

WHERE IS KANAZAWA?

*West of Tokyo, north of Kyoto,
Kanazawa is located in central Honshu
and easily accessible by rail or air.*

Kanazawa is located between the Sea of Japan and the Japan Alps, due west of Tokyo (a one-hour flight into Komatsu Airport or a two-and-a-half-hour journey by Shinkansen) and north of Kyoto (a two-hour train ride). The local population is just over 460,000, and most of the city falls within a radius of four sq. miles, making it easy to navigate for visitors. But don't be fooled by its size: Kanazawa packs so much art, culture, cuisine, and natural beauty into its borders, there's always something more to see!



TRANSPORTATION

✈ No. of flights per day: Domestic: 10 (Haneda > Komatsu); 1 (Narita > Komatsu); 2 (Haneda > Noto); 4 (Fukuoka > Komatsu); 1 (Sapporo, New Chitose > Komatsu); 1 (Naha > Komatsu); 2 (Sendai > Komatsu); **International:** 1 (Seoul > Komatsu); 1 (Shanghai > Komatsu); 1 (Taipei > Komatsu) *Mar 2019

Komatsu Airport: <http://www.komatsuairport.jp>
Noto Airport: <http://www.noto-airport.jp>

🚌 by Express Bus: There are many buses from other cities to Kanazawa station:

JR BUS WEST: <http://www.nishinihonjrbus.co.jp>
HOKURIKU TETSUDO: <http://www.hokutetsu.co.jp>
MARUICHI KANKO: <http://www.maruichi-gp.co.jp>
MEITETSU BUS: <http://www.meitetsu-bus.co.jp/english/>
WILLER EXPRESS: <http://www.willereexpress.com/en/>

Hokuriku Shinkansen

In 2015, the Hokuriku Shinkansen began service, reducing travel time between Tokyo and Kanazawa to around 2 hours 30 minutes. With its route cutting through the mountains, the journey is sure to be as lovely as it is quick!



🚆 No. of trains per day: from Tokyo: 24 (Hokuriku Shinkansen); **from Osaka via Kyoto:** 25 (Thunderbird limited express); **from Nagoya:** 8 (Shirasagi limited express) *Mar 2019

JR EAST: <http://www.jreast.co.jp/e/index.html>
JR WEST: <http://www.westjr.co.jp/global/en/>
JR RAIL PASS: <http://www.japanrailpass.net>

Kanazawa, Japan UNESCO City of Crafts and Folk Art



The city of Kanazawa, Japan was appointed UNESCO City of Crafts and Folk Art on the 8th of June 2009.

The city of Kanazawa boasts an outstanding history and heritage relating to traditional crafts and folk art. The city's efforts in linking traditional crafts aesthetics and techniques with modern technology in a

spirit of creativity and innovation are very significant. The city also has a strong financial and infrastructural commitment to enhance the interest and awareness of traditional crafts among new generations. Kanazawa is expected to give an exemplary effect to other cities by sharing its experience on how to foster the linkage between traditional craft and contemporary industry and nurture a sustainable crafts environment. (<http://www.unesco.org>)



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Kanazawa City Tourism Association: Phone +81-(0)76-232-5555

<http://visitkanazawa.jp>

金沢

Strength & Beauty

Kanazawa: City of Artisans

Kanazawa has been known within Japan as a mecca of traditional arts and culture for centuries. Come and discover for yourself the intriguing history and skilled craftsmanship found in this exceptional city.



Beyond Tourism

*Extraordinary beauty and artistry
at every turn.*

Go deeper into Kanazawa's fascinating past and vibrant present through the city's remarkable artisanal crafts and unparalleled culture. Replete with dozens of museums, preserved houses and shops, thriving geisha districts, and of course, Kanazawa Castle and Kenrokuen Garden, Kanazawa offers something for everyone. Prepare yourself for sensory overload as you wander the narrow winding streets of the Nagamachi Buke Yashiki District, the Samurai District, or stop in for tea at a beautiful little shop in the Higashi Chaya District, the Geisha District, encountering extraordinary beauty and artistry at every turn.



遺
HERITAGE
産

Kenrokuen Garden



伝
TRADITION
統

Higashi chaya District, the Geisha District.



哲
PHILOSOPHY
学

Tea ceremony



巧
SKILL
技

Kutaniyaki (Kutani Kosengama kiln)



四
SEASONS
季

Autumn (Kenrokuen Garden)



Kanazawa Castle Park

The de' Medici of Japan

The Maeda Family: 300 Years of Encouraging the Arts

The Kaga region soon became a center of the arts rivaling Florence.

