



EXPERIENCE JAPAN 2017

16TH ~ 26TH AUG 2017



Wednesday 16th August

Please arrive at Melbourne airport at 8:30pm.

Depart Melbourne International Airport.

Thursday 17th August

Upon arrival at Tokyo Narita Airport, we will be met by our local full time tour leader who will accompany us throughout Japan.



Private Coach from Tokyo Narita Airport to Hotel

A private coach will take us from Narita Airport to our hotel in Tokyo. The journey time is usually around 90 minutes and en-route we should get some great views from the elevated expressways.

Afternoon arrival at our hotel – JR Kyushu Blossom Hotel Shinjuku

Meet with Leanne to receive your Stitching Travel Pack!



Overnight at JR Kyushu Blossom Hotel Shinjuku - Incl. Breakfast

Friday 18th August

Embroidery Workshop

This morning our group will be split in two to allow you to participate in an intimate embroidery workshop with Shizuka Kusano. An additional guide will join us for the morning that will take one group sightseeing while the others participate in the workshop. The groups will then swap so that the sightseeing group can participate in the workshop.



(Image from: <http://kusano-shizuka.com/>)

Ms Shizuka Kusano, who will be taking the workshop, is one of the most admired and recognized textile artists in Japan today who regularly appears on television and in magazines. She has held around 16 solo exhibitions over the past 10 years, has published 5 books and is known around the world for her delicate and intricate embroidery, spanning her 40- year career. Working exclusively with silk threads and fabric and delicately balancing the use of space in her composition, Kusano's designs achieve the sophistication for which the best Japanese art is known. During your time at Kusano-san's workshop, you can ask her any questions you may have about her work and embroidery in general, as well as receiving a rare opportunity to view some of her work spanning across her career in the industry.

Tokyo Walking Tour: Tokyo Metropolitan Building, Meiji Jingu and Shibuya Crossing

Tokyo Metropolitan Building

This impressive structure comprises two enormous towers, each rising to an imposing 248 metres. There is a viewing level on floor 45 of both buildings. The views of the city and the surrounding area are awesome and on a clear day (usually only in winter) you can get a good view of Mt. Fuji rising up on the horizon. Definitely something to include on every trip to Tokyo.

Meiji Jingu

This huge shrine area situated at the end of Omotesando, is one of the most impressive sights in Tokyo. The shrine itself is dedicated to the Meiji Emperor and his wife. The entrance is marked by an enormous wooden torii gate constructed from the trunks of giant cedar trees. During the week the grounds are quite quiet and this is a good place to go for a stroll and to escape from the urbanity of the city.

Shibuya Crossing

Situated in the heart of the bustling shopping and entertainment area of Shibuya, the Shibuya crossing is one of the most iconic images of Japan. The flood of pedestrians crossing diagonally across this busy intersection with a backdrop of neon signs and screens has featured in many films.

Afternoon Sightseeing: Asakusa and the Amuse Museum

Asakusa

Asakusa sprung up in the middle of the Edo period when the Tokugawa shogun, tired of his city being overrun with vice and frivolous amusements, decided to banish all those engaged in the world of popular entertainment to outside the city walls. Thus Asakusa was born, and the district retains much of the atmosphere and charm of that time, giving visitors a chance to experience what Tokyo may have been like before the Second World War and the subsequent economic miracle of the 70s and 80s transformed the capital into the urban monster we see today.

Amuse Museum

This museum, located in the Asakusa area of Tokyo, specialises in unique Japanese fabrics and Ukiyo-e wood block prints. A highlight of the museum is the extensive 'Boro' collection of patchworks and textiles, many of which are more than a hundred years old. Unlike many museums, much of the material on display is available to be touched and you can try on a lot of the items of clothing.

Dinner at a local restaurant

Tonight we will have dinner at one of the local restaurants near our hotel.



