

# GLAZED WITH HISTORY

## 古往今來

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PHOTOS/攝影 PETER BLAKELY

Japan's historic ceramics originated from Kyushu, where traditions are maintained

東洋瓷藝的發源地九州，迄今仍致力保存這門傳統工藝

Kakiemon kiln,  
one of Arita's  
oldest potteries

柿右衛門窯是有田鎮  
歷史最悠久的陶藝作  
坊之一



**K**YUSHU'S CERAMIC history reads like an epic tale: a story shrouded in mystery with secret kilns nestled in mountain villages and feudal lords kidnapping talented craftsmen from abroad. At the centre of the legend lies Arita, the birthplace of Japan's porcelain industry. Here in the early 17th century Korean potter Ri Sam Pei – captured during Japan's invasion of Korea – discovered kaolin (china clay) and began the country's first production of porcelain-ware.

In the 1640s Chinese enamelling methods introduced colours to the potters' palettes. About the same time a civil war in China disrupted the porcelain trade and European consumers looked to Japan for fine chinaware.

From the earliest periods, a number of distinctive styles developed. The area's early pieces (1610-1650), known as Shoki-Imari, were simply decorated in under-glazed blue. Milky-white Kakiemon pottery crafted about the same period is renowned for its delicate, asymmetric illustrations of birds and flowers or scenes depicting animals and people, as well as its polychrome over-glazing technique. Karatsu ware from the 16th century departs from the region's style with deep browns and cooler dusky hues as defining characteristics.

九州的陶瓷歷史，就像一個蕩氣迴腸的史詩式故事，內容神秘，背景是山野村落的秘藏土窯，人物則是被封建藩主從海外擄至東洋的陶藝技師。有田是日本瓷器業的發源地，也就是傳奇誕生的地方。於17世紀初，日本入侵朝鮮半島期間被擄走的朝鮮裔陶工李參平，在這裡發現了高嶺土（中國瓷土），並在日本開展了瓷器的生產。

中國的上釉術於1640年間傳入日本，為日本瓷器添上萬千色彩。當時中國正經歷內戰，瓷器貿易陷於癱瘓，歐洲貴族遂將目光轉移至近鄰日本的瓷藝精品，促使日本陶瓷走進世界舞台。

打從瓷器面世起始，多種特色風格漸次浮現。九州早期燒製（1610至1650年）的陶瓷名為「初期伊萬里」，只以青花釉彩作簡單裝飾。約於同期發展的「柿右衛門」風格，則以於乳白瓷胎上不勻稱地細描花鳥或人物而聞名，其色彩斑斕的釉上彩技術，也是著名特色。在16世紀興起的「唐津」陶瓷，則與九州地區的風格迥異，呈現獨特的深棕及冷峻的暗色。



**The first kiln to make blue-and-white porcelain ware (above) for imperial use, Tsuji House has a 350-year history**

辻常陸是首家皇室御用的陶瓷作坊，350年來製作出無數精緻的青花瓷器（上圖）

**Blue-and-white ware has a long heritage, from the traditional (top right) to the contemporary (top centre)**

青花瓷擁有源遠流長的歷史，不論是古代的珍品（右上圖）或現代的傑作（中上圖），同樣出色

The 250-year-old Gen-emon kiln (2726 Maruo-hei, Arita-cho, +81 95 542 4164, [www.gen-emon.co.jp](http://www.gen-emon.co.jp)) preserves the tradition of Shoki-Imari pottery while adding a contemporary touch to its porcelain line. Executive Director Shoji Kaneko invites visitors to mix and match when choosing their tableware, finding beauty in the mismatch of style. Unlike Kakiemon's fine decorative lines, the hand-painted Gen-emon uses energetic brush-strokes to colour each piece.

The Imaemon (2-1-15 Akaemachi, Arita-cho, +81 95 542 3101, [www.imaemon.co.jp](http://www.imaemon.co.jp)) kiln's elegant floral designs were once prepared exclusively for feudal lords. Now, with the 14th generation in place, the traditional techniques are still apparent but the current heir's touch has been added.

