

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 of the Main Tower and other locations)
 - 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. *Guests may participate at any time during the workshop hours
 - 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.co.jp/en/event/journey_into_japan/

■ Schedule

- May

"Children's Day" Paper Helmet Cutting Workshop

Dates: Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23, 2026

Instructor: Rakusaburo Hayashiya

Fee: JPY 1,000 (tax included)

Duration: About 30 minutes to 1 hour

Capacity: 20 participants per day

Description: Participants will create a kabuto (samurai helmet), one of the iconic symbols of Japanese samurai culture, using the traditional art of “Kamikiri” (paper cutting). Finished pieces will be framed and can be taken home.



Concept: Kamikiri is a unique Japanese art form in which patterns are cut out of a single sheet of paper using scissors. It has long been enjoyed as a form of entertainment during intermissions for spectators of “Rakugo” Japanese verbal comedy performances.

This workshop will focus on creating a helmet cut from paper, which are symbolic representations of the Children’s Day festival. Children’s Day, observed on May 5, is one of the five seasonal festivals celebrated to ward off misfortune and offer prayers for health and happiness, during which symbols such as carp streamers and helmets are displayed. The helmet embodies prayers for the healthy growth of boys, reflecting the Japanese philosophy of cherishing nature and the various milestones of life.

- June

"Seasonal Traditions that Evoke Cool Serenity" – Making "Tsuru-shinobu" Hanging Planters

Dates: Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6, 2026

Instructor: Asako Torigata

Fee: JPY 3,000 (tax included)

Duration: About 30 minutes to 1 hour

Capacity: 20 participants per day

Description: A botanical art workshop. Participants will create and apply colors extracted from plants onto containers made from eggshells coated with plaster, then weave a net to hang them.

Participants can take home the finished hanging planters.



Concept: To beat the summer heat, Japanese have long enjoyed the seasonal charm of summer by hanging “Tsuru-shinobu,” planters decorated to create a sense of coolness, from the eaves of their homes. “Tsuru-shinobu” consists of the “shinobu” fern wrapped around a moss ball or similar base and has been a beloved seasonal tradition since the Edo period (1601-1868).

In this workshop, participants will apply classical Western fresco technique of painting on wet plaster to the vessel portion of the Tsuru-shinobu. By blending Japanese and Western cultures and fusing their respective spirits, participants will create planters with contemporary aesthetic beauty.

- July

"Sounds that Evoke Coolness" Wind Chime Painting

Dates: Friday, July 17 and Saturday, July 18, 2026

Instructor: Shinji Hataishi, Hataman Tōen Co., Ltd.

Fee: JPY 2,000 (tax included)

Duration: About 30 minutes to 1 hour

Capacity: 10 participants per day

Description: Participants will use oil-based marking pens in their choice of colors to draw designs on fired porcelain Imari ware wind chimes.



Concept: Wind chimes originated as religious artifacts in ancient China and were introduced to Japan along with Buddhism. Since ancient times, the sound of wind chimes has been said to ward off evil spirits, and from the Edo period to the present day they have become an integral part of daily life as a “refined seasonal tradition that evokes coolness with the sound of the wind.” As reflected by the traditional significance of wind chimes, the Japanese have cultivated an aesthetic sensibility that allows them to connect with others by listening intently to the sound of wind chimes.

The wind chimes that participants will be painting are Imari ware, renowned for their beautiful and high-pitched tones that are unique to this porcelain. Listening to the cool and soothing sounds of wind chimes during the heat of the summer will help put participants minds at ease and remind them of the spirit of the Japanese even after they return to their home countries.

- August

"Rooted in Japan" Chopstick (Hashi) Decorating Workshop

Dates: Friday, August 14 and Saturday, August 15, 2026

Instructor: Kyoko Tokida, Hyōzaemon Co., Ltd.

Fee: JPY 2,500 (tax included)

Duration: About 1 hour

Capacity: 10 people per day

Description: This workshop allows you to create your own original chopsticks by painting the handle portion of Hyōzaemon's 100% natural lacquer chopsticks with your favorite colors, applying stickers, and sealing them with resin.



Concept: August 4th (phonetically pronounced “ha-shi,” the Japanese word for chopsticks) has been designated as Chopsticks Day. It's a day to pay respects to and express gratitude for the chopsticks Japanese use every day. About 30% of the world's population uses chopsticks, but it is precisely because Japan is a country where its people can eat with just chopsticks, without using knives or forks, that chopsticks are cherished, and the culture has developed with meticulous attention to detail and ingenuity. Also, because chopsticks come in pairs, they have many uses. At the same time, there are manners and taboos associated with using them that are deeply rooted in Japanese food culture that have been learned from a young age. This workshop will allow you to experience Japanese culture through chopsticks, which are an inseparable part of Japanese people's lives.