

Gallery Associates

ART GALLERY OF GREATER VICTORIA

Volunteer Connect Fundraise

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GALLERY

OF GREATER VICTORIA

COLOUR & CULTURE OF SOUTH JAPAN

WITH BARRY TILL
AGGV CURATOR EMERITUS

November 17 - December 1, 2019



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Unique and customized 15 day tour with Group leader – Barry Till (Art Gallery of Greater Victoria)

English speaker Japanese guide

Spectacular fall colours of the Iya Valley

Traditional and Modern Art Museums, Picturesque Temples, Shrines and Japanese gardens

Visit towns and villages to see pottery and porcelain, ancient kilns and try soba noodle-making

Benesse House hotel on the "art island" of Naoshima

City stops at Fukuoka, Hiroshima, ancient and beautiful Kyoto, Osaka

Overnight temple-stay on ancient mountain Buddhist pilgrimage site



A ZEN-INSPIRED TOUR

PLEASE CONTACT:

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COLOUR & CULTURE OF SOUTH JAPAN

INTRO

With a respectful nod to the past and an appreciation of modernity, this tour is a blend of the serenity of gardens, monasteries, temples and shrines and the lasting traditions of the delicate geisha, ritualistic tea ceremonies and ryokan Japanese Inns – with a glimpse of modern Japan through bullet trains, technology, modern art galleries and mostly Western style hotels.

This tour is a fundraiser organized jointly by the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and the Gallery Associates.



EXPERIENCE THE SERENITY OF GARDENS

COLOUR & CULTURE OF SOUTH JAPAN

GETTING STARTED

Trip Dates:

Arrival in Japan: November 17, 2019

Departure from Japan: December 1, 2019

Trip Duration - 15 Days

Participants - 21

Tour Costs Per Person- Land Only

\$8350.00 Canadian per person – Double Occupancy

Some additional sightseeing destinations may be added resulting in some small additional costs.

Single Supplement – add \$1450.00 Canadian – applies to those not sharing

A \$500 Income Tax receipt will be issued at the conclusion of the tour.

Insurance

Proof of travel medical insurance is required. Trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly recommended for all payments including airfare to address issues and changes beyond our control such as transportation interruptions and weather.

About your Group Leader

Barry Till, Curator Emeritus of Asian Art at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

Barry Till has been Curator of Asian Art at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and has traveled extensively to Asia and lectured on more than 60 trips with well known tour companies.

His interests are in the art, architecture, history and cultures of Asia.



VISIT MODERN ART GALLERIES

COLOUR & CULTURE OF SOUTH JAPAN

TRIP AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Arrive Fukuoka
Day 2	Sightseeing Fukuoka vicinity – Arita and Imari
Day 3	Sightseeing – Dazaifu Tenmangu and Fukuoka City
Day 4	Shinkansen ride from Fukuoka to Hiroshima and Hiroshima City Sightseeing
Day 5	Excursion to Miyajima Island and Itsukushima Shrine
Day 6	Hiroshima to Iya Valley - Shimanami Kaido Sea Highway
Day 7	Iya Gorge to Takamatsu
Day 8	Takamatsu to Naoshima Island
Day 9	Ferry ride to Teshima Island and then to Naruto
Day 10	Naruto via Awaji Island to Kyoto
Day 11	Sightseeing Kyoto
Day 12	Free day: Sightseeing on our own in Kyoto with option to join guide to Arashiyama
Day 13	Kyoto to Mount Koya
Day 14	Mount Koya to Osaka
Day 15	Depart from Osaka