Overnight at JR Kyushu Blossom Hotel Shinjuku - Incl. Breakfast & Dinner

Saturday 19th August

Tokyo Sightseeing: National Museum, Nippori Fabric Town

National Museum

This morning we will start our day with a visit to the Tokyo National Museum located next to Ueno Park. The museum contains the world's largest collection of Japanese art and an extensive collection of Oriental antiquities. In particular, their huge collection of exquisite antique kimono is well worth a visit.



Nippori Fabric Town

We will then continue on to Nippori fabric town, located within the traditional Yanaka area next to Ueno Park. The fabric town, which first opened in the Taisho era (1912 – 1926) is a one-kilometre long stretch lined with fabric and textile shops. There are also many shops which specialize in sewing equipment, from handmade needles to industrial sewing machines. This is the perfect place to pick up some uniquely Japanese fabric for your next project.

Workshop with Leanne

This afternoon we will have a workshop in the eye catching Hikarie skyscraper in Shibuya.

Optional trip to watch the Meiji Gaien Firework Display

Summer in Japan is the season of fireworks. Dressed up in their yukata (cotton kimono style gowns), local residents buy street food and drinks from the numerous stalls set up for the occasion and then join the crowds to watch spectacular firework displays. Why not pick up a yukata in one of the many shops in Shibuya and join in to watch the fireworks in Meiji Gaien park.



Overnight at JR Kyushu Blossom Hotel Shinjuku - Incl. Breakfast

Sunday 20th August

Morning at leisure

This morning you will have the opportunity to explore Tokyo on your own, picking up some souvenirs or exploring the wonderful craft shops like Tokyu Hands in Shibuya.



Transfer from Shinjuku to Shinagawa

We will travel from our hotel in Shinjuku to Shinagawa station where we will catch the bullet train to Kyoto. The direct journey takes around 20 minutes on the Yamanote Line.

Bullet Train from Shinagawa to Kyoto

For the journey between Shinagawa and Kyoto we will be travelling by Shinkansen. Keep a look out of the right hand windows of the train for Mt. Fuji. But don't be disappointed if you can't see her as she is a notoriously shy mountain.

Transfer from station to Miyako Hotel

Dinner at local restaurant

Tonight we will have a delicious dinner near our hotel in Kyoto.



Overnight at Miyako Hotel Kyoto - Incl. Breakfast & Dinner

Monday 21st August

Kyoto

Today we will be joined by an additional guide, so that the group can be split into two smaller groups while you are looking around Toji Market and also to enable you to participate in this afternoon's tea with a Traditional Japanese Maiko.

Visit to Toji Market

This morning we will have the opportunity to visit Toji Market, a lively craft and antiques market which is held every month in the grounds of Toji Temple. This is a fantastic opportunity to see a range of beautiful Japanese artifacts, and to buy some of the wonderful new and second-hand sculptures, kimono, antiques and pottery.

Kyoto Sightseeing: Kiyomizu-dera, Yasaka Shrine and Gion



Kiyomizu-dera

Perched daringly on a steep hillside, Kiyomizu Dera is possibly the most beloved temple in the nation. Founded in 798, its present buildings date mostly from 1633, and it is entered from 'Teapot Lane'; so-called because of the numerous shops lining the approach that sell Kiyomizu ceramics.

Yasaka Shrine

Yasaka Shrine, affectionately called 'Gion-san' by the throngs of regular devotees, features one of the tallest Torii gates in Japan, and an unusual main hall built in the residential 'Gion Zukuri' style. It was founded over 1350 years ago and is located between the popular Gion District and Higashiyama District.

Gion

One of Kyoto's most famous geisha districts, Gion is located around Shijo Avenue between Yasaka Shrine in the east and the Kamo River in the west. Walking along the streets filled with shops, restaurants and ochaya (teahouses), you might catch a glimpse of a geiko (Kyoto dialect for geisha) and maiko (geiko apprentices) as they walk to their next appointment.

