



Vered Tours

Let Us Show You Our World

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A Beaders' Tour of Japan

Led by Olya Yampolsky

September 16 – 30, 2024

Optional Extension Tour to Singapore Sept. 30 – Oct. 4, 2024

Day 1 - Mon. Sept. 16: Depart

- Depart from Washington-Dulles Int'l Airport on United Airlines flight UA803
- Depart IAD at 12:30pm with meals and overnight onboard

Day 2 - Tues. Sept. 17: Tokyo

- Arrival at Haneda International Airport at 3:25pm
- Meet your transfer driver holding a sign with the group's name in the arrivals area
- Private transfer to the hotel in Tokyo

Hotel New Otani Tokyo Garden Tower, 4-1 Kioi-cho, Tokyo, tel: +81-3-3265-1111

Day 3 - Wed. Sept. 18: Classic Tokyo

- Meet your guide at 9am in the hotel lobby to depart by private coach for the day's touring
- Tokyo City Tour - Tsukiji Outer Market, the famous old fish market, Teamlab Borderless Planets Digital Art Museum – Asakusa Kannon Temple and Nakamise Shopping Street, Tokyo's popular district where the atmosphere of past decades survives – Yanaka Old Town, a walk in a lively Japanese neighborhood learning about typical life of a Tokyoite – Akihabara, home to many of Tokyo's subcultures
- Enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 4 – Thurs. Sept. 19: Tour Trendy Tokyo

- Meet your guide at 9am in the hotel lobby to depart by private coach for the day's touring
- Meiji Shrine, Harajuku, for the best of Japanese alternative fashion - Takeshita Dori, a street lined with shops filled with Japan's latest hip trends - Design Festa Gallery, Omotesando, Tokyo's Champs Elysees - Cat Street, a street lined with trendy shops that connect the areas of Omotesando and Shibuya - Aoyama, an affluent center for art, architecture, dining and shopping - Prada Building, Sunny Hills, a pineapple cake shop built by the famous architect Kengo Kuma – Shibuya, for the famous, busiest crossing in the world along with an array of young adult culture
- Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant

Day 5 - Fri. Sept. 20: Kawaguchiko - Matsumoto

- Meet your guide at 9am in the hotel lobby

- Depart by private coach to Kawaguchiko (1.5 hrs. approx.)
- Visit the Kubota Ichiko Museum dedicated to the almost lost art of kimono dyeing
- Depart to Matsumoto (2.5 hrs. approx.) by private coach
- Visit the Matsumoto Castle – the “Black Crow Castle” one of the oldest in Japan
- Visit Nakamachi Street with preserved houses and shops
- Transfer to your hotel for check-in and your overnight stay
- Dinner at a local restaurant

Matsumoto Marunouchi Hotel, 3-5-15 Ote, Matsumoto, tel: +81-2-6335-4500

Day 6 - Sat. Sept. 21: Shirakawago Village

- Meet your guide at 9am in the hotel lobby to depart by private coach for the day’s touring
- Drive to Shirakawago, roughly 1.5 hours
- Shirakawago Village Tour: Ogimachi Castle Ruins Observation Deck, medieval Japanese castle ruins that overlook the gorgeous surrounding landscape and collection of gassho-zukuri farmhouses below - Shirakawa Kaido Street, a quaint street with traditional buildings, home to many snack stalls and souvenir shops - Wada House, a 200 year old thatched roof farmhouse continuously inhabited by same family - Myozenji Temple & Museum, a rare temple with many thatched roof buildings
- Drive to Takayama, approximately 1 hour
- Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant

Takayama Green Hotel, 2 Chome-180, Takayama, tel: +81-5-7733-5500

Day 7 - Sun. Sept. 22: Classic Takayama

- Meet your guide at 9am in the hotel lobby to depart by private coach for the day’s touring
- Takayama City Tour: Miyagawa Morning Market, one of Takayama’s morning markets – Sanmachi Suji, scenic, preserved merchant streets – Yatai Kaikan, a hall exhibiting the beautiful floats of the celebrated Takayama Festival and more – Kusakabe Mingeikan, a folk museum in an impressive nineteenth century house – Takayama Jinya, the old governor’s house from Japan’s feudal period – Walking trail around the Higashiyama District, styled serenely and similarly to the Higashiyama district in Kyoto
- Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant

Day 8 - Mon. Sept. 23: The Nakasendo Road - Magome to Tsumago & Nagiso

- Meet your guide at 9am in the hotel lobby to depart by private coach for the day’s touring
- Drive to Kiso Area (Approx 2 hours)
- The old Nakasendo Road between the two towns, once traveled by merchants in the Edo Era (1603-1868) as they made their way to Edo, which is now called Tokyo
- Continue to Nagoya (Approx 2 hours)
- Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant

Nagoya Marriott Associa Hotel, 1 Chome 1-4 Meieki, Nagoya, tel: =81-52-584-1111

Day 9 - Tues. Sept. 24: Pearl Island

- Meet your guide at 8am in the hotel lobby
- Before we leave the hotel, large suitcases (larger than a carry-on) will be collected for shipping to Kyoto which will require that you pack for 2 days in your carry-on luggage
- Drive to Toba Mie (2 hrs. approx.) to visit the Pearl Island Museum to learn about the process of culturing pearls
- Drive back to Nagoya Station to catch a bullet train to Hiroshima (2 hr. 20 min. approx.)

