

# 92NY ART CENTER

## A Different Japan

- A Private Cultural Journey May 12-22, 2027



Join Senior Jewelry Center Director Jonathan Wahl and jeweler and artist Sayumi Yokouchi for a carefully curated journey into Japan's deeper layers — where art, craft, history, and food are inseparable from place and time. This journey is designed for travelers who have already seen the world — and are now seeking depth rather than novelty.

It offers space, silence, and encounters that cannot be replicated elsewhere.

Japan revealed slowly - Tracing a path from Tokyo's refined energy through Kyoto's cultural core and Nara's spiritual origins to Kanazawa, the city of living craft, this journey is thoughtfully designed for travelers who value meaning over spectacle.

### Day 1, Wednesday May 12, Tokyo.



Arrive Tokyo to the **Hoshino Resorts**

<https://hoshinoresorts.com/en/hotels/hoshinoyatokyo/>

A high-rise ryokan that is deeply rooted in Tokyo's feudal past Tokyo, 1 Chome-9-1 Ōtemachi, Chiyoda City, Tokyo 100-0004

Consistently voted one of the top 50 hotels in the world this Authentic Japanese omotenashi hospitality in the heart of Tokyo. From the moment guests arrive and slip off their shoes to step onto fragrant tatami mats, HOSHINOYA Tokyo, in the prestigious Otemachi district, promises sublime and authentic Japanese ryokan hospitality.

**Group Welcome Dinner**

## Day 2, Thursday May 13, Tokyo

### Breakfast at hotel

Ease into Japan with a walk on **the Imperial Palace Grounds.**

The present Imperial Palace encompasses the retrenchments of the former Edo Castle. The modern *Kyūden* (宮殿) designed for various imperial court functions and receptions is located in the old *Nishinomaru* section of the palace grounds. It was built in the traditional Japanese architectural style, characterized by a large roof and exposed columns and beams, using mostly domestically sourced materials.



### Lunch in Akasaka area



Invitation based private visit and lecture in English at **Albion Art Institute** <https://www.albionart.com/>  
Founder of the Albion Institute, Arikawa has described jewelry art as “the final form of art”, pursuing beauty and spirituality through gemstones and precious metals. His research encompasses roughly 5,000 years of human adornment, from Mesopotamian antiquities to contemporary jewelry, with particular attention to the jewelry culture of European courts and aristocracies and to jewelry art in a global art-historical context.



### Dinner together at Sasha Kanetaka

[https://www.kanetanaka.co.jp/r\\_estaurant/sahsya/](https://www.kanetanaka.co.jp/r_estaurant/sahsya/)

The flagship restaurant, simple yet liberating “Sasha Kanetaka” was designed by contemporary artists Hiroshi Sugimoto. It offers the taste of Kanetanaka in a casual setting.

## Day 3, Friday May 14, Tokyo

Breakfast at hotel



### The Japan Folk Craft Museum

<https://mingeikan.or.jp/?lang=en>

Soetsu Yanagi (1889-1961), born in Tokyo, was the key figure who developed the idea of Mingei – the beauty of everyday crafts made by ordinary people. After early involvement with the Shirakaba movement, his perspective shifted through encounters with Korean ceramics, which revealed to him the quiet, honest beauty of utilitarian objects. This led him to recognize similar qualities in Japanese folk crafts. In 1925, together with potters, Yanagi introduced the “Mingei” (folk crafts or common crafts), defining it as the unselfconscious beauty founded in objects made for daily use by anonymous makers.

Mingei was not just a word but also philosophy and movement that Yanagi actively promoted through writing, collecting, and exhibitions culminating in the founding of the Japan Folk Crafts Museum in 1936, where he served as its first president.

Main Hall, designed for various exhibition rooms and West Hall, a main house which was designed by Yanagi, he lived here until he died at the age of 72.

### Lunch on train

Train ride to Kofu – invitation based private visit and tour at the Takuma gem lapidary and gallery

The history of Koshu crystal craftsmanship, Japan's only unique traditional craft, began about a thousand years ago with the discovery of raw crystals in the vicinity of Mt. Kinpu, deep within the scenic Mitake Shosenkyo Gorge. At the time of its discovery, the raw crystals were highly valued as ornaments and other decorative items. Approximately 200 years ago, during the Tenpo era (1930-1944), craftsmen were invited from "Tamatsukuri" in Kyoto, and the technique of hand-polishing crystals by sprinkling emery on an iron plate was learned, marking the beginning of crystal processing known as tezuri, which continues to this day.



