

Florida State University Alumni Association presents...

Cultural Treasures of Japan

April 16 – 29, 2023



For more information contact
Collette
(855) 843-2365
Please Refer to Booking #1074166



14 Days ● 19 Meals: 12 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 5 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Tokyo, Asakusa Sensoji Shrine, Ginza, Tea Ceremony, Hakone, Lake Ashi Cruise, Matsumoto Castle, Takayama, Sake Tasting and Hida Beef Dinner, Shirakawa-go, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Bullet Train, Hiroshima, Kaiseki Dinner

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2 – 4	Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba, Tokyo
Day 5	Odakyu Hotel de Yama, Hakone
Days 6, 7	Takayama Green Hotel, Takayama
Days 8, 9	Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel, Kanazawa
Days 10 – 13	Kyoto Tokyu Hotel, Kyoto

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

Collette's Flagship: Collette's tours open the door to a world of amazing destinations. Marvel at must-see sights, sample regional cuisine, stay in centrally located hotels and connect with new and captivating cultures. These itineraries offer an inspiring and easy way to experience the world, where an expert guide takes care of all the details.

Day 1: Sunday, April 16, 2023 Overnight Flight Explore ancient and modern Japanese culture firsthand. Discover peaceful temples and technological marvels set against unimaginable natural beauty.

Day 2: Monday, April 17, 2023 Tokyo, Japan - Tour Begins Welcome to Japan, the "Land of the Rising Sun." Begin in the electrifying city of Tokyo, where pop culture is turned all the way up and traditions are rich and long-kept.

Day 3: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 Tokyo Feel the excitement start to build as you pass by the grounds of the Imperial Palace and see the Niju Bridge and Sakurada Gate, the well-known symbols of the Imperial Palace. Walk through Ginza, one of the most elegant and luxurious streets in the world, where modern landscape meets rich history. Enjoy shopping at some of the most renowned "department stores" in Japan. Later, amid a lush forest outside of Tokyo, visit the Meiji Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. Tonight, join your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner. (B, D)

Day 4: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 Tokyo Begin the day exploring Asakusa, Tokyo's oldest Geisha district. Visit the famous Buddhist temple, Senso-ji, the colorful temple famous for the red chochin (lantern) hanging at the entrance gate. Experience the long standing tradition of the Japanese tea ceremony, dating back to the 15th century. During your free time, explore the Nakamise Shopping Arcade and feel the energy of the oldest shopping street in Japan. Then, head to Tokyo National Museum to learn about the fascinating history and culture of Tokyo. The museum displays artwork and antiques from Japan and the surrounding area. (B)

Day 5: Thursday, April 20, 2023 Tokyo - Hakone Journey to the lakeside resort of Hakone, renowned for its hot springs. In the shadow of Mt. Fuji (UNESCO), this scenic town hugs the shorelines of Lake Ashi. Make a stop at Owakudani, located in an active volcanic zone. The Owakudani crater was created some 3,000 years ago, when Mt. Hakone erupted. Climb aboard the Hakone Ropeway, an aerial cable car descending from Owakudani for a breathtaking view* of Mt. Fuji. Next, take to the deep-blue waters of Lake Ashi on a cruise where you'll see epic views of the local mountains before stopping in the charming town of Moto-Hakone. (B, D)

Day 6: Friday, April 21, 2023 Hakone - Matsumoto - Takayama This breathtaking day begins in Matsumoto at Matsumoto Castle, known as the "Crow Castle" because of its striking black exterior. Enjoy the local cuisine as we stop for lunch at a Soba noodle shop. Later, you'll step back in time in the rural Edo-period town of Takayama, nestled in the Japanese Alps. Well known to the locals for its connection to sake, this is the perfect place to gather for a visit to one of Japan's 200-year-old sake breweries. Afterward, experience a true Japanese epicurean treat – traditional rice wine paired with a special Hida beef dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Saturday, April 22, 2023 Takayama The ancient cultures of Takayama come alive this morning in the town's historic district. Take a walk through the past and glimpse the 19th-century Jinya government building. Stroll through the morning market, a 600-year-old open air market with locally grown and produced products, located along the Miyagawa



Per Person Rates*:

Double \$7,749; Single \$9,249

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Tallahassee Municipal, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance

* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is subject to increase prior to the time you make full payment. Your price is not subject to increase after you make full payment, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Once deposited, you have 7 days to send us written consumer consent or withdraw consent and receive a full refund. (See registration form for consent.)

