

Traditional Craft of Japan

Tokyo - Hakone - Kyoto - Ishikawa - Miyagi - Tokyo

(13 nights 14 days)

Designed for Your Clients

With a long history of art-protecting rulers, a love of beauty & aesthetics and attention to the finer details, Japan has elevated its traditional crafts to the rank of Art.

From lacquerware hand-polished for months, to micron-thin gold leaf and hand-made swords, this itinerary will take you to the ateliers of the craftsmen & women of Japan, who perpetuate those centuries-old techniques inherited from their ancestors.

Enjoy privileged hands-on learning encounters as well as visit the most iconic sights related to fine arts & crafts in the area with this fully customizable journey, depending on your own passions & interests.

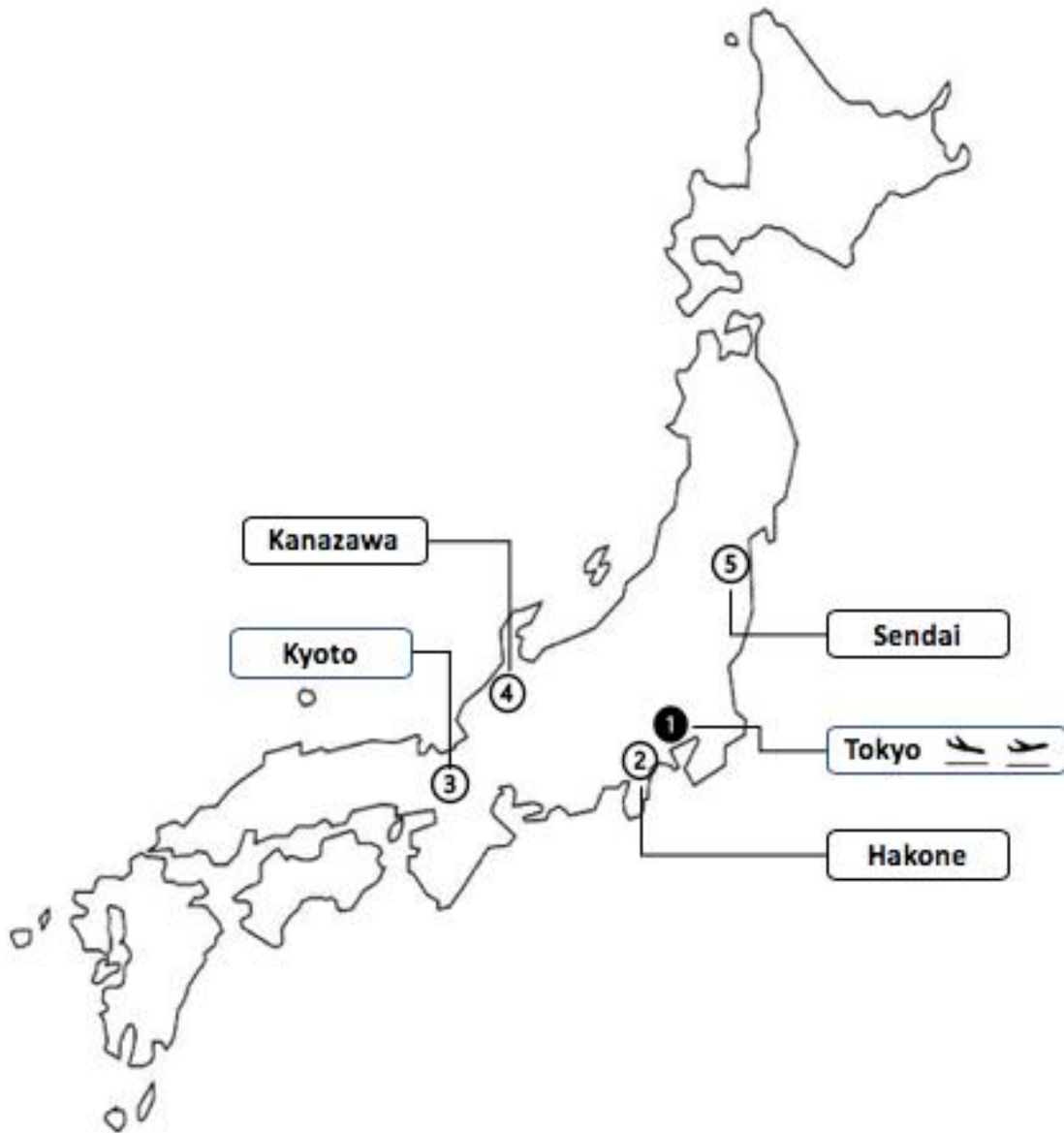
日本各地の 伝統工芸品



Itinerary at a Glance

Date	Program	Accommodation
Day - 1	Arrival in Tokyo	Aman Tokyo
Day - 2	Tokyo	Aman Tokyo
Day - 3	Day trip to Saitama	Aman Tokyo
Day - 4	Day trip to Mashiko	Aman Tokyo
Day - 5	Move to Hakone via Kamakura	Gora Kadan
Day - 6	Move to Kyoto	The Ritz Carlton, Kyoto
Day - 7	Kyoto	The Ritz Carlton, Kyoto
Day - 8	Move to Kanazawa	Hyatt Centric Kanazawa
Day - 9	Kanazawa	Hyatt Centric Kanazawa
Day - 10	Day trip to Toyama	Hyatt Centric Kanazawa
Day - 11	Move to Sendai	The Westin Sendai
Day - 12	Day trip to Hiraizumi	The Westin Sendai
Day - 13	Move to Tokyo	Aman Tokyo
Day - 14	Departure	

Your Travel Map



Detailed itinerary

Day1; Arrival

After arriving at **Narita International Airport**, you will be greeted by your **English Speaking chauffeur** at the Arrival hall and transfer to the **hotel** in the center of Tokyo by private chartered car.



Aman Tokyo



(Images Only)

A warm and exclusive sanctuary, Aman Tokyo draws its design inspiration from traditional Japanese residential structures. Classic Japanese materials such as timber, Washi paper and stone are blended to great effect with modern technology and luxurious fabrics. Filtered light contrasts with solid elements, creating a subtle interplay of shadow and light fundamental to the design and ambience of the hotel.

Overnight at Aman Tokyo

Day2; Tokyo – Full Day Tour

You will meet with your **English-Speaking Guide** at **10:00 am** and leave for Tokyo excursion by private chartered vehicle.