Takuma Studio

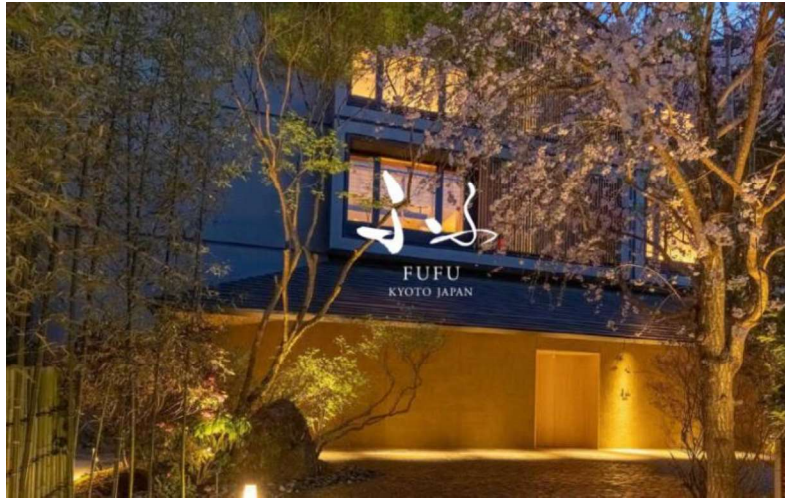
<https://www.takumahouseki.jp>

**Dinner (free plan, near or at the hotel)**

## Day 4, Saturday May 15, Kyoto

### Breakfast at hotel

Bullet train to Kyoto check into Hotel FuFu



A Place to Savor Time.

Kyoto's sensuous sense of beauty spreads in a hidden space. The beautiful land of Japan heals and invigorates people's spirits and bodies.

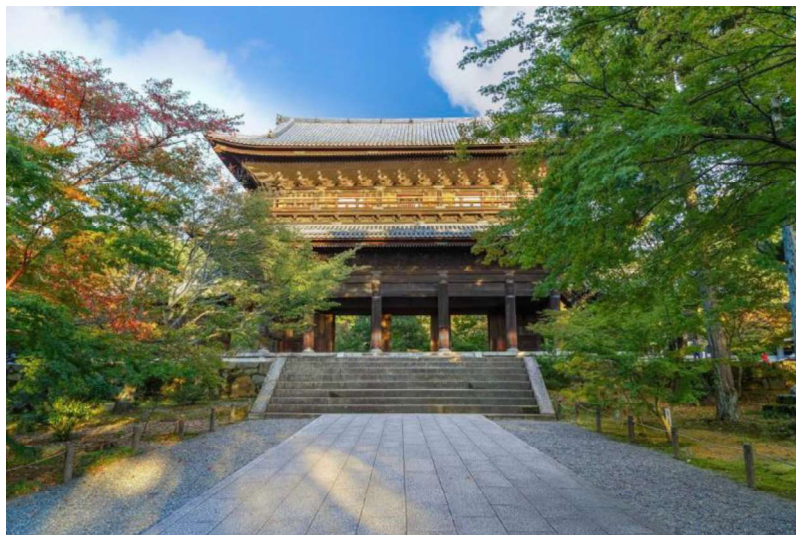
FUFU is one of a kind.

There are many thoughts and stories at "FUFU" where you can experience the charm of Kyoto

<https://www.fufukyoto.jp/en/>

It is located near Nanzenji Temple in Kyoto, next to the beautiful garden "Murin-an" <https://murin-an.jp/en/>

### Lunch at hotel



Explore Kyoto with visits to Artisan Craft shops and the historic Nanzenji temple Nanzenji Temple (南禅寺), whose spacious grounds are located at the base of [Kyoto's](#) forested Higashiyama mountains, is one of the most important Zen [temples](#) in all of Japan. It is the head temple of one of the schools within the Rinzai sect of [Japanese Zen Buddhism](#) and includes multiple sub temples, that make the already large complex of temple buildings even larger. The history of Nanzenji dates back to the mid-13th century. In Kyoto, a one-day dedicated guide and full transportation will be arranged.



