



KANAZAWA Architecture Tourism

Kanazawa has had few natural disasters and avoided bombing in World War II, which is why the city retains the appearance of its Chaya districts, Kanazawa Castle and Kenrokuen Garden from the feudal era. On the other hand, the city is also home to the work of many world-famous contemporary architects, and is a blend of tradition and innovation. You can learn more about Kanazawa by exploring the city on different themes.

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**The Legacy
of Japanese
Traditional
Architecture**

02

**The Castle
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03

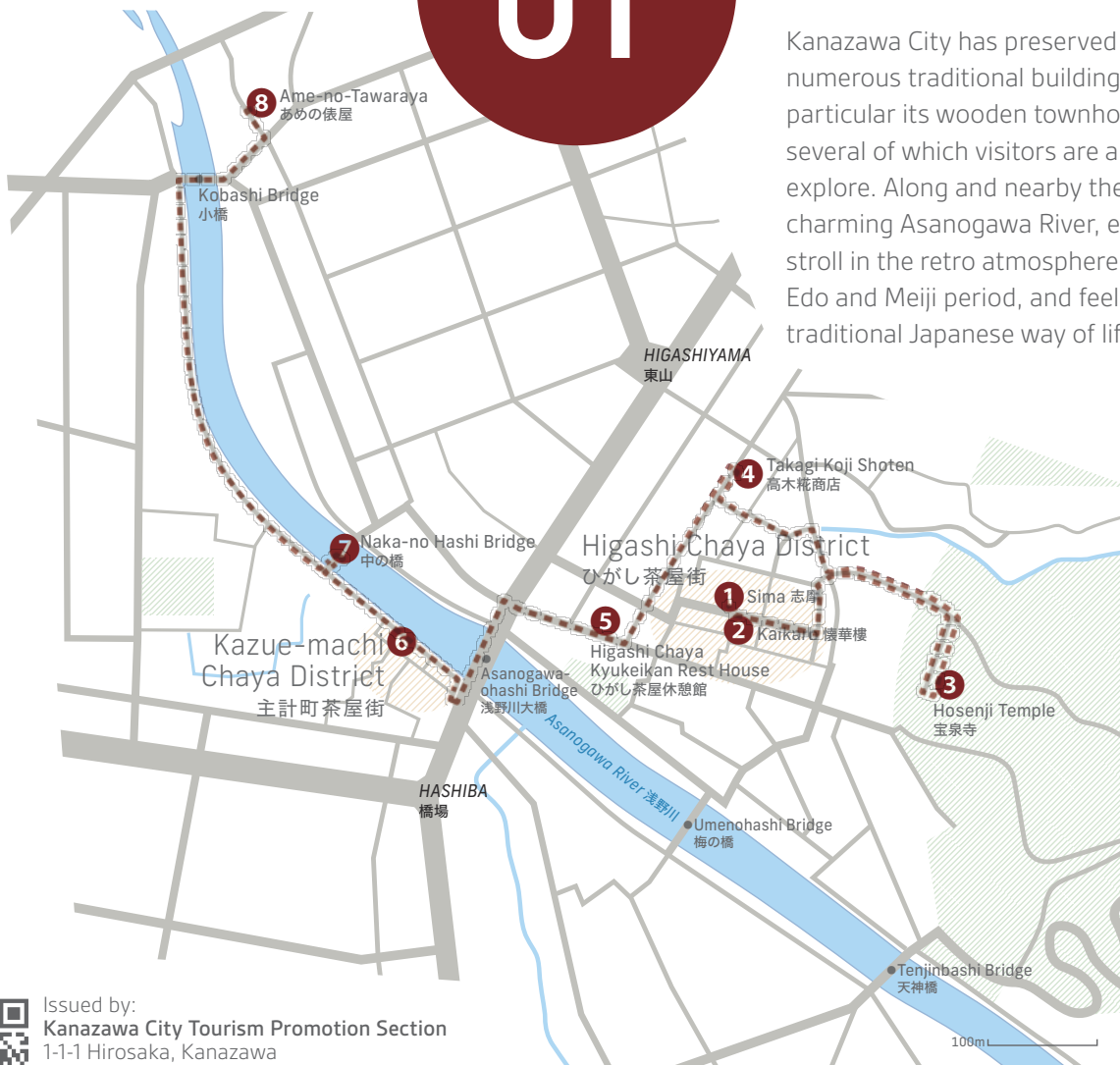
**A Mosaic
of Contemporary,
Award-winning
Buildings**



