

# Story 50

**AREA: Seto City (Aichi), Echizen Town (Fukui), Tokoname City (Aichi), Koka City (Shiga), Sasayama City (Hyogo), Bizen City (Okayama)**

**TITLE: Six Ancient Kilns: Japanese Ceramics Born and Raised in Japan**

## STORY:

Seto, Echizen, Tokoname, Shigaraki, Tanba, and Bizen are referred to as the Six Ancient Kilns of Japan. The development of these kilns and pottery techniques, some dating to the prehistoric Jomon period, have been preserved and represent an important contribution to the world of ceramics. In these towns, evocative remnants of large and small kilns still dot the hills surrounding the towns, while maze-like backstreets, artfully decorated with walls of ceramic shards and kiln tools, lead to numerous ceramic studios. Walking through the narrow alleyways, led on by the smoke rising from brick-walled chimneys is to rediscover the elegant simplicity of Japanese aesthetics and feel the traditions and history of these ancient kilns.

## Main Cultural Properties of the Story



Dokan Zaka: A Slope Lined with Broken Ceramic Pipes and Wine Bottles Shochu Jars (Tokoname City)



Cultural Landscape Scenery of the Home of Ceramics (Bizen City)



Kamagaki-no-Komichi: A path bordered by beautiful walls and fences inlaid with kiln tools arranged in a geometric pattern (Seto City)



Shigaraki Tanuki (raccoon dog) pottery (Koka City)

-Coil-Building Technique for Making a Large Clay Jar (Echizen Town)

-Tanba-yaki Kiln (Sasayama City)