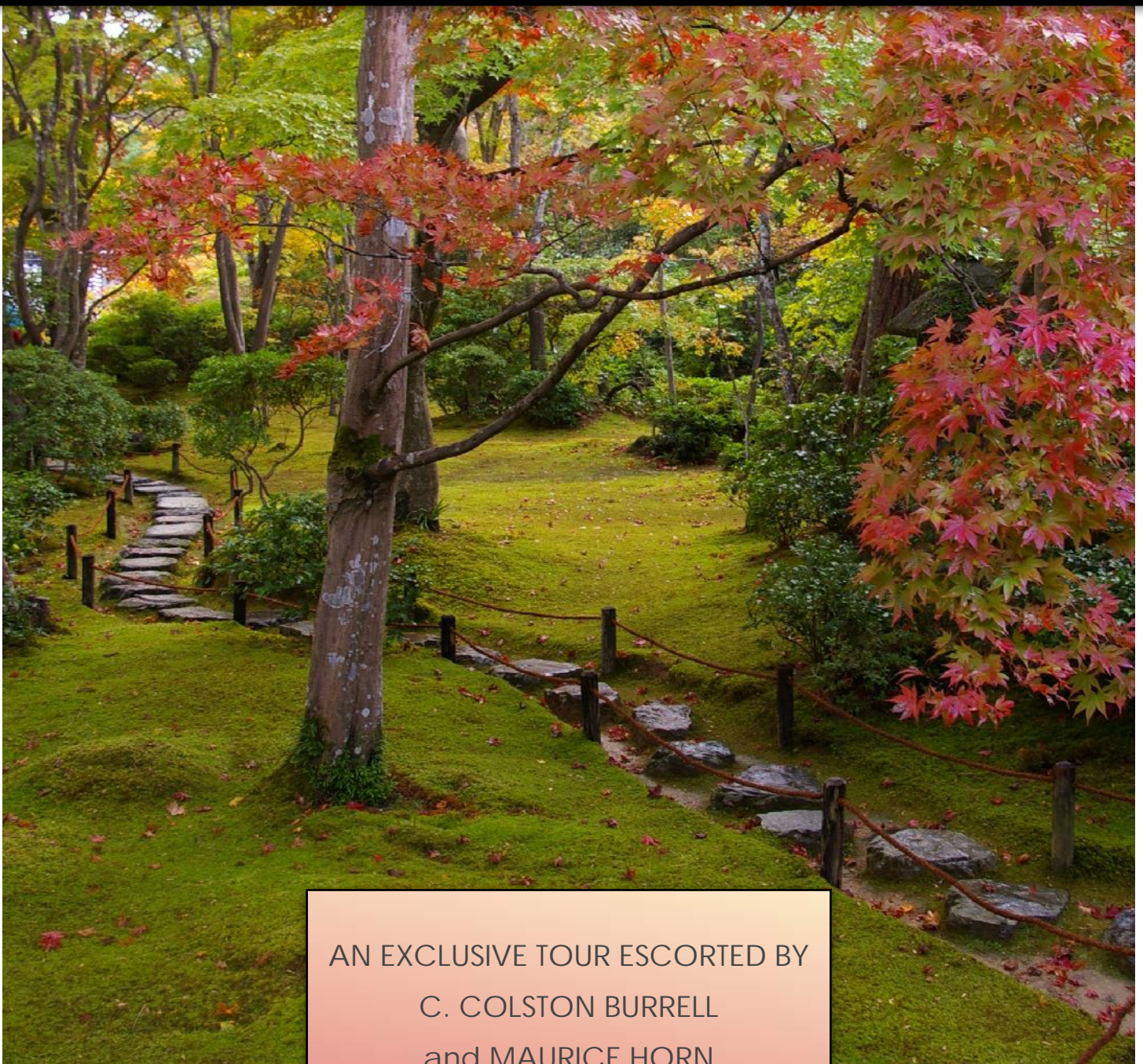


# GARDENS AND TEMPLES OF TOKYO AND KYOTO

NOVEMBER 5 -15, 2025



AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR ESCORTED BY  
C. COLSTON BURRELL  
and MAURICE HORN



Join Garden and Nature Tours with C. Colston Burrell, local guide Maurice Horn, Friendship Tours and The Minnesota State Horticultural Society in Japan to begin exploring the history, culture, cuisine, and iconic gardens of Tokyo, Gotemba, Hakone and Kyoto. This bucket-list trip offers exciting opportunities for exploration, discovery and enjoyment.



# Meet Your Escort and Guide



C. Colston Burrell is a lifelong naturalist, plantsman, and gardener. He is principal of Native Landscape Design and Restoration, which specializes in blending nature and culture through artistic design. When Cole is not traveling, he is designing gardens for his clients, or tending his own 10-acre property designed to display the plants he loves while letting natural succession serve as head gardener. He shares his garden with birds, butterflies, and a wealth of amphibians.

Cole escorts garden and natural history tours throughout the United States and abroad. The New World tropics are a favorite destination. He has traveled in Costa Rica, Panama, Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Argentina, as well as Europe and Japan.

Maurice Horn lived, worked, and traveled in Japan as a young man. He received his Masters of Arts in Japanese Literature from Sophia University in Tokyo. Through his contacts with Japanese nurseries, he has introduced many Clematis to American gardeners. Maurice, now retired, was co-owner of Joy Creek Nursery. He and his partner maintain a 10-acre property on Sauvie Island near Portland, Oregon.

Maurice has served on the council for the International Clematis Society, co-founded and has been a long-time participant in the Great Plant Picks program at the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden in Seattle, Washington. He has lectured throughout the United States on a variety of garden related topics.



