

# A FALL JAPANESE GARDEN TOUR FOR PACIFIC HORTICULTURE

October 2024



**October 13: DEPART: U.S. for Tokyo, Japan!**

**October 15: ARRIVE: Yokoso! Welcome to Japan!**

Having crossed the International Date Line and lost a day enroute, we will meet our transfer driver and fellow travelers in the airport arrivals area where they will be holding a “Pacific Horticulture” sign. We then will be transferred to our accommodation. Once settled, we will regroup to enjoy a ‘Welcome Dinner’ with our Escort Joanne Shintani of Pacific Horticulture. Our meal at a local restaurant will also include a glass of wine. (D)



**2x Nights at The Prince Sakura Tower Tokyo**

**October 16: Tokyo - Gardens and Culture**



We will meet our private guide in the hotel lobby at 9.00AM to depart on our day of exploring some of the main gardens of the city, Kiyosumi Garden, New Otani Garden (subject to permission), and Hama Rikyu Garden where we will learn about eco-friendly gardening practices and the importance of preserving green spaces in urban environments. We will have time for an independent lunch (payable direct) in the bustling Ginza district.



Lastly, we will conclude our day with a visit to a Ginza Rooftop for a beekeeping tour. This fascinating Bee Farm was created by a local Ginza District company in the middle of a concrete jungle, to share in the importance of bees and what they offer to our lives. The photo in this paragraph is owned and Copyright property of Tokyo Updates at [www.tokyoupdates.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/e/post-1146/](http://www.tokyoupdates.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/e/post-1146/)

Afterwards, we will return to the hotel with the evening at leisure as Tokyo reveals yet another side with its neon signs, brightening the sky. (B)

## October 17: Tokyo – Hakone – Kawaguchiko

After breakfast at the hotel, we will meet our guide in the hotel lobby at **8.30AM** and depart for Tokyo, traveling by private coach to Kawaguchiko for our visit to the Kubota Ichiku Museum. Featuring colorful silk kimono dyed in a unique style by a modern-day expert craftsman. The museum is housed in a unique structure made from hand-hewn timbers and is surrounded by a peaceful forest garden. We will have time for an independent lunch (payable direct) at a local restaurant before our next drive to Hakone, a nature reserve, and hot springs renowned for its commitment to environmental conservation. Amidst breathtaking landscapes, we will have the opportunity to enjoy one of Japan’s most astonishing views, Mt. Fuji. We will visit the Hakone Open-Air Museum – Chokokunomori.



A museum of contemporary art, which uses the beauty of the surrounding nature as a backdrop for its exhibits which emphasize the harmonious coexistence of art and nature in a sustainable manner. From there we will continue to our nearby hotel where buffet dinner is included. This evening you may enjoy a dip in the hotels hot spring baths, a quintessential Japanese experience! (B, D)

**1x Night at Hakone Kowakien Tenyu.**

## October 18: Kawaguchiko – Matsumoto – Takayama

Following breakfast at the hotel, our guide will meet in the hotel lobby at **9.00AM**. We will start our day by driving to Matsumoto to visit Matsumoto Castle (outside only). Also known as the “Crow Castle,” it is a striking symbol of Japan’s feudal history. Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, its black exterior stands out against the backdrop of the distance mountains.



Next, we are headed to Azumino for a wasabi farm visit as well as free time for an independent lunch (payable direct).

Our day will conclude in Takayama where we will have time to stroll through Kami Sannomachi Street. Takayama, nestled in the mountains, is a charming city known for its preserved Edo-period streets and traditional architecture. Before returning to our accommodation, we will enjoy time for independent dinners at a local restaurant. **(B)**

## **October 19: Takayama - Shirakawago - Kanazawa**



Today, we will meet in the lobby of our hotel with our guide at **8.45AM** and return to Takayama to stroll through their morning market. We will continue to Shirakawa-go, a delight for photographers. Also known as a World Heritage Site, Shirakawa-go is best known for its gassho-zukuri farmhouses - a traditional mountain farmhouse style featuring steep, thatched roofs designed to withstand heavy snow, most of which are still occupied by the original residents. Our stop includes visits to two of these houses, the Wada and Nagase houses. The Wada house, one of the largest in the village, serves as a museum, allowing visitors to explore its interior and learn about the daily life of its former inhabitants. The Nagase House, on the other hand, is privately owned but offers a glimpse of gassho-zukuri architecture from the outside, with its distinctive roof and rustic charm. This is considered to be one of the world's top 100 sustainable destinations.

