



Commonwealth Club Travel presents

INSIDER'S JAPAN

From Tokyo to Kyoto

April 18-30, 2015

13 days from \$5,686 total price from San Francisco
(\$4,995 air & land inclusive plus \$691 airline taxes and departure fees)



An Exclusive Small Group Tour
for the Commonwealth Club

Tour membership limited to 24 Guests

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It's a land of delicate art and bustling commerce, of rich traditions and dizzying modernity, a jumble of sights, sounds, and tastes that for visitors are truly foreign — and truly fascinating. This well-crafted tour features the highlights of energetic Tokyo and enlightening Kyoto, engages us in local life, and takes us off the beaten path to the lovely historic cities of Takayama and Kanazawa.



Saturday, April 18: Depart U.S. for Tokyo, Japan

Sunday, April 19: 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.

Monday, April 20: 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 we enjoy a briefing at the U.S. Embassy; tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. **B,D**

Tuesday, April 21: Tokyo Our day begins with a motorcoach tour of Ginza, Tokyo's famed shopping, dining, and entertainment district boasting the most expensive real estate in all of Japan. We visit the gallery of preeminent calligrapher Koshun Masunaga, where we learn about this ancient art and browse the collection. Then the remainder of the day is at leisure to visit some of Ginza's department stores, boutiques, or galleries; or to set off in a new direction, perhaps to a kabuki performance or judo demonstration. **B**

Wednesday, April 22: Tokyo/Mt. Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park/Suwa 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

Avg. High (°F)	Apr	May
Tokyo	62	72
Kyoto	65	75

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Tokyo's Shinto Meiji Shrine ... Stunning scenery of Mt. Fuji and Fuji-Hakone Izu National Park ... Embassy briefing in Tokyo ... Overnight stay in a traditional *ryokan* ... Historic Takayama's ancient streets and houses ... Culturally-rich Kanazawa ... Famed Kenrokuen Garden ... Cycling tour of Kyoto's Gion district ... Traditional tea ceremony

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Tokyo		
2-4	Tokyo	Park Hotel Tokyo	Sup. First Class
5	Lake Suwa	Nunohan Hotel (ryokan)	Not Rated
6	Takayama	Hida Hotel Plaza	First Class
7-8	Kanazawa	Hotel Nikko Kanazawa	First Class
9-12	Kyoto	ANA Crowne Plaza Kyoto	First Class
13	Depart Kyoto for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

Cover photo: Legendary Mt. Fuji and cherry blossoms: two potent symbols of Japan



Japan is well-known for its beautiful gardens.

ride where, weather permitting, we'll enjoy breathtaking panoramic views; then we descend for a relaxing cruise on scenic Ashi Lake. Leaving the park, we travel to the town of Suwa where we spend the night at a *ryokan*, a traditional Japanese inn where we take off our shoes upon entering and sleep on a futon. **B,D**

Thursday, April 23: Suwa/Takayama Today we travel 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 that we see here. We enjoy a sake tasting and then have free time to visit local shops that sell the region's unique lacquerware and yew carvings. **B,D**

Friday, April 24: Takayama/Shirakawago/Kanazawa We pay an early visit to the river-side Miyagawa Morning Market selling flowers, fruit, and vegetables, a blaze of dazzling colors and exotic foodstuffs. Then we leave Takayama 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. Next we visit that dam – Miboro – the largest dam constructed using “rock-fill technology” of stones and clay. Late afternoon we reach the castle town of Kanazawa, an alluring coastal city that survived the ravages of World War II. **B,L**

Saturday, April 25: Kanazawa Today's tour of this culturally rich city features renowned

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**

Sunday, April 26: Kanazawa/Kyoto This morning we visit the Kutani Ceramics Museum celebrating this quintessential Japanese art form; and the Asakusra Isokichi Art Museum. Then we

Post-Tour Extension

April 30-May 2, 2015

HIROSHIMA: CITY OF PEACE

3 days/2 nights for \$895 total price

Single Supplement: \$95

Discover the city reborn from the atomic destruction of World War II, a modern and cosmopolitan urban center whose residents warmly welcome American visitors.

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: Itsukushima Shrine; Hiroshima touring by local "Hiroden" train; visit to Peace Memorial Park and Museum; Japan Maritime Service School
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Gratuities for dining room servers, hotel porters, and all drivers

“TRAVELING
THIS HIGH MOUNTAIN TRAIL,
DELIGHTED BY VIOLETS.”