"The city of Kanazawa began as a center of Buddhism in 1546 when the Ikko Sect built Gobo Temple on the site of what is now



Noh Mask (Photograph provided by Ishikawa Prefecture)

Kanazawa Castle. Just 37 years later, the powerful general Maeda Toshiie was granted the fiefdom by one of Japan's three great unifiers, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, initiating a Maeda dynasty that would last nearly 300 years and span nine generations."

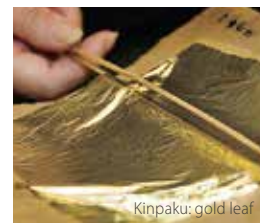
As the shogunate harbored deep suspicions of successful daimyo (a title bestowed upon landowners who produced more than ten thousand koku, or 3,300,000 lbs / 1,500,000 kg of rice per year) out of concern for challenges to its rule, the Maedas and their one million koku created considerable unease back in Edo (now Tokyo). As a very clever strategy to alleviate those fears, Maeda daimyo began to import artists and artisans from around Japan, effectively demonstrating that they had no military aspirations. The shogunate was appeased, and the Kaga region soon became a center of the arts rivaling Florence. Over several generations of Maeda leaders, Kanazawa saw a dramatic increase in workshops, studios, and guilds all dedicated to perfecting such inimitable crafts as lacquerware, silk, ceramics, metal work,

woodwork, and Noh masks.

A later Maeda descendent also encouraged learning by inviting Confucian scholars to Kanazawa, and publicly supported the collection and preservation of the classics, earning Kaga the reputation as being "the

library of the realm." He also completed a project of an earlier daimyo who had transformed the armory into a workshop for producing industrial arts by expanding its parameters to also include paper, metal work, lacquer, bamboo, clothing, ceramics, and gold leaf.

Several hundred years later, and all of those arts continue to flourish. Kanazawa lacquer and maki-e (using gold, silver, and shell to decorate), Kaga Yuzen (silk dyeing), Kutani and Ohi pottery, Kaga Zogan (metal inlay), and Kaga mizuhiki (colorful, flexible paper cords) all endure to this day, exhibiting the same quality and variety as their 17th century counterparts, along with many other local crafts still being produced at the Utatsuyama Craft Workshop as a place for artisans to work and learn. With such a vital history, it's no surprise that UNESCO selected Kanazawa to join the Creative Cities Network in 2009, or that over seven million tourists visit Kanazawa every year. Kanazawa Castle Park, Kenrokuen Garden (Six Attributes Garden), Seisonkaku Villa... beautiful reminders of the debt Kanazawa owes Maeda Toshiie and his descendants.



Kinpaku: gold leaf



Kaga Maki



Kenrokuen Garden



Seisonkaku Villa



Buke Yashiki-ato Nomura-ke House

Samurai Legacy

*From Tea Ceremony to Fly Fishing,
These Warriors Left Their Mark*

The samurai studied tea ceremony because its rules and rituals mirrored combat.

Samurai are the stuff of legend, and nowhere is their presence more strongly felt today than in the narrow cobbled streets and along the flowing canals of Kanazawa's Buke Yashiki, or Samurai District. Having never experienced a major natural disaster and passed over by bombers during World War II,

bombers during World War II,



Kebari:
fly-fishing lures
(Meboso Hachirobei Shoten
fishing lure shop)

Kanazawa has maintained its otherworldly charm, from the remains of Kanazawa Castle down into the picturesque geisha and samurai districts. Centered around the area known as Nagamachi located at the foot of the castle, former samurai homes are tucked away behind thick ochre mud walls topped with distinctive clay or wooden tiles. During Kanazawa's snowy winters, woven straw mats protect the walls, designed to prevent freezing and splitting. Private entrances shield modern



Natsume: tea jar
decorated with Makie
(using gold, silver, and
shell to decorate)



Abumi: stirrups with Kaga Zogan decoration

occupants from curious passers-by, but fortunately there are several residences and shops open to the public where visitors can experience the striking architecture and refined taste of these multi-faceted fighters.

