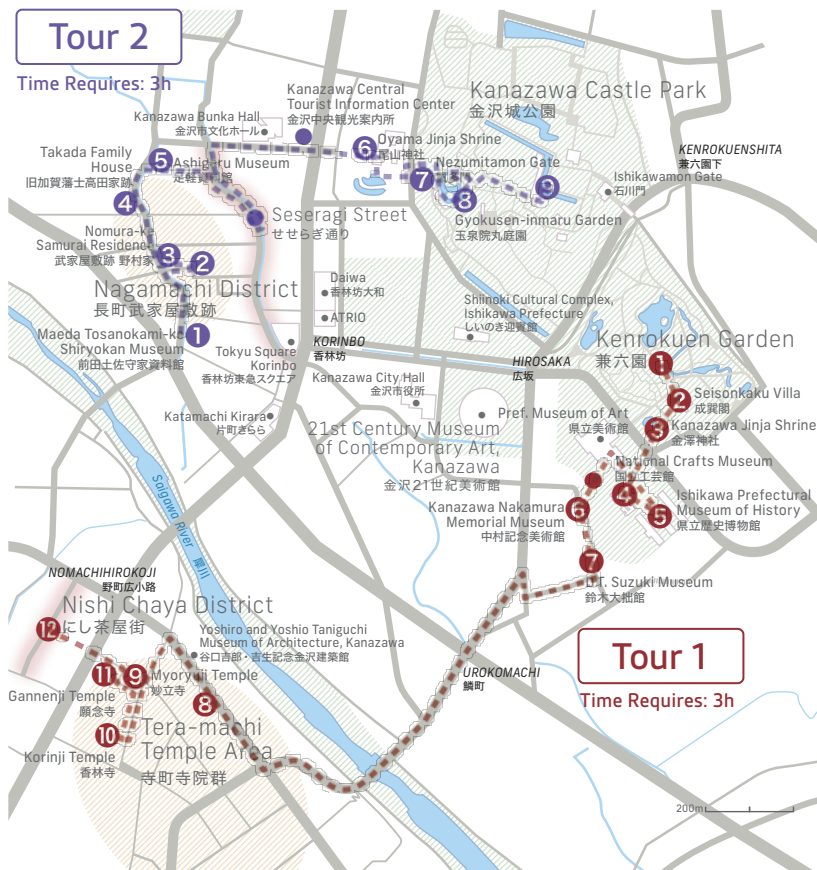




Samurai Route in Kaga Domain, Kanazawa

Kanazawa Samurai Walking Tour, A Stroll Along the Kaga Domain's Samurai Path

Kanazawa has carefully preserved an important part of its samurai culture legacy. Through the centuries, the samurai, encouraged by their lords, developed numerous important parts of the Japanese culture, such as tea ceremonies and local arts and crafts... Explore Kanazawa's intriguing Buke-bunka Samurai Culture.



Tour 1 | The Legacy of the Samurai

- 1 Kenrokuen Garden
↓ 5 min. on foot
- 2 Seisonkaku Villa
↓ 3 min. on foot
- 3 Kanazawa Jinja Shrine
↓ 5 min. on foot
- 4 National Crafts Museum
↓ 1 min. on foot
- 5 Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of History
↓ 5 min. on foot
- 6 Bijutsu no Komichi
↓ 1 min. on foot
- 6 Kanazawa Nakamura Memorial Museum
↓ 5 min. on foot
- 7 D.T. Suzuki Museum
↓ 20 min. on foot - 5 min. by bus
- 8 Tera-machi Temple Area
↓ 1 min. on foot
- 9 Myoryuji Temple
↓ 5 min. on foot
- 10 Korinji Temple
↓ 5 min. on foot
- 11 Gannenji Temple
↓ 5 min. on foot
- 12 Nishi Chaya District

Tour 2 | The lifestyle of the samurai and their lords

- 1 Maeda Tosanokami-ke Shiryokan Museum
↓ 5 min. on foot
- 2 Nagamachi District
↓ 1 min. on foot
- 3 Nomura-ke Samurai Residence
↓ 2 min. on foot
- 4 Takada Family House
↓ 3 min. on foot
- 5 Kanazawa City Ashigaru Museum
↓ 10 min. on foot
- 6 Oyama Jinja Shrine
↓ 1 min. on foot
- 7 Nezumitam Gate & Nezumitam Bridge
↓ 1 min. on foot
- 8 Gyokusen-inmaru Garden
↓ 4 min. on foot
- 9 Kanazawa Castle Park

Tour 1

Time Requires: 3h

The Legacy of the Samurai

Over several centuries the samurai and their lords were shaping the Kanazawa City culture through art, crafts and architecture.



