



Japan National Tourist Organization

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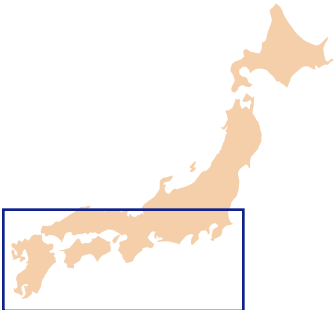
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TEXTILES OF JAPAN

The earliest Japanese textiles exist now only in language: the word *yuhara*, meaning cloth dyed by knotting, was already in the Japanese language when the first great wave of continental Asian culture, including Buddhism, Chinese characters, and textile weaving and dyeing techniques, hit Japan back in the 6th century. And, there is more evidence way back in 238 AD: Before the Japanese imperial line traveled north from Kyushu to the Asuka Plains, Empress Hiiko gave the Chinese emperor 200 meters of “spotted cloth”, probably referring to the patterns produced by resist dyeing. That being said, the earliest extant fabrics yet discovered in Japan repose in the **Shoso-in Storehouse in Todai-ji Temple** in the first Japanese capital city, Nara. Both *shibori* (tie-dyed) and wax-resist types of cloth are represented. Dated to 749 or earlier, these lovely, sophisticated fabrics may have been made in Japan or China, no one is sure. Through the succeeding centuries, Japanese displayed an ongoing genius for weaving and dyeing, continuing to borrow techniques from as far away as India, Indonesia and the Silk Road, but making them all ingeniously, uniquely their own . . .

Yuzen or rice-paste resist on silk dyeing evolved in the 17th century, allowing delicate patterns to be “painted” on with a “pastry tube” technique. *Katazome* or stencil-dyeing also became popular, and was brought to perfection by textile artists on Okinawa. Another dyeing technique, originating in India, is *kasuri*, especially associated with Okinawa and Kyushu; in this technique, both warp and weft threads are tie-dyed before being woven into cloth, making for subtle, shimmering patterns. Silk pongee, ramie and the finest plantain fibers are used, with only natural dyes. Much of this cloth was originally made for tribute to the imperial court north on Honshu.

Not all the best fabrics were the sole property of the wealthy and nobles. The Imperial Court in Kyoto wore layers of yuzen-dyed silk in the fashion of the Tang Dynasty emperors in China. And, the exquisite *bingata*-cloth of Okinawa, with its rice-paste resist, stencils and hand-painting, along with the indigo-dyed ramie called *miyako-jofu* and *kumeijima-tsumugi* silk pongee dyed with golden *fukugi* bark, were reserved for royal tribute. But, at the same time, servants and farmers were wearing colorful *shibori*-dyed cottons, while farmers on Kyushu and Okinawa wore baggy indigo-dyed *kasuri* trousers – cloth that today goes for thousands of dollars a bolt!



Yasaka Shrine

Farmers in other areas wore *ai* or indigo-dyed hemp cloth decorated with elaborate white-cotton stitching. The beauty of textiles permeated every level and class of Japanese life, and proud Okinawans today wear silk dyed with the imperial golden fukugi bark.

Day 1 – Arrival – Transfer to KYOTO



The best way to go directly to Kyoto is to arrive into Kansai Airport and transfer by limited express train or limousine bus for Kyoto Station, and then proceed to your hotel by subway, city bus or taxi. However, you can also arrive into Narita Airport and transfer by plane to Itami Airport (the domestic airport closest to Kyoto) or go into Tokyo, overnight and take an early 3-hour Shinkansen “bullet train” to Kyoto the next morning.

Day 2 – KYOTO



Ryokan

Kyoto was Japan’s capital city for centuries, after Nara and before present-day Tokyo. It always has been, and continues to be, the unofficial artistic capital of the country. When the Imperial Court was in Kyoto, some of the finest weaving and dyeing came from *konaicho-goyotashi*, official purveyors to the court: the 12-layered silk brocade *junihitoe* robes are a famous example. Other influences on Kyoto textiles ranged from Buddhism and the tea ceremony, to the wide sashes or *obi* worn by geishas of the so-called “Floating World.”

