

A TEXTILE ODYSSEY THROUGH JAPAN WITH ARTIST LISA WALTON

17 September – 30 September 2025



Day 1: 17 Sep 2025 [WED]

DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart from AUS

Flight

TBA

Depart Australia

TBA

Day 2: 18 Sep 2025 [THU]

ARRIVE TOKYO

Flight

TBA

Arrive Tokyo

TBA Hrs

On arrival in Tokyo: Having cleared immigration, collect your luggage and passed through customs, please make your way towards the exit where you will see a bank of people waiting. Amongst them will be **Aahilya Holidays** representative who will be waiting to greet you with a paging board with your name on.

He will assist you with your transfer to your hotel and assist you with check in. **[Standard check in time at all hotels is 1500 hrs].**

Tokyo, the capital of Japan, is a mesmerizing blend of ancient traditions and cutting-edge modernity. A sprawling metropolis, it boasts towering skyscrapers, serene temples, bustling markets, and world-class cuisine. From the neon-lit streets of Shinjuku to the tranquil gardens of the Imperial Palace, Tokyo offers a kaleidoscope of experiences for every visitor.

This vibrant city is a hub of innovation, where technology seamlessly integrates with traditional arts like tea ceremonies and Kabuki theater. Whether you're exploring the trendy shops of Harajuku, indulging in the culinary delights of Tsukiji Fish Market, or simply wandering through the serene Meiji Shrine, Tokyo is sure to leave an unforgettable impression.

Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 3: 19 Sep 2025 [FRI]

TOKYO

Breakfast is at the hotel.

After breakfast, you will participate in **Kimono remaking**.

Kimono remaking is the art of transforming traditional Japanese kimonos into modern garments. This sustainable practice breathes new life into these beautiful and often forgotten textiles. Kimonos are typically made from high-quality fabrics like silk, often with intricate patterns and embroidery. Through the process of remaking, these precious materials are repurposed into contemporary clothing, accessories, and home decor items.



This can include creating jackets, skirts, dresses, bags, scarves, cushions, and more. Each piece is unique, reflecting the original kimono's character and history. Kimono remaking not only preserves the beauty of traditional Japanese textiles but also promotes sustainability by reducing textile waste.

After the workshop, you will visit **Kappabashi Kitchenware Town**. It is known for its extensive selection of kitchenware, cooking tools, and restaurant supplies. Located between Asakusa and Ueno, it offers everything from professional knives and cookware to unique plastic food replicas. A must-visit for culinary enthusiasts, it showcases Japan's rich culinary culture and provides a variety of high-quality kitchen goods.

Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 4: 20 Sep 2025 [SAT]

TOKYO – FUJI

Breakfast is at the hotel

After breakfast, drive to Fuji [**Approx. 110 Kms / 1.5 Hrs**].

Fuji is known for its stunning views of Mount Fuji. The city boasts beautiful scenery with tea plantations offering picturesque views of the iconic mountain.

On arrival, you will check in at the hotel.

Afternoon, you will proceed for the sightseeing tour of Fuji visiting **Kubota Itchiku Art Museum, Lake Kawaguchiko and Kawaguchiko Muse Museum.**



Kubota Itchiku Art Museum is a unique and captivating destination dedicated to the life and work of renowned textile artist Itchiku Kubota. Nestled near the scenic shores of Lake Kawaguchi, the museum houses an impressive collection of Kubota's stunning kimono, known for their vibrant colors, intricate designs, and innovative dyeing techniques.

The museum itself is an architectural marvel, seamlessly blending with the natural surroundings and offering breathtaking views of Mount Fuji. Beyond the exquisite kimono displays, the museum also features a captivating garden, a serene teahouse, and a museum shop.

Lake Kawaguchiko is the second-largest of the Fuji Five Lakes, known for its stunning views of the iconic mountain, especially during sunrise and sunset, Lake Kawaguchiko offers a serene and captivating experience.



The **Kawaguchiko Muse Museum**, hold regular exhibitions on the works of doll maker Atae Yuki's. The museum near Mt Fuji and Lake Kawaguchiko features the beautiful highly prized handmade dolls of Atae Yuki's . The works made of cotton cloth are so well-crafted and they are praised as 'cloth sculptures'. The exhibitions are changed twice a year, and around 100 works are on display at any one time.

Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 5: 21 Sep 2025 [SUN]

FUJI – NAGANO

Breakfast is at your hotel.

After breakfast, drive to Nagano [Approx. 246 Kms / 4 Hrs] enroute visit **Okaya Silk Museum** and **Koiwai weaving studio**.

Okaya Silk Museum, the museum showcases the region's significant role in the country's silk industry, particularly during the Meiji period. You will explore exhibits featuring a wide range of silk-related artifacts, including machinery, tools, and historical documents. The museum also provides insights into the traditional silk-making process, from silkworm cultivation to the creation of fine silk threads.



