JAPAN

A TAILOR-MADE LEISURE PROPOSAL

Tokyo, Shizuoka, Mt. Koya, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Nara (12 Days/11 Nights)

Designed for Wassmuth Center

Created by Momo Koda on 9th May 2022
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PRE-PROGRAM ARRIVAL
Arrange for flight arrival to Tokyo Narita Airport on Sunday, October 22. After processing through customs and baggage claim, take the free shuttle transport to the ANA Crowne Plaza Narita Hotel.

*Not included in the program fee, a room at the ANA Crowne Plaza Narita Hotel can be reserved for $75 per person, double occupancy.*

The remainder of your day is at leisure.

Overnight at the ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel.

**Day 1: Monday 23 October, Program Begins**

After checking out, gather in the hotel lobby at noon to meet with your guide, Kei Nakano.

The day will include a light lunch, an afternoon activity in Tokyo, and a Welcome Dinner.

Overnight in Tokyo

**SERVICE INCLUDE:**

- Guiding: English speaking guide
- Transfers: Private coach

**Day 2: Tuesday 24 October, Tokyo**

Breakfast at hotel

Depart hotel for full day Tokyo city tour by private coach with your guide.
First you will be visiting at Tsukiji Outer Market which is a district adjacent to the site of the former Tsukiji Wholesale Market. It consists of a few blocks of wholesale and retail shops, as well as restaurants crowded along narrow lanes. Here you can find fresh and processed seafood and produce alongside food-related goods such as knives.

After visiting the market, continue to visit Asakusa, Tokyo’s old town where you can soak up the atmosphere of what Tokyo must have been like hundreds of years ago. Visit Sensoji, also known as Asakusa Kannon and Tokyo’s oldest temple. The Broadway leading up to the Temple is called Nakamise and this shopping street has been providing temple visitors with a variety of traditional, local snacks and souvenirs for centuries.

Lunch under own arrangement
After lunch, proceed to visit Meiji Shrine by private coach. The shrine dedicated to the deified spirit of Emperor Meiji and a popular place for traditional Japanese weddings.

Continue to head to Roppongi ward by private coach where you will visit the Roppongi Hills Observation Deck. The 238 meters tall Mori Tower is the centerpiece of the Roppongi Hills complex in Tokyo’s Roppongi district. The tower houses the entrance to the excellent Mori Art Museum and the elegant Tokyo City View observation deck. On a clear day, you can see Tokyo Tower, Tokyo Skytree and even as far as Mt. Fuji!
A private coach will take you back to your hotel.

End at hotel

Depart hotel for dinner on foot
Dinner at local restaurant

Overnight in Tokyo

SERVICE INCLUDE:
Guiding: English speaking guide
Transfers: Private coach
Entrances: Mentioned in bold letters
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (one glass of Wine or Beer included)

Day 3: Wednesday 25 October, Tokyo – Kamakura - Shizuoka (Mishima)

Breakfast and check-out at hotel.

09:00 Depart hotel for Mishima via Kamakura by private coach with your guide. (about 1.5hrs ride)
The seaside town of Kamakura has a rich history as it once was the political center of Japan after Shogun Minamoto relocated his newly established military government to Kamakura during the twelfth century
10:30 Arrive at the Great Buddha of Kamakura. This statue of Amida Buddha was cast in 1252 and was originally located inside a temple until a tidal wave destroyed the surrounding structure in 1495.

11:15 After visiting the great buddha proceed to visit Tsurugaoka Hachimangu. This shrine venerates Hachiman, the guardian of samurai, and is also considered the patron saint of the Minamoto clan. The towering Torii gates leading up to the shrine serve as a reminder visitors they are about to enter a sacred space.

Lunch under own arrangement.

13:00 Depart Kamakura for Mishima by private coach (2hrs ride)
Throughout the day you will have a chance to get a glimpse of Mt Fuji, however please keep in mind that she is a notoriously shy mountain and it needs to be a clear day.

15:00 After arriving to Mishima, you will be visiting Mishima Skywalk, Japan’s longest pedestrian suspension bridge. You will enjoy the unique and panoramic view on Mount Fuji, the Izu Mountains and Suruga Bay. *In case of bad weather, Mishima walk may be closed earlier.