Start out your tour of Kyoto by visiting the **Kyoto Museum of Traditional Crafts** (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Monday, free admission) in the basement of the **Kyoto Exhibition Hall** or **Kyotoshi Kangyokan** (also known as the **Miyako Messe**). Bilingual displays and videos offer a good introduction to the whole range of traditional Japanese crafts and a good computer database may reveal some interesting textile destinations and activities. Call 075/762-2633 for directions.

Move on to the **Nishijin Textile Center** or **Nishijin-Ori Kaikan** (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily) to see a first-rate demonstration of traditional Japanese kimono-and obi-style weaving. This is free, but if you wish to attend their kimono fashion show (held six or seven times daily), the fee is 600 yen.

In the same area, west of Horikawa-*dori* (Avenue), is the **Kodai Yuzen Museum** (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily), where for 500 yen you can see a demonstration of *Yuzen* dyeing, and for 1050 yen (highly recommended) you can dye your own handkerchief using the traditional stencil-dyeing technique. Admission to the museum includes a visit to the nearby house of the museum's owner, who has created beautiful *shoji* doors out of priceless antique kimono. There is an English explanation and you will be served a bowl of traditional whisked green tea, *matcha*; tel. 075/823-0500.

At **Aizen Kobo** (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily), for 1500 yen you can don rubber boots and protective clothing (provided) and spend a half-hour doing your own indigo dyeing. Their shop sells indigo-dyed items, including clothing, home furnishings (pillows, wall hangings), and even indigo-dyed thread! The owner, Mr. Utsuki, is one of the few people in Japan still doing indigo dyeing in the traditional way, and over tea, his wife will explain, in English, all about indigo cloth.

Kyoto Flea Markets

If you time your tour right, you will be in Kyoto for one of the City's famous traditional flea markets. These are wonderful places to buy antique textiles like old kimono for very reasonable prices.

On the 1st Sunday of every month, and the 21st day of the month, the charming old **Toji Temple** downtown (a 15 minute walk from the railway station), hosts a big open-air bazaar on the temple grounds in honor of Kobo Daishi, founder of the Shingon (Tantric) Sect of Japanese Buddhism.

Kyoto's other great monthly flea market is held every 25th day of the month at **Kitano Shrine**, starting at 5 a.m.

Other flea markets offering antique textiles are held periodically at **Myoren-ji Temple**, **Chio-ji Temple**, **Kosho-ji Temple**, and other temples and shrines.

If you miss the flea markets, check the English-language newspapers and periodicals such as **Kansai Time Out** and the **Kyoto Visitors Guide** for smaller neighborhood antique and secondhand sales; or search the big department stores. They frequently have sales of old kimono and other fabric.



Kimonos

Day 3 – KYOTO

Today visit the **Kyoto Museum** or **Kokuritsu Hakubutsukan**, (9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except Monday). It's a quick bus ride on the numbers 206 or 208 from the Kyoto's main railway station. Although paintings and prints are its strongest suit, the museum also has a fine collection of antique clothing and fabrics. Admission is 800 yen.

The Costume Museum or Fuzoku Hakubutsukan (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Sunday) displays costumes from old Japan and China and offers you a chance to try them on! Admission is 500 yen; tel. 075/351-6750.

Komachi House (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Sunday), back over by the **Nishijin Textile Center**, is an incredible treasure house of antique **kimono**, **happi coats** and **obi** of every quality and variety. It's presided over by the amiable Mr. Komachi. The place is a textile shopper's dream.

Also in this area is **Hinode-ya** (10 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily, except Thursday), a kimono, kimono fabric and traditional clothing store, tel. 075/441-1437.

Three more great shops for old textiles

Nakamura Chingireten (9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily) and **Konjaku Nishimura** (10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily, except Wednesday) are both located in the antiques district, south of Sanjo Station on Nawate-*dori*. Both shops are more than a century old, and both sell old textiles dating back five or six hundred years. The **Bon Kyoto Shop** has an excellent assortment of second-hand kimono, as well as charming toys and objects made out of antique fabric. It is located at Kitashirakawa Betto Cho, north of Ginkaku-ji michi.

