



Kanazawa's history begins in 1546, when a temple town formed around Kanazawa Mido, a branch temple of the Osaka Honganji temple. The ruling Ikko sect was finally overthrown in 1580 by Sakuma Morimasa, a retainer of the warlord Shibata Katsue, and a castle was built on the temple site, turning the former temple town into a castle town.

Shibata Katsue clashed with Toyotomi Hideyoshi in Omi in 1583, following Oda Nobunaga's death. Morimasa, Katsue's nephew, also joined the battle as a commander on Katsue's side, but after his defeat at the Battle of Shizugatake, he was executed at Kyoto's infamous Rokujogawara execution ground. Hideyoshi then granted his vassal Maeda Toshiie Kanazawa Castle as reward for bringing the Hokuriku region under his dominion. Toshiie moved to Kanazawa Castle in April 1583. For the 286 years from that date right up until 1869, the castle was home to the Maeda family, while Kanazawa prospered as the famous "Kaga Million-Bushels" castle town.

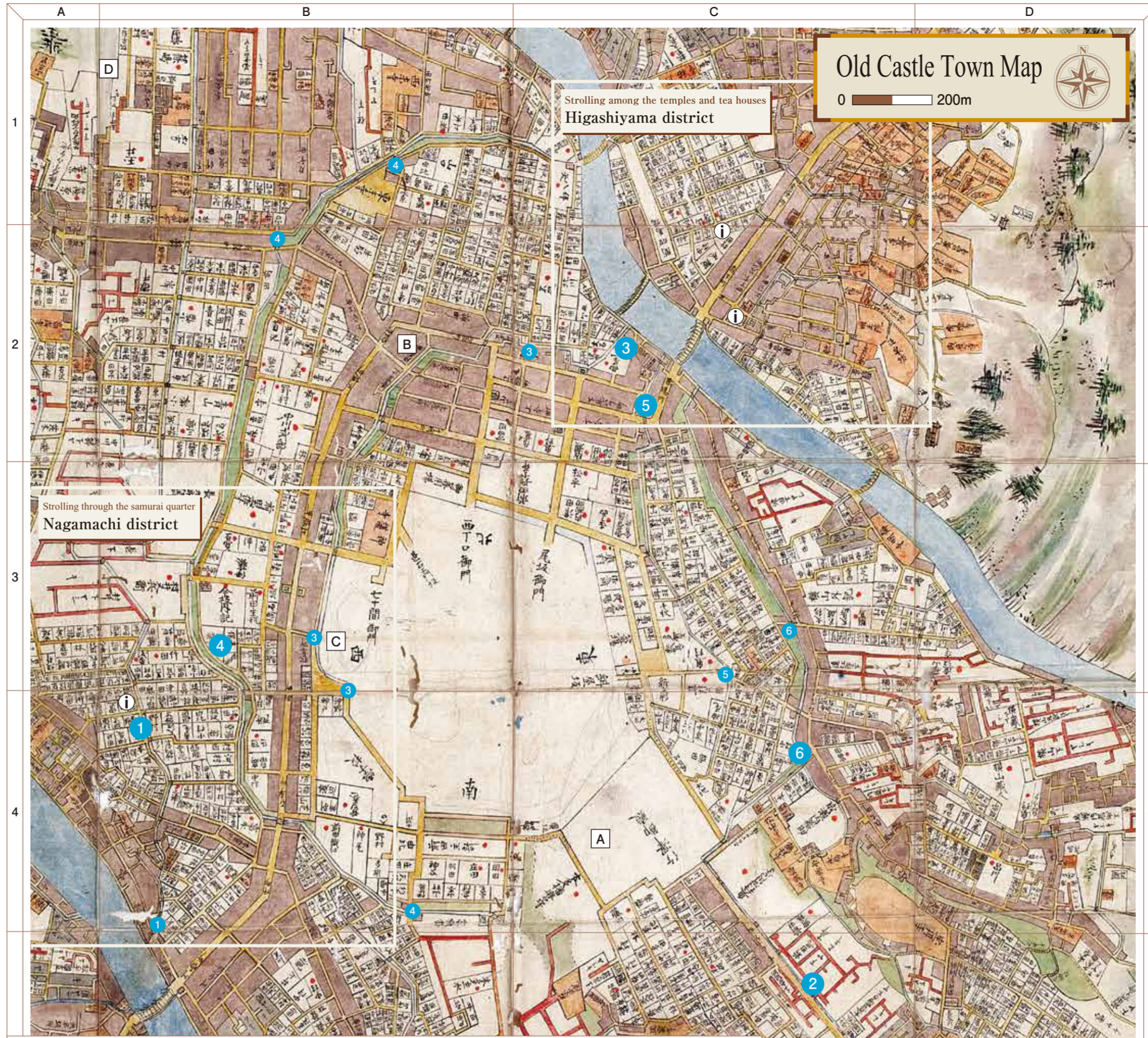
Kanazawa experienced a construction boom from the end of the 16th to the first half of the 17th century. The residences of higher-ranked retainers were moved within the inner moat once it was created in 1599, and houses which had been built before the 1611 formal allocation of land were re-measured and re-allotted under the new regulations, moving them out from the inner moat area.

