

# Japan: Medieval, Mysterious and Modern

## March 25 – April 8, 2017



Japan has always intrigued and fascinated. It is, at the same time, one of the oldest and most modern of civilizations. Closed to westerners for centuries, it was labelled mysterious and exotic. It is a complex and rewarding destination and ROMtravel will unravel its diversity, intricacy, colour, culture and food.

In the modern city of Tokyo, we will see famous temples and gardens mingled with fantastic restaurants and shopping, then move on to the ancient imperial capitals of Kyoto and Nikko. April is cherry blossom time and at places like the Golden Pavilion and Heian Shrine inner garden, they will truly be a feast for our eyes.

But we will also get off the beaten track and get behind the façades of touristic Japan, as only ROMtravel with its reputation and contacts can.

We will travel through the Japanese Alps to stay at a hot spring, called an *onsen*; we will see traditional wood carvers at work and visit the secluded farm houses called *gassho-zuriki*, in a region which makes up a UNESCO World Heritage site and transports you to a different time.

We will learn the secrets of the tea ceremony and see the highly developed style of the geiko women who entertain in geisha houses. Of course, we'll learn the stories of samurai warrior culture and see the forts and fortresses of medieval Japan.

Another unique highlight will be a boat trip on the Seto Inland Sea, and then onto Shikoku Island to trace the route of the Buddhist pilgrimage of the 88 shrines. You can walk through the groves of swaying bamboo which is harvested for traditional mats, baskets, cups and boxes, and see the gardens of the feudal Edo era. We will cruise by the spectacular Grand Seto Bridge linking the five islands – a marvellous sight to see by water.

We will stay in a traditional *ryokan*, or Japanese inn (with western beds unless you really want a tatami mat!).

Deep in the forest, the Miho Museum designed by I.M. Pei, is integrated into its

natural surroundings and has panoramic views of the surrounding valleys.

Come and experience Japan with us. As you see the world through our eyes, you will delight in a trip that is unforgettable.

### Tour Itinerary and Highlights

#### Day 1 Tokyo

Individual arrivals at airport. Group coach transfer to hotel. Welcome reception.

#### Day 2 Tokyo

City tour, Tsukiji fish market, Imperial Palace, Yanaka district, and Asakusa Kannon Temple. Welcome Dinner.

#### Day 3 Tokyo–Nikko–Tokyo

Shinto and Buddhist shrines, Lake Chuzenji, and Kegon Falls.

#### Day 4 Tokyo–Yamanaka

Onsen, Kakusenkei Gorge, traditional lacquerware store.

#### Day 5 Yamanaka–Kanazawa

Higashi Chaya District, Kenrokuen Garden, Kanazawa Castle, Nagamachi Samurai District.

#### Day 6 Kanazawa–Takayama

Woodcarvings town, Temple Gate, Japanese Alps, farm village with *gassho-zuriki* houses, and Washi papermaking.

#### Day 7 Takayama

Farmer's market, San Machi Suji old street, merchants' houses, outdoor folk museum.

#### Day 8 Takayama–Magome–Kyoto

Explore old post towns on heritage highway in the mountains.

#### Day 9 Kyoto

Kiyomizu Temple, Nijo Castle, Golden Pavilion and Heian Shrine inner garden, Gion Geisha District, and Shirakawa Area.

#### Day 10 Kyoto

Miho Museum.

#### Day 11 Kyoto–Seto Bridge–Kotohira

Mount Washuzan observation area, boat cruise and water view of bridges. Stay at a *ryokan*.

#### Day 12 Kotohira–Kirosan–Hiroshima

Kotohira Shinto shrine, Asakura Towel Museum, Peace Memorial Museum.

#### Day 13 Hiroshima–Miyajima island–Hiroshima

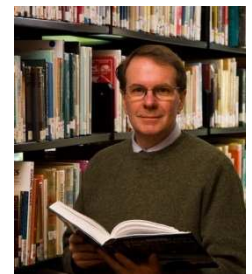
Kintaikyo Bridge, cherry blossoms, Itsukushima "floating" Shrine. Farewell Dinner.

#### Day 14 Hiroshima

Group coach transfer to airport. Individual departures.