The Kyushu Ceramics Museum (3100-1 Toshaku-Otsu, Arita-cho, +81 95 543 3681) explains the island's ceramic history with pieces from each period. Special techniques and pottery terms are described in English.

To experience Arita's pottery scene at its busiest visit during the Arita Porcelain Fair. The town's population swells to one million between 29 April and 5 May each year with more than 700 shops along the four-kilometre main street selling ceramics during the festivities.

### Getting there

From Fukuoka airport: Take the subway to Hakata station and transfer to the JR Limited Express Midori train (85 minutes/¥3,440).

### Arita

The ornate Kakiemon kiln (352 Nanzan Tei, Arita-Cho, +81 95 543 2267), one of the oldest in the area, is the jewel of the town's porcelain past. Here, handmade pieces with a milk-white foundation called *nigoshide* are produced and sold. Prices range from ¥17,000 (about HK\$1,340) to more than ¥360,000 for vases, dishes, platters and cups. Their delicate porcelain side plates with branching flowers and inquisitive birds are a popular souvenir and can be purchased for about ¥17,000.

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### 有田

精緻瑰麗的柿右衛門窯（有田町南山丁352, +81 95 543 2267），是區內歷史最悠久的瓷器作坊之一，展現該市輝煌的瓷藝歷史風采。這裡專門生產及售賣以稱為「濁手」的乳白瓷胎所製成的珍品，當中的花瓶、餐碟、盤子及茶杯等，售價由17,000日元（約1,340港元）至360,000日元以上不等。繪有精美花葉雀鳥圖案的裝飾碟子，是遊客熱捧的紀念品，售價約17,000日元。

具250年歷史的源右衛門窯（有田町丸尾2726, +81 95 542 4164, [www.gen-emon.co.jp](http://www.gen-emon.co.jp)），在初期伊萬里風格以外，加入現代陶瓷的美學元素。其行政總裁金子昌司建議訪客選購餐具時，將不同風格的作品混合配襯，營造不勻稱的美感。與柿右衛門精細的裝飾線條相比，源右衛門豪邁的筆觸呈現截然不同的美態。

今右衛門窯（有田町赤繪町2-1-15, +81 95 542 3101, [www.imaemon.co.jp](http://www.imaemon.co.jp)）製作的優雅花卉造型瓷器，曾經是封建藩主專用的貢品。現在已傳至第14代的今右衛門燒，在保留著濃厚傳統色彩的同時，亦加入了新一代傳人獨特的個人風格。

佐賀縣立九州陶瓷文化館（有田町戶杓乙3100-1, +81 95 543 3681），則透過不同時期的陶瓷作品，為你娓娓道出島上的瓷藝歷史。專門的技術及字彙均備有英語註解。

若要體驗有田陶瓷文化的精粹，別錯過有田陶瓷展。每年的4月29日至5月5日，這個平靜小鎮的四公里長大街上開設的逾700家陶瓷商號，均會為遊客提供陶瓷精品。

### 交通指南

從福岡機場前往有田：乘地鐵往博多站，再轉乘JR特急線的「midori」列車（車程約85分鐘，票價3,440日元）。





## Imari

Imari's Okawachiyama porcelain village lies within a slender valley surrounded by lush mountains. In the 17th century, the Nabeshima clan closely guarded the secret kilns' production techniques and the ceramics made here were crafted exclusively for the Emperor, feudal lords and the Shogun.

At the Imari Nabeshima Ware Exhibition Hall (across from the bus stop, over the bridge, +81 95 523 7293) pieces from each of the kilns are displayed and sold. The Nabeshima style has red, yellow, green and blue designs on a white porcelain base or the indigo hue of the Nabeshima-Sometsuke technique.



## Getting there

From Fukuoka airport: Take the subway to Hakata station and transfer to the JR Limited Express Midori train to Arita. At Arita take the Matsuura-Railroad line to Imari (113 minutes/¥3,850). Buses run once an hour from the Imari bus station (adjacent to the train station) to the Imari Nabeshima Ware Exhibition Hall (20 minutes/¥150).

