

Japan Winter Itinerary

11 days & 10 nights



Shirakawago



Kenrokuen Garden



Asakusa



Kiyomizudera Temple



Snow Monkey

Day	Activities	Stay
Day 1	Tokyo Arrive at Tokyo Airport	Tokyo
Day 2	Tokyo Asakusa, Imperial Palace, Tsukiji Market	Tokyo
Day 3	Nagano Snow monkey ★Option: Ski and Snowboard at Hakuba, Nozawa, Myokoko snow resorts.	Nagano
Day 4	Gifu Shirakawago village and Takayama	Takayama
Day 5	Kanazawa Nagamachi Samurai District, Sake Brewery	Kanazawa
Day 6	Kanazawa Omicho Market, Higashi Chaya District, Kenrokuen Garden etc.	Kanazawa
Day 7	Kaga Natadera temple, Kutani ware atelier etc.	Kaga
Day 8	Kaga Yamanaka Lacquerware atelier etc.	Kaga
Day 9	Kyoto Kinkakuji Temple, Kiyomizudera Temple etc.	Kyoto
Day 10	Kyoto Nijojo Castle etc.	Kyoto
Day 11	Osaka Depart from Kansai International Airport	

Japan Winter Itinerary

Kanazawa and Kaga hot spring resorts

After the fun activities in Kanazawa, head to Kaga, located in the southwestern part of Ishikawa. Kaga is a peaceful area and home to four unique hot spring resorts. It is equally blessed with a great diversity of natural landscapes and a rich cultural heritage.

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Stay at Ryokan, the traditional Japanese inn to soak in hot spring spa surrounded by snow falling
- Taste the gourmet season, with a variety of ingredients in their season
- Enjoy the unique scenery such as Yukizuri in Kenrokuen Garden of this area where people live with snow

ITINERARY

Day	Activities	Stay
Day 1	13:00 Kanazawa Station = bus 10min. = 13:10 Nagamachi Samurai District (90min.) = taxi 10min. = 15:00 Sake Brewery Fukumitsuya (60min.)	Kanazawa
Day 2	10:00 Omicho Market = walk 10~15min. = 11:00 Cooking Class = taxi 10min. = (45min.) (120min.) 13:30 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa = walk 10min. = (80min.) 15:00 D.T. Suzuki Museum = taxi 10min. = 16:00 Higashi Chaya District (60min.) (90min.) = taxi 10min. = 17:45 Geisha Experience (120min.)	Kanazawa
Day 3	9:30 Kenrokuen Garden = walk 5min. = 10:30 Kanazawa Castle Park (60min.) (60min.) = taxi 55min. = 14:00 Natadera Temple = taxi 15min. = (90 min.)	Kaga Onsen Resorts
Day 4	16:00 Kutani Ware Experience = taxi 20 min. = 18:00 Ryokan Stay (90min) 10:00 Yuge Kaido Street (Shopping, Strolling) = walk 5min. = (60min.) 11:00 Yamanaka Lacquerware Experience = taxi 20min. = (60min.) 12:30 Kagaonsen Station = Heading to Kyoto / Osaka	

Day 1

13:00 Arrive at Kanazawa Station

1 13:30 Nagamachi Samurai District

Nagamachi is a well-preserved neighborhood of samurai houses. The cobblestone streets and tiled earthen walls are characteristic of wealthier samurai districts in Kanazawa. One highlight is the Nomura Residence. Enjoy its inner garden with tranquil streams and a miniature waterfall.



10 minutes

2 15:00 Sake Brewery Fukumitsuya

Fukumitsuya is Kanazawa's oldest sake brewery, with four centuries of history. Perfectly Located to shop for sake, try one of their tasting sets, or even have a guided tour of the brewery. Winter is the very time when new sake is produced. Observing the sake brewing process is a special experience unique to this time of year.



Alternative Option

SAMURAI Experience

Shijimaya has its roots in the samurai family and has had swords for generations. Visitors can experience samurai culture and swords.



Stay in Kanazawa

3 10:00 Omicho Market

Omicho Market has been the largest fresh food market in Kanazawa since the Edo period. Its busy network of covered streets holds over 180 stalls and restaurants that sell fresh seafood, vegetables, fruit, and many other local products. Winter is the most vibrant time of the year, especially with the abundance of seafood.



