



The Daimon Gate, the ancient entrance to Mount Koya

Japan: Historical and Contemporary

8 – 18 November 2020

With extension to Nagasaki

8 – 21 November 2020



Jon Baines
tours



Walk through the vermilion gates to the Fushimi Inari Shrine

Travel with Jason James, the director general of the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, on a tour through Japan's long history. The itinerary follows Japanese history from the first emperor and continues via the shoguns, the arrival of the black ships, the Meiji Restoration and the opening of Japan, to the modern day. The tour includes a range of specialist visits and experiences in Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, Hakone, the Izu Peninsula and Tokyo, which are illustrated by short talks throughout the tour. There are various options throughout, such as visiting an onsen and a dinner paired with craft beer, as well as an optional extension to Nagasaki after the tour.

Arrive Osaka and check into the hotel. There will be a short introductory talk (details of all talks in the itinerary) by Jason James before dinner in the evening at a restaurant that specialises in the delicious local dish of okonomiyaki.

Next day travel to Mount Koya to visit Okunoin Temple, one of the most sacred places in Japan. It is the site of the mausoleum of Kobo Daishi, the revered founder of Shingon Buddhism. Instead

of having died, Kobo Daishi is believed to rest in eternal meditation within his mausoleum. Visit the cemetery to see graves of some of the key people in Japanese history and see some of the 100 temples on the mountain. Learn about the powerful samurai warrior Taira clan, who were dominant in the 12th century, and hear a talk by Jason James on the period.

Next morning take the train to Yoshino, visit Kinpusenji Temple and walk up to the site of the Imperial Villa of Godaigo and the Southern Court Emperor. In the afternoon visit Nara,



Mount Koya, Okunoin grave yard



Nijo Castle, Kyoto

the first capital of Japan, and visit Todai-ji, a temple complex that was one of the Seven Great Temples, where the world's largest bronze Buddha resides in one of the world's largest wooden buildings, the Great Buddha Hall. At the end of the day visit Kasuga Taisha, the most celebrated Shinto shrine in Nara, before continuing to Kyoto and listening to a short talk en route. Enjoy dinner at a traditional nagaya townhouse restaurant.

The following morning visit beautiful sixteenth-century Nijo Castle, with its moat, massive stone walls and elaborate gates. It also contains stunning gardens, exquisite decorative detail and a rich collection of art. Visit the shimmering Zen Golden Temple, whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf, and explore the famous geisha district of Gion. Spend the afternoon at leisure and in the evening take part in an introduction to Zen Buddhism, including meditation in the Myoshinji Temple Complex and a traditional Zen Shojin dinner at the Michelin-starred Ajiro restaurant.

Next morning visit the non-denominational Buddhist Byodo-In Temple, including the Phoenix Hall, which has survived several fires over the years, making it one of the few original wooden structures surviving from the Heian Period (794-1185). The afternoon is at leisure or there is the option to walk the tranquil canal-side Philosopher's Path. Late afternoon travel to Fushimi Inari,

dedicated to the Shinto god of rice and famous for its thousands of vermilion torii gates, which straddle a network of trails. Walk along one of these before enjoying an evening of sake tastings.

Transfer to Sekigahara and take a tour of the site of the Battle of Sekigahara, a decisive battle in 1600 that preceded the establishment of the Tokugawa shogunate. Continue to Inuyama Castle for a talk on Oda Nobunaga and Japanese unification, then take the bullet train from Nagoya to Odawara. Transfer by bus to the beautiful Izu Peninsula, known for its lush greenery, rugged coastlines and many hot springs. In the evening there is the option to enjoy traditional onsen.

Visit the Okada Museum of Art with its superb collection ranging from antiquity to the modern day. Take a coach to the old Tokaido, the centuries old route linking Tokyo with the former capital, Kyoto, and walk along its Cedar Avenue, including a stop to view (weather permitting) Mt Fuji en route. Have lunch at the famous Fujiya Hotel, before returning to the hotel via Nirayama



Golden Pavilion, Kyoto (top); Mount Fuji (above)



Reverberatory Furnaces, a well preserved iron smelting facility built in 1857. These four Edo period reverberatory furnaces received world heritage status in 2015. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant with craft beer tasting.

