



1 Kenrokuen Garden

Renowned as one of Japan's finest gardens, with exquisite beauty all year round: enjoy seasonal nighttime light-ups, or the iconic yukizuri supports that protect trees from the heavy winter snows.



2 Nagamachi Samurai District

Step back in time, minutes from downtown Kanazawa. Naga-machi is a quiet, historic neighborhood, home to actual samurai residences like the Nomura Residence, as well as traditional gardens, beautiful earthen walls, and peaceful canals.



3 Three Teahouse Districts of Kanazawa

Kanazawa still has three charming geisha entertainment districts, Higashi, Nishi and Kazue-machi, complete with beautiful old wooden buildings. Walk through one at night, and you might just hear shamisen music — or laughter.



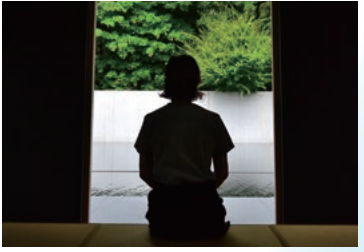
4 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

With its beautiful architecture, the building itself is practically one of the exhibits at this unique art museum. Don't miss the Swimming Pool, an iconic art installation.



5 Omicho Market

This lively market boasts some 180 shops, where pros and home cooks alike shop for fresh seafood, fruit, vegetables, and more. The perfect place to get incredibly fresh sushi.



6 D.T. Suzuki Museum

Escape the noise of the outside world at this tranquil, introspective museum, just ten minutes from Kenrokuen Garden. Learn about Daisetsu Suzuki, who worked to share Zen Buddhism with the world.

Kanazawa

Old and New Live Side by Side

The city of Kanazawa was once Japan's cultural capital: the wealthy Maeda Clan ruled the area, demonstrating their power not through military might, but through crafts and cultural endeavors. Even today, a love for traditional art and culture can be found throughout this modern city.

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Kaga & Hakusan

Recreation and Relaxation in the Great Outdoors

The southern part of the prefecture has plenty to offer, too. The Kaga area boasts many famous hot spring towns, like Yamanaka, Yamashiro, Katayamazu and Awazu, while the Hakusan area is home to incredible ski slopes and beautiful nature trails, as well as a historic, old-fashioned town that once played a key role in nationwide trade.



12 Natadera Temple

This 1,300-year-old temple is dedicated to religious faith in Mt. Hakusan. The soundings are dotted with picturesque rock formations and other magnificent sights. Walk around the remarkable natural features, and you're sure to feel profound awe toward nature, too.



13 Kakusenkei Gorge

Located next to the quaint hot spring town of Yamanaka Onsen, this gorge offers unique bridges and walking paths through incredible natural beauty. Visitors can relax and enjoy a bite to eat at the kawadoko riverside terrace, from April through November.



14 Hakusan Ichirino Onsen Ski Resort

A must-visit for lovers of winter sports, just an hour from Kanazawa Airport and Kanazawa Station. Spend the day skiing or snowboarding down some of Ishikawa's largest slopes, then relax afterward with a hot spring bath.



15 Hakusan Shirakawa-go White Road

The historic towns of Shirakawa-go and Hida Takayama aren't far from Ishikawa; a drive on the White Road through the mountains offers unforgettable views — and great nature walks — along the way there.



16 Kitamaebune Ship Museum

Dedicated to the Kitamaebune trading ships that once sailed along the coast of Japan and brought prosperity to this area. Hashitate was once known as the wealthiest town in Japan, and the area still retains its old-fashioned charm, too, with delicious seafood available from the nearby fishing port.

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Noto

Natural Beauty and Rustic Charm

Head north from Kanazawa to explore the Noto Peninsula; you'll find that even today, the region is home to traditional lifestyles lived close to nature. Whether you're looking for lush, soothing greenery, the friendly warmth of the locals, or the romantic scenery of the rugged coastline, there's plenty to discover.



7 Shiroyone Senmaida Rice Terraces

These terraced seaside rice fields are naturally beautiful all through growing season. From harvest time in October through planting season in March, the fields light up with 25,000 colorful LEDs.



8 Wajima Morning Market

One of Japan's largest morning markets, held nearly every morning. The town's roads are lined with friendly sellers offering fresh produce, seafood, crafts, and more — a thousand-year-old local tradition.



9 Wajima Kiriko Art Museum

The Noto Peninsula is famous for the giant lantern floats of the many Kiriko festivals held throughout the region each summer. This museum offers a year-round look at these spectacular floats.



10 Farm Stay

Farm stay destinations like Shunran no Sato offer visitors a chance to stay at guest houses run by local farmers, and experience the Noto Peninsula's traditional sustainable ways of life through the warm hospitality of friendly locals.



11 Rokkozaki Lighthouse

Make your way to the very tip of the Noto Peninsula, and you'll find this historic lighthouse. Enjoy the romantic setting, and perhaps even a breathtaking sunset over the sea.

Hands-on Experiences

Go beyond simply seeing the sights, and experience the local culture firsthand. Try local crafts, like using gold leaf to decorate a dish, a pair of chopsticks, or a mirror. Learn about the local food culture by making traditional wagashi sweets or participating in a tea ceremony. Or simply enjoy a walk around town, dressed in a beautiful kimono.

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