1 Kenrokuen Garden

The construction of Kenrokuen Garden started in 1676 and was shaped over three centuries by successive Maeda lords of the Kaga Domain (the ancient name of the region). It is a classic example of a Japanese garden and is a true masterpiece. Here, technique is combined with a great sensibility, creating beauty and harmony that can be admired all year round. In 1985, the garden was designated as a National Site of Special Scenic Beauty and it is the jewel of Kanazawa city.

Open: 7am to 6pm (8am to 5pm from Oct. 16th to end of Feb.)
Kenrokuen Garden is open 365 days a year. / Admission Fee: 320 yen / Address: 1 Kenroku-machi / Contact: Tel. 076-234-3800



2 Seisonkaku Villa

Seisonkaku Villa, built during the last years of the Edo period (1603-1868) in 1863 by the 13th Maeda lord for his mother's retirement, is an elegant samurai villa located in the southeast corner of Kenrokuen Garden. The interior features expansive tatami rooms over two floors and has an important collection of historical items which are frequently displayed in temporary exhibitions. The building features a private garden and a roof without supports which allows for an exquisite view over Kenrokuen Garden. In 1950, Seisonkaku Villa was declared an Important Cultural Property.

Open: 9 am to 5 pm (Visitors must enter by 4:30pm) / Closed: Wednesdays (Next day if Wednesday falls on a holiday) and Dec. 29 to Jan. 2 / Admission fee: 700 yen / Address 1-2 Kenroku-machi / Contact: Tel. 076-221-0580



3 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.

Open 365 a year / Address: 1-3 Kenroku-machi / Contact: Tel. 076-261-0502

National Crafts Museum **4**

During the Edo period (1603-1868) the Maeda lords developed the area's political and economic sphere. The Kaga Domain was the second wealthiest and most stable domain in Japan, and as a result, the Maeda family embarked upon some impressive projects. The lords invited Japan's top artisans to live in Kanazawa, and with them, a distinctive culture emerged. In 2020, the Crafts gallery, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (MOMAT) was relocated to Kanazawa, and opened as the National Crafts Museum.

The museum is dedicated to preserving and promoting Japanese crafts, housing important collections from the Meiji period (1868-1912) up to the present.

Open: 9:30am to 5:30pm (Visitors must enter by 5pm) / Admission Fee: Varies according to the exhibition. *Reservation required / Address: 3-2 Dewamachi



5 Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of History

Located just 1 minute on foot from the National Crafts Museum, Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of History is the perfect place to gain an understanding of the samurai culture and politics of the Kaga Domain. As a peaceful city ruled by powerful Maeda lords, the Kaga Domain (now called Kanazawa) developed a unique samurai culture. The samurai (usually called bushi or buke in Japanese) had a huge impact on the development of this culture. Beautiful crafts such as kimono Kaga-yuzen (fabric dyeing); gold leaf; Kutani-yaki porcelain and Maki-e lacquerware production, as well as artforms like Noh theatre and the tea ceremony were an important part of the samurai way of life. The museum is housed in three, beautiful former armoury warehouses built at the end of the Meiji period (1868-1912) to the early Taisho era (1912-1926).

Open: 9am to 5pm (Visitors must enter by 4:30pm) / Closed: Year-end and New Year day, exhibition renewal periods / Admission Fee: ¥300 / Address: 3-1 Dewamachi / Contact: Tel. 076-262-3236



Bijutsu no Komichi

Bijutsu no Komichi is a short and charming path through woodland between the National Crafts Museum and Kanazawa Nakamura Memorial Museum. It literally means 'path of art'. If you stroll down to the Kanazawa Nakamura Memorial Museum you can enjoy a cascading stream beside the steps.



Kanazawa Nakamura Memorial Museum **6**

Kanazawa Nakamura Memorial Museum holds an important collection of arts and crafts gathered gradually over the years by passionate collector Mr. Eishun Nakamura (1908-1978), who was the President of the Nakamura Sake Brewing Company. His collection of tea ceremony items such as scrolls, tea caddies, teapots and containers for fresh water are particularly noteworthy. The tea ceremony was a large part of the Maeda lords' and samurai life, and was a symbol of a samurai warrior's power and prestige. Over centuries, the tea ceremony, influenced by Zen buddhism, has flourished in Kanazawa via Urasenke school (the school of Japanese tea ceremony).



Open: 9:30am to 5pm (Visitors must enter by 4:30pm) / Closed: Exhibit changes from Dec. 29 to Jan. 3 / Admission fee: 310 yen / Address: 3-2-29 Honda-machi / Contact: Tel. 076-221-0751



7 D.T. Suzuki Museum

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 seeking to understand 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.