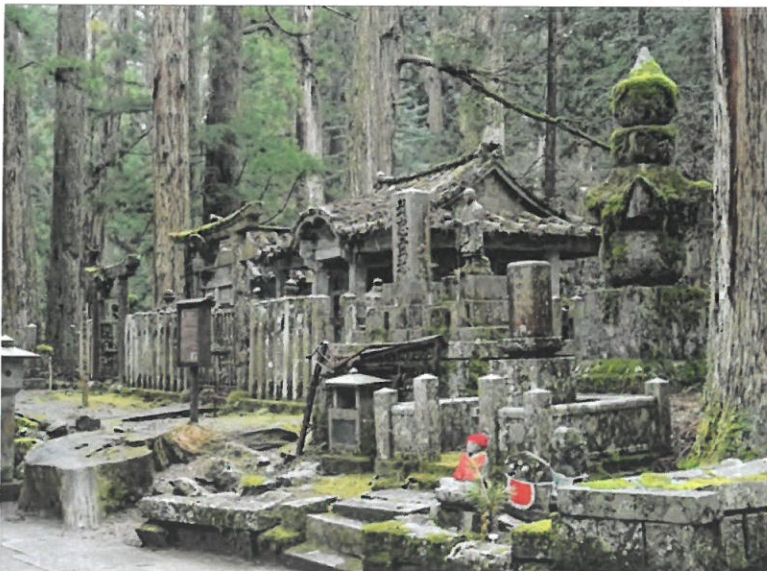
Registration and Payments

A \$1000 CDN non-refundable deposit by cheque or credit card will be accepted by the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria front desk in person or by phone.

Final Payment Date- June 1, 2019

Refunds

All payments are non-refundable as of August 1, 2019 except the deposit if the tour is cancelled by the AGGV.



SEE MONASTERIES, TEMPLES & SHRINES

COLOUR & CULTURE OF SOUTH JAPAN

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A series of pre-tour lectures by Barry Till.
- 14 nights accommodations from Fukuoka to Osaka as per final itinerary.

Highlights include:

- 1 night at an Onsen (hot spring bath) Ryokan (typical Japanese inn);
- 1 night at the renowned Benesse House Hotel on the Naoshima art island to live by its art installations and unique architecture;
- 2 and 3 night stays in Fukuoka, Hiroshima and Kyoto;
- A unique 1 night at temple lodgings on Mt. Koya, (where all rooms have ensuite toilets and basins with a short walk down the hall to showers);
- All breakfasts; 5 lunches and 7 dinners as per final itinerary;
- English speaking Japanese guide throughout;
- Ground transportation (including a Shinkansen or bullet train ride);
- Luggage transfer fees limited to one item per person;
- Admissions to sites on the final itinerary unless noted,
- Pre-tour orientation sessions about Japanese language and customs.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- All drinks except fully safe tap water at meals;
- Any other personal expenses incurred by participants;
- Travel costs to and from Japan – for those who may want to travel together, the tour committee is exploring, with a travel agent, flight options from Victoria/Vancouver to Fukuoka and returning from Osaka. Details will be shared as plans develop;
- A coach transfer from the Fukuoka airport to the hotel is included only if the participants choose to travel with the group on the chosen flight. At the tour end, a coach transfer to an Osaka airport is included only if the participants are returning on the December 1st group flight;
- Costs if opportunities arise to see additional sites not on the itinerary;
- Pre-tour no-host dinners at Japanese restaurants with participants;
- Gratuities for the national guide will be collected by the committee at the end of the tour - customarily \$10 US per day per person. Otherwise, tips are not generally expected when travelling through Japan.

Note: This tour cannot accommodate gluten-free or vegan diets. Japanese kitchens are unable to eliminate soy sauce and fish sauce from food preparation. Non-meat meals are available.

Passports:

Passports must be valid to June 1, 2020, six months after the date the tour is completed.

EXPERIENCE RITUALISTIC TEA CEREMONIES

COLOUR & CULTURE OF SOUTH JAPAN

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Sunday November 17

Day of Arrival

Arrive in Fukuoka, Japan. As flight arrangements are the responsibility of participants, transfer by the guide and coach to the hotel is provided only if participants' flight arrival times coincide with the group flight and there is sufficient space.

Overnight: Hotel Ana Crowne Plaza Hotel Fukuoka – 3 Nights

Meals: none

Day 2 - Monday, November 18

Arita and Imari

The full day excursion by coach to visit Arita and Imari starts with a 1.5 hour drive. We visit Kyushu Ceramic Museum and Gen'emon Kiln, to see where potters are working and see some of the best porcelain wares. After lunch, which will be served on Arita porcelain ware, we then walk to the ceramic town of Arita. We will have some free time to explore the small Shinto Tozan Jinja shrine with a pair of ceramic guardian dogs and the many shops to see ceramics (by Koransha and Fukagawa). After a half hour drive, we stop at Kawauchi or Okawachi village, which was protected by the lord of Nabeshima. We stroll around the small village full of kilns with chimneys.

Overnight: Return to the hotel in Fukuoka.