Also in 1611, a pilgrimage path was constructed to Nodayama, where Maeda Toshiie was buried. The roads running along the Sai River banks were planted in chestnut and persimmon trees. At the same time, the Buddhist temples that had been scattered throughout the city were also relocated. All temples, other than Ikko sect ones, were moved south to Izumino or north to the western foot of Mt. Utatsu. These relocated temples, in addition to a group of temples already on the Kodatsuno ridge, created three major groups of temples, forming a strategically crucial boundary at the bases of the hills surrounding the castle town. This relocation of temples was carried out up to around 1660. The main purpose of this relocation effort was defense from external enemies, as was often the case in other castle towns. At the same time, the Ikko temples were brought within the castle town, and the surrounding non-Ikko temples were tasked with keeping a watch on them. This was designed to prevent any further uprisings by the Ikko sect, which had ruled the area for nearly a hundred years before their downfall in 1580.

In 1616, the main road out to the town of Miyakoshi (present-day Kanaiwa, Kanazawa City) was straightened. This was a measure to cope with the increasing numbers of samurai and townspeople, and to improve transportation for goods and resources. In 1620, improvements were done on the Asano River in a bid to encourage the transportation of timber and other goods by boat between Miyakoshi and Kanazawa.

Major fires in 1631 and 1635 provided a chance to practice more modern urban planning. Following these two fires, sweeping changes were made to the entire layout, with districts like Minami-cho and Tsutsumi-machi being relocated further west, beyond the inner moat area. The expansion of the castle town was almost complete by the latter half of the 17th century. Samurai residences occupied roughly three-quarters of Kanazawa, while townsmen housing covered the remaining quarter.

This old map shows Kanazawa circa 1857. Thanks to not being bombed during World War II nor having suffered any major natural disasters, the old town layout is still seen today. The large blank area in the middle is Kanazawa Castle. The size of the castle and Kenrokuen remain almost unchanged. The white areas with names written in Japanese show individual samurai residences. The red dots on some of these depict houses belonging to middle-ranking samurai of high enough rank to have their own vassals. The red lines are private roads in residential areas for vassals of higher-ranked samurai, those who would command in battle. The orange areas show Buddhist temples or Shinto shrines. Those connected with the Maeda family are located southeast from the castle. The dark brown areas are where the townspeople (merchants and artisans) lived. The gray/black areas are the residential areas for lower-ranked samurai, who lived collected into groups. The green areas show the trees and vegetation atop the earth embankments that ran alongside the moats and waterways, shown in blue. Today, these green zones have largely been converted into housing and shops.



