



Japan seen through its crafts, gardens and temples

1st to 16th November 2018
plus pre-tour
31st October to 1st November

Autumn in Japan

Autumn may be Japan's most spectacular season, with the maple trees turning. With this gorgeous range of colours around us we aim to see something of Japan's very rich heritage of living crafts, gardens and temples whilst keeping somewhat to the north of the main touristic route (which runs parallel to the southern coast). We will rely on the excellent Japanese railway system to criss-cross the country. Heading north from Nagoya, well known for its tie-dye technique (shiboribi), our itinerary takes us to the coast of the Sea of Japan. Our journey will bring us to Sado Island, famous amongst other things for drumming. Later we will cross much of the breadth of mainland Japan, taking the train through Niigata Prefecture and Fukushima Prefecture before we head south towards the ceramic workshops of Mashiko, famous as the place where Bernard Leach worked with Shoji Hamada. Our route ends in Tokyo where there are return flights to the UK. We plan to stay on Sado island and in Mashiko in ryokans, traditional Japanese inns often associated with hot springs: sleeping is on futons laid over tatami mats on the floor. Elsewhere our accommodation might be described as 'hybrid' with a blend of western and Japanese elements. The tour is led by Rufus Reade.



*Cherry blossom viewing month. Kiyonaga Torii, 1785-1789:
Library of Congress.*

PROOF

Flights are not included in the price of this holiday and may be booked separately. Options include flights from London or from Edinburgh with Finnair into Nagoya and returning from Tokyo. The airline schedules for autumn 2018 won't be published until December 2017. Based on current timetables it may be possible to arrive a day before the tour begins from London in order to recover from jet lag. In this pre-tour period there will be no activities planned but it will be possible to have shared meals and walks. Ian Dickson Travel in Edinburgh can book your flights: contact them on 0131 556 6777.

JOURNEY DETAILS

Location: Japan
Dates: 1 to 16th November.
2018

Duration: 15 nights
Max: 15 travellers
Price: £XXXX
Single room supplement:
£XXX

Deposit: £XXX
Tour Code: RR 04/18

What's included: Accommodation in comfortable hotels and ryokans (approx equivalent to 3 star, all rooms with attached facilities), all meals, all land transport by rail and road as described in the itinerary, entry to all the sites mentioned, and all tips.

What's not included: your international flights, personal travel insurance, drinks, laundry, phonecalls, and all beverages.

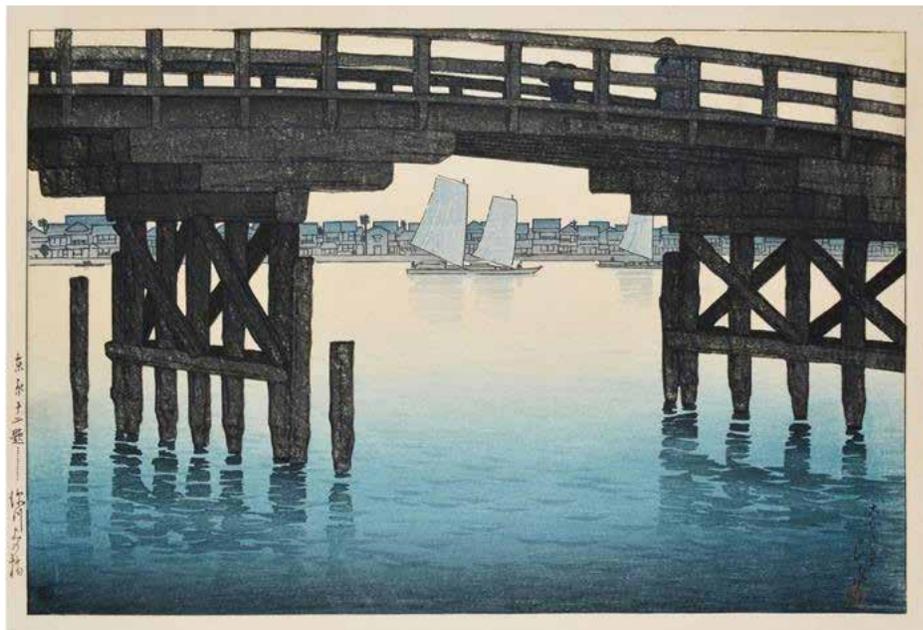
Tour Leader: the tour is escorted by Rufus Reade.

