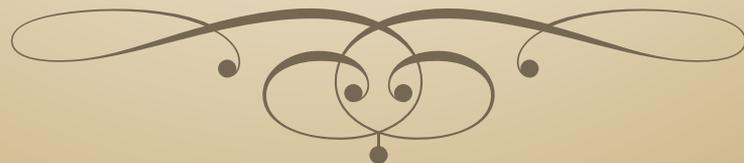


Cultural Treasures of

Japan



A Seventeen Day Sample Itinerary



ALLURING

ASIA

TRIP SUMMARY

DAY 01 SAN DIEGO/NARITA



12:45 PM Depart San Diego
via Japan Airlines flight # 65

DAY 02 ARRIVE NARITA (TOKYO)

4:55 PM Arrive Narita.

DAY 03-05 TOKYO

DAY 06 TOKYO/HIROSHIMA



9:20 AM Depart Tokyo
via Bullet Train First Class.
1:10 PM Arrive Hiroshima

DAY 07 HIROSHIMA/NAOSHIMA



5:10 PM Depart Uno Port by ferry
5:30 PM Arrive Naoshima Island

DAY 08 NAOSHIMA

DAY 09 NAOSHIMA/KYOTO



9:50 AM Depart Naoshima Island
via ferry
10:10 AM Arrive Uno Port



11:30 AM Depart Okayama
via First Class Bullet Train
12:30 PM Arrive Kyoto

DAY 10-11 KYOTO

DAY 12 KYOTO/KANAZAWA



9:40 AM Depart Kyoto
via First Class Express Train
12:00 PM Arrive Kanazawa

DAY 13 KANAZAWA/TAKAYAMA



overland transfer to Takayama City

DAY 14 TAKAYAMA

DAY 15 TAKAYAMA/HAKONE



8:00 AM Depart Takayama
via First Class Express Train
10:30 AM Arrive Nagoya



11:30 AM Depart Nagoya
via First Class Bullet Train

DAY 16 HAKONE/TOKYO



9:00 AM overland journey to Tokyo.

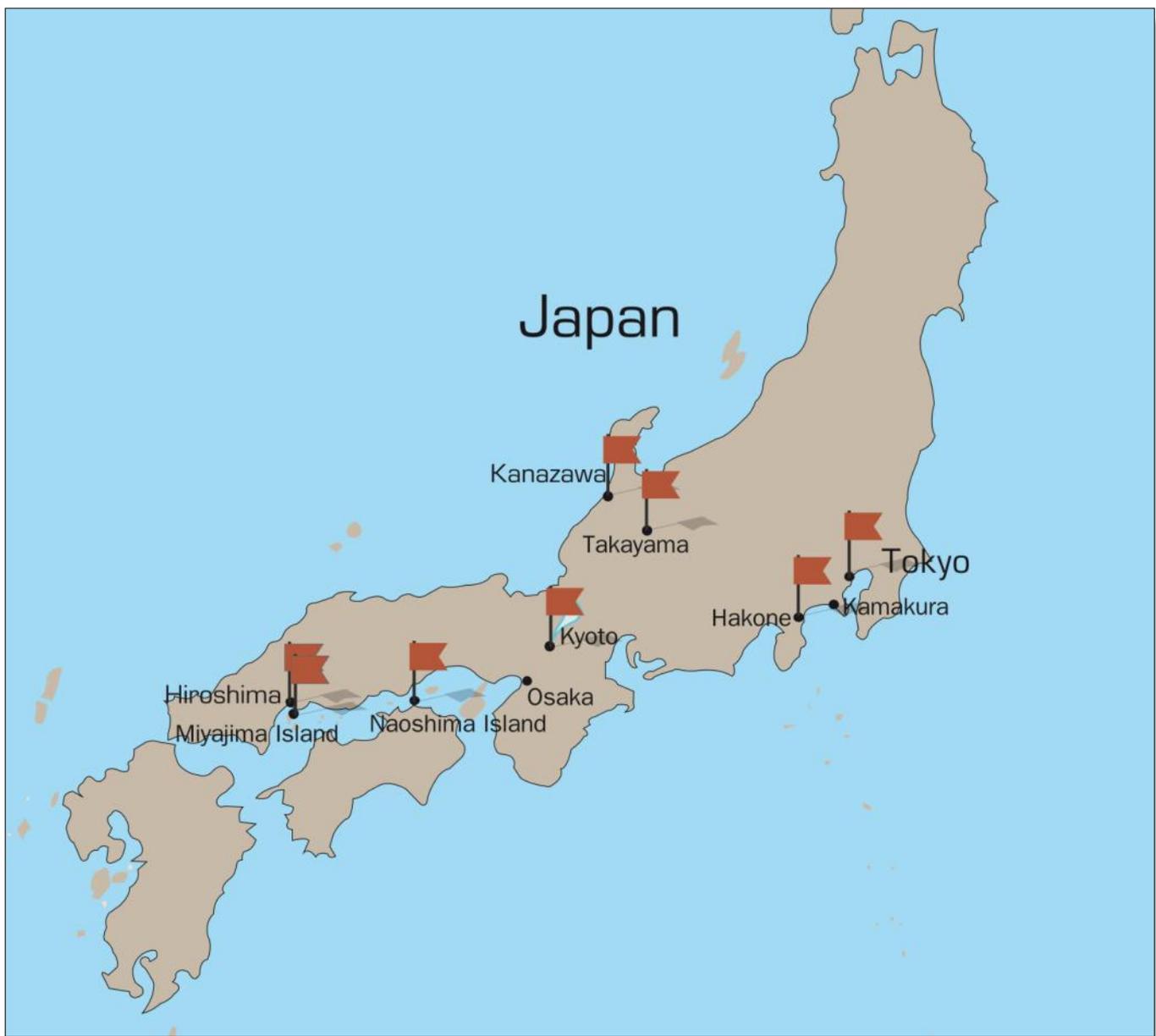
DAY 17 TOKYO/NARITA/CHICAGO/NEW YORK



6:30 PM Depart Narita
via American Airlines flight # 154
3:25 PM Arrive Chicago



6:35 PM Depart Chicago
via American Airlines flight # 350
9:50 PM Arrive LaGuardia.



Approximately 127 million people live in this island country, in an area roughly equal to that of California. Japan is the world's second-largest economy and has a constitutional monarchy with the world's oldest imperial line, numbering 125 successive rulers.