Move to **Ozuwashi** and you can enjoy making Japanese paper on this morning. There is a gallery too so you can also appreciate lots of works made by Japanese paper here.



Continue to **Ochanomizu Origami Kaikan** – Whether it's cranes, butterflies or something far more original, origami – traditional Japanese paper folding – has been practiced for centuries, and this is the country's premier origami centre. You could do it yourself using the instructional books available for purchase, and selected origami paper packages in store come with instructions in English. Here, you can enjoy the gallery space as well as atelier floor craftsman dyeing the paper!



Move to **JAPAN TRADITIONAL CRAFTS AOYAMA SQUARE** – exhibits and sells over a hundred kinds of selective traditional crafts such as ceramics, lacquered wares, woven textiles, Japanese washi papers and more. These traditional crafts are made by specially trained artisans using traditional techniques that are over a century old. All the products showcased are something that Japanese people use in their daily lives, including items that have kept its designs from the olden days and ones that have been re-designed to fit contemporary lifestyles. The artisans demonstrate their skills in front of guests here regularly.

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In this afternoon, you can visit atelier of **Edo Furin (Wind Chimes)** – Japanese wind bells are called Furin; “Fu” is wind and “rin” is bell in Japanese. The glass Edo Furin wind bell is particularly beautiful and can be often seen during Japan’s humid summer. Try making your own Furin from the procedure making glass!



We would like to take you to the **Sumida Hokusai Museum**. The museum was designed by Kazuyo Sejima, perhaps Japan’s most well-known female architect, who is known for her ethereal forms and high level of refinement that unnervingly capture a site’s social and physical context. Sejima created an angular structure that encompasses and reflects on Hokusai’s own interest in oblique angles and contrasts of near and far; manmade and natural.



Back to the hotel by 18:00.

Overnight at Aman Tokyo

Day3; Day trip to Saitama

You will meet with your **English-Speaking Guide** at **9:00 am** and leave for Saitama by private chartered vehicle. (It takes about 2.5h to reach by normal traffic condition.)

Today, you can visit **sword making atelier** and make your own replica short knife!

