

Draft itinerary for Sotheby's Institute of Art field trip to Japan (1-13 March 2010)

Length: 11 nights/12 days (in Japan)

Day Activity Overnight Meals

- 1 Fly UK –Tokyo In-flight
- 2 Arrive Tokyo, check-in to hotel Tokyo (hotel) D
- 3 Tokyo visit Tokyo (hotel) B, D
- 4 Tokyo visit Tokyo (hotel) B
- 5 Nikko Nikko (hotel) B, D
- 6 Train to Kyoto Kyoto (hotel) B, D
- 7 Kyoto visit Kyoto (hotel) B
- 8 Kyoto visit Kyoto (hotel) B
- 9 Nara visit Nara (hotel) B, D
- 10 Horyuji, then on to Osaka, visit ceramics museum Osaka (hotel) B
- 11 Himeji visit Osaka (hotel) B, D
- 12 Depart Osaka-Kansai Airport for UK n/a B

Included in the tour cost

- Accommodation in hotels (3* business type hotels)
- Meals are included as marked at the bottom of each day's itinerary (10 breakfast and 6 dinners)
- All transportation between tour locations is included. This is by train, charter bus; please see each day's itinerary notes.
- Entrance to museums, temples, etc. as indicated on the itinerary
- Baggage will be sent ahead on two occasions, please see the baggage notes below

Not included in the tour cost

- Drinks with meals, snacks and miscellaneous items
- The meals not covered in the meals listed above will have to be paid for separately by guests
- Entrance fees to museums, temples etc. not included on the itinerary

Baggage notes

On Day 5 baggage will be sent from Tokyo to Kyoto, so you will need a small bag with overnight items for the night in

Nikko: Baggage (one bag or suitcase per passenger) will also be sent from Kyoto to Osaka on Day 9, and again you will be without your main luggage for one night.

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1: March 1st (Monday) Fly UK - Tokyo

Depart UK on the flight to Tokyo

Day 2: March 2nd (Tuesday) Arrive in Tokyo

You will be met by your guide at the airport, and will transfer by private chartered bus to your hotel.

There will be free time and you will meet again at 7pm in the hotel lobby, and walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel (3*)

Day 3: March 3rd (Wednesday) Tokyo

Our first full day in Japan will be spent visiting the Tokyo National Museum and Nezu Museum, using the public transport system. There will be an optional walking/sightseeing outing in the Yanaka area afterwards, if there is time. This would involve around 2-3 hours of walking, and you would see some lovely areas of the old *shitamachi* (low city) area of Tokyo. The group will meet in the hotel lobby before walking to a nearby restaurant for dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, dinner

Accommodation: Hotel (3*)

Day 4: March 4th (Thursday) Tokyo

There will be a free day to explore Tokyo today, with a possible visit to meet Kazumi Murose (tbc). Transport to this visit will be by public transport.

There will be free afterwards, and we will be happy to give suggestions. Transport around Tokyo is not included however most journeys cost around £1-1.50.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel (3*)

Day 5: March 5th (Friday) Nikko

We will leave Tokyo for a 2-hour journey to Nikko. The forests and mountains of Nikko have been sacred to the Japanese for 1,200 years, and it was here that in 1617 the Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu had himself enshrined at Toshogu. These extravagantly ornate buildings are now on the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites and we will take a guided walking tour of the main shrine buildings, including Toshogu, Rinno-ji and Taiyuin-byo shrines. There will be free time afterwards.

Note: A certain amount of walking is involved, with the taking off and putting on of shoes.

Meals: Breakfast & dinner

Accommodation: Hotel (3*)

Day 6: March 6th (Saturday) Train to Kyoto

We travel south and west from Nikko, changing trains in Tokyo, to Kyoto (about 5 hours total travelling time). Speeding west of Tokyo, you may catch a glimpse of Mount Fuji if the weather is good.

In Kyoto, we visit the Kyoto National Museum and the Sanjusangen-do, before walking to a local restaurant for dinner. Transport will be by chartered bus to the museums, and the group will walk back to the hotel near Kyoto station (about 1.4km). Taxis will cost about £6 for 3 people.

Meals: Breakfast & dinner

Accommodation: Hotel (3*)

Day 7: March 7th (Sunday) Kyoto

Today there will be a visit to Kiyomizu-dera, Nijo castle by chartered bus, the afternoon will be free.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel (3*)

Day 8: March 8th (Monday) Kyoto

Today there will be a visit to Kinkakuji temple and Ryoanji temple (restoration work being undertaken on both. There is construction noise and an obstructed view at Ryoan-ji). We will try to arrange a visit to a Living National Treasure - Shosai Kitamura - and/ or his son. There will be free time afterwards. Transport will be by chartered bus.

Dinner today is not included, however the guide will be happy to organize a group dinner, or everyone may choose their own places to eat.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel (3*)

Day 9: March 9th (Tuesday) Nara

We will send our luggage ahead to Osaka today, so please keep a small daypack with you for one night. We travel to Nara by train (45 minutes) to Nara, and walk the short distance to Todai-ji temple. There will also be a short walk in the old town of Nara or Nara Deer Park.

There will be some free time before we have dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast & dinner

Accommodation: Hotel (3*)

Day 10: March 10th (Wednesday) Osaka

We will travel by chartered bus today to Horyuji, to visit the temple, the oldest wooden structure in the world. Afterwards, there will be time for lunch at nearby cafes, and then we will continue on to Osaka, where we will visit the ceramics museum. After checking-in to our hotel there will be free time before dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel (3*)

Day 11: March 11th (Thursday) Train to Himeji (to be confirmed)

There is the option of a day trip to Himeji, about one hour west of Osaka, by train. Himeji castle is currently undergoing renovation works, so another visit may be organized.

Meals: Breakfast & dinner

Accommodation: Hotel (3*)

Day 12: March 12th (Friday) Trip ends

Today you will travel to Osaka Kansai Airport by chartered bus today to catch your flight home. Arrival back in London on 12th or 13th, depending on time of flight.

Meals: Breakfast

Cost:

£2,990 per person (single room supplement £350 extra)

Cost of trip less international flights: **£2,490** per person

For further information please contact

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