



Fall 2010 Kyoto and Kanazawa tour - Limited to 14 people

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Day 0 - Day 1: Depart USA. Yokoso! Welcome to Japan! The tour begins at Kansai International Airport (KIX). We will be meeting in the morning of Day 1. Please book your flight accordingly.

You will arrive Japan one day after departing the US. Many guests choose to arrive one day earlier to rest at a hotel near the airport prior to meeting in the following morning. The tour begins at KIX airport in Osaka and ends at Komatsu airport and/or Kanazawa JR station. Many people travel to Tokyo from Komatsu airport. **Please make sure that Komatsu - Tokyo flight on the last day is no earlier than 11 am.**



We will take a train to **Kyoto** from KIX airport in the morning. Kyoto was Japan's capitol and the Emperor's residence from 794 until 1868. It is now the country's seventh largest city with a population of 1.4 million people. Even today, Kyoto is Japan's traditional heart. With more than 1,600 temples and shrines, Kyoto is a favorite of Japanese and foreign guests alike.

After checking into our hotel, we will walk to the Nishiki Food Market. Considered to be "the Kitchen of Kyoto," Nishiki Food Market has hundreds of shops selling fresh and prepared foods, including many of Kyoto's specialities. After enjoying lunch at Nishiki Food Market, you will have a few hours of free time to further discover Kyoto. We will get together for our first dinner together.



We will have regional and home-made meals at a local Izakaya restaurant. **Izakaya** serves many small plates of food to accompany the drinks so that we get to try many varieties of Japanese dishes.

Meals: L, D
Walking: Light to Moderate

Lodging: Hotel in Kyoto



Day 2

We will have all day in **Kyoto**. We will enjoy a half day of escorted sightseeing with a local guide and a few hours of free time. We will be visiting Kinkaku-ji, the Temple of the Golden Pavilion and Ryuanji Zen temple, which is famous for its tranquil rock garden. These two temples are also UNESCO World Heritage sites. We will visit a noodle shop for lunch.

We will have a few hours of free time for you to explore a temple of your choice. That evening, you are free to explore Kyoto's diverse Japanese dining options.



Meals: B, L
Walking: Light to Moderate

Lodging: Hotel in Kyoto

Day 3

Breakfast will be buffet-style, with both Japanese and Western options. After checking out of our hotel, we will depart for Yamanaka-onsen in our private coach. We are staying at a beautiful hot-springs town. Yama-naka literally means "middle of the mountains." After lunch, we will walk a path along the river (~1 mile). During your afternoon free time, we suggest walking into Yama-naka proper to visit the town's beautiful and tranquil shrines and temples.

Dinner: We will return to our Ryokan for an exquisite Kaiseki meal. **Kaiseki Ryori** is regarded as Japan's most highest culinary refinement and a speciality of this region. Unlike western meals, kaiseki ryori has no main dish. Instead, each small course is artfully arranged on tableware chosen according to the season.



Meals: B, L, D
Walking: Light to Moderate

Lodging: Japanese traditional inn

Day 4

Breakfast will be buffet-style, with both Japanese and Western options. After breakfast, we will visit Natadera Temple where your host and trip leader, Norie, grew up. You will meet Natadera's head monk, Keisen (Norie's father), who will escort you through Natadera's spectacular temple and beautiful gardens. Tea and snacks will be served in Natadera's guest lounge and we've reserved plenty of time for you to explore the temple on your own.

Lunch: Bento box or noodle dish in Natadera's guest lounge.





Later, Norie's mother, Mayumi, will conduct a private tea ceremony for Undiscovered Japan guests. The tea ceremony is one of Japan's quintessential esthetic expressions. It is a comprehensive art, encompassing not just the serving and drinking of tea, but the protocol of tea preparation, tea implements, and the decoration of the tea room with objects of beauty.

We then travel by private coach through lush forest to Ikumo Mountain Retreat for dinner. Located atop a nearby mountain, Ikumo utilizes a green, sustainable design, including solar power and drinking water from a nearby natural spring. At Ikumo, we'll enjoy **Shojin Ryori**, the Buddhist vegetarian meal.



With clear skies at Ikumo, we'll enjoy a sunset view of Mt. Hakusan, one of Japan's four sacred mountains, and also have time for a stroll before dinner or to just relax and enjoy the retreat.

Dinner: **Shojin Ryori**, Buddhist vegetarian meal. Made with vegetables, beans and grains, Shojin Ryori cuisine reflects the traditional Buddhist prohibition on meat and fish. Buddhist monks developed Shojin cuisine using limited ingredients and it has evolved today to a sublime gourmet experience, both sophisticated and healthy.