Old Castle Town Map

0 200m

Strolling among the temples and tea houses
Higashiyama district

Strolling through the samurai quarter
Nagamachi district

Legend

- Samurai residences (white areas)
- Buddhist temples or Shinto shrines (orange areas)
- Townspeople residences (dark brown areas)
- A ~ D Present-day sites

1 Onosho Waterway

Stone marker beside the Nomura Samurai House

The present sluice gate is on the right bank of the Saigawa river, upstream near Sakurabashi Bridge. Water flows through a culvert under the river bank, and into an open conduit upstream of Shinbashi Bridge. This waterway then flows through the Nagamachi Bukeyashiki area to the mouth of the Saigawa river, covering a distance of about 10 km. This waterway is believed to have been used for carrying timbers to the castle site when Kanazawa Castle was being built.

2 Tatsumi Waterway

Stone marker in Tobiume-cho

In 1632, following a major fire the previous year, Lord Maeda Toshitsune ordered the construction of a waterway by diverting water from the river to the castle. Along with Tamagawa Aqueduct in Tokyo and the Hakone Canal in eastern Shizuoka Prefecture, this waterway is one of the oldest in Japan. The winding streams of Kenrokuen are supplied from the Tatsumi Waterway. An almost unchanged 8.7 km section of the full 11 km waterway from the Kami-Tatsumi-machi sluice gate to Kenrokuen was made a National Historic Site in 2010.

3 West Inner Moat

Ryokusuien park

This was constructed by the famous "Christian General" Takayama Ukon when the Maedas were suspected by Tokugawa Ieyasu of plotting against him in 1599, to serve as a western inner line of defense for the castle. The fortifications used a moat and earth embankment system, and stretched some 1.6 km from Oyama Shrine to the Asanogawa River via Owari-cho. A short section that looks as it would have originally can be seen in the Ryokusuien park by Kazue-machi, near the Asanogawa River end.

4 West Outer Moat (part of Kuratsuki Waterway)

Korinbo Street Garden

This was constructed by the famous "Christian General" Takayama Ukon when the Maedas were suspected by Tokugawa Ieyasu of plotting against him in 1599, to serve as a western outer line of defense for the castle. The nearly 3 km long moat runs from Honda-machi 3-chome to Nagamachi, where it is known as the Kuratsuki Waterway, and ends in the Asanogawa River. The embankments on the inner side were planted with bamboo and other vegetation, forming a green belt.

5 East Inner Moat

Kareki-Bashi bridge site

This was constructed by the famous "Christian General" Takayama Ukon when the Maedas were suspected by Tokugawa Ieyasu of plotting against him in 1599, to serve as an eastern inner line of defense for the castle. The moat runs for about 1.3 km from Kojiridani-saka to the Asanogawa river through Hashiba-cho. The embankments on the inner side were planted with bamboo and other vegetation, forming a green belt.

6 East Outer Moat

Gentarogawa canal confluence

This was constructed by the famous "Christian General" Takayama Ukon when the Maedas were suspected by Tokugawa Ieyasu of plotting against him in 1599, to serve as an eastern outer line of defense for the castle. The moat flows for some 1.4 km from Hassaka to the Asanogawa river through Zaimoku-cho. The embankments on the inner side were planted with bamboo and other vegetation, forming a green belt.

About this map

This map was drawn around 1857, putting it in the final years of the Edo period. Kanazawa has been free of damage by war or major natural disasters, which is why even today we can find our way around town using maps from hundreds of years ago. With this old map in hand, the Kanazawa of 150 years ago awaits your exploration.

- Some areas of the map are not the same as the Edo period due to subsequent construction of main roads or the subdivision of land.
- Many Shinto shrines, Buddhist temples, waterways, slopes and more remain from the days of the samurai, and can still be found exactly where the old map shows them.
- The back streets in particular still retain the old layout of the castle town.

