



Ishikawa Tourism Newsletter

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Feature

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE ANCIENT AND MODERN ART OF JAPAN

In this issue, we hope to provide the inspiration for your next travel itinerary through the theme of art.

ISHIKAWA, JAPAN



4 Days, 3 Nights

Ancient & Modern Art

The Ohi Museum and Gallery



Kanazawa Station



Kanazawa Castle



Kenrokuen



The Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Art



Kaiseki-style cuisine

DAY 1

AFTERNOON

When you arrive, you are immediately greeted by art. **Kanazawa Station**, the gateway to Ishikawa Prefecture, was selected as one of the '14 Most Beautiful Stations in the World' by the American travel magazine 'Travel + Leisure'. Begin your artistic journey here, where the traditional beauty of Japan waits around every corner. First, head to **Kanazawa Castle**, which was once the center of the town. Formerly the residence of the Maeda family of the Kaga clan, the castle is now open to the public. There are many things to see in its spacious grounds, including magnificent buildings and gardens. Next to Kanazawa Castle is **Kenrokuen**, one of Japan's most beautiful traditional gardens. Imbued with majestic scenery made by sophisticated gardening techniques, you can enjoy a stroll through carefully tended pine trees and cherry blossoms, along with autumn leaves and other seasonal scenery. Around Kenrokuen, there are many spots where you can experience art, such as the **National Craft Center**, the **Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Art**, and the **Prefectural Museum of Traditional Arts and Crafts**, all within walking distance. Why not explore them all and see which you like most?

EVENING

Dine at a traditional ryotei restaurant where you can feel the aesthetic sense of Kanazawa. The true pleasure of multi-course, **kaiseki-style cuisine** is that you can enjoy it with your eyes as well as your taste buds. Experience hospitality not only in the dishes and their arrangement, but also in the surrounding architecture and garden. (Stay overnight in Kanazawa)

DAY 2

MORNING

First visit the **21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa**. The glass-walled building is characterized by its concept of no main entrance, creating a space for visitors to casually enjoy modern art by Japanese and foreign artists. Afterwards head to the **D.T. Suzuki Museum** to learn about the thoughts and achievements of a prominent philosopher responsible for spreading Zen Buddhism throughout the world. The museum was designed by Yoshio Taniguchi, who also worked on the architecture of MoMA (Museum of Modern Art, New York City). The building is a perfect blend of Suzuki's ideas and Taniguchi's design, allowing visitors to experience the concepts of Zen while providing a space of contemplation.

AFTERNOON

Noh is a Japanese performing art with a history of over 600 years. The masks and costumes used on stage are also highly valued as works of art, and the **Kanazawa Noh Museum** plays a major role in passing them on to the next generation. Next, visit the **Ohi Museum and Gallery**. Here you can experience the beauty of the tea ceremony, which has been handed down through the Maeda family for over 350 years. Enjoy a relaxing cup of green tea using Ohi pottery with its beautiful amber glaze. The gallery, tea ceremony room and garden, designed by Kengo Kuma, one of Japan's world-renowned architects, are particularly noteworthy. At the **Kaga Yuzen Kimono Center**, you can observe the process of kimono dyeing, which has been handed down from generation to generation in this area. You can also try on kimonos and dye small items to create a **one-of-a-kind souvenir**. In addition to these museums, there are also galleries and stores of local artists scattered all over Kanazawa. Just strolling around the city, you can easily come into contact with art.

EVENING

At 'Geisha Evenings' in the **Higashi Chaya District**, you can experience Japanese teahouse culture with explanations in English. The refined dances and songs of the geisha are a unique way to enjoy Kanazawa. Here visitors can witness performances not usually offered to the general public. (Stay overnight in Kanazawa)



Geisha Evenings

© Geisha Evenings



The 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

DAY 3

MORNING

Drive to Suzu, the tip of the Noto Peninsula, and enjoy the rugged natural beauty of Noto from the car window.



