

Optional Tour in Kanazawa



Experience martial arts in Kanazawa! 2 nights, 3 days model plan

Updated: December 6, 2023 Author: GOOD LUCK TRIP Supervised by: Kanazawa City Tourism Association

During the Edo period (1600-1868), the Kaga Domain, known as the "Kaga Hyakuman Koku" (one million koku domain), was the second largest domain after the Shogun and Tokugawa clans (during the Edo period, the domain of a feudal lord who was granted a fief of more than 10,000 koku by the Shogun). Kanazawa, which has inherited that history, still retains a strong scent of samurai culture.

Kanazawa is home to martial arts such as Kyudo, which has a deep connection with the Kaga domain; the tea ceremony, which was an essential skill for samurai; the samurai residences where samurai lived; gardens where samurai culture and tea ceremony culture were fused; and the food culture of the samurai. Furthermore, Daisetsu Suzuki, a Buddhist scholar who spread Zen, which underlies martial arts and tea ceremony, to the world, was also from Kanazawa.

In the castle town of Kanazawa, you can experience the "way" and "spirit" nurtured by samurai culture through practical martial arts experiences and traditional cultural experiences.

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Day 1

9:30 Walk around Kenrokuen Garden and experience the feeling of being a feudal lord

Kenrokuen Garden embodies the Kaga Hyakumangoku culture. Counted as one of Japan's three most famous gardens alongside Mito Kairakuen Garden and Okayama Korakuen Garden, Kenrokuen Garden has the characteristics of the typical Edo period Rinsenkaiyu style feudal lord gardens.

Stroll-style gardens make the most of the land by placing a large pond in the center of the garden, with garden paths running around it and dotted with artificial mountains, small islands in the pond, and teahouses. They are designed for strolling while admiring these things. This is in stark contrast to gardens that can be viewed while sitting from a teahouse.



A feudal lord's garden that conveys the glory of the Kaga Domain's one million koku domain. Photo courtesy of Ishikawa Tourism Federation

10:30 Experience Kyudo at Ishikawa Prefectural Martial Arts Hall

Kanazawa has been a place where Kyudo has been popular since the Edo period. Normally, beginners need to practice for several months before they can actually shoot a bow, but in this program, you can safely experience shooting an arrow at a target in just 90 minutes under the guidance of a qualified practitioner.



In the Kyudo experience class program (90 minutes), you can experience everything from the basic posture to preparing an arrow at the kyudo range and actually shooting it at a target.

14:00 Kendo experience at Saishikan

After lunch, try out kendo. Kendo is often thought of as a sport of intense exchanges, but this program sees kendo as "KENDO" (Kind Enjoy Natural Design Open), so even beginners can have fun while trying it. The instructor is a skilled instructor who led a junior high school team to victory in the national championships.



The experience program begins with a lesson in the basic etiquette of kendo, followed by clear instruction on how to hold and position the bamboo sword, and how to strike.

Day 2

9:00 Japanese swords appreciation at Yommantani Honpo

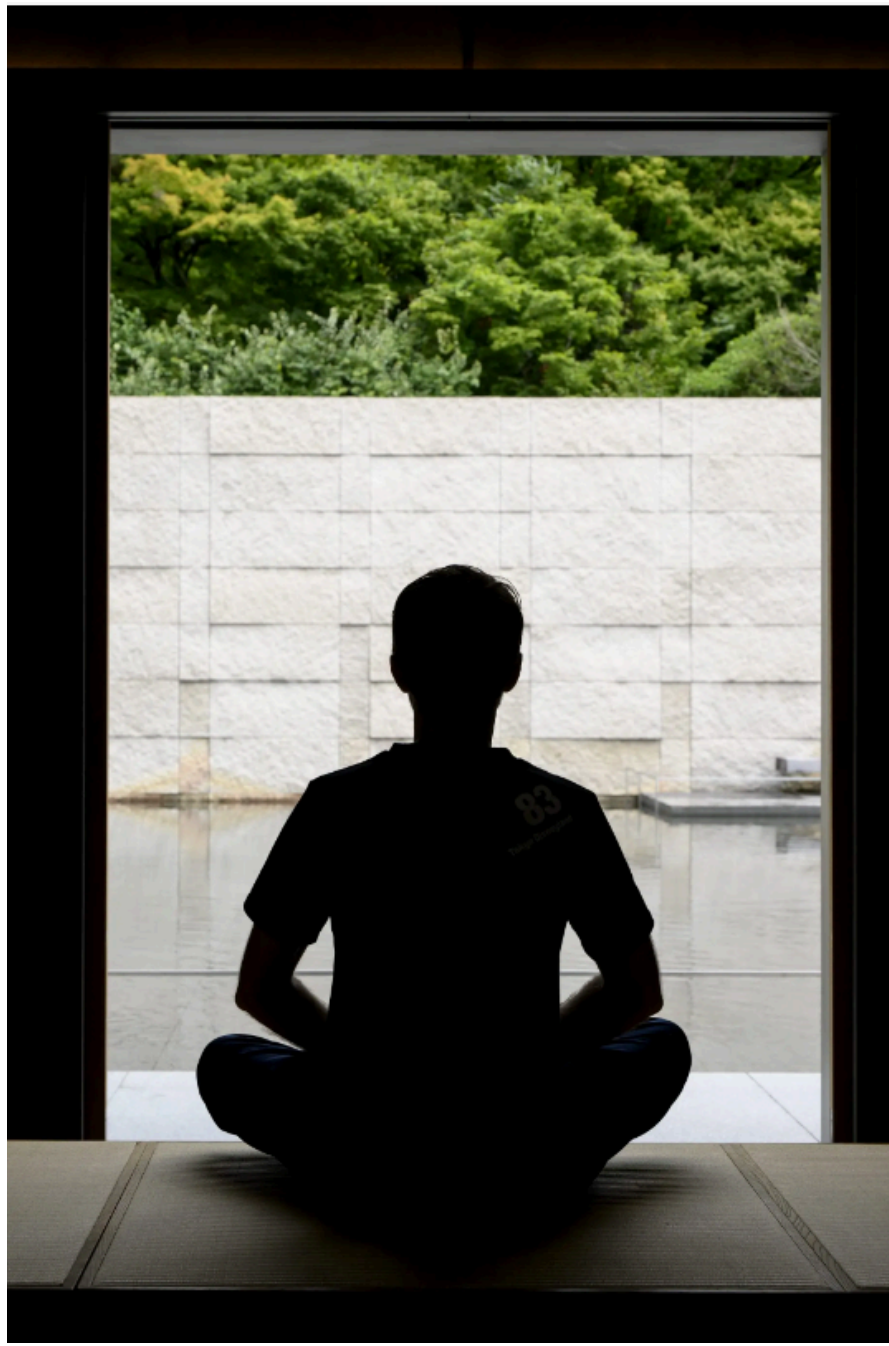
Japanese swords are on display at various art galleries and museums, but in this program you can actually hold and appreciate the real swords once carried by samurai. The impressive performance of "iaido," a martial art using a real sword, is also an attraction. The host, who is an iaido black belt, will give a commentary in English.