Preserving traditional townscapes

Kanazawa's streetscapes, which have never known war, are some of the best-preserved anywhere in Japan. The traditional streets of Old Japan are particularly well preserved in the Higashiyama Geisha District, the foothills of Utatsuyama, the Kazuemachi Geisha District, and the Teramachi district. These four areas have been designated as National Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Historic Buildings. In addition to the areas designated by the national government, Kanazawa City itself designates a further nine areas as Small Townscape Preservation Districts.

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Local Revitalization by Utilizing the Advantage of Cultural Heritage

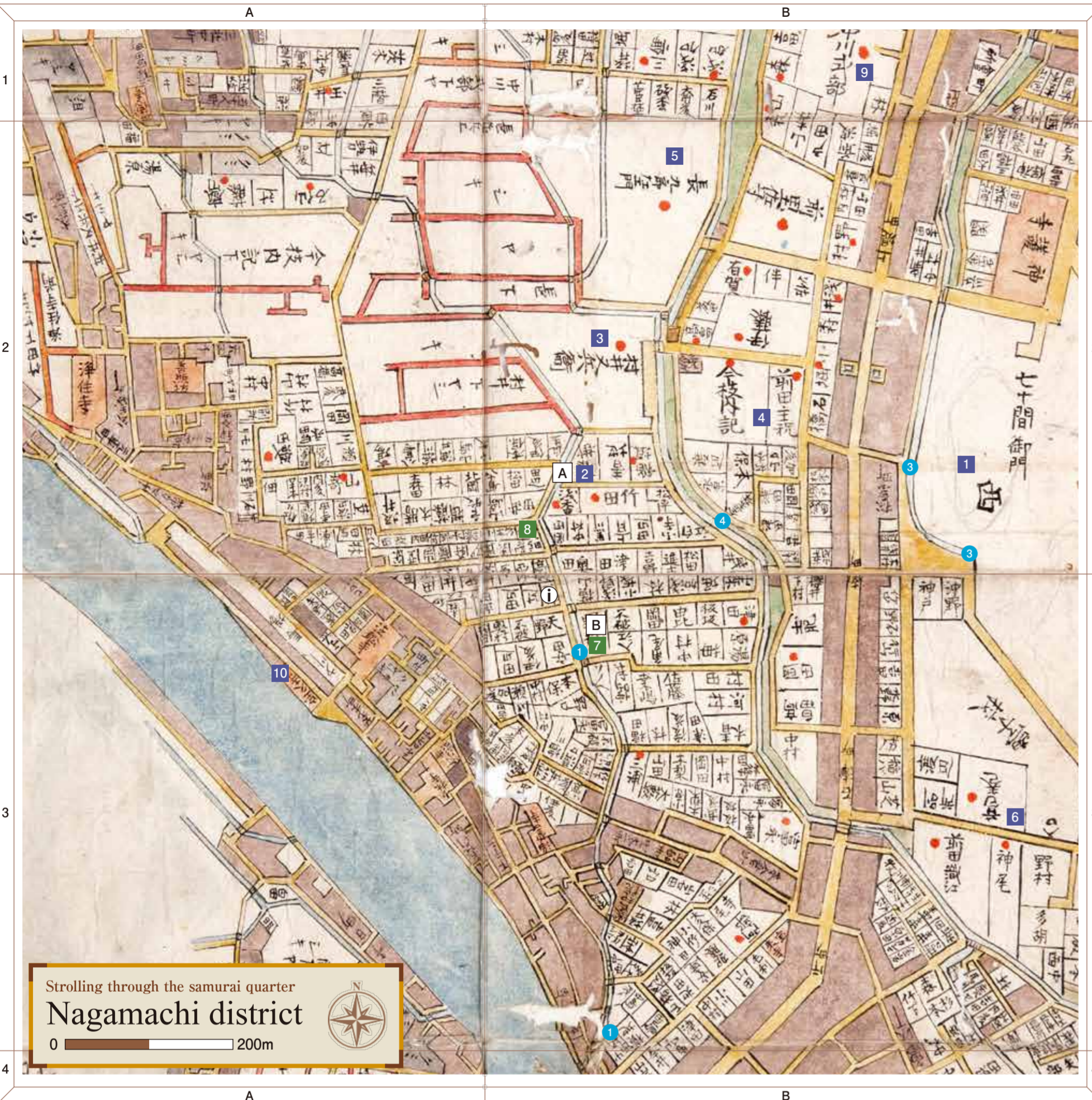
Credits: Cover, top: Kanazawa City / Cover, bottom: Kanazawa Jidoka Bunko, Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of History / Ed-period map: Kanazawa Jidoka Edo City Collection, Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of History / Photo credits: Kanazawa City

