An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Alumni, Parents, and Friends of Rice University

INSIDER’S JAPAN
August 26-September 7, 2020

13 days for $6,784 total price from Houston
($6,395 air & land inclusive plus $389 airline taxes and fees)

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, six-time honoree Travel & Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.
Dear Rice alumni, parents, and friends,

Travel with us on an exclusive 13-day journey throughout Japan. Your small group will discover the superb art, remarkable history, exquisite cuisine, and stunning landscapes that render Japan a nation of many wonders.

Begin in Tokyo, and spend two full days exploring Japan’s capital. From Tokyo, travel to 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. Take a bullet train to historic Takayama in the Japanese Alps and attend a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, then discover culturally rich Kanazawa. The journey concludes with three nights in Kyoto, where touring includes the Temple of the Golden Pavilion, Nijo-jo Castle, and Nishiki Market. An optional 3-day/2-night post-tour extension to Hiroshima, the “City of Peace” reborn from World War II’s atomic destruction, is also available.

With space for only 24 Rice-affiliated guests in total, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today and secure your place on this memorable journey through Japan!

Sincerely,
Rice Alumni Traveling Owls

RICE UNIVERSITY RESERVATION FORM: INSIDER’S JAPAN

Enclosed is my/our deposit of $______ ($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Insider’s Japan departing August 26, 2020. 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 check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Rice Alumni Traveling Owls – MS 520, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892. Or you may call the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS, e-mail travelingowls@rice.edu, or fax your reservation to 713-348-5210. You may also call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765, or fax your reservation to 617-454-9199.

Full Passport Name ________________________________ Date of Birth __________________ Gender ___________

Full Passport Name ________________________________ Date of Birth __________________ Gender ___________

Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________

City ______________________________________________ State ___________________________ ZIP _____________

Home Phone (______)________ ______ (______)_______________________________

Cell Phone (______)_______________________________

E-mail(s) _______________________

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, August 26-September 7, 2020, 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 our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.
Day 1: Depart U.S. for Tokyo, Japan

Day 2: Arrive Tokyo
Upon arrival in Japan’s financial, commercial, and political capital, we transfer to our hotel. As guests’ arrival times may vary, we have no scheduled activities or meals planned.

Day 3: Tokyo
After a briefing about the journey ahead, we set out to discover a small part of this amazing city that covers a staggering 840 miles. Our sightseeing features the Meiji Shrine, a peaceful enclave of Shinto temples and gardens. We also visit the gallery of pre-eminent calligrapher Koshun Masunaga, where we learn about this ancient art of artistic writing and browse the collection. Our tour ends in Ginza, Tokyo’s famed shopping, dining, and entertainment district, where we can stay to explore as we wish or return to our hotel for an afternoon at leisure. Tonight, we gather for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 4: Tokyo
Our tour of Tokyo continues this morning at the Imperial Palace, surrounded by moats and ramparts and home of the Imperial Family. Here we visit the East Gardens, part of the innermost circle of defense of the historic Edo Castle that once stood here. We continue on to the Buddhist Asakusa Kannon, Tokyo’s oldest temple (c. 645 ce), and the adjacent Nakamise shopping arcade, dating to the 17th century. Last, we visit the Tokyo National Museum, housing an extensive collection of art and antiquities from Japan and other Asian countries. This afternoon is free for independent exploration; lunch and dinner are on our own in this city with endless dining options.

Day 5: Tokyo/Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park/Hakone
Japan’s pastoral side is on tap as we leave Tokyo for Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park and cruise on Ashi Lake. We learn about environmental and conservation efforts on the mountain at the Mt. Fuji World Heritage Center, then enjoy a relaxing cruise on Ashi Lake, with Mt. Fuji in the background. Leaving the 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.

Cover photo: A UNESCO site, beloved Mount Fuji has drawn visitors for centuries.
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 ritual of form, grace, and spirituality.  

Day 7: Takayama  We pay an early visit to the riverside Miyagawa Morning Market, a blaze of dazzling colors. 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, a 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).  

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. Then we visit Gokayama Village to see how traditional Japanese washi paper is made. Late this afternoon we reach the castle town of Kanazawa, an alluring coastal city that survived the ravages of World War II.  

Day 9: Kanazawa  Today’s tour of this culturally rich city features renowned Kenrokuken 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. Last, we visit the Kutani Kosen Kiln, where artists fashion the prized, highly decorated pottery. We dine tonight at a local Japanese restaurant.  

Your Tour Price Includes  

• Rail transportation Kyoto/Hiroshima, Hiroshima/Osaka  
• 2 nights’ accommodations at Hotel Granvia Hiroshima (First Class)  
• 3 meals: 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch  
• Extensive included sightseeing: excursion to Miyajima Island and Dasho-in Temple, 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  

On Day 9 we visit Kenrokuken Garden, one of Japan’s finest traditional gardens.
Day 10: Kanazawa/Kyoto We depart 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. Upon arrival, we visit Kinkaku-ji, the beloved lakeside Temple of the Golden Pavilion set on pillars suspended over the water. Next: Ryoan-ji, a Zen Buddhist temple whose acclaimed dry garden epitomizes the simplicity of Zen meditation. B,D

Day 11: Kyoto More of Kyoto is on tap today, beginning with a visit to the otherworldly Arashiyama Bamboo Grove; the Kyoto Museum of Traditional Crafts (Fureaikan), showcasing all of Kyoto’s 74 different métiers in one place; and Nijo-jo Castle (c. 1603), the extravagant residence and fortifications of the shoguns who ruled Japan for more than 250 years. Then the remainder of the day is free for independent exploration in this traditional yet modern city. B

Day 12: Kyoto We continue our encounter with Kyoto today, first at the important Fushimi Inari shrine, with its trails straddled by red torii gates; Sanjyusangendo Hall (c. 1266), an important Buddhist temple housing 1,000 statues of the Thousand-Armed-Kannon deity; and Nishiki Market, “Kyoto’s Kitchen” of restaurants, stores, and stalls selling everything food-related. Then this afternoon is at leisure; tonight, we toast our adventure at 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

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
• Rail 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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Tour Departs: August 26, 2020

Prices include int'l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

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<th>Location</th>
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Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $389, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $1,395. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Pacific flight: $4,695 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking on stairs and uneven surfaces. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

For reservations and information, please call the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS, or fax your reservation to 713-348-5210 or call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765 Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time
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, if required; 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 traveler, per day); 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 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 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.

Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and Social Security number. These are required by the U.S. immigration authorities and will be sent to your airline(s) prior to departure. You will have the opportunity to make changes to the above information prior to final confirmation, but all changes must be confirmed in writing by Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Changes to airline tickets are subject to the terms and conditions of the issuing carrier and may result in a loss of frequent flyer miles. Any changes made after final confirmation and prior to departure are subject to the applicable fee. If your flight information is changed beyond our control, additional fees may apply. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. recommends that you purchase travel insurance to protect against unforeseen circumstances.

Health and Medical Issues
We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. There is a considerable 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 many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. 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 Office of Alumni Relations, Rice University, 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 the company feels 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 3 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, the Office of Alumni Relations, Rice University, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.