Day 4 – KYOTO

Take one more day to explore museums, shops, second hand stores, and department stores. Visit the **Kawashima Textile Museum** (10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays; admission 500 yen) containing more than 80,000 textiles from Japan and the rest of Asia. It's a 5-minute walk from Ishihara Station on the Eizan Rail Line. Have your hotel concierge call ahead, at 075/741-4120, to arrange to view weaving demonstrations both modern and traditional.

The **Orinasu-Kan** (10 a.m. to 4 p.m. except Monday) showcases textile exhibitions of Noh costumes and Nishijin-ori cloth and offers live weaving demonstrations. It's a 10-minute walk from madegawa-Jokukuji bus stop. Admission is 500 yen, tel. 075/431-0020.

Yet another fine textile collection is at the **Museum of Kyoto** (10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except the third Wednesday of each month). Its Craft Gallery is particularly interesting, and English-speaking guides are often available. Admission ranges from 500 to 1200 yen, tel. 075/222-0888

The **Kyoto Handicraft Center** (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), just a 3-minute walk from the Heian Shrine, sells and ships a vast range of Japanese craft goods, including used wedding kimono.

During the Edo period, both men and women carried silk accessory bags called **fukuromono**. Kyoto produced the best, many styles influenced by the tea ceremony. **Gift Tsuda** (10 a.m. to 5 p.m., noon to 5 p.m. on weekends) carries a large selection of contemporary versions. Ask your hotel concierge to call 075/222-0015 for directions, and if you call in advance, you can also arrange to make your own personal fukuromono. **Kikuya** sells a huge range of new and secondhand wedding kimono and obi, tel. 075/551-0033.

Big department stores like **Isetan** at JR Kyoto station, **Daimaru** Kyoto, and **Takashima** Kyoto have excellent arts & crafts and antiques departments.

Don't miss one of their kimono sales: deals often include genuine antiques from the as far back as the Edo period at bargain prices.

If you have more time in Kyoto

The **Kyoto Yuzen Cultural Hall** (9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m., daily except Sunday), a 5 minute walk from Nishi-Kyogoku station on the Hankyu line, has a great collection of Yuzen kimono as well as dyeing demonstrations. Admission is 350 yen.

Kyosendo (10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily), a 10 minute walk from Kyoto Station, sells Sensu folding fans.

Wazaahyaku-shu Craft Co-Op, near Shijo (tel. 075/211-6710) is friendly and inexpensive. Their crafts for sale include an array of dyed and woven items. Also of interest in their facility are an ornamental garden, gallery and coffee shop if you need a break.

Tanakaya (9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday) is another good shop on Takakura **Dori** north of Nishiki. It specializes in cushions, clothing, curtains, hand-dyed linens and cottons.

Yamato Mingei-ten (10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. except Tuesday) is located on Kawaramachi north of Takoyakushi. It carries great folk arts including textiles, from the length and breadth of Japan, at very reasonable prices.

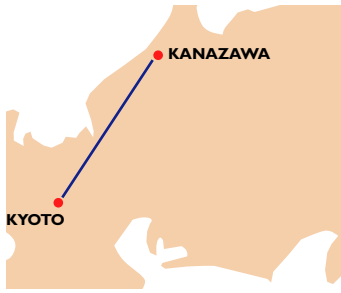
Japan Embroidery House offers tours of a traditional embroidery studio. Ask your hotel concierge to call for hours and schedule.

Yuse Some Kobo offers workshops in dyeing techniques like **kobo-zome** (scented woods), **ogehasu** (lotus flower dyes), and the ancient **koro-zome**, revived by master artist Yosai Okuda, whose studio this is. Workshops are offered daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and cost 1000 yen (adults only). Workshops include hands-on dyeing, a Kyoto cuisine snack, and traditional games. This is a highly recommended activity. Ask your hotel concierge to call 075/344-5630 for directions.

Outdoor Textile Exhibition

Every August 15 there are displays of textile-dyeing along Kyoto's riverbanks.

There are more than 1300 small workshops doing **shibori** alone in the Kyoto area, and this doesn't even include the numerous other weaving and dyeing studios. Kyoto's world of textiles is boundless. Contact the JNTO Kyoto Tourist Information Center (TIC), tel. 075/3715649 for more information.



