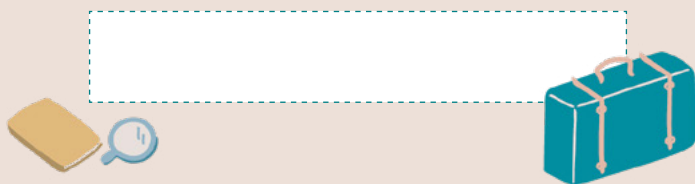


The background is a stylized illustration of a Japanese landscape. At the top center is Mount Fuji, depicted with a red lower half and a white snow-capped peak. To its left are dark, jagged mountains, and to its right are lighter, more rounded hills. The sky is a gradient of teal and blue, with several white, stylized cloud shapes. In the foreground, a body of water reflects the sky and mountains. A small red boat with two figures wearing traditional Japanese hats is on the water. In the bottom left corner, there is a dark, leafless tree branch. The entire scene is framed by a large, solid red shape on the right side, which has a circular cutout.

# Russel Wong | Life IN KYOTO | IN EDO

Activity Trail | Suitable for ages 9 and up

THIS FOLIO BELONGS TO



Russel Wong | Life  
IN KYOTO | IN EDO

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# Welcome to Japan

Our trip begins in Edo City (Tokyo) and ends in Kyoto. Be sure to take in all the sights and sounds around you. Edo has grown busier ever since the Tokugawa Shogunate established it as their seat of government in 1603. There are countless things to do, so use this travel guide to plan your trip. Don't get lost and enjoy your stay!

It's always good to have a plan before hitting the road. What are you most excited to see and do on your visits to Edo and Kyoto?

Write or draw your travel itinerary here.

## ITINERARY

I want to:



... I can't wait!

# Some helpful words and phrases to get you started

Familiarise yourself with terms you might encounter on your trip through Japan.

**Match each word to its correct definition.**

**HINT:** Use the illustrations to guess what each term means.



Geisha ●



Mon ●



Ukiyo-e ●



Edo ●



Shogun ●

- **A** Literally “pictures of the floating world”, is the name given to images made in Edo-period Japan of travel, kabuki actors, beautiful women, and other subjects
- **B** Present-day Tokyo
- **C** Military leader of Japan. The ruling family in Edo City was the Tokugawa Shogunate
- **D** Called geiko in Kyoto, these are female entertainers trained in traditional Japanese performing arts
- **E** Japanese unit of currency from 1336 to 1870

# On the Road

The peace and prosperity of the Edo period gave many people the means to travel as tourists within Japan. Like many of your fellow travellers, you'll be taking the Tōkaidō Road, the important route connecting Edo to the imperial court at Kyoto. **Use this map to guide you on your journey.**

## FUN FACT

It will take you 15 days to travel from Edo to Kyoto via the Tōkaidō Road, provided you manage to cover around 32km per day. And that's mostly walking; there were no trains, planes, or automobiles back then.

KYOTO

Osaka

Nara

Shizuoka

EDO



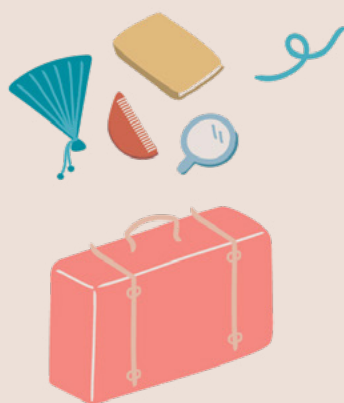
## WHAT TO DO

Many travellers you meet will be pilgrims heading to shrines, but there are plenty of other activities to do.

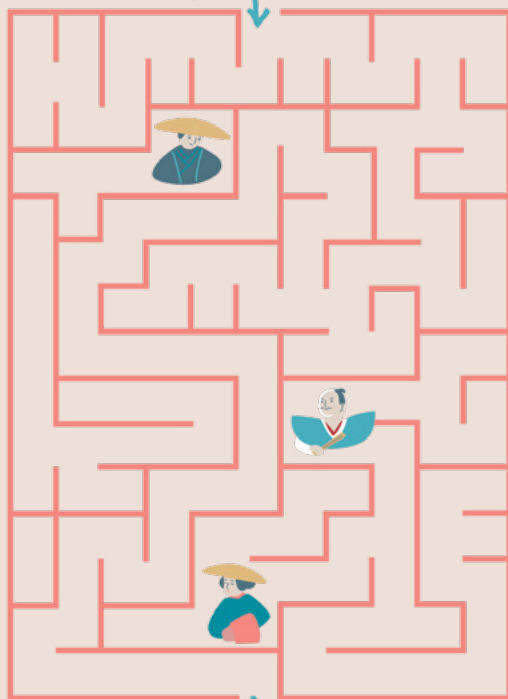
Stop at a tea house – like in the print on the left – to savour some local snacks, or relax at a hot spring along the way.