### Dinner together at Hotel FuFu

## Day 5, Sunday May 16, Kyoto

Breakfast at hotel



Explore charming Kyoto where tradition meets contemporary. Invitation-based contemporary artisan's atelier visits and exclusive shopping in Sanjo and Shijo area.

### Shinkogeisha

Kyoto-based innovative team 新工芸舎 reimagines craft by merging digital and analog practices, using materials like resin and technologies such as 3D printing to challenge industrial production and explore more personal, human-centered ways of making.

<https://www.shinkogeisha.com>

Discover **Kyo-Kanaami**, known as Kyoto traditional hand wire weaving methods.

Visiting atelier shop

<https://kanaamitsuji.net>

Lunch in the area

Kyoto is considered the cultural capital of Japan. It is home to numerous [Buddhist temples](#), [Shinto shrines](#), palaces and gardens, some of which have been designated collectively as a [World Heritage Site](#) by [UNESCO](#). Prominent landmarks include the [Kyoto Imperial Palace](#), [Kiyomizu-dera](#), [Kinkaku-ji](#), [Ginkaku-ji](#), and [Kyoto Tower](#). The internationally renowned video game company [Nintendo](#) is based in Kyoto.



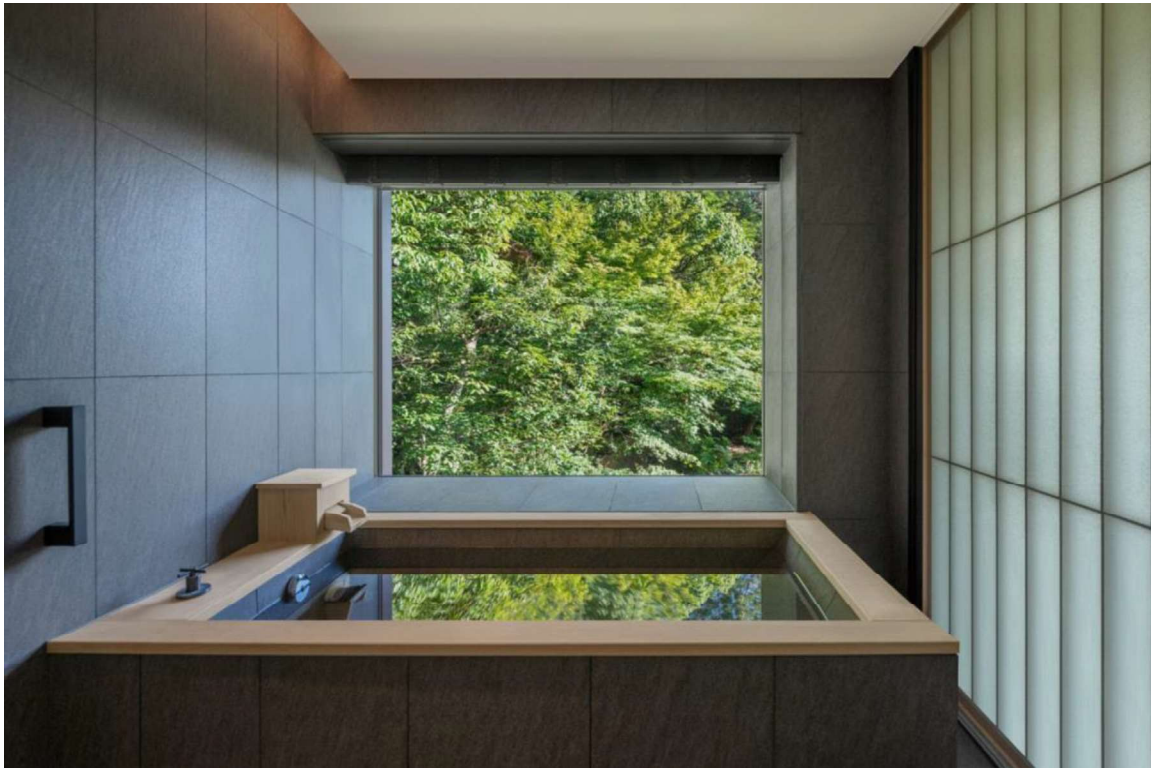
Dinner together at hotel



## Day 6, Monday May 17, Nara

Train to Nara check into SHISUI a Luxury Collection Hotel Nara

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/osanl-shisui-a-luxury-collection-hotel-nara/overview/>



Lunch at hotel or in the area

### Explore the UNESCO world heritage city with a guided tour.

Japan's first permanent capital was established in the year [710](#) at Heijo, the city now known as Nara 奈良. Nara is located less than one hour from [Kyoto](#) and [Osaka](#). Due to its historical importance, the city remains full of cultural treasures, including some of Japan's oldest and largest [temples](#).

