After enjoying sightseeing in Kanazawa, how about exploring the unique culture of Hida Takayama the next day? If you take the Expressway Bus from Kanazawa, it only takes two and a half hours to get there, or three if you make a stop at Shirakawa-go. You can visit the Historical Government House, the Festival Floats Exhibition Hall, take a stroll in the historical old town, or check out the furniture museum.

**Kanazawa Station**

The Hokutetsu or Nohi Bus goes from Kanazawa Station to Hida Takayama via Shirakawa-go. There are three buses a day, but the morning bus is the best choice for a day trip.

**Takayama Nohi Bus Center**

Depart at 8:45, 12:35, 16:00 (a reservation is required for all buses)

Note: 8:45 bus transfers at Shirakawa-go (transfer time = 45min total duration = 3 hours) afternoon buses are non-stop = 2 hours 15 min.

Bus fare: round-trip ticket adult = 5900yen, child = 2900yen, one-way = 3300yen, 150yen. Reservations: TEL076-234-0123

Once you’ve arrived at the Nohi Bus Center and finished lunch, head to Hida Kokubunji Temple (the three-storied pagoda is its landmark). From there, take the Machinami tour bus (if you get on at the bus center it makes a big detour), and with a loop around the Miyagawa river, you will arrive at the next step: the Takayama Yatai Kaikan at Sakurayama Hachimangu, where the festival floats used at the Takayama Festival in autumn are displayed.

**Hida Kokubunji Temple**

If you are interested in Hida Shunki lacquerware, a traditional Takayama craft, make a stop-over at Shunkei Kaikan-mae to visit the Hida Takayama Shunkei Hall and try your hand at making some lacquerware yourself. Walk back in direction of Hachimun, and take a look at the Yoshijima Heritage House or the Kusakabe Folk Museum. Pass through Shimoninomachi to visit the Hida Takayama Shunkei Hall and try your hand at making some lacquerware yourself. Walk back in direction of Hachimun, and take a look at the Yoshijima Heritage House or the Kusakabe Folk Museum. Pass through Shimoninomachi to visit the Hida Takayama Shunkei Hall and try your hand at making some lacquerware yourself. Walk back in direction of Hachimun, and take a look at the Yoshijima Heritage House or the Kusakabe Folk Museum.

**Old Private Houses**

The Takayama Historical Government House is the only remaining one of its kind in the country. Since Hida came under direct control of the Tokugawa shogunate, the governors that were sent by the shogunate ruled from here. The daily Jinjaime morning market and Miyagawa morning market located along the Miyagawa river are always bustling in the morning.

**Takayama Historical Government House**

If you have time, it’s well worth a visit.

To continue on to the Matsumoto Heritage House and Tenman-gu Shrine from the Historical Government House, you can either walk or take a taxi.

**Takayama Jinya - Hida no Kagukan** 10 minute walk

**Takayama Jinya (Historical Government House)**

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Other places to see, if you still have time

**Sarubobo Bus**
Besides the Machinami tour bus covering the city center, there is also the Sarubobo Bus which connects to the more remote sites of Hida Takayama Museum of Art, Hida Folk Village, Hida Takayama Festival Forest, and others.

*Bus fare: single ticket adult = 200 yen, child = 100 yen  (Machinami Bus & Sarubobo Bus Day Pass: adult = 600 yen, child 300 yen)*

**Hida Folk Village**
An outdoor museum that shows typical Hida scenery with its sloped-and-thatched-roof houses. Inside the houses there are demonstrations of traditional crafts such as weaving, straw crafts and sashiko quilting.

*9:30 - 17:00 (or later on days there is a light-up) Open all year round  Entrance fee: adult (high school student or older) = 700 yen, elementary/middle school student = 200 yen.  TEL 0577-34-4711*

**Hida Takayama 'Memory Revival Hall’**
A facility that specializes in traditional folk art workshops and hands-on experiences, located at the opposite side of Hida Folk Village. Making your own Sarubobo charms or personal chopsticks and chopstick holders is popular.

*Nohi Bus Center - Hida no-sato : Sarubobo Bus approx. 10 minutes  10:00 - 16:00 Closed on Thursdays and during the New Year Holidays. Workshop fee: Sarubobo charms = 1400 yen, personal chopsticks and holder = 1300 yen, etc. Time required: 1 hour per workshop TEL 0577-34-4711*

**Hida Takayama Shunkei Hall**
The museum displays over 1,000 historical and contemporary pieces of Hida Shunkei lacquerware. You can also try to do it yourself at the lacquer workshop!