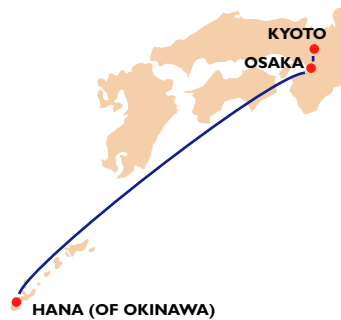
Optional Kanazawa overnight

If you have more time, add an overnight trip in KANAZAWA, 2 hours and 45 minutes each way from Kyoto by JR Hokoriku Main Line Limited Express train. This charming city, sometimes called Japan's "Second Kyoto", was the capital of the Edo Period's wealthiest local lords. Famous for its Yuzen dyeing and other arts, its **Ishikawa Prefectural Museum for Traditional Products & Crafts**, better known as **Ishikawa-kenritsu Dento Sangyo Kogeikan**, is easily reached on foot or by rental bicycle (100 yen a day) from the station. The museum's excellent English-language pamphlet guides you through.

Close by is the **Nakamura Kinen Bijutsukan**, a private art museum that was formerly the home of Mr. Nakamura himself (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily except Tuesday). Admission includes a cup of green *matcha* tea in the garden, tel. 0762-21-0751.

If you have more time, the old town's old samurai neighborhoods are thoroughly enjoyable.

Day 5 – OKINAWA



Fly from Osaka's Itami Airport to Naha Airport on OKINAWA in Japan's southernmost island chain. There are three to four flights a day. Take a bus 25 more minutes to the ancient capital of Shuri, to see the Okinawa **Prefectural Museum** or **Kenritsu Hakubutsukan**, (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Monday). It's just a 3 minute walk from the Ikehata bus stop. Here you will find an excellent textile collection.

Another museum housing a small but extremely high quality textile collection is the **Folkcraft Museum** or **Nihon Mingeikan** (8:30 a.m. to 6 or 6:30 p.m. depending on the season), a 10-minute walk from the famous **Shurei MonGate**.

Also nearby, is the **Ryusen Bingata Museum and Workshop**, where **Ryusen Bingata**-style cloth is made, displayed and sold. The facility includes a nice tearoom.

Nadoyama Kogeikan (closed Sunday) is one of a dozen **Bingata** shops in Shuri, where you can watch stenciling, dyeing and shading being done, and buy both old and new **Bingata** cloth.

Shirma Bingata Kenkyoju (closed Sunday), is the best **Bingata** workshop/store. Go there if you are a really serious collector or connoisseur.

Day 6 – KUMEJIMA



Ryokan

A half-hour flight from Naha, with 5 to 8 flights a day, Kumejima, a beautiful little pine-and-sugarcane covered island, is a center of silk-weaving and dyeing, utilizing natural dyes from plants and fukugi bark. The finest *kumejima-tsumugi* (silk pongee) was woven here originally as an imperial tribute to the *Ryukyu Kingdom*, the original governing body of the Okinawan Islands. The village of *Nakazato*, accessible by bus or rental motorbike from the airport area, is the main center of textile arts today. One whole neighborhood is still devoted to weaving and dyeing; each local woman produces 12-15 bolts of cloth annually.

At the *Kumejima Tsumigi Kyodo Kumiai Co-Op* (tel. 098/8333 for directions) you can watch weaving and dyeing done in a friendly atmosphere. Or visit *Kumejima Tsumugi, Inc.*, a commercial weaving and dyeing operation, also located in the village. A 12-meter bolt of elaborate ikat-dyed cloth sells here in the village for less than half its Tokyo price.

If you have more time on the Okinawan Islands

On the island of *Miyako*, an hour flight from Naha, you can still buy the fabulous *Miyako-jofu* tribute cloth.

On *Ishigaki*, the main island of the *Yaeyama Archipelago* (also an hour flight from Naha) you'll find a good folk art museum with a nice textile collection.

The smaller Yaeyama island, *Taketomi*, has its own local white-on-indigo *minsa*-belt weaving tradition. There is a weaving center, museum, and periodical festivals where traditional textiles are worn. Many of Okinawa's outer islands, accessible by plane or ferry, have their own textile traditions, still very much alive.



