

Discover Your Favorite Giant Trees!

Kanazawa, Ishikawa

Take a walk around the castle town of Kanazawa to discover giant trees and feel the history!

The townscape of Kanazawa and its unique culture and art have been formed since the Edo era. In the city, there are many historic gardens, temples and shrines, such as Kenrokuen Garden, one of the three greatest gardens in Japan. Also, Kanazawa is dotted with carefully preserved giant and old trees. Here is a two-hour course to walk in and around Kenrokuen Garden while thinking about the old days.



The yukizuri ropes, snow protection for trees in Kenrokuen Garden (photo provided by Kanazawa City)

[Access]

To Spot 1 "Dome-shaped Japanese chinquapin" (Shiinoki Cultural Complex)

- Car: 10 min. from Kanazawa Station. 20 min. from Kanazawa Higashi IC, Kanazawa Nishi IC, or Kanazawa Morimoto IC.
- Bus: 1 min. walk from the stop "Hirosaka - 21st Century Museum" by Kanazawa Loop Bus, Kenrokuen Shuttle Bus, Hokuriku Rail Road Bus, or West Japan Railway Bus. 2 min. walk from the stop "Kanazawa 21st Century Museum - Kenrokuen" by Kanazawa Loop Bus. 1 min. walk from the stop "21st Century Museum" on Kikukawa Route or "City Hall - 21st Century Museum" on Zaimoku Route by Kanazawa FURATTO (Flat) Bus.

*Please check with the bus company before you travel as services are subject to change.

Kenrokuen Garden and Kanazawa Castle Park opening hours

March 1 - October 15 7:00-18:00

October 16 - End of February 8:00-17:00

Kenrokuen Garden admission fee

Adults (age 18+) ¥320 Children (age 6-17) ¥100

* As of the end of January 2021

1

The beautiful twins at Shiinoki Cultural Complex

Dome-shaped Japanese chinquapin (*Castanopsis sieboldii*)

Two Japanese chinquapin trees stand in front of the entrance of Shiinoki Cultural Complex. There are several opinions about their origins: some say they were originally in the garden of the study of Toshitsune Maeda, the third chief of the Kaga Maeda clan, while others say that they were transplanted from the residence of Denzo Otsuki known for the Kaga feud.



Trunk girth Left: 2,580 cm / Right: 1,750 cm
Height 11 m (both) **Est.age** 400 years old
Preservation status Natural Monuments of Japan

4

The symbolic pine tree of Kenrokuen Garden

Neagarimatsu pine (*Pinus thunbergii*), a tree with raised roots, at Kenrokuen Garden

This pine tree is said to be planted on a mound in its youth by Nariyasu Maeda, the 13th chief of the Maeda clan, who later removed the soil to reveal the roots. Perfected by landscaping techniques, this giant tree is beautiful like a bonsai, with an overwhelming view of some 40 large and small roots rising up to two meters above ground.



Trunk girth 386 cm **Height** 10 m **Est.age** Unknown

2

The secret giant tree spot

Giant Japanese chinquapin trees (*Castanopsis sieboldii*) in Honda-no-Mori Park

Honda-no-Mori Park is a hidden spot for giant-tree lovers. There is a broad-leaved evergreen forest of trees representative of and native to Kanazawa such as Japanese persea, Japanese chinquapin, and Japanese evergreen oak. In this almost untouched forest, there are several giant Japanese chinquapin trees with their trunk girth exceeding 500 cm.



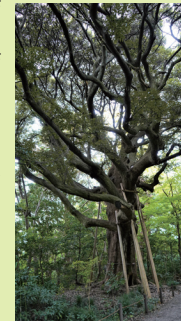
Trunk girth 731 cm *Largest Japanese chinquapin tree
Height 17 m **Est.age** Unknown

5

In remembrance of the botanical garden at the former Kanazawa University campus

The Japanese chinquapin tree (*Castanopsis sieboldii*) in Kanazawa Castle Park

Kanazawa Castle Park is a place where virgin forests remain the most in the center of Kanazawa. Kanazawa Castle was used as an army facility from the Meiji era to the pre-World War II period, and later became a part of the Kanazawa University campus. During the time of Kanazawa University, the main enclosure of the castle was turned into a botanical garden. Its site is now a park with giant trees such as Japanese chinquapin, Japanese persea, and Japanese fir—a highly attractive spot for giant-tree lovers.