Perched on the Ring of Fire, Japan is a cluster of four main islands – Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu – and thousands of smaller ones. Most of the country is covered in mountains, 70 of which are active volcanoes. Japan a very densely populated country.

There are two versions of Japan's early history – one of the Shinto mythologists and another of the historians. According to tradition, the country was founded in 660 B.C. by Jimmu, a descendant of the sun goddess. Jimmu is believed to have been an ancestor of future emperors.

Historians, however, think Homo sapiens inhabited the islands about 30,000 years ago, having migrated from Southeast Asia. By A.D. 500 the Yamato, a political body consisting of powerful clans headed by priest-chiefs, had established control over most of Japan.



ALLURING

ASIA

DAY 01 SAN DIEGO/NARITA



12:45 PM Depart San Diego via Japan Airlines flight # 65 direct service to Narita, Japan. Total flying time: 12 hours, 10 minutes. Set your watch 16 hours ahead.

DAY 02 ARRIVE NARITA (TOKYO)

4:55 PM Arrive Narita. After completing immigration and customs formalities you will be met outside the arrival hall by your private guide who will escort you to a waiting vehicle for your transfer to the Hilton Tokyo. Your guide will be holding a sign marked **'Your Name'**.

At the Hilton Tokyo, reservations for a Standard Twin Room have been confirmed for the following 4 nights. Located in Shinjuku at the heart of Tokyo's business, shopping, and entertainment district, the Hilton Tokyo is the perfect base for exploring this vibrant, energetic city. Experience modern Japanese style and admire stunning city views. Each of the 815 rooms at this newly-redesigned property have been arranged with comfort and style in mind.



Japanese culture, refined over generations of isolation, is steeped in the ancient, fascinated by the brand-new, and schooled in the ephemeral. Here 'East meets West'. Japan has a long history of absorbing advanced cultures from the Asian Continent from ancient times through the Middle Ages. Later it began to assimilate elements of Western civilization from the latter half of the 19th century. By selectively assimilating these many cultural influences, the country has successfully added rich new dimensions and depth to its indigenous culture. This marvelous harmony between the refinement of things and concepts 'Oriental' blended with the leading-edge technology and the often ultra-modern urban lifestyle you find in Japan today is truly proof of a long and eloquent history.

Magnificent Buddhist temples and those which embody the essence of understated architectural elegance through the elimination of almost all decorative features. Quiet and stately Shinto shrines rest amid dark green woods... Japan has them. Many date back well over 1,000 years. Shinto is an ancient, indigenous religion unique to Japan, with emphasis on ancestor worship and harmony with the natural world.

Buddhism, brought in from the Asian Continent way back in the sixth century teaches spiritual enlightenment and salvation. Both continue to be prime and moving sources of inspiration, culturally and esthetically, for the Japanese even today.

The Buddhist images enshrined and the gardens are splendid pieces of art. Japanese gardens are world-renowned as refined reproductions of nature's beauty all confined within a limited space.

Overnight: Hilton Tokyo – Standard Twin Room



ALLURING ASIA

DAY 03 TOKYO- Approximately 2 ½ miles of walking

Meals included: Breakfast 

This morning observe the traditional city design of Asakusa. Centered around Asakusa Kannon Temple (Sensoji Temple) with a history of 1,400 years, the Asakusa district represents Tokyo's old downtown, steeped in the nostalgic atmosphere of Edo-period while retaining a variety of traditional arts and crafts.

Visit the Ginza District a world-famous shopping district located in the center of Tokyo. Boasting wide avenues and elegant stores, this was the first place in Japan to import Western-style cultures in earnest, introducing the nation to sophisticated store displays and the joys of window shopping.

Continue to Roppongi, a section of Tokyo once famous for its nightlife, now respectable again thanks to the Roppongi Hills, a massive shopping and dining complex. Roppongi Hills, which opened in April 2003, is Japan's most significant private urban development project. It incorporates modern architecture with pre-existing traditional features, including a Japanese garden, a Buddhist temple, and a children's park. Called the 'Rockefeller Center of Tokyo', Roppongi Hills sits on a 28-acre site that includes the Mori Tower, the Asahi Broadcasting Center, Virgin Cinemas, more than 200 retail shops and restaurants and residential towers that can house more than 840 families.

Afterwards, visit the outside area of the Tsukiji Fish Market. Tsukiji is Asia's busiest wholesale food market, selling sea creatures from around the world. Every type of seafood is available for sale. Walk through the equally interesting outer market where you will find a variety of vegetables, ceramics and kitchen supplies.

Overnight: Hilton Tokyo – Standard Twin Room



TSUKIJI FISH MARKET



GINZA DISTRICT

ALLURING

ASIA

DAY 04 TOKYO- Approximately 3 ½ miles of walking

Meals included: Breakfast 

Begin your day with a stroll through the lovely wooded grounds of Meiji Shrine. The Shrine was built in 1920 to deify the emperor and empress of the Meiji period (1912). It is unusual to find separate shrines for an emperor and his empress, but Emperor Meiji made such a strong impression on his people that the Japanese constructed the shrine just after his death. Destroyed in WWII, it has been rebuilt with dignity, unlike most postwar construction in Japan.

Visit Harajuku. Walk along Takeshita-dori Street, one of Tokyo's most fashionable neighborhoods. Casual shops for young generations line Takeshita Street near Harajuku Station, and beautiful and sophisticated shops and restaurants fill Omotesnado Street. This area is certainly the place for people watching and a district where Tokyo's thriving youth/pop culture pulses. This area is most famous for alternative apparel for teenagers and is considered the Champs Elysees of Tokyo. It is a great place to for shopping and the latest trends in fashion.

After inspecting the rare ceramics, textiles, lacquer, sculptures, and bronzes hand-picked by collector Kaichiro Nezu at the Nezu Museum, wander into its jewel like gardens, where every turn in the twisting path offers up another precious detail.

Continue to the grounds of the Imperial Palace, formerly the Edo Castle. It doesn't matter how busy Tokyo is, you will always enjoy the calm tranquility of the Imperial Gardens. From the Gardens, you will not be able to see the Imperial Palace; it is hidden behind walls and very heavily guarded. The palace itself is closed to the public, but you will be able to explore the castle walls and view the moats thick with greenery. When the Emperor of Japan is not traveling, he lives in this house.