Day 7,8 – Fly from HANA to FUKUOKA (HAKATA) train to KURUME

Fukuoka, a city of 1.3 million people is the main city on Kyushu Island. In olden times, it was the main conduit for the earliest flow of cultural influence from China and Korea to Japan. The City Museum, *Fukuoka-shi Hakubutsukan*, contains a replica of the *Gold Seal of Na*, given by the Chinese emperors to their Japanese counterparts in 57 AD. The oldest Zen temple in Japan, *Shofuku-ji*, founded in 1195, is in Fukuoka, and on its grounds are tea gardens descended from the first tea planted in Japan, around the same date.



Nishitetsu Express Train

From Fukuoka travel 30 minutes by JR Express train from Hakata Station, or Nishitetsu Limited Express from Nishitetsu-Fukuoka station, to the great old crafts town *Kurume*. Ask your hotel concierge to call ahead and make you reservations to visit the town's workshops, including *Moriyama Kasuri Koba* (9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. except Sunday; tel. 09433/2-0023). Just a 5-minute

walk from Kawase bus stop, **Moriyama Kasuri Koba** produces *kurume-gasuri* the most famous *kasuri* (threads dyed before weaving) fabric in Japan. According to Kyushu legend, this version of kasuri was discovered in 1788 by Inoue Den, a local farm. Of course, similar kasuri traced back to the ikat textile traditions of Indonesia, have been produced in Okinawa since the 1500's. But, Inoue Den's technique, which produced bold eruptions of white on blue, may well represent a local re-invention. Moriyama Tarao, the artist running this workshop, is a Living National Treasure. A bolt of his hand-tied, hand-dyed and hand-woven cloth costs around \$1,000-\$1500.

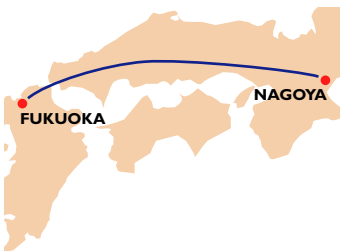
In downtown Kurume, the shop **Giemon** (8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except Sundays) sells clothing made from *kurume-gasuri*.

Between Fukuoka and the northernmost Kyushu town of Kokura is the folk art village **Kyushu Mingei Mura** (10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Wednesday). This artists' commune features hand-weaving among its various crafts. There is a cafe/gallery, tel. 093/652-8833.

In Kokura itself is the excellent **Kitakyushu Municipal Art Museum** (9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. except Monday). It's just a 15-minute taxi ride from the railway station.

Both **Nagasaki** and **Fukuoka** have many shops selling Kyushu arts and crafts. Fukuoka's Art Museum, **Fukuoka-shi Bijutsukan** (9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except Monday) is 10 minutes by subway from Hakata Station.

Day 9 – Train to NAGOYA / ARIMATSU



Take the Shikansen bullet train from Fukuoka to Nagoya. Then continue another half-hour by Meitetsu-Nagoya line from Nagoya to **Arimatsu** (literally “place of the pines”).

Arimatsu produces the creme de la creme of *shibori* (tie-dyeing) – delicate silks, in styles dating back to the Meiji and Edo eras. Arimatsu has not changed much over the centuries: textile artisans still live and work in grand 300 year-old villas along the old Tokaido, Japan's most famous Imperial road. Arimatsu's artisans still are an important source of fine kimono-cloth, much of which goes to Kyoto to be sewn into garments. It's a charming town, with its own small museum.

Although you need to speak Japanese to gain access to the workshops, the **Arimatsu Shibori Tie-Dye Hall**, offers demonstrations of the whole range of Arimatsu fabric techniques.

Return to Nagoya that evening for your overnight and leave for Tokyo the next morning.



Bullet Train

Take an early morning Shinkansen bullet train 2 hours from Nagoya to Tokyo. In Tokyo, visit the **Shinto Museum** (10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mon. and Fri., 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday), near the Kokagakuin-mae stop on Bus 3 from JR Shibuya Station, East Exit is a free museum, which exhibits fine Shinto ceremonial garments, tel. 03/5466-0210.

The **Isetan Museum of Art** often has special fabric and clothing shows. Ask your hotel concierge to call for details, tel. 03/3225-2490.

The **Azabu Museum of Arts and Crafts** (10 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Monday) often has interesting textile shows. Have your hotel concierge call for a schedule, tel. 03/5474-1371.