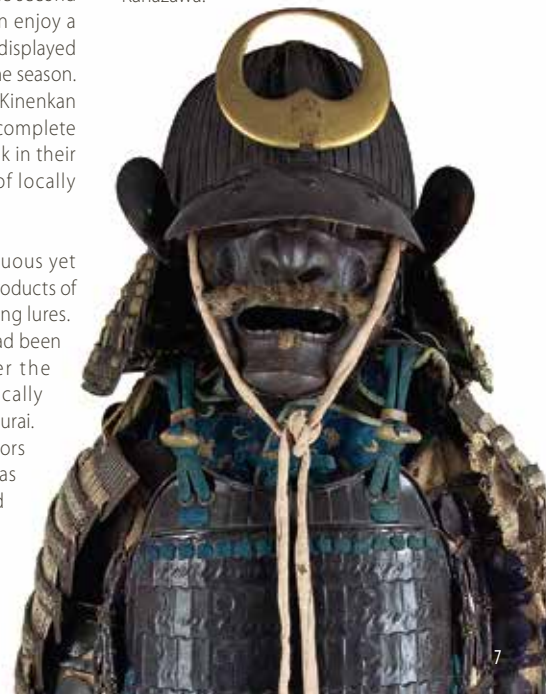
Among points of interest, the Nomura-ke House stands out for its beauty and décor. The garden is exceptional, as is the second floor tearoom where visitors can enjoy a cup of green tea while admiring displayed items that change according to the season. Equally interesting is the Shinise Kinenkan Museum, a restored pharmacy complete with objects essential to city folk in their daily lives and an assortment of locally produced crafts.

Perhaps one of the most innocuous yet surprisingly important artisanal products of the later Edo period were fly-fishing lures. By the late 17th century, peace had been fully restored to Japan under the Tokugawa Shogunate, dramatically reducing the need for armed samurai. While many of the stalwart warriors transitioned into positions such as teachers, merchants, and bureaucrats, there remained a percentage that the Maeda

Denbei's armor owned by the Nomura Family

rulers kept ready for battle. It has been said that forbidden by the shogun to practice swordplay, they took up fly-fishing as a way to keep their minds focused and their bodies strong, and elaborately tied flies became objects of admiration. To this day in Kanazawa, one family maintains the tradition of hand-tied flies, creating tiny works of art prized by fishermen far and wide.

When not learning patience while standing in icy rivers, the samurai spent their time in a number of other artistic and spiritual pursuits. First among these was sado or the way of tea. Although some experts believe that the samurai studied sado as a means of escaping the chaos of battle, others say the truth is far less romantic: samurai studied tea ceremony because its rules and rituals mirrored combat. Mistakes may be inevitable in both endeavors; what is important is how one takes the unexpected and turns it to his advantage. Sado requires a wide array of accoutrements to be pursued properly, including iron pots, ceramic tea bowls and plates, and bamboo utensils. All were created by Kanazawa's ever-growing population of skilled artisans and many survive today in both private collections and museum displays in and around Kanazawa.





Kaga Nui embroidery

Kaga Temari:
traditional handball



traditional
nature-inspired
motifs to
Westernized
modern designs, the

current Kutaniyaki workshops continue to create beautiful original works that emphasize quality and skill.

Perhaps one of Kanazawa's most beloved crafts is that of Kaga Zogan, or metal inlay. Brought to the city over 400 years ago by a Kyoto artisan, zogan involves carving a pattern into a base metal which is then filled with a different metal. The process ensures that once joined, the two metals will remain fused, an important facet considering early zogan was used to make decorative stirrups and sword fittings. Nowadays, this finely honed skill is reserved for more sedentary objects such as vases, incense burners, and even jewelry, and Kanazawa is home to several respected studios as well as a National Living Treasure.

Among the most eye-catching of Kanazawa crafts are the multi-hued temari balls, brilliantly colored and patterned orbs ranging in size from tiny to substantial. Ever since the granddaughter of Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa brought one with her to Kanazawa upon her marriage into the Maeda clan, the custom of presenting a temari talisman to a bride before marriage continues today. Of equal beauty and precision is Kaga Nui, or embroidery. With its origins in the decorative cloths used in Buddhist altars and priests' robes, Kaga Nui is characterized by the use of gold and silver threads integrated with a vast palette of brilliant hues.

A Tradition of Craft

Artisans for the Everyman

Centuries of form and function to meet the needs of the common folk.