Meals: B, L, D

Day 3 - Tuesday November 19

Dazaifu Tenmangu and Fukuoka City Sightseeing

Depart by coach to Dazaifu. Walk along the street to Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine and visit Kyushu National Museum built into the hills of Dazaifu and reached through massive escalators. Taste Umegae-mochi (specialty sweets) on the street. We return to Fukuoka and have free time for lunch at Canal City where Ramen is a Fukuoka "must food". Then visit Kushida Shrine and Machiya Furusato-kan, the Hakata Traditional Craft and Design Museum with some free time in this area. We then drive a few minutes to Tocho-ji temple with Japan's largest wooden Buddha. In the evening we can take a subway to explore the Tenjin area, stopping at Yatai, outdoor food stalls, to meet the locals and taste the local flavours – not included.

Overnight: Return to the hotel in Fukuoka

Meals: B

EXPLORE CITIES & VILLAGES

COLOUR & CULTURE OF SOUTH JAPAN

ITINERARY

Day 4 - Wednesday November 2

Shinkansen to Hiroshima and City Sightseeing

We walk to Hakata station and take a 1 hour Shinkansen ride to Hiroshima. As suitcases are to be transferred to Hiroshima separately, pack an overnight bag to carry on the train. At Hiroshima, transfer to the hotel is by taxi. We will then walk to the downtown area and have some free time for lunch.

We then visit the Atomic Bomb Dome, The Peace Memorial Park and the Memorial Museum.

There will be free time to visit other sites such as the Hiroshima City Art Museum or the Hiroshima Contemporary Art Museum (both not included). Today's dinner is Okonomiyaki at Okonomiyaki Village in the center of Hiroshima.

Overnight: ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel Hiroshima – 2 nights

Meals: BD

Day 5 - Thursday November 21

Miyajima Island and Itsukushima Shrine Sightseeing

A local train and ferry excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Miyajima will let us view Itsukushima Shrine, famous for the oft photographed "floating" torii gate at high tide. Spin a prayer wheel at Daishoji Temple and marvel at the fall colours at Maple Valley, with time to roam the popular local town. We will return to the Hiroshima by public transportation.

Overnight: Return to the hotel in Hiroshima

Meals: B

Day 6 - Friday November 22

Shimanami Kaido Sea Highway Drive

A day of driving along the Shimanami Kaido Sea Highway to view 6 islands connected by 10 bridges from Onomichi to Imabari. The first stop is Ikuchi-jima Island, famous for its art and lemons. We visit the museum of Ikuo Hirayama, the most famous Japanese painter of the 20th century to see his birthplace and learn about Japanese painting.

We then stop at Tatara Bridge and Oyamazumi Shrine, known for its collection of samurai weapons, on Omishima Island, where we enjoy a seafood lunch.

We continue driving to Iya Gorge in Tokushima-ken, Shikoku and stop at Oboke Gorge to view the autumn colors. Just before arriving at our hotel, we visit the House of Heike, an historical house with a collection of tools and documents.

Dinner and overnight are at a Ryokan (Japanese style Inn) with time to relax in the onsen (hot spring).

Overnight: Iya Onsen Hikyou-no-yu

Meals: BLD

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE OF MIYAJIMA

COLOUR & CULTURE OF SOUTH JAPAN

ITINERARY

Day 7 – Saturday November 23

Iya Gorge, Make Soba Noodles with Local Villagers and Takamatsu

Timed to see the spectacular autumn colours of beautiful Iya Valley, we will walk across Kazura Bridge made of vines and explore the nearby waterfall. We then visit a deep mountain village to make soba (buckwheat noodles) and other dishes with local women. After the soba lunch we will drive to Takamatsu and visit Ritsurin Garden, one of the most beautiful daimyo gardens in Japan. Tea and cake at the Ritsurin Garden tea house, which offers the best view of the garden, are not included.

Overnight: JR Clement Inn Takamatsu, a new local hotel with an observatory public bath

Meals: BL

Day 8 – Sunday November 24

Naoshima Sightseeing

Leave your suitcase in storage at the hotel and walk to the pier with an overnight carry bag. This one-day excursion to famous Naoshima Island starts with a ferry ride to Miyaura Port, where we will transfer by hotel bus to Benesse House, part of the amazing art and architecture complex designed by Tadao Ando. We tour two of its museums, Chichu Museum and Li Ufan Museum and then have lunch on our own in the picturesque Honmura village area. We then explore more art including the Honmura Art House projects to see the old houses converted into art installations and venues. Staying at this special hotel complex allows us to intimately experience the art installations and architecture. Dinner will be in the hotel.