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

8 Tera-machi Temple Area

Tera-machi, meaning 'Temple Town', is located along one side of the Saigawa River. In this area during the feudal period, the Maeda lords built temples in close proximity to one another, and today 70 remain, including Myoryuji, Korinji and Gannenji Temples. It is a quiet place to wander around and along the way you will find some cafes and small boutiques.



9 Myoryuji Temple

Myoryuji Temple, also known as 'Ninjadera Temple' is located in Teramachi District. Ninja (shinobi in Japanese) were the equivalent of secret agents, involved in espionage, sabotage, infiltration and assassination during the feudal period. Myoryuji Temple was built soon after the establishment of the Kaga Domain and served as a disguised military outpost, gaining its nickname from its numerous secret defences which acted as countermeasures in case of attack and invasion from enemies.

*A reservation by telephone is required. Please visit their website for opening hours, closing dates and how to book. / Address: 1-2-12 No-machi / Contact: Tel. 076-241-0888



10 Korinji Temple

Founded in 1651 by the Maeda family, this Buddhist temple is renowned for bringing good luck in love and marriage. The temple is also famous for its small garden and its 'road of happiness' which devotees walk around three times before praying. Several varieties of flowers bloom all year round - cherry blossoms and crimson-coloured Kirishima azalea in spring, and red and white amaryllis flowers in autumn.

Open: 9 am to 5pm (until 4:30pm in Nov. to Feb.) / Closed: Buddhist service days, Year-end and New Year day / Admission fee: 500 yen / Address: 1-3-15 No-machi / Contact: Tel. 076-241-3905



11 Gannenji Temple

Gannenji Temple is another temple in Teramachi District, located in a narrow street behind Myoryuji Temple. The famous poet Matsuo Bassho (1644-1694) visited it during his journey along the Oku no Hosomichi ('The Narrow Road to the Deep North') and he left a haiku commemorating the death of another poet, Issho Kobayashi.

Closed: Irregularly / Address: 1-3-82 No-machi



12 Nishi Chaya District

Near the Tera-machi District, is the Nishi Chaya District, one of three traditional geisha districts of the city. It is a compact area, smaller and quieter than Higashi Chaya District. The district has several shops and cafes, as well as teahouses. It is an ideal place to take photos in front of the traditional teahouses.



Tour 2

Time Requires: 3h

The Lifestyle of the Samurai and their Lords

Discover the Nagamachi District, the neighbourhood of feudal samurai residences and the political and military centre of the lords of the Kaga Domain.



1 Maeda Tosanokami-ke Shiryokan Museum

Located at the entrance of the Nagamachi District, the Maeda Tosanokami-ke Shiryokan Museum is a good place to start to immerse yourself in the samurai culture of Kanazawa. The museum provides archives of samurai families during the Edo period (1603-1868) and displays of historical items such as armour, art and calligraphy handed down through the generations.

Open: 9:30am to 5pm (Visitors must enter by 4:30pm) / Closed: Mondays, Dec.29 – Jan.3 / Admission fee: 310 yen / Address: 2-10-17 Kata-machi / Contact: Tel. 076-233-1561

2 Nagamachi District

About a 10-minute walk from Kanazawa Castle, The Nagamachi District is the neighbourhood of old feudal samurai residences. Many Edo period (1603-1868) features remain as the district has miraculously escaped fires, and the firebombs of World War II. Remnants of the past can be seen today in its narrow, cobblestone alleys, earthen walls, private

entrance gates, canals and restored samurai houses. The district is one of the most pleasant in Kanazawa for taking a stroll, and it's easy here to completely lose track of time.



3 Nomura-ke Samurai Residence

The Nomura-ke Samurai Residence is one of the main attractions of the Nagamachi District. It is a restored samurai residence which shows how a rich samurai family once lived. The residence is famous for its beautiful private garden - a masterpiece from which visitors can contemplate different viewpoints. The house features three buildings: the main residence including a jodan-no-ma (room with a raised floor), a chashitsu (tea room), a tea garden and a museum located in the storehouse, which displays a collection of swords as well as craft items.

Open: 8:30am to 5:30pm (until 4:30pm from October to March) / Closed: Dec. 26 to 27, Jan. 1 to Jan. 2 / Admission fee: 550 yen / Address: 1-3-32 Naga-machi / Contact: Tel. 076-221-3553



Samurai and the Japanese Tea Ceremony

In the feudal period, samurai were powerful figures at the top of the social hierarchy. They played an important role in Japanese tea culture, and greatly contributed to the development of the area. Every time samurai came back from the battlefield, they practiced the art of the tea ceremony to help them find peace within their minds. Both Kanazawa Nakamura Memorial Museum and the Nomura-ke Samurai Family Residence, provide tearooms in which visitors can enjoy a cup of matcha green tea.



