

Japan: Art and Culture

with Sue Gardiner

19 May - 2 June 2025



**Art
Travel**

Day 1. Monday 19 May

For those flying today we depart Auckland this morning on NZ 99 and arrive Tokyo Narita at 6pm. On clearing customs we meet our local guide and transfer by coach to Shinjuku for the next three nights.

On behalf of Sue and I *Welcome to Japan*

Overnight Shinjuku

Day 2. Tuesday 20 May

(For those up early Glen will wander through the station and surrounding area for an orientation)

Today we experience the full range of Tokyo from its traditional gardens to its cutting edge architecture, contemporary culture, boulevards, boutiques and alleyways.

We are aiming for the **Nezu Museum** as much for its introduction to traditional Japanese arts and crafts, as much as its garden and architecture.

Try your hand at lunch in one of the many small alleyway restaurants.

We end up back this afternoon at Harajuku Station for the train back to Shinjuku.

For dinner we will guide you through one of the local eating areas around the hotel.

Overnight Shinjuku (B)

Day 3. Wednesday 21 May

A full day in Tokyo today exploring Roppongi's range of galleries. We take our pick of the highlights of the **Mori Art Museum, National Art Centre, 21 21 Design Sight** and a range of smaller dealer galleries in the area.

Finish with a visit to the new town centre of Azabudai Hills, marvel at the architecture of Heatherwick Studios and experience the digital **TeamLabs Borderless**.

Overnight Shinjuku (B)



Day 4. Thursday 22 May

This morning we will transfer to the station for our bullet train to Kanazawa.

Visit the **21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art** and the famous **Kenroku-en Garden** this afternoon and the **National Craft Museum** if it is open.

You are free to visit the castle or stop for a late afternoon drink at the Kanazawa Music Bar, with its multitude of records, or take a meal at Futa's Dive Bar.

Our hotel is near the station.

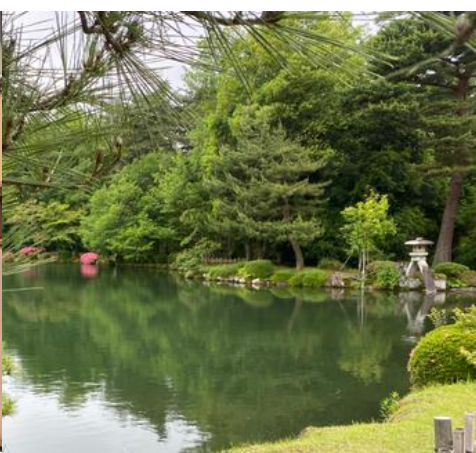
Overnight Kanazawa (B)

Day 5. Friday 23 May

Today we wander Kanazawa's Samurai District and Geisha District including **Gold Leaf Museum** and visit the **Ohi Museum** and take lunch near the market.

Your evening is free.

Overnight Kanazawa (B)



Day 6. Saturday 24 May

Today we head by train to Kyoto for the next three nights.

This afternoon visit the **Kyocera Kyoto Museum of Contemporary Art** and the nearby **Museum of Modern Art**. We will finish our afternoon with a wander through the Gion, the Geisha district of Kyoto.

Spend the evening discovering the local restaurants.

Overnight Kyoto (B)

Day 7. Sunday 25 May

This morning we escape the city to visit Shigaraki, one of the famous ceramics areas of Japan. We visit the fabulous IM Pei designed **Miho Museum** before heading into Shigaraki where we visit the **Ceramic Cultural Centre**.

We arrive back in Kyoto late afternoon.

Overnight Kyoto (B)



Day 8. Monday 26 May

This morning we head across town to visit the **Robert Yellin Gallery**.

Robert Yellin is a ceramics specialist and has lived in Japan for over thirty years. His gallery is home to a wide range of contemporary Japanese ceramics.

From there it is a short walk along the **Philosophers Path** to **Ginkaku-ji - the Silver Pavillion**.

Dating from the late 1400s, originally a Shogun's retirement villa, then Zen Temple complex, comprises various buildings, a moss garden and is most famous for its dry garden "Sea of Silver Sand", with a massive sand cone named "Moon Viewing Platform" in the middle.

This afternoon you may wish to explore Kyoto on your own, or spend time with us on the train heading to Arashiyama and the famous Bamboo Forest.

Finish our time in Kyoto with a drink together in the hotel bar.

