Japan Family Adventure

June 26 - July 4, 2018

Tokyo • Hakone • Kyoto
Post-Tour extension to Nara, Hiroshima & Kobe
Dear Dartmouth and Smith Families and Friends,

Join us on this family adventure into the heart of Japan and explore the ancient histories and enchanting cultures covering fascinating modern cities and historic landmarks. In the dynamic city of Tokyo, tour the sacred Shinto shrine, wander old and trendy marketplaces, and delve into the rich cultural heritage. Stop at the National Museum filled with old and new Asian artifacts and get inspired by the world’s latest fashions and buzzing markets.

Take local trains to the hot spring town Hakone and view Mt. Fuji, a peak that so effortlessly embodies the spirit of a nation. Enjoy a pleasure-boat ride along the calm waters of Lake Ashi while en route to the Edo inspired Tokaido Historic Road.

The quest for the beauty and perfection that has shaped so much of Japanese culture continues on in Kyoto. Catch a glimpse of the fabled Geisha, stroll through pristinely manicured parks and take in the spirit of ancient gardens, temples and castles that made Kyoto the most beautiful city in Japan.

This friendly family program maintains a balance for adults as well as for the young. For those wishing to extend your Japanese adventure, an optional post-trip extension to Nara, Hiroshima and Kobe is also offered at the end of the main tour.

Join our faculty leaders, Dartmouth Associate Professor of Religion Gil Raz and Smith Professor of English Language & Literature and American Studies Floyd Cheung on this incredible journey to Japan. Professor Raz and Cheung’s presence will add an extra dimension and enrichment to our program.

Reserve your place now on this Smith/Dartmouth-exclusive tour.

Warm regards,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director of Travel and Education at Smith College

Robin Albing
Director of Lifelong Learning at Dartmouth College
Japan Family Adventure

ITINERARY

June 26 – June 27 • US to Tokyo
Arrive at Tokyo International Airport. Transfer to our hotel in the historic Asakusa district of Tokyo. (meals aloft)
• Accommodations: Keio Plaza in Shijuku

June 28 • Tokyo
Take the elevator up to Tokyo City View Observatory with a breathtaking view of the expansive modern city from 52 stories high.

Tour Meiji Jingu Shrine, a Shinto shrine dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken, the great-grandparents of the present emperor. The grand garden ground is covered by a forest of 120,000 trees donated by people from all over Japan. For many Japanese, the shrine is a spiritual home as well as an oasis in the metropolitan Tokyo.

Walk the fashionable Omotesando and Aoyama Streets to soak in modern Japanese culture and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Explore the Mitsukoshi Depachika. In Japanese, department stores are called depato while the basements are chika. Combine the two and you have depachika. Its history goes back to 1673 when it was opened as the Echigoya dry goods. Mitsukoshi’s Ginza branch has one of the city’s best depachika where the highest quality of culinary delights are artistically crafted and displayed.

Stroll through Ginza, Tokyo’s most famous upmarket shopping, dining and entertainment district with department stores, boutiques, art galleries, restaurants, night clubs and cafes.

The evening is free and dinner is on your own. (b,l)

June 29 • Tokyo
Visit the Tokyo National Museum in Ueno Park. The grand museum has a comprehensive collection of art and antiquities from Japan and other Asian countries. The museum conducts research on the fine art books, rubbings, and photographs.

Visit the nearby Akihabara Electric City (also called Akiba), the fashionable district known for its many electronic shops, as well as anime and manga. Explore the festive Ameyoko street with colorful vendors selling clothes, bags, cosmetics, fresh fish, dried food and spices. The name “Ameyoko” is a short form for “Ameya Yokocho” (candy store alley), as candies were traditionally sold there.

Shibuya is one of Tokyo’s most colorful and busy districts, packed with shopping, dining and nightclubs. It is a center for youth fashion and culture, and its streets are the birthplace to many of Japan’s fashion and entertainment trends. Explore the colorful Edo Museum to discover Japan’s rich history and culture through large displays of dioramas, scale models and historical items.

Cook your own Okonomiyaki dinner (hotplate pancake) at a local favorite restaurant. (b,d)

Travel Dates
July 4 • Kyoto-Nara-Kyoto
July 5 • Kyoto-Hiroshima
July 6 • Hiroshima-Miyajima-Hiroshima
July 7 • Hiroshima-Kobe
July 8 • Kobe-Osaka-U.S.

