



SIGNATURE MOMENTS

- Visiting Japan's most lavishly decorated shrine at Toshogu • Exploring the ceramics at Mashiko
- Cruising the Sumida River to the pleasure quarters of old Edo • Attending a performance of Bunrako
- Marvelling at the 1,001 wooden statues of the thousand-handed Kannon at Sanjusangendo Hall
 - Meditating at Kinkaku-ji, the lakeside Temple of the Golden Pavilion

The image of Japan as the home of samurai, geishas and tea ceremonies just touches the surface of Japanese culture. Join the Burlington Art Centre's guided tour to explore Japan through its famed temples, gardens, and ceramics. From the world heritage site of Nikko, the first Shogun's burial site, to the potter's village of Mashiko, home to the great ceramist Hamada, the trip proceeds to the hyper-modern capital – Tokyo. While enjoying some of the most intriguing modern architecture, we also visit the ancient temple at Asakusa and make time to shop for spectacular souvenirs, from realistic plastic food to antique kimonos. Then on to Kyoto where we will spend a day wandering some of the most famous gardens in the world, from the monastic stone garden, Ryoanji, to the stroll garden of the Golden Pavilion – Ginkakuji. With free time in Kyoto there is the chance to visit a silk dye house to see how kimonos are made or walk the back alleys of the Gion where geishas can still be seen on their way to appointments. While this is an opportunity to be introduced to the arts and crafts of ancient Japan, the modern world, from the bullet train to the manga inspired fashions of teenage Japanese will also be explored – the fascinating juxtaposition that is Japan today.

Join me, Jonathan Smith, and Reid Flock as we guide you. I will be taking us through the galleries, highlighting the treasure from painted scrolls to Noh theatre costumes to Japanese swords while Reid, who has lived in Japan for nine years can introduce us to all things Japanese – from saki to ceramics.

Jonathan Smith

TOUR COST PER PERSON: \$4,595 USD
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,395 USD
AIRFARE: \$1,450 CAD

Please note: This airfare is based on roundtrip economy class travel from Toronto, including all fees and taxes and does not include any future fare or tax increases.

DONATION TO THE BURLINGTON ART CENTRE (Tax Receipt Supplied): \$500 CAD

DEPOSITS & BALANCE PAYMENTS:

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 USD per person is required to reserve a space on this tour. Full payment for airfare is due when flight arrangements are confirmed. Final tour payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:

If you are a single traveller who is willing to share, we can try to match you up with an appropriate roommate. However, if we are unsuccessful, please be advised that the single supplement will apply.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

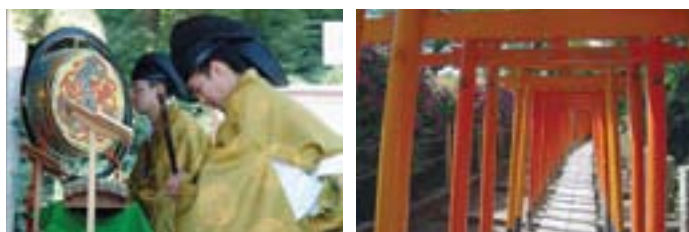
All payments are non-refundable. We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation insurance.

TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- Airport transfers if travelling with the group
- Twin share accommodation in hotels listed or similar
- Meals as specified
- Sightseeing as listed with qualified English-speaking guides
- Full time English speaking tour guide travelling with the group
- Internal transportation by private coach and by local train
- Bullet train from Tokyo to Kyoto
- All entrance fees to monuments
- Portage of one standard piece of baggage per person
- Hotel and local taxes
- Gratuities for group arrangements

TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Roundtrip Airfare
- Airport transfers if arriving / departing separately from group arrangements
- Items of a personal nature: laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc.
- Beverages with meals
- Meals other than those indicated in the itinerary
- Excess baggage
- Travel insurance
- Additional transport required due to any emergency situation



TOUR LEADERS:



Jonathan Smith

Jonathan Smith is the Permanent Collector Curator at the Burlington Art Centre, a post he has held since 1987. During that time, he has amassed the world's largest and most significant collection of Contemporary Canadian Ceramics. With his Masters degree in Fine Arts from the University of Chicago and his vast knowledge of art and art history, Jonathan special expertise in ceramics makes him a terrific resource for both advanced artists and lay people alike. As well, Jonathan has travelled to Japan several times, where he explored many of the remarkable places that will be seen on this trip.



