



Japan

With Peter and Julie Collis





Day 1. Wednesday, 8 May 2019

To Tokyo

This morning depart to Tokyo on Air New Zealand. Arriving at 4.50pm, transfer to your hotel for the night in Shinjuku.

Your hotel for the next two nights is the **Keio Plaza Hotel**, located close to Shinjuku Station, shopping, restaurants and nightlife.

We will enjoy a snack and welcome drink on arrival before calling it a day.

Overnight Tokyo

Keio Plaza Hotel

Shinjuku

Day 2. Thursday, 9 May 2019

Tokyo

Please meet at 9.00am

This morning we will visit the nearby warren of Shinjuku Station, particularly the new South entrance, where we will find good coffee and pastries at one of a number of stops before heading off for a day of discovery.

Today discover Tokyo – follow Glen on a trail that starts at the **Nezu Museum** and its wonderful garden, wander around the architectural highlights of Omotesando, such as the amazing Prada building.

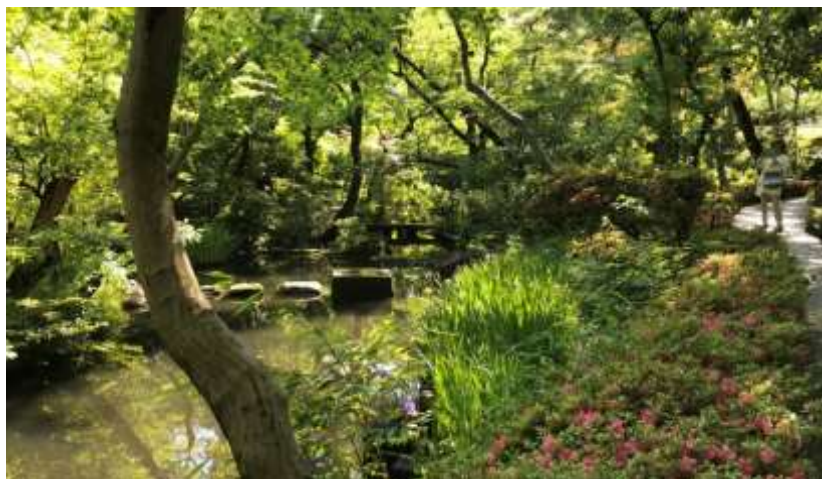
Julie: “ I shall be popping into Issey Myake’s PLEATS PLEASE, gorgeous design at reasonable prices”

We will wander through the alleyways of Omotesando and Harajuku, traversing Aoyama Boulevard in between. Discover the alleyway opposite the Prada building, the Sunny Hills architectural wonder, pass the café / aquarium / wall garden of landscape designer Kazuyuki Ishihara. Keep going and come out on Aoyama Boulevard. Cross and enter another warren of alleyways, cafes and designer hairdressers – coming out eventually at Takeshita Street and Harajuku Station.

We will finish the day at the **Ota Memorial Museum** of woodblock prints – which will have a show of Hokusai work.

Evening Free (B)

Overnight Tokyo



Day 3. Friday, 10 May 2019

Tokyo to Takamatsu

This morning breakfast and check out by 8.45am for our transfer to Haneda Airport and our flight to Takamatsu. On arrival our coach transfers us directly to visit the **Ritsurin Garden**, one of the top strolling gardens in Japan.

All going well you will be able to see the opening night of the annual Aloha festival.

Overnight JR Clement Takamatsu Hotel (B)



Day 4. Saturday, 11 May

Seto Inland Sea

It is time to hit the ferry today on the Seto Inland Sea. Timings for today to be advised.

Visit Naoshima and the Chichu Museum today using a combination of ferry, local bus and rental car.

Julie: "This is one of the hi-lights of the trip as far as I am concerned, I am really looking forward to both the art and the architecture in such a special setting."

Overnight JR Clement Takamatsu Hotel (B)

Day 5. Sunday, 12 May

Takamatsu to Okayama

Please be ready to depart at 8am.

This morning we leave Takamatsu for Kurashiki and Okayama.

Here we spend the day visiting the annual **Field of Craft Festival**, an annual two day craft festival on the edge of the restored warehouse district.

At the other end of the restored canal area is the **Ohara Museum of Art**, which houses a collection of modern European art works, an amazing collection of ceramics, and Japanese modern and contemporary art.

Peter: "You can spend a lot of time hunting out a range of pottery both contemporary and historical, here we have an amazing collection all in one place."

We will arrive late afternoon at the Okayama hotel adjacent to the train station. (B)

Overnight Okayama Hotel Granvia



Please be checked out by 9.30am

Please have your luggage in the foyer by 7.30am (please take any valuables and medications with you on the train)

This morning we take a morning train to Kyoto.

On arrival Glen will expertly navigate us out of the station to the adjacent Century Hotel. Most museums are closed today, so the afternoon is effectively free.