Extension tours require a min. two passengers
June 30 • Tokyo-Hakone

Take fun train and old tram rides (about 1.5 hour) to Hakone Yumoto. Visit the Hakone Open Air Museum with over 100 pieces of master sculptures in the open air in addition to a special rotating Picasso exhibit (Picasso Museum has a collection of over 300 works by Picasso!). Enjoy the splendor of art in nature. Lunch at the museum restaurant.

Take a leisurely walk to Hakone Gora Park and Hakone Museum of Art to enjoy beautiful Japanese garden. Relax at the beautiful tea-house and enjoy a matcha tea (green powdered tea) served with homemade sweets. Check in at the traditional Japanese ryokan inn and soak in the hot spring. For dinner, enjoy a traditional Kai-seki dinner with multiple courses served in elegant dishes. (b,d)

• Accommodations: Yumoto Fujiya with hot springs. If desired, you may stay in traditional Japanese style room—Ryokan with tatami mats on the floor

July 1 • Hakone-Kyoto

Ride to Komagatake ropeway station and go all the way up to the summit of Komagatake to enjoy a spectacular view of Mt. Fuji.

Enjoy a cruise ride on Lake Ashi. Tour Sekisho old station, restored after 140 years of usage, a key location for communication and transportation during the Edo period.

Walk the Tokaido historic road, the primary path in the Edo period connecting Edo (modern-day Tokyo) to Kyoto. Unlike the inland and less heavily travelled Nakasendo, the Tokaidō travelled along the sea coast of eastern Honsu.

Stroll Hakone Suginamiki, also known as Old Tokaido Cedar Trees Road. A gorgeous path, lined with towering trees and flora.

In the early afternoon, transfer by coach from Suginamiki to Odawara Train Station and take the Shinkansen bullet train to Kyoto.

In the evening, explore Gion (the Geisha District) in Kyoto. The area is dotted with old style Japanese houses called Machiya. If you are lucky, you may spot a Geishas or Maikos (apprentice geishas) with elaborate make-up and hair dressing in gorgeous kimono dress.

Enjoy the Japanese cuisine at a local restaurant. (b,d)

• Accommodations: Tokyu Hotel Kyoto

July 2 • Kyoto

Stop at Heian-jingu Shrine with its massive tori gate. The expansive garden behind the shrine features lovely ponds, Chinese inspired bridge and mature cherry blossom and Japanese maples trees.

A few minutes walk is the heart of museum district. Stop at Kyoto Museum of Traditional Crafts in the basement of Kyoto International Exhibition Hall. The multi-purpose hall has excellent displays of the famous Kyoto handicrafts such as wood-block prints, lacquerware, bamboo goods, and gold leaf work. Make sure to check out the museum store with fine artifacts and souvenirs.

Tour Kinkakuji Temple—the Golden Pavilion, an exquisite pavilion surrounded by a beautiful pond and gardens.

In the afternoon visit the nearby
Ryoanji, an important symbol of Kyoto. The lovely temple is famed for the rock garden, an oblong of sand with an austere collection of 15 carefully placed rocks. The intricate Japanese architecture is surrounded by beautifully landscaped grounds around the lake.

Explore the Grand Nijo Castle built for the first shogun from 1603 in the heart of the city. In 1939, the Imperial Family donated it to the city of Kyoto. The famous movie by Tom Cruise “the Last Samurai” was shot here.

Tonight explore the fine restaurants and bars in Ponto-cho along the Kamo Gawa River. Few streets in Asia rival this narrow pedestrian-only walkway for atmosphere. The place comes alive by night with colorful lanterns, traditional wooden exteriors, and delicate entryways disappearing into the doorways of elite dining and bars (b,l)

July 3 • Kyoto

In the morning visit the exquisite Kiyomizu Temple, Kyoto’s icon, for a panoramic view of Kyoto from a grand wooden veranda built on the cliff. Kiyomizudera, literally “Pure Water Temple”, is one of the most celebrated temples of Japan built in 780 on the site of the Otowa Waterfall in the wooded hills east of Kyoto.

Wander the famous Nishiki Market. With over 100 shops and restaurants, it’s no wonder this five block long shopping street is known as “Kyoto’s Kitchen”.