After walking along the town's small streets and charming shops, we will enjoy our independent lunches (payable direct) before heading to Kanazawa, a charming and lively countryside city. Kanazawa has a rich artisan and crafts heritage, ranging from golf leaf production to kimono dyeing, ceramics, lacquer ware decoration and more. It also boasts one of Japan's most renowned gardens, the Nomura Samurai House which we will have the honor of visiting. Next, we will visit the preserved Geisha district before arriving at our hotel, located next to the striking rail station. This day not only offers a cultural immersion into Japan's craftsmanship but also underscores the importance of preserving and appreciating traditional arts and practices. You will have your evening at your leisure and there are multiple dining options nearby. **(B)**

**1x Night at Hotel Mystays Kanazawa**

## October 20: Kyoto – The Heart of Traditional Japan

After breakfast, we will be met by our guide at **8.50AM** to enjoy a morning stroll through Kanazawa's famous Kenrokuen Garden before heading by coach to the old capital of Japan, Kyoto. One the way, we will visit our first highway rest stop, a Japanese oddity we may come to enjoy. These highway rest stops feature multiple food venues, ranging from yakitori over a hot grill to sit-down restaurants to push-button fast food. Any lunch purchases payable direct.



After our stop, we continue to Kyoto, the hub of traditional culture in Japan where a full day of sightseeing is included with a potential visit to Daitokuji Garden where we will receive a lecture by one of their specialists (highly subjected to speakers' availability). Kyoto gardens are at the pinnacle of the rich Japanese horticultural tradition. It is a city that for hundreds of years has been an island of tradition in a swirling whirlpool of progress. Being home to 17 World Heritage Sites, the most in any one city, it is a representation of the exact era in which these masterpieces were constructed. **(B)**

### 3x Nights at Hyatt Place Kyoto

## October 21: Kyoto's Classic Sights



After breakfast, we will meet in the lobby of our hotel at **9.00AM** with our guide. We will explore Zen culture and gardens, architecture, and horticulture through visits to famous locations such as the distinguished stone garden at Ryoanji Temple. Where visitors find peace and contemplation amidst the carefully arranged rocks and raked gravel. Next stop will be the spectacular Kinkakuji Temple, also known as the Golden Pavilion, a breathtaking Zen Buddhist temple renowned for its stunning gold exterior reflected in the surrounding pond. Set amidst carefully landscaped gardens, offering a serene escape into Japan's cultural heritage. Our last visit will be to the Tenryuji and Sagano Bamboo forests.

Tonight, we will have a Geisha Night at a local restaurant, dinner included. A Geisha night provides the opportunity to experience traditional Japanese entertainment provided by Geisha, who are highly skilled performers trained in various arts such as dance, music, and conversation. **(B, D)**

## October 22: Shiga Day Trip Way of Water

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will meet in the lobby of our hotel with our guide at **8.30AM** where we will drive to Shiga where we will be able to enjoy a tour around the city of Takashima. This city is known for its traditional fishing villages, charming lakeside resorts and the scenic lush mountains as its backdrop.



Our tour will introduce us to several ways in which the local spring water is so well known for. Sharing how it has been used and enjoyed in modern life, including old traditional ways such as simply washing vegetables. **(B)**

## October 23: Kyoto - Awaji - Takamatsu

Today we will be met in the lobby of our hotel at **8.45AM** and depart Kyoto for Awaji Yumebutai and Honpuku visiting Kiseki no Hoshi Botanical garden (aka Miracle Planet Museum of Plants). Enjoy lunch on our own (payable direct) at the museum café or at several nearby venues, then continue to Honpuku Temple (water temple) designed by Tadao Ando. Next, we head for the delightful city of Takamatsu, where we will check into our hotel for an evening at leisure. **(B)**



### 1x Night at JR Hotel Clement Takamatsu

## October 24: Takamatsu - Okayama - Matsue



After breakfast we will meet our guide in the lobby of our hotel at **8.30AM** and depart for our visit to the famous Ritsurin Garden for a long stroll before we visit a nearby bonsai expert who will show us his wares and give a brief description of his art and craft. After some time for a local independent lunch (payable direct) we will continue to Okayama, a middle size city with a traditional “landscape garden,” one of the three most renowned gardens in Japan,

offering an interesting comparison to the gardens visited earlier in our adventures. We will continue by coach to the lakeside city of Matsue, where we will enjoy dinner before retiring for the evening. **(B, D)**

### 2x Nights at Hotel Ichibata

## October 25: Yasugi and Izumo Taisha

After breakfast today, we will be met in the lobby of our hotel at **8.45AM** and make way to Yasugi, where we will tour a critically acclaimed garden called by many experts Japan's Best Garden - the Adachi Museum garden - a perfect example of Shaka, borrowed landscape, a well-known element in Japanese gardens. Our next stop is the Yuushien Garden, featuring Japanese peonies and Korean ginseng in a delightful and expansive garden setting.



