



## **Sculpted Spaces: Discovering Japan's Art Parks**

The beautiful art of Japan is appreciated the world over, from the wild waves of Hokusai to the delicate inked beauty of Toyo. Most savvy travellers will make a visit to a museum or art gallery part of their trip to enjoy some of the finer things in life. However, you do not have to spend all day indoors to enjoy some of the best art.

Some of Japan's most impressive art installations can be found by wandering through tiny galleries in villages or exploring giant sculptures in the great outdoors. Creating art spaces in rural locations has been a great way of injecting life into areas which have struggled in recent years.



The Setouchi Triennale is one such festival and the vibrant art created heralds the success of this effort. The permanent exhibitions attract visitors year around, but the events of the Triennale are what draws the biggest crowds. As many as a million art lovers flock to the beautiful islands of the Seto Inland Sea. The main exhibitions and art galleries can be found on one of the largest islands, [Naoshima](#), which is also home to the largest hotel, Benesse House.

There are few museums which can boast such a beautiful location, nestled in the lush hills of [Hakone](#), famed as an *onsen* (hot spring) town. The [Hakone Open Air Museum](#) is home to a wide array of artwork from famous artists, from Henry Moore to Pablo Picasso. Excitingly, visitors can enjoy the healing mineral waters with a refreshing foot bath in the outdoor exhibition space of the museum, where many other sculptures can be found.





In Japan, art is celebrated in a multitude of different ways and can be enjoyed equally indoors and outdoors.. Support sustainable travel by taking part in creative efforts like the Setouchi Triennale or art museums which help to rejuvenate local communities. You can learn more about another Triennale which is doing fantastic work to reinvigorate rural [Niigata](#) by heading to our blog post below.

### **Blog Post**

Head to our blog to read all about our teams visit to the Echigo Tsumari Triennale 2024

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## **Expert Profile: NAOMI**

See what Naomi has to say about art in Japan....



### **WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ART SPACE IN JAPAN?**

Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum. It's located in Takamatsu on Shikoku island. The open air style museum displays his art, and work and living space that were converted into a unique museum after his death. Its location is a bit remote and challenging, however it might work very well to combine with another renowned art island of Naoshima.

### **WHAT DISTINGUISHES ART PARKS IN JAPAN FROM TRADITIONAL MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES?**

Unlike ordinary museums and galleries that exhibit featured works by a roster of represented artists indoors, art parks feature by local artists, outdoor, which you may find artworks dotted around the expansive green area that blends into the terrain, harmonising with landscape.

## HOW TO ART PARKS CONTRIBUTE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY?

Most art parks are non-profit and provide educational space such as bird-watching with open-air events, or perfect place for picnicking and learning art, unlike most Japanese museums and galleries are for-profit establishments. Some art parks, although they are in remote areas, attract visitors, especially overseas guests, who tend to stay for a few days to enjoy the vicinity thoroughly, which will generate local business and income.

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