# What to bring

Make sure you have everything you need before starting your journey. Travellers in Edo were encouraged to pack a folding fan, pocket mirror, diary, comb, brush, and personal seal, among other things. **What are your travel essentials?**



READY? LET'S GO!



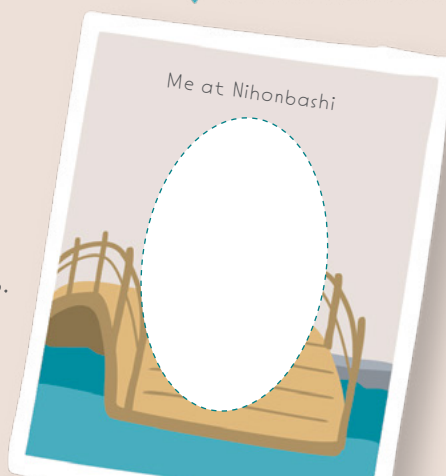
CONGRATULATIONS!

## FOLLOW THE CROWD

On your journey, you might encounter pilgrims, beggars, monks, nuns, daimyo (Japanese lords), and perhaps even foreign dignitaries. Don't be afraid to ask them for directions or great food recommendations!

## PHOTO STOP

Congratulations on reaching Nihonbashi, starting point of your journey in Edo City! It's not only the centre of the city, but also of Edo-era Japan – all distances were calculated from Nihonbashi. Sketch a picture of yourself to commemorate this part of your trip.



# Soba, so good

You'll soon notice that Edokko – the people of Edo – are foodies, just like us Singaporeans. They're particularly big fans of soba noodles – you can find at least one or two soba shops in every neighbourhood. **Look for this print featuring a soba shop in the gallery and draw in the missing details.**





# Let's explore further!

## LET'S DO SOME SIMPLE MATH

These Kanji characters 二六 translate to 2 and 6.

On the signboard of a soba stall, it means that a serving of soba costs 12 mon (2 x 6).

If 1 mon = approximately 16.5 yen (current Japanese currency), how much would 12 mon be in yen today?

12 mon x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ yen

Can you calculate how much that would cost in Singapore dollars?



## WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS? WHY IS SMOKE COMING OUT OF IT?

If you guessed a volcano, you're right! This is Mount Asama, and travellers would pass by this active volcano on the Nakasendo route, one of the five main roads out of Edo City. The smoke is a telltale sign that it might erupt anytime or that it just erupted.

## WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU TRAVELLED? DO YOU MISS TRAVELLING?

Much like us, the people of Edo Japan loved travelling and trying specialty foods from different regions.

As you explore the special exhibition, see if you can spot the top four foods of Edo Japan: sushi, fried fish, soba, and rice cakes.



Here's a bonus activity for you. Scan the QR code to learn a simple recipe for creating your own soba dish at home. It's from ACM's Japanese docents. Don't forget to snap a picture of your meal and tag us @ACM\_SG

Answer: 12 mon x 16.5 = 198 yen; approximately \$2.50 in Singapore dollars.

# What a party!



This is a party  
you want to  
be invited to!  
Flower viewing –  
called “hanami” –  
in Japanese  
– is one of Edo  
Japan’s most  
popular customs.

## LET’S SEE HOW OBSERVANT YOU ARE

Circle these details in the picture above.



Lacquer  
box



Whisk fern in  
porcelain vase



Camellia



Cup

Parties are often held in the large, sprawling gardens so popular in Edo Japan. If you get the chance to peek into some of these gardens, you're likely to spot the following:

Decorative  
and medicinal  
plants and  
flowers



Specially  
constructed  
miniature  
scenic  
landscapes



← Teahouses  
and bridges



Pathways to  
encourage  
strolling to  
admire the plants



**Let's design a Japanese garden.**  
**Use the illustrations above as a guide.**



# Konnichiwa, Kyoto!

We bet Edo was  
a bundle of fun!  
Welcome to Kyoto,  
Japan's third largest  
city. Enjoy a stroll  
through the black and  
white streets of Kyoto  
as you encounter the  
geiko community  
through the lens of  
Russel Wong.