Geisha - Afternoon Tea with A Maiko

For many people the quintessential image of Japan is a graceful geisha in an exquisite kimono darting through a sliding screen door into a traditional tea house. It's a scene that embodies both the geisha's beauty and mystery, as the geisha and their maiko apprentices move almost in secret through a world largely hidden behind closed doors. Often misunderstood in the West, geisha are essentially artists, highly skilled in traditional arts such as fan dancing and shamisen playing and are masters of wordplay and social etiquette. Although geisha numbers have dropped dramatically since their heyday in the 1920s, in today's Japan, they are also the caretakers of these traditions making sure time-honoured Japanese arts and crafts are not lost.

The majority of geisha live and work in Kyoto and are known as geiko in the local dialect. Gion is Kyoto's most famous geisha district with a large concentration of ochaya tea houses where the geiko entertain guests most evenings. Not just anyone can enter an ochaya however; in traditional Japanese society, hierarchy and social connections are everything and most Japanese will never have the honour of an official invitation.

We will be visiting the Gion Maruume teahouse for a fascinating glimpse into the geisha world. Over a cup of green tea and a Japanese cake, you'll be entertained by a geisha or maiko who will perform a traditional dance for you. During the experience you'll be able to take photos and ask any questions you may have.

Dinner at local restaurant

Tonight we will sample some more delicious local cuisine at a restaurant close to our hotel.



Overnight at Miyako Hotel Kyoto - Incl. Breakfast & Dinner

Tuesday 22nd August

Full day workshop with Leanne Beasley including calligraphy and kimono wearing.

Today we will have our workshop at Japan's new Washin-kan building for the full day.

Leanne will focus on whatever it is you would like assistance with. This is a real one-on-one day for Leanne to help you with your projects.

Today we will also have the opportunity to participate in a calligraphy lesson, dress in a traditional Japanese kimono and make our own Japanese sushi lunch.

Calligraphy Class

Shodo or 'the way of writing' is the art of Japanese calligraphy. Just as good handwriting is prized in the West, being skilful with a calligraphy brush to produce beautiful kanji characters is an important attribute that children begin to learn in primary school. However, with the widespread use of computers, this art form is being kept alive by fewer and fewer devotees. Today you'll have a group calligraphy lesson with an expert instructor to learn the basics of shodo. First you must learn how to prepare black ink by grinding the ink stone across a tray and mixing it with a little water. Then after loading your brush, the teacher will teach you some basic kanji characters which are always drawn in a specific order of strokes. The teacher will also explain the three writing systems, kanji, hiragana and katakana, that make up Japanese script. You'll have plenty of time to practise your calligraphy skills before painting one kanji to take home and keep.



Kimono Wearing

You must try on a Japanese kimono. Perhaps an exquisite silk one in midnight blue with a flock of silver cranes sweeping across the long sleeves. Or a light pink kimono decorated with an ornate cherry blossom motif. Then add a contrasting forest green obi sash tied in a drum bow and slip into tabi split toe socks in order to accommodate wooden geta sandals. Although kimono are no longer worn daily by most Japanese, they are still proudly put on for special occasions such as weddings and coming of age ceremonies. In Kyoto, the epicentre of Japanese culture, locals regularly wear light cotton yukata robes for summer festivals such as the Gion matsuri.

You will then have an opportunity to be dressed in a kimono in the company of knowledgeable members of the Women's Association of Kyoto (WAK Japan). This association runs a range of experiences aimed at giving overseas visitors an insight into Japanese culture with full English explanation. You will dress in a traditional kimono, and learn all about how to wear it properly and move gracefully while wearing it. If the weather is fine, you will be able to go outside to take photos if you wish to.

Maki Sushi Making

Sushi is the backbone of Japanese cuisine, now loved throughout the world. From the weird to the wonderful, sushi comes in a huge range of shapes and varieties from Western-palette friendly egg sushi and cucumber rolls, tuna, mackerel and prawn sushi to the more adventurous eel and fish roe varieties.



Overnight at Miyako Hotel Kyoto - Incl. Breakfast and lunch

Wednesday 23rd August

Private coach for Kyoto sightseeing at Kinkaku-ji & Arashiyama.

