



**HARVARD**  
Alumni Association

## **JAPAN FAMILY ADVENTURE (TOKYO, KYOTO & HIROSHIMA)**

**JUNE 27-JULY 8, 2020**

All cultures are a mix of the indigenous and the assimilated, but Japan excels in its unfailing ability to preserve the ancient while incorporating the modern. This powerful skill has enabled Japan to adopt foreign influences to its advantage, while still preserving its Japanese character.

This journey embraces Japan's frenetic cities, revered natural environment and enduring traditions that coexist in unique harmony. It begins in Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. It then continues to Hiroshima, a city that is now at the center of an international peace movement. Visit the island of Miyajima, a UNESCO World Heritage site, considered to be one of Japan's "three most beautiful places" with its red torii standing in the ocean during high tide. Toyoto City provides insight into the latest manufacturing technology, while Hakone's geothermal forces provide natural hot springs for healing and relaxation. The journey culminates in Tokyo, one of the world's must-see cities. Everywhere one turns, there are shops of every sort, tantalizing food stalls, incongruous shrines, and flashing neon lights.

**GROUP SIZE:** Up to 30 guests

**PRICING:** Per person double occupancy: \$11,995 / Single Occupancy: \$15,535

**STUDY LEADER: THEODORE J. GILMAN** (Ted) is the Executive Director of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (WCFIA) at Harvard University, a leading research institute focusing on comparative, international, global, and transnational topics. With 210 faculty associates across the university, the Weatherhead Center covers the entire world from a broad array of disciplinary perspectives. The WCFIA supports undergraduate and graduate student research, and it hosts visiting scholars and practitioners from around the world.

Ted was a tenured member of the Political Science Department at Union College for ten years before coming to Harvard, where he taught courses on Japanese Politics, East Asian International Relations, and Urban Politics. He was the Executive Director of the Reischauer Institute for Japanese Studies at Harvard prior to assuming his current post at the WCFIA. Ted has spent more than three years in Japan, teaching and doing research. He has published a book entitled *No Miracles Here: Fighting Urban Decline in Japan and the US* (SUNY Press), and he has lectured on this topic in Europe, Asia, and North America. Ted has led student groups on semesters abroad in both Japan and Vietnam. He has served as a consultant on curricular development issues at the K-12 and university levels. He is a graduate of Tufts University and has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Michigan.

# SCHEDULE BY DAY

*B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner*

## SATURDAY, JUNE 27 DEPART THE U.S.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 28 ARRIVE OSAKA / KYOTO

Upon arrival in Osaka (either Kansai International Airport or Itami Domestic Airport), proceed to the arrival area where a local representative will meet you and assist you with your airport shuttle to your hotel in Kyoto.

Overnight: *Hyatt Regency – Kyoto*

## MONDAY, JUNE 29 KYOTO

After breakfast and a brief orientation meeting, begin your exploration of Kyoto, starting in Southern Higashiyama, packed with first-rate sights. Begin at the magnificent Fushimi Inari Shrine, where a pathway covered by more than 2,000 red painted torii gates stretches nearly two miles up the hillside to the main shrine.

Then walk along Chawanzaka, the quaint old lane jam-packed with handicraft and pottery shops. From here, continue to the side entrance of Kiyomizudera, the temple of "pure water." While many other famous temples are the preserves of certain sects, Kiyomizudera belongs to everyone. For over 1,000 years pilgrims have climbed the slope to pray to the temple's 11-headed Kannon image and drink from its sacred spring. The main hall's verandah, a nail-less miracle of Japanese joinery, offers wonderful views of Kyoto.

Afterwards, participate in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony at the small and tranquil temple, Gesshin-in. Founded in 1617, this temple has miraculously

survived fires and natural disasters and still stands in its original building. The Japanese tea ceremony, also called the Way of Tea, involves the ceremonial preparation and presentation of *matcha* (powdered green tea).

End your day at the Nishiki market, a narrow shopping street lined with more than 100 shops where various kinds of food, including many Kyoto specialties, are sold. This market has a history of several centuries, and many stores have been operated by the same families for generations.

Return to your hotel with time to relax and freshen up before a wonderful "Welcome Dinner."

Overnight: *Hyatt Regency – Kyoto* (B, L, D)

## TUESDAY, JUNE 30 KYOTO

Begin today with a visit to Kinkakuji (the Golden Pavilion), one of the most famous temples in Kyoto, with its authentic and exquisite Japanese-style garden. Its three-storied pavilion is entirely covered in gold foil with a golden phoenix perched on the roof. The original temple dating from 1397 was built by the Shogun Yoshimitsu as a retirement villa. In 1950, Kinkakuji was deliberately burnt to the ground by one of its young priests who was obsessed with it. An exact replica was erected.

Next, venture west to the base of Kyoto's western Arashiyama Mountains. Walk through the bamboo forest to the base of Mt. Ogura to Okochi Sanso, the exquisite former villa of Denjiro Okochi, one of Japan's greatest silent screen stars. Stroll the villa's five-acre grounds along winding, wooded paths that Okochi-san spent the last 30 years of his life creating.

Continue to Monkey Park Iwatayama where about 150 wild monkeys can be observed, living and roaming freely in the wooded mountains. The park is a steep 15-to-20-minute walk up the mountain from Togetsukyo Bridge and it offers

spectacular views of Kyoto.

Dinner is on your own tonight.

Overnight: *Hyatt Regency – Kyoto* (B, L)

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

### KYOTO / HIROSHIMA

Today, partake in a Japanese calligraphy class, or *shodo*, "the way of calligraphy." Afterwards, depart Kyoto on the bullet train for Hiroshima. Once there, visit Peace Memorial Park, with its museum displaying relics and photos of the A-bomb devastation.