Overnight: Hilton Tokyo – Standard Twin Room





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郡神社
郡記念館

ラパウザ
La Pausa
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ダンスアカデミー

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カラコンつけま
ヘアアクセ等
パティスリーエレベーター 3F

HARAJUKU

ALLURING

ASIA

DAY 05 TOKYO-

Approximately 3 hours of walking

Meals included: Breakfast 

This morning, be ready in the lobby of the Hilton Tokyo at **10:00 AM** in preparation for a full day walking tour of Yanaka. Explore the famous shitamachi area of Yanesen. Shitamachi is the downtown area of the Edo-period Tokyo that flourished with creative artisans and merchants.

Yanesen is the collective name for Yanaka, Nezu, and the Sendagi neighborhoods. It's a great area to explore on foot and see the remnants of the shitamachi atmosphere of good old Tokyo—the traditional Japanese townscape and the friendliness and hospitality of the residents living there—all in the heart of the metropolis. This course takes a stroll through the classic shopping street, the symbolic mud wall of Kannon-ji Temple, and a famous shrine and gardens.

Return to the hotel around **4:00 PM**.

Please pack an overnight bag for the following 3 nights. Main luggage (one piece per person) will be sent from Tokyo to Kyoto.

Overnight: Hilton Tokyo – Standard Twin Room



ALLURING

ASIA

DAY 06 TOKYO/HIROSHIMA – approximately 3 miles of walking

Meals included: Breakfast 

At **8:30 AM** be ready in the lobby of the Hilton Tokyo in preparation for your transfer to the Tokyo Train Station.



9:20 AM Depart Tokyo via Bullet Train First Class service to Hiroshima. Total travel time: 3 hours, 50 minutes.

1:10 PM Arrive Hiroshima. You will be met by your local driver and transferred to the Peace Memorial Park and the 'A Bomb' Museum.

The Peace Memorial Museum tells the story of Hiroshima before and after the bomb. The A-Bomb Dome has been left in ruins as a reminder of the supreme destructive potential of nuclear weapons. The Children's Peace Memorial is profoundly moving. Outside, a Peace Flame continues to burn until all nuclear weapons are abolished.

There are many stories here. Learn about Sadako Sasaki, a Japanese girl born in 1943. An outstanding 11-year-old athlete, Sadako was diagnosed with leukemia, 'the atom bomb disease'. Her best friend told her of a legend that anyone who folds 1,000 paper cranes would be granted a wish. Sadako's wish was to get well so she could run again. She started to work on the paper cranes and completed more than 1,000 before dying about a year later.

At approximately **5:00 PM** transfer to the ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel Hiroshima, where reservations for a Middle Floor Twin Room have been confirmed for the evening. ANA Crowne Plaza features a 22nd-floor French restaurant and a health club with a pool. Rooms have free wired internet, flat-screen TV, wood furnishings, and elegant colors.

Overnight: ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel – Middle Floor Twin Room





A BOMB DOME

ALLURING

ASIA

DAY 07 HIROSHIMA/NAOSHIMA – Approximately 1 ½ miles of walking

Meals included: Breakfast 

At **8:30 AM** be ready in the lobby of the ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel in preparation for a morning of touring and your transfer to Naoshima Island.

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Miyajima Island, considered so sacred that ordinary people were not allowed to set foot on the Island. Worshippers approached the island by boat through a massive red gate (torii) in the middle of the bay. This grand gateway, sturdy yet graceful, sits in the tidal flats in front of Itsukushima and welcomes spirits of the departed as they cross the water of Japan's Inland Sea.

It is interesting to note that there are no cemeteries in Miyajima, in fact, no one is allowed to die or be born on the island, as it is a sacred place.

Visit the famous Itsukushima Shrine and the famous red torii (gate). The Torii is a classic and beloved icon of Japan. A ferry ride will provide you with a picture-perfect vista of an orange-red torii, and the giant camphor-wood gate at the entrance to Itsukushima Shinto Shrine.

The Shrine dates from the sixth century. In 1168 the Taira family, warrior-class leaders, ordered that the shrine be reconstructed. That work forms the basic composition of the buildings you will see today.

Visit Mt. Misen via the Miyajima Ropeway; enjoy 360 degree panoramic views as you soar above the hundreds of islands that dot the Seto Inland Sea below. Hike the Daishoin Course which takes approximately 1 ½ - 2 hours and has a lot of stone steps. You will hike past Shiraito Falls, Azumaya Observatory and Sai no Kawara spiritual riverside.

At **1:30 PM** depart Miyajima for Uno Port. The drive will take approximately 3 hours.



5:10 PM Depart Uno Port by ferry to Naoshima Island. The crossing takes approximately 20 minutes.

5:30 PM Arrive Naoshima Island. Transfer to the Benesse House.

At the Benesse House reservations for a Park Deluxe Twin Room have been confirmed for the following 2 nights.

The Benesse House (Benesse House Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum) is a unique combination: Hotel and Art museum. Benesse House sits on a perfect peak overlooking the Seto Inland Sea, a marvel of nature, a magnificent sheltered bay enclosed by three of Japan's major islands (Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu). The sea is dotted with tiny islands and quaint tile-roofed fishing hamlets, backed by rugged, green, terraced fields leading up steep mountain ridges. Daily life bustles as fishing boats set out in the morning sunshine, fast ferries skim by, and larger vessels slowly steam to ports to load and unload their cargo.

Overnight: Benesse House – Park Deluxe Twin Room



S

TORII GATE AT MIYAJIMA

ALLURING

ASIA

DAY 08 NAOSHIMA- About 1 ½ hours of walking

Meals included: Breakfast 

At 9:00 AM begin your full day tour of Naoshima Island on foot and local transportation.

Visit Chichu Art museum, constructed in 2004 as a means of rethinking the relationship between humanity and nature. While the museum contains works by some of the most respected artists in history, the building itself is something of a work of art, as well. Designed to be as unobtrusive towards the beauty of Naoshima as possible, the majority of the building is located underground.

Continue to the Lee Ufan Museum. An international collaboration between Lee Ufan and architect Tadao Ando, the isolated structure that hosts Ufan's work from the 1970s to the present resonates with both stillness and dynamism.

Afterwards, visit the Art House Project. Repurposing empty houses set amongst residential areas, the project turns these former homes into works of art themselves, as it delicately blends history with the memories of these forgotten abodes.

Overnight: Benesse House – Park Deluxe Twin Room





LEE UFAN MUSEUM

ALLURING

ASIA

DAY 09 NAOSHIMA/KYOTO- Approximately 2 ½ miles of walking

Meals included: Breakfast 

At approximately **9:15 AM** depart the Benesse House.



9:50 AM Depart Naoshima Island and travel by ferry to Uno Port. The crossing takes 20 minutes.

