



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students



The Association of Former Students of
Texas A&M University presents

INSIDER'S JAPAN

May 3-15, 2017

13 days for \$5,991 total price from Houston

(\$5,795 air & land inclusive plus \$196 airline taxes and fees)



This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
six-time honoree
Travel & Leisure's World's
Best Tour Operators award.



An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Aggies & Friends of Texas A&M University



Howdy, Ags!

Travel with us on a special 13-day journey to Japan that promises to dazzle your senses and delight your sensibilities. Superb art, remarkable history, exquisite cuisine, stunning landscapes, and unparalleled innovation await your discovery.

Starting in Tokyo, we'll have two full days to discover Japan's capital. From here, visit Mt. Fuji-Hakone Isu National Park to experience its namesake volcano, then continue to Hakone for an overnight stay in a *ryokan*, a traditional Japanese inn. We'll explore historic Takayama and culturally-rich Kanazawa, with overnight stays in both locales. Our journey concludes with three nights in Kyoto where we'll visit the Temple of the Golden Pavilion, Nijo Castle, and explore the ancient capital of Nara, renowned for its shrines, temples, and deer that roam Nara Park.

With space for only 24 guests on this exclusive Traveling Aggies departure, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today to secure your spot!

Gig 'em,

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel Programs

TRAVELING AGGIES RESERVATION FORM: INSIDER'S JAPAN

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person/people on **Insider's Japan** departing **May 3, 2017**. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**, and mail (along with completed form) to: **The Association of Former Students, 505 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840-2918**. Or call the Traveling Aggies at **979-845-7514** or toll-free at **800-633-7514**. Or fax the reservation to **979-845-9263**.

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Badge Name _____ Class Yr. _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Badge Name _____ Class Yr. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Ph. (_____) _____ Bus Ph. (_____) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/we request a Business Class upgrade

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

Post-Tour "Hiroshima – City of Peace" Extension: Please sign me/us up

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Insider's Japan, May 3-15, 2017**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Method of Payment Check American Express Discover MasterCard VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by the tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.

Tour membership limited to 24 Traveling Aggies and friends

INSIDER'S JAPAN

13 days for \$5,991 total price from Houston

(\$5,795 air & land inclusive plus \$196 airline taxes and fees)

It's a land of delicate art and bustling commerce, of rich traditions and dizzying modernity; a jumble of sights, sounds, and tastes that for visitors are truly foreign — and truly fascinating. This well-crafted tour features the highlights of Tokyo and Kyoto, engages us in local life, and takes us off the beaten path to the lovely historic cities of Takayama and Kanazawa.



Day 1: Depart U.S. for Tokyo, Japan

Day 2: Arrive in Tokyo After arriving in Japan's financial, commercial, and political capital this evening, we transfer to our hotel where we learn about the journey ahead at a briefing with our tour director.

Day 3: Tokyo We spend the morning touring this amazing city that comprises 23 wards and covers a staggering 840 miles. We focus on a smaller area as we visit some of Tokyo's top sights, including Shinto Meiji Shrine, a peaceful enclave of temples and gardens; and historic Imperial Palace, surrounded by moats and ramparts, and home of the Imperial Family. Next we visit Tokyo's oldest temple, Buddhist Asakusa Kannon, followed by the Nakamise Shopping arcade. This afternoon is at leisure; tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. *B,D*

Day 4: Tokyo Today's touring includes a visit to the gallery of preeminent calligrapher Koshun Masunaga, where we learn about this ancient art of artistic writing and browse the collection. Then we embark on a motorcoach tour of Ginza, Tokyo's famed shopping, dining, and entertainment district boasting the most expensive real estate in all Japan. Our tour ends in Ginza, with the remainder of the day free to explore Ginza's department stores, boutiques, and galleries as we wish; or to set off in a new direction, perhaps to a *kabuki* performance or judo demonstration. Our tour director will advise the best way to return to the hotel. *B*

Day 5: Tokyo/Mt. Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park/Hakone Japan's pastoral side is on tap as we leave Tokyo for Mt. Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. Here sits imposing Mt. Fuji, a dormant volcano (it last erupted in 1707) with a perfectly symmetrical cone that rises to 12,388 feet. The mountain's majesty is breathtaking, as artists and writers have attested for centuries. We take a coach ride where, weather permitting, we'll enjoy breathtaking panoramic views; then we descend for a relaxing cruise on scenic Ashi Lake. Leaving the

Avg. High (°F)	Apr	May
Tokyo	62	72
Kyoto	65	75

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Tokyo touring, including Imperial Palace District and Meiji Shrine ... Stunning scenery of Mt. Fuji and Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park ... Overnight stay in traditional *ryokan* ... Takayama's ancient streets and houses ... Hands-on cooking class ... Culturally-rich Kanazawa ... Tour of Kyoto, Japan's cultural capital ... Excursion to historic Nara ... Traditional tea ceremony

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Tokyo		
2-4	Tokyo	Park Hotel Tokyo	Sup. First Class
5	Hakone	Aura Tachibana (<i>ryokan</i>)	Not Rated
6-7	Takayama	Hida Hotel Plaza	First Class
8-9	Kanazawa	Hotel Nikko Kanazawa	First Class
10-12	Kyoto	ANA Crowne Plaza Kyoto	First Class
13	Depart Kyoto for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

Cover photo: We enjoy a cruise on Ashi Lake, with a breathtaking view of Mt. Fuji.