Buffet lunch at Kyoto Royal Hotel nearby the Nishiki Market.

Tour the Fushimi Inari Shrine, founded in 711 AD and one of the most revered Shinto shrines. Fushimi Inari serves as the headquarters for all the 40,000 shrines dedicated to Inari across Japan. Originally the god of rice, Inari now governs the modern equivalent: success and prosperity in business. The Shrine draws thousands of businessmen and tradespeople seeking blessings for their enterprises, especially at the first prayers of the New Year. Fushimi Inari is noted for its remarkable sight of 10,000 small torii (shrine gates) that arch over a long path up the hill behind the shrine.

Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner at Kagoya Restaurant featuring Shabu Shabu menu. (b,l,d)

July 4 • Kyoto–US

Transfer by coach to Osaka Airport to catch your return flight home. (b)
Gil Raz is a Professor of Chinese Religion at Dartmouth College. His works have a particular interest in Daoism, and the interaction between Daoism, popular religious practices, and Buddhism. Between studies in History and Religious Studies in Hebrew University (B.A., 1992) and Chinese Religions in Indiana University (M.A., 1996; Ph.D., 2004), he spent some six years in China and Taiwan. He conducted three years of field work in Taiwan, working closely with a Daoist priest. He is currently completing a book that examines the formation of the Daoist religious tradition between the second and fifth centuries C.E. His research interests include Daoist ritual, both historical and contemporary, Daoist sacred geography and mythology, traditional divination systems, and concepts of the body in Chinese religions.

Floyd Cheung is a Professor of English Language and American Studies at Smith College. In addition to teaching English language and literature and American studies, he is also a member of the Five College Asian/Pacific/American Studies Certificate Program, for which he served as the founding chair. In 2012, he was awarded Smith’s Sherrerd Prize for Distinguished Teaching. From 2014 to the present, Cheung has been serving as the director of the Sherrerd Center for Teaching and Learning. Born in Hong Kong, Cheung grew up in Las Vegas. At Smith he teaches courses in American literature, American studies and Asian American literature and culture. In each of these fields, Cheung has published articles in academic journals. He is particularly interested in the recovery of early Asian American texts.
July 4 • Kyoto - Nara - Kyoto

Nara, the ancient capital laid out after China’s Changan, was the first Japanese capital founded here in 710AD for 74 years. During this short and significant period, Japan witnessed the birth of nation’s arts, crafts, and literature. Buddhism flourished together with temples, shrines, pagodas and palaces. Much has remained intact.

Todaiji Temple is the largest wooden structure in the world. The UNESCO World Heritage Site houses Japan’s second largest bronze Buddha. It is considered by architectural experts as one of the most lovely buildings in the world.

Kasuga Taisha Shrine is a beautiful Shinto shrine of vermilion-colored pillars and astounding 3000 stone and bronze lanterns. The botanical garden, Shin-en, is famous for wisteria and 300 varieties of native Japanese plants.

The first UNESCO World Heritage site in Japan, Horyuji Temple, was founded in 607AD as the origin of Japanese Buddhism. This is the country’s most significant gems of historic architecture, art and religion. About 45 buildings remain in the complex, comprising what are thought to be the oldest wooden structures in the world.

Stroll through Nara Park where 1200 deer roam freely. Deer are considered divine messengers. The evening is free and dinner is on your own. (b, l)

• Accommodations at Kyoto Tokyu Hotel

July 5 • Kyoto - Hiroshima

Take the bullet train Shinkansen from Kyoto to Hiroshima. Visit Atomic Bomb Dome and Peace Memorial.

The Atomic Bomb Dome is a brick housed national and municipal government offices. Located just 160 meters from the epicenter of the blast, most of the building’s walls were destroyed in the bombing, but it was one of the few structures in the area to remain upright. (b)

• Accommodations at Sheraton Grand Hotel Hiroshima (2 nights)

July 6 • Hiroshima-Miyajima-Hiroshima

Transfer by train and ferry to Miyajima Island to visit Itsukushima Shrine and the famous O-Torii Gate. A registered World Heritage Site, the shrine and the torii gate are seemingly floating in the sea during high tide.

