

ITINERARY

DAY 1

TO NARITA AIRPORT

Depart Australia.
Meet the group in a hotel near the airport.

DAY 2 – *Sending suitcase to Matsuyama* -

NAGOYA

We catch the shuttle bus back to the airport then exchange our rail passes, take an express train to Tokyo, then catch a Shinkansen (bullet train) to Nagoya.

We make a trip to Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology where the Toyota Group had its beginning. The textile machinery pavilion shows the basics of spinning and weaving technologies and the transition in loom technology from simple tools to machines. Those who wish can also visit the automobile pavilion which shows the way cars are made and production technologies from the time TOYOTA was founded up to the present time.

DAY 3

HIROSHIMA

We head for Arimatsu Narumi Shibori Kaikan where you can see and learn about the art of making shibori (tie dye). We watch an English movie about Shibori & Arimatsu then make our own shibori handkerchief, and watch master shibori makers in action. There are around 100 different shibori methods, created over a period of 400 years. We can also buy beautiful shibori products there and then explore the old township of Arimatsu. We go back to Nagoya then take the shinkansen to Hiroshima.

Hands-on Activity - 1: Shibori on a handkerchief at Arimatsu Shibori Kaikan

DAY 4 & 5

MATSUYAMA

In the morning, we visit Itsukushima Shrine which was built in 593 and is a UNESCO world heritage site, followed by a visit to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. We then make a trip to Hiroshima port to catch a ferry across to Shikoku.

We visit *Iyo Kasuri Kaikan* (Indigo Ikat Centre) where you see the history and demonstration of one of the best examples of Japanese textiles and are also able to buy the finest Kasuri fabrics and garments. We can also visit Matsuyama Castle and may also jump into the public bath at the Dogo Onsen Honkan, the main building of which is a National Treasure, and the hot spring itself is one of Japan's oldest.

Hands-on Activity - 2: Dyeing a handkerchief at Iyo Kasuri Kaikan with Natural Indigo.

DAY 6,7,8 & 9 – *Sending suitcase to Kyoto* -

KYOTO

We travel back to Honshu across the inland sea, this time across the Seto-Hashi the longest suspended bridge in the world. We change train at Okayama station to the shinkansen to go to Kyoto. Options in Kyoto are endless, so please feel free to make up your own adventures in this ancient capital.

We visit Nishijin Textile Centre where we can see the history of kimono making, some demonstrations as well as a kimono fashion show. There are also a large flea markets at the toji temple selling old kimonos, textiles, food, crafts and antiques. We could visit the famous nightingale floor of Nijo-jo castle, dry stone garden of Ryoan-ji Temple, Kinkaku-ji Temple, the Golden Pavilion, walk along the Philosopher's path from Ginkaku-ji Temple, the Silver Pavilion to Nanzenji Temple. In the evening, we could visit Shijo-Kawaramachi for shopping. We could also head for Sanjusangendo with 1001 kannon sculptures or the famous wooden platform of Kiyomizudera Temple.

Hands-on Activity-3: Weaving Place Mat at Nishiji Textile Centre using the mini loom.

DAY 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14 – *Sending suitcase to Tokyo* -

TOKYO

We have a full day at the Tokyo International Great Quilt Festival 2019.
If you wish to go back to the quilt festival, you may do so on the following day.

We visit Meiji Shrine in Harajuku then stop at Oriental Bazaar where you can buy quality Japanese souvenir goods at reasonable prices then visit the Edo Tokyo Museum to learn the culture & history of Tokyo/Edo in Ryogoku.

We visit Nobuko Miyake's house in Kashiwa to do a silk dragonfly brooch and necklace making class.

We take a bullet train to visit Chiku Chiku lady of Akiko Ike's shop Ginka in Niigata and see her fabulous collection of old Japanese fabric and do a pin cushion making class.

Hands-on Activity-4: Chuki Chiku Pin Cushion making at Niigata Ginka with Akiko Ike.

Hands-on Activity-5: Silk Dragonfly brooch & necklace making with Nobuko Miyake.

DAY 15

DEPART FROM KYOTO

We visit Tomato, a large fabric store in the textile street in Nippori.
We take an express train from Tokyo to Narita to catch flights from Narita Airport to Australia.

*Dates and order of destinations may change.

JAPAN