In addition to the crafts produced for the samurai and other aristocracy, Kanazawa had a thriving market to meet the needs of the common people. First among these was kinpaku or gold leaf. Ever since the glittering ore was first discovered in the area, it has provided a livelihood for generations of artisans in spite of several periods when it was banned by the Edo

government, forcing it underground until an official license was granted in 1845. Today, Kanazawa accounts for 99% of the gold leaf produced in Japan, although much of the raw material is now imported. While the Maeda family



Kaga Yuzen Kimono

had the wealth to cover entire rooms in gold leaf, the pounding of the metal kept many commoners employed in order to meet the high demand for butsudan, the traditional Buddhist altar found in many Japanese homes. And before the altar, delicate lacquer bowls for offerings were decorated with kin-maki-e, the 1000 year old method of sprinkling gold, silver, or shell dust onto lacquer to create beautiful designs. This technique is also used to embellish boxes, tea canisters, platters, calligraphy sets, and even pens and watches.

Also prized by the local populace was the hand-painted silk of the Kaga Yuzen workshop, still held in great regard today. Identified by their seasonal motifs, realistic renderings of nature, and use of the Kaga gosai (five colors of Kaga: indigo, dark red, yellow, grass green, and purple), kimono created by Kaga Yuzen artisans have long been objects of admiration. Families for whom an entire kimono was unobtainable could still enjoy the fabric as tapestries, bags, wrapping cloths, and table runners, items all immensely popular today with Japanese and foreign visitors alike.

Sharing the same vivid Kaga gosai palette is the ceramic tradition of Kutaniyaki. For over 200 years, their artisans have created fantastic, often decadent tableware, often incorporating generous helpings of gold as well. Used for everything from ceremonial occasions to home décor, Kutaniyaki has been collected and passed down for generations, even as contemporary artisans work to sustain and revitalize the line. From



Kutaniyaki Sake Cups
(Kutani Kosengama Kiln)



Kanazawa Butsudan Buddhist Altar

Kanazawa's Rich Artistic Heritage

Gold, silk, ceramics...

the city abounds in an unparalleled abundance of traditional arts

Local museums and workshops present visitors with the very best of Kanazawa's crafts and craftspeople, bringing the past alive.

As the capital of Ishikawa Prefecture, Kanazawa has abundant museums, many displaying the city's rich artistic heritage. Not to be missed are several destinations



Kaga Yuzen

specifically worth mentioning, each with a different focus on the arts.

Let's begin with the impressive Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Art, acclaimed for both its collection of treasures from the Maeda estate and culturally significant art linked to the region. Located in Hondanomori Park, the museum is surrounded by nature, while inside there's a café where visitors can enjoy tea and sweets.



Kaga Yuzen artist, Kozo Morita
(Kaga-Yuzen Kimono Center)



Kutaniyaki (Kutani Kosenigama kiln)



Makie



Iroe Kiji Koro:
incense burner in the shape of pheasant,
a National treasure designated on June 9, 1951.
(Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Art)

Just down the street, you'll find the Museum for Traditional

Products and Crafts, housing all 36 of Ishikawa's crafts under one roof, and ready to educate and inform guests of the cultural importance of crafts in people's daily lives. Exhibits are organized by category, and the museum also has an active tea ceremony room and gift shop.

For a complete experience of Kutaniyaki, there's no place like Kutani Kosenigama kiln. In operation since 1870, this family-run establishment offers an English tour detailing the entire process of creating Kutaniyaki, including demonstrations. Visitors can

also have a "hands-on" experience painting ceramics, and of course browse the kiln's gallery.

The Kanazawa Yasue Gold Leaf Museum showcases the city's long history of gold leaf production. Named after an artisan who devoted his life to the craft, it presents information through films, and a wide array of glittering works.

Finally, visitors can immerse themselves in the gorgeous silks of the Kaga-Yuzen Kimono Center, where the history and process of kimono designing is clearly explained and demonstrated. There's also the option of being dressed in a traditional kimono and photographed, or even going for a kimono-clad stroll in a nearby park, as well as trying a bit of silk dying for a souvenir.

Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Art
石川県立美術館



2-1, Dewamachi, Kanazawa
Phone: +81-(0)76-231-7580 / Fax: +81-(0)76-224-9550

Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Traditional Arts and Crafts
石川県立伝統産業工芸館



1-1, Kenrokumachi, Kanazawa
Phone: +81-(0)76-262-2020 / Fax: +81-(0)76-262-8690

Kutani Kosenigama Kiln
九谷光仙窯



5-3-3, Nomachi, Kanazawa
Phone: +81-(0)76-241-0902 / Fax: +81-(0)76-241-0954

Kanazawa Yasue Gold Leaf Museum
金沢市立安江金箔工芸館



1-3-10, Higashiyama, Kanazawa
Phone: +81-(0)76-251-8950 / Fax: +81-(0)76-251-8952