Reid Flock

At a young age, Reid studied at the Burlington Art Centre and instantly showed remarkable aptitude for ceramics. After mentoring under Jonathan Smith and Kayo O'Young, Reid moved to Japan to study the forms and techniques that have been mastered over the centuries. Settling in Hitachi, Reid worked on his art with his work featured on Japanese national television and in many articles in newspapers. During his nine year stay, Reid gained a competent grasp of Japanese language and has a strong understanding of Japanese culture and tradition. Having visited many important art and cultural sites throughout the country, Reid's knowledge of the people and the places will be a tremendous asset to this trip.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK THIS TOUR:

Please contact **Kerry Tattie** at the **Worldwide Quest** office: **1.800.387.1483** or email at: **kerry@worldwidequest.com**.

For additional information about Worldwide Quest's terms and conditions, please refer to the current Cultural Explorations brochure or visit: www.worldwidequest.com/terms.php. All participants on tours operated by Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - License # 2667946).

BURLINGTON ART CENTRE: Japan : March 31 – April 13, 2011

ITINERARY IN DETAIL:

March 31: Depart Toronto

Depart Toronto on the overnight flight to Japan.

April 1: Arrive at Narita Airport

Participants arrive at Narita Airport today. You will be met on arrival and transferred to our hotel in Nikko. Nikko means “sunlight” — an apt description of the start to our trip! We’ll spend the first two nights of our trip here, resting up from our flight and enjoying the some of the country’s most spectacular mountain scenery.

Overnight: Asaya Hotel, Nikko

Meals: Dinner



April 2: Nikko

The shrines and temples of Nikko, together with their natural surroundings, have for centuries been a sacred site known for its architectural and decorative masterpieces. They are closely associated with the history of the Tokugawa Shoguns. We will visit the lavishly decorated Toshogu Shrine set in a grove of magnificent ancient Japanese cedars and the Tamozawa Imperial Villa and the Rinnoji complex of Buddhist temples founded in 766 BC by the Buddhist hermit Shoto.

Overnight: Asaya Hotel, Nikko

Meals: Breakfast

April 3: Mashiko, Tokyo

This morning we transfer by coach to Tokyo. We’ll spend the day in Mashiko, the small village known for its Mashiko-yaki, distinctive, heavy, country-style pottery. Here we’ll visit the home of the late Hamada Shoji, designated a “National Treasure”, who introduced Mashiko-ware throughout Japan. We’ll also visit a dye workshop in the city. The end of the day brings us to Tokyo — tonight we visit the glittering Ginza to introduce ourselves to the city.

Overnight: Tokyo Prince Hotel, Tokyo

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



April 4: Tokyo

We’ll begin the day with a cruise on the Sumida River — an ideal way to admire the cherry blossoms. We’ll travel to the Asakusa district, the pleasure quarters of old Edo. Here we’ll visit the Asakusa Kannon, Tokyo’s most popular temple with a history dating back to AD 628. Nearby is the Kappabashi-dougugai Dori, lined with shops selling everything needed to run a restaurant including plastic food. In the Ueno Park district, we’ll visit the National Museum housing a large collection of antiques including old kimono, pottery, woodblock prints, ceramics and more. Tonight, we get a taste of the Shinjuku area.

Overnight: Tokyo Prince Hotel, Tokyo

Meals: Breakfast



April 5: Tokyo

The Idemitsu Museum of Art, displays a private collection of Eastern Asian antiques including Japanese painting, calligraphy and East Asian ceramics. We’ll begin the day here. We’ll also visit Tokyo’s most venerable Shinto shrine; the Meiji Jingu Shrine, opened in 1920 in honor of Emperor and Empress Meiji, who were instrumental in opening Japan to the outside world more than 120 years ago. Japan’s two largest torii (the traditional entry gate of a shrine), built of cypress more than 1,700 years old, give dramatic entrance to the grounds. We’ll take a break from



our activities to visit the Oriental Bazaar, the city's best known craft store and the Sake Museum.

Overnight: Tokyo Prince Hotel, Tokyo

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

April 6: Tokyo

Today is a "pay your own way day", to indulge in your own special interests. Jonathan and Reid will be leading visits to some of their favourite places too. Tonight we'll attend a performance of Bunraku, traditional Japanese puppet theatre. This has been popular since the 17th century depicting dramas for adults with themes centering on love, revenge and sacrifice.

