



# JAPANESE GEISHA

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THERE ARE TWO TERMS FOR GEISHAS:

- MAIKO

- LESS TRAINING
- AGES 15 - 20 YEARS OLD
- MUST FOLLOW A GEIKO, OR ONEESAN, BEFORE BECOMING A GEIKO.

- GEIKO

- MORE TRAINING
- AGES 20 PLUS

# WHAT ARE GEISHA

- **GEISHA** ARE KNOWN AS THE QUEENS OF THE 'FLOATING WORLD'.
  - 'GEI' MEANS ART, AND 'SHA' MEANS PERSON.
  - GEISHAS MUST GO THROUGH A ONE YEAR TRAINING, **SHIKOMI**, WHERE THEY LEARN TO PLAY TRADITIONAL JAPANESE INSTRUMENTS, DANCE, AND SING.
- LONG AGO, THERE WERE MALE GEISHA, KNOWN AS **TAIKOMOCHI OR HAKAN**
  - THEY TRAINED IN CONVERSATIONS, TEA CEREMONIES, AND STORYTELLING
  - HOWEVER, THEY HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED TO FOUR IN TOKYO AND ONE IN KYOTO.



# GEISHA STYLING



MAIKO HAVE MORE COMPLEX OUTFITS. THEIR HAIRSTYLE, **HANA KANZASHI**, HAS DESCENDING FLORAL ORNAMENTS. IT TAKES ABOUT TWO HOURS, ONCE A WEEK.




GEIKO HAVE SIMPLER OUTFITS, AND WEAR WIGS, **KASTURA**, THAT COVER THE NAPE OF THEIR NECKS. THE NAPE IS USUALLY UNPAINTED, SO IF SEEN, THEN A MAIKO CAN BE IDENTIFIED.



A **GEIKO'S OBI** IS FOLDED INTO A SQUARE, WHILE A **MAIKO'S OBI** HANGS DOWN THE BACK.



# SECRECY OF GEISHA

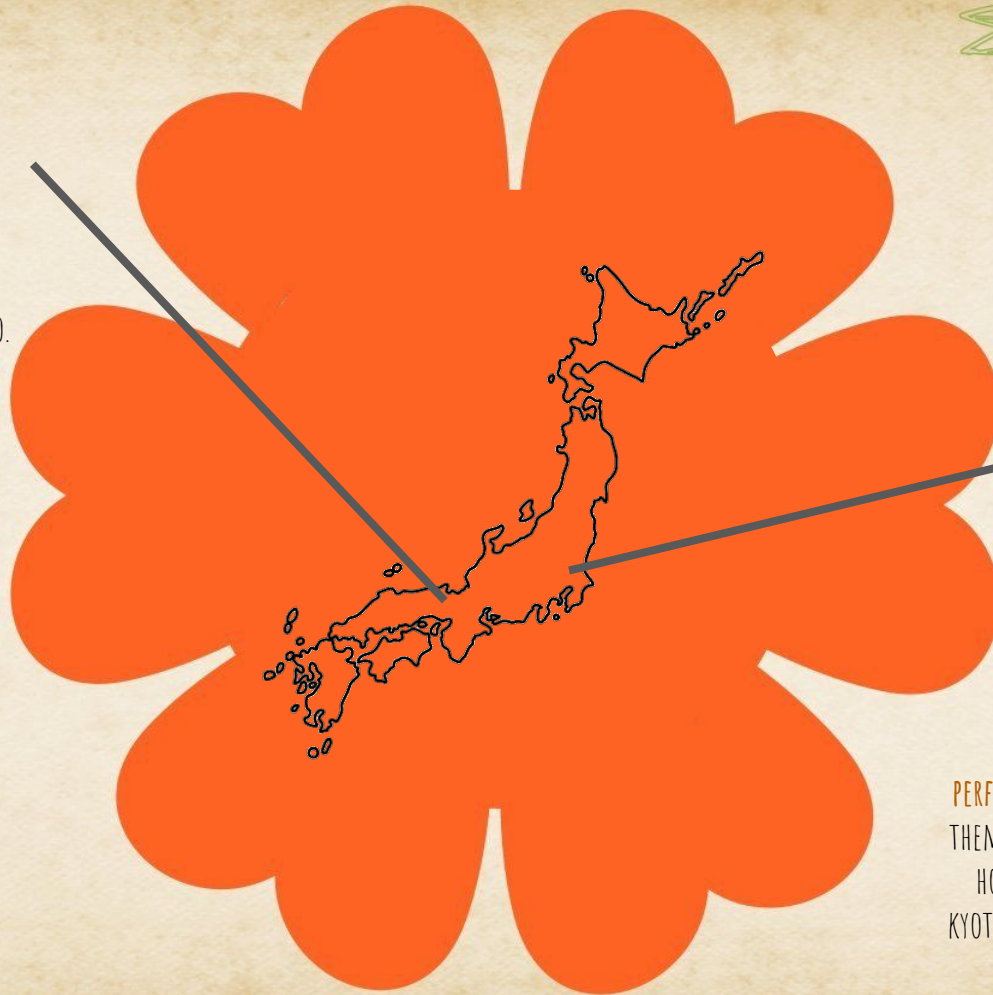
- LIVING IN A FLOATING WORLD, THEY LIVE APART FROM OTHERS AND LIVE A REMOTE LIFE.
  - GEISHA CULTURE CAN BE DESCRIBED AS **EXCLUSIVE**.
    - TAIKOMOCHI WERE FIRST, PERFORMING OUTSIDE OF FAMOUS COURTESAN LOCATIONS.
    - GEISHAS AROSE IN THE **EIGHTEENTH CENTURY**, PERFORMING IN DIFFERENT AREAS, BUT ONLY SEEN AS ELEGANT AND MYSTERIOUS.
    - THEY PERFORM AT TEAHOUSES AND PARTIES, AND THEIR CLIENTS CAN ALSO CONSIST OF TOURISTS.
  - GEISHA THEMSELVES MUST PASS ON THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND THE CULTURE TO MAIKO, WHO MUST ALSO MAKE CONNECTIONS IN THE HANAMACHI, OR GEISHA DISTRICT.
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## KYOTO

THERE ARE ABOUT 186 GEIKO AND 73 MAIKO.

HAS 5 DISTRICTS:

KAMISHICHIKEN, GION KOBU GION  
HIGASHI, MIYAGAWA-CHO, PONTO-CHO.



## TOKYO

HAS 6 DISTRICTS:

SHIMBASHI, ASAKUSA, YOSHICHO,  
KAGURAZAKA, AKASAKA, AND  
MUKOJIMA

TOURISTS CAN SEE GEISHA IN **TOURIST PERFORMANCES**, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO GO TO THEM. THEY USUALLY PERFORM AT **OCHAYAS** (TEA HOUSES) OR ANNUAL **DANCE FESTIVALS** IN KYOTO. TO GO TO AN OCHAYA, ONE MUST KNOW THE **OKAASAN** (OWNER).

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