The island’s highest peak, Mount Misen, was worshiped by local people as early as the 6th century. If time permits, you might enjoy Daigan-ji Temple and Miyajima’s own Omotesando Street for shops and souvenirs. (b)

July 7 • Hiroshima - Kobe

After breakfast, transfer to Kobe by Shinkansen bullet train. Located between the sea and the Rokko mountain the Port of Kobe became one of the first cities to open to international trade in the 19th century. After the massive 1995 earthquake that nearly leveled the city, the locals have rebuilt what is now considered one of the most beautiful cities in Japan.

Enjoy a half day tour of with a ropeway ride on Shin-Kobe Ropeway that passes by the Nunobiki Waterfall and the Nunobiki Herb Garden. Kitano-cho is a charming city district at the foot of the Rokko mountain with grand villas, mansions, museums, cafes and shops. In the evening, enjoy farewell dinner at hotel restaurant. (b, l)

• Accommodations ANA Crowne Plaza Kobe (1 night)

July 8 • Kobe - Osaka - U.S.

Transfer on own to Itami or Kansai international airports in Osaka for your flight back to US.

Travel Dates
July 4 • Kyoto-Nara-Kyoto
July 5 • Kyoto-Hiroshima
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Extension tours require a min. two passengers
Fabulous Dining
Savor Japan’s Exquisite Cuisine

TOKYO
Located in the Kanto region, Tokyo has attracted global acclaim from its culinary masters. Offering a mix of traditional ingredients and innovative techniques, the Kanto region is known for dark and strong flavors derived from their use of soy sauce and fish stock. Staples such as soba noodles and sushi have been made in Tokyo since the Edo period and remains iconic of their traditional fare.

NARA
Japan’s first capital was Nara and being a cultural center, the best goods were brought here by traders from across the country. Denizens of all social classes in Nara were privileged to a varied and rich array of foods. Since Nara is remotely located in the mountains, fermentation and pickling are often used as both a preservation method and flavoring addition. As Buddhist monks widely inhabited the region, vegetarian cuisine flourished with their religious practice.

KYOTO
For over a thousand years, Kyoto was the capital city and seat of the imperial court. Kyoto offers a rich culinary experience that ranges from aristocratic Kaiseki to vegetarian shojin meals created by monks.

In addition, the prefecture is known for its award winning refreshments such as green tea from Uji, sake from Fushimi, and whiskey from Mishima.

The enjoyment of good food will prove to be one of this tour’s recurring themes during our travels. However, as not everyone may have an adventurous palate, we will make every attempt to accommodate special food requests, including children.
Tour Cost

Rates are per person and do not include international air:

Main Tour, Double Occupancy - Adult $4,995
Single Supplement $1,155
Early Bird Discount (registration prior to Dec, 31, 2017) $4,895
Double Occupancy - Children 17 & under $4,695
Early Bird Discount (registration prior to Dec, 31, 2017) $4,595

Post-Tour Extensions
Nara, Hiroshima & Kobe $2,695 Single Supplement $ 790

Round-trip International Air is available through AirTreks. For pricing, please contact AirTreks directly at 415-977-7136 or at asiasublime@airtreks.com.

Private Airport Transfers upon arrival and departure in Shanghai are recommended and available through Asia Sublime Travel, Inc. Call 1-888-333-2585 or email info@asiasublime.com.

Tours Include: All domestic land and rail transportation within Japan • All sightseeing and cultural activities listed in the itinerary • Meals as listed in the itinerary • English Speaking Japanese national Tour Guide for the main tour with 15 or more travelers.

Not Included: • International flights • Travel insurance • Meals other than those specified in the itinerary • Optional activities • Alcoholic beverages at group meals • Airport arrival & departure transfers • Excess baggage charges • Gratuities for Guides • Passport fees • Items of personal nature and personal expenses

Tour Reservation Form
Smith College & Dartmouth College
Japan Family Adventure ~ June 26 - July 4, 2018

Enclosed is a deposit for $ ____________ ($700.00 per person) to hold ________ place(s).
Please make checks payable to Asia Sublime Travel, Inc. and mail to the address below.
Final payment is due on March 27, 2018

Passport Name/s ___________________________ Birth date

Passport Name/s ___________________________ Birth date

Passport Name/s ___________________________ Birth date

School Affiliation(s) ___________________________ Class Year(s) ______________________________________

Please add additional family members’ names on a separate sheet

Address ___________________________ City ______________ State ____  ZIP __________

Home/Office ___________________________ Cell __________________

Email ___________________________ Email 2 __________________

Optional Extensions:

☐ Nara, Hiroshima & Kobe Post-Tour Ext

Accommodations:   ☐ Single   ☐ Double   ☐ Smoking   ☐ Nonsmoking

Bed Request:   ☐ One Bed   ☐ Two Beds

I/we understand that, by signing below, I/we acknowledge that the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure has been read and accepted.

