Penn Alumni Travel presents

INSIDER’S JAPAN

March 30-April 11, 2016

13 days from $4,791 total price from Los Angeles, San Francisco
($4,395 air & land inclusive plus $396 airline taxes and fees)

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Alumni & Friends of the University of Pennsylvania
With Julie Nelson Davis, Associate Professor of the History of Art
It’s a land of delicate art and bustling commerce, of rich traditions and dizzying modernity; a jumble of sights, sounds, and tastes that for visitors are truly foreign — and truly fascinating. This well-crafted tour features the highlights of Tokyo and Kyoto, engages us in local life, and takes us off the beaten path to the lovely historic cities of Takayama and Kanazawa.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Tokyo, Japan

Day 2: Arrive in Tokyo After arriving in Japan’s financial, commercial, and political capital this evening, we transfer to our hotel where we learn about the journey ahead at a briefing with our tour director.

Day 3: Tokyo We spend the morning touring this amazing city that comprises 23 wards and covers a staggering 840 miles. We focus on a smaller area as we visit some of Tokyo’s top sights, including Shinto Meiji Shrine, a peaceful enclave of temples and gardens; and historic Imperial Palace, surrounded by moats and ramparts, and home of the Imperial Family. Next we visit Tokyo’s oldest temple, Buddhist Asakusa Kannon, followed by the Nakamise Shopping arcade. This afternoon is at leisure; tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. 

Day 4: Tokyo Our day begins with a motorcoach tour of Ginza, Tokyo’s famed shopping, dining, and entertainment district boasting the most expensive real estate in all of Japan. We visit the gallery of preeminent calligrapher Koshun Masunaga, where we learn about this ancient art and browse the collection. Then the remainder of the day is at leisure to visit some of Ginza’s department stores, boutiques, or galleries; or to set off in a new direction, perhaps to a kabuki performance or judo demonstration.

Day 5: Tokyo/Mt. Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park/Suwa Japan’s pastoral side is on tap as we leave Tokyo for Mt. Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. Here sits imposing Mt. Fuji, a dormant volcano (it last erupted in 1707) with a perfectly symmetrical cone that rises to 12,388 feet. The mountain’s majesty is breathtaking, as artists and writers have attested for centuries. We take a coach ride where, weather permitting, we’ll enjoy breathtaking panoramic views; then we descend for a relaxing cruise on scenic Ashi Lake. Leaving

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Tokyo touring, including Imperial Palace District and Meiji Shrine ... Stunning scenery of Mt. Fuji and Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park ... Overnight stay in traditional ryokan ... Historic Takayama’s ancient streets and houses ... Culturally-rich Kanazawa … Tour of famed Kenrokuen Garden in Kanawaza … Full-day tour of Kyoto, Japan’s cultural capital … Tour of Kyoto’s Gion district … Traditional tea ceremony ... Additional art-related highlights

Day 1 Itinerary Hotel Rating
1 Depart U.S. for Tokyo
2-4 Tokyo Park Hotel Tokyo Sup. First Class
5 Lake Suwa Nunohan Hotel (ryokan) Not Rated
6 Takayama Hida Hotel Plaza First Class
7-8 Kanazawa Hotel Nikko Kanazawa First Class
9-12 Kyoto ANA Crowne Plaza Kyoto First Class
13 Depart Kyoto for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

Cover photo: Legendary Mt. Fuji and cherry blossoms: two potent symbols of Japan
Kyoto’s beloved Golden Pavilion

the park, we travel to the town of Suwa where we spend the night at a ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn where we take off our shoes upon entering and sleep on a futon. B,D

Day 6: Suwa/Takayama  Today we travel to lovely Takayama in the Japanese Alps, considered one of the country’s most attractive towns with its 16th-century castle and old-style buildings. Our explorations center on three narrow streets in the San-machi-suji district where, in feudal times, merchants lived amidst the authentically preserved small inns, teahouses, and sake breweries that we see here. We enjoy a sake tasting and then have free time to visit local shops that sell the region’s unique lacquerware and yew carvings. B,D

Day 7: Takayama/Shirakawago/Kanazawa We pay an early visit to the riverside Miyagawa Morning Market selling flowers, fruit, and vegetables, a blaze of dazzling colors and exotic foodstuffs. Then we leave Takayama for the UNESCO World Heritage site of Shirakawago Gassho-zukuri Village. Comprising buildings relocated from authentic villages nearby that were razed for a dam, the village is also a vibrant community whose residents work together to preserve the unique traditional architecture here known as Gassho style. Next we visit that dam – Miboro – the largest dam constructed using “rock-fill technology” of stones and clay. Late afternoon we reach the castle town of Kanazawa, an alluring coastal city that survived the ravages of World War II. B,L