※This making experience can be available only for 2 pax, in case number of pax is more than 2 then they need to discuss the schedule.

Japanese swords continue to capture the imagination with their iconic features, unbelievably involved creation process, and the attention to detail and commitment that they represent. (Un)fortunately, the demand for swords as weapons to be used has fallen quite dramatically in the last few centuries. Accordingly, many swordsmiths have turned to knives as a way of applying the ancient craft to modern objects.



Back to the hotel by **18:00**.

Overnight at Aman Tokyo

Day4; Day trip to Mashiko

You will meet with your **English-Speaking Guide** at **9:00 am** and leave for Mashiko by private chartered vehicle. (It takes about 2h to reach by normal traffic condition.)

Upon arrival at Mashiko, you will visit **Mashiko Museum of Ceramic art** – collecting and exhibiting works by potters representative of Mashiko, such as Shoji Hamada and Tatsuzo Shimaoka, as well as potters with connections to Hamada. We also collect and introduce works by the British potter Bernard Leach who had exchanges with Hamada, works by artists from the early stages of the Leach Pottery, and modern ceramic art from the West. In recent years, we have been holding 3 to 4 exhibitions per year, focusing on modern ceramics from both Japan and abroad. You can see the **climbing Kiln** here.



After lunch, you can visit **indigo dyeing atelier**. Fabric dyed with indigo is said to deodorize, repel insects and help protect against sunburn. The beauty in this process lies in its unpredictability—you will not know what your design will look like until it is completed.



At last, you can have experience of making pottery and going back to hotel in Tokyo by **18:00**.

Overnight at Aman Tokyo

Day5; Move to Hakone via Kamakura

You will meet with your **English-Speaking Guide** at **9:00 am** and leave for Kamakura by private chartered vehicle. (It takes about 1.5h to reach by normal traffic condition.)

First visit **Kamakurabori Museum**. **Kamakura-bori** – lacquered wood sculptures – originated 800 years ago when Zen Buddhism was being introduced to Japan from China. Several Zen Temples were constructed in Kamakura during this period and Buddhist statues and artifacts were carved by skilled craftsmen who refined and developed the technique. Today, descendants of the early carvers continue the tradition and explore new ways of expression of the ancient craft.



Then continue to **Kamakura Kokuho Museum**. Here, you can appreciate original Kamakurabori statues, used at one of the temples, several hundred years ago.

Transfer to Hakone (It takes about 1h to reach by normal traffic condition.) and visit **Hakone wooden mosaic atelier** and you can enjoy looking at the procedure how to make it at the atelier.



You will move to Ryokan and check in by 17:00.

Gora Kadan

Gora Kadan was originally a resort for relatives of the Imperial family. All 37 rooms come with unique en suite bathrooms, seven of which feature private “rotenburo” outdoor baths. Rooms are grand in size, minimalist in design and serene in lighting.



Overnight at Gorakadan

Day 6: Move to Kyoto / Kyoto

After the relaxing morning at the ryokan, you will meet **Japanese Speaking Chauffeur** at 11:00 and transfer to **Odawara station** by private chartered car.

[Suggested Schedule]

Bullet Train Hikari #641 / Odawara 12:07 – 14:12 Kyoto

Upon arrival at **Kyoto station**, you will meet with **English Speaking guide** and transfer by private chartered vehicle to the **Kyoto Museum of Crafts and Design**. Many traditional industries were developed with materials and techniques that local artisans have continued to use from generation to generation. The high level of Kyoto craftsmanship and expertise played an important role spreading across the country and giving shape to Japanese culture. Since its opening in 1977, the museum has been widely promoting traditional industries through craftsmanship that is very much alive in Kyoto, and through the fascinating stories behind Kyoto craftsmanship.



Transfer to the hotel by 17:00.

The Ritz Carlton, Kyoto



The Ritz-Carlton, Kyoto sits serenely on the banks of the Kamogawa River, in a prime location with expansive views of the famous Higashiyama *Sanju-Roppo* (36-mountain range). The hotel is also close to Kyoto's famous downtown districts such as Gion, Kawaramachi and Pontocho streets, convenient locations for both sightseeing and business.

Day7; Kyoto – Full day tour

You will meet **English Speaking guide at 9:00** and leave for excursion by private chartered car. Move to **woodblock print atelier** and you can have special experience of woodblock print making.