Signature ________________________________________________________ Date ______________
Signature ________________________________________________________ Date ______________

Credit Card Number for Deposit: ________________________________________________
Exp. Date ______CVV Code______ (Payments accepted by credit card or check.)

Signature ________________________________________________________ Date ______________

Please fax, email, or mail Reservation Form, with deposit, to:
Asia Sublime Travel, Inc.
3843 Brickway Blvd • Suite 210 • Santa Rosa, CA  95403
tel: 888-333-2585 • fax: 415-841-1790 • email: info@asiasublime.com
TRAVEL IN JAPAN

The schedule will be demanding with moderate physical activity. Travel in Japan requires good physical condition and health (special needs must be arranged for in advance and may result in additional costs), a spirit of adventure, a flexible attitude, and a sense of humor. The itinerary is subject to change and modification. Every effort will be made to carry out the program as planned, but alterations may still occur. Participants should be aware that no refunds will be made as a result of unforeseen changes, modifications, or delays.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Reservations: Bookings are subject to the terms and conditions mentioned in these sections. A contract has been entered into as soon as your booking is received and accepted. To confirm the reservation, a deposit of $700.00 per person is required.

Air: Air cancellations and penalties are based on each carrier and ticket. Be sure to review these policies before purchasing air. Neither Asia Sublime Travel, Inc. nor Dartmouth College and Smith College, through their Office of Alumni Relations, is responsible for any penalties incurred due to air changes or cancellations.

Cancellations: No cancellation is valid until it is received in writing by Asia Sublime Travel, Inc. and Smith College and Dartmouth College. Cancellation penalties based on the date of receipt of written notice are as follows: 91 or more days prior to departure, a cancellation fee of $500 per person is retained; 90-46 days prior to departure, $1,500 per person; 45-31 days prior to departure, $2,500 per person; 30-0 days prior to departure, no refund is made. Cancellation penalties for additional hotel nights, hotel and cruise ship room upgrades, tour extensions, and any special arrangements, are as follows: 50-31 days prior to departure, 25% of cost is retained; 30-0 days prior to departure, no refund is made.

Responsibilities: Asia Sublime Travel, Inc. and Dartmouth College and Smith College, act only as agents for the various carriers for which tickets are provided and assumes no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft, motor vehicle or other conveyance which may be used either wholly or in part, in the performance of their duty to the passenger. Neither will they be responsible for any act, error, or omission or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by a reason of any defect in any vehicles, or through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or for any hotel proprietor, hotel service or restaurant, or for any other person engaged in carrying out the purpose for which tickets or coupons are issued. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well being of the passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, also to decline to accept or retain any passengers as members for the tours. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded. Refunds for unused carrier tickets may be only in accordance with the regulations of the carrier. CST 2064278-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. All legal questions will be settled within the jurisdiction of the County of Nevada City, California.

Insurance: It is highly recommended that you supplement this basic protection with your own additional coverage, as well as trip cancellation/interruption or baggage coverage. Information on additional insurance is available and will be mailed upon receipt of your reservation.

Smith College and Dartmouth College, are pleased to provide this service of facilitating travel opportunities for its alumni and friends. Dartmouth College and Smith College, strive to work with the best tour operators to make available interesting and enriching travel opportunities for the Smith College and Dartmouth College, families.

Please note that Dartmouth College and Smith College, do not conduct tours, nor do they act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Smith College and Dartmouth College, act as a facilitator with tour operators, with whom tour participants make arrangements for completing travel, and is pleased to act as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during, or after your tour. Dartmouth College and Smith College, encourage you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator’s cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. The University is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for losses or additional expenses resulting from travel.

Pricing and inclusions are based on a minimum 15 paying passengers. Itinerary is subject to modification. All price quotes are based on prevailing fuel prices.

Visa: U.S. passport holders do not need to apply for Japan visa, you will receive 30 day visa upon arrival.

Air:

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