*Nohi Bus Center - Shunkei Kaikan-mae : Machinami Bus approx. 13 minutes (3 minutes from Kokubunji)  9:00 - 17:00 Open 365 days a year  Admission fee: adult = 300 yen, middle/high school students = 200 yen. Workshop fee: votive picture, pen tray, etc. approx. 1800 yen the finished objects can be sent to you afterwards (separate shipping charge) Time required: approx. 1 hour TEL 0577-32-3373*

**Shibukusa ceramics Hokokusha**
Pottery workshop and kiln set up in 1841 at Shibukusa with potters from renowned ceramics centers (Kutani, Seto). Originally the pottery was named "Shibukusa" after the kiln’s location, but in 1879 it was renamed “Hokokusha”. The building that has been preserved in its original style has been designated as a cultural asset.

*10:00 - 16:00 All year round, Free entrance.  TEL 0577-32-1424  The shop is on Kamininomachi.  TEL 0577-34-0504*

**Route Map (Kanazawa - Shirakawa-go - Hida Takayama)**

**Route Map (Toyama City Center)**

*[Image of map]*

*[Image of map]*
Day trip course from Kanazawa to Gokayama / Shirakawa-go

The villages of Gokayama and Shirakawa-go lie a short distance away from Kanazawa. While the villages were both part of the historical Kaga Hyakumangoku territory, Gokayama which lies deep in the mountains has preserved a unique culture, and together with Shirakawa-go, their historic Gassho-Zukuri Villages have been listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Go to a day-trip that will lead you from the castle town of Kanazawa to the mountainside where the traditional Japanese scenery has been preserved!

Kanazawa Station → Takaoka Station → Ainokura Gassho-Zukuri Village → Kaminashi → Ainokura Museum → Ainokura Gassho-Zukuri Village (

From Kanazawa you can take the bus to Kaminashi in the center of Gokayama (Kokiriko-no-sato). Get off at Kaminashi bus stop, and cross the street to get all the information you need to explore the area at the Gokayama Tourist Information Center. There is plenty to see: the four hundred year old Murakami House, the important cultural asset of Hakusangu, with its 600 year old shrine, the historic prison cells, and more. At the tourist center it is also possible to watch a Kokiriko dance performance.

Kokiriko folk art

Take the JR Hokuriku Line from Kanazawa Station to Takaoka in the early morning. There you can change onto the Kaetsuno Bus bound for Gokayama. The bus takes national highway 158 from the Takanami Pass up into the mountains, and continues through a series of roads and tunnels until it reaches the Gokayama Ainokura-kuchi. Our first stop is the Gassho-Zukuri Ainokura Gassho-Zukuri Village.

Ainokura Gassho-Zukuri Village

There is also some view points up in the mountains from where you can oversee the entire village. At Ainokura Minokosokin building one at the entrance of the village, there are displays showing how people used to live here. At building two you can find documentation on how Gokayama washi paper is made.

Ainokura Gassho-Zukuri Village - Ainokura-kuchi (Kaetsuno Bus) 11:18 - Kaminashi 11:26


Once you have had your fill of Gokayama at Kaminashi, it is on to the bus again to Shirakawa-go. Midway, you can see Suganuma Gassho-Zukuri Village, another World Heritage Site from the bus window. The Ogimachi district of Shirakawa-go, dotted with thatched roof farm houses, has been selected as an important traditional building preservation area, and since 1995 it is also listed as a World Heritage Site.

Kaminashi 13:56 (Kaetsuno Bus) - Ogimachi Gassho-Shuraku 14:33

Bus fare: adult = 1000 yen, child = 500 yen.

Get off at Ogimachi Gassho-Shuraku bus stop and walk through the streets lined with souvenir shops. Across the De-aibashi bridge, on the other side of the Shogawa river, you can find the Tonami Plain, where cultural asset houses are connected by a walking route.