10:10 AM Arrive Uno Port. You will be met by your driver and escorted to a waiting vehicle for your transfer to Okayama station. The drive takes approximately 50 minutes.



11:30 AM Depart Okayama via First Class Bullet Train service to Kyoto. Total travel time: 1 hour.

12:30 PM Arrive Kyoto. You will be met at the station by your driver and escorted to a waiting vehicle.

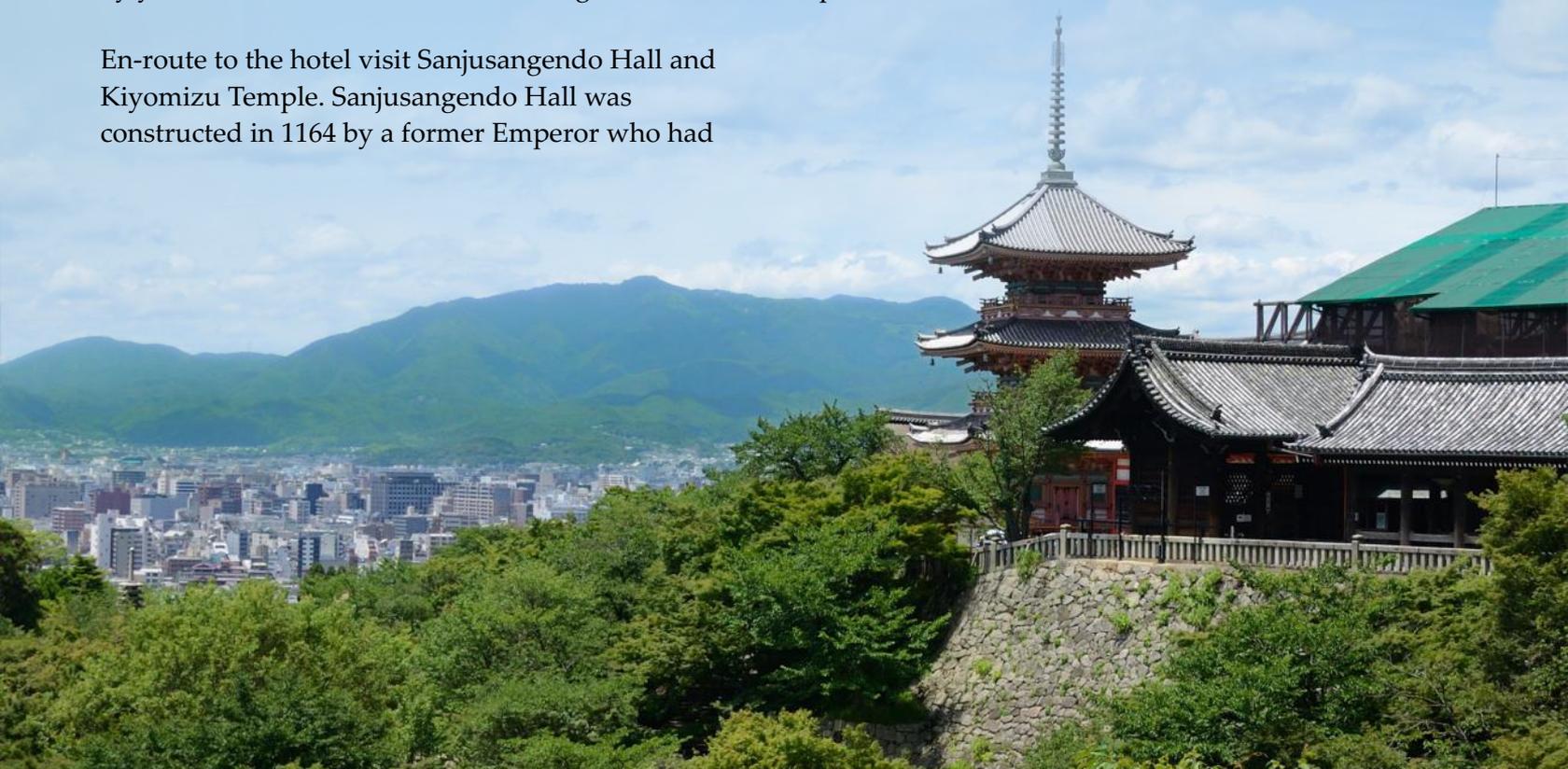
En-route to the hotel visit Sanjusangendo Hall and Kiyomizu Temple. Sanjusangendo Hall was constructed in 1164 by a former Emperor who had

retired to a life of religion. Dedicated to Kannon, the Buddhist divinity that assumes thirty-three different forms, the hall features thirty-three different bays.

Walk to Kiyomizu Temple and past the Gion Area. The walk is approximately 2 ½ miles.

Kiyomizu-dera, full name Otowa-san Kiyomizu-dera is an independent Buddhist temple in eastern Kyoto. The temple is part of the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji and Otsu Cities) UNESCO World Heritage site. Not one nail is used in the whole temple. The temple is part of the 33-temple route of the Chūgoku 33 Kannon Pilgrimage through western Japan, which is still traced by worshippers today.

Kiyomizu-dera was founded in the early Heian period. The temple dates back to 798, and its present buildings were constructed in 1633. It takes its name from the waterfall within the complex, which runs off the nearby hills. Kiyomizu means clear water, or pure water.