Enjoy green tea and sweets while discovering local shops in the area.

Dinner together at hotel



## Day 7, Tuesday May 18, Kanazawa

Breakfast at hotel

Train to Kanazawa a 2 hour journey check into:

**KORINKYO**

<https://www.korinkyo.com/top-en#anchors-lpyset6j1>

From Kenrokuen Garden to the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art; **Korinkyo**, a place of sojourn, was born into the city of timeless beauty, allowing one to re-examine the ideals and charm of the Orient.



Lunch at hotel

Visit Kanazawa Castle <https://shiro-niwa.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/kanazawa-castle/en/>

Kenrokuen Garden [https://kenrokuen.or.jp/?stt\\_lang=en](https://kenrokuen.or.jp/?stt_lang=en)



dinner (free plan at hotel or in town)

## Day 8, Wednesday May 19, Kanazawa

### Breakfast at hotel

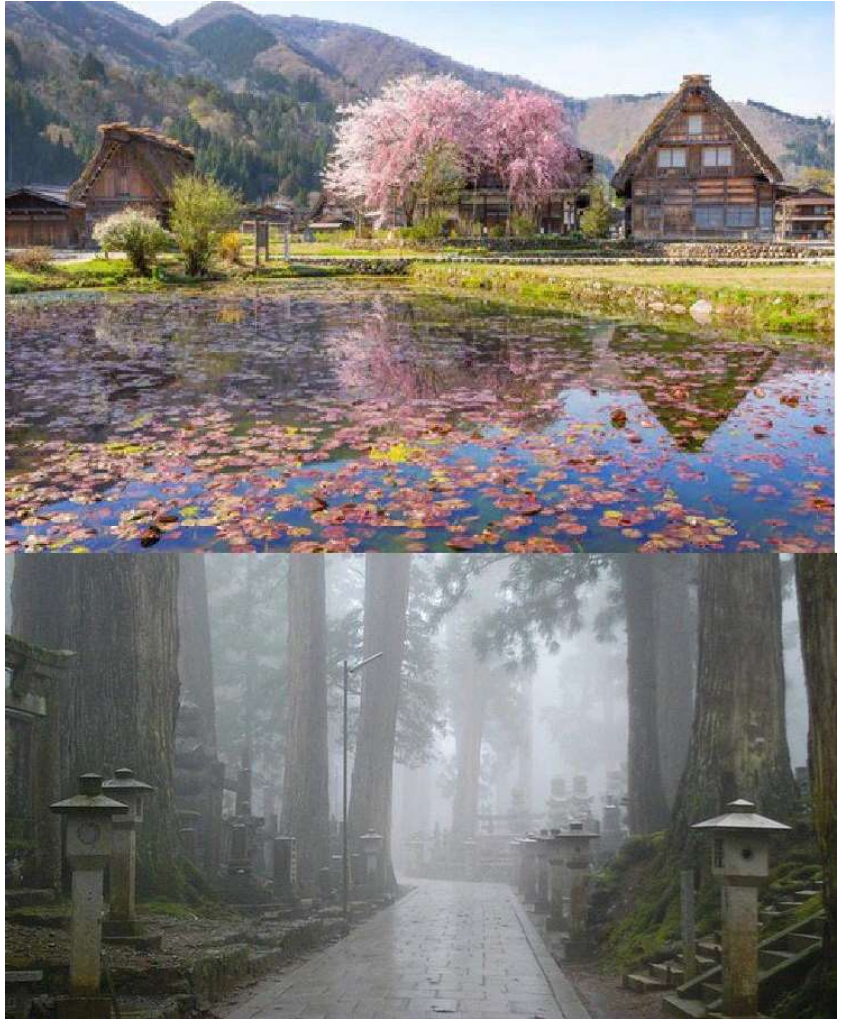
Guided tour of the Historic Villages of **Shirakawa-go**. Japan's UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

### Lunch included

The Shirakawa-go (白川郷, Shirakawagō) and neighboring Gokayama (五箇山) regions line the Shogawa River Valley in the remote mountains that span from [Gifu](#) to [Toyama Prefectures](#). Declared a [UNESCO world heritage site](#) in 1995, they are famous for their traditional gassho-zukuri farmhouses, some of which are more than 250 years old.