This morning we will be picked up from our hotel by a private coach for a day of sightseeing in Kyoto.

Kinkaku-ji

This morning we will travel up to the north of the city to see Kinkaku-ji, or the Golden Pavilion, which is perhaps the most famous temple in all Japan. The stunning gold façade makes a lovely reflection in the 'mirror pond'.



Arashiyama & the Bamboo Forrest

We will then spend the afternoon in the beautiful area of Arashiyama where we will visit the beautiful Arishiyama Bamboo Forrest.



Overnight at Miyako Hotel Kyoto - Incl. Breakfast

Thursday 24th August

Kyoto Sightseeing: Fushimi Inari Taisha



This morning we visit one of the most iconic sights in Kyoto, the Fushimi Inari Shrine torii gates. The head shrine of some 40,000 Inari shrines located throughout the land, it was founded in 711 and is dedicated to five Shinto deities. More than 10,000 vermillion torii gates straddle the four kilometre path up the mountain. Look out for the many stone statues of foxes, messengers of the Inari Taisha Shrine.

Return to Kyoto

Afternoon at leisure or optional visit to Funaoka Onsen

For centuries the Japanese have harnessed the therapeutic powers of naturally occurring hot springs across the archipelago. Even today communal bathing in hot spring baths is a huge part of Japanese culture; a way to connect with nature and one another, as it is said that friendships are best cemented in the onsen. If you feel like experiencing a traditional Japanese onsen yourself, why not make a visit to Funaoka Onsen this afternoon.

Funaoka is one of the oldest hot spring baths in Kyoto and one of the finest onsen in the whole world! It has been in operation since 1923 and, despite its increasing popularity amongst tourists, is still filled with local people. A visit rarely doesn't involve a chat with a curious Japanese granny!

From the changing rooms you cross a small stone bridge over a patio to the bath area. There are a variety of indoor baths, from a traditional wooden tub to one with massage jets, and outside you will find a sauna and hot and cold stone baths.

Farewell Dinner

Enjoy a delicious farewell dinner at Mimi, a favourite Japanese restaurant in Kyoto.



Overnight at Miyako Hotel Kyoto - Incl. Breakfast and Dinner

Friday 25th August

Day at leisure

This morning after breakfast, you may wish to leave the hotel and enjoy some last minute shopping and exploring before our departure.

Transfer to International Airport

Depart International Airport

Saturday 26th August

Arrive Melbourne International Airport (approx. 5:10pm)

Price Inclusions:

- Accommodation for 8 (eight) nights in a twin share room in the mentioned hotels.
- Economy class return flights to Japan.
- 23 kilos baggage allowance.
- All applicable hotel and airport taxes.
- Full-time local English speaking guide throughout our stay in Japan.
- Leanne Beasley hosting the entire tour.
- Workshops hosted by Leanne Beasley as per the itinerary.
- Fully kitted projects by Leanne Beasley.
- Local workshops as per the itinerary.
- Australian Travel Agent Annette Dal Sasso escorting the entire tour.
- Meals as specified in the itinerary.
- Transportation by an air-conditioned Coach and rail throughout.
- Bottled water will be provided in the vehicles during transfers and sightseeing.
- Bottled water included in hotel rooms.
- Entrance fees (single entry) to the monuments as per the itinerary.

Price Exclusions:

- Travel Insurance.
- Drinks and meals of any nature other than those mentioned in the itinerary.
- Still and video camera fee at monuments etc.
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone calls, camera fees, etc.
- Liability for change in itinerary due to reasons beyond our control.

For example: changes in transport schedules, cancellation of transport, political disturbances, natural disasters.

- Any other item not specifically mentioned above as 'INCLUDED'.

Important Visa & Travel document information:

A current passport with at least 6 month's validity is required to enter Japan. A tourist visa is NOT required.

Currency Notice:

Prices are quoted in Australian Dollars. Hawthorn Travel does not pre purchase foreign currency. This means that the price of this tour is subject to immediate payment should we **experience significant currency fluctuations**.

