



*A traditional culture
that is still very much alive*

Geisha girl in a Chaya area



Higashi Chaya Area (Kanazawa City) (map A1)



Nishi Chaya Area (Kanazawa City) (map A2)

In Ishikawa Prefecture, traditional Japanese culture is still very much a part of daily life; it is a defining characteristic of the people who live there. The origin of this strong culture dates back to the Edo period, when the Maeda clan, who ruled the area, used their wealth to promote culture and education. In particular, Kanazawa, which is the capital of Ishikawa Prefecture, flourished as one of Japan's greatest castle towns. Fine arts such as tea ceremony, Noh play, music and dance became very popular, and crafts of lacquerware, ceramic ware, dyeing, gold leaf also developed as indispensable elements of interior decoration, implements and clothing.

The love of culture has been passed down to this day, and people take classes in cultural activities of daily life such as the tea ceremony and flower arranging, as well as traditional performing arts such as Noh plays and Japanese music and dance. There are still Chaya districts (former amusement areas) that have retained their Edo-period atmosphere, and many old shrines and temples, which fascinate visitors.



Japanese confectionery,
an essential item for the tea ceremony



Kazuemachi Chaya Area (Kanazawa City) (map A3)



Ishikawa Noh Theater (Kanazawa City) (map A4)