



**ICAN EVENTS**  
[ceramicartsnetwork.org/events](http://ceramicartsnetwork.org/events)

Join ICAN to explore Japan's ceramic masters along with a wealth of sacred and spiritual sites. Discover Kyoto, Bizen, Shigaraki, Mashiko, and Tokyo with private guides and a tailor-made itinerary.

Call or email Holly Goring, ICAN Manager at 614-895-4213 to reserve your spot. Or, learn more at [ceramicartsnetwork.org/events](http://ceramicartsnetwork.org/events).

**Let ICAN take you places you can't go on your own!**



**iCAN** International CERAMIC ARTISTS NETWORK

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**ICAN presents:  
Journey to Japan!**

**June 11–21, 2023 - Kyoto**

**June 21–23, 2023 - Tokyo (optional extension)**

Join ICAN and your fellow ceramic artists to explore Japan's ancient roots and modern wonders on a thrilling journey through the country's history and culture. Stroll through shrines, delicately manicured gardens, Buddhist temples, and bamboo groves. Get swept up in the dazzling neighborhoods and side streets of Kyoto and nearby villages. Take a deep dive into the centuries-old and still practiced traditions of Japanese ceramics with site visits to working studios, kiln tours, and mesmerizing museums devoted to pottery. Get ready for a complete sensory overload!

## Trip Highlights:

- Kyoto ceramics district, the Kiyomizu Rokubei, Kondo Yuzo, and Raku museums, and Yakimono Gallery.
- Full Buddhist service performed by 40 chanting monks, including a fire ceremony.
- Daitokuji Zen monastery for a Way of Tea ceremony with an extensive teabowl collection.
- Bizen pottery village, practicing artists, and the tunnel kilns.
- Kyoto's Gion geisha area; Kennin-ji monastery and gardens.
- Nishijin textile district; demo by a 5th generation master of gold leaf.
- Tamba village to visit local ceramics studio and kilns.
- Celadon master's studio.
- Calligraphy master and performance.
- Shigaraki, Sagawa Museum of Art, plus local ceramic studios.
- Rengei-ji's stunning gardens and architecture in northern Kyoto.
- Ikebana demonstration with ceramic vases in the Sogetsu Ikebana school.
- Kyoto's oldest inn and garden and demo on how various dishes are used to present a Japanese Kaiseki meal.
- Shisendo Hall of the Poet Hermits, former home of a samurai now a Soto Zen temple and a sukiya-style home and scroll garden.
- Contemporary ceramic artist studios and Kawai Kanjiro house
- Kyoto treasures: Tenryu-ji, one of the oldest gardens in Kyoto; Kyoto's bamboo forests; the 10,000 bright vermilion torii gates of Fushimi Inari; delicacies at Kyoto's Nishiki Market; the Philosopher's path; Ginkaku-ji (Silver Pavillion).

## Optional Tour Add On: TOKYO!

- Guided walking tour of the Ginza.
- Travel to Tochigi prefecture to tour Mashiko, the famous ceramics village and home of the Mashiko-yaki
- Tour the museum of Japanese ceramic national treasure, Shoji Hamada
- Visit the Mashiko Reference Collection museum
- Discover local potters and shops of the Mashiko potteries
- Travel to Kasama to visit the Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum and learn about Kasama pottery
- Free time to discover Tokyo with guided suggestions

## Lodging:

The Royal Park Hotel Kyoto Sanjo

[www.the-royalpark.jp/the/kyotosanjo/en](http://www.the-royalpark.jp/the/kyotosanjo/en)

Optional tour extension in Tokyo: Mitsui Garden Hotel Ginza Premier

[www.gardenhotels.co.jp/ginza-premier/eng](http://www.gardenhotels.co.jp/ginza-premier/eng)

Singles: Single rooms are available in each hotel for an extra charge.

Upgrades: Upgraded rooms are available in Tokyo and Kyoto.

## Included in the Registration:

- Meet-and-greet airport service
- 9-nights double occupancy at the Royal Park THE Kyoto Sanjo Hotel—Western-style room.
- Local transport: Subways, taxis, coach travel for Tamba and Shigaraki, and ordinary car train to/from Bizen
- 9 breakfasts
- 8 lunches, including water, coffee or tea (soft drinks or alcoholic beverages paid individually)
- 2 dinners, including water, coffee or tea (soft drinks or alcoholic beverages paid individually)
- All admissions

- Tour leader(s) fully fluent in Japanese and English
- Japanese ceramics expert for four days of touring with introductions to ceramic artists in Tamba, Shigarki, Bizen, and Kyoto
- All tours conducted in English

### **Not Included in the Registration:**

- International airline tickets for tour guests
- Personal expenses incurred within hotel properties
- Personal purchases and shipping
- 7 dinners; drinks with meals other than Japanese tea or water
- Guide tipping

## **Daily Itinerary**

### **Day 1 Sunday, June 11**

International flights depart for Japan

### **Day 2 Monday, June 12**

Arrival in Japan

Arrive Osaka Kansai or Osaka Itami airport. You will be met and transferred by reserved shuttle to the Royal Park Kyoto Hotel, a well-located hotel convenient to public transport.