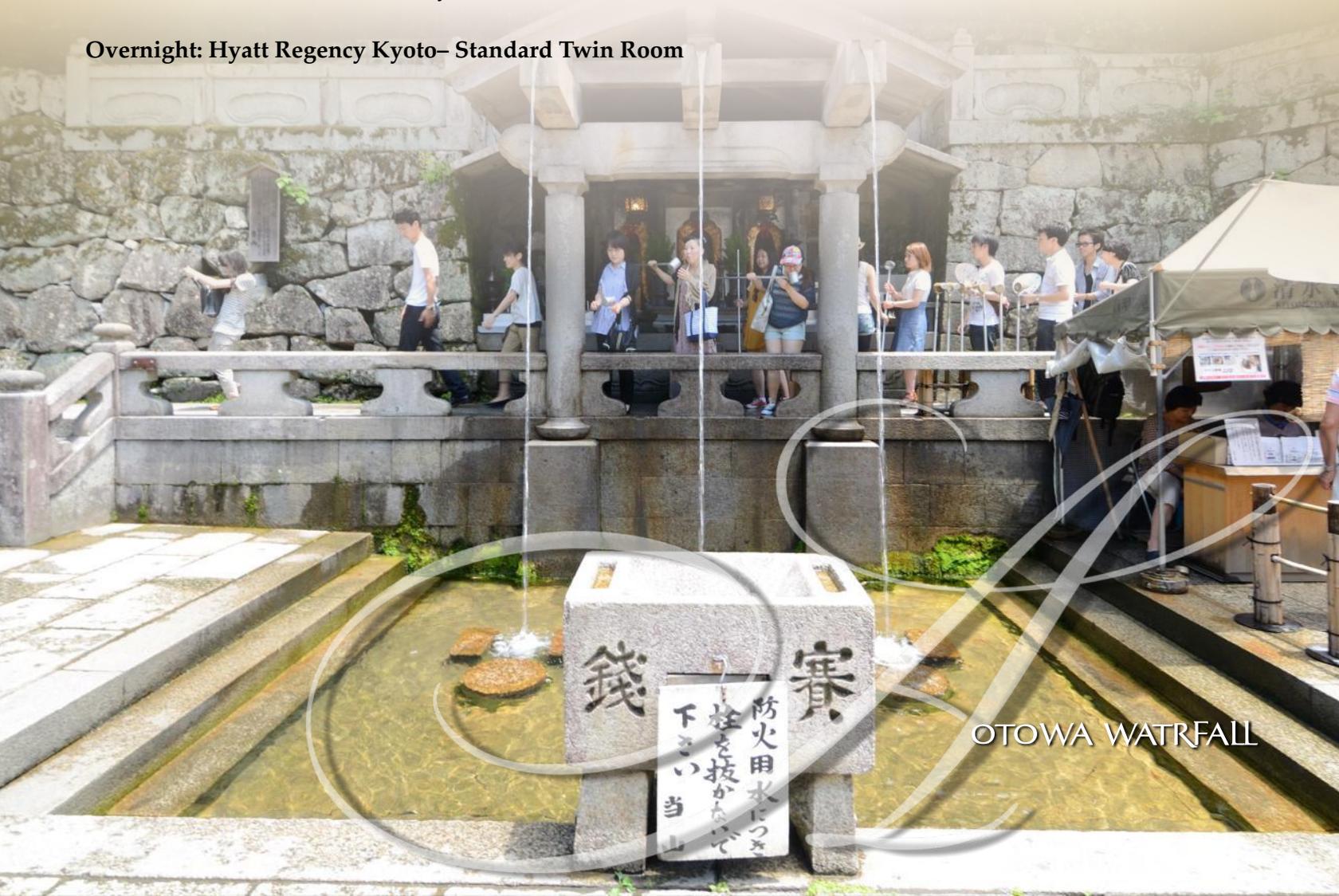
The main hall has a veranda, supported by tall pillars, that juts out over the hillside and offers impressive views of the city. The popular expression "to jump off the stage at Kiyomizu" is the Japanese equivalent of the English expression "to take the plunge". This refers to an Edo period tradition that held that, if one were to survive a 13m jump from the stage, one's wish would be granted. Two hundred thirty-four jumps were recorded in the Edo period and, of those, 85.4% survived. The practice is now prohibited.

Beneath the main hall is the Otowa waterfall, where three channels of water drop into a pond. Visitors to the temple collect the water, which is believed to have therapeutic properties, from the waterfall. It is said that drinking the water of the three streams confers wisdom, health, and longevity. However, some Japanese believe that you must choose only two — if you are greedy and drink from all three, you invite misfortune upon yourself.

The temple complex includes several other shrines, among them the Jishu Shrine, dedicated to Ōkuninushi, a god of love and "good matches". Jishu Shrine possesses a pair of "love stones" placed 18 meters apart, which lonely visitors attempt to walk between with their eyes closed. Success in reaching the other stone with their eyes closed implies that the pilgrim will find love, or true love. One can be assisted in the crossing, but this is taken to mean that a go-between will be needed. The person's romantic interest can assist them as well.

Afterwards, you will be transferred to the Hyatt Regency Kyoto, where reservations for a Standard Twin Room have been confirmed for the following 3 nights. The Hyatt Regency Kyoto Hotel is one of the newest hotels in Kyoto. The hotel is located just minutes from JR Kyoto Station, in the Higashiyama Shichijo district, the traditional and cultural heart of Kyoto.

Overnight: Hyatt Regency Kyoto– Standard Twin Room



ALLURING

ASIA

DAY 10 KYOTO- Approximately 3 ½ miles of walking

Meals included: Breakfast 

Enjoy a full-day exploring Kyoto.

Kyoto steeped in traditions and beauty has remained 'relatively' unchanged for many centuries. Kyoto was Japan's capital for over 1,000 years and during that time became a repository of much of the best Japanese art, culture, religion and thought. Kyoto's historic buildings and sites span centuries. Kyoto still charms visitors with its original wooden houses, ancient temples, and geishas hurrying on their way.

Among other distinctions, Kyoto contains 17 UNESCO World Heritage sites, 24 museums and 37 universities. A rich city indeed.

Begin with a visit to Tenryuji Temple, located in the center of Arashiyama. The temple was built in 1339 and has been ranked first among Kyoto's 'Five Great Zen Temples'. The temple is famous for its landscape garden, which unlike the temple buildings has survived in its original form.

Walk to the Sagano Bamboo Grove. Sagano is located in the northwest of Kyoto and covers an area of 16 acres.

Enjoy your walk along the trail to Okochi Sanso, a villa complex built by Japanese movie star, Okochi Denjiro. The bamboo forest is one of the most beautiful spots in Japan. The bamboo is still used to manufacture various products such as baskets, cups, boxes, mats and pieces of art at work shops in the Arashiyama area.

Continue your walk to Saihouji Temple or Kokedera (Moss Garden/Moss Temple). **Entry is by special permission. Requests can be made 30 days prior to arrival.** The temple was listed on the UNESCO world Heritage list in 1994. It is one of Japan's finest gardens.

Founded by a priest named Gyoki in the Nara Period, it was refurbished in 1339 by Muso Kokushi/Soseki, a famous landscaper. The garden of the Buddhist Rinzai-shu sect temple is a wonderful mixture of natural beauty and landscaping and is famous for its velvety-green 120 different kinds of moss spread underneath the trees. What is amazing about Saihoji's garden is that it was never planned to be covered in moss. Muso had planned for a garden divided into two parts, one the Chisen Kaiyu (circling pond) while the other was to be a karesansui (dry garden) type. After the garden was finished the moss naturally grew, with no help from external forces. The fact that this garden's beauty was only half planned by a man makes it genuinely sublime.