We will enjoy lunch on our own (payable direct) at one of the restaurants in the garden and have time for shopping before we continue to historic Matsue Castle, an impressive structure which has survived most of its counterparts, providing us with another rare glimpse into feudal architecture. It is easy to visualize the time of samurai and rickshaws while strolling along the glassy moat around the castle. Return to the hotel with the evening at leisure. **(B, D)**

## October 26: Matsue - Katsuyama - Osaka



After breakfast we will meet our guide in the lobby of our hotel at **9.00AM** and then drive to Maniwa, Katsuyama. Upon arrival we will enjoy a tour of Katsuyama Town, which focuses on sustainability as well as technology and gives you the chance to learn how they deal with issues they are facing today in modern society. We will then drive to Okayama Station for our bullet train to Shin-Osaka and then transferred to our accommodation.

This evening you are welcome to partake in the independent Namba area tour before partaking in our farewell dinner at the hotel. **(B, D)**

**1x Night at Hotel Nikko Osaka, incl. breakfast.**

## October 27: Sayonara

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will provide transfers to Osaka's Itami and Kansai airports. We hope you take with you lasting memories of places and people you encountered over these all too brief days of adventure in the Land of the Rising Sun. **(B)**

**LAND COST PER GUEST: Based on a minimum of 15 guests.**

**\$ 6,890.00 per person** for members of Pacific Horticulture

**\$ 6,990.00 for non-members.**

**Single supplement: \$ 1295.00 per person**

A nonrefundable **deposit of \$ 800.00 per person** is required to secure a reservation, with a balance due 60 days before departure.

**Membership for Pacific Horticulture can be signed up or renewed here:**

**<https://pacifichorticulture.org/membership-registration/>**

**THE PRICES INCLUDES:**

- 12 nights superior hotel accommodations -- see note \* below
- A \$350pp Patronage to Pacific Horticulture
- Porterage of one piece of luggage
- Services of an English-speaking guide.
- Transportation by private motorcoach, driver gratuity included.
- 12 breakfasts (B), 6 dinners (D) as stated in the itinerary
- Admission fees for all visits as stated in itinerary
- Bottled water on the motorcoach

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- International Airfare
- Meals and drinks not specifically mentioned
- Entrance fees not specifically mentioned
- Room Service
- Excess Baggage Charges & Porterage of more than 1 piece of luggage.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, etc...
- Gratuity for our local guide.
- Trip insurance - strongly suggested. We recommend Travel Guard or Allianz.

## NOTES:

**1:** Hotel rooms in Japan tend to be much smaller than in the USA. Requests for one large bed will be noted but may not always be possible where only rooms with 2 beds are offered. All rooms are entry level unless otherwise specified and have private bathrooms. Accommodations are subject to availability upon tour confirmation. If the stated hotels are not available comparable properties will be substituted. Single rooms (SGL) are for one-person use. Twin rooms (TWN) are rooms shared by two guests, with two separate beds. Double (DBL) and King (KNG) rooms are rooms shared by two guests, with only one bed. Ryokan is a Japanese Traditional Inn.

**2.** Luggage: Please limit your luggage to one checked bag and one carry-on.

**3.** Porters: This service is neither standard nor predictable in Japan so guests should be prepared to handle their own luggage in and out of hotels. We encourage all guests to travel lightly.

**4.** Food: Japan is world-famous for its cuisine, but not well-known for its ability to accommodate special dietary needs. Gluten-free has not made it across the Pacific, in fact you may see a small dish on breakfast buffets offering extra gluten for your meal. Similarly, MSG is still widely used and vegetarian cuisine is often difficult to arrange. If you have food issues, please indicate the details very clearly on your reservation form. If you have severe food issues, this may not be the right tour for you. There are still many areas, restaurants, activities, and accommodations in Japan that have difficulty catering to dietary needs and/or restrictions.

**5.** Our Escort from Pacific Horticulture, Joanne Shintani will be joining us on this tour:

Joanne Shintani believes the practice of gardening is powerful and joyous. Jo loves talking to people about plants. She is a strategist who studies racial and cultural aspects of horticulture and finds purpose in uplifting historically under-represented stories. Jo was adopted from Korea and raised in California by a Japanese American mother and a Chinese American father. She has a BS in Psychology from UC Davis, and has worked in museums, travel, and botanical institutions. When she's not playing in the dirt, Jo's reading a book with one of her cats on her lap in Portland, Oregon.



6. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the Operator. The right is reserved to withdraw from any or all tours that should be conditionally warranted, also to decline to accept or retain passengers as members of the tour. Legal proceedings against the Operator may be instituted only in a State or Federal Court within the County of San Diego, County of Riverside, State of California, and any claim involved in such proceedings shall be decided in the County of San Diego, County of Riverside, and State of California. Any legal proceedings against the Operator must commence within one year following the date of tour completion. Neither the planner Shannon Cummins nor CEO Michael Lee, Cheryl Hedgpeth Nichols, any escort, guides, nor Pacific Horticulture shall in any case be liable for compensatory damages and you hereby waive any right to punitive damages.