Overnight: Tokyo Prince Hotel, Tokyo

Meals: Breakfast



April 7: Train to Kyoto

This morning we travel by Shinkansen bullet train to Kyoto. The 513km distance is covered in just 2 hours, 18 minutes. Once Japan's Imperial Capital and now the country's cultural and artistic capital with more than 1,600 temples, hundreds of shrines, artful gardens, and well-preserved wooden architecture, Kyoto embodies Japan's rich culture and complex history. We begin our stay in Kyoto with visits to the Toji Temple a five story pagoda that is the tallest wooden tower in Japan. The Kodo (Lecture Hall), dating from 1491, contains 15 original statues of Buddhist deities that were carved in the 8th and 9th centuries.



We'll also visit the Tofukuji Temple with its beautiful Japanese Garden.

Overnight: New Miyako Hotel, Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

April 8: Kyoto

The Kyoto National Museum, housed in a French baroque-style building constructed in 1897, features changing exhibits highlighting magnificent art objects and treasures, many of which once belonged to Kyoto's many temples and the imperial court. Japanese and Chinese ceramics, sculpture, Japanese paintings, clothing and kimono, lacquerware, and metalworks are always on display, making this the best museum in town for viewing the ancient capital's priceless treasures. We'll visit the Heian Shrine, Kyoto's most famous shrine dating from 1895 built in commemoration of the 1,100th anniversary of the founding of Kyoto. Near the shrine is the Kyoto Handicraft Gallery, a co-operative dedicated to the many crafts that flourished during Kyoto's long reign as the imperial capital. Various displays and videos demonstrate the step-by-step production of crafts ranging from stone lanterns and fishing rods to textiles, paper fans, umbrellas, boxwood combs, lacquerware, Buddhist altars, and Noh masks. This evening we'll stroll Gion Street where geishas gather.

Overnight: New Miyako Hotel, Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast





April 9: Kyoto

Highlights of our explorations in Kyoto today include the 16th-century Ryoanji Temple, with the dry garden of sand and rocks (kare-sansui), a marvel of classic Japanese design; and Kinkaku-ji, the lakeside Temple of the Golden Pavilion set on pillars suspended over the water. We'll relax in the Daisenin Teien, one of the most celebrated gardens in Japan. It was constructed in 1509 on the grounds of the Zen temple, Daitokuji and is significant for the spectacular way in which the Sung landscape painting tradition is turned into three-dimensional form. The Ginkakuji Silver Pavilion is considered one of the more beautiful structures in Kyoto. We'll visit the Pavilion and then take a stroll along Philosopher's Walk, a tranquil canal which is particularly beautiful during the cherry-blossom season.

Overnight: *New Miyako Hotel, Kyoto*

Meals: *Breakfast, Dinner*



April 10: Kyoto

Today is a "pay your own way day", to indulge in your own special interests. Jonathan and Reid will be leading visits to some of their favourite places too.

Overnight: *New Miyako Hotel, Kyoto*

Meals: *Breakfast*

April 11: Nara

Today, we enjoy an excursion to Nara, Japan's ancient capital, a short train ride from Kyoto. Here we'll see the Kasuga Taisha Shrine, an important Shinto shrine founded



in 768 and filled with over 3,000 bronze and stone lanterns, Todaiji Temple, home to the largest Buddha statue in the country, and Nara National Museum on a walking tour. We return to Kyoto in the late afternoon.

Overnight: *New Miyako Hotel, Kyoto*

Meals: *Breakfast*

April 12: Kyoto

Built by the first Tokugawa shogun, Ieyasu, in 1603, Nijo Castle is considered the quintessence of Momoyama architecture, built almost entirely of Japanese cypress and boasting delicate transom woodcarvings and paintings by the Kano School on sliding doors. We'll visit Sanjusangendo Hall with one of the most visually stunning sights in a Japanese temple: 1,001 wooden statues of the thousand-handed Kannon. Row upon row, these life-size figures, carved from Japanese cypress in the 12th and 13th centuries, make an impressive sight. Later continue to the Kiyomizu dera temple, known throughout Japan for the grand views afforded from its main hall. Founded in 798 and rebuilt in 1633 the temple occupies an exalted spot on Mount Otowa, with its main hall constructed over a cliff and featuring a large wooden veranda supported by 139 pillars.

Overnight: *New Miyako Hotel, Kyoto*

Meals: *Breakfast, Dinner*

April 13: Depart

This morning, we transfer to Kansai Airport for our homeward bound flights.

Please Note:

We will try our utmost to confirm the hotels as listed in this itinerary, however please be advised that they are subject to change. A hotel of similar quality may be substituted.

Photo Credits: Japan Tourist Board, Burlington Art Centre, Worldwide Quest