- Check-in to your hotel for your overnight stay
- Dinner at a local restaurant

Hotel Granvia, 1-5 Matsubaracho, Hiroshima, tel: +81-82-262-1111

Day 10 - Wed. Sept. 25: Hiroshima – City of Peace

- Meet your guide at 9am in the hotel lobby to visit all or some of the following local sites:
- Visit the Hiroshima Peace Park dedicated to the lives lost in 1945 to the atomic bomb dropped here
- Visit the Genbaku Atomic Domb, the remains of a building that survived the bomb
- Visit Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims
- Visit the Peace Memorial Museum
- Visit Orizuru Tower with beautiful views of the city
- Visit the Shukkeien Garden, a landscaped garden brought back to life after the war
- Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight in Hiroshima

Day 11 – Thurs. Sept. 26: Hiroshima – City of Beads!

- Meet your guide at 9am in the hotel lobby to board your private coach for today’s touring
- Visit the Toho Bead Factory
- Beaders: join a beading design class led by a local instructor
- Non-beaders: free afternoon to enjoy the city on your own or to relax
- Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight in Hiroshima

Day 12 - Fri. Sept. 27: Classic Kyoto

- Meet your guide at 9am in the hotel lobby
- Depart for a short walk to the railway station (4 min)
- Bullet train to Kyoto (40 minutes)
- On arrival meet your driver and board your private coach for the days touring
- Kyoto City Tour: – Nijo Castle, the Shogun’s castle, a window into the culture and history of Kyoto – Kinkakuji Temple, the Golden Pavilion, Kyoto’s iconic site with interesting history – Ryoanji Temple, famed for its unique Zen garden – Nishiki Market, the historic food market of Kyoto with traditional, typical and modern flavors to try – Gion, the famed geisha district to learn about this tradition which is kept alive in Kyoto
- Enjoy dinner with a Kyoto Geisha at a local restaurant
- Overnight in Kyoto

Hotel Nikko Princess, 630 Takahashicho, Kyoto, tel: +81-75-342-2111

Day 13 - Sat. Sept. 28: Western Kyoto Arashiyama

- Meet your guide at 9am in the hotel lobby to depart by private coach
- Enjoy a Zen Meditation and Tea Ceremony at a Temple
- Drive to Arashiyama (Approx 40 minutes)
- Tour Arashiyama and visit the Sagano Bamboo Grove, the famed path lined with bamboo on both sides – Tenryuji Temple with its renowned garden – Togetsukyo Bridge, arching over the local river
- Drive back to central Kyoto
- Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant

Day 14 - Sun. Sept. 29: Sacred Nara & Brilliant Fushim

- Meet your guide at 9am in the hotel lobby to depart by private coach
- On the way to Nara, stop at Fushimi Inari Taisha, famed for the thousand brilliant red torii gates
- Continue to Nara and visit the Kasuga Shrine, known for its beautiful stone and bronze lanterns – Deer Park, inhabited by deer believed to be messengers of the gods – Nigatsudo & Sangatsudo Halls, with unique traditional architecture and a view of the park – Todaiji Temple, one of the largest wooden structures in the world – Isui-en Garden, a typical Japanese garden incorporating the nearby hills as its backdrop
- Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight in Kyoto

Day 15 – Mon. Sept. 30: Return to USA/Depart to Singapore

- Transfer to Osaka Kansai International Airport for your departure flight
- **For those returning to the USA**, depart at 4:50pm on UA34
- Arrive in San Francisco at 11:00am – depart at 12:55pm on UA1738
- Arrive at Washington-Dulles at 9:04pm
- **For those continuing to Singapore:** depart at 10:55am on Singapore Airlines flight SQ619
- On arrival in Singapore at 4:40pm meet your guide who will escort you to your transfer vehicle. Welcome to Singapore!! Take a group photo at HSBC Rain Vortex. Visit the legendary Merlion Park + Iconic Fullerton Building
- Check-in to Hotel Royal @ Queen
- Dinner @ CHIJMES – an historic building complex, which was previously the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus located at Victoria Street within the Singapore’s Central Business District
- Overnight at hotel in Singapore.

Dorset Hotel/

Day 16 – Tues. Oct. 1: Full Day Tour in Singapore

- Breakfast at hotel. Half-day City Tour (Coach Tour with briefing by Tourist Guide):
- Suntec City + “Fountain of Wealth”
- “Esplanade by the Bay” (Structures look like the King of Fruits – “Durians”)
- Former City Hall & Parliament House
- Chinatown + Chinese Temple (20-min stopover)
- Little India + Arab Street + Haji Lane
- Lunch at own expense
- In the afternoon: visit to National Orchid Garden, Singapore Botanic Gardens – a 158-year-old haven of tropical greenery, it is the city’s first UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Dinner @ Hooters, Clarke Quay – a historical riverside quay in Singapore, located within Singapore River. It is a unique, conserved historical landmark located close-by to the mouth of the Singapore River
- Overnight at hotel in Singapore.

Day 17 – Wed. Oct. 2: Full Day Tour in Singapore

- Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to visit Sentosa Island including Sea Aquarium & Cable Car
- Lunch at own expense

- Afternoon visit Gardens by the Bay (2 Domes) including Flower Dome & Cloud Forest
- Dinner @ Jurassic Nest
- Garden Rhapsody Show: music & light show amidst the beautiful Super trees
- Overnight at hotel in Singapore.

Day 18 – Thurs. Oct. 3: Full Day Tour in Singapore

- Breakfast at hotel. Shopping @ Orchard Road / Bugis Street
- Lunch at own expense
- Afternoon: Visit to Sands SkyPark Observation Deck
- Dinner @ Hopscotch Restaurant
- Spectra Show @ MBS
- Overnight at hotel in Singapore.

Day 19 – Fri. Oct. 4: Departure

- Breakfast at hotel. Check-out.
- Departure transfer to Singapore Airport
- Depart at 8:45am on United Airlines flight UA2
- Arrive in San Francisco at 8:50am
- Depart on flight UA487 at 11:15am
- Arrive at Washington-Dulles Airport at 7:25pm

Farewell - Sayonara!