17:30 End at hotel
Dinner at hotel or local restaurant.

Overnight in Tokyo

SERVICE INCLUDE:
Guiding: English speaking guide
Transfers: Private coach
Entrances & Activities: Mentioned in bold letters
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (one glass of Wine or Beer included)

Day 4: Thursday 26 October, Shizuoka (Mishima)

Breakfast at hotel.

09:00 Depart hotel for tea leaf picking.
10:00 Arrive at Tea farm and factory. This is not a tourist facilities, it’s a real farm and you will pick tea leaf and learn how to make tea with farmers.
11:30 After visiting the farm, depart to Nihondaira

13:00 Lunch at restaurant
14:00 After lunch, you will head to Nihondaira. A plateau with a maximum altitude of 308 meters, Nihondaira is famous for its view of Mt. Fuji, the Izu Peninsula, the Japanese Southern Alps, Shimizu Port, and Suruga Bay. It was selected as one of the top 100 Landscapes of Japan in 1927.

Then, depart to Nihondaira Ropeway. The ropeway connects Nihondaira to Kunosan Toshogu Shrine which is dedicated to the famous leader Tokugawa Ieyasu. Outside the
shrine stands the **Museum of Kunosan Toshogu** which exhibits some of Ieyasu's personal belongings and shrine treasures, such as swords, armors, clothing and hanging scrolls, you will visit that also.

16:30 Transfer back to hotel
17:30 End at hotel

Dinner at hotel or local restaurant.

Overnight in Mishima

**SERVICE INCLUDE:**

**Guiding:** English speaking guide  
**Transfers:** Private coach  
**Entrances & Activities:** Mentioned in bold letters  
**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner (one glass of Wine or Beer included)

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**Day 5: Friday 27 October, Shizuoka (Mishima) – Mt. Koya**

**Luggage will be transferred to the hotel in Hiroshima separately**

*Please prepare an overnight bag for 1 night in Koya and 1 night in Miyajima*

Breakfast at hotel and check-out

Transfer to Mishima station on foot and taking a bullet train to Shin-Osaka station.  
Taking a bullet train to Shin-Osaka station (2hrs ride)  
Lunch box is provided in the train.

After arriving at Shin-Osaka station, your private coach will take you to Mt. Koya (2hrs ride)  
Home to over 100 temples, Koya-san has been the center of Shingon Buddhism, an important Buddhist sect, for over 1200 years. Koya-san and its surrounds is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Arrive at Mt. Koya and check in.

You will be joining 1hr meditation at temple in the afternoon (available time between 13:00-16:00)

Tonight you will be staying at a shukubo, Buddhist temple lodging. Dinner tonight is shojin ryori, traditional Buddhist cuisine.  
This vegetarian meal is not only healthy but delicious!

After dinner, you will walk to **Okunoin** (If you stay at Sekisyo-in, it will be 5 to 10min walk), it is Japan's largest cemetery and holds the mausoleum of the founder of Shingon Buddhism, Kobo Daishi. The 2km walk to the mausoleum takes you past 200,000 tombstones, belonging to feudal lords, prominent monks and well known Japanese companies.

Overnight in Mt. Koya, Monastery

**SERVICE INCLUDE:**
Day 6: Saturday 28 October, Mt. Koya – Hiroshima - Miyajima

Breakfast and check out at monastery.

First your private coach and guide will take you to **Kongobunji Temple**, the head monastery of Shingon Buddhism, and home to Japan’s largest rock garden, as well as the Garan temple complex.

Then, transfer to Shin-Osaka station by private coach (about 1.5hrs) and board a bullet train bound for Hiroshima (1.5 hours)

Lunch under own arranegment.

Upon arriving at Hiroshima station, departure to Miyajima sightseeing by public transportation. You will be taken local train to Miyajimaguchi, where we will board a ferry to **Miyajima Island**. Miyajima is small sacred island located in the Inland Sea. It has been a holy place of Shintoism since the earliest times.