The following day visit Shimoda, a pleasant coastal city significant for being one of the first ports opened to foreign vessels as a result of Commodore Perry forcing Japan to open up. The subsequent treaty of Amity and Commerce between Japan and the US was signed in Shimoda in 1858. Drive to Kamakura and see the great bronze Buddha, which was cast in 1252. Learn about Minamoto Yoritomo, the first shogun to effectively rule Japan under a system that would continue to govern Japan for 700 years. Continue to Tokyo and hear a short talk on Edo, the early manifestation of Tokyo. In the evening enjoy a yakiniku barbecue dinner at a restaurant with views over Tokyo Bay and the suspension bridge known as the Rainbow Bridge.

Next morning explore historical Tokyo by subway, including Zojoji Temple, Sangedatsumon Gate and the Tokugawa Mausoleum and Museum. At Namamugi hear about the Namamugi Incident and the Bombardment of Kagoshima, also known as the Anglo-Satsuma War, which took place in 1863. See the Yokohama Foreign Cemetery and the British House. Hear a talk on the making of modern Japan, followed by a free evening with the option to dine out in Tokyo.

Your final day has a focus on art and design, starting with a visit to the fascinating Edo-Tokyo Museum, which preserves the 400-year history of Tokyo and its precursor, Edo. Continue on an art and architecture tour visiting the fashionable Harajuku area and see the intricate woodblock prints at the Ota Ukiyoe Woodblock Print Museum. Continue to the Nezu Museum, home to a diverse collection of Japanese and Asian pre-modern art, as well as an exquisite garden. On your final evening in Tokyo take a farewell dinner cruise on a chartered traditional yakatabune boat on Tokyo Bay.

Next morning depart for the airport or take the extension to Nagasaki.



Canals in Shimoda, Izu Peninsula

Itinerary 8 – 18 November 2020

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

2 nights Osaka – 3 nights Kyoto – 2 nights Izu – 3 nights Tokyo
Extension: 3 nights Nagasaki

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| 8 Nov (Sun) Osaka D | 14 Nov (Sat) Izu / Hakone / Izu B D |
| Am Arrive and transfer to the hotel | Am Visit the Okada Museum of Art. Walk the old Tokaido with view of Mt Fuji (weather permitting) |
| Pm Talk: <i>“An introduction to Osaka – trade, Toyotomi Hideyoshi & the Taira family”</i> | Pm Lunch at famous Fujiya Hotel and visit Nirayama Reveratory Furnace |
| Eve Okonomiyaki dinner | Eve Dinner with craft beer tasting |
| 9 Nov (Mon) Osaka B D | 15 Nov (Sun) Izu / Shimoda / Kamakura / Tokyo B D |
| Am Visit Mount Koya, Okunoin Temple, the graves of key historical figures and see some of the 100 temples on the mountain. Short talk: <i>“Early emperors”</i> | Am Visit Shimoda and drive to Kamakura |
| Eve Welcome dinner | Pm See the great bronze Buddha. Learn about the Kamakura shogunate. Drive to Tokyo. Talk: <i>“Edo – early Tokyo”</i> |
| 10 Nov (Tue) Osaka / Kyoto B D | Eve Yakiniku barbecue dinner with views |
| Am Take the train to Yoshino, visit Kinpusenji Temple and walk to the Imperial Villa | 16 Nov (Mon) Tokyo B L |
| Pm Visit Nara, the first capital of Japan. Visit Toda-ji (one of the Seven Great Temples) and Kasuga Taisha. Continue to Kyoto. Short talk: <i>“Kyoto art, culture and the imperial city”</i> | Am Take subway to visit Zojoji Temple, Sangedatsumon Gate, Tokugawa Mausoleum and Museum |
| Eve Dinner at a traditional ‘nagaya’ | Pm At Namamugi learn of the Namamugi Incident and Anglo Satsuma War. See Yokohama Foreign Cemetery and British House. Talk: <i>“Making modern Japan”</i> |
| 11 Nov (Wed) Kyoto B D | 17 Nov (Tue) Tokyo B D |
| Am Visit Nijo Castle, the Golden Temple and explore Gion | Am Visit the Edo-Tokyo Museum, Harajuku, Ota Ukiyoe Woodblock Print Museum and the Nezu Museum |
| Pm At leisure | Eve Dinner cruise on a yakatabune boat |
| Eve Introduction to Zen and meditation in the Myoshinji Temple Complex. Dine at Michelin-starred Ajiro restaurant | 18 Nov (Wed) Tokyo B |
| 12 Nov (Thur) Kyoto B D | Am Depart for the airport |
| Am Visit Byōdō-in Temple in Uji | |
| Pm At leisure or the option of taking the Philosopher’s Walk. Travel to Fushimi Inari and take the Tofukuji Walk before an evening of sake tastings | |
| 13 Nov (Fri) Kyoto / Izu B D | |
| Am Transfer to Sekigahara for tour on the battle and the establishment of the Tokugawa shogunate | |
| Pm Continue to Inuyama Castle and talk on Oda Nobunaga and Japanese unification. Bullet train from Nagoya to Odawara. Transfer to Izu by bus | |
| Eve Option for onsen. Talk: <i>“Barbarians at the gate”</i> | |



Giant Buddha, Kamakura



Gunkanjima

Nagasaki extension

Examine the fascinating history of trade with the west, the Portuguese Jesuits and the Dutch, the Glovers and 19th century British trading houses in Japan.