The Yommanaya Honpo storehouse has housed a large collection of Japanese swords for many years, and the experience program allows you to appreciate a variety of Japanese swords from different eras.

11:00 Experience the spirit of Zen Buddhism in the contemplative space of the Suzuki Daisetsu Museum

Zen is deeply connected to Japanese culture, including Japanese martial arts and the tea ceremony. This facility allows visitors to experience the ideas of Daisetsu Suzuki, a Buddhist philosopher who spread Zen and other Eastern and Japanese culture and ideas around the world. The spirit of Daisetsu is reflected in the architecture, which imitates the "hojo" where Zen monks live, and the exhibition style, which has no explanations next to the artworks.



The world of D.T. Suzuki is alive throughout the building.

13:30 Nishida Family Garden and Tea Ceremony Experience

In the afternoon, experience the tea ceremony. Samurai practiced the tea ceremony as a social etiquette in addition to training in martial arts. The Nishida Family Garden, which has been handed down for 400 years, is home to the oldest teahouse in Kanazawa, where you can experience everything from the basic manners of tea ceremony to making tea yourself. English interpretation services are also available.



You can also experience making your own tea.

15:00 Visit the traditional garden at the Nomura family samurai residence

The Nagamachi Samurai Residences site was where the samurai of the Kaga domain lived, and even today, traces of the past remain. The current Nomura family building, which stands in one corner of the area, is a part of a mansion where a wealthy Kaga merchant used to host the feudal lord, which was relocated here. You can enjoy the garden, which features meandering streams, old trees, and rocks, and swords and armor are also on display inside the house.



The mansion has a tranquil atmosphere reminiscent of being deep in the mountains, which makes it hard to believe that it is located near a busy downtown area, and it makes you feel as if you have traveled back in time to the era when samurai lived.

18:30 Enjoy banquet cuisine at the long-established restaurant "Otomo-ro"

The ancestors of Kanazawa's long-established restaurant "Otomo-ro" were "samurai chefs" who showed off their skills in the kitchens of the Kaga domain. At the restaurant, you can enjoy with your eyes and tongue the food culture of samurai society that has been passed down for generations, including the "banquet cuisine" that was enjoyed by feudal lords, samurai, and guests from other domains.



You can enjoy the same cuisine that samurai once ate in a stately tatami room.

Day 3

10:30 Experience Zen meditation at Eianji Temple

Zen is deeply connected to samurai culture and served as the spiritual backbone of the samurai. At Eianji Temple, which has a deep connection to the Maeda family, the lords of Kaga, you can experience zazen in a quiet space away from the hustle and bustle. The head priest, who has traveled the world as a backpacker, will give a general explanation of Zen and Japanese religion in English, dressed in a yamabushi robes.



We will practice zazen at a temple with ties to the Kaga domain and reflect on ourselves.

Summary

Experience the samurai culture of Kanazawa, a city steeped in history, and experience the "way" and "spirit" of the people.

How about a 2-night, 3-day trip to experience the samurai culture that remains strongly in the castle town of Kanazawa?

Through martial arts and traditional cultural experiences such as kyudo (Japanese archery) and kendo, the tea ceremony that was a samurai pastime, and samurai residences that give a glimpse into the life of a samurai, you can come into contact with the "way" and "spirit" that samurai culture has nurtured. By experiencing these experiences, you will come to understand the charm of this area more deeply, so if there is even one that interests you, be sure to visit.

**This optional tour can be arranged.
Contact us for more information.**