The Legacy of Japanese Traditional Architecture

01

Kanazawa City has preserved numerous traditional buildings, in particular its wooden townhouses, several of which visitors are able to explore. Along and nearby the charming Asanogawa River, enjoy a stroll in the retro atmosphere of Edo and Meiji period, and feel the traditional Japanese way of life.



Issued by:
Kanazawa City Tourism Promotion Section
1-1-1 Hirosaka, Kanazawa
Kanazawa City Tourism Association
1-1 Kinoshinbo-machi, Kanazawa



1

1 min. on foot

1 National Important Cultural Asset SHIMA

Higashi-Chaya District is the largest of Kanazawa's three historic entertainment districts. Established in 1820, the teahouses (ochaya) were constructed in continuous rows, featuring classic chaya architecture such as kimusuko (barred panels that let in the sun but prevent outsiders from looking in) and bengara (red earth pigment), which is usually plastered on outside walls. Among them, National Important Cultural Property - Shima - is a well-preserved, typical geisha teahouse, or ochaya. Today, it is a two-floor museum where visitors can immerse themselves in the daily life of ancient geishas, or 'geiko' as they are known in Kanazawa. The interior shows several guest rooms and waiting rooms, the proprietress's room, a kitchen and a display of antique geisha beauty accessories and instruments, such as shamisen (a traditional Japanese musical instrument).

Open: 9am to 6pm (Mar. - Nov.), 9am to 5pm (Dec. - Feb.) / Open 365 days a year / Admission fee: 500 yen / Address: 1-13-21 Higashiyama / Contact: Tel. 076-252-5675

2 Kaikaro Teahouse

Kaikaro is another well-preserved chaya (teahouse) that still functions as a business today. Kaikaro offers visitors a rare chance to see the exquisite interior of a traditional teahouse. The interior features numerous beautiful design elements, such as fusuma (sliding doors) and fusuma-e (painting on sliding doors), lustrous red walls, an impressive golden tearoom and vermilion-lacquered stairs. You can also savour delicious Japanese confectionery in the cafe.

Open: 10am to 5pm / Closed: Tuesdays / Admission fee: 750 yen / Address: 1-14-8 Higashiyama / Contact: Tel. 076-253-0591



2

6 min. on foot



3

3 Hosenji Temple

Hidden in the Utatsuyama hills, the small, Buddhist Hosenji Temple is a short walk from the Higashi Chaya District main street and let's you get away from the tourists. From the temple, the vista of Kanazawa is stunning.

Address: 57 Korai-machi



10 min. on foot

4 Takagi Koji Shoten

Takagi Koji Shoten is a landmark establishment in the Higashi Chaya District. Built in 1830, it is the oldest miso brewery-shop in the district. The Takagi family have been miso (soybean paste) and koji (malted rice) makers throughout generations. Miso is a traditional seasoning produced by fermenting soybeans with salt and koji. The koji fungus - aspergillus oryzae - is a main ingredient in many Japanese foods such as sake, soy sauce, and most products that require a fermentation process. The products here are carefully handmade one by one using traditional methods and the finest ingredients. The Takagi family building is the same as it was 200 years ago, and you can take a look inside and have a chat with the owners.

4

2 min. on foot



Open: 9am to 7pm / Closed: Year-end and New Year day / Address: 1-9-3 Higashiyama / Contact: Tel. 076-252-7461



5

5 Higashi Chaya Kyukeikan Rest House

This townhouse-style shop was built at the end of the Edo period (1603-1868) and was restored in 2003. It is a type of machiya (a traditional, wooden Japanese townhouse - one of the defining characteristics of downtown Japanese architecture for centuries). The building originally served as a pawnshop, and today, it is a rest station for tourists, where volunteer sightseeing guides stand, to give information (in Japanese only) about Higashi Chaya District, and other local sightseeing spots.

