

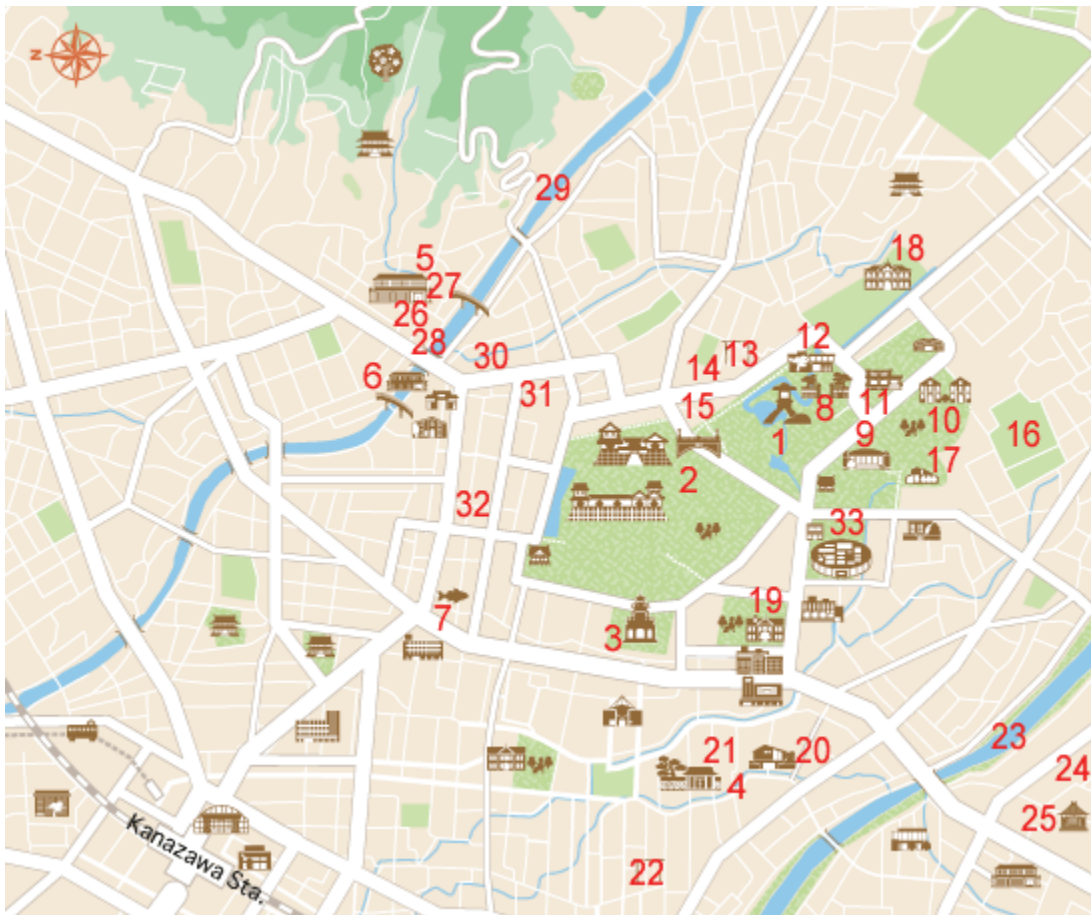
Welcome to Kanazawa

Kanazawa, the biggest city in the Hokuriku region has a population of 450,000, and is a castle town that was ruled over by the Maeda family for three centuries after the first lord Toshiie Maeda entered Kanazawa Castle in 1583. The development of its special products like rice, sake, sweets, etc was due to its temperate and rainy climate with heavy snow in winter. The city is surrounded by the Japan Alps, Hakusan National Park and Noto Peninsula National Park. Two rivers run through the city; the Sai is said to be a lively masculine river and the Asano to be a sweet, feminine river. Such a natural background of great beauty gives the city a relaxed feeling.

Since the Kaga Clan invited many artists and craftsmen to this area, it achieved a high level of craftsmanship that continues to flourish to this day.

Colorful KUTANI POTTERY, earthy OHI POTTERY, elegant [KANAZAWA LACQUERWARE](#), glittering [KANAZAWA GOLD LEAF](#), unique-to-Kanazawa PAULOWNIA CRAFT, specially hand-painted [KAGA-YUZEN SILK](#), KAGA ZOGAN, KAGA EMBROIDERY, KAGA FISHING FLIES, [MIZUHIKI](#), and KANAZAWA BUDDHIST ALTARS. The buildings that gave birth to these traditions stand tranquilly and blend in with the modern atmosphere in Kanazawa to create a charming ancient castle town.

[Sight-seeing Spots]





1 Kenroku-en Garden

Kenrokuen is known as one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan. It is called Kenrokuen because it combines the six attributes (*kenroku*) that a garden should have: spaciousness, seclusion, human ingenuity, antiquity, water and panoramic views. It contains roughly 12,000 trees of 150 varieties, which achieve beautiful harmony with the garden's meandering streams, ponds and bridges. 15 minutes by bus from Kanazawa Station. Open every day. TEL234-3800



2 Ishikawa-mon Gate Kanazawa Castle Park

Kanazawa Castle has been the residential castle of the Maeda family since Toshiie Maeda first entered the castle in 1583 and basic fortifications began. In 1881 all the castle walls apart from Ishikawa-mon Gate, were destroyed by fire. Finally, over a period of 3 years and 4 months from March 1998, three structures Hishi-yagura, Gojikken-nagaya, and Hashizumemon Tsuzuki-yagura were restored. They are the largest scale wooden castle structures built since the Meiji era in Japan.



