



Japanese Art, Gardens & Culture Tour

10 - 25 May, 2024



Traditional houses in a street, Takayama



Tweed Regional Gallery
Foundation Ltd



FRIENDS

Tweed Regional Gallery &
Margaret Olley Art Centre Inc.



Kenroku-en Gardens in Kanazawa, courtesy of Kim Woods Rabbidge



TOUR LEADER

Kim Woods Rabbidge

behind the popular 'Our Australian Gardens' Instagram, is an award winning garden writer and photographer. Her articles and photographs appear in several garden books and publications including House & Garden, Gardening Australia, RM Williams Outback magazine and the Weekend Australian magazine. For several years she was Qld Coordinator and National Newsletter editor for Open Gardens Australia and has held executive positions on the Horticultural Media Association Australia. As well as leading garden tours both in Australia and overseas, she consults, and speaks at garden events on garden edits and design elements. Kim and her husband have recently begun converting a 'cow paddock' into a garden at Eltham in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales.

Join supporters of the Tweed River Gallery Foundation Ltd. plus Friends of Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Alley Art Centre Inc. on tour in Japan, a vibrant, contemporary country honouring an immensely rich cultural heritage. Its people are welcoming, respectful and friendly. Revered, centuries old temples and gardens will leave you spellbound as will avant-garde architecture, stunning art museums, chic retail centres and fabulous restaurants. We travel comfortably via coach and very fast trains.

Features include:

- **GARDENS** Golden Pavilion - Kinkakuji, Silver Pavilion – Ginkakuji, Sagano Bamboo Grove, Koishikawa, Korakuen – Kenrokuen, and Korakuen in Okayama
- **TEMPLES** Sensoji, Ryoanji and market at Toji Temple
- **CULTURAL** Ginza district, Japanese tea ceremony, local produce, traditional foods
- **ART & ARCHITECTURE** Miho Museum, Hosomi Museum, National Museum, Mori Art Museum, Itkushima Shrine, Naoshima Art Island and Benesse House Museum



Day 1 Fri 10 May Arrive Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo and join your tour convenor and meet fellow travellers in the hotel lobby tonight for a group dinner. (D)

Day 2 Sat 11 May Tokyo

This morning we visit one of Japan's oldest gardens, **Koishikawa Korakuen**, built during the Edo period at the Tokyo residence of the ruling Tokugawa family. In typical Japanese style Korakuen seeks to replicate, in miniature, famous landscapes using man-made hills, ponds, rocks, stones and trees. Next, we head to one of the city's oldest neighbourhoods, Asakusa, to visit Tokyo's oldest temple and one of its most significant, the Buddhist **Sensō-ji temple**. Previously associated with Buddhism's Tendai sect, it became independent after World War II. We'll lunch in a neighbourhood restaurant before visiting the **National Museum of Western Art**, home to significant collections of Japanese artwork and centuries-old cultural artefacts. (B)

Day 3 Sun 12 May Roppongi & Harajuku

Morning visit Roppongi Hills, where one of the best contemporary art museums **the Mori Art Museum** is located and gaze out from **Tokyo City View Observation Deck** at the awesome skyscraper 'forest' of Tokyo laid out below. Also visit the **National Art Centre** and **21_21 Design Sight**. Afternoon visit to the beautiful **Nezu Museum** in the chic suburb of Harajuku. It's not just the impressive collection of calligraphy, painting, sculpture, textiles, ceramics and tea-ware on offer; the surrounding gardens and tea houses are also delightful. Ends our day with a stroll in **Takeshita and Omotesando Street**. (B)

Day 4 Mon 13 May Hakone

Today we travel to the beautiful Fuji area and visit the **Open Air Museum in Hakone**. Make a stop to visit a studio for **Yosegi zaiku** (wood marquetry). This evening enjoy the view of Mt. Fuji from your onsen resort. (B)

Day 5 Tue 14 May To Takayama via Matsumoto

After breakfast, enjoy a scenic drive through the Japanese Alps en route to Takayama. Known for its merchant houses, temples and strong craft traditions this 16th century town is a delight. On the way, we stop at **Matsumoto Castle**. Tonight enjoy **Hida Beef dinner**. (B, D)

Day 6 Wed 15 May Takayama

Morning visit to **Hida Folk Village** an open-air museum exhibiting over 30 traditional houses from the Hida region, the mountainous district of Gifu Prefecture around Takayama. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