# WELCOME TO JAPAN

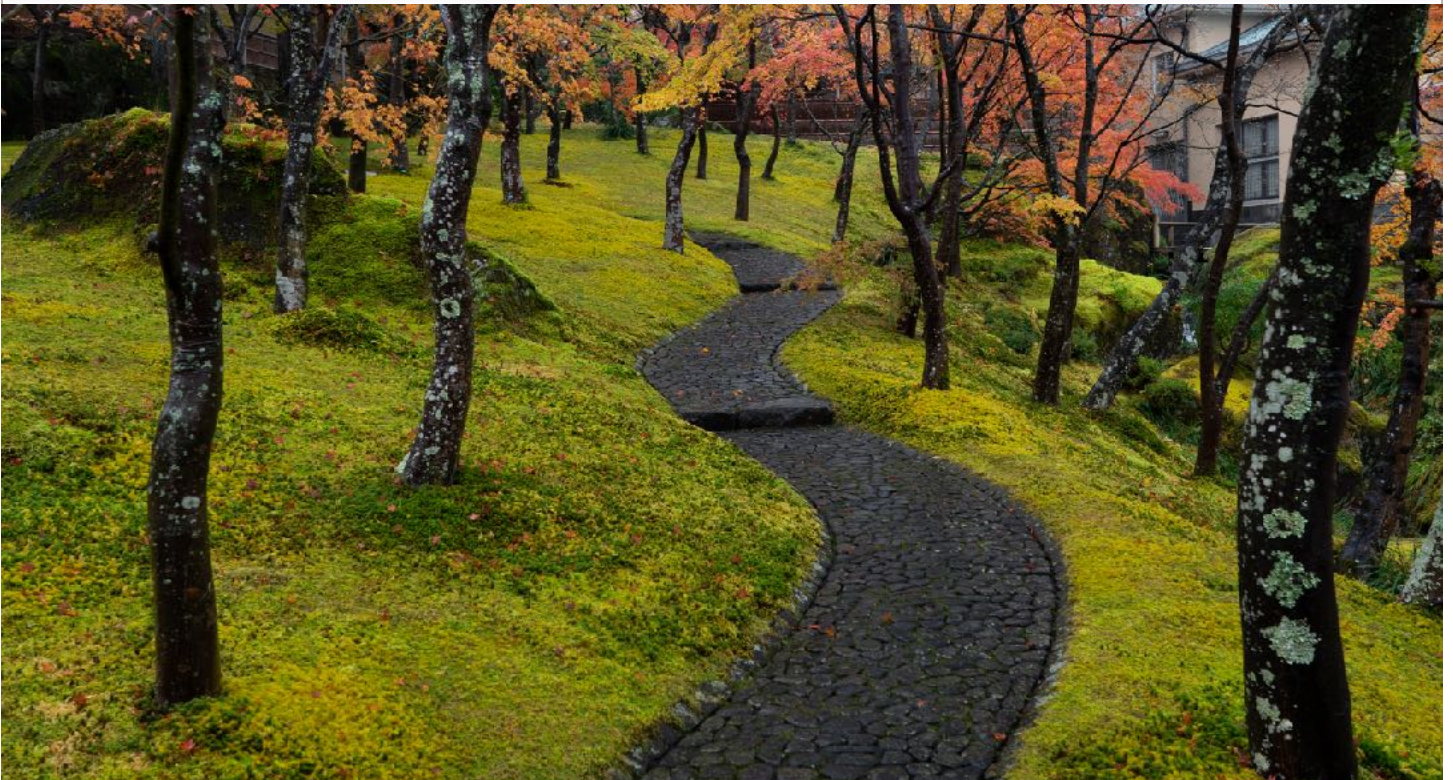
Join C. Colston Burrell and Maurice Horn for a journey of immersion into Japanese gardens, culture and cuisine. On our tour we plan to visit a broad spectrum of gardens from the most well known, including Tenryu-ji, to less familiar treasures like Enko-ji. As we make our way from Tokyo and Kamakura, we explore the countryside around Hakone and catch vistas of snow-capped Mount Fuji. Then on to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Kyoto where we visit both the Golden and Silver Pavilions; Shisen-do, a famous mountain retreat; a complex of Zen temples; and the Arashiyama area celebrated for its stunning autumn landscape. Nara is the site of one of the most ancient capitals of Japan and there we visit Todai-ji, the largest wooden structure in the world.

Along the way, we sample fine, traditional Japanese food including classic Zen cooking, delicious handcrafted soba noodles, fresh seafood, and contemporary fusion cooking. In addition, enjoy beautiful botanic gardens, art museums, a folk craft center, and a stroll through a quiet residential Kyoto neighborhood. Bring your cameras, your walking shoes, and your sense of adventure as we explore the wonders of Japan.



# Tour Itinerary Highlights

- Visit four storied cities: Tokyo, Kamakura, Gotemba, and Kyoto
- Learn about the art of Japanese gardening from a master in the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo
- In Tokyo, tour Koishikawa Korakuen, Hamarikyū Garden, and Meiji Jingu
- Peruse art and explore history in Tokyo's Nezu Museum and the Hakone Museum of Art and Moss Garden
- Weave through the streets of Ginza, one of Tokyo's top shopping districts famous for stores such as Ginza Mitsukoshi Department Store
- Tour three botanical gardens: Hakone Botanical Gardens of Wetlands, Kyoto Botanical Garden, and Manyō Botanical Garden
- Behold the Great Buddha of Kamakura
- Enjoy the autumn colors on a scenic drive to view Mt. Fuji
- Walk in the footsteps of history through ten temple gardens including Ginkaku-ji, Todai-ji, Tenryū-ji, and Kinkaku-ji - famous for the Golden Pavilion
- Partake of four sumptuous dinners, including cocktails and a farewell dinner at a local restaurant



# Tour Details

TOUR DATES - November 5 - 15, 2025

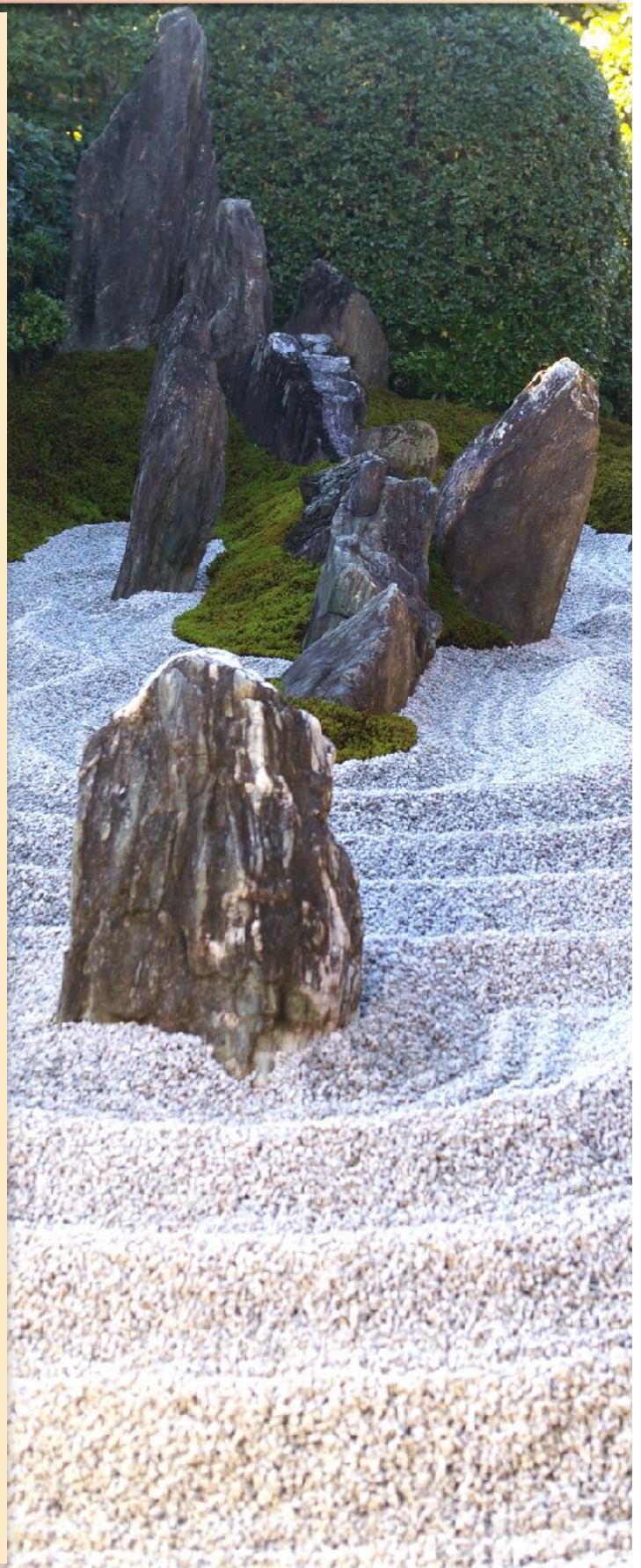
TOUR DURATION - 10 Nights / 11 Days

## TOUR INCLUSIONS

- † Airport transfers
- † Ten nights hotel accommodations
- † Breakfast daily
- † Four lunches
- † Welcome and farewell dinners plus two additional
- † Sightseeing and transportation as outlined in the program itinerary
- † Escort throughout tour—C. Colston Burrell
- † Expert local guide—Maurice Horn
- † Water and snacks
- † Admissions to all gardens and venues
- † Bullet Train to Kyoto with Japanese Escort
- † Gratuities to your tour escort and guide
- † Gratuities to your local drivers and guides
- † Hotel taxes and service charges

## NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR

- † Round-trip airfare from home cities
- † Travel insurance
- † Airport fees, taxes and baggage charges
- † Meals not included in the itinerary
- † Alcoholic beverages during the trip
- † Optional sightseeing or recreational activities
- † Gratuities to servers, luggage handlers or housekeeping
- † Any other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary



# Tour Pricing and Registration

## TOUR DURATION

10 Nights / 11 Days

## PRICING FOR 15-19 TRAVELERS

\$7,775.00 Land Price — Double Occupancy

\$1,015.00 Single Supplement

## PRICING FOR 20-22 TRAVELERS

\$.6,885.00 Land Price — Double Occupancy

\$1,015.00 Single Supplement

- ~ Tour price is based on a minimum of 15 travelers
- ~ Fewer than 15 travelers may result in a surcharge
- ~ Itinerary subject to change without notice

## DEPOSIT

\$4,000.00 per person with reservation to secure your spot

TO REGISTER AND VIEW TERMS AND CONDITIONS VISIT:

<https://www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel>

Select "Group Sign In". Enter the Tour Code [25NOV05JAPAN](#) in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."