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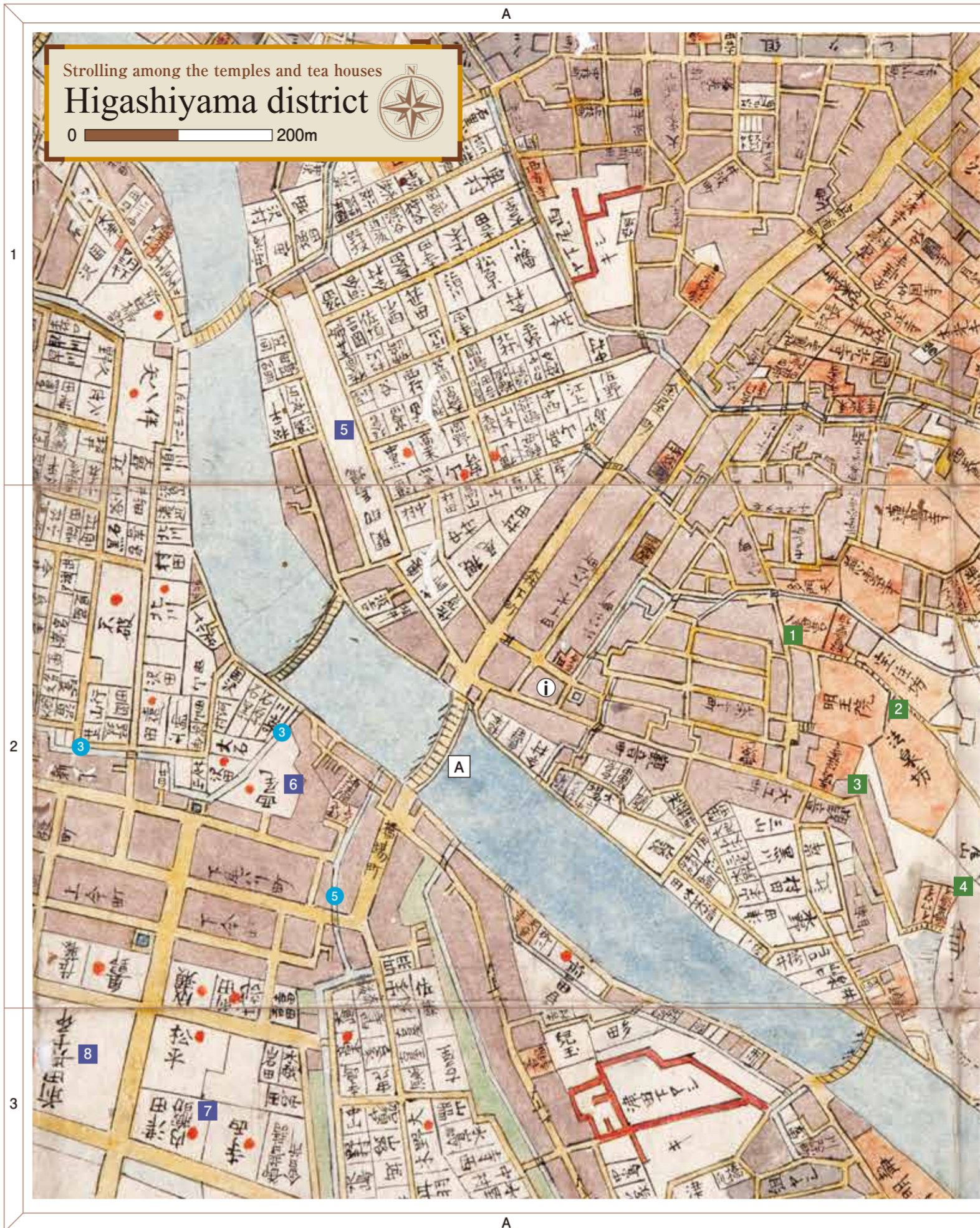
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Strolling through the samurai quarter
Nagamachi district
0 200m



