

Kanazawa Castle Park & Kenrokuen Garden

Kanazawa Castle Park and Kenrokuen Garden are aiming to be listed as a World Heritage Site.



※Kanazawa Castle Park and Kenrokuen Garden don't have their own parking lot.
Please use public transport or parking lots nearby.

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 Honganji temple was founded. Oda Nobunaga ordered his retainer, Sakuma Morimasa, to build a castle in 1580, and three years later Maeda Toshiie 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 it.

《 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 *water-courses* 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 *masugamon*, 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 **Sanjikken nagaya**
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.



⑧ **Fountain**
The source of this fountain is Kasumigaik 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 Bunkyo period, it is said to be the oldest fountain in Japan.



④ **Kahokumon Gate**
Kahokumon Gate has a *masugata* (2 gates facing each other at right angles) shape and it essentially functioned as the main gate of Kanazawa castle. Moreover, Kahokumon's secondary gate (*ni-no-mon*) is the biggest gate of the castle. This gate was restored in April 2010 and the interior view is open to the public.



⑨ **Hanamibashi 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.



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.



⑩ **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.)

◆ 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, Gojikken nagaya, Hashizumemon tsuzuki yagura,
Hashizumemon, Kahokumon Gate
(9:00am - 4:30pm Last admission 4:00pm)
※ Gyokusen'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
• Otemon

• Katsurazaka
• Sakuragaoka
• Kamisaka
• Kodatsuno
• Zuishinzaka
• Mayumizaka
• Renchimon

Admission Fee

free
※ 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)

Adult: ¥310 (group rate: ¥250)
Child: ¥100 (group rate: ¥80)
※ 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 animals

● Guide Service Available

● No bicycles allowed

(Charges apply for use in Kenrokuen)



● Information: Kanazawa Castle Park & Kenrokuen Garden Management Office

TEL 076-234-3800 FAX 076-234-5292

<http://www.pref.ishikawa.jp/siro-niwa/english/top.html>