Ogimachi Gassho-Shuraku (14:33) - De-aibashi Bridge (14:50) - Gassho-Zukuri Minka-en (15:30)

There is also a museum of Gassho-Zukuri Minka-en: Mar Nov 8:40 – 17:00 Open every day during this period / Dec-Feb 9:00 – 16:00 Closed on Wednesdays. Entrance fee: adult = 100 yen, elementary/middle school student = 50 yen, high school student and up = 300 yen, high school student and up = 300 yen.

Gassho-Zukuri Minka-en: Mar-Nov 8:40 – 17:00 Open every day during this period / Dec-Feb 9:00 – 16:00 Closed on Wednesdays. Entrance fee: adult = 200 yen, children = 100 yen, elementary/middle school student = 50 yen, high school student and up = 300 yen, high school student and up = 300 yen.

At Shinshoji Temple, right past the entrance gate of the Minka-en, you can try making all kinds of folk art crafts such as taketonbo bamboo toys, or straw weaving.

Workshop fee: taketonbo/wood weaving/straw sandals = 500 yen. (Winter break from November until March, workshops on reservation-basis only) Workshop fee: taketonbo/wood weaving/straw sandals = 500 yen.

Folk crafts workshop (15:45) - Workshops are free with admission fee

When you have got your own hand-made souvenir to take home, it is time to leave Shirakawa-go, and return back to Kanazawa. The expressway bus leaves from the bus stop outside the Tourist Information Center. Tickets can be bought directly here, but reserving them beforehand is the safest option as seats are limited.

Shirakawa-go 16:50 (Hokuchitsu Expressway Bus) - Kanazawa Station 18:05

Bus fare: adult = 1800 yen, child = 900 yen. Reservation: TEL0767-234-0123

This concludes our fun-filled day trip from Kanazawa to Gokayama and Shirakawa-go. Enjoy sightseeing in Kanazawa again tomorrow!

Heritage Sites. On to a day-trip that will lead you from the castle town of Kanazawa to the mountainside where the traditional Japanese scenery has been preserved!

Try making sasara-ami

A small instrument called sasara is used in the Kokiriko dance performance. The instrument used in the Kokuriko performance is called sasara, and is made out of 108 cypress plates joined together. At the Kokiriko Mingei across the Tourist Center you can try out the sasara yourself.

Kokiriko folk art

De-aibashi Bridge
Others sights at Gokayama and Shirakawa-go

- **Shimonashi Pocket Park - Mugiyabushi performance**
  Right by the Shimonashi bus stop close to Ainokura Gassho-Zukuri Village, you can find Shimonashi Pocket Park, where Mugiyabushi folk dance performances are held on Sundays from April to November.
  From Ainokura-kuchi approx. 4 min. by bus

- **Suganuma Gassho-Zukuri Village**
  When heading towards Shirakawa-go on national highway 156 from Kaminashi, you can spot Suganuma Gassho-zukuri Village by the Shogawa river bank at your right hand side. At present the village counts nine thatched-roof houses, and is also listed as a World Heritage Site.
  From Kaminashi approx. 7 min. by bus, From Suganuma bus stop approx. 3 minute walk

- **Shirakawa-go Wada House**
  Wada House is the largest thatched-roof building in Shirakawa-go, and is listed as national important cultural property. Back in the feudal era it used to be the house of an important family, and it still used as a residence even today. Besides this house, Toyama House, Nagahe House, Kanda House and Myozenji Temple are also open to the public.
  From Ogimachi Gassho-Shuraku bus stop approx. 7 min. walk

- **Shiroyama Tenshukaku Tenbodai (Viewing Platform)**
  A viewing platform from where you can oversee Shirakawa-go in its entirety, by the Tenshukaku eating establishment. The viewing platform and parking are free. Light-ups in January and February are especially magnificent to see.
  From Ogimachi Gassho-Shuraku bus stop approx. 15 min. walk

**Shimonashi Pocket Park - Mugiyabushi performance**
End of Apr – start of Nov. every Sunday, every 15 min. starting at 11:30
Free admission TEL 0763-66-2580

**Suganuma Gassho-Zukuri Village**

**Shirakawa-go Wada House**

**Shiroyama Tenshukaku Tenbodai (Viewing Platform)**

**Route map (Kanazawa - Shirakawa-go - Hida Takayama)**

**Route map (Kanazawa - Shirakawa-go - Hida Takayama)**

**Route map (Ainokura - Kaminashi)**

**Route map (Shirakawa-go)**