



THINKING ABOUT A TOUR OF JAPAN FOR NIPPON IN 2007 ?

COME ALONG WITH US

Val & Ron Ontell
4557 Rueda Drive
San Diego CA 92124
(858) 292-4363

val-ron@ontell.org

For your consideration, we present this
Itinerary.

CORE TOUR

AUGUST 21 (Tues.) – Depart USA

Board your transpacific flight.

AUGUST 22 (Wed.) – Osaka

Arrive in Japan and meet your Tour Director for transfer to your hotel in Osaka.

AUGUST 23 (Thurs.) – Osaka – Kyoto

Tour OSAKA CASTLE, then on to Kyoto. Visit a Zen rock garden at RYOANJI TEMPLE and then CHOIN-IN, a temple housing the country's largest bell which takes 17 monks to ring, before arriving at your hotel. Shabu-Shabu (Japanese style fondue) dinner. (B,D)

AUGUST 24 (Fri.) – Kyoto

City tour featuring NIJO CASTLE, built in 1603 as the official residence of Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu. Next is Kinkakuji, the TEMPLE OF THE GOLD PAVILION, and the HEIAN SHRINE and GARDEN. Afternoon journey to Nara, the oldest capital of Japan, to see the great image of Buddha, a deer park and BYODOIN TEMPLE, before returning to Kyoto in the late afternoon. (B,D)

AUGUST 25 (Sat.) – Kyoto

Visit the OLD IMPERIAL PALACE, located on its present site since the 12th century and home to the imperial family from 1331 to 1868. Next is the KYOTO COOKING SCHOOL to learn about Japanese cooking and have lunch. Afternoon at leisure. (B,L)

AUGUST 26 (Sun.) – Kyoto-Fushimi-Kanazawa

Travel along the Sea of Japan to the FUSHIMI INARI SHRINE, with its thousands of brightly colored Torii Gates. Witness an exclusive performance of MIKO (Shinto girls). Then head to Kanazawa for a tour of KENROKU-EN, the "Garden of Six Qualities," dating from the 1670s. Adjacent to the garden is the ISHIKAWA PREFECTURE CRAFTS MUSEUM, displaying traditional crafts, including the locally famous Kanazawa Haku gold leaf, produced since 1593. (B,D)

AUGUST 27 (Mon.) – Kanazawa

Visit a local family for tea and get a firsthand glimpse of Japanese life at home by talking with the family and experiencing Japanese culture first hand. Lunch on your own, followed by a trip to Kanazawa's Kitchen, a 300 year-old open air market. Browse through the many stalls to get a good idea of the local diet and commerce. (B)

Note: It is customary to bring a small gift from your local area to share with the family.

AUGUST 28 (Tues.) – Kanazawa-Shirakawa-Takayama

Drive through the mountainous Shokawa Valley to Shirakawa. This remote region of Japan is home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites due to the unique GASSHO-ZUKURI (joined hands) style thatched houses that can be found only here. Continue to the quiet, isolated town of Takayama, where old traditions are untouched by the passage of time. Balance of the day at leisure, perhaps to explore the narrow streets where artisans sell traditional crafts. (B,D)

AUGUST 29 (Wed.) – Takayama

Visit the morning market, where farmers display locally grown fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Then on to the San-Machi Suji historic district, famous for sake distilleries and tiny lacquerware shops where merchants buy and sell as they have for 300 years. Visit the KUSAKABE HERITAGE HOUSE for a glimpse of traditional Japanese architecture of the late 19th century. In the afternoon, see the HIDA MINZOKU-MURA FOLK VILLAGE, a collection of traditional buildings and farmhouses, as well as numerous artifacts relating to the life and work of the local villagers. Enjoy demonstrations of crafts such as lacquer work, silk dyeing, basket making and wood carving. Japanese style dinner hosted by your Tour Director. (B,D)

AUGUST 30 (Thurs.) – Takayama-Matsumoto-Tokyo

Journey to Matsumoto, gateway to the Japanese Alps. See MATSUMOTO CASTLE, dating back to 1593, as well as the JAPAN FOLKLORE MUSEUM. After lunch, continue to Tokyo where you will be dropped off at your convention hotel. (B)

ADD-ON: BEFORE BASIC TOUR AS INDICATED (depending on demand)

AUGUST 19 (Sun.) – Depart USA
Board your transpacific flight.

AUGUST 20 (Mon.) – Osaka
Arrive in Japan and meet your Tour Director for your transfer to your hotel in Osaka

AUGUST 21 (Tues.) – Osaka – Kurashiki
Head to Kurashiki to visit a KILN OF BIZEN-YAKI POTTERY before driving to Himeji to see HIMEJI CASTLE, known as the White Heron Castle. (B)

AUGUST 22 (Wed.) – Kurashiki-Hiroshima
Visit the OHARA ART GALLERY before departing for Hiroshima. See the SHUKKEIEN LANDSCAPE GARDEN, PEACE PARK, and MEMORIAL HALL, memorializing victims of the atomic bomb. (B)

AUGUST 23 (Thurs.) –Hiroshima-Kyoto
Travel to MIYAJIMA ISLAND to see the Itsukushima Shrine, noted for its floating Torii Gate. Afternoon trip on one of Japan's famous bullet trains bound for Kyoto. Join your fellow traveling companions for sightseeing and dinner in Kyoto per Day 3 on the standard itinerary. (B,D)

After August 23, SAME AS CORE ITINERARY

INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE

- Superior tourist-class hotels, applicable taxes, service charges, state and local taxes, tips to baggage porters and hotel staff.
- 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 5 dinners on the core tour: an additional 3 breakfasts and a dinner on the add-on.
- Sightseeing in an air-conditioned motorcoach with local guides where applicable.
- Group airport transfer on arrival and departure.
- Professional tour director throughout.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE

- **AIR FARE**, airport taxes (where applicable), excess baggage.
- Meals not included in the itinerary.
- Personal items and souvenirs.
- Tips to motorcoach driver, tour director, and local guides.

RATES

Core Tour: \$2387; Single Supplement: \$492
With Ad-On: \$3469; Single Supplement: \$594
Air fare not included.

CONTACT US

If you are interested in taking our tour, please call (858) 292-4363 or email us at val-ron@ontell.org. Include the following:

- Names of everyone in your party (please indicate any children)
- Address
- Phone number
- Email address
- Whether you are interested in the full tour or just the core.

DISCLAIMER

Prices are approximate and will probably change based on any itinerary changes, number of people who go, and other factors. We will need a minimum of 20 people to run the tour.