

Explore Tea Culture 1: The Utensils and Traditions of the Tea Ceremony

Capacity: 30



Raku Museum

Discover *the way of tea* by participating in a traditional *chado* tea ceremony. On this tour you won't only enjoy a delicious cup of *matcha* green tea freshly brewed before you, you'll also learn about the cultural significance of how this beautiful ceremony developed throughout its long history. On a visit to a museum of Japanese *Raku* ceramics you will experience an unchanged tradition of craft knowledge passed down over 450 years. This is followed by entry into the tatami-floored Urasenke Chado Kaikan Hall to participate in a uniquely Kyoto-style tea ceremony.

Itinerary

*The itinerary is subject to change without notice.

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| 9:40 | Meet at ticket gate of subway station Imadegawa Station |
| 10:00–11:00 | Raku Museum ===== Chartered bus ===== |
| 11:15–12:30 | Urasenke Chado Kaikan Tea ceremony (End of tour) |

Note: When entering Urasenke Chado Kaikan, make sure to wear socks.

Raku Museum: The museum is situated adjacent to the residence of the Raku family, the family of potters who created one of Japan's most celebrated ceramic legacies. The museum has a collection of more than 1,200 articles, associated with Raku, including pottery produced by successive generations of the Raku family, beginning with Chojiro, the first in the family line of potters, more than 450 years ago. The museum has many fascinating examples of tea utensils and craftworks held by the Raku family. During ICOM Kyoto 2019, the museum will organize an autumn special exhibition titled "Mirror into the Soul – Raku Tea Bowls through the Ages."

Raku-ware: Raku is a soft-type glazed ceramic ware, made by a technique called *tezukune*, which means shaping clay manually and with a pallet, without using a potter's wheel. The hand-shaped clay is then fired at the relatively low temperatures of 750°C - 1,100°C. Strictly speaking, Raku-ware specifically refers to ceramic products made by successive heads of the Raku family, but interest in using these techniques has spread across the globe.

Urasenke Chado Kaikan: We will take part in an authentic tea ceremony that observes certain traditions specific to Kyoto, and listen to a talk about the history and significance of the practice.



Raku Tea Bowl



Tea Ceremony at Urasenke Chado Kaikan