Strolling among the temples and tea houses
Higashiyama district
0 200m

1 Utasu Jinja Shrine (Hachiman Shrine) [MAP "Higashiyama" A-2]

Maeda Toshiie's son Toshinaga founded this shrine in 1599 to venerate his father, but as it was not possible under the Tokugawa Shogunate's laws to publicly deify him, the deities from the Mononobe Hachimangu Shrine in what is now Takaoka City (Toyama) and the Sakakibara Jinmeigu Shrine in what is now Himi City (Toyama) were transferred here, and the shrine was established to protect the "demons' gate" direction of the castle. In 1873, after the Tokugawa were overthrown, the spirit of Toshiie was relocated to the new Oyama Jinja Shrine, but the shrine still enjoyed the patronage of locals. Its name was thus changed to Utasu Shrine, reflecting the old name for the hill behind it. In 2004, Toshiie's spirit was once again enshrined here after a ceremonial division of his spirit from Oyama Jinja Shrine.



2 Hosenji Temple ☎076-252-3319 [MAP "Higashiyama" A-2]

This temple enshrines Marici, the guardian Buddha of swordsmanship, as its principal icon. Lord Maeda was said to go off to war with an emblem of Marici hidden in his battle helmet. The "Five Pines" here featured in a famous novel written by Izumi Kyoka, and the grounds offer a panoramic view of the city.

3 Nana-Ine Jizo ☎076-252-7453 [MAP "Higashiyama" A-2]

Seven memorial Jizo statues stand at the front gate of the Jukyoji Temple. Three months of cold rains in summer 1858 had devastated the rice crop, causing mass starvation and skyrocketing rice prices. Late at night on July 11th, some 2,000 commoners climbed Mt. Utasu, from where they could look down over the castle – a forbidden act. There they shouted out "Give us rice!" towards the lord in his castle. As punishment for defying the law, the seven ringleaders were killed, but the domain opened its granaries to feed the people, and these Jizo statues were erected to pray for the repose of those executed men. Even today, they are still offered the rice they were denied in life.

4 Kannon-in Temple ☎076-252-6523 [MAP "Higashiyama" A-2]

Originally located near what is now Kenrokuen, this temple was moved to Mt. Utatsu in 1601, and then to its current location in 1616 at the wish of Princess Tama, the wife of the third Maeda lord. Ever since, generations of daughters of the Maeda family would visit to pray for safe childbirth. Special sacred Noh plays were also performed here under the patronage of the Maedas. The "46,000 Days" event, when a pilgrimage to the temple is considered to grant the good fortune of 46,000 days' worth of visits, has been held here annually since the Edo period. If you hang corn bought at the temple that day under your eaves, it will keep your family safe and bring prosperity to your business.

5 Sekisuke Baba Monument [MAP "Higashiyama" A-1]

This area used to be a riding ground (*baba*). Saga Sekisuke, a low-ranking samurai in charge of horses and tackle, revived what had been an abandoned ground during the rule of the third Lord Maeda in the early 17th century.

