

FINAL ITINERARY

Gardens and Temples of Japan

October 6 - October 23, 2003

October 6: Monday. Depart. Depart on your flight on United Airlines to Tokyo. Please check your luggage all the way through to Narita.

October 7: Tuesday. Tokyo. Arrive Tokyo and clear immigration and customs. Once in the arrivals hall locate the Japan Airlines Limo Bus counter. Please give them the voucher we have given you and in exchange, you will be given a ticket for the bus. You **MUST** exchange the voucher for a bus-ticket as the limo-bus cannot accept the vouchers. The limo bus will take you directly to the Imperial Hotel (please note that the bus may make one other stop right near the hotel). This ticket has been pre-paid and so you will not need to make any payment. Upon arrival check yourself in to the **Imperial Hotel** where a pre-paid reservation is being held in your name. The reservation has been made through Kintetsu Travel.

You will be given breakfast vouchers upon arrival and so make sure that you keep these in a safe place. Please note that these breakfast vouchers can be used in the Imperial Viking Restaurant which offers a buffet breakfast between 7.00am-9.30am, or the Les Saisons Restaurant which offers a set menu between 7.00-10.00am, or the Eureka Restaurant which offers a set menu between 6.00am-11.00am, or the Nadaman Restaurant which offers a Japanese breakfast between 7.00am-9.30am.

Balance of the day at leisure. **Meals aloft.**

October 8: Wednesday. Tokyo. Breakfast will be served from 7.00am onwards. Please meet in the lobby at 8.30am for introductions, and then a full day of sightseeing. It is at this time that you will meet Dr. Patricia Graham and your guide, Mari, who will be with you throughout the trip.

Walk through the beautiful Hamarikyū Gardens, to a dock where you will board a ferry. The ferry winds its way through old Tokyo, along the River Sumida. Arrive at Asakusa Pier and visit the Asakusa Kannon Temple, the spiritual center of Shitamachi. After a tempura lunch at Aoi Marushin, stroll through the narrow lanes of Yanaka and visit the home of a famous early 20th century sculptor Asakura Choso, now a beautiful museum, and Yanaka Cemetery.

Meet in the hotel lobby at 7.00pm for a welcome dinner on the top floor of one of the new skyscrapers at Shiodome. The name of the restaurant is Zipang Caretta Shiodome and it is located on the 47th floor of the Dentsu Building. It serves excellent Japanese food and offers wonderful views of Tokyo. **B,L,D.**

October 9: Thursday. Tokyo. This morning, please be ready to depart the hotel by taxi at 5.30am, for a visit to the famed Tsukiji Fish Market, where Tokyo's restaurants buy their fish at auction each morning. Return to the hotel for breakfast.

Take a walk to the Idemitsu Art Museum, which opens at 10am and is 5-10 minutes from the hotel. Travel by subway to the Tokyo National Museum—the Japanese equivalent of the Smithsonian.

After lunch (not included) at the Tokyo National Museum, take the JR train to Omote Sando for a walking tour of the Meiji Shrine and the fashionable Omote Sando shopping district.

Return to the hotel by subway in the afternoon.

Balance of the day at leisure. **B.**

Please note that your luggage will be picked up at the hotel tomorrow on October 10 at 8.00am and sent separately to Matsumoto, so that you will not have to carry it on the train on October 11. We suggest that you pack an overnight bag containing a change of clothes and other essentials for the night of October 10th. You will then take this overnight bag with you on the train on October 11th. Mari and the hotel staff will confirm the exact time that will need to collect your luggage on the morning of October 10 but it will be about 8.00am. Your main luggage will arrive in Matsumoto on October 11th.

October 10: Friday. Tokyo. Enjoy a full day excursion to Kamakura, a seaside town which, during the 12th and 13th centuries, was the capital of Japan's first military government, the Kamakura shogunate. Depart the hotel at 8.00am and walk to the Yurakucho train station right near the hotel (5 minute walk) and travel to Shinbashi station where you will connect with a train to Kamakura station.

Upon arrival there will be a walking tour of Tsurugaoka Hachiman-gu, one of Japan's most important Shinto shrines, originally founded in 1063. From here take taxis to our next stop, the House of Antiques, for a special meeting with architect, antiques dealer and pottery specialist Yoshihiro Takishita, whose traditional Japanese style home overlooks the city of Kamakura.