Minnesota State  
**Horticultural  
Society** 



**FRIENDSHIP TOURS**  

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**THE SHIP SHOP**

# Terms and Conditions

## Gardens & Temples of Tokyo & Kyoto - Main Tour

Escorted by C. Colston Burrell

Nov 5-15, 2025 10 Nights / 11 Days

**ARRIVAL:** Wednesday, Nov 5, 2025 at Tokyo's Haneda International Airport (HND). Meet in the Arrivals Hall and be transferred to the hotel. Transfer included from Haneda Airport (no transfers from Tokyo's Narita Airport). Time TBD based on passengers' arrivals.

**RETURN:** Saturday, Nov 15, 2025 transfer from Kyoto Hotel to Kansai International Airport (KIX) in Osaka for your flight home unless continuing on the Post Tour.

**COST (with 20-22 paying guests):**

\$6,885. per person based on double occupancy  
+\$1,015. per person single supplement

**COST (with 15-19 paying guests):**

\$7,775. per person based on double occupancy  
+\$1,015. per person single supplement

Fewer than 15 travelers may result in a small surcharge.

**AIR TRAVEL:** Do not purchase air until you have been advised that the minimum number of travelers for this tour has been reached. This trip is based on a minimum of 15 travelers. Flight arrangements are not included in this tour package.

**RESERVATIONS VIA FRIENDSHIP TOURS:**

**CALL: 800-243-1630** and ask for **the Japan tour with C. Colston Burrell**

**ON LINE :** [www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel](http://www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel)

and select "Group Sign In." Enter the Tour Code **25NOV05JAPAN** in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."

**DEPOSIT:** \$4,000. per person with reservation to secure your spot.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** balance due August 5, 2025

**Please reserve now. Small group tour.**

**Commitment required in order for trip to operate.**

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** If a passenger cancels after deposit and before August 5, 2025, the fee is \$3,500. pp; no refunds if cancelled after August 5, 2025. If Friendship Tours needs to cancel due to lack of participation, a full refund will be processed.

**PASSPORT:** U.S. Citizens: Valid Passport required and must be valid 6 months past the return date. Non U.S. Citizens are responsible for obtaining proper documentation for travel.

**PRICES & ITINERARY:** Prices are valid at time of publication. Friendship Tours shall not be liable for any fluctuation in price or change in schedule or equipment or accommodations for any travel booking or travel service to be provided by a Travel Supplier. We reserve the right to make adjustments to these prices arising from any change in VAT and tax rates and tariffs, currency exchange rate fluctuations or seasonal supplements at any time. Changes to itineraries may become necessary. These changes will not be considered a material change and will not be cause for cancellation or refund. This itinerary is planned & operated by Windows to Japan. Friendship Tours acts solely as the liaison between Windows to Japan & Garden & Nature Tours.

**TRIP PROTECTION COVERAGE** is strongly recommended. Friendship Tours can assist with the purchase of trip protection coverage through Travel Insured International's Worldwide Trip Protector Plans.

**Travel Insured International** offers the Worldwide Trip Protection plans with the option to add upgrade benefits (available for additional cost) including CANCEL FOR ANY REASON coverage (CFAR) when purchased within 14 days of your initial deposit. Insurance Premiums are non-refundable. Ask Friendship Tours for more information and a quote: 860-243-1630 or 800-243-1630.

To review the Travel Insured International plan, go to: <https://www.friendshiptours.net/assets/documents/Travel-Insured-International-Platinum-vs-Deluxe.pdf>

Or request a quote online referring to: **Agency #18649**  
<https://www.friendshiptours.net/protection-plan>

**RESPONSIBILITY:** This package is subject to our full terms and conditions which can be found on our website at <https://www.friendshiptours.net/tour-policies>. Paper copies are available upon request. **By signing up for the tour, making a payment and continuing to use our services, you are agreeing to be bound by the Terms and Conditions.**





**FRIENDSHIP TOURS**  
**THE SHIP SHOP**  
705 Bloomfield Ave, Bloomfield, CT 06002  
860-243-1630 • 800-243-1630  
[www.friendshiptours.net](http://www.friendshiptours.net)



# Map



1.  Tokyo
2.  Gotemba
3.  Kyoto

# Itinerary

November 4 - DAY 0 Depart Home Cities for Tokyo Haneda

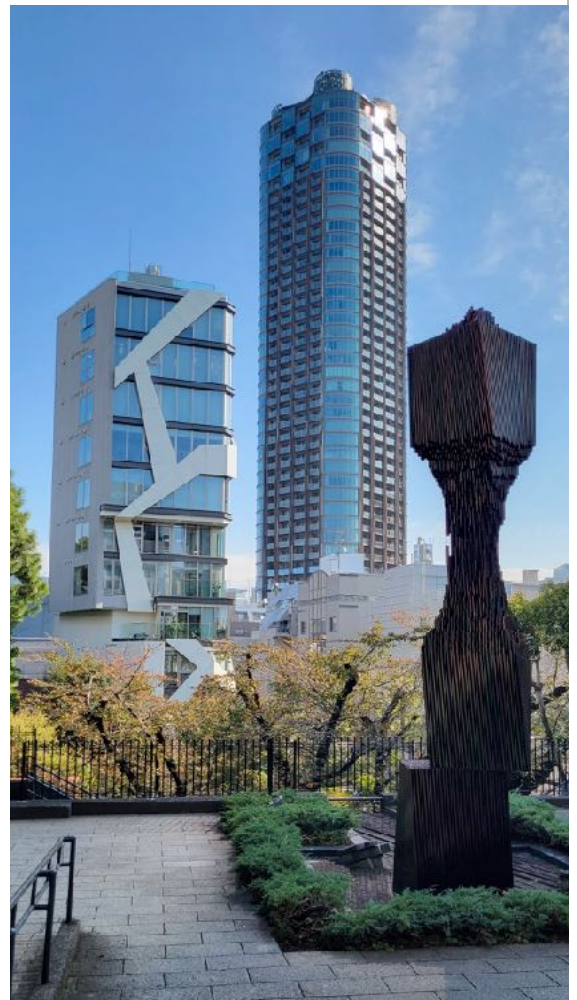
November 5 - DAY 1 Welcome to Japan

Upon arrival in Tokyo at Haneda Airport, pass through Customs and Immigration, collect your bags, and meet your assistant and guide in the arrivals hall. Once travelers are assembled, we board our coach and transfer to our Tokyo hotel for the first of three nights.

If you have a morning or mid-day flight, we recommend travelers have lunch at the airport.

Once checked in, the remainder of the afternoon and dinner are on your own. Night at Daiwa Roynet Hotel Ginza.

\*Informal gathering in the hotel lounge will be arranged for those who are interested\*





After our included breakfast, we depart for a visit to the Imperial Palace. The Palace sits on the former location of Edo Castle. We will visit the East Gardens, which feature a spectacular Japanese garden with a teahouse and woodland area. The site also contains the octagonal-shaped Imperial Tokagakudo Music Hall. Each of its eight outer walls is decorated with differently designed mosaic tiles.