Leave your luggage at Ryokan and depart for Miyajima sightseeing, you will find perhaps the most photographed site in Japan; **The Floating Torii Gate** which has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site is considered one of Japan’s '3 Most Beautiful Views'. *The floating torii gate is under construction from June 2019. The view of the torii gate will be limited due to scaffolding that is expected to cover the gate during this period. The shrine aims to complete all works by TBA.*

Free until dinner.

Dinner at Ryokan

Overnight in Miyajima

**SERVICE INCLUDE:**

**Transfers:** Private coach  
Bullet train (Shin-Osaka - Hiroshima/Ordinary class)  
Local train (Hiroshima – Miyajimaguchi)  
Ferry (To Miyajima)

**Guiding:** English speaking guide

**Entrances & Activities:** Mentioned in bold letters

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner (one glass of Wine or Beer included)
Day 7: Sunday 29 October, Hiroshima – Miyajima

Breakfast at Ryokan and check out

Taking a Ferry back to Miyajima Guchi and after arriving to Miyajima Guchi port a private coach will be waiting to take you to the Peace Memorial Park. Located in the center of the city, Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park takes up over 120,000 square meters and is dedicated to the legacy of Hiroshima as the first city in history to suffer a nuclear attack. Before the atomic bomb, the area where the Peace Park now stands used to be the political and commercial heart of the city, and for this reason it was chosen as the pilot's target during World War II. It was decided that the area was not to be redeveloped, but instead devoted to peace memorial facilities.

The park's main attraction is the Peace Memorial Museum. The museum covers the history of Hiroshima and the advent of the nuclear bomb. It provides visitors an opportunity to hear eyewitness testimonies and learn about the devastating effects the A-bomb had on the city of Hiroshima and its people and a survivor from the bomb will talk you a story at a lecture room. (About 1hr)

A private coach will take you to your hotel and check in.

18:00 Depart hotel for dinner restaurant with guide
   Today, you are going to cook Hiroshima Local food, called Okonomiyaki.
   One drink included.
18:30 Arrive at local restaurant and make your own Okonomiyaki
20:30 Transfer back to hotel.

Overnight in Hiroshima

SERVICE INCLUDE:
Guiding: English speaking guide
Transfers: Private coach
Ferry (From Miyajima)
Entrances & Activities: Mentioned in bold letters
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (one glass of Wine or Beer included)

Day 8: Monday 30 October, Hiroshima – Kyoto

**Luggage will be transferred to the hotel in Kyoto separately**
*Please prepare an overnight bag for 1 night in Kyoto*

Breakfast and check out.

Depart to Hiroshima station with your guide.
After arriving at Hiroshima station, you will board a high-speed bullet train bound for the city of Kyoto (1.5 hours)

After arriving at Kyoto station, depart to visit at **Nishiki Market** is a narrow, five block long shopping street lined by more than one hundred shops and restaurants. Known as "Kyoto's Kitchen", this lively retail market specializes in all things food related, like fresh seafood, produce, knives and cookware, and is a great place to find seasonal foods and Kyoto specialties, such as Japanese sweets, pickles, dried seafood and sushi.

Lunch at local restaurant.

After lunch, proceed to **Nijo Castle**, an ornamental castle that was built by the founder of the Edo Shogunate as his Kyoto residence and is surrounded by stunning surrounding gardens. The main building was completed in 1603, and is famous for its architecture, decorated sliding doors and 'chirping' nightingale floors.

End at hotel and check in

Overnight in Kyoto

**SERVICE INCLUDE:**

**Guiding:** English speaking guide  
**Transfers:** Private coach  
Bullet train (Hiroshima-Kyoto /Ordinary class)  
**Entrances & Activities:** Mentioned in bold letters  
**Meals:** Breakfast and lunch  
**Luggage:** Hiroshima – Kyoto (1 luggage per person)

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**Day 9: Tuesday 31 October, Kyoto**

Breakfast at hotel

After breakfast, meet with your guide at the hotel for a departure to Kinkakuji by private coach.

**Kinkakuji**, also known as the **Golden Pavilion**, was originally built as a retirement villa for the Shogun. After the death of Shogun Yoshimitsu, it became a Buddhist Temple at his request. It is now one of Kyoto's most famous temples, with its top two floors completely covered in gold-leaf.