Travel Insurance:

Travel Insurance is compulsory and can be arranged by Annette Dal Sasso. If you have your own insurance, proof of this policy **must** be provided.

Vaccinations:

Although not officially required for travel to Japan, it is your responsibility to have appropriate vaccinations. For details and professional advice see:

<http://www.traveldoctor.com.au/vaccination.html>

Luggage information

You must only bring a medium size suitcase with you as train travel does not allow for a large suitcase. The following guidelines will assist you;

Height = 67cm / 26 inches Width = 45cm / 18 inches

EXPERIENCE JAPAN 2017

Registration Form:

Yes, I would like to participate in the group tour 'Experience Japan 2017'.

Deposit of \$1500.00 per person is required to secure space. Twin share cost is \$7595.00 Single supplement - \$1495.00

Please make your deposit cheque payable to HAWTHORN TRAVEL. You can pay by direct deposit into the HAWTHORN TRAVEL account, please use your surname as the reference and email accounts@hawthorntravel.com.au to advise of your payment. Credit Card payments are accepted; however merchant fees are applicable. A 1.5% fee applies to Visa and MasterCard payments and a 3% fee applies to American Express payments.

Due to limited numbers, allocation will be given to early deposits received.

The signed registration form and completed booking form must be returned to confirm your registration. This can be returned via email, fax or post.

Terms & Conditions:

1. A deposit of \$1500.00 is required to secure your space.
2. The price listed is subject to change if capacity has not been reached. A minimum of 20 passengers is required.
3. The price listed has been calculated based on the current Australian/Japanese Yen exchange rate. If this rate falls at the time of final payment, a re-calculation will be required. If the Australian Dollar is unstable at any time, you will be asked to make full payment to avoid a currency surcharge.
4. If you cancel your booking prior to final payment being made, a refund less cancellation fees of \$750.00 will be awarded as long as minimum group numbers can be filled.
5. At 90 days prior to departure, full payment must be received.

6. If your booking is cancelled within 90 days of departure, full cancellation charges apply and no refund will be given unless a replacement for your space on the tour can be found.
7. Travel Insurance is compulsory; please speak to Annette regarding this.
8. A copy of a valid passport is required prior to final payment being received.
9. Please refer to Inclusions and Exclusions for full details of these.

I have read and accept the terms and conditions shown.

Signed: _____ Dated ____/____/____

PASSENGER DETAILS: (ONE FORM PER PASSENGER PLEASE)

IF TWO OF YOU ARE TRAVELING TOGETHER, PLEASE NOTE THIS ON YOUR FORM.

(Please print clearly with capital letters)

Title: Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr. Other & Surname.....

Given Names:

.....

(Names must be exactly as per passport)

Date of Birth:

Special Dietary Requirements:

Please note: That a dietary requirement may be different to an allergy.

Allergies:.....

Please Note: It is imperative that you note any allergies and required treatment.

Twin/Single: - Please circle preference

Share Preference (if any, with whom):

Smoking/Non Smoking - Please circle preference

Medical Issues:

Mobility Issues:

Please Note: Some days may involve a lot of walking. It is imperative that we are made aware of any mobility issues that you may have.

Address No/Street:

Suburb.....State:.....

Post Code.....

Phone: B/H..... A/H.....

Mobile:

Email:.....

In case of an emergency please contact:

Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone:.....

All correspondence to be sent to:

**Hawthorn Travel Attention: Annette Dal Sasso 60 Burwood Road HAWTHORN VIC
3122 Australia**

Tel: 03 9819 2322 (office number) Mob: 0411 193 805 (please use this direct number as I work from home) Fax: 03 9818 8402 Email: annette@hawthorntravel.com.au Licence No: 30356

Bank account details:

ANZ GLENFERRIE ROAD BSB 013332 Account 304117822 HAWTHORN TRAVEL PTY LTD -
TRADING ACCOUNT