Overnight: Benesse House Park

Meals: BD

Day 9 – Monday November 25

Teshima Sightseeing and Drive to Naruto

A ferry ride to peaceful Teshima Island allows us to enjoy modern art at the water-drop shaped concrete Teshima Museum (by Rei Naito and Ryue Nishizawa) situated in a rice terrace, part of the rural island scenery. We then see the Teshima Heart Archive (by Boltanski), famous for its recordings of heart beats. A ferry back to Takamatsu will be followed by a drive to relax at our resort hotel in Naruto, near beaches and whirlpools. We retrieve the suitcases at JR Clement Inn on the way.

Overnight: Hotel Renaissance Resort Naruto

Meals: BD

EXPLORE THE RITSURIN GARDEN

COLOUR & CULTURE OF SOUTH JAPAN

ITINERARY

Day 10 – Tuesday November 26

Naruto, Awaji Island and Kyoto

We visit Naruto's enormous Otsuka International Museum known for actual sized art reproductions of masterpiece paintings made via ultra modern techniques. Included are Van Gogh and Picasso and even a reproduction of the Sistine Chapel. We then travel over the Naruto Ohashi Bridge to Awajishima Island with a stop for lunch at a local restaurant on the way. We can observe the famous Naruto Whirlpools, caused by tidal action on water moving between the Seto Inland Sea and the Pacific Ocean. We travel further to Yumebutai, a flower garden designed by Tadao Ando. Featured is the 100 Stepped Garden in grids on a hillside spread over several levels. We then cross the Akashi Ohashi Bridge, the world's longest suspension bridge, to Kyoto. Dinner is on our own in this downtown area close to many fabulous restaurants.

Overnight: The Royal Park Hotel Kyoto Sanjo– 3 nights

Meals: BL

Day 11 – Wednesday November 27

Kyoto Sightseeing

A full day of sightseeing by coach will include Ginkakuji temple and a walk along the Philosopher's Path. We visit Eikando Temple, one of the most beautiful spots in Kyoto to appreciate brilliant red maple leaves.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and visit Kyoto Yuzen, a small museum where you can see masterpieces of Kyoto Yuzen dyed textiles and join a workshop where you can dye your own silk scarf.

Overnight: Return to the Kyoto hotel

Meals: BL

Day 12 – Thursday November 28

Free Day: Kyoto and Arashiyama

If participants wish and are able to stand 20 minutes on a train and walk from the train to see the sites, they may join our guide who will take us to the Arashiyama and Sagano areas to walk along the famously photographed bamboo path, see more maples and visit the Gio-ji, Tenryu-ji and Jojakko-ji temples (admissions - about \$16 CDN - and subway/train fare not included). If participants are unable to manage the train travel, a taxi could be an option. Upon return, dinner is on our own in Kyoto. Overnight:

Return to the Kyoto hotel

Meals: B

TAKE IN THE VIBRANT AUTUMN COLOURS

COLOUR & CULTURE OF SOUTH JAPAN

ITINERARY

Day 13 – Friday November 29

Mt. Koya Sightseeing and Temple Stay

Transfer by coach to beautiful, remote Mt. Koya to experience an overnight at the mountain temple and to learn about the life style of Buddhist monks including their vegan cuisine for dinner and next morning's breakfast.

We stop at Jison-in temple, which was once the starting point of pilgrimage. We then drive up the mountain to Mt. Koya. (alt.867m). We then visit Danjo Garan, the complex Kondo (main hall) and the Great Pagoda (Konpon Daito). After lunch on our own, we will walk to the vast cemetery (passing stone stupas and intriguing burial markers) in the most spiritual Okunoin area, a popular pilgrimage destination and one of the most sacred places in Japan.

Overnight: Mountain Temple Lodgings – An experience of a lifetime! Enjoy true vegan foods, sleep on a futon and attend the morning prayers. Rooms have ensuite toilet and basin with showers down the hall.

Overnight: Henjomonin Temple

Meals: BD

Day 14 – Saturday November 30

Mt. Koya Sightseeing and Osaka

After the morning one-hour meditation (if available), other temples will be visited and then the coach leaves for bustling Osaka, famous for its cuisine enjoyed at the final evening dinner.

Overnight: Hotel Vischio Osaka

Meals: BD

Day 15 – Sunday December 1

Transfer to Airport

Flights departing from Osaka in Kansai Prefecture will be the responsibility of participants although the tour committee will research and assist with a group plan. Transfer to the airport by airport bus will be offered for those travelling in the group flight facilitated by the tour committee.

Meals: B

MT. KOYA SIGHTSEEING AND TEMPLE STAY