*Hotel: Royal Park The Kyoto*

*Meals: None*

### **Day 3 Tuesday, June 13**

Kyoto

Spend the morning at Daitokuji Zen monastery, for a private experience of the Way of Tea with the abbot of Zuiho-in sub-temple; an introduction to their extensive tea bowl collection and a discussion of how the ceramic history of Japan is so closely tied to the tea ceremony. Afterward, explore more of Daitoku-ji, including visit to Koto-in and Zuiho-in. After a Zen-style vegetarian lunch travel to eastern Kyoto to visit Yakimono gallery for a deeper introduction to Japanese ceramics with our Japanese ceramics expert, Robert Yellin. Afterward you can take an optional walk along the Philosopher's path or a visit to Ginkaku-ji (Silver Pavillion), among other breath-taking sites. Dinner will be on your own this evening after returning to your hotel.

*Hotel: Royal Park The Kyoto*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

### **Day 4 Wednesday, June 14**

Kyoto

Travel via bus to the town of Tamba to start the exploration of ceramics with a visit to the studio and kilns of some local ceramic artists. Tamba ware originated in the Medieval period and is typically a style used for storage jars and vases and it is also famous for its sake bottles. Japanese ceramics expert Rob Yellin will put the artists you are visiting in context so that you will have a deeper appreciation of this type of Yakishime, high-fired unglazed stoneware. After our return to Kyoto we will have a group dinner at a local restaurant.

*Hotel: Royal Park The Kyoto*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 5 Thursday, June 15**

Kyoto

Explore the Gion geisha area and the Kennin-ji monastery and gardens, followed by a walking tour of the nearby Kyoto traditional ceramics district, including the Kiyomizu Rokubei family generational museum, the

Kondo Yuzo museum, and a visit to the home of a renowned celadon master. Learn about the 300-year old Ninsei and Kenzan styles. Return to the center of Kyoto to visit a current ceramics exhibition. The rest of today is a free day in Kyoto, where you can adventure out on your own with our suggestions. We may suggest traveling to western Kyoto, to the Arashiyama area, via the local trolley. You can explore Tenryu-ji, one of the oldest gardens in Kyoto, dating from the early 14th century and afterward, walk through one of Kyoto's famous bamboo forests before heading to lunch at a local noodle shop. You may decide to climb through the famous 10,000 bright vermilion torii gates of Fushimi Inari or explore the delicacies on offer at Kyoto's Nishiki Market. Our self-guided instructions provide over a dozen possible days of exploration. Tonight's dinner will be on your own.

*Hotel: Royal Park The Kyoto*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

### **Day 6 Friday, June 16**

Kyoto

Today we head to Okayama prefecture for a visit to the Bizen Pottery Village in Imbe. Travel via Shinkansen (bullet) and local train. Rob will lead us on an exploration of the various tunnel kilns and artists still practicing the centuries old art of creating these unique reddish or brown-colored, unglazed works. We will learn about the six major variations of Bizen ware and how they are created through careful placement of the objects in the kiln.

*Hotel: Royal Park The Kyoto*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

### **Day 7 Saturday, June 17**

Kyoto

Early risers may go to an optional temple visit for a full Buddhist service performed by 40 chanting monks, including a fire ceremony. After breakfast, we'll travel to the Nishijin textile district to meet a 5th-generation master of gold leaf. In his beautifully preserved, traditional Kyoto-style merchant house, he will introduce you to his intricate process. Next, travel to the Raku Museum followed by lunch. After breakfast, we'll visit the home and studio of a calligraphy master and performance artist to see him wield his gigantic brush to create a masterpiece-in-the-moment. The rest of the afternoon will be free for exploring Kyoto on your own or make use of a shopping map filled with hand-selected locations.

*Hotel: Royal Park The Kyoto*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

### **Day 8 Sunday, June 18**

Kyoto

On today's out-of-town excursion by private bus to Shiga prefecture, we will visit the Sagawa Museum of Art, a beautiful contemporary architectural site which has devoted a special underground wing to the spectacular work of 15th generation Raku potter, Raku Kichizaemon IV. We'll enjoy a Japanese bento lunch en route and will visit the studios of a selection of ceramic artists and enjoy kiln tours with commentary provided by Rob Yellin. Return to Kyoto by early evening for dinner on your own.

