Smith College presents

INSIDER’S JAPAN

October 14-26, 2017

13 days from $5,691 total price from Los Angeles, San Francisco
($5,495 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 Smith Travel

Featuring John Brady, the Mary Elizabeth Moses Professor of Geosciences at Smith College
Dear Alumnae and Friends,

Travel with Smith on a special 13-day journey to Japan, a land of timeless traditions and dizzying modernity. Here we'll discover the superb art, remarkable history, exquisite cuisine, stunning landscapes, and unparalleled innovation that have helped make Japan truly a nation of many wonders. Joining us to offer fascinating insight into the geologic wonders of Japan is John Brady, Mary Elizabeth Moses Professor of Geosciences at Smith.

Beginning in Tokyo, we'll spend two full days exploring Japan's capital. From Tokyo we'll travel to Mt. Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park to experience the world's most revered volcano, then continue to Hakone for an overnight stay in a ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn. We'll take a bullet train to historic Takayama in the Japanese Alps, where we'll attend a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, followed by culturally rich Kanazawa. Our journey concludes with three nights in Kyoto where we'll visit the Temple of the Golden Pavilion and Nijo Castle and explore the ancient capital of Nara. An optional 3-day/2-night post-tour extension to Hiroshima, the “City of Peace,” lets us discover a city reborn from World War II's atomic destruction.

This air-inclusive journey is exclusive to Smith and limited to just 24 travelers. Our small group size enables us to move flexibly, enjoy spontaneous encounters, and foster a sense of Smith camaraderie. Call today to secure your space on this exceptional tour!

Warm regards,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel

SMITH TRAVEL RESERVATION FORM – INSIDER’S JAPAN

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______ ($500 per person) for ____ person/people on Insider’s Japan departing October 14, 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, VISA, or by personal check. Please make deposit check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send (with completed reservation form) to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., Attn: Special Interest Groups, One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. For trip and registration information, please contact Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765. If you need to contact Smith Travel, please call 800-225-2029 or e-mail alumtrav@smith.edu.

Full Passport Name __________________________________________ Date of Birth _____________ Gender _____

Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________ City ______________________________________________________ State __________ ZIP _____________________ Home Ph. (______)_______________________ Cell Ph. (______)________________________________

E-mail(s) __________________________________________ Badge Name(s) __________________________________

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, October 14-26, 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.
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.

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.

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

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...
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. 

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. 

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, “Kyoto’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.

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.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 11 nights’ accommodations: 10 nights in Deluxe 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

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Meet Your Faculty Lecturer

Professor Brady has taught geology at Smith College since he arrived in 1975, following graduate work at Harvard University. He is enthusiastic about women’s colleges and has one Smith daughter and one Bryn Mawr daughter. Brady has ongoing field projects in Montana and Greece. He is a “hard rock” geologist who tries to develop hands-on, inquiry-based activities for his courses that will help students learn complex concepts. He is taking pedagogical advantage of our electronic world by writing an online textbook about igneous and metamorphic rocks, and now knows enough JavaScript to be dangerous. Nevertheless, Brady’s favorite place to teach is outdoors. Outcrops across western Massachusetts provide the classroom and content for his first-year seminar, “Geology in the Field.” Brady believes that everyone should travel with a geologist if they want to know the underlying story about the places they are visiting.

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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 sightseeing; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited tour director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities $10-$15 per day, per traveler); and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.’s 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 94-60 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 69-45 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 you make any changes to your reservations 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, as well as your date of birth and gender. If you make any changes to your 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.

Trip Insurance

We strongly recommend for your protection that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Insurance will be sent to you by Smith Travel once your registration has been confirmed by Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.

Responsibility

The liability of Smith College, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and 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 wrongfull, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. Smith College and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, illness, death, 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 lines 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 an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. There is a significant amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats 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, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and Smith College 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 the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited Inc. 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 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.