Takada Family House **4**

In the feudal era, the size of samurai residences were determined by the samurai's rank. The Takada Family were samurai of middle rank. Today, it is possible to visit the old site of the Takada Family's former house, garden and stable and witness the way in which a middle-ranking samurai family lived.

Open: 9:30am to 5pm / Open 365 days a year / Admission fee: Free / Address: 2-6-1 Naga-machi



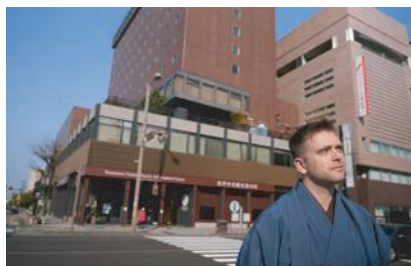
5 Kanazawa City Ashigaru Museum

Ashigaru, literally meaning 'light [of] foot', were infantry employed by the samurai. During the Edo period (1603-1868) these foot soldiers were assigned the lowest rank of the samurai class system. Kanazawa has many well-preserved ashigaru houses. Usually ashigaru soldiers lived in continuous rows of tenement housing called nagaya (longhouses), but due to Kanazawa's wealth, these soldiers were provided with detached houses with gardens. Today, Kanazawa City Ashigaru Museum exhibits two ashigaru houses, the Takanishi and the Shimizu Family homes. Both give excellent insight into the life of an ashigaru family

Open: 9:30am to 5pm / Open 365 days a year / Admission fee: Free / Address 1-9-3 Naga-machi

Seseragi Street

This charming alley is well known by the residents of Kanazawa. It is home to many trendy cafes, izakaya restaurants and boutique shops as well as a picturesque canal crossed by several small bridges. The canal was built in the early Edo period (1603-1868) as a way to deliver water to the local residents, but also to transport wood from the Onomachi District, near the coast, to the castle.



Kanazawa Central Tourist Information Center

On your way to Oyama Jinja Shrine, feel free to stop at the Kanazawa Central Tourist Information Center. Comprehensive tourist information is available to visitors and several services are offered.

Open: 10am to 9pm / Open 365 days a year / Address: 1st Floor, New Grand Bldg., 4-1 Minami-cho / Contact: Tel. 076-254-5020

Oyama Jinja Shrine **6**

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

Built in 1875, the gate, designated as an Important Cultural Property, is designed with impressive stained glass and mixes Japanese and Western architectural styles, giving this sanctuary a unique atmosphere underpinned by its peaceful garden.

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





7 Nezumitamon Gate & Nezumitamon Bridge

Connecting Oyama Jinja Shrine and Kanazawa Castle Park is the Nezumitamon Gate which opened its doors in 2020. The history of this bridge dates back to the early 17th century. In 2015 the reconstruction of Nezumitamon Bridge and Gate was confirmed in the Third Kanazawa Castle Park Development Project. In 1877 the Nezumitamon Bridge was demolished due to age and wear, and in 1884, a fire destroyed the gate. Both were reconstructed using historical records and today we can enjoy the beauty of the gate as it was 400 years ago.

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



8 Gyokusen-inmaru Garden

Constructed in the early Edo period (1603-1868) by the 3rd Maeda lord of the Kaga Domain, it is thought that the garden served primarily as a courtyard for the domain lord. During the Meiji period (1868-1912) the garden was abandoned and eventually it disappeared. An excavation of the site began in 2008, and in 2013 a reconstruction of the garden took place, based on drawings, literature, and discoveries from the excavation. Finally, the garden opened to the public in 2015. The result is a stunning pond and islets enclosed by a stone wall and a stepped waterfall. It is thought to be the first garden of its kind to use this kind of stone wall pattern along with a waterfall.

Open: 7am to 6pm (8am to 5pm from October 16th to end of February.) / The garden is open 365 days a year. / Admission Fee: Free



9 Kanazawa Castle Park

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. Located on a small hill, the castle dominates the urban space that extends from its foot, organised according to the shi-nō-kō-shō system (a Edo period, hierarchical order of society assigning warriors, peasants, craftsmen and merchants to different districts).



Open: 7am to 6pm (8am to 5pm from October 16th to end of February.) / Kanazawa Castle Park is open 365 days a year. / Admission Fee: Free / Address: 1-1 Marunouchi / Contact: Tel. 076-234-3800