**Vigorous brushstrokes are a distinctive feature of porcelain from the 250-year-old Gen-emon kiln in Arita**

豪邁的筆觸是有田鎮源右衛門窯的陶藝特色；該店具有250年歷史，風格獨特

## 伊萬里

伊萬里大川內山陶瓷村位於蒼山環抱的狹谷之中。17世紀時期，鍋島族人把他們的陶燒技術保密，秘不外傳，而這裡出產的瓷器，亦成為王室、藩主及將軍專用的貢品。

伊萬里鍋島燒展覽館（於巴士站過橋前往 +81 95 523 7293）展銷著各式各樣的陶窯製品。傳統鍋島燒在潔白的瓷胎上繪畫紅色、黃色、綠色及藍色圖案，亦有以「鍋島染付」技術創作的靛藍色瓷器。

## 交通指南

從福岡機場前往伊萬里：乘地鐵至博多站，轉乘JR特急線的「midori」列車，到達有田後，再乘松浦鐵路前往伊萬里（車程約113分鐘，票價3,850日元）。在伊萬里巴士站（毗連火車站），每小時均有巴士前往伊萬里鍋島燒展覽館，車程約20分鐘（票價為150日元）。

## 唐津

唐津陶瓷以豐富的泥土色調，以及生動淋漓的筆觸，透出與鄰近地區的瓷器風格迥然不同。

鎮內約有60個陶窯，當中最著名的首推中里太郎右衛門窯（唐津町田3-6-29, +81 95 572 8171, <http://homepage3.nifty.com/tarouemon/framemukouzuke.html>），與火車站距離僅五分鐘路程。

這個位於日式盆栽花園內的瓷器作坊，由唐津陶瓷第14代嫡系傳人與逾20名工匠合力經營，附設小商店及博物館，由一條小木橋相連。博物館內的藏品價值均逾500萬日元，適合資深鑑賞家蒐藏。商店擺賣不少花瓶、茶具及餐

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## Karatsu

Rich earthy tones and lively thick brushstrokes make Karatsu ware ceramics distinctive. The town is home to about 60 kilns with one of the most well-known, Nakazato Taroemon kiln (3-6-29 Machida, Karatsu, +81 95 572 8171, <http://homepage3.nifty.com/tarouemon/framemukouzuke.html>), a five-minute walk from the train station.

The 14th successor in an unbroken lineage plies his trade along with more than 20 staff. Situated within a Japanese bonsai garden, the kiln has a small shop connected to a museum by a simple wooden bridge. Museum pieces for serious collectors carry price tags of more than ¥5,000,000. The shop has a number of vases, tea sets and dishes starting at a few thousand yen and reaching about ¥100,000 for large platters.

Less expensive items can be bought at Furusato hall (Arpino) (2881-1 Shinko-machi, Karatsu, +81 95 575 5155) near the station. The second floor is dedicated to pottery and pieces from a range of local kilns. Once again prices vary, starting from a simple green-tea cup that costs about ¥3,000.

Those who prefer to stay away from tourist shops can take a stroll through the Gofuku-machi Arcade. Dotted between the shoe outlets and bag stores are Karatsu kiln shops, which sell reasonably priced tea sets and dishes.

## Getting there

From Fukuoka airport: Take the Fukuoka airport subway line to Meinohama. The train will automatically change to the JR Chikuhi line for Karatsu (90 minutes/¥1,140).



碟，售價由數千日元起，亦有售價值十萬日元的大陶碟。

要購買較廉宜的陶瓷製品，可前往鄰近火車站的故里會館 (Arpino) (唐津新興町2881-1, +81 95 575 5155) 選購。設於二樓的特別展銷場，售賣當地多個作坊的陶瓷製品。價錢豐儉由人，由約3,000日元的小茶杯，以至更貴重的精品均有發售。

