

Q&A on Tea-ceremony at the Kikko Chashitsu(Tea House)

Q1. Do I have to wear a Kimono?

A1. No. There is no code for attire. However, please avoid coming in short skirts or barefoot. Also, please take off accessories like a ring or a watch for they may cause damage to the tea utensils.

Q2. Is it O.K. if I don't know the manners?

A2. What's important is to enjoy the tea and confectionary. When in doubt, just watch the moves the other people around would make and imitate them. If necessary, we'll explain. Normal procedures are;

1. Enter the room.
2. Observe and admire the hanging scroll and flowers (ikebana) of the alcove.
3. Sit down and take a sweet(s) .
4. Drink a tea.
5. Observe and appreciate tea utensils.
6. Once the tea ceremony finishes you may leave the room.

Q3. How long does the whole thing take?

A3. It usually takes for about one hour. Once it is done, a new group of guests will enter the room. If there is an empty seat you may be escorted to the seat after the ceremony starts. If seats are filled, we may have to ask you to wait in the waiting room until the next session starts.

Q4. Do I have to make a reservation?

A4. No. Not in principle. However, reservations are preferable if 5 or more people are coming in as a group. Reservation is required for the days with reservation only. Please be aware that events might be cancelled by sponsors without notice. Contact Culture Promotion Section or check the City Home Page for the latest information.

Q5. How much is the admission?

A5. ¥700/person except for events with reservation. We recommend you to place the fee in an envelope if possible.

Q6. Can I come with preschooler(s)?

A6. Yes, you can. But please keep in mind that other guests shall not be disturbed. Chairs are available.

Q7. Is it O.K. even if I don't speak Japanese?

A7. Yes, it is. We hope that you could get a feel or a taste of Japanese culture through tea-gatherings. We may not be able to provide enough explanation, though.

Q8. I cannot sit on my heels because I have a leg problem.

A8. We have some chairs available for guests like you.

Q9. Is there anything I should bring?

A9. A sensu (a Japanese fan) and a kaishi (a special paper), if you have.

Q10. Can I take pictures or videos?

A10. You are not supposed to take pictures in the middle of making a tea. You may at other times. Please ask the receptionist about it.

Q11. What are the differences among schools?

A11. Omotesenke, Urasenke and Mushakojisenke schools serve a sweet(s) and hot powdered green tea whisked by Chasen, while Sencha school serves a sweet(s) and Sencha-tea served from a teapot which contains tea leaves inside.

Q12. I would like to experience a formal tea-ceremony.

A12. A formal tea-ceremony (lasts two-three hours) might be held on those days with reservation only.

Q13. Please tell me about the history of the Kikko Tea-house.

A13. It was originally built as a guest house by the former feudal lord Kikkawa Clan in 1892 along with the construction of their residence. It was donated to the city of Iwakuni in 1951. A new tea house was added to the guest house in 1974 and named the Kikko Chashitsu (Kikko Tea House) after the Kikko park which is closely connected to the Kikkawa clan. It was renovated in 2019.

Q14. Where is a parking lot?

A14. There's no private parking lot. Please use either the Nearby Yokoyama Riverside Ground Parking lot or the one at the Kikko park.

Q15. Is it OK to just see the garden?

A15. Yes, you can. Make sure you take the stepping stones to avoid damaging the moss covered surface.

Q16. Can anyone use the Kikko Tea-house?

A16. Yes, as long as the purpose of use is for tea-gatherings or other cultural events.

Q17. Do you have tea utensils for lease?

A17. Yes, we have. Please contact us before the event because

Q18. When can I make a reservation at the earliest?

A18. As early as 6 months.