



Japanese Alps 3 days Winter Special Kanazawa - Shirakawago – Takayama

Day 1: Tokyo / Kanazawa

Depart Tokyo for Kanazawa in the early morning.

*A trip to **Kanazawa** is a unique dive into feudal-era Japan. Its streets are lined with stately residences, samurai quarters, old pleasure quarters, not to mention its castle and the beautiful Kenroku-en garden. Kanazawa is also famous for its traditional crafts: Kaga-Yuzen silk kimonos, Kutani and Ohi ceramics, Wajima lacquers treated with gold leaf and powder, and much more.*

Winter in Kanazawa, is a very snowy season with beautiful white landscapes. We recommend the Kenroku-en garden, Kanazawa Castle Park and the Higashi Chayamachi district. In addition, Kanazawa in winter is famous for its delicious seafood. You can enjoy fresh crab, salmon and yellow-tailed flounder.



Source : Kanazawa City – Kenroku-en Garden

Free time to explore and enjoy the sights.

Visit Suggestions:

- **Kenroku-en Garden**

One of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan. Special rope frames on the trees in the park help them withstand the weight of the snow.

Illumination of the park and castle from mid-February to the end of February.

This event may be affected by the coronavirus.



- **Traditional practice of weatherproofing: December**
Straw mats are installed on the mud walls of old samurai residences in Naga-machi in early December each year. This ancestral practice protects the walls from frost and prevents walls from cracking when the snow melts.
- **Kanazawa Foodpia Event: February 27-29**
Foodpia Kanazawa is an event organized to celebrate the food crops of Ishikawa and Kanazawa, and the richness of the cuisine available in winter.
This event may be affected by the coronavirus.
- **Omicho Market**
- **Museum of 21st Century Contemporary Art**
- **Former samurai quarter of Nagamachi**
- **Myoryuji Temple**
Nicknamed the Ninja-Dera, literally "Ninja Temple"
- **Former Higashi Chaya geisha district**

Activity Suggestions:

- ✧ **Home cooking class in a Machiya**
- ✧ **Omicho market visit and cooking classes with a local cook**
- ✧ **Traditional Kokeshi (traditional doll) painting experience**
- ✧ **Crafting gold leaf lacquerware**
- ✧ **Kaga Yuzen silk painting**
(The term "Yuzen" refers to a traditional technique of dyeing silk fabrics for kimonos, as well as products made from this technique.)

Dinner at your convenience.

Night at the hotel.



Day 2: Kanazawa / Shirakawago / Takayama

Depart by coach from Kanazawa to Shirakawago in the morning.

Listed as a World Heritage Site, **Shirakawago** is known for its iconic houses in which silkworms were raised. This architectural style, called "gassho-zukuri," refers to houses with sloping thatched roofs to withstand the heavy snowfall of this mountainous region.

Shirakawago is one of the most iconic Japanese winter landscapes. The old Gassho-zukuri houses, with their thatched roofs, can withstand heavy snowfall (more than 50 cm), ice stalactites create a unique landscape. In the past, Shirakawago was blocked by snow (over 1.5m in height) during the winter and was therefore difficult for tourists to access. Today, routes are cleared, and visitors can enjoy the original and snowy landscapes of this remote village.



Shirakawa-go village (Gifu)

Free time to explore and enjoy the sights.

Visit Suggestions:

- **Home of the former Wada family**
- **Shiroyama Tenbo-dai observatory**
- **Gasshozukuri Minkaen Museum**



Activity Suggestions:

- ◇ Traditional Waraji (straw sandals) crafting
- ◇ Crafting artisanal coasters
- ◇ Cloth dyeing workshop

Transit by coach from Shirakawago to Takayama in the late afternoon.

*Capital of the former province of Hida, the small town of **Takayama** is located in the heart of the Japanese Alps. Its many beautifully preserved historic buildings, have earned it the nickname "Little Kyoto". Thanks to the work of its renowned carpenters, the wooden houses, with their uniform alignment and height, offer a charming scenery. Its beef, one of the best in Japan with that of Kobe, and its excellent quality sake are also very popular.*

In winter, the dark wood of the buildings contrasts sharply with the white of the snow, making the city popular with photographers. The bright red Nakabashi bridge is particularly beautiful.

Visit Suggestions:

- **Takayama Winter Illumination: From early December to late February**
The snow-covered area of Nakabashi and the Miyagawa River that runs through the city is illuminated to create a magical landscape.
- **Taruma Kanekori illumination in the Okuhida region: Late December through February**
"Taruma Water" has its origin in the story of the founding of the shin-Hirayu Hot Springs. The mineral water flowing between the rocks freezes and forms large stalactites. Night lighting creates a fantastic show.
- **Aodaru Illumination (Fukuji): Late December through March**
In the mountains of the Fukuji Onsen region stands the "Fukuji Wall" rock face. When water seeps from the rock, it freezes into columns of blue ice, known as Aodaru. These columns of blue ice are recreated in the spa town. During the day, the columns are a beautiful light blue and at night they are lit to create an even more magical scene.
- **Illumination of the Subzero Forest: January 1 to March 31**
The Subzero Forest is a special winter attraction that has been presented by the secluded mountain inn, "Akigami Onsen Ryokan" since 1971. The "ice forest", created by the innkeeper over many years, is blue by day and beautifully lit up by night.
- **Winter illumination of Hida-no-sato (Hida folk village): Mid-January to late February**
Old private houses such as thatched houses are illuminated to create a fantastic landscape.
- **Nakao Kamakura Festival: February 1-14**
There are many kamakura (snow huts) of different sizes. Even the smallest ones are big enough for adults to get in. Both children and adults can enjoy this fantastical frozen world. Local dance show programs and mochi rice cake-making activities are organized during this event.
Nakao Meoto Shishi Dance February 1, 2, 8, 9, 10 and 14.
Making Mochi rice cakes February 3-7, 11-13.



- **Hirayu Great Frozen Waterfall Festival: February 15 to 25**

Each year, Hirayu's large frozen waterfall is illuminated. This waterfall, 64 meters high and 6 meters wide, takes on the shape of huge blocks of ice piled on top of each other.

Dinner and night in a Minshuku.

Day 3: Takayama / Tokyo

Free time to explore and enjoy the sights.



Miyagawa River (Takayama)

Visit Suggestions:

- **Jinya-mae City Market**
- **Yatai Kaikan Hall**
Museum of floats used at festivals
- **Takayama Jinya**
Historic Governor's Residence
- **Karakuri Museum**
Museum of puppets used during festivals
- **Yoshijima House**
Beautiful traditional home of an old sake brewer and pawnbroker
- **Sanmachi District**
Old town known for its traditional distilleries and houses



- **Kusakabe House**
Traditional home of a wealthy merchant
- **Hida Minzoku Kokokan**
Hida Museum of Archaeology
- **Snowshoe trek with an English-speaking guide**

Return to Tokyo by train in the evening.

Tours and activities are payable on site. Bookings for activities are mandatory and we take care of them at no extra cost.

We are here to help you plan and achieve your wishes.
We can shorten or extend your stay, or add other destinations.

Do you enjoy freedom and **lack of constraints**?
We can leave you with a personalized list of interesting activities and locations, giving you the freedom to wander around as you please during your stay.

Do you want a bulletproof plan and **hassle-free getaway**?
We can arrange everything for you in advance, whether it be reserving activities, luggage shipments, car rental or guided tours, and more.

Feel free to contact us for a personalized itinerary