From Kinkakuji, a private coach will take you to the nearby town of Arashiyama.

First stop in Arashiyama is **Tenryuji temple**. Ranked among Kyoto's five great Zen temples Tenryuji is the largest and most impressive temple in Arashiyama. Founded in 1339 at the start of the Muromachi Period, the temple is now considered important cultural property and ranked by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. In addition to its temple buildings, there are beautiful gardens with walking paths. On the way to **Nonomiya shrine** your path...
will lead you through Arashiyama’s famous **bamboo groves**, which are unlike any other place in Japan. The bamboo has been used to manufacture various products, such as baskets, cups, boxes and mats at local workshops for centuries. Nonomiya shrine is a Shinto shrine where in ancient times, unmarried imperial princesses stayed for a year or more to purify themselves. The shrine is referenced in numerous works of literature, most notably in the world’s first novel; The Tale of Genji.

Lunch under own arrangement

After visiting Arashiyama a private coach will take you to a temple for **Tea Ceremony**, a tea master will demonstrate how to prepare for a tea ceremony, how to conduct as a host and of course how to make a bowl of green tea.

End at hotel

Depart for dinner restaurant on foot
Dinner at local restaurant

**OVERNIGHT IN KYOTO**

**SERVICE INCLUDE:**

- **Guiding:** English speaking guide
- **Transfers:** Private coach
- **Entrances & Activities:** Mentioned in bold letters
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner (one glass of Wine or Beer included)

**Day 10: Wednesday 1 November, Kyoto – Nara – Kyoto**

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast meet with your guide in the hotel lobby for a departure to **Fushimi Inari Shrine**. Featured in the movie “Memoirs of a Geisha”, this shrine is known for its thousands of red torii gates leading up and through the sacred forest of Mount Inari and has been voted number one must see spot in Kyoto by visitors.

Then proceed tour to the town of Nara by private coach. During the eighth century Nara was Japan’s capital for 74 years and many of the temples and shrines built at that time still stand today. Visit **Todaiji temple**, one of the world’s largest wooden structures and home to Japan’s largest Buddha. The park surrounding the temple is called Nara Park, but is referred to by many as “Deer Park” due to the large population of more than one thousand tame deer who freely roam the streets and will bow their heads in exchange for a treat.

Next stop is Nara’s most celebrated shrine, **Kasuga Taisha**. Established in 768 AD the shrine is dedicated to the deity tasked with the protection of the city and is famous for its hundreds of bronze and stone lanterns which have been donated by worshipers over the years.

Lunch under own arrangement.
From Nara, a private coach will take you to the Fushimi ward in Kyoto, where we will visit the **Gekkeikan Sake Museum**. During a tour of the museum you will learn about the traditional brewing process, and then sample the different types of their sake.

Departure Fushimi ward to hotel by private coach

End at hotel

Depart for dinner restaurant on foot
Dinner at local restaurant

Overnight in Kyoto

**SERVICE INCLUDE:**

**Guiding:** English speaking guide  
**Transfers:** Private coach  
**Entrances:** Mentioned in bold letters  
**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner (one glass of Wine or Beer included)

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**Day 11: Thursday 2 November, Kyoto**

Breakfast at hotel.

09:00 This morning experience the quintessential Japanese enlightenment experience – Zazen (Zen meditation). Your guide will meet you in the morning and take you to a Zen temple, where you can learn the basics of the same sitting meditation that led the Buddha to Enlightenment: folded legs, erect posture, half-closed eyes and a focus on measured breathing that leads to awareness of the way the mind works. (about 1hr meditation)

10:30 After Zen meditation, a private coach will take you to North part of Higashiyama District. You will be visiting 2 sits in this area. (Group will divide in 2 if the number of pax is over 15 pax)

  Robert is the host of his gallery and he gives lectures about Japanese ceramics.