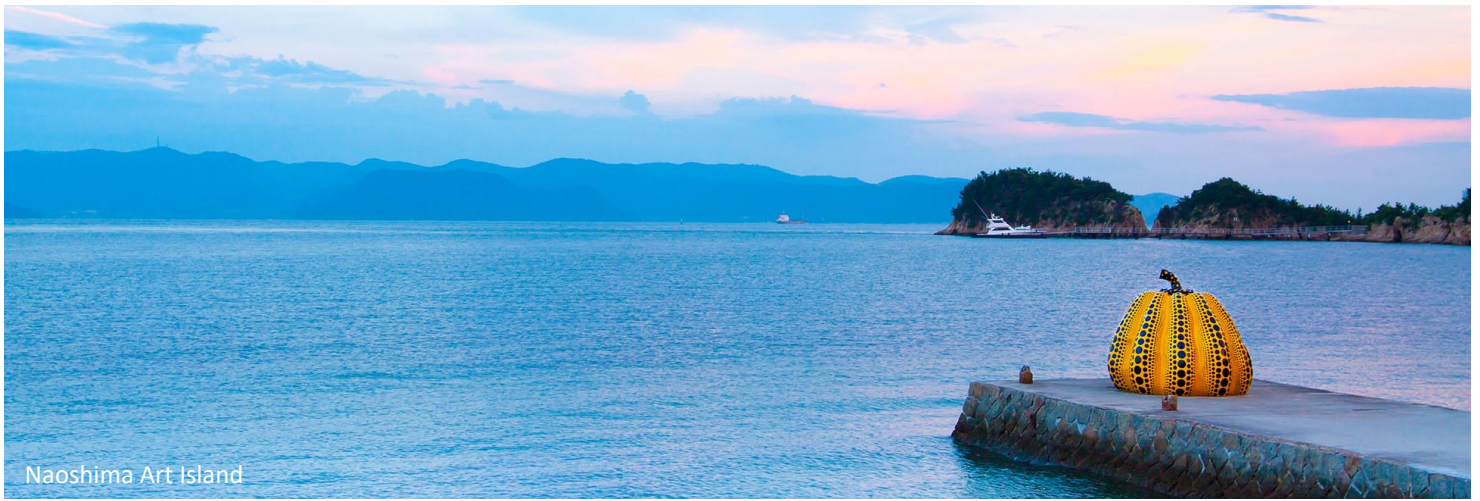
Day 7 Thu 16 May Kanazawa

Today we travel to Kanazawa. In a traditional samurai district with cobbled laneways, wooden houses, earthen walls with private entrances, and canals, we stop by **Nomura house**. The home and garden was the domain of a prosperous samurai family before the end of feudalism and the rise of wealthy merchants. Then onto the **Higashi Chaya teahouse** and entertainment district, where we may see elegant geisha. (B)

Day 8 Fri 17 May Kanazawa

This morning's visit is to **Kenrokuen**, considered one of the finest examples of daimyo gardens, and one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan. The garden was developed over two hundred years by the Maeda clan, rulers of the Kaga district in the Edo period. It became a public park in 1871. 'Kenrokuen' means garden displaying six qualities: spaciousness, seclusion, human artistry, maturity, plentiful water and fine vistas. Next door we'll see the Maeda clan's **Kanazawa Castle**. After several fires, the last in 1881, only two storehouses and the gate are surviving but a restoration process is underway. We will also visit the elegant **D.T. Suzuki Museum** and nearby **21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art**. (B)





Naoshima Art Island

Day 9 Sat 18 May

Okayama

Our Limited Express Thunderbird train takes us to Osaka where we change for the bullet train to Okayama. In the afternoon, we visit **Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter**, known for the characteristically Japanese white walls of its residences and the willow trees lining the banks of the Kurashiki River. Along the canal, many former storehouses have been converted into cafes, boutiques, souvenir shops and a number of museums such as **Ohara Museum of Art**, the first privately operated museum of Western art in Japan. (B)

Day 10 Sun 19 May

Naoshima Island

Today we take an excursion to explore **Naoshima Island** that is known for its modern art museums, architecture, and sculptures. Sometimes it's also called "Ando Island" since most of the structures on the island were designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Tadao Ando. Visit **Benesse House Museum** where nature, art and architecture combine. (B, L)

Day 11 Mon 20 May

To Kyoto

Morning visit to **Koraku-en Garden**. This quintessential Japanese garden was created roughly 300 years ago by the area's daimyo (domain lord). A symbol of the power of the samurai, Korakuen Garden is considered one of the three great gardens of Japan alongside Kanazawa City's Kenroku-en and Mito City's Kairakuen. Later take bullet train to Kyoto. (B)



Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter

Day 12 Tue 21 May

Free day

Enjoy a visit to the **Toji Temple Flea Market!** This famous market offers a wide selection of second-hand kimonos and Japanese collectables. Next visit is **Kinkakuji**, the **Golden Pavilion**, an impressive structure built overlooking a large pond, and the only building left of Yoshimitsu's retirement complex. It's burned down numerous times throughout history including twice during the Onin War that destroyed much of Kyoto. Then, in 1950 it was burnt by a fanatic monk, and rebuilt in 1955. Nearby is Japan's most famous Zen rock garden, **Ryoanji temple**. We'll have time to contemplate our own interpretation of this space. Does it represent infinity, or a tiger carrying her cubs? To conclude the day, we'll join in, and begin to understand the nuances of a traditional **Japanese tea ceremony**. (B)

Day 13 Wed 22 May

Silver Temple

This morning, we visit ceramic artist **Kanjiro Kawai's House** and the **Kyoto Museum of Crafts and Design** (formerly the Kyoto Museum of Traditional Crafts Fureaikan). Familiarize yourself with the techniques and history of local handicrafts, and admire exhibits covering dozens of categories and over 500 samples of traditional crafts. Next we visit the Temple of the **Silver Pavilion, Ginkakuji**, originally designed to be covered in silver foil but instead it's covered in black lacquer. Mossy woodlands border a groomed sand garden with a mound representing Mt Fuji. Tonight we enjoy a **geisha show** at Gion Corner. (B)



Traditional tea ceremony in Japan



Bamboo Forest in Arashiyama

Day 14 Thu 23 May

Arashiyama

Today we travel west to a 'Place of Scenic Beauty', Arashiyama mountains. We walk through the ethereal Sagana Bamboo grove to a charming garden developed by Japanese jidaigeki actor **Denjiro Okochi**. Next we'll be treated to a traditional monks' lunch in **Tenryuji Temple**. Return to Kyoto we visit **Nijo Castle** built in 1603 for the first shogun of the Edo Period. It's considered the best surviving example of castle palace architecture from Japan's feudal era. (B)

Day 15 Fri 24 May

Miho Museum

Today we visit the stunning I. M. Pei-designed **Miho Museum**. The semi-underground building, in perfect harmony with the landscape, is approached via an avenue of sakura trees, a tunnel through the mountain and a suspension bridge. Inside, the ethereal light-filled foyer, overlooking valleys and distant hills, is a perfect entry to architecture of steel, glass and contrasting warm stone. Miho houses a significant collection of artworks acquired by museum founder, the late Koyama Mihoko, one of the richest women in Japan, and her daughter Hiroko. **Farewell dinner** tonight. (B, D)

Day 16 Sat 25 May

Depart Kyoto

Your tour concludes after breakfast. Shared departure transfer to the airport. (B)

Price per person (land only)

The tour price is \$9,985 per person, twin share (land content only). Single supplement is \$1,590 per person. A deposit of \$800 per person is required to secure a place on the tour.

Tour price includes

15 nights in well appointed hotels in twin share; all meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); shared arrival and departure transfer; all transport and excursions in bullet train or air-conditioned coach as per itinerary; entrance fees for all sights as per itinerary; luggage transfer (one piece per person) from Kanazawa to Kyoto; English-speaking guides throughout the trip.

Tour price does not include

International flights; travel insurance; portage & gratuities; personal expenses; and anything not mentioned in the itinerary.

To Make a Booking

As all our tours are bespoke we aim to provide a seamless, individual service to you. We are aware you may have many questions about the tour and are very happy to assist, so please contact us directly.

Fitness Level - Moderate

Arrival/departure transfers: Arrival/departure shared transfers are included, please contact Opulent Journeys for more information.

Hotel Rooms in Japan: Please note that there are limited 'double-bedded' rooms available in most Japanese hotels. Most rooms for two persons are 'twin-bedded'. Most hotels in Japan have single rooms which are smaller rooms with a single bed and private facilities.