A unique feature of the Okaya Silk Museum is the opportunity to observe silk-spinning at the adjacent silk mill. This provides a valuable hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of this intricate and time-honored craft.

Later, you will visit **Koiwai Weaving studio.**

The studio is a renowned craft studio dedicated to the traditional art of handloom weaving. The studio specializes in creating intricate, high-quality woven textiles using age-old techniques passed down through generations. The studio offers a variety of handcrafted products, including beautiful fabrics, scarves, shawls, and home textiles, all made with a focus on craftsmanship, sustainability, and local traditions.



You will witness skilled artisans at work, weaving patterns and designs on traditional looms. The studio demonstrates the weaving process, the materials used, and the cultural significance behind the craft.

Continue your drive to Nagano and on arrival, check in at your hotel.

Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 6: 22 Sep 2025 [MON]

NAGANO - KANAZAWA

Breakfast is at your hotel.

After breakfast, drive to Kanazawa [Approx. 240 Kms / 4 Hrs] enroute visit **Shirakawago Gassho villages, Higashi Chaya District** and **Gold leaf workshop**.



Shirakawago Gassho Villages, known for their unique "gassho-zukuri" farmhouses with steep thatched roofs, are designed to withstand heavy snowfall. Located in Gifu Prefecture, these villages, including Ogimachi, are a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to their cultural significance and well-preserved architecture. Offering a glimpse into rural Japanese life, many of the houses serve as homes, workshops, and museums. Surrounded by scenic rice fields, rivers, and mountains, Shirakawago is famous for its seasonal beauty, from lush greenery in summer to stunning fall colors and tranquil snow-covered winters.



After the visit, you will drive to **Higashi Chaya district** [Approx. 75 Kms / 1.5 Hrs] and it is a historic geisha area known for its well-preserved Edo-period architecture. Lined with traditional "chaya" houses, the district offers a glimpse into Japan's cultural heritage, with teahouses where geishas once entertained guests. You will explore the narrow streets, and visit museums and shops housed in original chaya buildings. The district's charm is especially captivating in the evening when lanterns light up the streets, creating a peaceful, nostalgic atmosphere.



Later, participate in the **Gold Leaf pasting workshop**. It offers a chance to immerse themselves in one of Japan's most refined and ancient crafts. Kanazawa is renowned for producing some of the finest gold leaf in Japan, and this art form has been practiced in the region for over 400 years. During the gold leafing experience, one can witness the meticulous process of applying gold leaf to various objects, from traditional crafts to modern art pieces. You will witness the skilled artisans demonstrate how gold is carefully hammered into ultra-thin sheets and then applied to a variety of surfaces such as paper,

ceramics, wood, and even glass. You can try their hand at applying gold leaf themselves, either decorating small items like picture frames, trays, or accessories, or learning about the delicate process of gilding. The experience is both educational and hands-on, offering a deeper appreciation for the craftsmanship and precision that goes into creating Kanazawa's iconic gold leaf.

Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 07: 23 Sep 2025 [TUE]

KANAZAWA

Breakfast is at the hotel.

After breakfast, you will visit **Kenrokuen Garden** and **National Crafts Museum**.

Kenrokuen Garden is one of the country's most celebrated traditional gardens, known for its balance of six key attributes: spaciousness, tranquility, beauty, simplicity, subtlety, and grandeur. Originally part of Kanazawa Castle grounds, it features ponds, streams, waterfalls, and carefully cultivated plants. With winding paths, tea houses, and scenic viewpoints, Kenrokuen offers a peaceful experience, admired for its seasonal beauty and cultural heritage.



The **National Crafts Museum** is a cultural gem dedicated to showcasing Japan's rich tradition of craftsmanship. The museum exhibits a wide range of Japanese crafts, from textiles and ceramics to lacquerware, woodwork, and metalwork. The museum's collection highlights the exceptional skill and artistry of Japanese artisans, with an emphasis on the unique techniques and materials used in traditional crafts.



You will explore both permanent and rotating exhibits that display historical and contemporary works, including intricate kimonos, delicate pottery, and beautifully crafted wooden furniture. The museum also offers insights into the craftsmanship of Kanazawa, known for its gold leaf production and other local specialties. The peaceful setting of the museum, along with its interactive displays and workshops, provides a deep dive into Japan's creative heritage, making it a visit for art and culture enthusiasts.

Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel

Day 08: 24 Sep 2025 [WED]

KANAZAWA

Breakfast is at the hotel.

After breakfast, you will participate in **Mizuhiki Workshop**. It offers an immersive experience into the traditional Japanese art of Mizuhiki, a form of decorative knotting using rice paper cords. Originating from ancient Japan, Mizuhiki is used for creating intricate, colorful knots often seen in gift packaging, ceremonial decorations, and wedding adornments.