Day 8: Kanazawa Today’s tour of this culturally-rich city features renowned Kenroku-en Garden, a national landmark whose origins date to 1676. We also see Ishikawa Gate, the only remaining section of the town’s original castle; Hakukokan, a museum celebrating the art and craft of gold leaf technology; and the Higashi Chayagai teahouse and geisha area. Our last stop is the Nagamachi Samurai district, where the ruling family’s samurai warriors lived. B,D

Day 9: Kanazawa/Kyoto This morning we visit the Kutani Ceramics Museum celebrating this quintessential Japanese art form; and the Asakurasu Isokichi Art Museum. Then we board the train for Kyoto, once Japan’s Imperial Capital and now the country’s cultural and artistic capital. With more than 1,600 temples, hundreds of shrines, artful gardens, and well-preserved wooden architecture, Kyoto embodies Japan’s rich culture and complex history. B,D

Post-Tour Extension

April 11-13, 2016

HIROSHIMA: CITY OF PEACE
3 days/2 nights for $895 total price
Single Supplement: $95

Discover the city reborn from the atomic destruction of World War II, a modern and cosmopolitan urban center whose residents warmly welcome American visitors.

Your Tour Price Includes
• Rail transportation Kyoto/Hiroshima; Hiroshima/Osaka
• 2 nights’ accommodations at Hotel Granvia Hiroshima (First Class)
• 3 meals: 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch
• Extensive included sightseeing: Itsukushima Shrine; Hiroshima touring by local “Hiroden” train; visit to Peace Memorial Park and Museum; Japan Maritime Service School
• Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
• Gratuities for dining room servers, hotel porters, and all drivers
Day 10: Kyoto
Today’s tour reveals the highlights of Kyoto, which was spared destruction during World War II. Highlights include 16th-century Ryoan-ji Temple, where we see the dry garden of sand and rocks (kare-sansui), a marvel of classic Japanese design; and Kinkaku-ji, the lakeside Temple of the Golden Pavilion set on pillars suspended over the water. We also visit ostentatious Nijo Castle (c. 1603), where the shogun asserted control over the city and its people. And we attend a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, a historic, ritualized ceremony of form, grace, and spirituality.

Day 11: Kyoto
Today is free to explore as we wish. Possibilities abound in Kyoto, or we can join in an optional excursion to Nara, Japan’s ancient capital.

Day 12: Kyoto
Embark on a tour through the grounds of the Imperial Palace (the current palace dates from 1855) and its garden, Kyoto-gyoen; and the Gion district where geishas gather. We stroll through Miyakawacho, where the geishas live; and Machiya, a neighborhood of traditional townhouses. Our afternoon is at leisure; tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 13: Depart Kyoto for U.S.
This morning we travel by motorcoach to Osaka, where we board our return flight to the United States.

Traditions endure in Japan.

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Your Tour Price Includes
- Round-trip air transportation from listed city
- 11 nights’ accommodations: 10 nights in Superior First Class and First Class hotels; 1 night in traditional Japanese ryokan
- 18 meals: 11 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Train transportation as described
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Tour Departs: March 30, 2016

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Los Angeles, San Francisco $4,791
Portland (OR), Seattle $4,991
Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix $5,191
Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Washington, DC $5,291
Land Only $3,795

Please call for other cities. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $396, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $995. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed. Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Pacific flight: $4,195 per person from San Francisco (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765 Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-7:00 PM, Eastern Time

Faculty Lecturer

Julie Nelson Davis is Associate Professor of the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania, where she teaches the arts of East Asia from 1600 to the present. Davis received her B.A. from Reed College, studied in Japan as a Monbushô fellow at the Osaka University of Foreign Languages and at Gakushûin University, and completed her Ph.D at the University of Washington. Davis was a Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow at the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, affiliated with the University of East Anglia, Norwich, and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, during the calendar year 2003; she has received a number of other grants in support of her scholarship.

Special projects at Penn have included co-curating Dramatic Impressions: Japanese Theatre Prints from the Gilbert Luber Collection at the Arthur Ross Gallery in 2006, co-authoring the catalogue, and organizing the related symposium.

"Come, butterfly/it’s late we’ve miles to go together." - Matsuo Basho
Penn Alumni Travel is proud to offer valuable trips and programs to alumni and friends through a number of partnerships. Any revenue that may be generated from Penn Alumni Travel above our program expenses supports Penn Alumni Programming.
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not included in tour price
Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; optional sightseeing; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per day, per traveler); travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

Cancellations, refunds and changes
If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:
- Cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge;
- Cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price;
- Cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price;
- Cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price;
- Cancel 29-0 days before departure: No refund.
If a guest makes any changes to their reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Responsibility
The liability of the University of Pennsylvania, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The University of Pennsylvania and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues
We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a substantial amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will incur no liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

JOIN PENN ALUMNI TRAVEL ON AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR TO JAPAN!

Guaranteed Small Group: Limited to 24 Guests