SA

BAMBOO GROVE

ALLURING

ASIA

Afterwards marvel at the gilded brilliance of Kinkakuji, the Golden Pavilion, named for the beautiful gold leaf that adorns it. The garden here is as spectacular as the architecture and setting. Mount Kinugasa serves as a backdrop. The temple was originally built as a villa by the Shogun Yoshimitsu Ashikaga in 1397, but it was turned into a Buddhist temple after his death. Though destroyed by a number of fires, the temple was reconstructed again and again. The latest disaster occurred in 1950, when an apprentice monk set fire to the temple to show his dissatisfaction with society. In 1987 the pavilion walls were completely renovated using 200,000 pieces of gold foil.

The surrounding landscape represents a classic example of a 14th-century stroll garden. Rocks symbolizing mountains and oceans are arranged in and around the pond, located in the center.

Afterwards, return to your hotel.

Overnight: Hyatt Regency Kyoto– Standard Twin Room





TENRYUJI TEMPLE

ALLURING

ASIA

DAY 11 KYOTO- Approximately 2 hours of walking

Meals included: Breakfast 

Today's private sightseeing tour includes: a visit to the Heian Shrine, Fushimi Inari Shrine, Todaiji Temple and Kasuga Shrine.

Tour the Heian shrine. It takes approximately 2 hours to walk around and climb up Mt. Inari.

The torii before the main gate is one of the largest in Japan. The architecture of the main building mirrors the style and features of the Kyoto Imperial Palace. The shrine is dedicated to Emperor Kanmu and Emperor Komei. Kanmu moved the capital to Heiankyo, and Komei was the last before Emperor Meiji, who moved the capital of Japan to Tokyo.

Continue to the Fushimi Inari Shrine, dedicated to the Shinto god of rice and home to a multitude of vermilion torii gates. Explore the wooden grounds and network of trails that surround what is the most important shrine dedicated to Inari.

Visit the Todaiji Temple (Great Eastern Temple) one of Japan's most famous temples and Nara landmark. Todaiji was constructed in 752 as the head temple of all provincial Buddhist temples of Japan. Todaiji derives its name from its location east of Nara, which was the capital of Japan when it was built. The Todaiji temple grew so powerful that the Japanese capital was moved to Nagaoka in 784 in order to lower its influence on government affairs. The temple has remained active and its wooden buildings were rebuilt several times over the centuries after fires and earthquakes. Today, the temple serves as the Japanese headquarters of the Kegon school of Buddhism.

A stroll through Nara Park from Todaiji leads to one of the best Shinto Shrines in Japan the Kasuga Grand Shrine (or Kasuga Taisha).

Kasuga Shrine is Nara's most celebrated shrine. It was established at the same time as the capital and dedicated to the deity responsible for the protection of the city. Kasuga Taisha was also the tutelary shrine of the Fujiwara, Japan's most powerful family clan of most of the Nara and Heian Period. As Shinto tradition dictated, the family tore down and completely rebuilt the structure every 20 years until the late 1800s. The Shrine is famous for its 3000 stone lanterns which were donated by worshippers. The many bronze lanterns within the shrine and the hundreds of stone lanterns lining the shrine's approach are lit on the occasion of the Lantern Festivals in February and August.

Afterwards, return to your hotel.

Please pack an overnight bag for the following 3 nights. Main luggage (one piece per person) will be sent from Kyoto to Hakone.

Overnight: Hyatt Regency Kyoto– Standard Twin Room



TODAIJI SHRINE

ALLURING

ASIA

DAY 12 KYOTO/KANAZAWA- Approximately 1 ½ miles of walking

Meals included: Breakfast 

At **9:00 AM** be ready in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Kyoto in preparation for your transfer to the Kyoto Station.



9:40 AM Depart Kyoto via Express Train First Class service to Kanazawa. Total travel: 2 hours, 20 minutes.

Kanazawa originated as a castle town that retains much of the flavor of those early feudal times. The prevailing practices of Noh drama, tea ceremony, and flower arranging among the citizens came about as a result of the long period of unbroken peace which their ancestors enjoyed from the 17th to 19th centuries.

12:00 PM Arrive Kanazawa. You will be met at the station by your driver who will collect your luggage.

Walk from the Kanazawa station to a Gold Leaf decoration presentation.

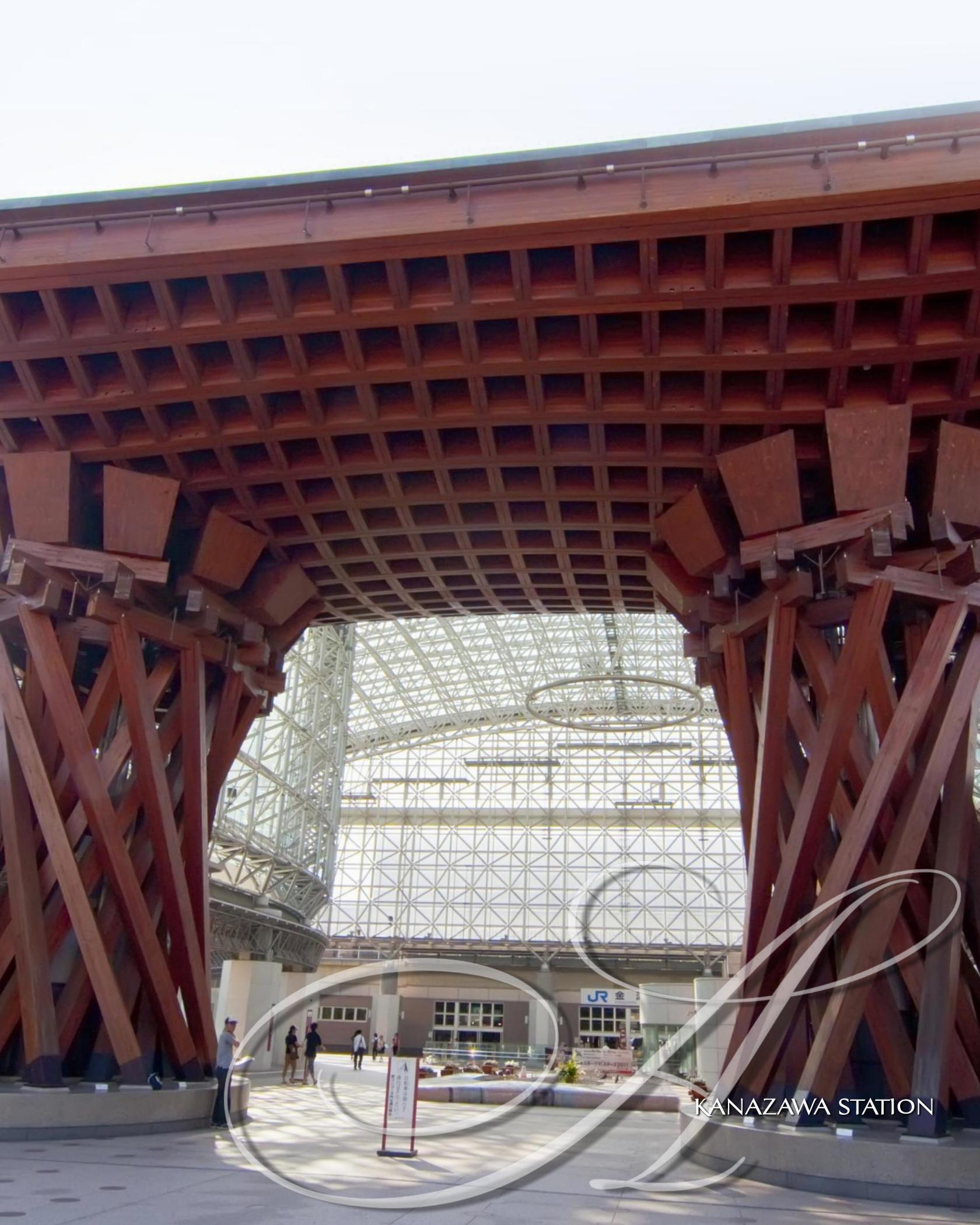
Afterwards walk to Omicho Market, Kanazawa's largest fresh food market since the Edo Period. A maze of crowded streets lined by 200 shops and stalls, here you will find everything from fresh seafood to clothing and tools.