This evening, dinner is at an *okonomiyaki* restaurant, a local specialty, sometimes described as a savory pancake.

Overnight: *Sheraton Grand Hotel – Hiroshima* (B, L, D)

## THURSDAY, JULY 2

### HIROSHIMA / MIYAJIMA

This morning, transfer to the port and take the ferry to Miyajima Island, a World Heritage site considered by many Japanese to be one of Japan's "three most beautiful places." Once on the island, visit Itsukushima Shrine and Senjokaku (Pavilion of 1,000 Mats), built in 1587. Next to the Senjokaku stands a five-story pagoda that predates the pavilion by 180 years.

Visit Daisho-in, a beautifully situated temple at the foot of the wooded Misen. At 1,744 feet, it is the highest peak on the island and can be reached by ropeway or walking path. The summit offers views of the wooded island and the Seto Inland Sea, which has been partially designated as a national park.

Overnight: *Sheraton Grand Hotel – Hiroshima* (B, L, D)

## FRIDAY, JULY 3

### HIROSHIMA / NAGOYA

After breakfast, depart Hiroshima by train for Nagoya. The world headquarters and original factory of the Toyota Motor Corporation is located an hour's drive east of Nagoya, in Toyota City. Arriving at Nagoya Station, embark on a visit to the Toyota Kaikan Exhibition Hall, displaying Toyota's innovative technology and its evolving manufacturing engineering. Your tour ends with a visit to the Toyota plant, where cars are skillfully manufactured using the latest technology.

Overnight: *Nagoya Marriott Associa Hotel* (B, L, D)

## SATURDAY, JULY 4

### NAGOYA / HAKONE

Today, take the bullet train to Odawara Station, gateway to Hakone, which has been a popular resort since the great warrior Toyotomi Hideyoshi discovered natural hot springs in the beautiful mountainous area in the 16th century. During the Edo Period, Hakone was also a very important checkpoint along the old Toakaido Road linking Edo (Tokyo) with Kyoto.

Explore Hakone by taking a cable car to get up close and personal with the steaming Owakudani Crater—it is considered lucky to eat an egg cooked in the boiling water, as it will add seven years to your life. From here, one can enjoy a spectacular view of Mt. Fuji (weather permitting). Take a boat ride across picturesque Lake Ashi. The big, colorful boats tend to be amusingly kitsch, sporting Disneyland-esque pirate themes and indulging the Japanese affinity for cartoon characters.

End your day with a visit to the fabulous Hakone Open-Air Museum (Chokoku-no-mori). This world-renowned Outdoor Sculpture Garden focuses on the works of 19th- and 20th-century Japanese and Western Sculpture. Artists featured include Bourdelle, Despiau, Rodin and

Moore. There is also a small indoor Picasso exhibition.

Overnight: *Hakone Kowakien Tenyu* (B, L, D)

## SUNDAY, JULY 5 HAKONE / TOKYO

Travel by bullet train on the short ride to Tokyo. Once there, visit one of Tokyo's most traditional areas, Asakusa, where Sensoji Temple and its adjacent shopping street, Nakamise, have been a Mecca for travelers and entertainers since the 1600's. This area still remains vibrant and charming.

Continue to Ueno Park to visit the Tokyo National Museum. The museum exhibits a comprehensive collection of art works and antiquities from Japan and other Asian countries.

Overnight: *Imperial Hotel – Tokyo* (B, L, D)

## MONDAY, JULY 6 TOKYO

This morning, partake in a unique program and learn how to fight using a Samurai sword from a group of experts. First change into *kimono* and *hakama* (traditional skirt-like clothing), and then learn basic movements in sword fighting, such as drawing, posing, and swinging. Watch breathtaking sword fights by your instructors followed by practicing sword fighting yourself in pairs.

This afternoon, participate in a hands on Japanese Cooking class focusing on sushi. Learn not only about the recipes and methods, but the history and stories related to Japanese cooking.

End your day in the Shinjuku District, one of Tokyo's most popular shopping and entertainment districts. This is the Tokyo of one's imagination with its large buildings, flashing neon advertisements, giant video screens and busy streets. While in Shinjuku, stop in at the famous

seven-floor department store of Isetan. With a history of over 100 years, Shinjuku Isetan is the most famous department store in Tokyo, if not Japan. Many of its window displays are created by leading artists and the basement food hall is filled with a variety of fresh, local foods and prepared meals.

Returning to your hotel, dinner is on your own tonight.

Overnight: *Imperial Hotel – Tokyo* (B, L)

## TUESDAY, JULY 7 TOKYO

Begin the day by visiting the East Garden of the Imperial Palace, the former site of Edo Castle's innermost circles of defense. None of the main buildings remain today, but the moats, walls, entrance gates, and several guardhouses still exist.

Next, partake in a special Taiko Drum lesson. Taiko is a Japanese drum with a long history, first used as a means of communication and later incorporated into performance arts such as Kabuki and Noh. It is still used in this fashion today. Your private Taiko drum lesson is a fun and participatory activity for all ages.

Continue to the Roppongi Hills complex, a redevelopment project and a symbol of contemporary Japan. Tour the ground level art installations and view the city from the Observation Deck, overlooking Tokyo from 250 meters above sea level and providing a full 360-degree view.

End your day with an assault to your senses by exploring Akihabara, the biggest electronic district in Tokyo. Over the last decade, this "Electric Town" has transformed into more than just electronics. Stores specializing in *manga* (Japanese comics) and *anime* (Japanese animation) abound.

Return to your hotel to freshen up before tonight's "Farewell Dinner."

Overnight: *Imperial Hotel – Tokyo* (B, L, D)

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 8**

**TOKYO / DEPART**

Today, transfer to the airport (Narita or Haneda) for your return flights home. (B)