Ninomaru Garden includes 260 symbolic trees covering 30 varieties, representing each prefecture in Japan, donated from each prefecture. The small Ninomaru Garden, originally planted in 1636 by famed landscape artist Kobori Enshu, was destroyed by fire in 1867. The Suwa no Chaya teahouse also graces the East Gardens.

Next, we visit Koishikawa Korakuen with lunch within the garden at Kantoku-Tei, a traditional Japanese teahouse. Koishikawa Korakuen is one of Tokyo's oldest and best Japanese gardens. Built in the early Edo Period (1600-1868), the garden is designed for the ultimate scenic stroll. It features both Japanese and Chinese landscapes along a meandering path that encircles its central pond. Each turn offers a different perspective, with views chosen to suggest famous stops along the Nakasendo, the main route that linked Tokyo and Osaka.

After lunch we arrive at the Nezu Museum, home to the private collection of premodern Japanese and East Asian art and a beautiful garden with many stone sculptures, all collected by Nezu Kaichiro, an early railroad barron. Established upon Nezu's death in 1940, the museum foundation began opening exhibitions to the public in 1941. Exhibitions resumed after the war in 1946.

After visiting the museum and its fine garden, we return to the hotel to freshen up for our welcome dinner. Pam Takeshige, a friend of Maurice who lives in Japan, joins us for a discussion of Japanese food and etiquette. Night at Daiwa Roynet Hotel Ginza. B, L, D

November 7 - DAY 3

Stylish and Innovative Tokyo

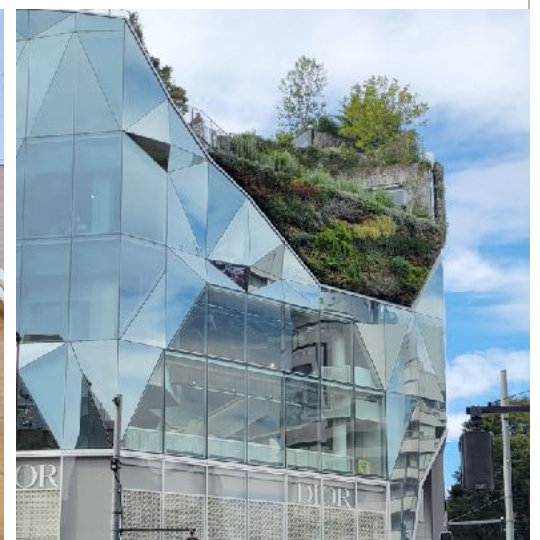


After our included breakfast, we board our coach for a visit to Hamarikyū Gardens, a large verdant oasis with amazing views of the surrounding cityscape of Tokyo. The garden features a traditional tea house on a manmade island which is accessible by a series of bridges. Although the site changed hands several times during the Edo Period (1603-1868), it traditionally served as a duck hunting park and remnants of that history are still visible. It was given to the Imperial family during the Meiji Period (1868-1912). The park was devastated by the 1923 Kanto Earthquake and again in the bombings of WWII. After the war, it was donated to the City of Tokyo and opened to the public in April 1946. Lunch is included at Tsukiji Kiyomura Sushizanmai Okunoin.

Meiji Jingu is a Shinto shrine in urban Tokyo dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shōken. The shrine is enshrouded by a lush forest set apart from the noise and bustle of the city. The 170-acre evergreen forest consists of 120,000 trees of 365 different species, which were donated by people from all parts of Japan when the shrine was established.

No visit to Tokyo would be complete without time for shopping! Japan produces the most beautiful and finely crafted gifts, foods, and clothing of any country. Bring your credit card along for a shopping extravaganza at Ginza Mitsukoshi Department Store.

After our shopping spree, we return to the hotel to freshen up before joining the group for dinner at a local restaurant. Night at Daiwa Roynet Hotel Ginza. B, L, D



After our included breakfast, we settle accounts, check out, and depart for a drive to Kamakura for a one and a half hour walk along the Daibutsu Trail. The trail has fine scenery and is a relatively easy hike. This walk includes the essence of Kamakura and is wonderful for people who would like to see Kamakura from the back end. Along the way we visit Zeniarai Benten Shrine, tucked away between jagged rocks in a little valley. This shrine is closely associated with money and success. "Zeniara" means "coin washing" in Japanese. Legend has it that money washed in the shrine's spring will double in value and so the shrine has become a popular destination where people literally come to wash their money.

We are joined at lunch on your own by clematis growers Tomoko and Mikiyoshi Chikuma to learn about running a specialty nursery in Japan.

Kotoku-in Kamakura Daibutsu, the Great Buddha, stands on the grounds of Kotoku-in Temple. With a height of 37 feet, it has long been the second tallest bronze Buddha statue in Japan, surpassed only by the statue in Nara's Todai-ji Temple and some recent creations. The statue was cast in 1252 and originally located inside a large temple hall. However, the temple buildings were destroyed multiple times by typhoons and a tsunami in the 14th and 15th centuries. So, since the late 15th century, the Buddha has been standing in the open.

After marveling at the Great Buddha, we continue by coach to Gotemba and check into our hotel for the first of two nights and enjoy dinner on your own. Night at Dormy Inn Express Fujisan Gotemba.           B





After our included breakfast, visit Hakone Botanical Garden of Wetlands, a botanical garden in the highlands of Fuji Hakone Izu National Park. The park was founded in 1976 as a place to preserve and exhibit over 1700 varieties of marsh and alpine plants native to Japan. The garden offers a network of boardwalk paths through different types of marshland where we can learn about the plants which populate the wetlands.

Next we visit Kowakidani Horaien Gardens, known for their lush greenery and diverse plant life. The small garden features many maple trees and thousands of azaleas to create a stunning display. Originally developed as a strolling garden for Mikawaya Inn, it is now open to the public and is well-known for its spectacular autumn foliage display. Lunch is on your own account at a local restaurant.

Our next stop is Hakone Museum Moss Garden. The wet climate of Hakone is perfect for many types of moss seen on old trees and in woodlands. Still, the variety on display in the garden of the Hakone Museum of Art is extraordinary. Growing in the shadow of some 200 Japanese maple trees, the roughly 130 kinds of moss here were amassed by the founder of the museum and an avid collector of ancient Japanese, Chinese, and South Asian art.

We end our day along the Fuji-san Skyline for breathtaking views of Mount Fuji. This scenic drive takes you across the western ridge of the Hakone Caldera, formed by the collapse of volcanoes in this area hundreds of thousands of years ago.

After viewing the splendors of Mt. Fuji, we return to our hotel for dinner on your own. Night at Dormy Inn Express Fujisan Gotemba. B



November 10 - DAY 6

Gotemba to Kyoto



After our included breakfast, settle accounts, check out, and prepare for our rail journey to Kyoto. Due to luggage regulations on bullet trains, we are forwarding our large (larger than carry-on size, 1 per person) luggage from Gotemba to Kyoto. Meet your fellow travelers and assistant guide in the hotel lobby at 9:00 for the 45 minute transfer to Mishima Station.

From Mishima Station, we take a bullet train to Kyoto. Before boarding, purchase a bento lunch at the station. Enjoy the scenery during our two and a half-hour journey. Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel via coach to check in for the first of five nights. After you are settled, enjoy the afternoon on your own to explore the city, or join us for an optional visit on your own account to the Kyoto Museum of Traditional Crafts where you can learn more about the ceremonial artistry of sword making, geisha dancing, weaving, dye works and many other crafts.