*Hotel: Royal Park The Kyoto*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

### **Day 9 Monday, June 19**

Kyoto

Start the day with a visit to a local ceramics master. Followed by a visit to Rengei-ji, an intimate hideaway in northern Kyoto, where the garden harmonizes perfectly with the adjacent mountains. The temple's abbot and his wife will welcome us with whisked green tea served in their tearoom overlooking a babbling brook. Often overlooked, this stunning garden and temple was inspired by architectural genius I.M. Pei. Lunch will be at one of Kyoto's oldest inns where we'll enjoy an ikebana demonstration by a master teacher in the Sogetsu Ikebana school and a showing of specialized ceramic vases. The proprietor of Kyoto's oldest inn and garden, located fac-

ing the Takano River, will do a presentation on how the various styles of dishes are used in the presentation of a Japanese Kaiseki meal. We end our day at Shisendo, the Hall of the Poet Hermits, the former home of a samurai which was later converted to a Soto Zen temple. After exploring the highly complex, yet deceptively simple transitional entry area, we enter to find a rustic, sukiya-style home and scroll garden.

*Hotel: Royal Park The Kyoto*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

### **Day 10 Tuesday, June 20**

Kyoto

Today is devoted to a series of visits carefully selected by Rob Yellin to highlight contemporary ceramic artists in the Kyoto area and include a visit to the Kawai Kanjiro house. Lunch will be in a Zen-style vegetarian restaurant set in a lovely old house near Kiyomizu temple. End the day with a farewell group dinner.

*Hotel: Royal Park The Kyoto.*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 11 Wednesday, June 21**

Departure from Japan to International destinations

You'll have the morning free to take in the sights, shop or simply stroll Kyoto's varied neighborhoods one last time. Transfer by reserved van shuttle, per individual flight times, for your return flight from Osaka Kansai International Airport or Osaka Itami Airport.

*Meals: Breakfast*

### **OPTIONAL: Tokyo Tour Extension**

#### **Day 11 Wednesday, June 21**

Kyoto to Tokyo

Depart Kyoto by Shinkansen (bullet) train for Tokyo. On arrival, transfer to your centrally located hotel. After a walking tour of the Ginza you will be free to explore Tokyo on your own with suggested touring information.

*Hotel: Mitsui Garden Hotel Ginza Premier*

*Meals: Breakfast*

#### **Day 12 Thursday, June 22**

Tokyo

Travel via coach today to nearby Tochigi prefecture to tour Mashiko ceramics village. This small village is the home of the Mashiko-yaki, a folkware, and best known for the ceramics and home of Shoji Hamada. Visit the Mashiko Reference Collection Museum in addition to the numerous shops and potters in the area. Travel on to nearby Kasama to visit the Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum and learn about Kasama pottery. Dinner will be on your on after your return to Tokyo.

*Hotel: Mitsui Garden Hotel Ginza Premier*

*Meals: Breakfast*

#### **Day 13 Friday, June 23**

Departure from Japan to International destinations

Transfer to Tokyo Narita or Tokyo Haneda airport via airport limousine bus for your return flights to the US, arriving back on the same day you departed.

*Meals: Breakfast*

## **Additional Travel Information**

- Walking and stairs: **IMPORTANT** This trip will include a significant amount of walking including stairs, and is not recommended for those who have difficulty walking for long distances or at a swift pace including stairs and steep inclines. Pack comfortable shoes. Plan to be attentive and stay with the group at all times during walking tours. Each tour is timely and will need to keep moving. We will not be able to wait for individual stragglers.
- Additional accommodations and transportation required prior to or following the tour must be arranged and paid for on your own.
- Passports must be valid for 6 months after you have completed your travel.
- Daily/group participation: If for any reason you are unable to participate in an activity, please speak to me directly in advance while on the tour so I can make the necessary arrangements. Note that all tickets, tours, and transportation are paid for in advance
- Additional information pertaining to travel in Japan will be sent to registered guests once the trip has sold the minimum number of spots have sold and the trip is confirmed.
- We recommend that you do not book non-refundable flights or other services until the minimum number of spots have sold and the trip is confirmed. The trip will be confirmed to each guest as soon as possible.
- All tour inquiries should be directed to the ICAN manager, Holly Goring, at [hgoring@ceramics.org](mailto:hgoring@ceramics.org) or 614-895-4213. Please do not make direct inquiries to the hotels or the venues listed in the itinerary.
- Itinerary subject to change.