The Commodity Museum usually includes textiles in its ever-changing exhibits of Japanese arts, crafts and produce. Call 03/3296-4433 for more information. The **Hachiro Yuasa Memorial Museum of International Christian University** (10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday) includes textiles among its vast folk art collection. It also hosts special exhibits and lectures three times a year. Get off at the ICU stop on Odakyu Bus 51 from JR Mitaka Station, South Exit (Chuo Line), Bus Stand #3.

Buying old and new textiles in Tokyo:

Antique Gallery Meguro (11 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Monday) – more than 30 shops, tel. 03/3493-1971

Tokyo Folkcraft and Antique Hall (11 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Thursday) – 32 shops, tel. 03/3982-3433

Kotto-Dori, literally “Antique Road”, between Aoyama-Dori and Roppongi-Dori

Oriental Bazaar (9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., except Thursday), a huge 4-story affair that’s a 5 minute walk from Omotesando Station, tel. 03/3400-3933.

Beniya Craft Shop (10 a.m. to 7 p.m.), 5 minute walk from Sibuya Station, tel. 03/3400-8084

Bingoya (10 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Monday), tel. 03/3202-8778

Blue & White (11 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Sunday) This is the home of some of the best hand-stenciled contemporary yukata fabric. Owner Amy Katoh has authored several books on Japanese textiles, tel. 03/3451-0537

Japan Traditional Craft Center (10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except Thursday) hosts craft exhibits and offers free classes and kimono wearing sessions. It’s a 3 minute walk from Gaienmae Station on the Ginza Line. Every March they organize a huge traditional crafts show next to Tokyo Dome.



Harajyuku

Buying old and new kimono in Tokyo:

If you are looking for kimono, the **Oriental Bazaar** (mentioned above) has a good selection of old and new kimono, including wedding kimono. Other good places to look include department stores, especially Takashimaya and Mitsukoshi in Nihombashi ward and Itsetan in Shinjuku. One boutique specializing in kimono sales is **Chicago** (11 a.m. to 8 p.m.) on Omotosando-dori in Harajuku ward. It stocks hundreds of affordable used kimono, yukata, and obi, all in the back of the store passed the vintage American-style clothing, tel. 03/3409-5017.

Sumida Ward now offers a program where you can visit master craftsmen in their workshops; call Sumida City Office at 03/5608-6186 in advance to get their neat little **Museum Guide Map**.

Notable Tokyo flea markets and bazaars offering textiles include:

Togo Shrine, dawn until dusk the 1st, 4th and 5th Sunday of every month, tel. 03/3403-3591

Nogi Shrine flea market, dawn to dusk, the 2nd Sunday of every month, tel. 03/3478-3001

Hanazono Shrine, dawn to dusk, every Sunday, at Meiji-dori & Yasukuni-dori, tel. 03/3200-3933

Roppongi Antique and Flea Market, dawn to dusk, the fourth Friday and Saturday of the month. This is a huge flea market close by Roppongi Station.

Day 11 – TOKYO to KAWAGUCHI-KO (Day trip or overnight)



Kawaguchi Lake and Fuji

Today you can make a one-day or overnight round-trip excursion to the **Ichiku Kubota Museum** at **Lake Kawaguchi-Ko** at the base of Mt. Fuji. Take the one-hour JR Chuo Limited Express train from Shinjuku station in Tokyo to Otsuki; transfer for another 45-minute ride to Fuji-Yoshida. Or, take the Fuji Highway bus directly from Shinjuku. The modern Japanese textile artist Ichiku Kubota built his personal museum right into a limestone cave overlooking Lake Kawaguchi and Mt. Fuji. When he was still young, Ichiku studied Yuzen dyeing under the master Koboyashi. He later studied the Tsujigahana dyeing techniques, and revived and re-defined them. His most complex fabric works combine tie-dye, stencils, embroidery and brush painting to render the richest kinds of pictorial and decorative themes, modernizing techniques that date back to the 14th century. Kubota's other works include glasswork, shells, stone, garden, architecture, painting . . . a celebration of the age-old Japanese delight in color, form and texture. The museum is open December to March 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., April to November 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., January to February daily except Tuesday, March – December every day. Admission

is 1300 yen for adults, 800 yen for students, 600 yen for kids (who love the place). Along with the classic views of Mt. Fuji from the museum, this museum is a perfect expression of the ongoing, undying Japanese love of beauty, both in the arts and in nature. You can return to Tokyo that evening and prepare for your departure home or stay overnight at an area *ryokan* (a Japanese inn) and return to Tokyo in the late morning.