Walking: All walks rated easy to moderate.

The tour is organised by Rufus Reade Tours, 40 Pilrig Street, Edinburgh EH6 5AL
rufusreade@blueyonder.co.uk
Tel 0131 554 1078

Flights: There are UK flights from the UK into Nagoya, and out of Tokyo. These flights will probably be announced 11 months before our proposed return date. Ian Dickson Travel, Edinburgh (Tel: 0131 556 6777) can book your flights, though we would suggest that you don't book until the tour is confirmed.

Pre-tour: In light of the long flight from the UK to Japan, and the time difference of 9 hours you might appreciate arriving before the tour starts in order to adjust. Rufus Reade proposes flying out early. During this pre-tour period there will be no formal 'tour' arrangements but shared walks and meals are suggested.



Kaminohashi at Fukagawa, 1920: Library of Congress

Pre-tour arrangements

Wednesday 31st October: Pre tour departure from London via Helsinki to Nagoya.

Thursday 1st November: morning arrival into Nagoya: transfer to New Grand Hotel - Okazaki. Remainder of the day free.

Main Tour

Thursday 1st November: Flights from Edinburgh and London Heathrow, via Helsinki to Nagoya

Friday 2nd November: Morning arrival into Nagoya, transfer to the accommodation in New Grand Hotel Okazaki and free day.

Saturday and Sunday 3rd & 4th November: Stay 3 nights in the area to take it easy after the long-haul and to see Arimatsu (dyeing), Seto and Tokoname (pottery), Aichi Prefectural Ceramics Museum, Okazaki Castle and Miso production, Korankei on the edge of Toyota which has good autumn colours and a craft village. Gifu City also has an organization that organizes hands-on cultural activities (subject to a suitable date).

Monday and Tuesday 5th & 6th

November: By train (2.5 to 3 hours) to Takayama, with its old merchant houses, museums and its temples in San-machi Suji, a small quarter of the town, best seen later in the day. We'll visit the Hida Folk Village, where as well as wandering freely amongst the traditional houses, we can see traditional craft workers employing their skills (including lacquering and wood-carving). There is a daily market (the largest in Japan) in Takayama which might justify rising early to see: it is divided into two parts - one is a traditional fruit and vegetable market and the other features local handicrafts. Our hotel is the Hida Hotel Plaza.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 7th, 8th & 9th November: Continue by train (1.5 hours) to Toyama, along a very scenic route. Staying in

Toyama will give us an opportunity to visit the historic samurai areas, Kenrokuen garden in Kanazawa (regarded as the best garden in Japan) and gold-leaf crafts, as well as the Kutani-yaki pottery. The Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design promises to be an exciting visit. There should be an opportunity to visit the large fish market in Kanazawa. Hopefully our Friday schedule will give us the opportunity to travel on the Kanazawa-Noto train (Hanayome Noren as it is called means 'Bride Curtain' after the custom of giving a bride a 'noren', a brightly coloured curtain) with an attractive and comfortable Japonesque interior. We will stay in the Excel Hotel Tokyo.

Saturday and Sunday 10th & 11th November: Travel by Shinkansen (Bullet train) or limited express train (2.5 to 3 hours) to Niigata in order to cross over to Sado Island by ferry (1-2.5 hrs), which is celebrated for its Taiko Drummers, as well as for the local crafts relating to bamboo and Mumyoiyaki ceramics. Two nights on Sado Island staying at Onsen Hotel Osado.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 12th, 13th & 14th November: Travel by a stopping train (2 hours) from Niigata to Aizu-Wakamatsu. A chance to see its castle before continuing (another 2 hours via Koriyama) to Utsunomiya (where our hotel is Richmond Hotel) for 3 nights to see Nikko, go to Mashiko

*Teahouse at Koishikawa,
Hokusai Katsushika:
Library of Congress.*

(to stay at Mashikokan Satoyama Resort Hotel).

Thursday 14th November: One day in Tokyo with an opportunity to visit the Edo Tokyo Museum.

Friday 15th November: Departure to Narita by coach. Final night near airport.

Saturday 16th November: International flights to Nagasaki UK via Munich (Lufthansa) or Helsinki (Finnair).

PROOF



Our route shown as a thin black line on this map of Japan.

