

Experience Echizen Ware to the Fullest!

Kiln Tours and Pottery Experience

Concept

Observe the craftsmanship of the Furaigama studio and create a one-of-a-kind piece

Experience Echizen Ware, one of the "Six Ancient Kilns of Japan"

Echizen Town (Fukui)

Echizen Ware is made primarily from locally sourced natural materials, particularly iron-rich clay. This clay is fired at high temperatures, making it highly durable and long-lasting. Unlike chemically treated glazes, Echizen Ware uses a natural ash glaze from burning firewood, reducing environmental impact.

The production process maximizes local resources, contributing to sustainable production, reducing transportation-related environmental impact, and revitalizing the local economy. Echizen Ware is characterized by its simple yet functional designs, promoting sustainable consumption through long-term usability.

The Birthplace of Echizen Ware: Echizen Town

Echizen Town is blessed with abundant natural resources, including clay and firewood essential for pottery production. In wood-fired kilns, the type of firewood and burning method significantly affect the final product, making the use of local resources crucial. The iron-rich soil in the region gives Echizen Ware its characteristic colors and fire resistance. By utilizing these natural conditions, Echizen Ware blends traditional craftsmanship with modern needs.

Historical Background and Characteristics of "Echizen Ware"

Recognized as one of Japan's "Six Ancient Kilns," Echizen Ware dates back to the late Heian period, initially producing everyday utensils. Its coastal location allowed for extensive distribution via the Kitamaebune trading ships, leading to its development as the largest pottery-producing area in the Hokuriku region. The name "Echizen Ware" became widespread in 1948, and in the 1970s, it was designated as a traditional craft by the Japanese government. Echizen Ware is mainly characterized by its natural ash glaze and wood-fired kiln techniques, creating unique textures and hues.



Furaigama Pottery Studio

Furaigama Kiln preserves the traditional techniques and styles of Echizen Ware while creating new works that meet modern demands. Visitors can experience the warmth of its craftsmanship firsthand. The kiln uses both wood-fired and electric kilns, with the wood-fired method producing unpredictable color variations and patterns known as "yohen" (kiln transformations). The studio is committed to sustainable production, utilizing local clay and natural ash glaze, which interact chemically to create diverse expressions.

At Furaigama, a variety of works are produced, including tableware, vases, and animal-themed pottery. Among them, pieces featuring animals such as giraffes and polar bears are particularly popular. These works stand out for their warm, everyday-friendly designs.

Pottery Tour (approx. 30 minutes)

- 1) Pottery making demonstration by master ceramicist, Uichiro Oya
- 2) Guided tour of wood-fired kilns and electric kilns
- 3) Visit to the art gallery (purchases available)



Fukui Prefecture Ceramics Museum

The Fukui Prefecture Ceramics Museum is the ultimate place to learn about Echizen Ware. It features a museum to explore its history, a pottery workshop for hands-on experience, and a tea house to enjoy tea using Echizen Ware. The museum showcases the many charms of Echizen Ware, while the pottery workshop offers experiences such as hand-building and painting, open to all ages. In the tea house, visitors can enjoy matcha while admiring a seasonal Japanese garden.

Pottery Workshop - Create Your Own Unique Piece (approx. 90 minutes)

After witnessing master artisans at work, try your hand at pottery in the pottery workshop. Using the traditional hand-building technique, you can create your very own tea bowl. As a special souvenir, you will receive locally grown Echizen rice, so you can enjoy a taste of Japan using the bowl you made.