For further information please contact Opulent Journeys

Phone: 03 9070 6090

Email: enquiries@opulentjourneys.com.au

Web: opulentjourneys.com.au





TOUR NAME:

TOUR LEADER:

TOUR DATE:

Tour code:

BOOKING FORM

TO SUBMIT YOUR BOOKING FORM:

OPTION 1: Complete the form. Save/print & scan the completed form and email it to us at enquiries@opulentjourneys.com.au

OPTION 2: Print the form and post it back to us at **Opulent Journeys, Suite 310, 365 Little Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000**

YOUR DETAILS:

PASSENGER 1

Your title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr etc):

Your full name (as it appears on your passport):

Preferred first name:

Date of birth:

Postal Address:

State:

Postcode:

Email:

Phone:

Mobile:

Name of next of kin (not travelling with you):

Relationship to you:

Contact number:

PASSENGER 2

Your title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr etc):

Your full name (as it appears on your passport):

Preferred first name:

Date of birth:

Postal Address:

State:

Postcode:

Email:

Phone:

Mobile:

Name of next of kin (not travelling with you):

Relationship to you:

Contact number:

Please provide a photocopy of the photo page of your passport together with this booking form.

ROOMING PREFERENCES

I am travelling: on my own with a friend or family member

Name of friend or family member (if not passenger 2)

I/we would like: a single room a twin share room a double room

If single would you like us to organize twin-share on your behalf? Yes No

Are you a smoker? Yes No

(Please note that Single Supplement will be payable if we are unable to arrange twin-share for you)

YOUR SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS/ALLERGIES

Please indicate below if you have any special dietary requirements. Appropriate meals will be requested for you on all flights and group meals based on this information.

PASSENGER 1

I do not have any specific dietary requirements or allergies

I have the following specific dietary requirements/allergies:

PASSENGER 2

I do not have any specific dietary requirements or allergies

I have the following specific dietary requirements/allergies:

Please indicate below if you have any serious health issue that may affect your travel insurance coverage, your physical capacity to undertake some activities on tour or may otherwise need to be considered by the tour leader/manager during the tour.

PASSENGER 1

I do not have specific medical conditions

I have the following medical condition(s):

PASSENGER 2

I do not have specific medical conditions

I have the following medical condition(s):

YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

I/we wish Opulent Journeys to arrange air travel

Economy Class Premium Economy Class Business Class

I/we will organize our own air travel

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Paid directly by cheque made payable to Opulent Journeys

Direct Deposit into the Opulent Journeys bank account

Bank: Westpac Account Name: Opulent Journeys
Bank BSB: 032 000 Account Number: 902713

Please list the payment description as per the following for Direct Deposits: Your surname + Tour code. This will assist our office in locating your payment when we receive your completed booking form.

Paid by credit card (Please complete details below)

MasterCard Visa American Express

Card Number:

Name on card:

Expiry Date: Date:

(Payments by credit card will be subject to a Merchant Administration Fee as follows: 1.5% for Visa / MasterCard / American Express)

AUTHORISATION

By submitting this booking form you are authorising us to charge the cost of deposits for booking on this tour. No further charges will be made without your prior authorisation.

YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF BOOKING CONDITIONS

I/we have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I/we am/are able to meet these requirements.

I/we accept the conditions on page 1 of this booking form

Opulent Journeys reserves the right to decline the booking or terminate the holiday of any traveller.

AUTHORISATION

By submitting this booking form, you are agreeing to the terms and conditions on page 1 of this booking form and on our website, and the inclusions and non-inclusions listed in the detailed itinerary for the tour.

Date:



BOOKING FORM TERMS & CONDITIONS

DEPOSIT

A deposit is required to confirm your booking on a tour. Please refer to the specific tour for the deposit amount required. This deposit is non-refundable.

TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our itineraries, brochures, advertising and/or on our website are based on exchange rates at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change due to significant currency fluctuations up until final payment is received. We will advise you at the earliest opportunity in the event of a price variation. You will have the option of accepting the amended prices or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid, less an administration fee.

FINAL PAYMENT

Final payment of the tour fee will be due to us 75 days before the tour start date. Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in the cancellation of your booking and loss of any payments made to date.

CHANGES BY US

While we will use our best endeavours to operate all tours as advertised, by entering into this contract you acknowledge and accept that it may prove necessary or advisable to vary or modify a tour or its contents due to prevailing local conditions. We reserve the right at any time to cancel or change any of the facilities, services or prices described in the brochure (including flights, transport, accommodation or other arrangements) and to substitute alternative arrangements of comparable monetary value without compensation. If a service or facility becomes unavailable due to circumstances beyond our control ('force majeure') and no alternative arrangement of comparable monetary value is available, we will attempt to substitute the best alternative available and/or will refund you for any cost saving.

