

April 15, 2026

Keio Plaza Hotel's Japanese Culture and Arts Workshop Program Scheduled from May to August 2026

Experience "Depth" of Japan through Culture and Arts of Four Seasons, Featuring Paper Cutting and Wind Chime Painting

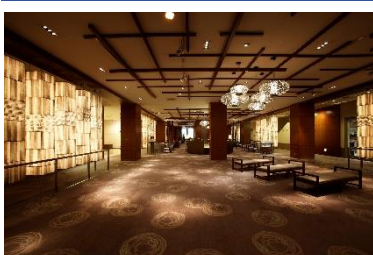


https://www.keioplaza.co.jp/en/event/journey_into_japan/

Keio Plaza Hotel Co., Ltd. has 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 May to August 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.

Since its launch, the program has been well-received with many international guests using their free time to participate due to its casual "drop-in anytime" nature. Guests have provided positive feedback, commenting, "It was a lot of fun to have this kind of experience right here in the hotel," and some of the past participants have even returned to the hotel specifically to join other workshops. The hotel will continue to deliver memorable experiences to all its guests, allowing them to experience the "depth" of Japan through its unique seasonal culture and art during their stays. Also, guests can look back on the culture and art items they created in the workshops taken home with them to fondly reminisce about their journeys to Japan.

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



- Dates: Starting in July 2025 (1-2 sessions per month)
- Venue: Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo (3F Art Lobby of the Main Tower and other locations)
- 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. *Guests may participate at any time during the workshop hours

- 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.

Special website: https://www.keioplaza.co.jp/en/event/journey_into_japan/

■ Schedule

- May

“Children’s Day” Paper Helmet Cutting Workshop



Dates: Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23, 2026

Lecturer: Rakusaburo Hayashiya

Fee: JPY 1,000 (tax included)

Duration: About 30 minutes to 1 hour

Capacity: 20 participants per day

Description: Participants will create a kabuto (samurai helmet), one of the iconic symbols of Japanese samurai culture, using the traditional art of “Kamikiri” (paper cutting). Finished pieces will be framed and can be taken home.

Concept: Kamikiri is a unique Japanese art form in which patterns are cut out of a single sheet of paper using scissors. It has long been enjoyed as a form of entertainment during intermissions for spectators of “Rakugo” Japanese verbal comedy performances.

This workshop will focus on creating a helmet cut from paper, which are symbolic representations of the Children’s Day festival. Children’s Day, observed on May 5, is one of the five seasonal festivals celebrated to ward off misfortune and offer prayers for health and happiness, during which symbols such as carp streamers and helmets are displayed. The helmet embodies prayers for the healthy growth of boys, reflecting the Japanese philosophy of cherishing nature and the various milestones of life.

- June

“Seasonal Traditions that Evoke Cool Serenity” – Making “Tsuru-shinobu” Hanging Planters



Dates: Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6, 2026

Lecturer: Asako Torigata

Fee: JPY 3,000 (tax included)

Duration: About 30 minutes to 1 hour

Capacity: 20 participants per day

Description: A botanical art workshop. Participants will create and apply colors extracted from plants onto containers made from eggshells coated with plaster, then weave a net to hang them. Participants can take home the finished hanging planters.

Concept: To beat the summer heat, Japanese have long enjoyed the seasonal charm of summer by hanging “Tsur-shinobu,” planters decorated to create a sense of coolness, from the eaves of their homes. “Tsur-shinobu” consists of the “shinobu” fern wrapped around a moss ball or similar base and has been a beloved seasonal tradition since the Edo period (1601-1868). In this workshop, participants will apply classical Western fresco technique of painting on wet plaster to the vessel portion of the Tsur-shinobu. By blending Japanese and Western cultures and fusing their respective spirits, participants will create planters with contemporary aesthetic beauty.

- July

“Sounds that Evoke Coolness” Wind Chime Painting



Dates: Friday, July 17 and Saturday, July 18, 2026

Lecturer: Shinji Hataishi, Hataman Tōen Co., Ltd.

Fee: JPY 2,000 (tax included)

Duration: About 30 minutes to 1 hour

Capacity: 10 participants per day

Description: Participants will use oil-based marking pens in their choice of colors to draw designs on fired porcelain Imari ware wind chimes.

Concept: Wind chimes originated as religious artifacts in ancient China and were introduced to Japan along with Buddhism. Since ancient times, the sound of wind chimes has been said to ward off evil spirits, and from the Edo period to the present day they have become an integral part of daily life as a “refined seasonal tradition that evokes coolness with the sound of the wind.” As reflected by the traditional significance of wind chimes, the Japanese have cultivated an aesthetic sensibility that allows them to connect with others by listening intently to the sound of wind chimes.

The wind chimes that participants will be painting are Imari ware, renowned for their beautiful and high-pitched tones that are unique to this porcelain. Listening to the cool and soothing sounds of wind chimes during the heat of the summer will help put participants minds at ease and remind them of the spirit of the Japanese even after they return to their home countries.

- August

“Rooted in Japan” Chopstick (Hashi) Decorating Workshop



Dates: Friday, August 14 and Saturday, August 15, 2026

Lecturer: Kyoko Tokida, Hyōzaemon Co., Ltd.

Fee: JPY 2,500 (tax included)

Duration: About 1 hour

Capacity: 10 people per day

Description: This workshop allows you to create your own original chopsticks by painting the handle portion of Hyōzaemon’s 100% natural lacquer chopsticks with your favorite colors, applying stickers, and sealing them with resin.

Concept: August 4th (phonetically pronounced “ha-shi,” the Japanese word for chopsticks) has been designated as Chopsticks Day. It’s a day to pay respects to and express gratitude for the chopsticks Japanese use every day. About 30% of the world's population uses chopsticks, but it is precisely because Japan is a country where its people can eat with just chopsticks, without using knives or forks, that chopsticks are cherished, and the culture has developed with meticulous attention to detail and

ingenuity. Also, because chopsticks come in pairs, they have many uses. At the same time, there are manners and taboos associated with using them that are deeply rooted in Japanese food culture that have been learned from a young age. This workshop will allow you to experience Japanese culture through chopsticks, which are an inseparable part of Japanese people's lives.

■ 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.co.jp/>.

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.co.jp/>

Source: Keio Plaza Hotel Co., Ltd.

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