

Day 1 Depart USA

Day 2 Arrive Kyoto

Travel by shared shuttle transfer from your Osaka arrival airport to our downtown hotel, the Royal Park THE Kyoto, located in central Kyoto near shopping and restaurants. The evening is free upon arrival.

Accommodations: Royal Park THE Kyoto
Meals included: None



Day 3 Kyoto

We will depart the hotel by taxis and travel north and west to **Daitoku-ji Monastery**, one of Japan's most significant sites, aesthetically, historically and culturally. First, we will visit **Zuiho-in**, one of Daitoku-ji's sub-temples, where we will meet the abbot, who is a master of the Way of Tea, for an introduction to the tea ceremony. After another garden visit, we will have lunch at a nearby restaurant, which specializes in Zen-style vegetarian cuisine. After lunch, we will continue by taxis to a *kimono* shop in the historic **Kamishichiken geisha district**, featuring fine fabrics for custom *kimono*, for a presentation. Our last group event of the day will be an **orientation walk on Sanjo Street** highlighting some of the galleries and shops that you can return to on your own. The evening is free.

Accommodations: Royal Park THE Kyoto
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 4 Kyoto

Some possibilities for you to explore include the once-a-month **Kitano Shrine Flea Market**, the Tanaka Nao dye company, Nishiki market, a serene and beautiful garden and downtown exploring using Esprit's Kyoto Downtown Guide.

Accommodations: Royal Park THE Kyoto
Meals included: Breakfast,



Day 5 Kyoto

Our first visit today is to the **studio master of katazome**, a paste resist stencil dye technique.

The artist will show us her work and demonstrate the tools and basic techniques for *katazome*.

Next we will have a quiet walk and some contemplation at **Konchi-in**, a temple within the 700- year old **Nanzen-ji Zen Monastery**. Lunch features *yudofu*, simmering *tofu* that is lightly seasoned and served with a set of simple condiments and side dishes. After lunch, we will

walk to the workshop of a family of **kumihimo** artisans, who weave both giant silk tassels for Shinto shrines and original silk cords for contemporary art jewelry. We will gather for a group dinner this evening.

Accommodations: Royal Park THE Kyoto
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 6 Kyoto

We will spend the morning in a meeting room for presentations about fiber. Our first presenter is a **master yuzen dyer**, who will explain this uniquely Japanese dye process. Next, an internationally known artist, author, teacher and researcher will show us her hand felted work and will talk about her life as an expat artist in Kyoto. After free time for lunch, we will proceed as a group for a presentation at the nearby **Shibori Museum**. Finally, we head to downtown Kyoto, to **Gallery Gallery**, to see their Showcase Gallery, which displays works by 100 different fiber and textile artists in individual boxes and for a presentation at Sou-Sou, a young company using traditional fabrics for contemporary fashion.

Accommodations: Royal Park THE Kyoto

Meals included: Breakfast



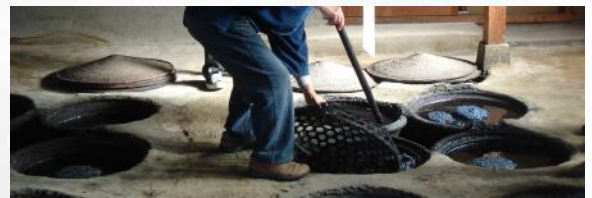
Day 7 Kyoto

We will travel out of Kyoto to neighboring **Shiga Prefecture** today. Our first stop is Yasu, the home and workshop of a family that has been growing and fermenting indigo dyestuff, and dyeing in the traditional way since 1870, using 20 ceramic dye pots that are sunk into the floor of the family workshop. We will continue deep into the

countryside to the **Miho Museum**, a spectacular museum that was designed by I.M. Pei and completed in 1997. We will see the permanent collection of Asian art and antiquities and this spring's temporary exhibition. We will have lunch at the museum. In Shigaraki, one of Japan's old pottery towns dating back to the 1200's, we will visit the **workshop of a ceramist** who makes functional stoneware with the local light-colored gritty clay that is fired without glaze for six days in a wood-fired kiln.

Accommodations: Royal Park THE Kyoto

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 8 Kyoto

Today is devoted to studio visits to traditional and contemporary Kyoto textile artisans. Our first stop is the home and studio of a family that has been pivotal in the re-introduction of 6th and 7th century textiles back into the Japanese culture.

We go to the **Nishijin weaving district** to visit the workshop of craftsmen whose specialty is to translate the hand painted work of artists into the thousands of punch cards required to produce an *obi* on a Jacquard loom. We will also enter the **workshop of master dyers of silk yarn** for *kimono* and *obi* weaving. After lunch, we will visit the traditional *machiya*-style merchant house of a **5th generation gold leaf artisan** who is part of a collaborative process of applying gold leaf to handmade *washi* paper, which is cut and woven with silk to create luxurious *kimono obi*, for which Kyoto is famous. Nearby, we will spend time in an **obi showroom**, featuring a large number of *obi* that have been woven in this neighborhood with gold leaf. The weaving of this district is representative of some of the most complex textile processes in the world. Finally, we will visit the nearby headquarters of a **weaving company**, a small traditional *kimono* and *obi* weaver, founded in 1688. This company also creates contemporary fabrics for interior design and fashion companies.

Accommodations: Royal Park THE Kyoto

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 9 Kyoto

Today, we leave early by train, north to Today we will travel to **Ohara**, a picturesque rural village, with small family farms with lovely mountain views and pickle shops featuring the many vegetables grown locally. Our destination this morning is **Ohara Kobo**, where we will

learn about natural dyeing and participate in a hands-on workshop. Lunch is at a restaurant in an old farmhouse. After lunch, we will visit a rustic dye studio specializing in *kakishibu*, a dye technique using the tannin from persimmons to create a rich brown color. We'll also walk uphill past stands selling local produce and handicrafts to **Sanzen-in** temple, known for its large mossy garden with tall cedars and carefully-placed rocks, ponds stocked with colorful carp and stone statues of Jizo, the Buddhist protector of travelers and children.



Accommodations: Royal Park THE Kyoto
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 10 Kyoto

On our final day in Kyoto, we will begin the day with a visit to the studio of a **contemporary textile artist** who has used the skills and techniques he learned as a traditional *yuzen kimono* craftsman to create original dyed works for shirts, coats, accessories and wall pieces.



Next, we will have a presentation at a gallery specializing in **Japanese folk textiles**. The rest of the day will be free before our farewell dinner this evening.

Accommodations: Royal Park THE Kyoto
Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 11 Departure

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.
Meal included: Breakfast

Note: Actual visits and events will be finalized approximately 30 days prior to departure to allow for the inclusion of special exhibitions, visits and events, and are dependent on the schedules of our Japanese colleagues. A final itinerary will be sent to you about two weeks prior to tour departure. The itinerary is subject to change at any time.

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