From here take a short walk to one of Japan's most celebrated and unusual small Shinto shrines, Zeni Arai Benten Shrine, where people go to wash their money and become rich. Then take taxis to the main shopping area of Kamakura for a lunch on your own. After lunch take a local train to view the Daibutsu or "The Great Buddha" at Kotoku-in temple and walk to Hase-dera temple, where the famous Kannon image is amongst the largest wooden images in Japan

Take the train back to Kamakura Station and then the "Green Car" train back to Tokyo. **B.**

(Please note that we have rescheduled the original lunch here for dinner in Kyoto on October 21)

October 11: Saturday. Matsumoto. Depart the hotel to walk (5 minutes) to the Yurakucho station for a 10.00am train to Shinjuku Station. Once here, board another train and arrive in Matsumoto at 12.30pm. Upon arrival in Matsumoto take a taxi to the hotel.

After settling in begin sightseeing on foot and enjoy a visit to the Matsumoto Castle. Stop at the Matsumoto Mingei Showroom, exhibiting folk art from the region. Stroll down Matsumoto's Nakamachi-dori, Main Street, and visit the many fine craft shops that sell furniture and other woodwork. The final stop for the day will be at the Hakari Shiriyokan, a museum of weights and measures located in a charming century-old house.

Enjoy a traditional Sukiyaki dinner at Yoneyoshi and overnight at the *Kagetsu Hotel*. **B,D.**

October 12: Sunday. Matsumoto Depart the hotel this morning at 7.30am by private coach for a full day excursion to the Kiso Valley where Edo-period houses still line the single main streets in

tight rows. Arrive in Magome at 9.30am and explore this old posting village. Continue by foot along the old Nakasendo Highway to Tsumago. (Please note that for those who prefer not to walk there will be a private bus available to drive from Magome to Tsumago). The whole group will continue by local bus to Narai, which is known for its production of woodcrafts.

Return to Matsumoto late afternoon. Rest of the day at leisure. **B.**

October 13: Monday. Takayama. Morning sightseeing, starting with the Ukiyoe Museum which houses 100,000 woodblock prints from the vast collection of the Sakai family. After an independent lunch in Matsumoto, drive by private coach to the Daio Wasabi Farm. Continue to Takayama. Driving past spectacular scenery and arrive in Takayama the evening. Check into the *Hanaogi Ryokan* and enjoy dinner at the ryokan this evening. **B,D.**

October 14: Tuesday. Takayama. Enjoy a full day walking tour of Takayama beginning at the morning market where women from surrounding villages come to sell their produce. Explore the Takayama Jinya, a group of whitewashed buildings once the official government seat of the Edo shogunate, and the Yatai Kaikan, a hall housing four of the festival carts for the Hachiman shrine festival.

After lunch on your own, travel by taxi to the Kyodo Kan Museum and the Senko-ji temple.

Return to the ryokan for dinner and overnight. **B,D.**

(Please note that we moved the lunch that was to be included today to October 17th)

October 15: Wednesday. Kanazawa. Enjoy a winding, beautiful drive by private bus from Takayama to Kanazawa, with a stop at Ogimachi village, a small picturesque village made up of over 100 hundred *gassho-zukuri*, or silk-making, farmhouses.

Lunch at Muginoya Restaurant.

Continue on by private bus, passing through several other villages. On arrival in Kanazawa, check-in to the *Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel*.

Enjoy an afternoon stroll through the old samurai quarter where the neighborhood still preserves the powerful earthen walls, twisting streets and canals of its former days.

Return to the hotel and enjoy dinner on your own. **B,L.**

Again, since you will be traveling by train to Kyoto on October 17th, your luggage will be shipped ahead so that you do not have to carry it on the train. Mari and the hotel staff will confirm the time they will need to collect your luggage but it will be early morning on October 16th. Once again, we suggest that you pack an overnight bag with what you will need for the night of October 16th.

October 16: Thursday. Kanazawa. Sightseeing today will include the outstanding Kenroku-en Garden and the Seisonkaku villa which was built in 1863 for the mother of the 13th Maeda lord. Tour the Prefectural Art Museum and Teramachi, the city's temple quarter, containing more than 70 temples and Ninja-dera (formerly called "Myoruji"), a temple famous for its labyrinthine interior and hidden passageways. **B.**

October 17: Friday. Kyoto. This morning leave the hotel by taxi for a 9.01am train to Kyoto. After a two-hour train ride, take taxis to the *Miyako Hotel*, where your luggage will arrive separately.

After lunch at the traditional kaiseki restaurant, Minokichi Honten spend the afternoon sightseeing by foot to the Fureaikan Museum of Traditional Kyoto Crafts and the Hosomi Art Museum.

Return to the hotel. Take taxis this evening and enjoy dinner at, Pascal Peignaud, a lovely French restaurant in a beautiful and magnificently restored old townhouse. **B,L,D.**

October 18: Saturday. Kyoto. Today's sightseeing will be by bus. Begin this morning with a visit to Ryoan-ji, with its famous Zen rock garden. Drive to Koryu-ji, one of Japan's oldest temples. Continue on to the Zen monastery of Daitoku-ji, in the northwestern part of the city.

