

History of Kanazawa Castle and Kenrokuen Garden

The history of Kanazawa Castle and Kenrokuen Garden dates back to 1546. when Kanazawa Mido, a religious school of the Honganii temple was founded. Oda Nobunaga ordered his retainer. Sakuma Morimasa, to build a castle in 1580, and three years later Maeda Toshije made his entry into Kanazawa Castle. Until 1869 Kanazawa Castle was the residence of the Maeda lord of Kaga Domain for 14 generations. The castle site was used as an army base until the end of World War II, and until 1995 it served as the campus of Kanazawa University, At present it is being transformed into a park where visitors can learn about its bountiful nature and history right in the downtown area.

Kenrokuen Garden is said to have originated when the 5th Lord Tsunanori built the Renchiochin house on the slope facing the castle, and gave its garden the name Renchitei, Later the 12th Lord Narinaga and the 13th Lord Nariyasu built an extensive garden which had the basic design of the magnificent landscape garden in the strolling style that we know today. The garden, which has a particular charm in every season, has been designated as a Place of Scenic Beauty. Many people come from all over Japan to enjoy

≪Why the name "Kenrokuen"? ≫

The garden was named Kenrokuen in 1822, based on Rakuyo Meienki, a classical Chinese book about the famous gardens of Luoyang. It is built around three sets of contrasting garden elements: spaciousness contrasts with seclusion, artifice contrasts with antiquity, and watercourses contrast with panoramas. Thus the name: Ken ("combined") roku ("six") en ("garden").

Places of interest around Kanazawa Castle Park and Kenrokuen Garden



1) Hishi yagura, Gojikken nagaya,

Hashizumemon tsuzuki yagura (Turrets & Store house) These were all restored in July 2001. They form the largest wooden castle structure in Japan that was built since the Meiji period. It is well worth a visit to see the buildings that have been restored using the traditional wooden frame construction method, as well as various models on display.



6 Kotojitoro Lantern

This lantern is said to have gotten its name from the fact that it is shaped like the bridges that support the strings of a koto. Nijibashi Bridge. which is in front of the lantern, is thought to resemble the body of a koto, and for this reason is sometimes called Kotobashi Bridge.



2 Ishikawamon Gate

The present Ishikawamon Gate, which has been designated as a National Important Cultural Property, was rebuilt in 1788. It is the back gate. and of the type referred to as masugatamon, or "box-shaped gateway". Night-time illumination gives it a particularly magical appearance.



7 Karasakinomatsu Pine

This tree was grown by the 13th lord of the Kaga clan from a seed that he obtained from Karasaki in Omi. It is the shapeliest black pine in the garden. The yukizuri ropes used to protect the branches from heavy snow are one of the charming winter sights of the Hokuriku region.



3 Saniikken nagava

4Kahokumon Gate

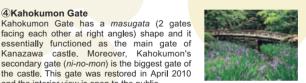
This building, which has two-story, has been designated as a National Important Cultural Property, as well as Ishikawamon Gate. It was built in 1858, and its present length is approximately 48 m.

Kahokumon Gate has a masugata (2 gates



®Fountain

The source of this fountain is Kasumigaike Pond, and it operates by natural water pressure resulting from a difference in elevation that creates the approximately 3.5-meter fountain. Built in the early 1860s during the Bunkyu period, it is said to be the oldest fountain in Japan.



9Hanamibashi Bridge

The flowers seen at different times of the year from Hanamibashi Bridge are particularly beautiful. The loveliest of these are the cherry blossoms, irises and azaleas that bloom along the gently-flowing, winding stream.



Shiguretei Tea House

This building was restored in conjunction with the completion of the new garden in 2000. It is used as a tea house and for cultural events. (There is a charge for tea and rental of the building.)



the castle. This gate was restored in April 2010 and the interior view is open to the public.

5 Gyokusen'inmaru Garden Named after Gyokusen'in, the wife of Toshinaga. the second feudal lord. In 2015, the garden was rebuilt around the pond, based on its design in the late Edo period (19th century). The Gyokusen'an rest area is located by the pond, where for a small fee visitors can enjoy matcha green tea and Japanese-style confection.



Guide for Visitors

Kanazawa Castle Park

Free Volunteer Guide Information Desks (no reservation required): Entrance rest area, Gyokusen'an

Kenrokuen Garden

*For a tour guide in Kenrokuen Garden, please contact Kenrokuen Tourism Association (TEL: 076-221-6453, in Japanese language only).

Opening hours

Mar. 1 - Oct. 15 (7:00am - 6:00pm) Oct.16 - the last day of Feb. (8:00am - 5:00pm)

- Gyokusen'inmaru Garden Nighttime Hours and Light-Ups Open until 9:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, as well as days before national holidays.
- ※ Hishi yagura. Goiikken nagaya, Hashizumemon tsuzuki yagura. Hashizumemon, Kahokumon Gate
- (9:00am 4:30pm Last admission 4:00pm) Gvokusen'an
- (9:00am 4:30pm Last admission 4:00pm) (Closed: Dec.29 - Jan. 3)

Mar. 1 - Oct. 15 (7:00am - 6:00pm)

Oct.16 - the last day of Feb. (8:00am - 5:00pm)

* Shiguretei Tea House

(9:00am - 4:30pm Last admission 4:00pm) (Closed: Dec.29 - Jan. 3)

Entrances

- Ishikawamon
- · Gyokusen'inmaru
- Kuromon

Katsurazaka

Sakuragaoka

Kamisaka

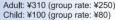
Kodatsuno

Otemon

Admission Fee

※ Hishi yagura, Gojikken nagaya, Hashizumemon tsuzuki yagura, Hashizumemon Adult: ¥310 (group rate: ¥250) Child: ¥100 (group rate: ¥80) *Group rate applies to groups of over 30 people

- Kahokumon Gate:free
- ※ Gyokusen'an Tea Service Matcha powdered green tea ¥720 (with Japanese-Style confection)



*Group rate applies to groups of over 30 people

* Shiguretei tea service Sencha green tea ¥310 (with Japanese-Style confection) Matcha powdered green tea ¥720

Others

 Wheelchair accessible in park and facilities



● No bicycles allowed



Guide Service Available







Zuishinzaka

Mayumizaka

Renchimon