Then move to **Kiyomizu ware atelier** – In Kyoto, the center of both Japanese cuisine and of the tea ceremony since olden times, vessels and other similar objects achieved a rare degree of development. Here were produced ceramics painted in the most exquisite fashion, boldly overlapping glazes in which could be felt the grandeur of nature, and unexpected patterns and colors whose collision aroused the imagination.

To answer the diverse requests and the discerning eyes of Kyoto's citizens, chefs, and tea ceremony masters, Kyoto's artisans set to their wheels and, while making free use of both their skill and knowledge, produced ceramics that contained every conceivable expression. At the same time, in the midst of so much work and so many trips to and from the kiln, a particular form of manufacture was established: Kiyomizu ceramics.



After lunch, you will have **Kimono wearing experience** at the private hall in the temple not open to the public. You can enjoy taking pictures at Japanese garden outside!



Back to the hotel by 17:00.

Overnight at The Ritz Carlton, Kyoto

Day8; Move to Kanazawa

After checking out the hotel, you will meet **English Speaking guide** at **9:00** and you have special experience on this morning; **Tea ceremony**. (Private activity and by appointment only)



Tea ceremony is one of Japan's traditional cultural practices and is the name given to a synthetic art that encompasses not only the making of tea, but also tea-room architecture, the appreciation of tea utensils and bowls and Zen Buddhism. It is not a religion, but a means to the study of Japanese manners and spirituality. Tea master Sen no Rikyu's aphorism "WA-KEI-SEI-JAKU" (harmony, respect, purity and tranquility) conveys the importance of the spirituality in tea ceremonies. After the ceremony, your tea master will instruct how to make green tea, you can enjoy your own made tea.

Transfer to **Kyoto station** by private chartered car to catch train to Kanazawa.

[Suggested Schedule]

Limited Express Train Thunderbird #19 / Kyoto 12:10 - 14:23 Kanazawa



Upon arrival at **Kanazawa station**, you will be welcomed by **English Speaking Assistant** at the station platform and escorted to the hotel by walk.

Hyatt Centric Kanazawa

THE
REAL JAPAN



Situated just seconds from the Kanazawa station, Hyatt Centric Kanazawa is the perfect spot from which to explore the authentic art, shops, restaurants and culture of Kanazawa. Experience this well-preserved historical city; renowned for its geisha and samurai districts as well as wonderful cuisine.

Overnight at Hyatt Centric Kanazawa

Day9; Kanazawa – Full day tour

You will meet **English Speaking guide** at **9:00** and leave for excursion by private chartered car.

Visit **National Crafts Museum** relocated from Tokyo in autumn 2020. The only of its kind in Japan, the collection includes over 1,900 works, of which 1,400 were created by Living National Treasures and members of the Japan Art Academy. All these works are indispensable in studying the history of Japanese crafts. Take your time and enjoy this museum!



In the afternoon, visit a **Kaga Yuzen studio**, (upon availability) one of Japan's leading artistic forms of textile dyeing. With splendid patterns and lengthy painting process, it is renowned as a luxury item. Meet the third generation Kaga Yuzen artist, Mr Maida and observe his amazing work. The workshop is usually not opened to the public but a private visit can be arranged.



Then visit a **Gold Leaf** production studio Kanazawa is the largest gold leaf production area in Japan with a share of 98 percent of the market. You can explore the elaborate process of beating gold into a water-thin leaf only one-10,000th millimeter thick with an alloy of gold and a small amount of silver and bronze.

Finally, take your time to stroll around the Higashichaya traditional street and explore the beautiful crafts shops at your own pace.

THE
REAL JAPAN



Back to the hotel by 17:00.

Overnight at Hyatt Centric Kanazawa

Day10; Day trip to Toyama

You will meet **English Speaking guide** at **10:00** and leave for excursion by private chartered car. Visit **Takaoka** and enjoy the Factory tour (joint tour) of Nousaku which began manufacturing Buddhist ritual objects, Japanese tea sets and vases made of brass and bronze in Takaoka, Japan. The city has flourished since 1609, and built its reputation as the center of the copper industry in Japan over those 400 years.



After the tour, enjoy lunch served in the dishes of Nousaku (pay on spot)

In the afternoon, Move to Inami area and visit atelier of **Wood Carving**. You can talk to the artisan and ask questions.