After lunch, take a stroll through Kyoto's famous brocade-weaving district, Nishijin, with a stop at the Nishijin Textile Hall and Aizen Kobo, a weaving house specializing in the production of traditional indigo-dyed textiles.

Return to the hotel in the late afternoon and enjoy dinner on your own. **B,L.**

Because the trip to Koya-san is just an overnight trip we recommend bringing a small overnight bag to Koya-san. You may leave your luggage at the Miyako Hotel on the morning of October 19th where the concierge will take care of it and give it back to you on your return on October 20th.

October 19: Sunday. Koya-san. Depart the hotel this morning at 8.00am, for an 8.54am train, to begin your journey to Koya-san. There will be two changes of trains. (We decided to travel to Koya-san by train because the windy drive takes much longer and last year people got quite sick).

Upon arrival transfer to the Sekisho-in Monastery. Koya-san Mountain is an area of 120 temples, monasteries, schools and graves, is perched on the crest of venerable mountain peaks

After lunch at a local restaurant, visit Kongobu-ji Temple which is the chief temple of Shingon Buddhism. Continue on to the Okuno-in cemetery where some of Japan's most illustrious families are buried.

Attend a meditation service this afternoon At Sekisho-in Monastery.

Overnight tonight in very simple but clean and welcoming accommodations in *Sekisho-in Monastery*. Dinner will be traditional Japanese vegetarian. **B,L,D.**

(We have changed the monastery from the original program. We think you will be delighted with the change. All rooms at the Sekisho-in Monastery have private bathrooms)

October 20: Monday. Kyoto. For those who would like there will be an early morning (6.30am-7.00am) chanting ceremony at Sekisho-in Monastery.

After breakfast enjoy further sightseeing of Koya-San to include, Tokugawa Mausoleum and more of Kongobu-ji Temple. Also, visit the Treasure House and the Garan, where the main

worship halls of Koya-san are located. Before leaving Koya-san take a short walk in the woods in this beautiful, scenic area.

Lunch will be before boarding the train or a bento box lunch will be provided while on the train.

Arrive back in Kyoto early evening and transfer to the *Miyako Hotel*. **B,L**.

October 21: Tuesday. Kyoto. Today's sightseeing will be by bus and will begin with a visit to the Toji flea market. Continue on to the Miho Museum, designed by I.M. Pei and home to the remarkable Shumei Family Collection of traditional Japanese art and Asian and Western antiquities.

Enjoy lunch at the Miho Museum.

In the late afternoon, visit Tofukuji, one of Kyoto's five major Zen temples. Dr. Graham has very close ties with this temple, and has arranged for a special private tour, to meet with the esteemed Zen master, Fukushima. An elegant, Zen vegetarian dinner will also be served this evening in the temple.

B,L,D.

October 22: Wednesday. Kyoto. Start the day at the Philosopher's Path, where you will stroll to various temples, to include Ginkakuji, Eikando and Nanzenji.

After lunch on your own, watch the big Jidai Festival, which starts at noon or continue along the Philosopher's Path.

Balance of the day at leisure.

Enjoy a special Shabu-Shabu farewell dinner at Nanzenji Junsei. **B,D.**

October 23: Thursday. Depart this morning to Kansai International Airport for your flight back to the United States. **B.**

Please note that this itinerary is subject to change. The pleasant quality of seclusion in parts of Japan lends itself to more limited traveler amenities. Be prepared for schedule changes, unique facilities, simple accommodations and sometimes inefficient but pleasant service.

We do not anticipate any changes but flexibility is an important asset!

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Mr. and Mrs. Chavez

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After lunch on your own, watch the big Jidai Festival, which starts at noon or continue along the Philosopher's Path.

Balance of the day at leisure.

Enjoy a special Shabu-Shabu farewell dinner at Nanzenji Junsei. **B,D.**

October 23: Thursday. Take a 20 minute taxi ride to Kyoto station, where you will board the bullet train (Hikari 270) at 11.40am for Tokyo. Arrive in Tokyo Station 2.24pm and board a train (Nex 27) at 3.03pm for Narita Airport. Arrive at Narita Airport at 3.58PM where you will take a United Airlines flight to Hong Kong at 6.25pm.

Please note that Dr. Patricia Graham and Mari will assist you in doing this. It is an easy procedure and the best and most efficient way, as per Dr. Graham. Both she and Mari will arrange with the hotel to ship your luggage to Narita Airport, where it will be waiting for you at a designated pick-up point, across from the check-in counter.

The rest of the group will be departing this morning to Kansai International Airport for their flight back to the United States. **B.**

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