# Japan: Art, Culture and Ceramics with Peter and Julie Collis

26 October - 09 November 2024



### Day 1. Saturday 26 October

Depart Auckland this morning on Air New Zealand Arrive Tokyo Narita at 6pm. On clearing customs we meet our local guide and transfer by coach to the Shinjuku for the next two nights.

Our arrival time will be late into Tokyo, light refreshments will be provided on arrival this evening.

Overnight Shinjuku

### Day 2. Sunday 27 October

Depart this morning on the Tokyo Metro for a day spent wandering Omotesando and Harajuku. Our first visit will take us to the **Nezu Museum** which has an exquisite collection of traditional Japanese art, but we are mainly here to experience the garden.

Wander Omotesando Boulevard and its architectural highlights including "Pleats Please". Duck down the alleyways and try your hand at lunch in one of the many small restaurants. We end up back this afternoon at Harajuku Station for the train back to Shinjuku. (Your body clock will be telling you it is way past 'GnT' time.)

For those with some go – a wander into the Imperial Gardens and a visit to the Meiji Shrine is possible. For dinner we will guide you through one of the local eating areas

Overnight Shinjuku





### Day 3. Monday 28 October

Be packed and checked out early this morning for our transfer to the airport and our flight to Takamatsu.

On arrival we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and this afternoon stroll one of Japan's amazing gardens. **Ritsurin Garden** – a place of "impossible beauty".

Enjoy Takamstu's waterfront tonight and nearby restaurants.

Overnight JR Clement Hotel

### Day 4. Tuesday 29 October

This morning we head across the Seto Inland Sea to Naoshima Island for the day. We arrive on Naoshima by coach, and will visit the **Art House Projects** and **Chichu Museum**.

Overnight JR Clement Hotel



# Day 5. Wednesday 30 October

This morning we travel by bus from
Takamatsu across the 10km Seto Bridge to
the historic town of Kurashiki to wander the
historic quarter and visit the **Ohara Museum of Art** with its collection of ceramics and
contemporary Japanese art and sculpture.

We are dropped at Okayama Station and will bullet train to Kyoto for 3 nights.

Overnight Kyoto



# Day 6. Thursday 31 October

Look out for Halloween tonight – it's a thing now. Today we visit a mix of museums, shrines and temples around Kyoto – a small selection.

This might include time at The **Robert Yellin Gallery** if he is in town, **Kawaii Kanjiro House Museum**, **Kondo Museum** and a stroll down the **Philosophers Walk**.

Overnight Kyoto

## Day 7. Friday 1 November

Today we head into the countryside by coach, visiting the amazing **Miho Museum**, as well as the town of Shigaraki and the **Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park**, and a potter or two.

Overnight Kyoto



### Day 8. Saturday 2 November

This morning we leave Kyoto and head by train to Kanazawa. Visit the **Museum of the 21st Century**, and the famous **Kenrokuen Garden** this afternoon.

Overnight Kanazawa

### Day 9. Sunday 3 November

We spend half the day visiting the highlights of Kanazawa including the **Ohi Museum** – part of the Raku family, the Samurai area and the craft and Gold Leaf museum. Afternoon at leisure.

Overnight ANA Kanazawa Hotel

### Day 10. Monday 4 November

Today we jump aboard the bus for a day to visit two locations. The historic village of **Shirakawa-Go** with its unique houses, and then Toyama, to visit the **Glass Art Museum.** 

Overnight Kanazawa

### Day 11. Tuesday 5 November

Farewell Kanazawa this morning and board the train for Tokyo.

On arrival visit the **Tomo Museum of Ceramics**.

This afternoon explore Shinjuku and consider a stroll in the **Shinjuku National Garden**. Visit the famous nightlife of Shinjuku and wander the alleyways of the Golden Gai, a strip of famous small bars.

Overnight Shinjuku





### Day 12. Wednesday 6 November

A full day in Tokyo visiting small local galleries and exploring Roppongi – late this afternoon take an optional visit to TeamLabs.

Overnight Shinjuku

### Day 13. Thursday 7 November

Our last full day in Japan consists of taking the train from Shinjuku station to Odawarra, an hour along the coast. Here we will meet our bus for the day to visit the **Enoura Observatory**, the vision of artist Hiroshi Sugimoto.

This complex is an architectural gem, an observatory, a museum and an experience all in one. From there we head over the hills to Hakone to visit the **POLA Museum of Art** and end up back in Shinjuku late afternoon for a last group meal together.

Overnight Shinjuku

### Day 14. Friday 8 November

Check out and free time this morning with a little last minute shopping before we leave for the airport approximately 3pm and board our flight to Auckland.

### Day 15. Saturday 9 November

Arrive home