In the evening join the group for dinner at a Local Restaurant. After dining, we return on foot to the hotel. Night at The Royal Park Hotel Kyoto Sanjo. B, D



## November 11 - DAY 7 Eastern Kyoto

After our included breakfast, we head out on foot for a walking tour of Eastern Kyoto. Our first stop is Ginkaku-ji, the silver pavilion. In 1482 during a period of civil unrest, the Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimasa wished to create a retreat with a series of pavilions where he could enjoy such events as moon-viewing and poetry writing. Unfortunately, fire devastated all but two of the structures. One of the remaining structures was the Silver Pavilion, which never received its coating of silver to suggest moonlight. A large cone of sand in the shape of a mountain stands nearby, designed to reflect the moons light.

Next, we journey along The Philosopher's Walk to Honen-in. The walk leads past many craft shops and cafes. Honen-in is a moss-covered temple believed to have been established in 1680 in honor of the monk Honen (1133-1212), founder of the Jodo-shu branch of Pure Land Buddhism. Stone and moss are featured throughout the picturesque grounds that are also home to a peaceful pond, and unusual structures like the gorgeous Amida Buddha.

Following lunch on your own account, we continue up-hill to Shisendo, a historic garden on the grounds of the retreat of the warrior-intellectual-calligrapher Ishikawa Jozan who established the house and garden in 1641. The 36 Classic Chinese Poets are celebrated in individual portraits inside the house. The garden is intimate and full of fine details. We also visit Enko-ji, a temple famous for its fall foliage. There are two styles of gardens here, an amazing abstract dry border and a dense and colorful garden best viewed from inside.

After touring the Eastern side of Kyoto, we return to the hotel for dinner on your own. Night at The Royal Park Hotel Kyoto Sanjo. B





After our included breakfast, depart for Kyoto Botanical Garden. Founded in 1924, the garden houses an impressive 12,000 species of plants, making it the oldest and most comprehensive public botanical garden in Japan. Though it fell into disuse in 1945, it was reopened to the public in 1961. Individual gardens include the Bamboo Garden, Bonsai Exhibit, Camellia Garden, Japanese Native Plants, Lotus Pond, Nakaragi-no-mori Pond featuring native trees, Useful Plants Garden, and Sunken Garden.

Lunch on own account at Izusen, near Daitoku-ji, our next destination. Daitoku-ji is a large, walled temple complex and the head temple of the Rinzai sect's Daitoku-ji school of Japanese Zen Buddhism. The complex consists of nearly two dozen subtemples and is one of the best places in Japan to see a wide variety of Zen gardens and to experience Zen culture and architecture. Many of the temples inside the compound are open in the fall only. All have fascinating Zen gardens and interesting architectural details. We will try to see two of them on our visit.

At the end of the day we visit Kinkaku-ji, the Golden Pavilion, a Zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Formally known as Rokuon-ji, the temple was the retirement villa of the shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, and according to his will it became a Zen temple of the Rinzai sect after his death in 1408. Kinkaku-ji was the inspiration for the similarly named Ginkaku-ji (Silver Pavilion), built by Yoshimitsu's grandson on the other side of the city a few decades later. Kinkaku-ji is an impressive structure built overlooking a large pond, and is the only building left of Yoshimitsu's former retirement complex.

After our last visit we return to our hotel for dinner on your own. Night at The Royal Park Hotel Kyoto Sanjo.           B





After our included breakfast, we depart for a scenic hour-long drive to Nara, Japan's very first capital. from 710-794. Nara is home to a number of temples, shrines, and forested trails, including the spectacular Toda-ij Temple, one of the largest wooden structures in the world. The temple also holds a grand Buddha statue many come to the area to observe.

Designated as a Place of Scenic Beauty, the Deer Park in the middle of Nara is one of the oldest in Japan. Over 1200 sitka deer roam free within the park's 1600 acres. Deer were once believed to be messengers of the gods, and in the park they freely interact with the area's many visitors. We enjoy an included group lunch at a local restaurant.

The next stop is Manyo Botanical Garden. The garden opened in 1932, and contains all the plants (over 300 species) mentioned in the Man'yōshū (after 759), each labeled with its name and the poems that mention it. The site also contains a Wisteria Garden, Camellia Garden, Iris Garden, and a Five Grain Garden which collects grain plants that were used for food, textiles, or dyes in Man'yōshū times.

En route back to Kyoto, visit one of Japan's most photographed shrines, Fushimi Inari, with its thousands of brilliant, red torii gates lining its sacred mountain trails.

At the end of the day, we return to our hotel for dinner on your own. Night at The Royal Park Hotel Kyoto Sanjo. B, L

## November 14 - DAY 10 Western Kyoto Arashiyama

After our included breakfast, we depart for a scenic drive to Arashiyama for our first stop at Tenryu-ji, the most important temple in Kyoto's Arashiyama district. It was ranked first among the city's five great Zen temples, and is now registered as a World Heritage Site. Tenryu-ji is the head temple of its own school within the Rinzai Zen sect of Japanese Buddhism. Tenryu-ji was built in 1339 by the ruling shogun Ashikaga Takauji. Takauji dedicated the temple to Emperor Go-Daigo, who had just passed away. The two important historic figures used to be allies until Takauji turned against the emperor in a struggle for supremacy over Japan. By building the temple, Takauji intended to appease the former emperor's spirit.

Enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant, then stroll along a winding path through the sacred bamboo grove to the Ōkōchi Sansō Villa. The villa is the former residence of Japanese period film star Ōkōchi Denjirō (1898-1962). Located in the foothills of Mt. Ogura, Ōkōchi's Villa includes a traditional home, tea house, and Buddhist halls amidst carefully planned and cultivated Japanese-style gardens designed to showcase the best of each of the four seasons. Despite being constructed relatively recently, the villa employs classic architecture and traditional techniques, appearing far statelier than its age would imply. The villa is also well known for its view of Kyoto City spread out below it. Enjoy a cup of green tea and a Japanese sweet in the teahouse where you can relax and rest your feet while enjoying the view.

After our visit, we return to Kyoto to freshen up for our festive Farewell Dinner. Night at The Royal Park Hotel Kyoto Sanjo. B, L, D



## November 15 - DAY 11 Sayonara

After our included breakfast, please check out and settle your accounts. Those heading home transfer to Kansai Airport for their flights. B

Thank you for joining us and we will miss traveling with you. It was a pleasure sharing the history, culture and gardens of Japan with you!

\*\*\*Welcome Home\*\*\*

For those continuing on, adventures await as we begin our post-tour travel from Kyoto to Tokushima City on the island of Shikoku.