Kaga-Yuzen Kimono Center
加賀友禅会館



8-8, Kosyomachi, Kanazawa
Phone: +81-(0)76-224-5511 / Fax: +81-(0)76-224-5533

Lacquerware [Soup Bowl]

Generations of Kanazawa artisans have produced some of the world's finest examples of lacquerware, often collaborating with maki-e artisans working in gold and silver powder. Together, the result is eye-catching, evoking the past and celebrating the present. (Urushi Salon NOSAKU; Phone +81-(0)76-263-8121)



Kaga Temari

[Traditional Handballs]

These folk art balls date back to the early Edo period (1603-1867) and have brought joy to children of all ages ever since. Cotton thread is tightly wound around a hard core in vibrant, often unbelievably complex geometrical patterns. (Kanazawa Craft Hirosaka; Phone +81-(0)76-265-3320)

A Window onto Kanazawa Craft

An array of local artists' most eye-catching collectibles

Kanazawa is home to countless shops, galleries, boutiques, and artist collectives all selling a wide range of decorative and functional crafts. While it would take weeks to visit them all, a handful stand out for their quality and variety, from jewelry to ceramics, lacquer to silk. Here we present an array of local artists' most eye-catching collectibles, but do keep in mind, this is just a sampling!

Washi [Postcards and Envelopes]

Ever since 1592, paper has been made in the rural mountain villages east of Kanazawa where the necessary natural resources abound. More than four centuries later and little about the process — or the paper — has changed. (Kanazawa Craft Hirosaka; Phone +81-(0)76-265-3320)



Mizuhiki [Paper Craft Cellphone Strap]

Created from tightly wound starched and dyed paper, the colorful strings are then delicately manipulated into a variety of shapes and designs. Originally popular adornments on ceremonial envelopes, the craft has recently caught on for other fun applications. ("21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa" Museum Shop; Phone +81-(0)76-236-6072)



Kaga Yuzen furoshiki

[Silk Wrapper]

These beautiful hand-painted silk squares have traditionally been used to wrap and carry packages, possessions, or gifts, but can just as easily be used to carry bottles of wine or even as ascots or scarves. Whatever their use, they're sure to attract attention.

(Kaga-Yuzen Kimono Center; Phone +81-(0)76-224-5511)

Kaga Zogan [Pendant]

Metal inlay work has been created in Kanazawa since the early 1600's, but it's only in recent years that zogan craftspeople have begun to apply their skill to wearable art such as jewelry, resulting in highly original, striking pieces. (Kanazawa Craft Hirosaka; Phone +81-(0)76-265-3320)



Kutaniyaki [colorful, modern teacup & saucer]

Although Kutaniyaki has been producing highly original porcelain for over 200 years, the current generation has added some contemporary twists to their tableware collection, resulting in cheerful pieces that brighten any setting. (Enishira; Phone +81-(0)76-225-8241)



Japanese Kin-maki-e Accessories

[bracelet and ring]

Feather-light, moisture-resistant paper jewelry made with the 1000 year old traditional technique of kin-maki-e, a process in which gold powder is dusted onto lacquered designs. The results are a subtle yet stunning sparkle, fusing past and present. (Enishira; Phone +81-(0)76-225-8241)



Beyond Craft

Kanazawa has much else to offer visitors, including delicious cuisine, modern art, and over 40 active geisha.

Omi-cho Market

Since the Edo period, "Kanazawa's Kitchen" has been the source of local seafood, fruit and vegetables, and much more. Today it's a busy network of covered streets with over 150 shops and stalls plus several excellent restaurants.



21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

This Pritzker Prize-winning building is home to a dynamic permanent collection of works created since 1980, much of which is integrated into museum grounds.



D.T. Suzuki Museum

Designed by the internationally acclaimed architect Yoshio Taniguchi (best known for the extension of New York's MOMA), the museum is a reflection of Zen Buddhist philosophy and D.T. Suzuki's work.



© D. T. Suzuki Museum



Kanazawa Castle Park

Located next to Kenrokuen, it was once the private domain of the Maeda family. Since their triumphant entry in 1583, the castle has been repeatedly destroyed by fire and rebuilt to original specifications.



Geisha

Kanazawa is second only to Kyoto for the number of active geisha, with three distinct historic districts: Higashi Chayagai, Nishi Chayagai, and Kazuemachi Chayagai. Visit a teahouse or attend a public performance.



Local Cuisine

Even Tokyoites come to Kanazawa in search of the best cuisine as the city is attracting international recognition for its fresh ingredients, its embracing of the "locavore" movement, and above all, its unparalleled chefs.