- **The Philosophsers Path and Ginkakuji Temple**
  Walk through the path follows a canal with guide. It lined by hundreds of cherry trees. Usually in early April these trees explode with color, making this one of the city’s most popular cherry blossom viewing spots. Then proceed to Ginkakuji Temple, Zen temple. Shogun Ashikaga built his retirement villa on the grounds of today’s temple, modeling it after Kinkakuji (Golden temple)

  Lunch under own arrangement

14:00 Afternoon, depart hotel for **Japanese Drum lesson** by private coach. (duration about 1hr)
Playing Taiko (Japanese drum) is good for both your body and the mind! This is 1 hour-long group taiko drumming class for tourists from all over the world. You will learn the basic taiko technique, simple traditional song, as well as some history and structure of taiko.

15:30 After playing Drum, we will continue our walking tour and head towards the Gion district, Kyoto’s most famous geisha district; filled with shops, restaurants and teahouses, where geiko and maiko entertain.

18:30 Farewell Dinner at Japanese restaurant. We will arrange 1hr Geisha for during the dinner. Geisha entertain traditional Japanese dance and guests can take photos with geisha.
20:30 Transfer back to hotel

End at hotel.

Overnight in Kyoto

SERVICE INCLUDE:
Guiding: English speaking guide
Transfers: Private coach
Entrances & Activities: Mentioned in bold letters
Meals: Breakfast and Dinner with geisha with free flow drinks

Day 12: Friday 3 November, Kyoto departure

Breakfast at hotel and check-out

Free until your departure time.

Meet with your guide in the hotel lobby for a transfer to Kansai International Airport by private coach. (90 minutes)

Depart Kansai Airport by XXX

SERVICE INCLUDE:
Transfers: Private coach
Guiding: English speaking guide.

~ END OF SERVICE ~

ACCOMMODATION

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<td>Shiba Park Hotel Tokyo or Similar</td>
<td>Standard room (21 sqm)</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shizoka (Mishima)</td>
<td>Fujisan Mishima Tokyu Hotel or Similar</td>
<td>Superior room (26.5 sqm)</td>
<td>Standard/ Superior</td>
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<td>Location</td>
<td>Hotel Name/Type</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt. Koya</td>
<td>Sekisyoin or Similar</td>
<td>Japanese room with Futon bed</td>
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<td>Miyajima</td>
<td>Seaside Hotel</td>
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<td>Hiroshima</td>
<td>Granvia Hiroshima or Similar</td>
<td>Standard room (18 sqm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyoto</td>
<td>Hotel Okura Kyoto or Similar</td>
<td>Standard room (37 sqm)</td>
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**Program Deposit (tax-deductible contribution to the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights):** $750

*Registration form and deposit due by March 15, 2023.*

**Limited to 24 Participants**

**Program Fee: $4,225 (double-occupancy)**

*Program Fee Does Not Include:*
- International and domestic airfares
- Pre-Program arrival stay at the ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel
- Meals other than specified as included
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (minibar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Drinks or personal expenses or entrance fees for any extra sightseeing or optional activities

*All that is not specifically described in the text is not included*

**Single Supplement: $1,030**

**REGISTRATION**

Name as it is on your passport: ___________________________________________________________

Passport number __________________________ Expiration __________________

Date of birth _______________________________________________________________________

Preferred mailing address: ______________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Phone number (_________________________ Email __________________

Rooming: _____ Single ($1,030 addtl) _____ Double with ________________________________

*Travel Insurance: Trip Cancellation Insurance is highly recommended. To cover pre-existing conditions, the insurance must be purchased within 14 days from the first program payment date (May 1, 2023), not 14 days from the registration fee.

[https://www.allianztravelinsurance.com](https://www.allianztravelinsurance.com)

COVID-19 is causing constant and ongoing changes in the application of the above types of measures and the way an airline, airport or country chooses to deal with the threat of COVID is constantly changing.

We will be monitoring the condition on the ground right up until departure.

Emergency Contact Name ___________________________________________________________________
Phone Number (                 ) ________________________________

For more information or to register, contact dan@wassmuthcenter.org.

RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE WASSMUTH CENTER
775 W FULTON ST, BOISE, ID 83702

$750 REGISTRATION FEE DUE WITH THE COMPLETED FORM