

E.Y.H.O. Tours

Japan

Kimono: Textiles, Art, and Traditions

October 16 – 28, 2026

All the kimono worn by maiko and geiko are one of a kind. Many of them are given names, like paintings, and are treasured as such. This is why I have such a vivid memory of everything I ever wore.”

— Mineko Iwasaki





Tryst with a timeless tradition

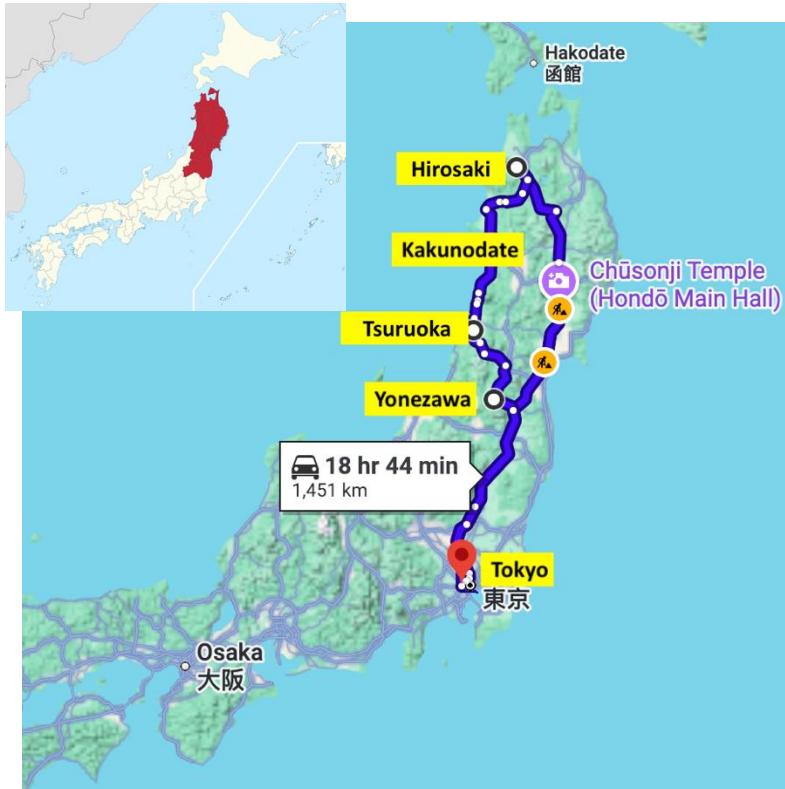
Much more than a garment, the kimono serves as a profound symbol of Japan's rich textile and cultural tapestry. Kimono touches practically every Japanese textile technique. On this curated tour, glimpse layers of its elegance, tradition, and artistry, intertwined with modernity and individuality. Discover exquisite art and textile techniques during hands-on workshops and demos in Japan's beautiful Tohoku region, bookended by a historical and societal exploration of kimono in Tokyo. Come away with a deep understanding of this timeless icon of Japanese culture.

* Please note: this tour does not cover general sightseeing. This is easily accomplished on your own with a couple of extra days. For maximum value, we focus on activities such as artisan visits, workshops, and curated museum tours in regions difficult to access on your own.

Highlights

- Nine Kimono textile encounters in Tohoku: hands-on workshops and demos in **Kogin Sashiko**; **Tsugaru indigo** dyeing; **Akita Hachijo weaves** using silks dyed in local plant dyes; **Apple dyeing** – natural dyeing from apple tree branches and leaves; **Yuza Sashiko**; Shina-fu bark **weaving** for obi; **Safflower dyeing** (Benibana); and **Yonezawa weaving**
- Inspiring visits to **artisan studios** across the region
- Audience with and **private collection** viewing at a **kimono master's home**
- Hands-on miniature **kimono construction workshop** with kimono expert
- Learn how to **wear a kimono** — including graceful movement and posture
- Spiritual visit to the **sacred Dewa Sanzan** mountains
- Autumnal splendour in samurai district of **Kakunodate** ("Little Kyoto of the North")
- Tea Ceremony in a historic Kura house in **Masuda**
- Multiple nights in a **seaside onsen** hotel with **private hot spring baths**
- Famous **Neputa Festival** with live **Tsugaru shamisen** performance
- Visit **Tokyo National Museum** for an overview of history of kimono
- **Ceremonial banquet** in style of a Lord at historic residence of the Uesugi Count
- Accompanied by **EYHO textile expert** and our **much-lauded Japanese guide**





Why this tour?

A simple enough T-shaped garment, yet through its patterns, a kimono flashes elegant messages about seasons, occasion, status, marital status, traditions, even family crests. Arguably, kimono are receptacles of 2000 years of Japanese history. Kimono designs are about more than aesthetics. Known as *monyo* 紋様, they are about wearing the right wish for the right occasion. No other garment carries this much weight, with this much elegance.

How can one not be enthralled by this splendid garment? For many years now, I've read and researched kimono to curate this unique itinerary in an untouristed part of Japan. I hope you'll join me!

~~ Shila

At a glance

12 nights/13 days October 16 – 28, 2026

- 4 nights Tokyo
- 2 nights Hirosaki
- 2 nights Kakunodate
- 3 nights Tsuruoka
- 1 night Yonezawa
- Day trips to UNESCO Shirakami Mountains, Matsugaoka Craft Park

Cost

Based on group size 15 pax

Double occupancy: **USD 6500 pp**

Add for own room: **USD 1250**

Small group . . . as always! Max 15/Min 10*

* For each pax less than 15, surcharge of USD 150 applies. See p. 5





What's included

- Fully escorted by experienced local guide, will accompany throughout
- Accompanied by EYHO tour manager
- Accommodations in both Western-style hotels and Japanese (or semi-Japanese-style) Ryokan, 3 nights in seaside hotel with ocean views
- Transportation costs, except for departure airport transfers
- All workshop fees, materials, and instructions
- 8 Workshops, 3 Studio visits with lecture
- Meals: Daily breakfast, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- Private coach on most days
- Luggage transfer x 2
- Arrival transfer as long as we book extra nights in tour hotel, arrival between 6.30am-8.30pm.

What's not

- International flight, departure transfer, tipping for guide, and beverages at meals unless specified, insurance, early and late check in/out

COSTS

Min 10/Max 15 USD	Tour double occ	Single supplement
15 Pax	6500	1570
14-13 pax	6800	1570
12-11 pax	7100	1570
10 pax	7250	1570

Amami Island Optional pre tour add on – please enquire
USD 3200 pp/add USD 780 for own room. Min 06 pax

Enquiries

To register or enquire,
please write
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Terms and conditions

For your complete peace of mind, we are TICO accredited (Travel Industry of Ontario) #50023991