River. Circuit the winding streets, where the town's traditional charms are preserved in the inns and houses. This afternoon, relish some free time to continue your exploration of Takayama on your own. (B)

Day 8: Sunday, April 23, 2023 Takayama - Shirakawa-go - Kanazawa Today, embrace the unique charms of Shirakawa-go (UNESCO). Hidden away in the mountain, this harmonious village is famous for its *gassho-zukuri*-style houses – thatched-rooftops designed to resemble two hands joined in prayer. Journey to Kanazawa, the origin of gold-leaf making since the 16th century. Visit the Samurai district where we will enter the former home of the Nomuras, a wealthy samurai family who served the ruling Maeda family. Then, travel to the Geisha quarters of Kanazawa, the Higashi Tea district. (B, D)

Day 9: Monday, April 24, 2023 Kanazawa More than 25 acres of absolute beauty await you today at *Kenroku-En* – Garden of Six Qualities. From the beauty of Japan's most stunning gardens, dive into the ancient craft of gold leaf making during a hands-on lesson in decorating your own lacquer box! In the center of town, take in the action of the Omicho fish market before venturing out on your own to really immerse yourself in Kanazawa's dynamic culture. (B)

Day 10: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 Kanazawa - Kyoto Kyoto awaits! The former Imperial capital of Japan is now one of the nation's top cosmopolitan cities. At the same time, Kyoto's connection with its past is strong; you won't need to look far to see one of its 2,000 temples and shrines. For lunch, participate in a sushi making class and master the art of sushi making. This afternoon, visit Kinkakuji (UNESCO), the Golden Pavilion, a

Zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. (B, L)

Day 11: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 Kyoto - Bullet Train - Hiroshima - Kyoto All aboard the Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima. Upon arrival, board a ferry for the short trip to Miyajima Island, or "Shrine Island" (UNESCO). Afterwards, head into Hiroshima city to visit the Peace Memorial Park, and pause to see the ruined Atomic Dome (UNESCO). Reflect at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. As this long and moving day comes to a close, return to Kyoto by the Shinkansen bullet train. (B)

Day 12: Thursday, April 27, 2023 Kyoto This morning, explore Fushimi Inari Taisha for a tour of the most revered shrine of Inari. Follow the spectacular rows of orange torii (made famous in the movie *Memoirs of a Geisha*) that weave through the forest, leading you to the inner shrine. Move on to the home of the first Shogun, Nijo Castle (UNESCO), and see intricate woodcarvings, wall paintings, and the Ninomaru Garden, designed by Kobori Enshu, a landscape architect and tea master. Next, learn about the ancient craft of stenciling during a hands on lesson. (B)

Day 13: Friday, April 28, 2023 Kyoto Today, spend some time relaxing or set out to explore Kyoto on your own. Fully immerse yourself in Japanese culture tonight during a special *kaiseki* farewell dinner and geisha show. (B, D)

Day 14: Saturday, April 29, 2023 Kyoto - Tour Ends Your tour comes to a close in this fascinating land. As you depart, reflect on its beauty and all you have learned about its rich history and culture. (B)

For more information visit

<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1074166>



**PLEASE NOTE:
IDENTIFICATION**

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require a minimum of 6 months passport validity from date of return home. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that our clients traveling abroad take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

Effective immediately and until further notice, all guests will be required to bring one of the following: **proof of vaccination** (official vaccination certificate in paper or electronic form), **proof of recovery from COVID-19** or a **negative test result** (FDA Approved diagnostic) for a test performed 72-hours or less from the start date of the tour with you on tour to verify information you will be providing to Collette when filling out the Wellness Declaration upon arrival.

The days and order of sightseeing may change to best utilize your time on tour.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to

provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

Museum visits and shopping may be affected by the observance of religious or local holidays.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Triple and child accommodations are not available.

Some venues, such as temples and shrines, require guests to remove their shoes in order to enter. We recommend wearing footwear that is easily removed for sightseeing on these days.

*The view of Mt. Fuji from the Hakone Ropeway is weather dependent.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, Zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Each guest is responsible for proper documentation and inoculations that may be required and/or recommended to participate on this tour. Please contact your local travel clinic or personal physician for specific details on the destinations you are traveling to and from.

This tour provides authentic dining experiences. Vegan, vegetarian, and even gluten-free diets are uncommon in Japan and not widely catered to. If you have any dietary restrictions, please notify us at time of booking so we can accommodate you as best as possible.

Please be aware that if your flight schedule is via Dubai or if you are stopping over in Dubai and are carrying narcotic drugs, controlled or semi-controlled drugs, then you will be required to complete an electronic form prior to entering the country, to obtain approval to carry medication. Please use the link <http://www.mohap.gov.ae/en/services/Pages/361.aspx> to view the guidelines. A user's guide is available to explain the application and the supporting documents required.

Flights arrive into Tokyo and depart from Osaka.

Our air passengers will be departing from Kansai Airport or Itami Airport (depending upon your flight schedule). All transfers will depart from the Kyoto hotel for either Kansai Airport or Itami Airport.

Return flights should not be booked from Kansai Airport or Itami Airport prior to 9:00 a.m.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

A deposit of \$600 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of October 10, 2022 are based upon availability. Final payment due by February 15, 2023. Deposits are refundable up until October 17, 2022.

CST#2006766-20 UBN#601220855 Nevada Sellers of Travel Registration No. 2003-0279

For important reservation information visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1074166>.
You can also find this information on your tour documents.