Gassho-zukuri means "constructed like hands in prayer", as the farmhouses' steep thatched roofs resemble the hands of [Buddhist](#) monks pressed together in prayer. The architectural style developed over many generations and is designed to withstand the large amounts of heavy [snow](#) that falls in the region during winter. The roofs, made without nails, provided a large attic space used for cultivating silkworms.

### Dinner together near the hotel

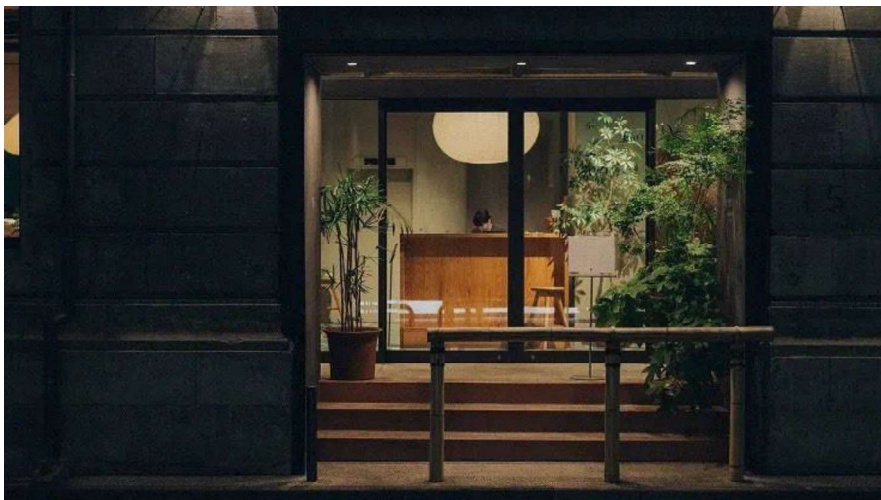


## Day 9, Thursday May 20, Tokyo

### Breakfast at hotel

Train to Tokyo 2.5-hour journey, arrive in Tokyo check into K-5 hotel <https://k5-tokyo.com/en/>