– MATSUO BASHO

board the train for Kyoto, once Japan’s Imperial Capital and now the country’s cultural and artistic capital. With more than 1,600 temples, hundreds of shrines, artful gardens, and well-preserved wooden architecture, Kyoto embodies Japan’s rich culture and complex history. **B,D**

Monday, April 27: Kyoto Today’s tour reveals the highlights of Kyoto, which was spared destruction during World War II. Highlights include 16th-century Ryoan-ji Temple, where we see the dry garden of sand and rocks (*kare-sansui*), a marvel of classic Japanese design; and 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. And we attend a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, a historic, ritualized ceremony of form, grace, and spirituality. **B**

Tuesday, April 28: Kyoto Today is free to explore as we wish. Possibilities abound in Kyoto, or we can join in an optional excursion to Nara, Japan’s ancient capital. **B**

Wednesday, April 29: Kyoto We see the sights today from a slightly different perspective as we embark on a cycling tour through the grounds of the Imperial Palace and its garden, Kyoto-gyoen; and the Gion district where geishas gather. We disembark to stroll through Miyakawacho, where the geishas live; and Machiya, a neighborhood of traditional townhouses. Our afternoon is at leisure; tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. **B,D**

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 11 nights’ accommodations: 10 nights in Superior First Class and First Class hotels; 1 night in traditional Japanese *ryokan*
- 18 meals: 11 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Services of a Commonwealth Club Host with a minimum of 15 guests
- Special private cultural and educational highlights
- Private motorcoach transportation including bottled water 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



Age-old traditions endure in modern Japan.

Thursday, April 30: Depart Kyoto for U.S. This morning we travel by motorcoach to Osaka, where we board our return flight to the United States. **B**

Tour Departs: April 18, 2015

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Los Angeles, San Francisco	\$5,686
Chicago, New York	\$6,086
Atlanta, Miami, Washington DC	\$6,186
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,295

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include air-line taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of \$691, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$995. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Pacific flight: \$4,195 per person from San Francisco (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Contact Club Travel

415-597-6720

travel@commonwealthclub.org

www.commonwealthclub.org/travel



Dear Members and Friends of the Commonwealth Club,

Join us in the spring of 2015 on an exclusive 13-day journey to Japan. Explore Japan's highlights in Tokyo, Kyoto, and the lesser-known historic cities of Takayama and Kanazawa. Starting in Tokyo, we'll have two full days to discover Japan's financial, commercial, and political capital. From here, we visit Mt. Fuji-Hakone Isu National Park to experience its namesake volcano and then continue on to Suwa for an overnight stay in a ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn.

We'll explore the narrow streets of Takayama, and then tour the culturally rich castle town of Kanazawa. Our journey concludes with four nights in Kyoto, where we'll see the Temple of the Golden Pavilion, Nijo Castle, and explore the grounds of the Imperial Palace on a cycling tour. An optional three-day/two-night post-tour extension to Hiroshima is also available.

Space on this exclusive Commonwealth Club tour is limited to just 24 travelers and will fill quickly. Please call today to reserve your place on this unique and exciting journey!

Sincerely,

Kristina Nemeth
Director of Travel

COMMONWEALTH CLUB RESERVATION FORM — INSIDER'S JAPAN

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person/people on Insider's Japan departing April 18, 2015. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make deposit check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and send to: Commonwealth Club Travel, 595 Market Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105. For reservations and information, call (415) 597- 6720, or email travel@commonwealthclub.org. You may also fax your reservation to (415) 597-6729.

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail _____ Badge Name(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, April 18-30, 2015, 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 95 days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

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); travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

Cancellations, refunds and changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our 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 94-65 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 a guest makes any changes to their 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. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

Insurance: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event you must cancel your participation in the travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Information will be sent upon registration.

Responsibility: The liability of the Commonwealth Club, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, 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 wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The Commonwealth Club and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, 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 line, 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 this Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a substantial amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own.** If you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs, you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. 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 Commonwealth Club 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 they feel 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 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited 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 departure 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. and the Commonwealth Club will incur no liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**



595 Market Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

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U.S. POSTAGE
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Odysseys
Unlimited, Inc.



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ON AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR OF JAPAN!**

*Guaranteed Small Group:
Limited to 24 Guests*