

VSANA



VIEWING STONE ASSOCIATION
OF NORTH AMERICA

北美观赏石协会

Shoppers Guide to Japanese Stone Shops

Valuable tips, key questions and important information about packing and shipping stones.

Simple guidelines when shopping in a Japanese stone shop.

Be polite and respectful towards the vendor.

Bring a small hand held calculator to use in negotiating a price. A hand shake or removing the cash from your pocket is a sign that you have agreed to the price, negotiations are over at this point.

Bring cash in Japanese Yen, almost all transactions are on a cash only basis. It is rare to find a vendor who accepts credit or debit cards and then those are only for Japanese banks.

Bring a sturdy hand bag to carry your purchases.

Always ask if it is O.K. to take photos of a vendors stones. The can be easily accomplished by facial gestures and pointing your camera towards the stones you wish to photograph.

In some shops, the vendor may ask you to sit at an elaborate tea table and offer you a small cup of tea. It is polite to accept the tea and may help to establish a positive relationship. This is important if you plan to revisit the shop in the future.

Take bubble wrap, packing tape, and heavy rubber bands with you to wrap and protect stones you purchase. This is essential if you plan to ship stones back to your country.



Frequently Asked Questions for Use in a Japanese stone shop.

(While it is desirable to learn to speak a few basic phrases, showing the vendor and pointing to the question will help convey the questions)

1. What type of stone is this? What is the name of this stone?

これはどんな種類の石ですか？この石はどんな名前ですか？

Korewa donna shurui no ishi desuka? Kono ishi wa donna namae desuka?

2. What is the price of this stone?

おいくらですか？

Oikura desuka?

3. It is expensive, can you lower the price?

すごく高いので、少しまけてもらえませんか？

Sugoku takai node, sukoshi makete morae masenka?

4. Where does this stone come from? Is it Japanese? From what prefecture in Japan?

この石はどこで採れたものですか？日本の石ですか？どの県の石ですか？

Kono ishi wa doko de toretamono desuka? Nippon no ishi desuka? Dono ken no ishi desuka?

5. Is this a completely natural stone?

生石ですか。

Ubu ishi desuka?

**Frequently Asked Questions for Use
in a Japanese stone shop, cont.**

6. Has it been cut, carved or altered in any way?

たたいてありますか？

Tataite arimasuka?

7. Has wax or oil been put on this stone?

オイルやワックスがかかっていますか？

Wax ya oil ga kakatte imasuka?

8. Do you have a box for this stone? Can you wrap it for me?

箱がありますか。包んでもらえますか？

Hako ga arimasuka? Tsutsunde morae masuka?

9. Do you ship stones to other countries?

外国に郵送してもらえますか？

Gaikoku ni yuso shite morae masuka?

10. Do you have any books on viewing stones for sale?

水石の本をお持ちですか？

Suiseki no hon wo omochi desuka?

Thank you very much for helping me buy a stone?

おかげさまでいい石が買えました。ありがとうございました。

Okage samade ii ishiga kae mashita. Arigatou gozai mashita.



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Shipping Stones

Some of the better hotels will have arrangements with international shipping companies (DHL, Federal Express or United Parcel Service) to ship acceptable items. See the concierge or ask the front desk if this service is available.

A box holding up to 20 kg (about 44 pounds) shipped from a major city in Japan to the U.S. may cost \$220 or more, depending upon the final destination. The shipping company will handle custom requirements and delivery the box to your address. This is the most reliable and quickest way of shipping stones home.

Large quantities of stones and large stones can be more economically shipped by sea container. This requires advanced preparation with an established export company. Do not expect to find this service available at one of the small stone dealer. The rates vary with the seasons, but you may be able to ship a twenty-foot container holding up to 20,000 pounds for roughly \$3,000 to \$3,500 from Japan to a West coast port in the U.S. Customs, broker, and delivery fees will be additional.

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