 10~15 minutes

4 11:00 Cooking Class

There are some cooking classes in Kanazawa, let's learn to make Ishikawa delicacies with local instructors and quality ingredients.

Cooking Studio Kanazawa Salon

This class offers cooking lessons in exquisite Japanese cuisine in English. While you learn the basics of Japanese cooking, you can also gain the knowledge of koji and its products (miso, soy sauce, sake, etc.) which have been supporting the health of Japanese over a thousand years.



In Kanazawa House

This class takes participants shopping for ingredients at Omicho Market before returning to the kitchen to prepare traditional Kanazawa home cooking, while others offer classes in jibu-ni, a duck or chicken stew that is among Ishikawa's most well-known dishes.





10 minutes

5

13:30 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

This progressive museum situated in the center of Kanazawa is quite popular among the locals and tourists alike with the unique exhibits and installations.



10 minutes

6

15:00 D.T. Suzuki Museum

This museum is dedicated to the life and ideas of Daisetz Suzuki, a prominent Buddhist philosopher who was born in Kanazawa and popularized Zen in the world. Take time for thoughtful meditation in the three idyllic landscaped gardens.





10 minutes

7 16:00 Higashi Chaya District

The district's traditional buildings and lattice-work windows retain the atmosphere of their 200-year history. Today, many of these buildings function as cafes, restaurants, sweet shops and craft shops, but some are still geisha teahouses.



10 minutes

8 17:45 Geisha Experience

Kanazawa has three teahouse districts. The “teahouses” where geisha perform are an exclusive world of their own, restricted only to those who have been personally vouched for by existing customers, but there are also programs held that are open to visitors. Enjoy the world of geisha with dinner.



Stay in Kanazawa

Day 3

9

9:30 Kenrokuen Garden

Kenrokuen was constructed by feudal lords of Kaga clan as the outer garden of Kanazawa Castle. The garden's appearance changes dramatically every season, with cherry blossoms in spring and Yukizuri (a set of ropes to protect trees from the region's heavy snowfall) in winter.



5 minutes



10

10:30 Kanazawa Castle Park

Kanazawa Castle was home to the Maeda family during their rule of the Kaga domain.



55 minutes

Gyokuseninmaru Garden

The castle's inner garden the lords privately enjoyed. Have tea and sweets in a teahouse overlooking the beautiful snow-covered garden.



11

14:00 Natadera Temple

The natural rock formations at Natadera Temple have been revered as a sacred place for well over 2,000 years and tower above the temple's mossy forests, traditional-style gardens, and carp-filled ponds.





15 minutes

12

16:00 Kutani Ware Experience

Kutani ware is Ishikawa's local porcelain, first made in the mid-1600s around what is now the city of Kaga. It is also known for vivid colors and bold designs, and appears to bring cheer to the long, cold winter in Ishikawa. Enjoy the experience of painting at a studio, and decorate your home with memories of this trip.



20 minutes

13

18:00 Ryokan Stay

Soak in a hot spring bath while viewing the snow at a traditional Japanese ryokan inn and heal your body. A sumptuous dinner would be one of the pleasures of your stay.



Washu Bar Engawa

Ishikawa Prefecture is known for its sake brewing. This bar offers a variety of sake from all over Ishikawa Prefecture, and is located in the central of Yamanaka Onsen area, it is a good place to visit after enjoying dinner at an ryokan.



Day 4

14

10:00 Yuge Kaido Street (shopping, strolling)

Yuge-kaido is the town's main street where locally crafted pieces and other specialties can be found. During the colder months, residents and visitors warm up with hot pot with seasonal snow crab. On winter mornings, the hot pot is served in local lacquerware bowls in the town square.



15

11:00 Yamanaka Lacquerware Experience

Yamanaka Lacquerware is a specialty of Yamanaka Onsen, made with advanced lathing and drying techniques that prevent warping. Visit one of the highly skilled artisans in town and watch them work.



20 minutes

12:30 Depart Kagaonsen Sta. by express train
Head to Kyoto, Osaka

★What's New

In the spring of 2024, the Shinkansen bullet train will open at Kaga Onsen Station. The access to Kaga Onsen area will be improved.