\*\*\*Welcome to Shikoku\*\*\*



# GARDENS AND TEMPLES

## SHIKOKU AND HIROSHIMA

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

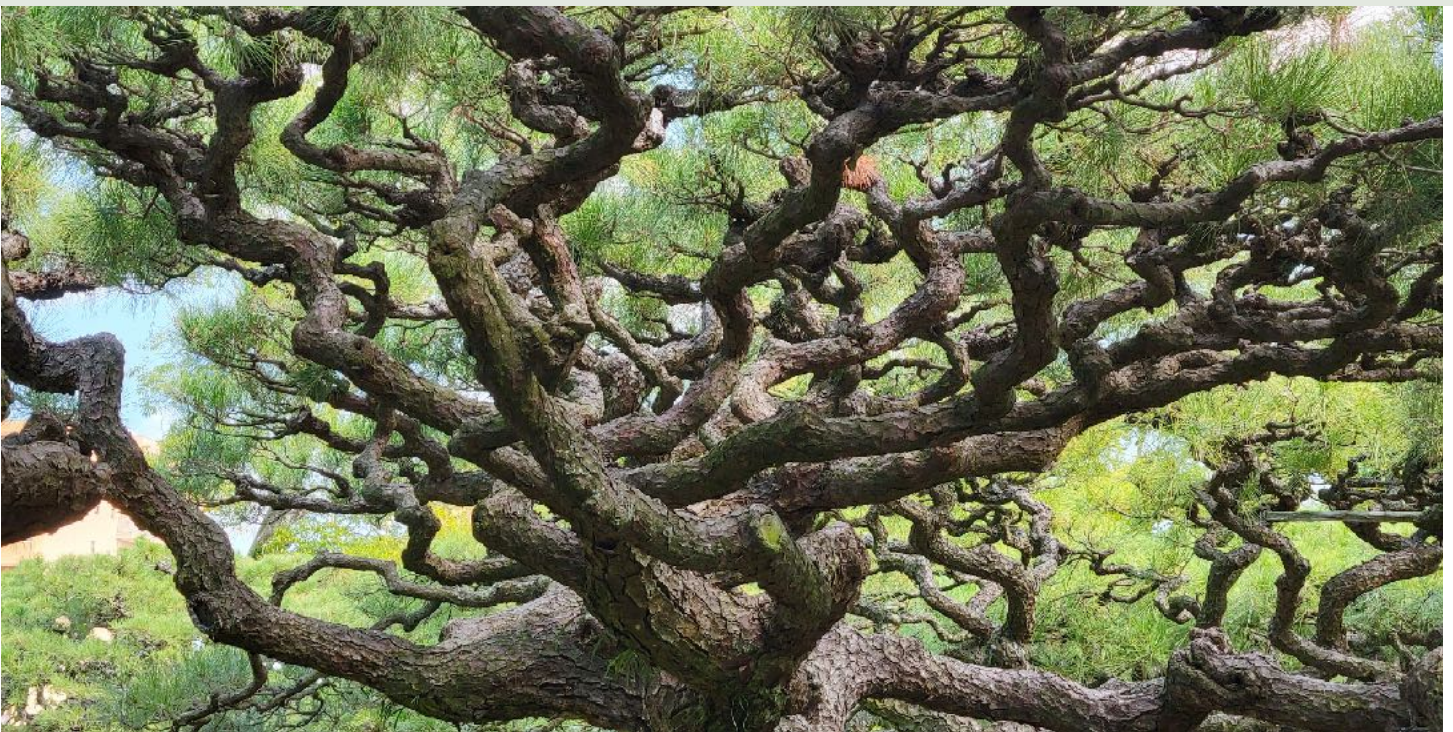
November 15 - 23, 2025



AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR ESCORTED BY  
C. COLSTON BURRELL  
and  
MAURICE HORN



Join Garden and Nature Tours with C. Colston Burrell, expert guide Maurice Horn, Friendship Tours and The Minnesota State Horticultural Society in Shikoku, Japan to continue exploring ancient castles, verdant gardens and sublime scenery. We delve more deeply into Japanese culture through its folk traditions, gardens, and temples. The tour concludes with a visit to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.



# Meet Your Escort and Guide



C. Colston Burrell is a lifelong naturalist, plantsman, and gardener. He is principal of Native Landscape Design and Restoration, which specializes in blending nature and culture through artistic design. When Cole is not traveling, he is designing gardens for his clients, or tending his own 10-acre property designed to display the plants he loves while letting natural succession serve as head gardener. He shares his garden with birds, butterflies, and a wealth of amphibians.

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Maurice has served on the council for the International Clematis Society, co-founded and has been a long-time participant in the Great Plant Picks program at the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden in Seattle, Washington. He has lectured throughout the United States on a variety of garden related topics.



# WELCOME TO SHIKOKU AND HIROSHIMA

Join C. Colston Burrell and Maurice Horn as we continue our exploration of the history, culture, cuisine, gardens and landscapes of Shikoku Island and Hiroshima. During our travels from Tokyo to Kyoto, we have visited many classic Japanese gardens, shrines and temples. The region we have visited is part of a complex of urban developments that have engulfed former agricultural and forested land.

As we travel around Shikoku, however, we see different aspects of Japan that reflect more of its agricultural roots as well as the remnants of a once feudal society. Folk arts and crafts reveal a different sensibility to the natural world. The cuisine also changes and regional flavors become evident. Throughout Shikoku you will find the past is vibrantly alive in the present.

Tokushima Prefecture is home to many folk traditions that are still alive and adapting to the modern world. Awa Odori is a regional dance form that developed out of the dances performed during Obon, an ancient religious ceremony usually performed in early August. The "ningyo jorurui" puppet theater has managed to survive and thrive over hundreds of years due to local civic pride and popular educational programs in the arts of puppetry, recitation and shamisen playing. Although Tokushima Castle was taken down during the Meiji Reforms, its grounds are now a large public park with a museum and beautiful Zen style garden.

In Kochi, the castle was not destroyed and remains much as it was when it was built. The nearby Makino Botanic Garden celebrates Japan's first botanist, Tomitaro Makino who grew up exploring the hills and valleys of Kochi. Next door to the Botanical Garden is Chikurinji Temple one of 88 temples circling the coast of Shikoku that are part of a historic pilgrimage. It is not uncommon to see pilgrims walking on the paths through the Botanic Garden.

Outside Kochi, we visit a rural farmers' cooperative in the small village of Umaji and have lunch at the hot springs in the town. This is followed by a visit to a recreation of Monet's Garden in the village of Kitamura. Monet is beloved by Japanese, and Monet himself was inspired by Japanese woodblock prints.

The last city we visit on the island is Takamatsu which is a bustling port. Here the modern port is adjacent to the remains of Takamatsu Castle. The Japanese-American artist Osamu Noguchi chose to live and work near Takamatsu part-time. His home and studio house amazing sculptures, some finished, some not. The Ritsurin Garden was the pleasure garden of the Matsudaira Clan. It is now an immense garden open to the public. It requires at least a half-day to tour the pavilions, ponds, and tea houses presented against the backdrop of Mount Shiun.

On our final day, we return to the island of Honshu to visit the Peace Memorial at Hiroshima and make our thoughtful farewells.



# Tour Itinerary Highlights

- Visit four storied cities: Tokushima, Takamatsu, Kochi, and Hiroshima
- Stroll the Monet Garden in Kitagawa
- Enjoy a live puppet show at Awa Jurobe Yashiki Puppet Theater
- Discover the fine art of Japanese ceramics at Otani Ceramic Kiln
- Tour Makino Botanical Garden and Chikurin-ji Temple
- Explore Tokushima Castle, Takashima Castle and Kochi Castle
- Visit a Yuzu Citrus Farmer's Collective
- Experience the Isamu Noguchi Museum
- Stroll the magnificent Ritsurin Park, the largest pleasure garden in Japan
- Spend an afternoon exploring the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, including the A-Bomb Dome, Memorial Cenotaph, and Children's Peace Monument



# Tour Details

TOUR DATES - November 15 - 23, 2025

TOUR DURATION - 8 Nights / 9 Days

## TOUR INCLUSIONS

- † Eight nights hotel/lodge accommodations
- † Transportation by motor coach
- † Breakfast daily
- † Two lunches and three dinners
- † Festive farewell dinner
- † Sightseeing and transportation as outlined in the program itinerary
- † Escort throughout tour—C. Colston Burrell
- † Expert guide—Maurice Horn
- † Water and snacks
- † Admissions to all gardens and venues
- † Gratuities to your tour escort and guide
- † Gratuities to your local drivers and guides
- † Hotel taxes and service charges
- † Airport transfers

## NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR

- † Round-trip airfare from home cities
- † Travel insurance
- † Airport fees, taxes and baggage charges
- † Meals not included in the itinerary
- † Alcoholic beverages during the trip
- † Optional sightseeing or recreational activities
- † Gratuities to servers, luggage handlers or housekeeping
- † Any other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary



# Tour Pricing and Registration

## TOUR DURATION

8 Nights / 9 Days

## PRICING FOR 10-14 TRAVELERS

\$6,295.00 Land Price — Double Occupancy

\$725.00 Single Supplement

## PRICING FOR 15-10 TRAVELERS

\$5,185.00 Land Price — Double Occupancy

\$725.00 Single Supplement

- ~ Tour price is based on a minimum of 10 travelers
- ~ Fewer than 10 travelers may result in a surcharge
- ~ Itinerary subject to change without notice

## DEPOSIT

\$4,000.00 per person with reservation to secure your spot

TO REGISTER AND VIEW TERMS AND CONDITIONS VISIT:

<https://www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel>

Select "Group Sign In". Enter the Tour Code [25NOV05JAPAN](#) in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."

