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Ports & Excursions



Kanazawa, Japan

Kanazawa, which means "marsh of gold," draws its name from an old legend in which a Japanese peasant, digging for potatoes, found flakes of gold in the ground. Today, gold leaf is a major art form synonymous with the city, and even has a designated museum. A City of Crafts and Folk Art, Kanazawa is also known for its intricate kaga-nui embroidery and delicate kutani porcelain, among other handicrafts, making it a shopper's paradise! There's also no shortage of history in this coastal city. Once boasting geisha houses and a labyrinthine samurai village, the city was built around Kanazawa Castle. Fire destroyed all but a few small 16th-century castle structures - namely the elegant Ishikawa Gate and some watchtowers that have become a focus of many a photograph today. Just outside the castle park blooms the enchanting Kenroku-en Garden, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan, and the home of the country's oldest fountain.

Points of Interest

1 Kenrokuen Garden

The "Garden of the Six Sublimities" balances its leafy green tapestry with graceful ponds, streams, waterfalls, bridges and teahouses. No wonder it's considered to be one of Japan's top three gardens.

2 Higashichaya Machi

Walk in the footsteps of samurai, geisha, merchants and lords within an historic district of stunning Edo architecture. Soak up the heady atmosphere in an elegant geisha house or a cozy teahouse.

3 21st Century Museum

The architectural surprise of this museum creates a dazzling counterpoint to Kanazawa's traditional soul. The equally intriguing interiors create the perfect backdrop for world-class contemporary art.

4 Shirakawago & Gokayama

Quaint thatch-roofed homes in the historic Gassho "prayer-hands" style reveal a masterful understanding of and harmony with nature. They are beautifully preserved in these UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

5 Nagamachi Samurai House Row

Beautifully restored residences allow entrée to the mythical world of the Japanese samurai. A visit to the Nomura Samurai House, circa 1770, offers a closer look at how a middle class warrior lived.

6 Tateyama & Kurobe Alpine Route

The Alpine Route between Tateyama and Kurobe takes you on a life-changing journey through a legendary nature scape. See sacred mountains, "Great Walls of Snow," and breathtaking vistas in all seasons.

7 Eiheiji Temple

Tucked into the lush hills outside Fukui City, this active monastery invites you to commune with nature, wander the beautiful temple grounds and practice meditation guided by a Zen Buddhist master.

8 Omicho Market

Senses awaken amidst the colorful whirl of this vivid fresh food market. Explore covered streets brimming with hundreds of shops and stalls showcasing Kanazawa's excellent local seafood and produce.

Special Child Pricing Available!

Children age 12 and younger, savings up to 50%. For actual pricing information, click on tour title or Reserve button.

Sightseeing & City Tours



Best of Kanazawa (Guided In English)
KZ1-100 | Kanazawa, Japan | Group Size: 40

You will visit: 1 2 3 | M | 7.5 hours | from **$159.00**

Experience Kanazawa's past and present. Visit Kenroku-en, one of the "Three Great Gardens of Japan." Explore the city's feudal-era pleasure district and a neighborhood where samurai once made their homes. Step into the present with a visit to Kanazawa's 21th Century Museum of Contemporary Art.



Best of Kanazawa (Guided In Japanese)
KZ1-104 | Kanazawa, Japan | Group Size: 40

You will visit: 1 2 3 | M | 7.5 hours | from **$159.00**

Experience Kanazawa's past and present. Visit Kenroku-en, one of the "Three Great Gardens of Japan." Explore the city's feudal-era pleasure district and a neighborhood where samurai once made their homes. Step into the present with a visit to Kanazawa's 21th Century Museum of Contemporary Art.

World Heritage Site

Shirakawago Village & Gokayama Village (Guided in English)
KZ1-115 | Kanazawa, Japan | Group Size: 40

You will visit: 4 | M | 8 hours | from **$179.95 (AUD)**

Explore the breathtaking village of Shirakawago, a UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Site, where steeply thatched farmhouses nestle beneath pine-covered mountains. After lunch on your own, sightsee to the nearby village of Gokayama where you'll learn about and participate in the art of Japanese paper-making to complete your full-day excursion from Kanazawa.

World Heritage Site

Shirakawago & Gokayama (Guided in Japanese)
KZ1-119 | Kanazawa, Japan | Group Size: 40

You will visit: 4 | M | 8 hours | from **$109.00**

Explore the breathtaking village of Shirakawago, a UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Site, where steeply thatched farmhouses nestle beneath pine-covered mountains. After lunch on your own, sightsee to the nearby village of Gokayama where you'll learn about and participate in the art of Japanese paper-making to complete your full-day excursion from Kanazawa.



Wakura Onsen & Kagaya Ryokan (Guided in Japanese)
KZ1-144 | Kanazawa, Japan | Group Size: 40

8 hours — from **$199.00**

This full-day excursion goes off the beaten track for a rejuvenating experience in the hot spring resort town of Wakura Onsen. It includes a visit to a samurai mansion, a drive on the beach, and a hot bath before lunch at the renowned Kagaya Ryokan, acclaimed for hospitality and charm.

Special Interests



Eiheiji Buddhist Temple & Tojinbo (Guided in English)
KZ1-135 | Kanazawa, Japan | Group Size: 40

You will visit: 7

7.5 hours — from **$179.95 (AUD)**

This tour takes you to Fukui to visit Eiheiji Temple, as well as the unique rock formations at Tojinbo.



Eiheiji Temple & Tojinbo (Guided in Japanese)
KZ1-139 | Kanazawa, Japan | Group Size: 40

You will visit: 7

7.5 hours — from **$109.00**

This tour takes you to Fukui to visit Eiheiji Temple, as well as the unique rock formations at Tojinbo.



Kenrokuen Gardens, Samurai & Geisha Districts (Guided in English)
KZ1-210 | Kanazawa, Japan | Group Size: 40

You will visit: 1 2 5

4 hours — from **$99.95 (AUD)**

Experience Kanazawa's feudal past. Visit Kenroku-en, one of the "Three Great Gardens of Japan." This 24-acre paradise of pines, pavilions, streams and bridges was once part of Kanazawa Castle. Discover Nagamachi, where Kanazawa's samurai once lived. Explore HigashiChayamachi, the city's feudal pleasure district where geisha still entertain.



Kenrokuen Gardens, Nagamachi & Higashi Chayamachi (Guided in Japanese)
KZ1-214 | Kanazawa, Japan | Group Size: 40

You will visit: 1 2 5

4 hours — from **$59.00**

Experience Kanazawa's feudal past. Visit Kenroku-en, one of the "Three Great Gardens of Japan." This 24-acre paradise of pines, pavilions, streams and bridges was once part of Kanazawa Castle. Discover Nagamachi, where Kanazawa's samurai once lived. Explore Higashi Chayamachi, the city's feudal pleasure district where geisha still entertain.

Gold Leaf Art & Japanese Sweet Making (Guided in English)
KZ1-220 | Kanazawa, Japan | Group Size: 40

5 hours — from **$154.95 (AUD)**

Try your hand at making delicious tea ceremony sweets and your own gold leaf art on a half-day cultural experience that engages all your senses. Learn from the experts and then do it yourself. It's an enthralling way to get acquainted with the charming people of Kanazawa.

Gold Leaf Art & Wagashi (Guided in Japanese)
KZ1-224 | Kanazawa, Japan | Group Size: 40

5 hours — from **$79.00**

Try your hand at making delicious tea ceremony sweets and your own gold leaf art on a half-day cultural experience that engages all your senses. Learn from the experts and then do it yourself. It's an enthralling way to get acquainted with the charming people of Kanazawa.