts still remains in Ishikawa's towns. Visit historical spots connected to Kaga Domain's feudal lords, the Maeda clan, and their feudal retainers, and immerse yourself in the history of the age of the samurai.



Start at

## Kanazawa Castle

The rulers of Kaga, the feudal domain that in modern times is called Ishikawa, were the Maeda Clan, a powerful family in the Shogunate whose influence was second only to the Tokugawa Shogunate itself. They commanded over 20,000 samurai who resided in the castle town below. The castle itself was located in the center of town, and was also the center of government and culture. For over 280 years since its construction at the behest of the founding Lord of the Kaga Clan, Toshiie Maeda, Kanazawa castle was used as the ancestral home of generations of the Maeda Clan. The symbol of Kanazawa Castle, the Ishikawa-mon gate, burned down 30 years before 1788, when it was restored, and it has remained watching over the castle town ever since as a physical reminder of the legacy of the Maeda clan's rule. As a castle gate it is of course designed to be functional and defend against enemy attacks, but it also has aesthetic value as a beautiful architectural installment, and projects an air of authority. Proceeding from Ishikawa-mon to Minomaru courtyard, one could hardly imagine that the courtyard before them, faithfully restored to its Edo-period form, was once the location of military barracks during the Meiji period, and was later converted into the campus for Kanazawa University after World War II.

Must-See Spot

### Gyokusen-inmaru Garden

3/1~10/15: Open from 7:00~8:00  
10/16~2/28: Open from 8:00~17:00

**Open year-round** **No entry fee**

Kenrokuen Garden, located directly across from Kanazawa Castle, is well-known as one of the Three Famous Gardens in Japan, but there is actually another famous garden in Kanazawa. Located adjacent to the outer citadel court of Kanazawa Castle, Gyokusen-inmaru Garden was the private inner garden of the feudal lord's family. It was designed by the 3rd generation lord with attention to differences in height and incorporating the surrounding stone walls, resulting in a unique garden. Later, the 5th and 13th generation lords put great effort into developing the garden, but at the end beginning of the Meiji era works were discontinued. It was only until 2015 when it was restored to its pre-Meiji form for the first time in over 140 years.



Travel back to the age of the samurai!

## Visit the historical Naga-machi samurai residential district

Located near Kanazawa city center, the Naga-machi samurai residential district was once home to mid-to-low-tier samurai, and features traditional mud walls, canals, and flagstone pavement, giving the area a nostalgic charm.

Must-See Spot

### Nomura House

April~September: Open 8:30~17:30  
October~March: Open 8:30~16:30

**Closed December 26th, 27th**

**Entry Fee: Adults ¥550, High-school Students ¥400, Elementary School Students ¥250**

The house of the Nomura family, which served Kaga domain's feudal lords for generations, is open for public viewing. The building has immense historical value, and also boasts a garden featuring myrtle trees over 400 years old, flowing water, and exquisite stone work all arranged in an elegant display. It is also highly regarded overseas, having been previously chosen as third place in an American gardening publication's ranking of Japanese gardens.



Must-See Spot

### Ashigaru Museum

9:30~17:00 **Open year-round** **no entry fee**

A museum housed in a preserved low-tier samurai residence. In other feudal domains, low-tier samurai lived in tenement houses, but Toshiie Maeda, who was known as a very conscientious person, granted them stand-alone houses here in Ashigaru. If viewed along with the Nomura House, one can get a feel for the different standard of living between the various ranks of samurai.

