



Japan Ceramics Tour 2024

3 – 14 September 2023

Join us to discover the culture of Japanese ceramics, their production, use and display, and even the communities that have supported these amazing traditions for hundreds of years. Experience Kyushu, Kyoto, Kurashiki and Tokyo all led by one of our friendly and knowledgeable Guides.

Japan Ceramics Tour 2024

Itinerary

3 September: Arrival in Japan (flights to be arranged by you)

On arrival at Fukuoka Airport, transfer to your hotel in central Fukuoka for 1 night on a bed & breakfast basis where you will be met by your Guide.

4 September: Arita

Via local train, we visit Arita in Saga prefecture - famous for Arita-ware. First, we visit Kyushu Ceramic Museum, where you can view Karatsu-yaki, Imari-yaki and Nabeshima-yaki as well as around 1,000 pieces of Arita-yaki from the famous private collection of the Shibata family. In Arita, some 150 shops selling ceramics line the streets, and collectors can shop 'til they drop! Stay in nearby Imari for 2 nights. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner tonight.

5 September: Imari

We will start our tour at Gen-emon kiln, home to one of Japan's most famous ceramic artists. Then we will head to the pottery village of Okawachiyama, which has a long history of producing its unique own ceramics in the secret kilns built in the mountains.



Aside from browsing the numerous shops, we will explore this beautiful village and visit the Imari Nabeshima-ware Exhibition Hall. We'll return to Imari late afternoon.

6 September: Imari to Kyoto via Kurashiki

After checking out of the hotel in the morning, we take a Bullet train to the picturesque village of Kurashiki, where rows of houses and streets form a townscape with a traditional old-world atmosphere. We'll visit the Ohara Museum - known for its collection of Hamada & Leech pottery and Japanese folkcraft.

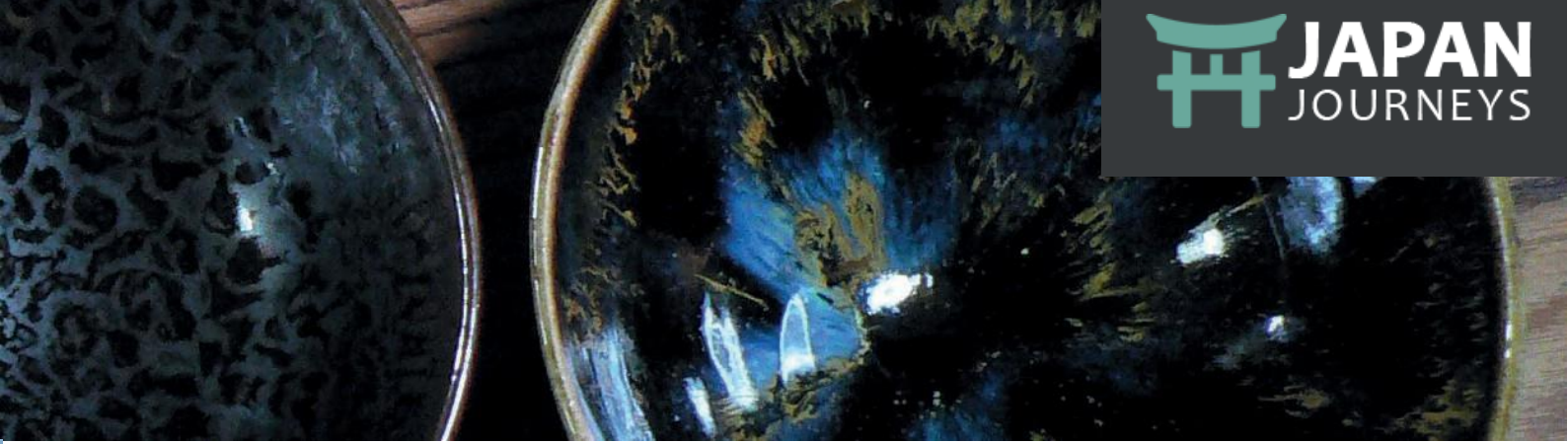
Tour Includes:

- Visits to the pottery towns of Arita, Imari, Kyoto & Mashiko
- Cultural tours of Kyoto, the lovely canal town of Kurashiki and Tokyo
- Travel on Japan's famous Bullet Train
- Services of a knowledgeable Japan Journeys Guide throughout and some local Guides

We then travel eastward on the Bullet Train to Kyoto - the cultural heartland of Japan - and check in to our hotel in Kyoto for 5 nights.

7 September: Sightseeing in Kyoto

After breakfast, depart on a full day tour of Kyoto by private coach. The trip begins with the beautiful temples and gardens of Kinkaku-ji, the Golden Pavilion then enjoy a series of Zen Buddhist rock gardens at Daitoku-ji Temple.



After lunch, visit Kodaiji temple. Your Guide will then show you the area around Kiyomizu, historically the city's leading pottery-making neighborhood, and even today the narrow cobblestoned ways are lined with shops selling delicate Kiyomizu ware.

8 September: Kyoto

We'll start today with a visit to Nishiki-koji Street Market, a local food market. Then we will visit the Raku Museum, showing 450 years of tradition in pottery. We will move on to Sanjusangen-do Temple, which features a magnificent display of carved wooden, gilded statuary. We walk a short distance to the Kawai Kanjiro House, the shrine-like house of the great folk-art revivalist potter Kawai Kanjiro. If the time allows, we'll go on to the Fujihira Ceramic studio where you can see the process of making Kiyomizu potteries and their techniques and arts by Japanese potters.

9 September: Kyoto at leisure

Spend your free time in Kyoto at leisure.

10 September: Kyoto

After breakfast we visit some local ceramics studios and meet local artisans.

11 September: Kyoto to Tokyo

After breakfast we travel onwards to Tokyo where you will stay for 3 nights. Before we go to our hotel, we'll head to Meiji Shrine where we should be able to see some traditional Japanese-style weddings taking place as it's a Sunday.

12 September: Tokyo at leisure

Today is yours to enjoy at leisure! We highly recommend you visiting Nezu Art Museum.



13 September: Mashiko Day Trip

After breakfast, we head north to Mashiko where the highlight today is a visit to the Shoji Hamada Memorial Mashiko Museum. In the evening we will have our Farewell Dinner back in Tokyo.

14 September: Depart Japan

Self-transfer to Tokyo Airport.



Price Includes:

- 11 nights' accommodation at centrally located 3* and 4* hotels in Fukuoka, Imari, Kyoto and Tokyo with breakfast daily
- Services of a knowledgeable Japan Journeys Guide throughout
- Delicious Welcome and Farewell dinners
- 7-Day Japan Rail Pass allowing you unlimited travel on the entire Japan Rail network including *Shinkansen* (Bullet Train) service
- Entrance fees for all attractions mentioned above
- All travel costs for the above itinerary
- All Japanese sales taxes and service charge
- Full financial protection via Japan Journeys' membership of the Travel Trust Association through which your monies are held in a Trust Account until you return home

Not Included In Price:

- International airfare (flights to be arranged by you)
- Any other journeys made by taxi, subway or tram
- Other meals not mentioned above
- Entrance to any attractions not named above
- Travel Insurance

All prices estimates are based on a minimum of 10 people travelling in Sept 2024. All price estimates are based on current rates of exchange.

LAND-ONLY PRICE:

£3,295.00

per person on a sharing basis

(not including flights)

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

£595.00

To make a booking a deposit of 10% of the total price is required. The balance of the price of the trip must be made 12 weeks prior to departure.

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