想遠離出售紀念品的商店，旅客不妨造訪吳服町商品街。夾雜在鞋店與手袋店之間的唐津燒專門店，出售各式價錢合理的茶具及餐碟。



## 交通指南

從福岡機場前往唐津：  
乘福岡機場地鐵往姪濱站，列車會自動轉至JR築肥線，直達唐津。(車程90分鐘，票價1,140日元)。

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**What is generally known in the West as Imari ware (above) was actually made in Arita but shipped overseas from the port town of Imari**

在西方廣為人知的伊萬里陶器（上圖），其實出產於有田，從伊萬里鎮運送到世界各地

**Traditional techniques are used to produce contemporary Karatsu ware (above left)**

唐津陶瓷（左圖）以傳統的技術製成

## Nagasaki

During 250 years of national isolation only one place provided a window to the West – Dejima, a segregated Dutch settlement in Nagasaki on an artificial island which was not regarded as part of Japan (Dejima Information desk, 6-1 Dejima-machi, Nagasaki, +81 95 829 1194, [www1.city.nagasaki.nagasaki.jp/dejima/en](http://www1.city.nagasaki.nagasaki.jp/dejima/en)).

This outpost allowed Japan's porcelain industry to blossom into a booming export trade. A replica of the original settlement has been constructed, housing artefacts and examples of chinaware from the 17th to 19th century, including Kakiemon pieces.

The Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture (1-1-1 Tateyama, Nagasaki, +81 95 818 8366, [www.nmhc.jp](http://www.nmhc.jp)) offers a glimpse into the region's various styles as well as artefacts excavated from local kilns. Kameyama ware depicting Japanese scenery in blue sketches sits alongside the very thin Mikawachi dishes and cups, and Utsugawa ware with its peculiar earthy tones.

The Yama Tou pottery shop (at the end of the Hamanomachi shopping arcade, +81 95 824 2745) is a ceramics-lover's haven. A large portion of the pottery sold here is from Arita but there are a few Nagasaki items. Sansai tea sets and vases from Mikawachi range in price from ¥15,000 to ¥27,000 and tea cups by renowned artisan Yokoishi Gagyu can be bought for about ¥27,000.

## Getting there

From Fukuoka airport: Take the subway to Hakata station (six minutes/¥250). Then catch the JR Kamome Limited Express from Hakata to Nagasaki (two hours/¥4,410).

**The 14th generation of potters works the Nakazato Taroemon kiln in Karatsu**

位於唐津的中里太郎右衛門窯仍然由第14代的嫡系傳人經營

## 長崎

在長達250年的日本鎖國政策期間，出島是通往西方的唯一門戶。這個人工島嶼當年是荷蘭人的聚居地，並不獲承認為日本的一部分（出島復元整備室，長崎出島町6-1, +81 95 829 1194, [www1.city.nagasaki.nagasaki.jp/dejima](http://www1.city.nagasaki.nagasaki.jp/dejima)）。

有賴居住在長崎的荷蘭人的努力，日本瓷器業得以發展為蓬勃的出口貿易。今天，這裡建有仿昔日荷蘭民居的建築，展出當時的工藝製品。在區內古老的石建貨倉中，遊人可欣賞到17至19世紀的瓷器製品，包括柿右衛門的珍品。

長崎歷史文化博物館（長崎立山1-1-1, +81 95 818 8366, [www.nmhc.jp](http://www.nmhc.jp)），讓遊客一窺區內眾多陶瓷藝術作品，以及當地出土的陶瓷文物。訪客可以盡情欣賞勾勒出日本山水的青花陶瓷龜山燒，以及透薄的三河內杯碟和呈獨特泥土色調的現川燒。

山陶陶瓷專門店（位於濱之町商店街盡頭, +81 95 824 2745）是陶藝愛好者的天堂。這裡出售大量有田陶瓷，但亦有少量產自長崎的作品。三河內的三彩茶具及花瓶，售價由15,000至27,000日元，而由著名工藝家橫石臥牛製作的茶杯則售約27,000日元。

## 交通指南

從福岡機場前往長崎：乘地鐵往博多站（車程約6分鐘，票價250日元），再轉乘JR海鷗特急線由博多前往長崎（車程約2小時，票價4,410日元）。