Open: 9am to 5pm (Mar.16 - Nov 30), 9:30am to 5pm (Dec.1 - Mar.15)
 / Admission fee: Free /Address: 1-3-8 Kannon-machi / Contact: Tel. 076-253-0087



4 min. on foot

Kazue-machi Chaya District 6

Along the banks of Asanogawa River, not far from Higashi Chaya, is a peaceful place full of charm and beauty. It is the traditional teahouse district of Kazue-machi Chaya, a historical entertainment district. The narrow alleys and red walled teahouses inspired Kyoka Izumi (1873-1939), a famous Kanazawa-born writer and poet. The district is a designated conservation area of important traditional buildings within the city of Kanazawa.

6



5 min. on foot



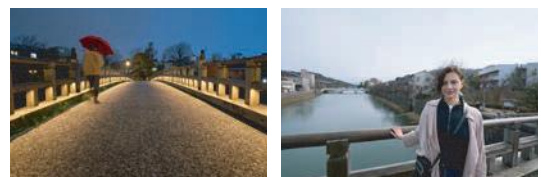
7

7 Naka-no Hashi Bridge

The wooden Naka-no Hashi Bridge retains the historical atmosphere of the Edo period (1603-1868) and from it you can contemplate the beautiful view over the Kazuemachi District and Asanogawa River. In the spring, it is a famous spot to enjoy cherry blossoms.



6 min. on foot



Ame-no-Tawaraya 8

A visit to Tawaraya confectionery shop is like wandering into another time. It is the oldest candy shop in Kanazawa. The simple sweets are made from high-quality rice and barley using the same technique used since its establishment in 1873. The building's architecture is beautiful and quintessentially Japanese with a long wooden facade.

Open: 9am to 5pm / Closed Open 365 days a year / Address: 2-4 Kobashi-machi / Contact: Tel. 076-252-2079

8





The Castle and Religious Architecture

02

For centuries, stone and wood have been the main materials used in Japan to build sophisticated buildings such as castles, shrines and temples. Take a stroll around the site, which is closely associated with the Maeda family of the Kaga Domain, and discover its architectural style.



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1

① Oyama Jinja Shrine

Oyama Jinja Shrine, is the main shinto sanctuary of Kanazawa. It is dedicated to Toshiie Maeda and his wife, Omatsu, who laid the foundation of Kanazawa. The shrine was moved to its present location in 1873.

Built in 1875, the 25 metre-high gate is designated as an Important Cultural Property. It is a curious mix of Japanese, Chinese and European religious architectural elements. The third floor, which was once used as a lighthouse, is famous for its impressive stained-glass windows. The distinctive gate, along with the nearby beautiful garden make this shrine a unique place to visit.

[Open 365 a year / Address 11-1 Oyama-machi / Contact : Tel. 076-231-7210]

3min. on foot

Nezumitamon Gate & Nezumitamon Bridge ②

Connecting Oyama Jinja Shrine and Kanazawa Castle, is the Nezumitamon Gate which opened to the public in 2020. The history of this bridge and gate dates back to the early 17th century. In 2015, the reconstruction of Nezumitamon Bridge and Gate was decided in the Third Kanazawa Castle Park Development Project. In 1877 the Nezumitamon Bridge was demolished due to aging and wear, and in 1884, a fire destroyed the gate. With the help of historical records, both were rebuilt using traditional methods and materials such as lead tile roofing and the finest wood (zelkova, Noto hiba cypress, sugi cedar). As a result, it is possible to enjoy the gate and bridge again as they were 400 years ago.

[Open: 9am to 4:30pm (Visitors must enter by 4pm) / Address: 1-1 Maru-no-uchi]

10 min. on foot

2



③ Kanazawa Castle, Hishi Yagura / Gojukken Nagaya / Hashizume-mon Tsuzuki Yagura

Kanazawa Castle and Kenrokuen Garden are symbols of the city, and the castle park was designated in 2008 as a National Historic site. As many castles built between 16th and 17th centuries, Kanazawa Castle was built in the centre of the city, and in Kanazawa it lies between the Saigawa and Asanogawa Rivers. Located on small hill, it dominates the urban space that extends from its foot.