Overnight **Kyoto** (B)

Day 9. Tuesday 27 May

It is an early start today.

Please drop your luggage in reception and be ready to depart by 7.30am. You will meet your luggage in Takamatsu. Prepare a carry on for the journey to Naoshima.

This morning we are heading by bullet train to Okayama Station and by coach to Uno Port and on the ferry to Naoshima.

On arrival we hit the 7-11 for a lunch supply before heading straight to the **Art House Projects**. We will tick a small number of these off including Hiroshi Sugimoto's **Go'o Shrine**.

We have an afternoon visit to the Chichu Museum before our check in at Benesse House Park.



Day 10. Wednesday 28 May

This morning we take the hotel bus to the port and a ferry to Inujima Island. On arrival we will visit the **Seirensho Museum** and **Art House Projects**. This is a small and enchanting island.

You may find time to take a snack in the museum book shop if time permits while waiting for the ferry.

This afternoon on return you may visit the **Lee Ufan Museum and Valley Gallery, (or we may opt to visit the due to be opened gallery in Miyanoura)** or just wander the grounds and shoreline coming across art works at every turn.

Being at one with the harmonious surroundings is what we are here for after all.

Tonight visit the Japanese Restaurant for dinner and experience the **Benesse House Museum**.

Overnight Benesse House (B, D)



Day 11. Thursday 29 May

Enjoy a relaxing start to the day with a 10am pick up and a short time to wonder around Miyanoura Port before heading to Takamatsu port.

On arrival we head straight by coach to the Studio Museum of **Isamu Noguchi**. On our way to the hotel we stop at **Ritsurin Garden** to experience one of the most magical strolling gardens in Japan.

You will reconnect with your luggage on check in.

Overnight Takamatsu (B)



Day 12. Friday 30 May

Farewell Takamatsu this morning as we check out and fly back to Tokyo.

We will transfer by coach to our Shinjuku Hotel and our last few nights in town. Your afternoon is free to shop or wander.

Consider exploring Shinjuku and a stroll in the **Shinjuku National Garden**. or visit Shinjuku Station and discover a range of modern western restaurants at New South Entrance, take in the food court in **Takeshimaya Department Store**, “Hands”, 7 floors of my favourite homeware, crafts and stationery.

Discover the nightlife and wander the alleyways of this area and the nearby **Golden Gai** or **Omoide Yokocho**, each a strip of famous small bars.

Overnight Shinjuku (B)



Day 12. Saturday 31 May

Starting out on our journey by train to Odawarra, it is around 1 hour and a short coach ride to Nebukawa. Here we will visit the **Odawarra Art Foundation** and **Enoura Observatory**. The vision of artist Hiroshi Sugimoto whom we encountered on Naoshima. This complex is a real gem, an observatory, a museum and a walk, all in one.

Hiroshi Sugimoto's signature practice spans the mediums of performing arts, photography, sculpture, installation and architecture. His art deals with history and temporal existence through a variety of subject matters. He explores issues surrounding time, empiricism, and metaphysics that bridge Eastern and Western ideologies while examining the nature of perception and the origins of consciousness.

From Enoura we head over the hills into **Hakone** to discover this resort area and visit to the large scale the **Hakone Open Air Museum**.

From here it is back to Odawarra Station where there is time to grab something to eat for the train and head back to Shinjuku. Arriving around 6pm.

A farewell is held tonight dinner to celebrate our time in Japan.

Overnight Shinjuku (B, D)



Day 13. Sunday 1 Jun

Please check out by 10am and feel free to explore.
Glen and Sue will offer an option this morning or consider;

Shibuya - Antique Market and Shibuya Crossing (Ikea and Loft too)
Ginza - Muji and Uniqlo Flagship stores
Pigment Art Supplies - Shinagawa
Gotokuji Temple - the home of the lucky cats (thousands)
Daikanyama T-Site - Elegant design books and coffee

Our coach leaves for the airport at 3pm today.

Check in and farewell Japan!

Day 14. Monday 2 June

Arrive home this morning.

Inclusions:

- All accommodation in a mix of 4 star Japanese Hotels
- All transport by coach, rail, metro, ferry and plane
- All taxi fares required for the tour
- All museum and gallery entries required
- All meals included in the final itinerary
- Sue Gardiner as your Art Tour Guide
- Glen Armstrong as your Travel Manager

Art Travel