AFTERNOON

The **Okunoto Triennale** is an international art festival held every three years in September, where local traditions and cutting-edge art resonate. Even after the Triennale, some of the works will continue to be exhibited in the area. Take a tour of the art that adorns many parts of the city and feel the way in which it coexists with the natural landscape.

EVENING

Lamp no Yado is located at the tip of the Noto Peninsula, with all rooms having an ocean view. In addition to the fantastic evening scenery, it is also an ideal place to watch the sunrise shimmering on the water. Enjoy this special opportunity to witness the blessings of the Sea of Japan. (Stay overnight in Noto)



Lamp no Yado

DAY 4

MORNING

Travel to Wajima by car. On the way, take a stroll along the steep slopes of the **Senmaida rice terraces** and enjoy the contrast between the green of the paddies with the blue of the sea. The rice terraces are a symbol of this area, which is registered as a World Agricultural Heritage site, and you can feel the efforts of the local people who continue to maintain them using traditional methods. When you arrive in Wajima, be sure to visit the **morning market**. Why not take a tour with a French chef and try your hand at selecting ingredients nurtured by the rich nature of Noto?



The morning market

AFTERNOON

Enjoy a lunch using local ingredients that you selected with the chef. Located in an old house that used to be a workshop for Wajima lacquerware, the restaurant offers delicious cuisine that is a feast for the eyes. Afterwards, visit the **Wajima Museum of Urushi Art**. Wajima lacquerware, a traditional craft of the region, is a work of art involving 124 steps by the hands of skilled artisans to achieve the ultimate standard of durability and beauty. In addition to enjoying the many works on display at the museum, you can also try your hand at lacquering. Having learned about Wajima lacquerware, the last stop is to visit a workshop where it is produced. Here you can watch the artist at work, or have a go at making something yourself. (Return to Kanazawa/Noto Satoyama Airport)



Workshop Visit



The Senmaida rice terraces



ISHIKAWA TRAVEL

Now Open!

ZOO

Ishikawa Zoo Fureai Center

On April 17, the Ishikawa Zoo in Nomi City opened an indoor facility where visitors can interact with animals. The 'Fureai Space' is home to 28 rabbits, 27 guinea pigs and 22 parakeets of four different species, and offers visitors 10-minute petting sessions. In the 'Shiiku Space', visitors can watch through the glass as the keepers take care of the animals. Through contact with the animals, visitors can feel the preciousness and warmth of life.

<http://www.ishikawazoo.jp/index.html> (Japanese only)



HOTEL

New Hotel Openings in Kanazawa City

- **Torifito Hotel & Pod Kanazawa Hyakumangokudori**
(Opened on March 20, 2021)
<https://torifito.jp/hyakumangokudori/ja#> (Japanese only)
- **Linnas Kanazawa** (Opened on April 3, 2021)
<https://www.linnashotels.com/kanazawa/>
- **Onyado Nono Kanazawa** (Opened on April 28, 2021)
<https://www.hotespa.net/dormyinn/nono/english.html>
- **Hotel Torifito** (Opened on May 21, 2021)
<https://torifito.jp/kanazawa/ja#>

MAP

Kanazawa City Tourism Digital Map Launch

The digital map is a useful tool for exploring Kanazawa City. It is available in English, Chinese (simplified and traditional) and Korean. Use it to check information on tourist spots around your current location along with access to your destination. You can now walk around town freely and have access to a map without having to carry around paper.

*No app download required

<https://platinumaps.jp/d/kanazawa-city>



FESTIVAL

Okunoto International Art Festival 2020+

September 4, 2021 (Sat) -
October 24, 2021 (Sun))

The global spread of COVID-19 has also had a major impact on the Okunoto International Art Festival. While originally scheduled for September 2020, the event had to be postponed for a year and re-launched as the 'Okunoto International Art Festival 2020+' for September 2021. With cutting-edge art that resonates with local traditions, the festival strives to work and evolve with leading artists. Be sure to also catch the 'Saihate Arts Festival' in the fall of 2021.

<https://oku-noto.jp/en/index-en.html>



ISHIKAWA TRAVEL