Gojukken Nagaya is the biggest building in the castle's complex, and was used as a store-house for weapons and as a castle wall for protection. Two impressive turrets stand on either end, the first is Hishi Yagura, a 17 metre-tall, three-story building, constructed on an 11.7 metre-high stone wall. This turret functioned as a watchtower for the surrounding area. The second is Hashizume-mon Tsuzuki Yagura, another watchtower and command post used for surveying people coming and going through the gate.

[Open: 9am to 4:30pm (Visitors must enter by 4pm.) / All three are open 365 days a year / Admission Fee: 320 yen]

10 min. on foot

3





4

4 Kanazawa Castle, Stone Walls

The castle's walls use stone extracted from Mt. Tomuro, which is 8 km to the east. There are three different stone masonry techniques used in Kanazawa Castle's construction, visible to visitors as you walk around. The Kirikomi-hagi method looks like a mosaic - stones are shaped and fitted together neatly and so closely that there is not even a space for a finger in the gaps between. The Uchikomi-hagi method uses roughly broken-up stones which are then fitted together. The Nozumi method is less unsophisticated but creates very durable walls, where stones are fitted together just as they are.



3m/in. on foot

Kanazawa Castle, Ishikawa-mon Gate 5

The monumental Ishikawa-mon Gate stands in a green, facing Kenrokuen Garden. The stone wall of this impressive structure evokes the grandeur and prosperity of the region in ancient times. The entrance is made of iron and the inner walls of stone. Kanazawa Castle includes two-storey buildings where weapons were stored. In the early Meiji period, most of the buildings within the castle walls were destroyed by fire and only the Ishikawa-mon Gate was saved.

Open: 9:30am to 3:30pm on Sat., Sun., public holidays and special open days from Mar. to Nov. / Admission Fee: Free / Address: 1-1 Marunouchi / Contact: Tel. 076-234-3800



5



6

Kanazawa Jinja Shrine

Kanazawa Jinja Shrine is often missed on foreign visitors' itineraries, but it is a charming place with a rich and intriguing history. The shrine was built in 1794 by the 11th Maeda lord to protect Kenrokuen Garden and is dedicated to the ancestors of the Maeda family. It was only in 1874, that Kenrokuen Garden became open to the public. The shrine consists of a beautiful, red building and many torii gates can be seen about the grounds.



7

Tentokuin Temple

This beautiful temple was built in 1623 by Toshitsune Maeda, the 3rd Lord of the Maeda family, who married Tamahime, the granddaughter of Tokugawa Ieyasu (the first shogun). It was an arranged marriage in order to maintain a good relationship with the central government (Tokugawa Shogunate). They were a very happy couple, but Tamahime died at the young age of 23. Devastated, her husband had the Tentokuin Temple built in her memory. The temple's solemn gate, that has been carefully preserved since its construction is a highlight. There is a small fee to go inside, but here visitors can watch karakuri ningyo (mechanical dolls) tell the story of Tamahime.

Open: 9am to 4:30pm (until 4 pm from Dec. to Feb.) / Closed Wednesdays from Dec. to Feb., Dec. 29 to Jan. 3 / Admission fee: 500 yen / Address 4-4-4 Kodatsuno / Contact : Tel. 076-231-4484

