

Ex. 5 Toyama Culture and Sightseeing Course (Participants: 20)

This excursion may be cancelled if there are few participants.

1. Overview of the Inspection Course (subjects and themes of field visits and important points of inspection)

Toyama Prefecture is surrounded by mountains on three sides and by the Sea of Japan on the remaining side. The prefecture has a rich natural landscape, with a large difference in altitude of 4,000 m, ranging from mountains of 3,000 m in height to sea depths of 1,000 meters in a distance of 50 km. There are also many rivers on steep slopes and composite alluvial plains. It is also located almost at the center of Japan. This has helped Toyama to develop a variety of cultural characteristics as a place of fusion or contact among eastern and western cultures for many centuries. In particular, the western part of the prefecture has rich cultural heritage, including the Zuiryu-ji Temple (which was nurtured by the Kaga Clan and is now designated as a national treasure), and a village of rafter-roof (*gassho-zukuri structure*) colony, designated as a World Heritage Site.

This course includes visits to sites of world heritage and national treasures in the western part of the prefecture, as well as an iron foundry, representing one of the traditional industries of the prefecture.

2. Visit Locations

(1) Major visit locations

- Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art & Design: Featuring not only pieces from 20th century masters such as Picasso and Chagall, the museum also houses a variety of surrealist and abstract works from the 20th century, as well as designer posters and chairs from artists representing Toyama and Japan. The rooftop view of the Tateyama mountain range is absolutely spectacular.
- Fugan Canal Kansui Park: The vast lawns of the park create a pleasing space for people of all ages, from children to the elderly. The vast, open landscape will leave you feeling refreshed.
- Zuiryu-ji Temple (national treasure): This Buddhist temple is typical of Zen Buddhist style temple architecture in the early part of the Edo period, symbolizing the rich treasury of the Kaga Clan (one of the biggest lord in Japan two hundred years ago). The sanmon Buddhist temple gate, butsuden main temple hall, and hatto main lecture hall were designated as national treasures in 1997. The so-mon main entrance gate, zendo meditation hall, daikuri kitchen residence, daichado tea house, and three corridor buildings were designated as national important cultural properties.
- Gokayama Gassho-zukuri Village (World Heritage): Gokayama is a village where people still live today, and it represents one of the very primal scenes of Japan. It was registered as a World Cultural Heritage site in 1995.

(2) Other (industry tour)

- Visit to the Nousaku Corporation factory (metal casting process): The course includes a visit to a casting shop where casting processes are performed. Casting has been practiced for over 400 years in Takaoka.



3. Notes (clothes/equipment and other matters that need to be confirmed in advance)

- None in particular