It would be a good afternoon to consider the local train to Arashiyama and the Bamboo Forest, or to visit one or other temples such as **Fushi Inari** or wander the famous **Nishiki Market**, the food bowl of Kyoto, which is nearby the Gion area, and many department stores.

Overnight Kyoto (B)

Kyoto Century Hotel

Julie & Peter; “Just a wander around the historic town centre and the markets is fascinating. Last time we hired bicycles and it was an easy ride around some amazing temples, you might even glimpse a Geisha, or happen across a fabric dying workshop.”



Day 7. Tuesday, 14 May

Kyoto

We will depart at 9.45am this morning by bus.

Start at the museum of famed potter **Kawai Kanjiro**.

From here we head toward the **Robert Yellin Yakimono Gallery**. As the gallery is small, we will split into two groups. One will visit the gallery, while the other visits **Ginkakuji**, the Silver Pavilion nearby. Then we will swap.

Somewhere we will find a spot for a lunch break.

Then head across town to the **Raku Museum**. Home of the current Raku Master. A small museum with a history of Raku dating back to the 1500s. For those wishing a spot of shopping, a visit to Pontocho Alley or the Nishiki Market, we will drop off on the way back to the hotel.

Overnight Kyoto (B)

Kyoto Century Hotel

Peter: "Robert Yellin is an expert on Japanese ceramics, so this will be a great opportunity to meet him and have him accompany us the next day."

Day 8. Wednesday, 15 May

Kyoto

Please be ready to depart by 8.45am.

Venure out of Kyoto by coach to the magnificent **Miho Museum**, buried deep in the hills of Shigaraki.

The pottery town of Shigaraki is nearby. Robert Yellin will guide us to two local potters studios and we will take a lunch break at a local restaurant. Finishing at the Ceramic Centre subject to timings.

Overnight Kyoto (B)

Day 9. Thursday, 16 May

Kyoto to Kanazawa

Please have your bags in the foyer by 7.30am.

Please check out by 9.30am.

Take a morning train to Kanazawa, a ceramic centre and home to the **Museum of the 21st Century** and **Iskikawa Prefectural Art Museum**.

This afternoon you can choose between something old and something new.

Spend the afternoon free in Kanazawa.

Overnight Kanazawa (B)

ANA Crowne Plaza

Day 10. Friday, 17 May

Kanazawa

Please be ready to depart at 8.45am this morning.

Today on our list will be a visit in our coach to the **Ohi Museum**. The Ohi family are closely related to the Raku family of Kyoto, here we will meet the family and enjoy a Matcha tea experience.

Following that we will visit the ceramic artist **Nakamura Takuo. (PENDING)**

Today we will also have a chance to visit the **Omicho Market**, and **Higashi Chaya** historical area, as well as an area of **Samurai Houses**.

Overnight Kanazawa (B)

ANA Crowne Plaza



Day 11. Saturday, 18 May

Kanazawa to Tokyo

Please have your luggage in the foyer by 7.30am

Please check out and be ready to depart by 9.30am for our return to Tokyo on the Bullet train.

We arrive at Tokyo station, where we are met, and transferred by coach to Roppongi.

We will start small, at the **Tomo Museum**. A small but elegant museum of ceramics, from here we will go grand with a visit to the **Mori Museum (and/ or National Art Center.)** A visit here is two fold. There is a show of contemporary art work which surveys current Japanese trends, and an amazing observation deck that gives you a 360 degree view of Tokyo.

From here it is back to our hotel in Shinjuku for last two nights.

The bus will return to the hotel – but we may stay longer than the bus and take a simple Metro from Roppongi to

Overnight Tokyo (B)

Keio Plaza Hotel

Our last full day in Tokyo will be open for you to tick off some of the sights you might want to do: Firstly join us as we track down the local flea market before heading off toward Shibuya and/or Ginza by train and metro. Follow us or set your own course!

Those of you coming to the Mori Teamlab art space it will be an amazing experience. The cost is \$40. We will head there first so you have the afternoon free.

Please be back at the hotel for a 6pm meeting for dinner.

This evening we have a dinner nearby the hotel on the 53 floor. Always a fun way to end a tour.

Otherwise feel free to tick off some of these:

Visit Shibiuya Crossing

Shop in Shinjuku

Visit the Meiji Shrine and Garden – possibly the Irises are out

Take in another museum

Visit the Uniqlo Ginza main store

Julie; “Uniqlo is a must, my whole family all love the socks and undies.”



Day 13. Monday, 20 May

Tokyo

Please check out by 11am, feel free to catch some last minute shopping in Shinjuku before we head to the airport at 2pm for our flight home this evening.

Julie; "Nikes, half price!"



Day 14. Monday, 20 May

Depart to Auckland

Arrive home