Trunk girth 556 cm **Height** 20 m **Est.age** Unknown

3

The giant trees in harmony with the historic buildings

Japanese zelkova trees (*Zelkova serrata*) in Honda-no-Mori Park

The Japanese zelkova tree stands at the square of Honda-no-Mori Park under the bright sun. There are 15 giant trees in total at the square: five Japanese zelkova trees and 10 Japanese chinquapin trees (counted by Ishikawa Giant Tree Association). The Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Art and many other cultural facilities are located around the square. The National Crafts Museum has also been moved to right near this Japanese zelkova tree in October 2020.



Trunk girth 759 cm *Main trunk 500 cm (data by Ishikawa Giant Tree Association: 808 cm *Main trunk 512 cm)
Height 20 m (Ishikawa Giant Trees Association data: 23 m)
Est.age Unknown

Survey on Giant Trees

The Ministry of the Environment has been conducting the Survey on Giant Trees since 1988 as a part of the Survey on Natural Environment. It targets trees whose trunk girth is 300 cm or more at 130 cm above the ground level.

For information on giant trees, please check out the Giant Trees Database.

<https://kyoju.biodic.go.jp/>
(*Japanese only)



The Japanese Association of Big Trees and Forests

If you are interested in giant trees and forests, check out the Japanese Association of Big Trees and Forests! The association carries out activities related to giant trees, such as giant tree observation meetings, publication of the newsletter "Giant Trees" and organization of the National Forum on Giant Trees.

<http://www.kyoju.com/>
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Required time:
2 hour walk (2 km)

- 1 Dome-shaped Japanese chinquapin
↓ 7 min. walk (350 m)
- 2 Giant Japanese chinquapin trees in Honda-no-Mori Park
↓ 5 min. walk (250 m)
- 3 Japanese zelkova trees in Honda-no-Mori Park
↓ 10 min. walk (500 m)
- 4 Neagarimatsu pine, a tree with raised roots, at Kenrokuen Garden
↓ 20 min. walk (950 m)
- 5 The Japanese chinquapin tree in Kanazawa Castle Park

The symbolic pine tree of Kenrokuen Garden
Neagarimatsu pine (*Pinus thunbergii*), a tree with raised roots, at Kenrokuen Garden

Trunk girth 386 cm Height 10 m Est. age Unknown
Address Kenrokumachi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa



Kanazawa Castle Park

Kenrokuen Garden

Honda-no-Mori Park

In remembrance of the botanical garden at the former Kanazawa University campus
The Japanese chinquapin tree (*Castanopsis sieboldii*) in Kanazawa Castle Park

Trunk girth 556 cm Height 20 m Est. age Unknown
Address 1-1 Marunouchi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa

The beautiful twins at Shiinoki Cultural Complex
Dome-shaped Japanese chinquapin (*Castanopsis sieboldii*)

Trunk girth Left: 2,580 cm / Right: 1,750 cm
Height 11 m (both) Est. age 400 years old
Preservation status Natural Monuments of Japan
Address 2-1 Hirosaka, Kanazawa, Ishikawa

The secret giant tree spot
Giant Japanese chinquapin trees (*Castanopsis sieboldii*) in Honda-no-Mori Park

Trunk girth 731 cm *Largest Japanese chinquapin tree
Height 17 m Est. age Unknown
Address Dewamachi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa

The giant trees in harmony with the historic buildings
Japanese zelkova trees (*Zelkova serrata*) in Honda-no-Mori Park

Trunk girth 759 cm *Main trunk 500 cm (data by Ishikawa Giant Tree Association: 808 cm *Main trunk 512 cm) Height 20 m (Ishikawa Giant Trees Association data: 23 m) Est. age Unknown
Address 3 Dewamachi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa

A little further afield
The giant Japanese zelkova tree at Shinmeiguu Shrine

Among old and giant trees and forests remaining in Kanazawa, this Japanese zelkova tree boasts the largest trunk girth in the city at 897 cm (measured in 2017) and is estimated to be over 800 years old. Shinmeiguu Shrine is close to Myouryuji Temple known as "Ninjadera Temple" for its various tricks such as secret stairs; the cherry tree at Shogetsuji Temple designated as a National Natural Monument of Japan; and the Nishi Chaya District, one of the three geisha districts in Kanazawa. You can enjoy a stroll around the town in the traditional atmosphere.