Force majeure

'Force majeure' includes any event which Opulent Journeys or its suppliers could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid (e.g. advice against travel from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), war, threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, epidemics, pandemic, health risks, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire or adverse weather conditions, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes imposed by cancellation or rescheduling of flights by an airline or main charterer, the alteration of airline or aircraft type).

CANCELLATION BY YOU

If you decide to cancel your booking the following charges apply:

Over 75 days	Forfeit of all deposits paid*
75-31 days	50% of the tour cost
30 days or less	100% of the tour cost

* Your deposit may be credited to another Opulent Journey tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. Cancellation fees for air tickets issued by or on behalf of Opulent Journeys will apply as determined by Airline Tariff Regulations, and

may vary as to the type of ticket issued.

Depending on the reason for your cancellation, these charges may be recoverable by the insurance policy you purchased.

CANCELLATION BY US

Opulent Journeys reserves the right to cancel a tour for any reason (including failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure (as outlined above) or your failure to pay the final balance, we will make a final decision to proceed or cancel a tour no less than 60 days before departure. If you have paid in full, we will credit or refund all monies paid, excluding an administration fee and any payment made for travel insurance. No other compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Opulent Journeys. The refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Opulent Journeys requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. We offer a comprehensive policy with a reputable insurer if required.

PASSPORT AND VISA

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure that they possess the necessary travel documentation for the tour, such as a valid passport and any required visas. In general a passport should be valid at least 6 months beyond the end of your journey and have two clear pages for each country to be visited to allow for entry and exit stamps en-route or for any visas applicable for countries in your journey.

PRICES

All prices are in Australian Dollars, on twin share basis, and based on costs and exchange rates applicable when this brochure was printed. Opulent Journeys reserves the right to adjust prices whether or not you have already made full payment. We will do everything within our control not to adjust prices and will generally only amend prices in the event of marked fluctuations in exchange rates, fuel costs and other operating costs on which prices are based.

FITNESS

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness. However, in certain destinations or in certain seasons or because of the nature of travel, certain tours will require an ACTIVE level of fitness. Please find more information on fitness level at

www.opulentjourneys.com.au/fitness_level

RESPONSIBILITY

OPULENT JOURNEYS Pty Ltd act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters of transportation, tour operation and other services. The company itself is not a carrier or hotelier, nor do we own aircraft, hotels or coaches. We exercise every care in the selection of reputable airlines, coach operator, hotels and other suppliers or the

various travel services which are used in the tour. Opulent Journeys Pty Ltd and/or its associated Companies or Agents assume no responsibility for loss, injury, accident, delay or damage or irregularity that may be caused to person or property, however caused or arising before commencement and/or during any tour under its management, sponsorship, procurement or otherwise. It is the responsibility of the passenger to make sure he/she is in possession of the proper visas and other travel documents and those they are in compliance with current government and transportation companies' regulations. The right is reserved to modify the itinerary in any way considered necessary or desirable, or to change any reservation, hotel feature and/or means conveyance, without allowance or refund but the extra cost, if any resulting therefrom, must be paid by the passenger. The right is also reserved to cancel or withdraw any tour, to replace any tour leader with another, to cancel or withdraw any booking made for a passenger, or to decline to accept any person as a member of a tour. The transportation companies or firms shall be exempt from all liabilities in respect of any detention, delay, loss, damage, sickness or injury however and by whomsoever caused and of whatever kind occurring of or to the passenger at any time when the passenger is not on board a carrier or conveyance used or operated by the transportation companies or firms. The contract of passage in use by the transportation companies or firms concerned shall constitute the sole contract between transportation companies or firms, and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. All tickets, deposit tickets, coupons or orders are furnished and issued subject in all respects to those terms and conditions under which the means of transportation or other services provided there by are offered or supplied by owners, public carriers, or managing agents. The issuance and acceptance of receipts, tickets, vouchers, coupons, or exchange orders shall be deemed consent to the above conditions. The tour is based on flights as detailed in the itinerary, however any other IATA or non-IATA carrier may be used for tour co-ordination.

THE LIMITS OF OUR LIABILITIES

We accept responsibility for all ingredients of your tour, except those to which the principle of force majeure prevails, as set out herein. Our obligations and responsibilities are limited to those to which international conventions apply in respect of air, sea or rail carriers, including the Warsaw Convention and its various updates.

Opulent Journeys advises it may vary its Terms and Conditions from time to time. Updated Terms and Conditions will be published on our website. Please contact us if you would like to check if Terms and Conditions have changed.