Transfer to another crafts town in Toyama called Johana (about 15 mins by car by normal traffic condition) and visit the place **weaving silk** and **Johana Hikiyama center** which shows exhibition about the town's most historical festival with a 300-year history is open throughout the year.

Back to the hotel by 17:00.

Overnight at Hyatt Centric Kanazawa

Day11; Move to Sendai

After relaxing morning, you will meet with your **English-Speaking Assistant** at 13:00 and transfer to **Komatsu airport** by private chartered vehicle. (Official check out time at Hyatt Centric Kanazawa is 12:00.) Board a plane to Sendai.

(Suggested Schedule)

ANA#19 / KMQ 14:35 - 15:35 SDJ



Upon arrival at **Sendai airport**, you will be welcomed by **English Speaking Assistant** at the station platform and take on the private chartered vehicle and move to the hotel in Sendai. (It takes about 30mins by private chartered car.)

The Westin Sendai



(Images Only)

The hotel is situated in Northern Japan in the heart of Sendai, a coastal hub of industry and finance encircled by trees and mountains. Located near myriad corporate offices, we are steps from great dining, transportation, history and culture. Our 9 flexible function rooms, superb continental and ethnic Japanese restaurants and chic bar and lounge mean ideal opportunities for business and leisure.

Overnight at The Westin Sendai

Day12; Day trip to Hiraizumi

You will meet with your **English-Speaking Guide** at **8:30 am** and leave for excursion by private chartered vehicle. (It takes about 1.5h by normal traffic condition.) **Hiraizumi** was inscribed on the World Heritage List (i.e. to become a World Heritage) at the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee, which was held in Paris, France in June 2011.

Upon arrival at Hiraizumi, visit **Chuson-ji** was established in 850 as a temple of the Tendai sect of Buddhism and consisted at its peak, of a large network of dozens of buildings. Of the remaining original buildings, the most spectacular is the **Konjikido, completely covered in gold** dating back to 1124. Unlike the Golden Pavilion in Kyoto, it stands inside another building for protection and can be seen upclose. Chusonji has a number of other interesting buildings and its vast grounds covered with lush bamboos and cedar trees make for a very pleasant stroll of about one kilometre.



Follow to the **Lacquer wear atelier** and you can look at the professional works here (depending on the availability).



Enjoy the artisan visit on this afternoon – The southern part of Iwate Prefecture and the area around Hiraizumi in particular are renowned for the variety and quality of its craftsmanship. Enjoy the artisan visit **in this afternoon. You can find several ateliers dedicated to distinctively Japanese crafts** depending on your centre of your interest.

Note: not all ateliers may be opened to the public at the time of your visit so please let us know your interest in advance in order to make a booking in advance. Depending on the location and center of your interest we will choose the atelier and arrange the visit as far as time permit. You can enjoy they local encounter at each spot!)



Here are the potential sites of the artisan visit.

- Lacquerware Atelier
- Indigo Dyeing
- Kimono Shop and atelier
- Cast Iron Foundry

Leave Hiraizumi around 17:00 and back to the hotel until 18:30.

Overnight at The Westin Sendai

Day13; Move to Tokyo

You will meet with your **English Speaking Assistant** at 10:30 and leave **Sendai station** by private chartered vehicle. Catch train to Tokyo.

[Suggested Schedule]

Bullet Train Hayabusa #16 / Sendai 11:30 – 13:04 Tokyo



Upon arrival at **Tokyo station**, you will be welcomed by **English Speaking chauffeur** at the station platform and transfer to the hotel in Tokyo by private chartered vehicle. Leaving your luggage at the hotel and enjoy your last day at your own pace!

Aman Tokyo



(Images Only)

A warm and exclusive sanctuary, Aman Tokyo draws its design inspiration from traditional Japanese residential structures. Classic Japanese materials such as timber, Washi paper and stone are blended to great effect with modern technology and luxurious fabrics. Filtered light contrasts with solid elements, creating a subtle interplay of shadow and light fundamental to the design and ambience of the hotel.

Overnight at Aman Tokyo

Day14; Departure

After checking out from the hotel, you will meet with **English Speaking chauffeur** (depending on your flight schedule) and leave for **Narita International Airport** by a private chartered car.



***** END OF YOUR JAPAN JOURNEY *****