Minnesota State  
**Horticultural  
Society** 



**FRIENDSHIP TOURS**  

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**THE SHIP SHOP**

# Terms and Conditions

## Gardens & Temples of Shikoku & Hiroshima - Post Tour

Escorted by C. Colston Burrell

Nov 15-23, 2025 8 Nights / 9 Days

**START:** Saturday, Nov 15, 2025 continuing group will depart in the morning from Kyoto Hotel for transfer on coach to Tokushima City on the island of Shikoku (approx. 3 hour drive). Check-in to hotel. Afternoon visit to Tokushima Castle.

**RETURN:** Sunday, Nov 23, 2025 transfer from Hiroshima Hotel to Hiroshima Airport (HIJ) for your flight home.

**COST (with 15-19 paying guests):**

\$5,185. per person based on double occupancy  
+\$725. per person single supplement

**COST (with 12-14 paying guests):**

\$6,295. per person based on double occupancy  
+\$725. per person single supplement

Fewer than 12 travelers may result in a small surcharge.

**AIR TRAVEL:** Do not purchase air until you have been advised that the minimum number of travelers for this tour has been reached. This trip is based on a minimum of 12 travelers. Flight arrangements are not included in this tour package.

**RESERVATIONS VIA FRIENDSHIP TOURS:**

**CALL: 800-243-1630** and ask for **the Japan tour with C. Colston Burrell**

**ON LINE :** [www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel](http://www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel) and select "Group Sign In." Enter the Tour Code **25NOV05JAPAN** in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."

**DEPOSIT:** \$4,000. per person with reservation to secure your spot on both the POST TOUR & MAIN TOUR.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** balance due August 5, 2025

**Please reserve now. Small group tour.**

**Commitment required in order for trip to operate.**

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** If a passenger cancels after deposit and before August 5, 2025, the fee is \$3,500. pp; no refunds if cancelled after August 5, 2025. If Friendship Tours needs to cancel due to lack of participation, a full refund will be processed.

**PASSPORT:** U.S. Citizens: Valid Passport required and must be valid 6 months past the return date. Non U.S. Citizens are responsible for obtaining proper documentation for travel.

**PRICES & ITINERARY:** Prices are valid at time of publication. Friendship Tours shall not be liable for any fluctuation in price or change in schedule or equipment or accommodations for any travel booking or travel service to be provided by a Travel Supplier. We reserve the right to make adjustments to these prices arising from any change in VAT and tax rates and tariffs, currency exchange rate fluctuations or seasonal supplements at any time. Changes to itineraries may become necessary. These changes will not be considered a material change and will not be cause for cancellation or refund. This itinerary is planned & operated by Windows to Japan. Friendship Tours acts solely as the liaison between Windows to Japan & Garden & Nature Tours.

**TRIP PROTECTION COVERAGE** is strongly recommended. Friendship Tours can assist with the purchase of trip protection coverage through Travel Insured International's Worldwide Trip Protector Plans.

**Travel Insured International** offers the Worldwide Trip Protection plans with the option to add upgrade benefits (available for additional cost) including CANCEL FOR ANY REASON coverage (CFAR) when purchased within 14 days of your initial deposit. Insurance Premiums are non-refundable. Ask Friendship Tours for more information and a quote: 860-243-1630 or 800-243-1630.

To review the Travel Insured International plan, go to: <https://www.friendshiptours.net/assets/documents/Travel-Insured-International-Platinum-vs-Deluxe.pdf>

Or request a quote online referring to: **Agency #18649**  
<https://www.friendshiptours.net/protection-plan>

**RESPONSIBILITY:** This package is subject to our full terms and conditions which can be found on our website at <https://www.friendshiptours.net/tour-policies>. Paper copies are available upon request. **By signing up for the tour, making a payment and continuing to use our services, you are agreeing to be bound by the Terms and Conditions.**



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[www.friendshiptours.net](http://www.friendshiptours.net)

# Map

## Map Locations

1. 📍 Tokushima
2. 📍 Kochi
3. 📍 Takamatsu
4. 📍 Hiroshima



After our included breakfast, we settle accounts, check out, and bid farewell to fellow travelers who are heading home. We depart for the scenic three-hour drive to Tokushima, known as one of the most beautiful areas in Shikoku, with impressive mountain backdrops, scenic rivers, and lush green valleys as far as the eye can see..

Upon arrival we drop our luggage at the hotel and enjoy lunch on our own. In the afternoon we visit Tokushima Castle Ruins in the heart of the city. Tokushima Castle stood for almost 300 years under the reign of the Hachisuka Clan until 1875 when the new Meiji government ordered that all castles in Japan be demolished except for a select few . The only remains of the castle buildings, Eagle Gate, was burnt down during World War II, but it was reconstructed in 1989.

A stroll garden built within the Tokushima Castle at the start of the Edo period in the early sixteenth century, is characterized by gorgeous and skillful stone arrangements made with large and colorful stones of red, purple, and locally produced blue-green stones. It is said to have been designed and supervised by Ueda Sōko, a famed warrior known as the founder of a school of tea ceremony . It is designated a national scenic spot.

Another main tourist attraction is the Awa Odori Kaikan, a popular hall for performances of the folk dance known as Awa Odori which is performed annually during the Obon season in mid-August. The Awa Odori Museum hosts exhibits displaying the colorful costumes and musical instruments used.

At weather permits, we take a gondola ride to the top of Mt. Bizan for a grand view of the city. As the sun sets we head down the mountain to check in to our hotel for the first of two nights. Dinner is on your own. Night at Hotel JR Clement Tokushima. B





After our included breakfast, we depart for Awa Jurobe Yashiki Puppet Theater for a guided tour of the puppet museum and a live puppet performance. Ningyo Joruri, as this type of performance is called, is designated as a nationally important intangible folk-culture asset. There are three types of performers on stage, a reciter known as the "tayu", a shamisen player and three puppet manipulators for each puppet. We will see a sorrowful scene from the day-long play "Keisei Awa no Naruto". The technique of using three manipulators to operate each puppet is unique to Japanese theater. After the performance, we continue to Naruto City.

After a stop for lunch on your own account, we arrive in Naruto to visit the Otani Ceramic kiln and showroom. Otani ware (called Otani yaki in Japanese) is a form of ceramics. It is regarded as one of the most famous products of the city of Naruto and is one of the representative crafts of Tokushima Prefecture. Otani ware is noted for its simple textured clay with its high iron content. Many people love its rough texture and faint luster. The technique of "nerokuro" is unique to the area. The potters operate the wheel with their feet while lying underneath it. This technique is used to create large, human-sized vessels on the wheel. The "climbing kilns" used to bake large ceramics are said to be the biggest in Japan. Besides large ceramics, there are Otani ware pieces used in everyday life, such as rice bowls and teacups, and all kinds of ornamental products.

We return to the hotel in the afternoon for dinner on your own. Night at Hotel JR Clement Tokushima.