3 Oyama Shrine

Dedicated to Lord Maeda Toshiie. The entrance gate, with its stained glass window, was designed with the help of two Dutch instructors and completed in 1875. The shrine is also known for its Edo-period garden, arranged on a musical theme. Between Korinbo and Musashi-ga-tsuji.



4 Nagamachi

A section of town with a well-preserved castle town atmosphere, complete with earthen walls and picturesque canals. Behind Korinbo.



5 Higashi Chaya District

Narrow winding streets, latticed windows: Higashiyama is the heart of old Kanazawa.

Much old architecture is lovingly preserved by the people who live there.



6 Kazue-machi Chaya District

An old geisha district along the banks of the Asanogawa River. Many restaurants typical of Kanazawa overlook the river.



7 Omicho Market

"Kanazawa's kitchen". With its reputation for offering the freshest seafood, fruits and vegetables at the best prices, Omicho has been a favorite destination for Kanazawa shoppers since the feudal period.



8 [Seisonkaku Villa](#)

A villa, located inside the Kenrokuen grounds, built by the 13th lord Maeda for his mother. The villa and its garden are beautifully preserved, every corner provides a treat for the eye. Some special features are the large spaces unobstructed by support posts, sliding doors with Dutch painted glass insets, and strikingly colored transoms.

Closed Wed.

TEL221-0580



9 [Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Arts](#)

Contains masterpieces of *Kutani* and other Kaga arts, as well as treasures of the Maeda family and works by modern Ishikawa artists. Hosts many travelling exhibits. Across from Kenrokuen.

Closed from Dec. 29 to Jan.3.

TEL231-7580



10 Ishikawa Prefectural History Museum

The red brick buildings, housing the History Museum, were first army barracks and later the original site of Kanazawa College of Art Displays explain Ishikawa history. Ask to see the English explanatory booklet. Near the Art Museum.

occasional unscheduled holidays.
TEL262-3236



11 Ishikawa Prefectural Noh Theater

The Ishikawa Prefectural Noh Theater, located up the hill from Kenrokuen, is the center of Kanazawa's Noh culture. It is used for the study of Noh, and sometimes performances are held.

There are occasional displays of Noh costumes and art objects.
Closed Mon and holidays.
TEL264-2598



14 Gyokusen-en(The Nishida Family Garden)

Named for Gyokusen-en, wife of the second lord Maeda Toshinaga, Gyokusen-en is a lovely garden maintained by the Nishida family. Its water is from Kenrokuen, and the trees from Kenrokuen provide a rich backdrop for the garden's pond. Japanese tea and sweets, served in the formal tea ceremony manner, are available with advance reservations. Near Kenroku-en Garden.

Closed in the winter.
TEL221-0181



16 Honda Museum

The Honda Museum has a collection of articles maintained by the Honda family, descendants of Honda Masanobu, who was an advisor to the Tokugawa *Shogun* and later Lord Maeda's highest vassal. Military articles as well as kimonos and objects of art presented to Honda by his lords. Between the Art Museum and the History Museum.

Closed Thurs.
TEL261-0500



18 Kanazawa Folklore Museum

A collection of tools, clothing, handicrafts and other articles of daily life in Kanazawa in past eras. Housed in a school building from the Meiji era.

A 5 minute walk from Kenrokuen.

Closed from Dec. 29 to Jan. 3.

TEL222-5740



19 Ishikawa Modern Japanese Literature Museum

This museum, housed in a 1891 school building, honors Kanazawa's three great men of letters: Izumi Kyoka, Muro Saisei and Tokuda Shusei. Displays of manuscripts and memorabilia pertaining to Ishikawa's literary culture. Next to Central Park. Closed from Dec.26 to Jan.5.

Dec.26 to Jan.5.

TEL262-5464



20 Kanazawa Shinise (Old Merchant House) Memorial Hall

Nakaya, was reconstructed in Nagamachi and is now a museum. It gives visitors a feel for what shops were like in the feudal era. Behind Korinbo in Nagamachi.

Open every day.

TEL220-2524



23 Saigawa River

This beautiful river, originating from Mt.Hakusan, is a popular place for recreation among Kanazawa residents.

The cherry trees lining its banks are especially beautiful in April, but in any season the Saigawa's banks provide a nice place to relax.



25 Myoryuji Temple

One of the temples frequented by the Maeda clan, it has many secret passageways and hidden rooms to allow sudden escapes. Its nickname is thus "*Ninjadera*" , or "Secret Agent Temple". Near the Hirokoji intersection. Occasional unscheduled holidays.

TEL241-0888

*Reservations recommended.



26 Shima Geisha House

At example of the architecture unique to Geisha houses, Open to the public. In the Higashi Chaya District.
Open every day.
TEL252-5675



29 Asanogawa River (Ume-no-Hashi Bridge)

This wooden bridge, once washed away by a flood, has been rebuilt in the original style.
Watching the river flow by, and looking up at the foliage on Mt.Utatsuyama, visitors can experience the tranquil beauty of Kanazawa here.



Daijoji Temple (Nagasaka-machi, Kanazawa)

This temple was built in 1261 by Togashi, a local feudal lord, as a Shingon sect temple. Later in 1283, it changed to the Soto sect when it welcomed a priest from the Soto Eiheiji Temple. This temple located in the suburbs of Kanazawa, is well worth a visit for those truly interested in Zazen-meditation, mendicancy, and the routine jobs of trainee monks. This temple offers no tourist services but welcomes anyone with a interest in the truths of Zen buddism.

TEL☐F241-2680 e-mail☐Fzazen@daijoji.or.jp

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