### Lunch on train

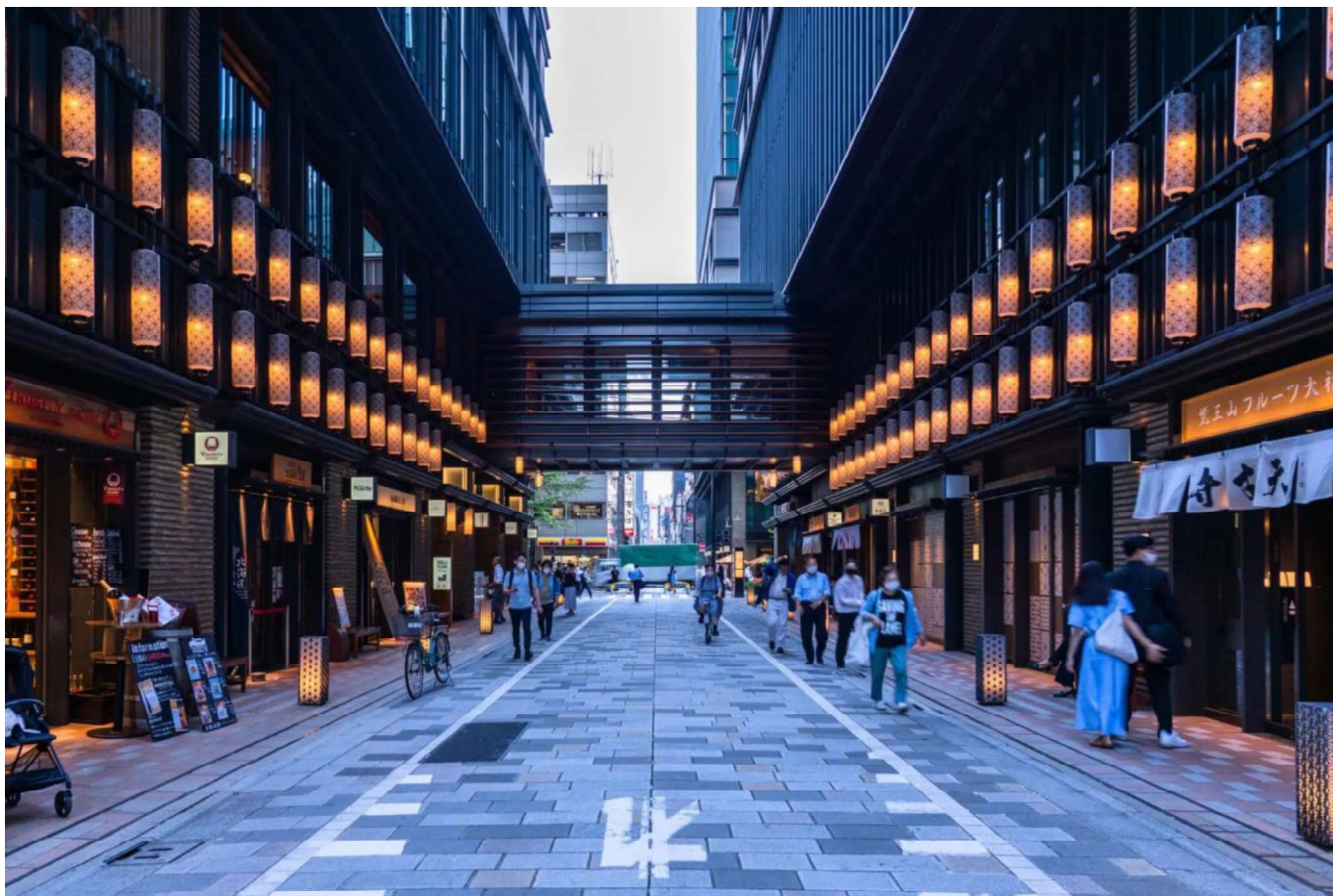


### K5 hotel

Originally an annex of the first bank of Japan built in 1923, K5 was transformed and completed in 2020 to a boutique hotel with a concept and design unique to the area and Japan. CKR Claesson Koivisto Run the architect designers of K5, roamed all over Japan to gain inspiration and combine the rich Japanese design with the Scandinavian Nordic style. Their aspiration to create a one of a kind ambience whilst keeping the old feel and story of the original building has made K5 a must see property in Tokyo

### Afternoon shopping in Nihonbashi, Ginza with guide.

As the "center of Japan", the **Nihonbashi district** has enjoyed much commercial prosperity over the centuries, and the area has flourished with bustling shops lining the streets and shipping canals (most of which have been filled in the meantime). Many shops with centuries-long histories are still operating in the district today and make for pleasant strolls. During the [Edo Period](#) (1600-1867), the Mitsui family, one of the most powerful merchant families, opened a highly successful textile shop, the Echigoya, in Nihonbashi. Its successor, the [Mitsukoshi Nihonbashi](#), became Japan's first [department store](#) and still stands in the district's center. Recent redevelopment projects have revitalized the Nihonbashi district with tasteful new additions. A highlight is the [Coredo Muromachi](#) complex with its three elegant skyscrapers that feature shopping and dining in a modern, yet traditional design inspired by the [Edo Period](#) heritage of the merchant district. Many of its shops specialize in traditional crafts or local foods from across Japan, such as lacquerware, gold leaf, knives, [chopsticks](#), [sake](#), [condiments](#), [seaweed](#) and [sweets](#).



Dinner (free plan at or near the Hotel)

## Day 10, Friday May 21, Tokyo

### Breakfast at hotel

visit Sayumi's atelier and experience Japanese style vegan lunch and sweets picnic

[www.sayumiyokouchi.com](http://www.sayumiyokouchi.com) , [www.atelieress.com](http://www.atelieress.com)



**Afternoon free** - shopping locally in the neighborhood

**Farwell group dinner**

## Day 11, Saturday May 22, Tokyo

### Breakfast at hotel

Check out as say farewell to Japan

Train – Keikyu Line “Haneda Airport” → Nihonbashi station (Approximately 45 minutes) \$5

Reserved Shuttle to “Haneda Airport” Approximately 40 minutes \$10~ 25