## November 17 - DAY 3 Kochi Castle

After our included breakfast, we settle accounts, check out, and depart for a scenic three-hour drive to Kochi city to visit Kochi Castle. One of the last remaining original Edo era castles in Japan, Kochi Castle was built between 1601 and 1611 for the local Yamauchi lords who ruled the region. Although parts of the castle were rebuilt in 1748 after being devastated by fire, the buildings have retained much of the charm of their original features. Atypical of castles of this era, an intriguing element of Kochi Castle is that the *donjon*, or main castle tower, doubled as both a residence and military post, rather than having separate living quarters for residents. Lunch will be in the popular Harimayabashi Shopping Arcade before we climb to the castle.

The famous landmark of Kochi's downtown is Harimayabashi, a small red bridge on the west side of the main street. Harimayabashi is renowned for its role in a Kochi love story. The story centers around a priest from Godaisan and a girl from Kochi. The couple hid their romance by meeting in secret and exchanging clandestine gifts. However, their romance was exposed when the priest was caught buying a hair comb for his lover. The couple fled the city to avoid punishment. In addition to Harimayabashi, Kochi has pedestrian shopping arcades and attractive streets for walking.

We check into our hotel. In early evening we gather to enjoy dinner at the hotel. Night at Jyoseikan. B, D





November 18 - DAY 4

Kochi Garden and Temple



After our included breakfast, we have an early morning departure to Kochi Prefectural Makino Botanical Garden. The garden honors the late Kochi-born botanist Dr. Tomitaro Makino, known as the father of Japanese botany. The garden features a variety of different zones to explore. The large conservatory, a whimsical structure, is filled with tropical plants that create a rainbow of color year-round. The Kochi Ecology Garden is home to wild plants from across Kochi Prefecture. The North Garden offers panoramic views of the plains and mountains of eastern Kochi. The South Garden, once part of nearby Chikurin-ji Temple, still maintains the serenity of the temple grounds. Flower lovers are sure to enjoy the orchids in the Tosa Kanran Center, including a variety named after Dr. Makino. Take a break to enjoy Lunch on your own at the Garden Cafe, which requires reservations.

Next we visit Chikurin-ji Temple, well known for its sweeping Japanese maples, which turn gold and crimson in the fall. The grounds are deeply serene. Once you climb a flight of photogenic stone steps and go through the entrance gate, it feels like being spirited away. Past the gate, you walk along a lushly moss-covered approach to a red five-storied pagoda and elegant gardens. The main figure enshrined here is Monju Bosatsu, the bodhisattva of wisdom, making the temple a popular destination for students during exam season, each praying to pass with flying colors. A 14th-century Chinese-influenced garden registered as a National Place of Scenic Beauty surrounds the library and was designed to be best viewed from within the building.

We return to the hotel in the afternoon with some free time to spare. In early evening we gather to enjoy dinner at the hotel. Night at Jyoseikan. B, D



After our included breakfast, depart for a two-hour drive to Umaji-mura, one of Japan's smallest villages. Umaji-mura is the home of "yuzu", a citrus fruit which resembles a yellow clementine with uneven skin. It can be either yellow or green depending on the degree of ripeness. Yuzu is very aromatic. Unusual among citrus plants, it is relatively frost-hardy. Yuzu's domestic production is about 27,000 tons a year, most of which comes from the state-of-the-art farmer's cooperative we will visit. Though rarely eaten as a fruit, yuzu is a common ingredient in Japanese cuisine, where the aromatic zest and the juice are used like lemons are used in other cuisines. Our group lunch today is included.

Our next stop is the splendid Monet Garden in Kitagawa. Claude Monet's only garden outside his home country has now been replicated in Kitagawa Village. It is well-known that Claude Monet loved and treasured Japan's ukiyo-e wood-block prints produced in the Edo period. Monet's Garden in Kitagawa Village consists of three gardens, the Flower Garden, Water Garden and Garden of Bordighera. The strolling Flower Garden and the Water Garden make you understand Monet's deep interest in Japanese artworks and culture. Garden of Bordighera was created by the inspiration through the works painted by Monet. We have arranged a private tour with the museum director.

After an exciting day we return to Kochi and our hotel to freshen up before dinner in the hotel. Night at Jyoseika. B, L, D



November 20 - DAY 6

## Takamatsu Splendid Garden

After our included breakfast, we settle accounts, check out, and depart for an exciting three-hour drive to Takamatsu, the capital of Kagawa prefecture that is home to one of Japan's most beautiful gardens. The city served as the setting for much of Haruki Murakami's novel *Kafka on the Shore*. Take this day to explore a destination often not explored by foreign visitors and learn about its quiet culture. Enjoy an included lunch along the way.

Our first stop is a visit to Noguchi Garden Museum, once the Japanese home and workshop of Isamu Noguchi. Noguchi (1904-1988) was one of the most important sculptors of his time. He was a protean artist who, in addition to his sculpture, designed and created conceptual projects, landscaped environments, earthworks, gardens, plazas, stage sets, furniture and lighting fixtures. The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum Japan is the fulfillment of Noguchi's wish that his former studio outside Takamatsu become an extension of his museum in New York, that it be a place to inspire artists and scholars. The collection on display (including those on loan from The Noguchi Museum, NY) includes 150 sculptures, many of which are still unfinished.

After our tour we check into our hotel for the first of two nights. Dinner is on your own. Night at JR Hotel Clement Takamatsu. B, L





After our included breakfast, we travel to Ritsurin Garden, one of Japan's most beautiful gardens, known for its thousand sculpted pine trees. Ritsurin Garden is the largest Cultural Property Garden in all of Japan, and is an important cultural asset that has been maintained for nearly 400 years. Originally created in the Edo period for the Matsudaira clan, the garden features six ponds and thirteen landscaped hills in front of the green vista of Mt. Shiun, along with stunning rock arrangements and a wide variety of beautiful plants. Seasonal flowers and one thousand carefully maintained pine trees create gorgeous scenery that changes throughout the seasons. The garden was designed to be leisurely strolled through with each turn offering a new perspective. Enjoy lunch on your own account at one of the park's restaurants.

After returning to our hotel we walk to the nearby Takamatsu Castle, built in 1590 adjacent to the Seto Inland Sea. It is one of the few Japanese castles built along a waterfront, and features saltwater moats that draw directly from the sea. The castle's keep was destroyed during the Meiji Period. Restoration of parts of the castle was begun in 2013 and the castle tower's foundation was completed after many years of work. Few of the castle's original buildings remain in the park today. Besides moats and walls, only the Asahimon Gate and two turrets are still standing. Inside the castle walls, visitors enjoy a garden that uses rocks, boulders and sand to represent water and mountain scenery.

After our garden visit we return to our hotel for dinner on your own. Night at JR Hotel Clement Takamatsu. B



After our included breakfast, we settle accounts, check out and begin our scenic three-hour journey to Hiroshima. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park is a memorial dedicated to lives lost in the first city in the world to suffer a nuclear attack at the end of World War II in 1945. The site contains museums and memorials. Genbaku Atomic Dome is the skeletal remnants of the former Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall, a building closest to the hypocenter of the explosion that survived the bomb.

Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims commemorates the many lives lost in the explosion and its aftermath. The building is tastefully designed to remember the city and its people. Peace Memorial Museum is the main museum built to educate and commemorate the tragedies that unfolded from using a nuclear bomb. Near the center of the park is a concrete, saddle-shaped monument that covers a cenotaph holding the names of all of the people killed by the bomb. The monument is aligned to frame the Peace Flame and the A-Bomb Dome.

After a thoughtful visit to the Peace Park, we check into our hotel and relax before gathering for our farewell dinner at the accommodation or local restaurant. Night at Daiwa Roynet Hotel Hiroshima Ekimae. B, D



## November 23 - DAY 9 Sayonara

After our included breakfast, we depart for Private transfer to TBA airport. B

\*\*\* Sayonara\*\*\*  
and  
\*\*\*\*Welcome Home\*\*\*



