

Find Your Kanazawa

Because of Kanazawa’s compact size and the convenient transportation, an overnight trip to the city is easy and enjoyable. However, why not extend your stay for one more day and have adventures in your own unique way? You will get in touch with the heart and soul of the town.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Decorate your own souvenirs with Kanazawa’s famous gold leaf.
- Enjoy green tea and wagashi (Japanese confectionary) while looking at a beautiful Japanese garden in Kenrokuen.
- Try your hand at cooking healthy local food



ITINERARY

Day	Activities	Stay
Day 1	Kanazawa Visit Omicho Market, Higashi Chaya District and Gold Leaf Experience.	Kanazawa
Day 2	Kanazawa Visit Namagachi Samurai District, 21 st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, D.T. Suzuki Museum, Kenrokuen Garden (Tea Ceremony Experience) and Kanazawa Castle Park.	Kanazawa
Day 3	Kanazawa Visit Oyama Jinja Shrine and Cooking Experience.	

Day 1

11:00 Arrive at Kanazawa Station and drop off luggage at hotel.

 15 minutes

1

12:00 Omicho Market [近江町市場]

Omi-cho Market has been the largest fresh food market in Kanazawa since the Edo period. Its busy network of covered streets holds over 180 stall and restaurants that sell fresh seafood, vegetables, fruit, and many other local products.



(Lunch: Omicho Market)

 10 minutes

2

14:00 Higashi Chaya District [ひがし茶屋街]

The district's traditional buildings and lattice-work windows retain the atmosphere of their 200-year history. Today, many of these buildings function as cafes, restaurants, sweet shops and craft shops, but some are still geisha teahouses. Two traditional teahouses, 'Shima' and 'Kaikaro', are open to public.



 3 minutes

15:10 Gold Leaf Experience [金箔貼り体験]

One of the symbols of Ishikawa is gold leaf, extremely thin leaves of gold used decoratively on handicrafts or ornaments. Several shops around Kanazawa let visitors see the gold leaf process and decorate their own items, including chopsticks, small plates, and mirrors.

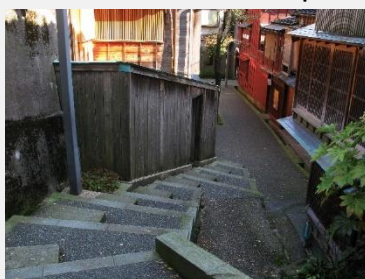


Stay in Kanazawa

More to Explore  5 minutes

Kazuemachi Chaya District [主計町茶屋街]

Across Asanogawa river from famous Higashi Chaya District, there is another geisha district with labyrinthine streets and traditional buildings. Kazuemachi is filled with traditional buildings on narrow streets. The majority of businesses here are *geiko* teahouses, accepting clients by referral, but the path along the riverbank has a few restaurants and cafes that are open to the public.



Day 2

4

10:00 Nagamachi Samurai District [長町武家屋敷]

Nagamachi is a well-preserved neighborhood of samurai houses. The cobblestone streets and tiled earthen walls are characteristic of wealthier samurai districts in Kanazawa. One highlight is the Nomura Residence. Enjoy its inner garden with tranquil streams and a miniature waterfall.



10 minutes

5

11:00 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa [金沢21世紀美術館]

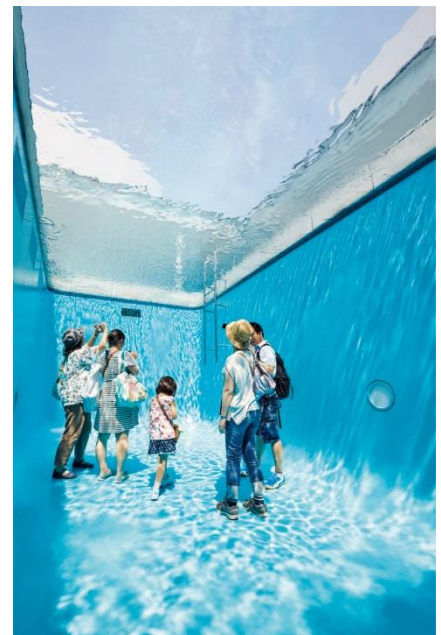
This progressive museum situated in the center of Kanazawa is quite popular among the locals and tourists alike with the unique exhibits and installations. The outdoor exhibits and surrounding lawns make the museum grounds feel akin to a family park.