— Approximately 1.6 km from **1** to **5** —
(Includes approximately 300 stair steps)

6 Kuboichi Ototsurugigu Shrine ☎076-221-2894 [MAP "Higashiyama" A-2]

7 Kanazawa Kenko Plaza Otemachi/ Kanazawa Medical Federation Hall (Tsuda Kuranosuke Residence Site) [MAP "Higashiyama" A-3]

8 KKR Hotel (Maeda Yojuro Residence Site) [MAP "Higashiyama" A-3]

— What is a "Chayagai"? —

Kanazawa has three geisha districts, known as "chayagai" (teahouse district): the Higashi or "Eastern", the Nishi or "Western", and Kazue. The Eastern geisha district is located in the Higashiyama area, near the right bank of the Asanogawa River, while Kazue is along the left bank. The Western district is located in Nomachi, just to the south of the Saigawa River. These geisha districts offer the chance to see traditional Japanese architecture, with rows of houses with wooden lattices and black-glazed tiled roofs. As dusk falls in these atmospheric streets, you might hear the strains of the shamisen or the thump of taiko drums coming from the teahouses. The traditional arts of the geisha, such as classical *nagauta* songs, dances, drums, and wooden flutes have been passed on through the generations since the days of the shogun.

Legend

- Existing
- Historical sites
- A B Present-day sites
- i Rest house (tourist information center)
- ♿ Washrooms
- 🚌 Bus stop
- 📮 Post office
- Onsho Waterway
- West Outer Moat
- Tatsumi Waterway
- East Inner Moat
- West Inner Moat
- East Outer Moat

1 Oyama Jinja Shrine ☎076-231-7210 [MAP "Nagamachi" B-2]

This shrine was founded in 1873 by former Kaga retainers on the grounds of the old Kanaya Palace of Kanazawa Castle, a separate area across the moat that was used as a retirement villa by former clan lords. The shrine was dedicated to Lord Maeda Toshiie, the first lord of the Kaga Maeda clan, and his wife Matsu, with Toshiie's spirit deity being transferred from Utasu Hachimangu Shrine. The three-story shrine gate, dating from 1875, has been designated as a national Important Cultural Property.



2 Ashigaru Shiryokan Museum ☎076-263-3640 [MAP "Nagamachi" B-2]

These two houses used to belong to ashigaru, or foot-soldier, families, and have been relocated and restored to close to their original condition. They are now operated by the city as a free museum for visitors to understand something of the lifestyle of the lowest-ranking samurai. Each house is fully detached, and surrounded by a hedge rather than an earth wall, while trees were planted in the grounds. One of the two houses, belonging to the Shimizu family, was lived in by their descendants until 1990, while the other, belonging to the Takanishi family, was lived in right up until 1994. Both houses were located in Hayamichi-machi, now Saiwai-cho/Kikugawa 2-chome, which was where the Kaga Domain's foot-soldier messengers lived.

3 Chuo Elementary School [MAP "Nagamachi" B-2]

Site of the Murai Residence
With an income of 16,500 koku, the Murai family, one of the "Eight Houses," the highest-ranking retainers of the Maedas, served as senior political advisors.

4 Kanazawa Bunka Hall [MAP "Nagamachi" B-2]

Site of the Maeda Chikara/Imaeda Residences
These two families, with incomes of 2,400 koku and 14,000 koku respectively, were of "hitomochi" rank, one rank below the senior advisors.

5 Tamagawa Park, Mitani Sangyo Co. Ltd. [MAP "Nagamachi" B-2]

Site of the Cho Residence
With an income of 33,000 koku, the Cho family, one of the "Eight Houses," the highest-ranking retainers of the Maedas, served as senior political advisors.

— Approximately 1.5 km from **1** to **5** —

6 The Fourth High School Memorial Museum of Cultural Exchange ☎076-262-5464 [MAP "Nagamachi" B-3]

7 Nomura Samurai House [MAP "Nagamachi" B-3]

8 Kaga Hanshi Takada-ke House [MAP "Nagamachi" B-2]

9 Matsugae Ryokuchi Park [MAP "Nagamachi" B-1] (Nakagawa Shikibu Residence Site)

10 Saigawa Jinja Shrine (Hokuyuji Temple) [MAP "Nagamachi" A-3]