### Resource Person

**Jack Howard** is a Japanologist and storyteller. He is the recently retired head of the ROM's Far Eastern Library and holds a Master's degree in Japanese studies from the University of Toronto. He



lived in Japan in the 1970s, is fluent in Japanese and has an intimate understanding of both modern day Japan and traditional Japanese customs. He has previously accompanied two very successful ROM tours to Japan.

### ROMtravel Coordinator

**Eric Morrison** is a ROM volunteer, with wide experience as a world traveller in his various roles as a journalist with CTV News and past president of The Canadian Press news agency. He has led ROMtravel trips to Chile and Argentina.

### Travel Agency Escort

**Jun Hayashi** of Elite Orient Tours escorted a previous ROMtravel trip and regularly leads select groups to Japan.

### Tour Cost

<b>Double Occupancy</b>	<b>\$9,320</b>
<b>Single Supplement</b>	<b>1,780</b>

Tour begins at Tokyo Narita (NRT) Airport.  
 Tour ends at Hiroshima (HIJ) Airport.  
 International flight costs to/from your home and Japan are NOT included.

### Photos

- Japanese tea ceremony, courtesy of Green Organic Devotion
- Cherry blossoms, Tokyo Imperial Palace, courtesy of Wikipedia
- Itsukushima Gate, courtesy of Wikipedia and Jordy Meow

# Terms & Conditions

## Japan: Medieval, Mysterious and Modern

### March 25 – April 8, 2017

#### Tour Cost

**Double Occupancy:** \$9,320 per person

**Single Supplement:** \$1,780

**Tour cost does NOT include international flight costs to/from your home and Japan.** Elite Orient Tours can assist with booking flights.

#### Tour Cost Includes

- Group coach transfer from Tokyo Narita (NRT) Airport to hotel on Day 1 for those arriving before or at the arrival time of the ROMtravel Coordinator. Group coach transfer from hotel to Hiroshima (HIJ) Airport on Day 14 for those departing at or after the departure time of the ROMtravel Coordinator.
- Portage at hotels of one standard sized suitcase per person.
- Ground transportation in a deluxe, air-conditioned coach for transfers and excursions as per itinerary. Boat, train and local flights are included.
- Shared accommodation in double occupancy room with private facilities at 4 \* or better hotels.
- Meals: breakfast daily, 12 lunches and 13 dinners, including choice of water or green tea in Japanese restaurants. Water in western restaurants. Bottled water daily on the bus. Welcome Reception with beer, wine and finger foods. Welcome and Farewell Dinners with beer and wine.
- All visits, entrance fees, speakers' fees and events as per itinerary.
- All taxes and tips for all goods and services, drivers, hotel, restaurant and guiding staff related to the basic tour; all hotel and local taxes.
- Services of a ROM Resource Person, a ROMtravel Coordinator and a Travel Agency Escort.
- Services of English-speaking local guides. Services of Elite Orient Tours.
- Pre-trip orientations; post-trip reunion. A travel handbook.

#### Not Included

- International flight costs to/from your home and Japan.
- Items of a personal nature, e.g., laundry, telephone calls, internet.
- Airline baggage fees where applicable. Visa fees where applicable.
- Meals, snacks, beverages, and other services unless specified.
- Trip cancellation and hospital/medical insurance.
- Emergency evacuation costs.
- Fuel surcharges if any. Camera and video fees where applicable.
- Additional meals and accommodations due to delays.

#### Costs

All prices quoted herein are based on rates, fees and taxes as of September 1, 2015. Costs are subject to change without notice. Should tour costs increase, Elite Orient Tours (as per TICO regulations) reserves the right to increase the price accordingly up to a maximum of 7%. Note that the itinerary may be subject to change without notice.

#### ROM Membership Requirement

Participants must be members of the Royal Ontario Museum. Individual annual membership is \$97; family annual membership is \$149 (if both partners join the tour, only one needs to be a member). Non-resident family annual membership (outside L/M postal zones) is \$102. Prices are subject to change without notice.

#### Deposits and Final Payment

**An initial non-refundable deposit of \$1,300.00 per person** is required at the time of booking. Optional trip cancellation and hospital/medical insurance are payable at the time of booking. **The balance of payment, \$8,020.00, and single supplement of \$1,780.00, if applicable, is due on February 3, 2017.**

#### Reservations

As the number of participants is limited, reservations should be made as soon as possible. In the event of over-subscription, a waiting list will be maintained.