You will learn how to create beautiful and meaningful knots by hand, using vibrant, tightly wound cords. These knots represent wishes for happiness, prosperity, and longevity and are often used to enhance gifts or ceremonial items. You will be provided by all necessary materials, along with step-by-step guidance from skilled artisans who teach various knotting techniques.

Mizuhiki workshops are a unique opportunity to explore a traditional craft that blends artistry and symbolism, allowing visitors to create their own handcrafted decorations and souvenirs while gaining insight into this centuries-old Japanese custom.



Later, you will visit **Kutani pottery studio**. A Kutani pottery studio offers a chance to explore the art of Kutani ware, a traditional Japanese pottery known for its vibrant colors, intricate designs, and high-quality craftsmanship. Kutani pottery is renowned for its bold patterns, often featuring motifs of flowers, birds, and landscapes, painted in bright hues of green, red, blue, and gold. You can watch skilled artisans create and hand-paint each piece, learning about the unique glazing and painting techniques that define this renowned craft.

Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 09: 25 Sep 2025 [THU] KANAZAWA – KYOTO

Breakfast is at the hotel.

After breakfast, you will drive to Kyoto [**Approx. 260 Kms / 3.5 Hrs**].

On arrival, check in at your hotel.

Afternoon, you will participate in **Shibori workshop** at Kyoto Shibori Museum. Shibori is a traditional Japanese dyeing technique that involves folding, twisting, or binding fabric before dyeing it, creating intricate, unique patterns. Dating back over a thousand years, it often features organic shapes like waves and flowers. The fabric is secured with thread, clamps, or rubber bands to resist dye in certain areas, resulting in contrasting designs. Common methods include arashi (pole wrapping), itajime (clamping), and kumo (binding).

Shibori is versatile, used for textiles like kimonos, scarves, and home décor, and is celebrated for its beauty, craftsmanship, and one-of-a-kind designs.



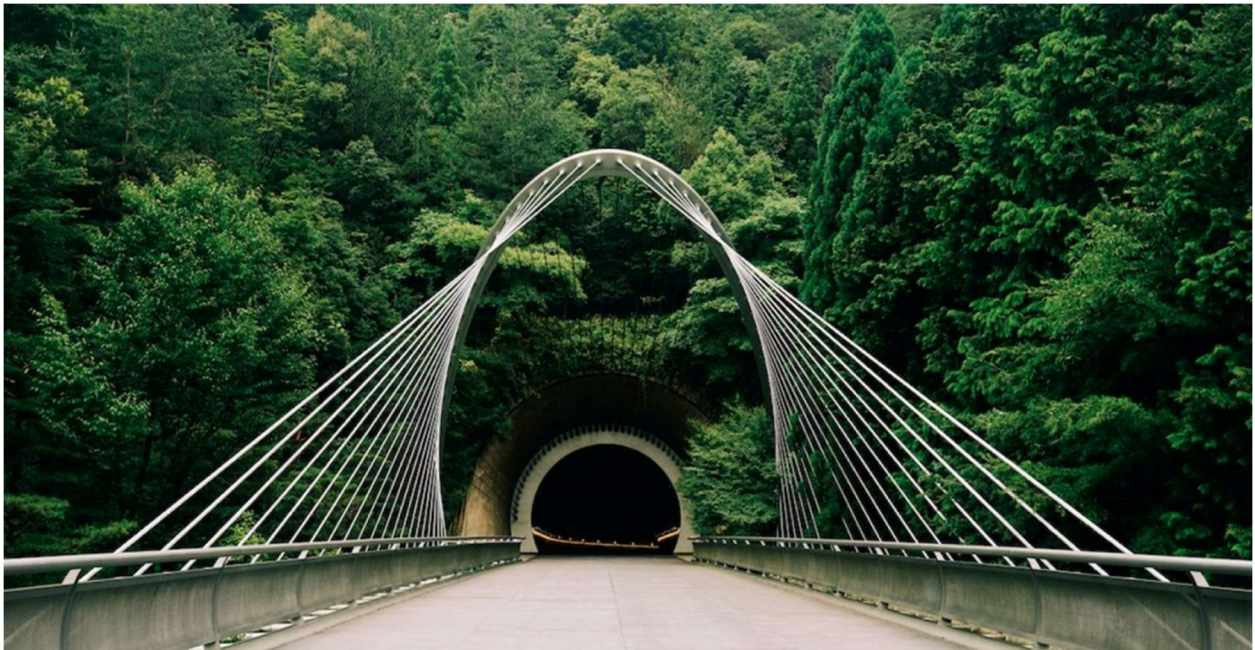
Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 10: 26 Sep 2025 [FRI]

KYOTO

Breakfast is at the hotel.

After breakfast, you will visit **Miho Museum** and **Kyoto Museum of Crafts & Design**.