We visit Kyoto's beloved Golden Pavilion on Day 11.

park, we travel to the town of Hakone where we spend the night at a *ryokan*, a traditional Japanese inn where we take off our shoes upon entering, enjoy a Japanese-style *Kaiseki* dinner, and sleep on a futon. **B,D**

Day 6: Hakone/Takayama Today we travel first by bullet train then by Wide View Hida express train to lovely Takayama in the Japanese Alps, considered one of the country's most attractive towns with its 16th-century castle and old-style buildings. Our explorations center on three narrow streets in the San-machi-suji district where, in feudal times, merchants lived amidst the authentically preserved small inns, teahouses, and sake breweries. This afternoon we attend a traditional Japanese tea ceremony here, an historic, ritualized ceremony of form, grace, and spirituality. **B,D**

Day 7: Takayama We pay an early visit to the riverside Miyagawa Morning Market, a blaze of dazzling colors and foodstuffs. Here we meet a local chef to gather ingredients for the lunch we will prepare together at a nearby site. After enjoying the fruits of our labors, we embark on a walking tour, visiting Takayama Jinya, an historic government house; the local sake brewery; and Takayama's old town, whose well preserved buildings and homes date to the Edo Period (1600-1868). **B,L**

Day 8: Takayama/Shirakawago/Kanazawa We leave Takayama this morning for the UNESCO World Heritage site of Shirakawago Gassho-zukuri Village. Comprising buildings relocated from authentic villages nearby that were razed for a dam, the village is also a vibrant community whose residents work together to preserve the unique traditional architecture here known as Gassho style. Late this afternoon we reach the castle town of Kanazawa, an alluring coastal city that survived the ravages of World War II. **B,L**

Day 9: Kanazawa Today's tour of this culturally-rich city features Kenrokuen Garden, a national landmark whose origins date to 1676. We also see Ishikawa Gate, the only remaining section of the town's original castle; Hakukokan, a museum celebrating the art and craft of gold leaf technology; and the Higashi Chayagai teahouse and geisha area. Our last stop is the Nagamachi Samurai district, where the ruling family's *samurai* warriors lived. **B,D**

Day 10: Kanazawa/Kyoto We leave this morning by train for Kyoto, formerly Japan's Imperial Capital and now the country's cultural

Post-Tour Extension

May 15-17, 2017

HIROSHIMA: CITY OF PEACE

3 days/2 nights for \$995 total price

Single Supplement: \$155

Discover the city reborn from the atomic destruction of World War II, a modern and cosmopolitan urban center whose residents warmly welcome American visitors.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Rail transportation Kyoto/Hiroshima; Hiroshima/Osaka
- 2 nights' accommodations at Granvia Hiroshima (First Class)
- 3 meals: 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch
- Extensive included sightseeing: Itsukushima Shrine; Mt. Misen Ropeway; Hiroshima touring by local "Hiroden" train; visit to Peace Memorial Park and Museum; Atomic Bomb Dome
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Gratuities for dining room servers, hotel porters, and all drivers

“O SNAIL
CLIMB MT. FUJI
BUT SLOWLY, SLOWLY!”

– KOBAYASHI ISSA

and artistic center. With more than 1,600 temples, hundreds of shrines, artful gardens, and historic architecture, Kyoto embodies Japan’s rich culture and complex history. Upon arrival we visit Kyoto National Museum, a premier institution featuring pre-modern Japanese and Asian art and artifacts, then continue on to Unrakugama, a workshop specializing in prized Kiyomizu pottery. **B,D**

Day 11: Kyoto/Nara A morning tour reveals the highlights of Kyoto, which was spared destruction during World War II. We visit Kinkaku-ji, the lakeside Temple of the Golden Pavilion set on pillars suspended over the water. We also visit ostentatious Nijo Castle (c. 1603), where the *shogun* asserted control over the city and its people. This afternoon we visit Nara, Japan’s 8th century capital, renowned for its shrines, temples, and deer that roam Nara Park. **B**



We attend a traditional tea ceremony.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed city
- 11 nights’ accommodations: 10 nights in Superior First Class and First Class hotels; 1 night in traditional Japanese *ryokan*
- 19 meals: 11 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 6 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Train transportation as described
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



Itsukushima Shrine, as seen on optional extension

Day 12: Kyoto Today is at leisure to enjoy Kyoto as we wish or participate in an optional cycling tour to visit the important Heian Jingu Shinto shrine; Nishiki Market, “Kytoto’s kitchen” selling provisions of all kinds; and the Gion district where the geishas gather. Tonight we celebrate our journey over a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. **B,D**

Day 13: Depart Kyoto for U.S. This morning we travel by motorcoach to Osaka, where we board our return flight to the United States. **B**

Tour Departs: May 3, 2017

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Los Angeles, San Francisco	\$5,591
Portland (OR), Seattle	\$5,791
Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix	\$5,991
Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Washington, DC	\$6,091
Land Only	\$4,795

Please call for other cities. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$196, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,195.

All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Pacific flight: \$4,395 per person from San Francisco (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrade prices are in addition to the costs above.

For more information and reservations, please call The Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514 or toll-free at 800-633-7514

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not included in tour price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; optional sight-seeing, gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities \$10-\$15 per day, per traveler); travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

Cancellations, refunds and changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; Cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; Cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; Cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; Cancel 29-0 days before departure: No refund.** If a guest makes any changes to their reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.**

Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue. No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Responsibility

The liability of The Association of Former Students, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues

We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a substantial amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will incur no liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

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TOUR TO JAPAN!

*Guaranteed Small Group:
Limited to 24 Guests*