#### Physical Limitations or Disabilities

Any physical limitation or disability requiring special attention or treatment must be reported when reservation is made. Elite Orient Tours and/or its agents reserve the right to decline to accept or retain anyone who may in their sole judgment require care and attention beyond that which can be provided.

#### Cancellations

Should a confirmed participant cancel, notification must be received in writing by Elite Orient Tours. **All payments are non-refundable.** No refund will be issued for unused services. No claim or refund will be considered unless submitted in writing and received by Elite Orient Tours within 30 days of the termination of the tour.

#### Documents

A passport valid for six (6) months after the return date is required. For non-Canadian citizens, it is the individual traveller's responsibility to ensure proper visas or affidavits. Neither Elite Orient Tours nor ROMtravel is responsible for missing or incorrect travel documents. Entry to another country may be refused even if the required information and travel documents are complete.

#### ROMtravel values your Privacy

Your contact information will be published in the Trip Handbook unless you advise us NOT to do so. It is for the sole use of trip participants, ROMtravel and the Travel Agency, and will not be shared with anyone else.

#### Insurance

Comprehensive insurance to afford protection against penalties caused by cancellation of trip due to injury, illness or death of tour participant or member of participant's family is recommended. Many different policy options are available depending on your desired level of protection. Optional insurance coverage may be purchased from the travel agency. It is underwritten by Allianz Global Assist. The insurance premium is non-refundable. A waiver will be necessary if insurance is not purchased. For rates, contact Jun Hayashi with your date of birth.

#### Royal Ontario Museum Responsibility

Neither the Royal Ontario Museum nor the Department of Museum Volunteers of the Royal Ontario Museum, or any member thereof, assumes any responsibility for the financing, arranging or the conducting of the tour, nor shall be liable for damages or loss to person or property that might occur in connection with this tour however arising, whether by negligence or otherwise, and whether or not a member of the Royal Ontario Museum staff or the Department of Museum Volunteers accompanies the tour. The applicant by applying to join the tour hereby agrees to this limitation of liability on the part of the Royal Ontario Museum, the Department of Museum Volunteers or any member thereof.

#### Responsibility and Jurisdiction

Elite Orient Tours and their agents act only as agents for the passengers with respect to services supplied to passengers by others, including but not limited to transportation, hotel and restaurant services, on the express condition that they are not liable for any failure in such services, or injury, loss or damage, delay or inconvenience arising out of or in connection with any defect in any vehicle or any act, omission, accident or error in providing such transportation, hotel, restaurant or other services. There is no refund for unused portions of the tour. In case of an accident occurring during the land portion of any tour, the passenger must submit any claim therefore only to the competent judicial authorities of the jurisdiction where such accident occurred, to be determined exclusively in accordance with the laws of such jurisdiction. By accepting the coupons and tickets and utilizing the services, the passenger agrees that neither the Royal Ontario Museum nor any affiliated or Elite Orient Tours subsidiary companies or representatives shall be liable for any loss, injury or damage to the passenger or belongings or otherwise in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or resulting directly from any occurrences beyond its control including breakdown in equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation or changes in itinerary or schedules, etc. Elite Orient Tours and its agents reserve the right to refuse to accept or retain any person as a member of this tour. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all of the tour or portions thereof. All tour services including, but not limited to hotel accommodations, restaurants, guide services and transportation are furnished by independent contractors.

#### Elite Orient Tours Inc.

TICO Registration #'s 5000112, 5000110

**Organized by ROMtravel for  
The Department of Museum Volunteers  
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada**

The Department of Museum Volunteers' ROMtravel Program was established to provide superior quality tour opportunities for members and to generate income for the Royal Ontario Museum.

#### For further information, contact:

**Eric Morrison, ROMtravel Coordinator**

Phone: 416.691.6770

E-mail: morrison.eric07@gmail.com

**Jun Hayashi, Elite Orient Tours Inc.**

Phone: 416.977.3026 Toll-free: 1.800.668.8100

Fax: 416.977.3104

E-mail: hayashi@elitetours.com