

About "Journey into Japan: A Workshop of Cultural Discovery"

- Dates: Starting in July 2025 (1-2 sessions per month)
- Venue: Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo (3F Art Lobby, Main Tower)
- Description: Visitors can learn about the Japanese seasonal motifs through a variety of cultural artworks.
- Lecturers: Experts and artists from various fields
- Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Fee: Varies per experience. Hotel guests enjoy 50% off of the price.
- *Reservations are not required, but the event has limited seats.
- *Participants must be elementary school age and over.
- *Payment will be accepted at the Lobby Gallery on the day of the event.
- *There is no need to bring specific materials to the event.

Special website: https://www.keioplaza.com/offers/journey_into_japan.html

- January

Japanese Sensu (Folding Fan) Painting Experience

Dates: Friday, January 23 and Saturday, January 24

Fee: JPY 3,000

Description: A workshop teaching participants how to paint designs on fans made by Ibasen (A long-established fan specialty shop in Nihonbashi that has been in business since the Edo period).



The prototype of the folding fan, also known as the hand fan, originated in China and was introduced to Japan as early as the 7th century. The cypress fan, made by binding wooden slats

together, is said to be the origin of the folding fan and was invented in Japan. Through an era of composing and recording songs and writing prose, fans came to be regarded and revered by the samurai class as an artistic symbol representing the sword and was also used in ceremonial occasions and performing arts of Japanese tea ceremony. The practice of using fans to cool oneself by waving them overhead became commonplace only in the late Edo period (1603 to 1868). Compact and easily foldable, these small fans are highly valued worldwide for their practicality, embodying the wisdom, etiquette and aesthetic sensibilities of the Japanese people.

- February

Egg Art Emperor Doll Experience

Dates: Friday, February 13 and Saturday, February 14

Fee: JPY 3,000

Description: Workshop for emperor dolls created by painting facial expressions and covering eggshells with Nishijin-ori fabric. Pre-painted versions will also be available.



“Egg art” expresses seasonal landscapes and annual events on the shells of small eggs. This art form originated in 16th-century Christian Easter celebrations, where painted eggshells were given as gifts. The “Imperial Eggs” from Russia’s Romanov dynasty era, considered the world’s finest, are magnificent crafts adorned with jewels.

Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo’s program planned for February represents a fusion of Western culture with Japanese elegance. Participants can enjoy a heartwarming artistic experience through the creation of small egg-art emperor dolls imbued with a parent’s love for their children.

- March

Touch of Gold: Japanese Tea Utensil Decoration Experience

Dates: Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14

Fee: JPY 3,000

Description: Carving the black lacquer portion of a “kashi-yōji” (picks used to eat Japanese tea sweets) with dots and lines, to be filled with gold powder to create your own premium “kashi-yōji.”



Japanese lacquerware that were exported overseas sparked a craze for various cultural items from the East in Western Europe, where Japan became known as the “Land of Lacquer.” While this craze dates back to the 16th century, the history of lacquer art in Japan stretches back some 9,000 years.

Among various decorative techniques like “maki-e” and “raden” (gold and silver, and mother-of-pearl inlay), workshop participants will be able to try their hand at a traditional Japanese inlay technique. This technique involves filling carved dots and lines with gold leaf and powder to create intensely luminous golden patterns, and to transform everyday lacquerware into pieces of art with a touch of intricate designs worthy of special occasions.

- April

Ori-ku: Japanese Wordplay Poetry Experience

Dates: Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18

Fee: JPY 2,000

Description: Participants can experience the traditional Japanese poem game known as “Ori-ku,” where characters of your favorite words from each line are used to represent hidden words or messages. And participants can take their finished work home with them to be framed as a memento of this workshop.



“Ori-ku” is a traditional Japanese wordplay poetry that is used as a game of words where phonetic sounds and letters are used to express hidden messages in a poem and display linguistic skills of the persons making these Japanese poems.

“Ori-ku” appears as far back as the Heian period (794 to 1185) in The Tales of Ise. As in any language around the world, wherever there are people and thoughts, language is born. But the beauty of the Japanese language is that it has terms and expressions that express emotions, scenery and the passage of time that are not fully conveyed in other languages. Hopefully participants can create poems that convey warm feelings while appreciating the cherry blossoms and reflects their feelings for the arrival of spring.