Continue your walk to visit a typical plaster-wall home of the Samurai. Most of the homes are still maintained by the descendants of those samurai, but the Nomura Family house is open to the public. Of special note are the stone lanterns and bridges of the family garden, as well as the cypress-wood ceiling of the house itself. Walking outside, visitors may easily feel they have returned to the days of the samurai.

Afterwards, transfer to the Hotel Nikko Kanazawa, where reservations for a Stylish Twin Room have been confirmed for this evening. The Hotel Nikko Kanazawa combines an elegant European atmosphere with the beauty of the Four Seasons. The hotel is conveniently located in front of JR Kanazawa Station and within walking distance to some of the most famous tourist spots in Kanazawa. At 130m it is also the tallest hotel in the Hokuriku area.

Overnight: Hotel Nikko Kanazawa – Stylish Twin Room





KANAZAWA STATION

ALLURING

ASIA

DAY 13 KANAZAWA/TAKAYAMA – Approximately 2 hours of walking

Meals included: Breakfast 

At approximately **9:00 AM** be ready in the lobby of the Hotel Nikko Kanazawa in preparation for a full day of touring.

Visit the Kenrokuen Garden, considered one of the "three most beautiful gardens in Japan". The spacious garden used to be the outer garden of the Kanazawa Castle. Constructed by the ruling Maeda family over a period of nearly two centuries it was opened to the public in 1871. The garden is filled with a variety of trees, ponds, waterfalls and flowers stretching over 25 acres. The name Kenrokuen literally means "Garden of the Six Sublimities", referring to spaciousness, seclusion, artificiality, antiquity, abundant water and broad views, which according to Chinese landscape theory are the six essential attributes that make up a perfect garden.

Afterwards, visit the Higashi Chaya District before beginning your overland transfer to Takayama City. The drive will take approximately 2 hours.

En-route visit Shirakawa-go Village where you will have a walking tour. Nestled in a rural setting reminiscent of the old Japan, Shirakawa-go is world-

famous for its steeply thatch-roofed traditional farmhouses. The farmhouses were added to the World Heritage List in 1995. The style is 'gasshozukuri', hands-clasped in prayer. The heavy snowfalls that visit this straggling village in the gorge of the Shogawa river led people to build farmhouses of 60-degree pitch. The farmhouses are all oriented along a north-south axis so the roof sides receive equal sunlight and the snow melts evenly.

At the Hida Hotel Plaza, reservations for a Deluxe Twin Room have been confirmed for the following 2 nights. The Hida Hotel Plaza amenities include an indoor pool, spa, and sauna. Dining options include two restaurants, coffee shop, and bar/lounge.

Takayama is an old castle town situated in a valley surrounded by the Japanese Alps. This area retains much of the atmosphere of old Japan, as for centuries it was cut off from the rest of the country by almost impregnable encircling mountains. The whole town is museum-like, dotted with attraction after attraction, including a variety of small museums devoted to traditional crafts embodying the town's long-standing tradition of the finest in craftsmanship.

Overnight: Hida Hotel Plaza – Deluxe Twin Room



KORAKUEN GARDEN

ALLURING ASIA

DAY 14 TAKAYAMA – Approximately 3 ½ miles of walking

Meals included: Breakfast 

Enjoy the day exploring Takayama.

Begin with a visit to the Miyakawa morning riverside market and the Yataikaikan Exhibition Hall. At the Yataikaikan, floats paraded at the beautiful Takayama Festival are displayed, showing off these elaborate, several hundred year old works of legendary craftsmanship.

Also visit Takayama Jinya a National Historic Relic and Kusakabe old house.

You may wish to explore the old merchant quarters of this charming town. The narrow streets are lined with stores selling traditional wares, craftsmen's workshops, inns, and breweries.

Overnight: Hida Hotel Plaza – Deluxe Twin Room



DAY 15 TAKAYAMA/HAKONE – Approximately 40 minutes of walking

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner 

At approximately **7:30 AM** be ready in the lobby of the Hida Hotel Plaza in preparation for your transfer to the Takayama Train Station.



8:00 AM Depart Takayama via Express Train First Class service to Nagoya. Total travel time: 2 hours, 30 minutes.

10:30 AM Arrive Nagoya. You will have a 1 hour layover before continuing service to Odawara.



11:30 AM Depart Nagoya via Bullet Train First Class service to Odawara. Total travel time: 1 hour.