Day 12 – Depart for home from NARITA Airport or extend your stay

Advance Preparation

Before you leave for Japan, contact the **Textile Co-ops** in the areas you plan to visit (see next page). These are great resources for serious textile artists or enthusiasts who want to contact their Japanese counterparts. They are grouped on the next two pages by geographic area, with the type of weaving and dyeing they do in parentheses.

Kyoto Textile Weavers' Cooperative Association

607 Eiraku-cho, Kiryu, Gunma Prefecture, Kyoto
tel: 0277-43-7171/fax: 0277-47-5517 (Kiryu Ori fabrics)

Nishijin Textile Industrial Cooperative

414 Tatemonzen-cho, Imadegawa Minami-iru
Horikawa-dori, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto
tel: 075-432-6131/fax: 075-414-1521 (Nishijin Ori)

Isesaki Textile Association

31-9 Kuruwa-cho, Isesaki, Gunma Prefecture
tel: 0270-25-2700/fax: 0270-24-6347 (Isesaki Gasuri)

Kyoto Corporate Federation of Dyers and Colorists

481 Toroyama-cho, Shijo-agaru, Nishinotoin-dori, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto
tel: 075-255-4496/fax: 075-255-4496 (Kyo Yuzen, Kyo Komon, Kyo Kanako Shibori)

Kyoto Embroidery Association

378-1 Kotake-cho, Matsubara-agaru, Kawaramachi-dori, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto
tel: 075-361-5495/fax: 075-365-0791 (Kyo Nui)

Kiryu Textiles Weavers Cooperative Association

5-1 Eiraku-cho, Kiryu, Gunma Prefecture
tel: 0277-43-7171/fax: 0277-47-5517 (Kiryu Ori)

Kihachijo Textile Association

2025 Kashitate, Hachijo-machi, Hachijojima, Tokyo
tel: 04996-7-0516 (Honba Kihachijo)

Tokyo Order-Made Dyeing Association

3-20-12 Nishi-Waseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
tel: 03-3208-1521/fax: 03-3208-1523 (Tokyo Somekomon)

Tokyo Yukata Association

9-16 Nihonbashi-kobuna-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo
tel: 03-3661-3862/fax: 03-3669-0888 (Tokyo Honzome Yukata)

Hakata Textile Industrial Association

1-4-12 Hakataeki-Minami, Hakata-ku
Fukuoka, Fukuoka Prefecture (Kyushu)
tel: 092-472-0761/fax: 092-472-1254 (Hakata Ori)

Naha Traditional Textile Association

2-64 Shuritobaru-cho, Naha, Okinawa Prefecture
tel: 098-887-2746/fax: 098-885-5674 (Shuri Ori)

Kijoka Abaca Association

1103 Aza Kijoka, Ogimi-son, Kunigami-gun, Okinawa Prefecture
tel: 0980-44-3202/fax: 0980-44-3202 (Kijoka no Bashofu)

Yomintanzan Minsaa Association

2974-2 Aza Zakimi, Yomitan-son, Nakagami-gun, Okinawa
tel: 098-958-4674/fax: 098-958-4674 (Yomintanzan Minsaa)

Useful Websites

<http://www.qejapan.com/>

Quilters Express to Japan: Japan quilt tour information

<http://quilting.miningco.com/library/weekly/aa062397.htm>

Essay on Japanese quilting

<http://www.wnn.or.jp/wnn-craft/eng/index.html>

Traditional Crafts of Japan

<http://ttsw.com/MainQuiltingPage.html>

World Wide Quilting

Books

Ms. Amy Katoh has authored three books on the aesthetics of Japanese living:

Japan Country Living: Spirit, Tradition, Style (1993), Charles E Tuttle Co

Blue and White Japan (1996), Charles E Tuttle Co

Japan the Art of Living: A Sourcebook of Japanese Style for the Western Home (paperback, 1999), Charles E Tuttle Co