Meals: B, L, D

Lodging: Japanese traditional inn

Walking: Light to Moderate



Day 5

After checking out of our Ryokan, we will depart for **Kanazawa** city in our private coach. Along the way, we will visit the Shinsen Sake Brewery. Shinsen is a renowned, family-owned sake brewery that has been in operation for more than 140 years. At Shinsen, we'll enjoy sake tastings and have opportunity to purchase their famous sake.

Our next stop is the Hakuza gold leaf workshop. Kanazawa produces 99% of Japan's gold leaf, which is essential for decorating lacquer work, woven cloth, pottery, and Kanazawa's Buddhist altars. At Hakuza, we'll learn the meticulous, time-honored process of creating gold leaf, whereby gold is beaten into a paper like sheet whose thickness measures a mere 10,000th of 1 millimeter (0.0001 mm)!



Lunch: **Yoshoku** - Yoshoku is Japanese-style Western cuisine. Essentially a Japanese interpretation of what "Western" food tastes like, Yoshoku first became popular in 1920s and 1930s. A recent wave of nostalgia has helped Yoshoku cuisine make a comeback in Japan's food culture.



Now in **Kanazawa**, we will visit the city's Geisha District, including an old Geisha house where you will decorate your own gold leaf chopsticks, a wonderful memento of Kanazawa. The Geisha District features rows of old geisha houses that provide a rich flavor of what Kanazawa was like in bygone days. At the conclusion of our day, we will again travel by private coach to Kanazawa's Hotel New Grand Annex.

We will go out for dinner together this evening.

Meals: B, L, D
Walking: Light

Lodging: Kanazawa New Grand Annex



DAY 6

After breakfast, we will walk through an old Samurai District. We will also visit a Samurai house belonged to Nomura family. We will then walk a short distance to Kenrokuen garden and Seisonkaku house. Kenrokuen is considered one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan. Seisonkaku is a house built for 13th Maeda Shogun's wife.

Lunch: We will walk a short distance to a traditional restaurant called Kaga-Sekitei. The restaurant is also famous for a beautiful Japanese garden and traditional Japanese rooms.



Afternoon is free time to visit various places of your choice. You may want to visit the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art. It exhibits the work of acclaimed contemporary artists from Japan and all over the world. You may also want to visit the Oomicho Seafood Market nearby the hotel.

With hundreds of great restaurants downtown, you will be free to explore Kanazawa's diverse options for dinner.

Meals: B, L
Walking: Moderate

Lodging: Kanazawa New Grand Annex





DAY 7

Breakfast will be buffet-style, with both Japanese and Western options. Following a quick, one hour journey by private coach to the neighboring prefecture of Toyama, we will visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ainokura village.

Along the way, we will stop by the village of Johana Festival Float Exhibition Hall. Each spring, during Johana's Mugiya Festival, villagers pull the magnificent floats that reside in the Hall through Johana's streets. At this exhibition, you will see intricately carved and lacquered floats, each the work of skilled local craftsmen.



Our final destination is the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ainokura village, famous for its Gassho-zukuri houses. The roughly 80 residents of Ainokura work diligently to sustain the village's living culture and natural landscape. In 1995, UNESCO registered Ainokura as a World Heritage site. We will explore the village and surrounding countryside and share lunch in a villager's Gassho-zukuri house.

Lunch: Farm house homemade cooking! We'll join one of Ainokura's resident in their Gassho-zukuri home for a memorable and tasty lunch of mountain vegetables, buckwheat noodles, and the region's famous Gokayama tofu.



Afternoon: Free time in Kanazawa city will enable you to visit Kenrokuen garden, the samurai district, or Oomicho Seafood Market. We will regroup for dinner that evening.

Meals: B, L, D

Lodging: Kanazawa New Grand Annex

Walking: Light to Moderate

DAY 8

After breakfast, we will head to Kanazawa JR Train Station and/or Komatsu Airport. Your tour leader, Norie, will help you with purchasing train tickets to your next destination. If you are heading to KIX (Kansai International Airport) from Kanazawa JR station, expect about 3.5 hours of train ride. If you are heading to Tokyo, please book your flight from Komatsu airport no earlier than 11 am.

Meals: B



Undiscovered Japan has the right to make partial changes to the stated itinerary/ies in order to improve the tour and your experience.

For more information, please visit www.undiscoveredjapan.com