

January 8, 2026

Experience Japanese Culture and Art at Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo through Workshop Program Scheduled from January to April 2026

- Workshop for Folding-fan Painting and Inlay Techniques Taught by Artists: Experience Profound Depth of Japan through Its Seasonal Culture and Arts -



Keio Plaza Hotel Co., Ltd. finalized the schedule for its cultural experience workshop program, titled “Journey into Japan: A Workshop of Cultural Discovery,” taught by Japanese artists and held regularly in the Art Lobby on the Main Tower’s 3rd floor from January to April 2026. Located in Tokyo’s new central business district, the Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo offers exceptional convenience as a hub for both tourism and business, and implements the program to enrich and enhance the experiences of its guests, including some 80-90% who are inbound travelers. The program offers a diverse range of cultural experiences through monthly workshops where participants create their own artworks inspired by Japanese culture and seasonal traditions.

Special website: https://www.keioplaza.com/offers/journey_into_japan.html

Past programs have attracted many overseas guests who took advantage of their free time to participate on the day itself without prior reservations, in part drawn by the casual nature of the events. Furthermore, these events have received positive feedback from participants, including comments such as “it was fun to have this kind of experience right within the hotel.” Moving forward, the Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo will continue to offer all guests profoundly moving experiences and satisfaction that lingers in their hearts long after their stays. Through Japan’s unique seasonal cultures and arts, the Hotel invites travelers to experience Japan’s profound depth during their journeys and to carry those experiences home with them afterwards.

■ About "Journey into Japan: A Workshop of Cultural Discovery

- Dates: Starting in July 2025 (1-2 sessions per month)
- Venue: Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo (3F Art Lobby, Main Tower)
- Description: Visitors can learn about the Japanese seasonal motifs through a variety of cultural artworks.
- Lecturers: Experts and artists from various fields

- Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Fee: Varies per experience. Hotel guests enjoy 50% off of the price.
- *Reservations are not required, but the event has limited seats.
- *Participants must be elementary school age and over.
- *Payment will be accepted at the Lobby Gallery on the day of the event.
- *There is no need to bring specific materials to the event.

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- January

Japanese Sensu (Folding Fan) Painting Experience

Dates: Friday, January 23 and Saturday, January 24

Fee: JPY 3,000

Description: A workshop teaching participants how to paint designs on fans made by Ibasen (A long-established fan specialty shop in Nihonbashi that has been in business since the Edo period).



The prototype of the folding fan, also known as the hand fan, originated in China and was introduced to Japan as early as the 7th century. The cypress fan, made by binding wooden slats together, is said to be the origin of the folding fan and was invented in Japan. Through an era of composing and recording songs and writing prose, fans came to be regarded and revered by the samurai class as an artistic symbol representing the sword and was also used in ceremonial occasions and performing arts of Japanese tea ceremony. The practice of using fans to cool oneself by waving them overhead became commonplace only in the late Edo period (1603 to 1868). Compact and easily foldable, these small fans are

highly valued worldwide for their practicality, embodying the wisdom, etiquette and aesthetic sensibilities of the Japanese people.

- February

Egg Art Emperor Doll Experience

Dates: Friday, February 13 and Saturday, February 14

Fee: JPY 3,000

Description: Workshop for emperor dolls created by painting facial expressions and covering eggshells with Nishijin-ori fabric. Pre-painted versions will also be available.



“Egg art” expresses seasonal landscapes and annual events on the shells of small eggs. This art form originated in 16th-century Christian Easter celebrations, where painted eggshells were given as gifts. The “Imperial Eggs” from Russia's Romanov dynasty era, considered the world's finest, are magnificent crafts adorned with jewels.

Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo's program planned for February represents a fusion of Western culture with Japanese elegance.

Participants can enjoy a heartwarming artistic experience through the creation of small egg-art emperor dolls imbued with a parent's love for their children.

- March

Touch of Gold: Japanese Tea Utensil Decoration Experience

Dates: Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14

Fee: JPY 3,000

Description: Carving the black lacquer portion of a “kashi-yōji” (picks used to eat Japanese tea sweets) with dots and lines, to be filled with gold powder to create your own premium “kashi-yōji.”



Japanese lacquerware that were exported overseas sparked a craze for various cultural items from the East in Western Europe, where Japan became known as the “Land of Lacquer.” While this craze dates back to the 16th century, the history of lacquer art in Japan stretches back some 9,000 years.

Among various decorative techniques like “maki-e” and “raden” (gold and silver, and mother-of-pearl inlay), workshop participants will be able to try their hand at a traditional Japanese inlay technique. This technique involves filling carved dots and lines with gold leaf and powder to create intensely luminous golden

patterns, and to transform everyday lacquerware into pieces of art with a touch of intricate designs worthy of special occasions.

- April

Ori-ku: Japanese Wordplay Poetry Experience

Dates: Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18

Fee: JPY 2,000

Description: Participants can experience the traditional Japanese poem game known as “Ori-ku,” where characters of your favorite words from each line are used to represent hidden words or messages. And participants can take their finished work home with them to be framed as a memento of this workshop.



“Ori-ku” is a traditional Japanese wordplay poetry that is used as a game of words where phonetic sounds and letters are used to express hidden messages in a poem and display linguistic skills of the persons making these Japanese poems.

“Ori-ku” appears as far back as the Heian period (794 to 1185) in The Tales of Ise. As in any language around the world, wherever there are people and thoughts, language is born. But the beauty of the Japanese language is that it has terms and expressions that express emotions, scenery and the passage of time that are not fully conveyed in other languages. Hopefully participants can

create poems that convey warm feelings while appreciating the cherry blossoms and reflects their feelings for the arrival of spring.

■ Concept of Cultural Discovery

Japan boasts a wide variety of cultures and arts born in harmony with nature. Moved by the ever-changing seasons, prayers and gratitude, together with influences from cultures around the world, have long been woven into Japanese culture. This cultural discovery program offers a space to encounter “Japanese culture in the present age” through artists’ works, while enjoying Japan’s rich seasons and its connection to the world year-round.

■ About Keio Plaza Hotel

Opened in June 1971 as Japan's first skyscraper hotel at the very heart of the nation's capital Tokyo, Keio Plaza Hotel has been one of Japan's leading international hotels. The hotel has been a pioneer in innovating hospitality by introducing barrier-free access, nursing rooms and childcare facilities, the first ladies' plan in a Tokyo hotel, a sake bar and non-alcoholic cocktails. The hotel boasts various restaurants and bars, and hosts a wide range of local and international guests who visit for its open and welcoming facilities, top-notch services, and warm hospitality. It strives to be a plaza with the energy to create new and fascinating events for every guest. For more information about its facilities and services, please visit <https://www.keioplaza.com>.

Hotel information

Company name: Keio Plaza Hotel Co., Ltd.

Address: 2-2-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan

President: Katsuyoshi Wakabayashi

Keio Plaza Hotel opened: June 5, 1971

Business overview: International hotel and tourism, and related businesses based on the Act on Development of Hotels for Inbound Tourists

Company website: <https://www.keioplaza.com/>

Source: Keio Plaza Hotel Co., Ltd.

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