Fly from Tokyo to Nagasaki and check into your hotel. In the afternoon visit Gunkanjima, a ghost town that has been deserted for more than forty years, which was also used as a location in the James Bond Film *Skyfall*.

Gunkanjima was developed in the early 1900s by the Mitsubishi Corporation to mine coal and by 1941 was producing 400,000 tons of coal a year. By the mid-1950s, it housed almost six thousand people - the highest population density the world has ever known - before the coal ran out and the island was abandoned.

The following day take a full day tour to Hirado, a Japanese city located on several islands near Nagasaki. The Dutch Trading Post, among the first trading sites between Japan and the West, is now a museum. Matsura Historical Museum displays artifacts in a former local clan mansion. Nearby is the striking green-and-white St. Francis Xavier Church. There are panoramic views from atop Hirado Castle.

Explore the trading history of Nagasaki the following day and learn about the role of Scottish-born trader Robert Glover, the Scot who helped shape modern Japan and who was the first foreigner ever decorated by the Japanese

government. Visit Glover Garden, an open air museum that exhibits mansions of several of the city's former foreign residents, the main attraction being the Glover residence, the oldest Western-style wooden building in Japan. Visit the museum at the Mitsubishi Shipyard, which was established in 1857 as Japan's first warship repair facility. In the afternoon visit Dejima and Chinatown.

Next day depart Nagasaki.

18 Nov (Wed) Tokyo / Nagasaki B
Am Fly to Nagasaki
Pm Visit Gunkanjima (subject to weather)

19 Nov (Thur) Nagasaki B
Am Full day Hirado tour

20 Nov (Fri) Nagasaki B
Am Visit Glover Garden & Mitsubishi Shipyard Museum
Pm Visit Dejima and Chinatown

21 Nov (Sat) Nagasaki B
Am Depart Nagasaki



Atomic Bomb Museum, Nagasaki



Kōfuku-ji Temple, Nara

Tour Leader

Jason James is Director General of the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation. Having been fascinated by Japan on a choir tour at the age of 13, he chose to read Japanese Studies at King's College, Cambridge, where he was a double scholar (academic and choral), graduating with a "starred first" (only the third time this accolade had ever been awarded by Cambridge's Japanese Department) in 1987. Subsequently he worked in the financial industry, mostly specialising in Japanese equities, becoming Head of Research in the Tokyo office of HSBC Securities, and eventually Head of Global Equity Strategy at HSBC in London. From 2007-2011 Jason was Director of the British Council in Japan, during which time he also served as Chair of the European Union National Institutes of Culture Japan cluster, a Board Member of the Japan-British Society, and a Board Member of United World Colleges Japan. Back in London now, in addition to his day job he is a Trustee of the Japan Society, a member of the UK-Japan 21st Century Group, and a member of the Japan Season of Culture Action Committee. Jason's interest in Japan is broad, covering the economy, financial markets and tax, as well as Japanese literature, art and history, and the relationship between the UK and Japan. Publications range from *'The Political Economy of Japanese Financial Markets'* (co-author, Macmillan 1999), to *'Edmund Blunden and Japan'* (Asiatic Society, 2010).

The cost of the tour is US \$7,221 per person sharing

The cost includes:

- The services of a tour leader (Jason James)
- 10 nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in medium grade and first class hotels

Single supplement: US \$1,444

- Breakfast daily
- Dinners daily except 16 November where there is lunch
- All admission fees
- Services of specialist English speaking national guide
- All transport services, tips and taxes in Japan
- Luggage Mailing Service

The cost excludes:

- International flights and airport transfers
- Meals not mentioned
- Drinks with meals except welcome and farewell dinners
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance
- Visa, if required

The cost of the Nagasaki extension is to be confirmed.



A maiko in Kyoto

About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.



Byodo-in Temple (top); Waterfalls in Izu Peninsula;
Inuyama Castle; Rainbow Bridge Tokyo (above)

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