## WHO IS RUSSEL WONG?

A Singapore-born  
photographer with 25 years  
of experience working with  
Hollywood celebrities, Russel  
was inspired by Edo-period  
woodblock prints to capture  
these photos.

## WHAT IS A GEIKO?

To become a geiko, candidates must join and be accepted into an okiya, a special lodging house.

A girl can debut as a maiko (geiko in training) at age 15 or 16. Girls must have an elder “sister” (*onesan*) who guides them in the profession. They pledge sisterhood over a cup of sake. When a maiko passes the age of 20, she can become a geiko. **Do you have a sibling who guides you?**

# Geiko or Maiko?

Maiko and geiko dress differently.

**Circle their differences and guess what each woman is below.**

## FUN FACT!

The first geisha were male entertainers in the 17th-century Japanese entertainment quarters.



Answer: (Left) Maiko; (Right) Geiko

# Kagai Living

Where do geikos work? You will find them in kagai districts, where strictly regulated teahouses (*ochaya*) operate. These teahouses arrange banquets – but only for teahouse members – with special foods and entertainment by geiko and maiko.

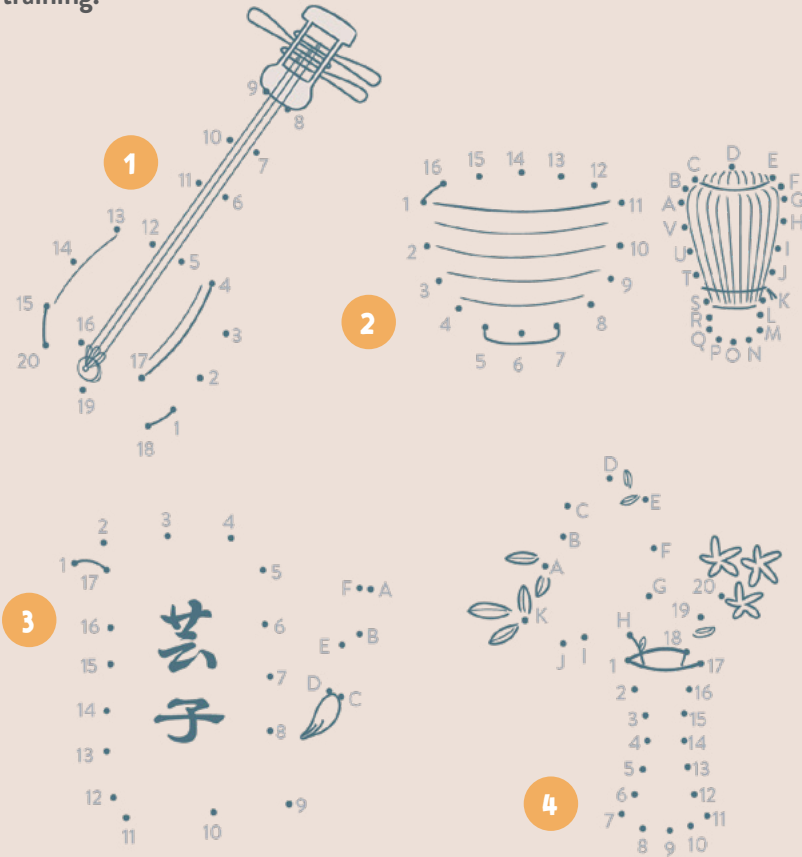


You might get to attend a festival or two when in Kyoto! The special events within each kagai are closely linked to the seasons, local history, and religious rituals and ceremonies. Geiko and maiko perform at many of these public events.



# Training of a Geiko

Geiko and maiko are professional artists who entertain with music, dance, and other performing arts at banquets held at teahouses. They go through rigorous training in Japanese classical arts. **Connect the dots to reveal the art forms and practices a geiko has to perfect through her years of training.**