Hakone has been a popular resort since the great warrior Toyotomi Hideyoshi discovered natural hot springs in this beautiful mountainous area in the 16th century. Hakone was also a very important checkpoint –sort of a feudal customs control – along the old Tokaido Road during the Shogunate Edo Period.

The Tokaido Road was established by the aristocratic Samurai warrior caste during the 17th century and it tied together the provinces of old Japan, from the feudal palaces and forts to bustling market centers, towns and temples. Traveled on foot by sword-wielding horseman, pilgrims, traders, poets and peasants for over 200 years, today you will have an opportunity to explore a part of this rich historical heritage alongside astounding natural beauty. Hakone was the most difficult sector of the route as travelers had to pass through high mountains and ‘treacherous’ regions. Today the road is well preserved and cedar trees line the road. The road covers 303 miles.

12:30 PM Arrive Odawara. Upon arrival you will be met by your guide and escorted to a waiting vehicle for your transfer to the Ryokan Gora Hanaougi.

En-route travel via the Hakone Ropeway to the Owakudani Valley where you can enjoy spectacular views of Mt. Fuji (weather permitting). Owakudani Valley includes a 40 minute walk along a mountain path (20 minutes each way to reach the crater area).

At the Ryokan Gora Hanaougi, reservations for a Japanese Style Room have been confirmed for the evening. Surrounded by a beautiful natural landscape, enjoy the Ryokan’s open-air hot spring bath as you gaze out towards the nearby mountains and sparkling sky.

Overnight: Ryokan Gora Hanaougi – Japanese Style Room

TOKAIDO ROAD

ALLURING

ASIA

DAY 16 HAKONE/TOKYO

Meals included: Breakfast 

At approximately **9:00 AM** depart the Ryokan Gora Hanaougi in preparation for your overland journey to Tokyo.

Enjoy fabulous views of Fuji National Park. Visit the Mt. Fuji 5th station.

Continue to Itchiku Kubota Art Museum, dedicated to Kubota Itchiku, the artist who revived the lost art of Tsujigahan silk dying, used as a way of decorating kimonos beginning in the 14th century. Inspired by a fragment of Tsujigahan textile displayed at the Tokyo National Museum, Kubota Itchiku dedicated the rest of his life to recreating and mastering this labor intensive silk dying process. Within the museum are several of the artists famed kimono creations that depict themes of nature, the seasons & the cosmos. Outside of the museum, stretching across wooded slopes and museum buildings is an extensive garden designed by Kubota Itchiku himself.

At the Hilton Tokyo, reservations for a Standard Twin Room have been confirmed for this evening.

Overnight: Hilton Tokyo – Standard Twin Room

DAY 17 TOKYO/NARITA/CHICAGO/NEW YORK (La Guardia)

Meals included: Breakfast 

Check out time is **12 noon**.

At **2:00 PM** be ready in the lobby of the Hilton Tokyo in preparation for your transfer to the Tokyo Airport.



6:30 PM Depart Narita via American Airlines flight # 154 direct service to Chicago. Total flying time: 11 hours, 55 minutes. **Set your watch back 15 hours.**

3:25 PM Arrive Chicago. You will have a 3 hour, 10 minute layover and change of planes.



6:35 PM Depart Chicago via American Airlines flight # 350 direct service to LaGuardia. Total flying time: 2 hours, 15 minutes. **Set your watch 1 hour ahead.**

9:50 PM Arrive LaGuardia.



*Your Journey
Is Now Complete*



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ANA CROWNE PLAZA - HIROSHIMA



At the ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel Hiroshima reservations for a Twin Bedded Club Floor Room have been confirmed for this evening. ANA Crowne Plaza features a 22nd-floor French restaurant and a health club with a pool. Rooms have free wired internet, flat-screen TV, wood furnishings, and elegant colors.

ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel Hiroshima

7-20 Nakamachi

Naka-ku, Hiroshima-shi, Hiroshima

Telephone: (011 81 82) 241 1111

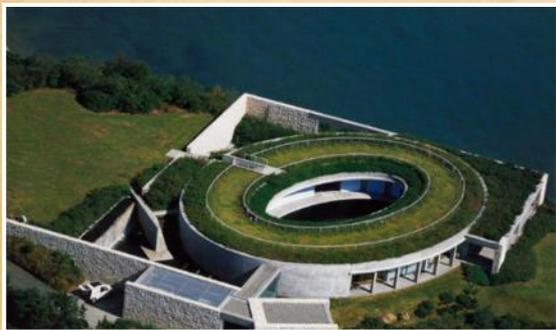
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www.crowneplaza.com/Hiroshima





HOTEL BENESSE HOUSE



The Benesse House (Benesse House Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum) is a unique combination: Hotel and Art museum. Benesse House sits on a perfect peak overlooking the Seto Inland Sea, a marvel of nature, a magnificent sheltered bay enclosed by three of Japan's major islands

The Benesse House

Gotanji, Naoshima-Cho Kagawa-Gun
Kagawa, Naoshima Island

Telephone: (011 81 87) 892 2030

Fax: (011 81 87) 892 2259





HYATT REGENCY - KYOTO



The Hyatt Regency Kyoto Hotel is one of the newest hotels in Kyoto. The hotel is located just minutes from JR Kyoto Station, in the Higashiyama Shichijo district, the traditional and cultural heart of Kyoto.

Hyatt Regency Kyoto

644-2 Sanjusangendo-mawari, Higashiyama-ku
Kyoto, Japan

Telephone: (011 81 75) 541 1234

Fax: (011 81 75) 541 2203

kyoto.regency.hyatt.com





NIKKO KANAZAWA



The Hotel Nikko Kanazawa combines an elegant European atmosphere with the beauty of the Four Seasons. The hotel is conveniently located in front of JR Kanazawa Station and within walking distance to some of the most famous tourist spots in Kanazawa Japan. Also at 130m it is also the tallest hotel in the Hokuriku area.

Nikko Kanazawa Hotel
Honmachi, Kanazawa,
Ishikawa Prefecture 920-0853, Japan
Phone: +81 76-234-1111



www.jalhotels.com/domestic/chubu_hokuriku/kanazawa





HIDA HOTEL PLAZA - TAKAYAMA



The Hida Hotel Plaza amenities include an indoor pool, spa, and sauna. Dining options include two restaurants, coffee shop, and bar/lounge.

Hida Hotel Plaza.

60 Hanaoka-cho 2-chome
Takayama City, Gifu

Telephone: (011 81 577) 33-4600

Fax: (011 81 577) 33-4602



<http://www.hida-hotelplaza.co.jp/english/>



