



Echizen Pottery

Ozowara, Echizen-cho

The secret to the look and texture of the natural glazes used in Echizen pottery is the high-grade, heat-resistant clay used in making them. These ceramics and the kilns that fire them are the pride of the town.



Making Echizen pottery in an Echizen kiln (*mukigama*) (Osowara, Echizen-cho)^①

Echizen pottery was developed in the twilight of the Heian Period, and is among the six oldest forms of Japanese ceramics (the others being *Seto*, *Tokoname*, *Shigaraki*, *Tanba*, and *Bizen*).

Though its long history was at one time threatened, in 1971 a traditional kiln was reconstructed and the Echizen Pottery Village built in Echizen-cho's Osowara. Potters and pottery from the area gathered around the new center, and new life was breathed into this storied craft.

The Pottery Park, Prefectural Museum of Ceramics, and more comprise the Echizen Pottery Village, and the wispy smoke from its kilns can be seen dancing toward the sky.



Echizen Pottery Village (Ozowara, Echizen-cho)^②



Forming clay into pottery

Visitors can also catch a glimpse of Echizen *sojiko*, which have been on loan to the British Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art and are representative of the best of Echizen pottery, fully living up to their excellent international reputation.

On the final Saturday, Sunday, and Monday of May, the Pottery Village hosts the Echizen Pottery Festival, where travelers come from near and far to see, touch, and purchase their own Echizen pottery.



Echizen Pottery Festival



Echizen *sojiko*



Fukui Prefectural Museum of Ceramics