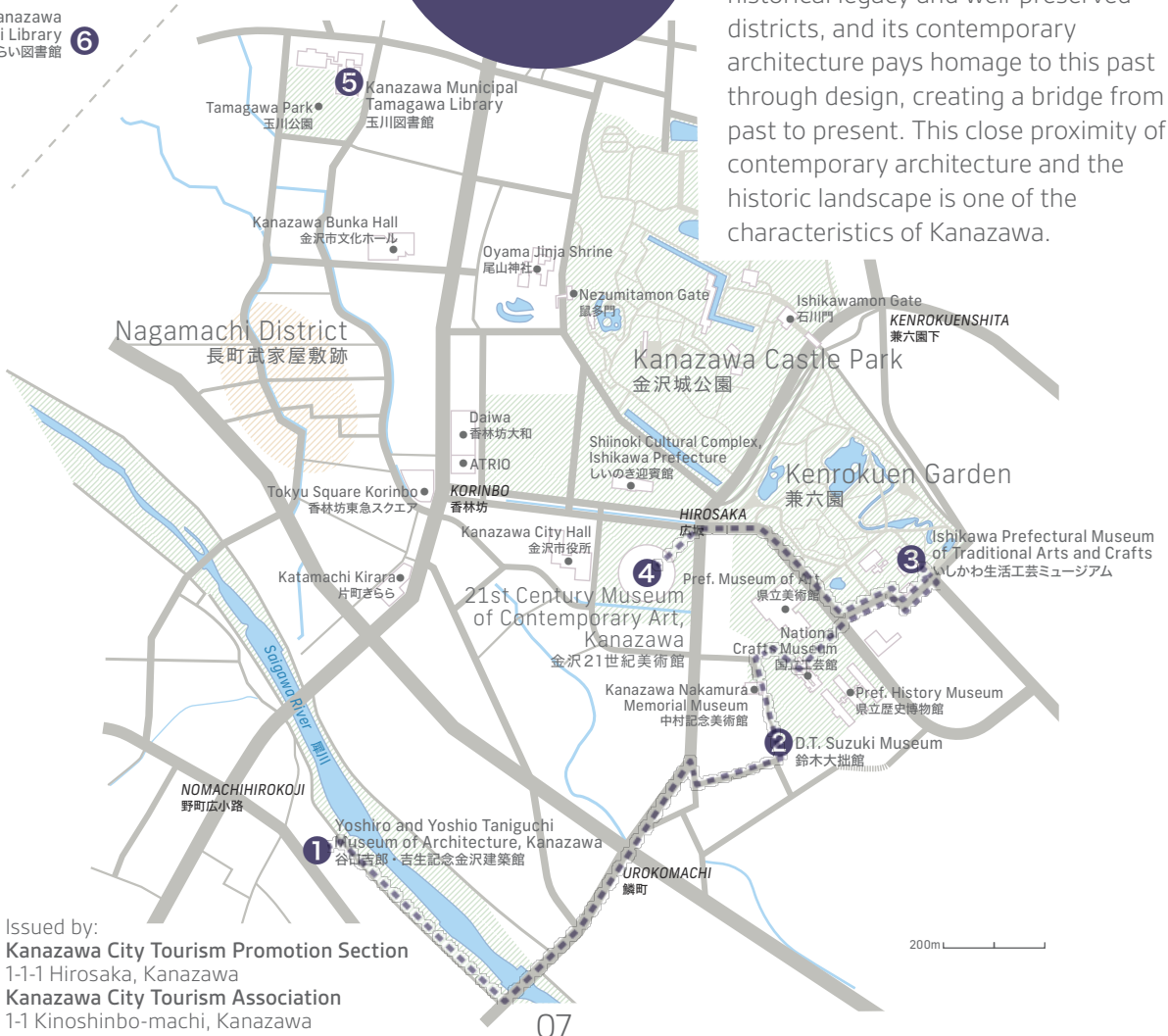
A Mosaic of Contemporary, Award-winning Buildings



03

Kanazawa is well known for its historical legacy and well-preserved districts, and its contemporary architecture pays homage to this past through design, creating a bridge from past to present. This close proximity of contemporary architecture and the historic landscape is one of the characteristics of Kanazawa.

Kanazawa Umimirai Library
金沢海みらい図書館 6



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 1-1-1 Hirosaka, Kanazawa
Kanazawa City Tourism Association
 1-1 Kinoshinbo-machi, Kanazawa

200m



1

1 Yoshiro and Yoshio Taniguchi Museum of Architecture, Kanazawa

Open: 9:30am to 5pm (Visitors must enter by 4:30pm.) / Closed on Monday, or next day if Monday falls on a holiday, and between Dec. 29th and Jan. 3rd. / Admission Fee: 310 yen (Separate charges for special exhibition) / Address: 5-1-18 Tera-machi / Contact: Tel. 076-247-3031

20 min. on foot

Yoshiro Taniguchi (1904-1979) was born in Kanazawa, and is a prominent Japanese architect who built over 70 buildings and 40 memorials. He is the father of Yoshio Taniguchi (1937-) who redesigned the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York in 2004. The Yoshiro and Yoshio Taniguchi Museum of Architecture, Kanazawa was built to commemorate Yoshiro and Yoshio Taniguchi. The building is a sophisticated piece of architecture that evokes the work of Yoshiro Taniguchi. It is located nearby Tera-machi Temple Area.