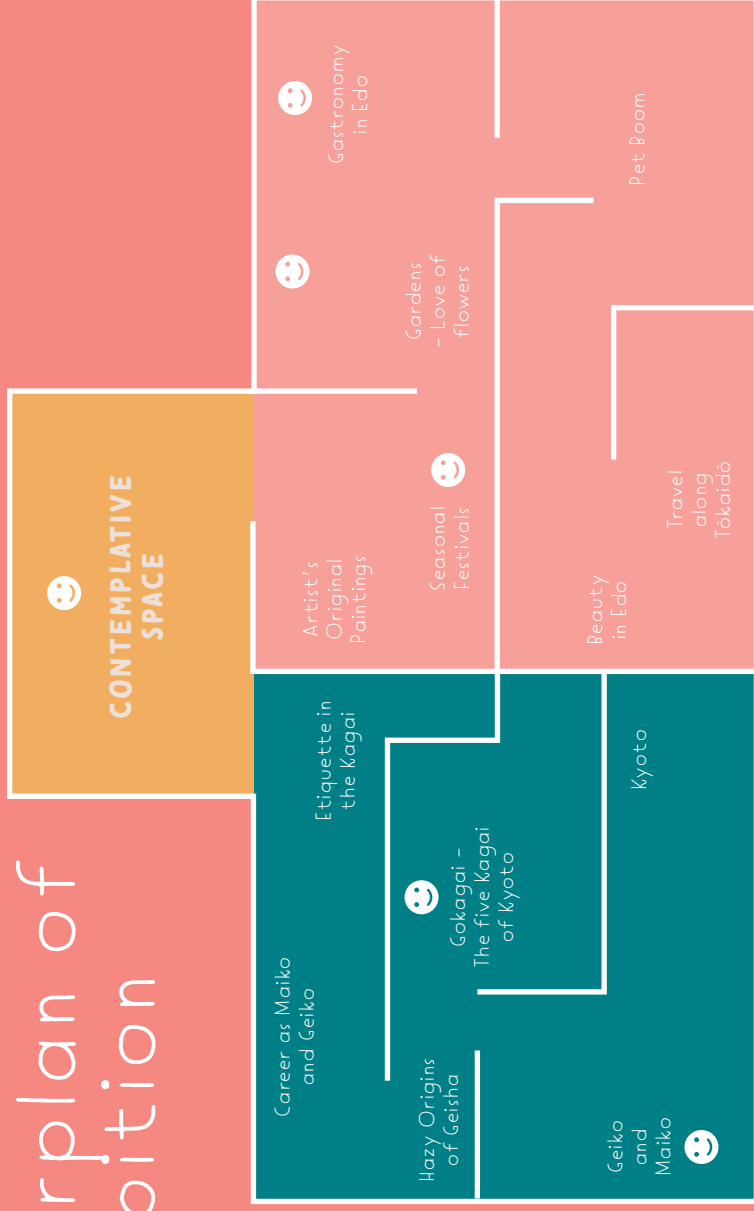
**Answer Key:** 1. Shamisen – a three-stringed traditional Japanese instrument strummed with a large pick; 2. Tea ceremony – a ritualistic tea preparation. Harmony and mindfulness are key parts to the experience; 3. Japanese calligraphy – also known as shodō; 4. Ikebana – Japanese flower arrangement.

# Floorplan of Exhibition



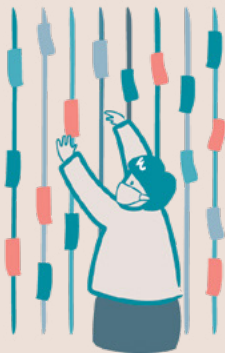
## LEGEND

Objects  
found in this  
booklet





# Your journey isn't over until you...



## CHECK OUT THE INTERPRETIVE SPACE IN THE LEVEL 2 FOYER

Customise your own digital woodblock print, learn about photography techniques, and make a wish at our wishing wall.



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# Credits

## ON THE ROAD

Utagawa Hiroshige. Nihonbashi: Morning Scene, from the series *Fifty-three Stations of the Tōkaidō Road*, around 1833. Ōban nishiki-e woodblock print

Utagawa Hiroshige. Mariko: Famous Tea Shop, from the series *Fifty-three Stations of the Tōkaidō Road*, around 1853. Ōban nishiki-e woodblock print

## SOBA, SO GOOD

Utagawa Kuniyoshi. Soba noodle of Shinano province, from the series *Collection of Famous Products of Land and Sea*, around 1831–32

## WHAT A PARTY!

Utagawa Kunisada, aka Toyokuni III. Plum-blossom viewing party on a spring evening, around 1849–51. Series of three ōban nishiki-e woodblock prints

## KONNICHIIWA, KYOTO!

Geiko Sayaka helping maiko Satsuki with her *kanzashi* (hair ornaments). Kyoto, 2011

## KAGAI LIVING

A maiko going to her appointment in the kagai. Kyoto, 2015

Woodblock print images courtesy of Nakau Collection.  
Photographs courtesy of Russel Wong.

# Notes



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Audience Department.

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**Russel Wong  
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