(Lunch: The downtown area)



10 minutes



6

13:10 D.T. Suzuki Museum [鈴木大拙館]

This museum is dedicated to the life and ideas of Daisetz Suzuki, a prominent Buddhist philosopher who was born in Kanazawa and popularized Zen in the West. Take time for thoughtful meditation in the three idyllic landscaped gardens, which include a glassy pond for self-reflection.



15 minutes

7

14:00 Kenrokuen Garden [兼六園]

Kenrokuen was constructed by feudal lords of Kaga clan as the outer garden of Kanazawa Castle. The garden's appearance changes dramatically every season, with cherry blossoms in spring and Yukizuri (a set of ropes to protect trees from the region's heavy snowfall) in winter.



8

15:00 Tea Ceremony Experience [茶道体験]

The Maeda family, who encouraged the art to flourish, invited top tea masters to Kanazawa to further the practice and development of the tea ceremony. Experience Japanese philosophy in action by enjoying green tea and wagashi (Japanese confectionary) while looking at a beautiful Japanese garden.



 5 minutes



9

16:00 Kanazawa Castle Park [金沢城公園]

Kanazawa Castle was home to the Maeda family during their rule of the Kaga domain. Some buildings including Kahoku-mon Gate and Gyokusen'inmaru Garden have been faithfully renovated.



Stay in Kanazawa



Column

The hidden nightlife of Kanazawa – 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 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!

Day 3

10

10:00 Oyama Jinja Shrine [尾山神社]

A Shinto shrine dedicated to Maeda Toshiie, the founder of the Kaga domain (present-day Ishikawa and around), and his wife. The shrine's three-storied *shinmon* gate was designed to blend Japanese and Chinese architectural styles with Western touches such as stained glass.



10 minutes

11

11:00 Cooking Studio Kanazawa Salon (Japanese home cooking) [金澤さろん]

Cooking Studio Kanazawa Salon offers cooking lessons in exquisite Japanese cuisine in English. While you learn the basics of Japanese cooking, you can also gain the knowledge of koji and its products (miso, soy sauce, sake, etc.) which have been supporting the health of Japanese over a thousand years.



ITINERARY

10 days & 9 nights

Day	Activities	Stay
Day 1	Tokyo Arrive at Tokyo Airport	Tokyo
Day 2	Tokyo Visit Asakusa Kannon Temple, Tokyo National Museum, the Imperial East Garden and Meiji Shrine	Tokyo
Day 3	Full day excursion to Fuji-Hankone-Izu National Park	Tokyo
Day 4	Kanazawa Depart by shinkansen (bullet train) to Kanazawa. Visit Omicho Market, Higashi Chaya District and Gold Leaf Experience.	Kanazawa
Day 5	Kanazawa Visit Namagachi Samurai District, 21 st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, D.T. Suzuki Museum, Kenrokuen Garden (Tea Ceremony Experience) and Kanazawa Castle Park,.	Kanazawa
Day 6	Kanazawa Visit Oyama Jinja Shrine and Cooking Experience. Travel by express train to Kyoto. Visit Fushimi Inari Shrine.	Kyoto
Day 7-8	Kyoto Visit Nijo Castle, Nishiki Market, Kiyomizu Temple, Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavillion) and Ryoanji Temple.	
Day 9	Full day excursion to Hiroshima	Kyoto
Day 10	Transfer to Osaka Airport and board a flight back home	