The **Miho Museum**, nestled in the scenic mountains, the museum is known for its impressive collection of Asian and Western art, including ancient Japanese, Chinese, and Egyptian artifacts, as well as Renaissance and European works. The museum's design

seamlessly blends with its natural surroundings, with a long tunnel leading to the main building, which emerges dramatically from the landscape. Inside, the museum offers a serene and spacious environment where one can appreciate the art, along with breathtaking views of the surrounding forested hills.



Later, visit **Kyoto Museum of Crafts & Design**.

It is a cultural institution dedicated to showcasing the rich history and contemporary innovations of Japanese craftsmanship. Renowned for its traditional arts and crafts, the museum offers a comprehensive exploration of Japan's artisanal heritage, featuring exhibitions on a wide range of crafts, including textiles, ceramics, metalwork, woodwork, and lacquerware. The museum's exhibits highlight both traditional techniques that have been passed down through generations and modern interpretations of these crafts by contemporary artists.

Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 11: 27 Sep 2025 [SAT]

KYOTO

Breakfast is at the hotel.

After breakfast, you will visit **Nishiki Market**. The market is a vibrant and historic shopping street known as "Kyoto's Kitchen." Stretching over five blocks, the market is famous for its wide variety of fresh produce, seafood, pickles, traditional Japanese snacks, and local specialties. Visitors can explore the stalls offering everything from fresh sushi and tempura to unique sweets and spices. Nishiki Market offers a taste of Kyoto's culinary

traditions and is a must-visit destination for food lovers looking to experience authentic Japanese flavors.

Continue your visit to **Nomura Fabric Store**.



It is a renowned shop specializing in high-quality fabrics and textiles. With a history dating back over a century, the store offers a wide range of traditional Japanese fabrics, including kimono textiles, as well as modern patterns and materials for sewing and crafting. It offers unique, authentic fabrics to use in fashion, home décor, and creative projects.

Later, visit participate in **hand weaving** at **Nishijin Textile center**.

Nishijin Textile center is a cultural venue dedicated to preserving and showcasing the art of Nishijin weaving, a traditional and highly esteemed textile craft that dates back over 1,000 years. Known for its luxurious silk fabrics, Nishijin weaving is renowned for its intricate patterns, vibrant colors, and exceptional craftsmanship. At the Nishijin Textile Center, one can learn about the history, techniques, and processes involved in creating these stunning textiles.



The center offers a range of exhibits that highlight the artistry behind Nishijin weaving, from its historical roots to contemporary applications. One can witness skilled artisans at work, weaving beautiful fabrics using traditional wooden looms, and see finished products such as kimonos, obis (sashes), and decorative items.

Dinner and Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 12: 28 Sep 2025 [SUN]

KYOTO – TOKYO

Breakfast is at the hotel.

After breakfast, you will participate in the **Roketsu dyeing workshop**. Roketsu dyeing workshop offers a hands-on experience of a traditional Japanese fabric dyeing technique known for its rich, vibrant colors and intricate patterns. Roketsu is a type of resist-dyeing that involves applying a wax-like substance to the fabric before dyeing it, which prevents the dye from reaching certain areas and creates distinct, sharp patterns.

During the workshop, you will learn how to apply the special wax (often made from natural ingredients) to the fabric in various designs. Once the wax has dried, the fabric is dipped in dye, and the waxed areas resist the dye, revealing beautiful, contrasting patterns. Common motifs include flowers, nature scenes, and geometric shapes.



Later, you will board the bullet train to Tokyo.

On arrival at Tokyo, you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in.

Rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy independent activities.

Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 13: 29 Sep 2025 [MON]

TOKYO

Breakfast is at the hotel.

After breakfast, you will visit **Asakusa Recycled Kimono Store** and **Nippori Fabric town**.

Asakusa is a unique shop specializing in second-hand and recycled kimonos. The kimonos, many of which have been carefully preserved, provide an opportunity for visitors to purchase traditional Japanese garments with a sense of history and sustainability. The store offers authentic, high-quality kimonos, and it also offers other accessories such as obi (belts) and obijime (cords) to complete the look.

Later, visit **Nippori Fabric Town**, is a vibrant shopping district renowned for its wide variety of textiles and fabrics. It is a haven for sewing enthusiasts, designers, and craft lovers, offering an extensive selection of high-quality materials, including cotton, silk, wool, and synthetic fabrics. The area is home to over 90 fabric stores, making it one of the largest fabric markets in Japan. In addition to fabrics, the town also features stores selling sewing tools, patterns, buttons, ribbons, and other crafting supplies.



Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 14: 30 Nov 2025 [TUE]

DEPART TOKYO

At an appropriate time, you will be transferred to Tokyo airport to board your flight back home

Flight
Depart Tokyo

TBA
TBA

[END OF THE TOUR]