2

2 D.T. Suzuki Museum

Open: 9:30am to 5pm (Visitors must enter by 4:30pm.) / Closed on Monday, or next day if Monday falls on a holiday, and between Dec. 29th and Jan.3rd. / Admission Fee: 310 yen / Address: 3-4-20 Hondamachi / Contact: Tel. 076-221-8011

10 min. on foot

The D.T. Suzuki Museum conveys the life and work of Daisetz Teitaro Suzuki (1870-1966), a prominent Buddhist philosopher. He was well known as a key figure in spreading Japanese zen philosophy to the west, and his work remains fundamental for those interested in Buddhism and Zen. Designed by internationally acclaimed architect Yoshio Taniguchi, the museum has landscaped gardens incorporating stone walls and streams set against a background of vivid greenery and is not simply an exhibition facility but also a place for self-reflection.



3

3 Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Traditional Arts and Crafts

The museum was designed by Yoshiro Taniguchi in 1959, and exhibits the 36 different craft types of Ishikawa prefecture. Adjacent to Kenrokuen Garden, the museum introduces traditional and modern crafts. There are demonstrations and hands-on experiences led by craftsmen, and the museum shop sells items handmade by local artisans.

Open: 9am to 5 pm (Visitors must enter by 4:45 pm) / Closed: The third Thursday (Apr. to Nov.), Every Thursday (Dec. to Mar.) and New Year's Holidays / Admission fee 1st floor: free, 2nd floor: Adult: 260yen / Address: 1-1 Kenroku-machi / Contact: Tel. 076-262-2020

10 min., on foot

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa 4

Not far from Kenrokuen Garden and Kanazawa Castle, the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa is a major work of the two Japanese architects, Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, who won the Pritzker Prize (considered the equivalent of the Nobel Prize of architecture). The circular museum is located in the centre of the city. Its underlying concept is that it is a place 'where citizens can witness the expressions of contemporary art in the world'. Curved glass was used for the outer wall, so that the interior of the museum can be seen from the outside.

Open: 10am to 6pm (closing at 8pm on Fridays and Saturdays.) / Closed on Mondays or the next day, if the Monday falls on a national holiday. / Visitors can enter the free zone from 9am to 10pm every day, including Monday. / Admission Fee: Varies according to the exhibition. / Address: 1-2-1 Hirosaka / Contact: Tel. 076-220-2800

4



5

Kanazawa Municipal Tamagawa Library

The library is the result of a combined effort between father-son architects Yoshiro Taniguchi and Yoshio Taniguchi, and is their only joint project. Built between 1977 and 1978, the library consists of two buildings, the Tamagawa Library Main Building and the Archives of Modern History Records. The building dedicated to history is red brick and traditional in appearance, while the library has a more modern feel with a bright and open interior.

Open: 10am to 7pm (10am to 5pm on Sat., Sun. and public holidays) / Closed: on Monday, or next day if Monday falls on a holiday, and between December 29th and January 4th. / Address: 2-20 Tamagawa-cho / Contact: Tel. 076-221-1960



6

Kanazawa Umimirai Library

Opened to the public in 2011, Kanazawa Umimirai Library is another beautiful example of the contemporary architecture which surrounds the city. Built by Kazumi Kudo and Hiroshi Horiba, its surface creates a decorative grid made of around 6000 small circular blocks of glass.

Open: Mon., Tue., Thur. and Fri.: 10am to 7pm, Sat., Sun. and public holidays: 10am to 5pm / Closed: on Wednesday, or next day if Monday falls on a holiday, and between December 29th and January 4th. / Address: 11-1 Jichu-machi / Contact: Tel. 076-266-2011