

WABI SABI 2012

It is well understood that the nature of Japanese gardens differs greatly from those in Western World. They are regarded as representing the universe and its elements, and expressing a specific philosophy. Some of the most highly acclaimed are those located in and around the ancient city of Kyoto. This fall a small group, limited to only 20 participants, will enjoy a unique opportunity to visit some of the most renowned gardens, temples and palaces in this region personally selected by Professor Lennox Tierney, current Curator of the Art of Japan for the Utah State Museum of Fine Arts, the Mingei Museum, San Diego, and Art Director of San Diego's Japanese Friendship Garden.

Professor Tierney is also the author of "The Nature of Japanese Garden Art", in which he examines the Zen principles that relate to Japanese gardens, and the terms WABI SABI, which reflect the value of understatement and the richness of aging. On the tour he will provide a unique orientation and understanding of the many specific elements encountered in the places visited.

In 2007 Professor Tierney received the Order of the Rising Sun from the Emperor of Japan for his services.

Friday, October 26

Depart home towns today for San Francisco and non-stop overnight flight to Osaka,

Saturday, October 27

Arrive Osaka , Kansai Airport this afternoon. A private transfer will be provided to Kyoto. The Hotel Ana, centrally located, near Nijo Castle offers traditional Kaiseki Cuisine, as well as French, Chinese, and Western. There is a Japanese garden and Waterfall, with Koto music in the lobby. Evening at leisure. **Hotel Ana.**

Sunday, October 28

Hot Buffet Breakfast at Hotel
EARLY START Full-day sightseeing tour with English-speaking guide and transportation.
RYOANJI TEMPLE (Temple of the Peaceful Dragon) Probably the most famous of all Japanese gardens. About 1500, the artist Soami, greatly influenced by the teachings of Zen, placed fifteen stones in a meticulously combed setting of white gravel.
DAITOKU-JI TEMPLE is the head temple of the Daitoku-ji school of Rinzai, a sect of Zen Buddhism. Established in 1319. It is a complex of a main temple with 24 sub temples, including gardens , tea ceremony rooms., and several vegetarian restaurants on the grounds. Sub temple Kotoin, is famous for its maple trees.

KINKAKU-JI TEMPLE (GOLDEN PAVILION)

Created in 1397 by Shogun Yoshimitsu as a pleasure retreat. The garden, with a circular pond, gives off a unique sense of peace.

Hotel Ana. Evening at leisure.

Monday, October 29

Hot Buffet Breakfast at Hotel
Early departure at 8 AM Transportation and English-speaking guide to NARA, Japan's first capital.
TODAI-JI TEMPLE, the largest wooden building in the world, houses one of the largest bronze Buddhas.
HORYU-JI TEMPLE, founded in 607 by Prince Shotoku, considered by many to be the patron of Japanese Buddhism. The oldest temple in Japan is composed of two main halls, a repository for some of the country's rarest treasures.
BYODO-IN TEMPLE (Phoenix Hall). Originally Built by Fujiwara Yorimichi in 1052 as a villa, it was later converted to a Buddhist temple. Now listed as a world Heritage site by UNESCO, it houses some of the few remaining pieces of Heian-era architecture. HOSHOKAN MUSEUM houses the remarkable Bodhisattvas on clouds.
Evening at leisure. **Hotel Ana.**

Tuesday, October 30

Hot Buffet Breakfast at Hotel

Early departure with transportation and English speaking guide to ADACHI MUSEUM and GARDENS consistently named the best garden in Japan. Founded by Adachi Zenko to house his collection of artifacts and paintings, offering a stroll through the gardens by way of framed views from picture windows.

MATSUE CASTLE

MATSUE is the capital of Shimane prefecture. A castle town, the Matsue-Jo built in 1611, is one of the few remaining original castles in Japan. It houses Daimyo and Samurai armor and swords, as well as lacquerware from the Matsudaira clan who ruled for 10 generations. Their founder was Tokugawa Iyeyasu. Also on the grounds, Matsue Kyodokan historical museum.

If time allows, sunset visit to Shimane Art Museum on the shores of Lake Shin-ji.

Hotel Ichibata. Dinner at hotel

Wednesday, October 31

Breakfast at Hotel

Transportation to Shimane Peninsula

IZUMO TASHA SHRINE is one of the oldest and the largest Shinto shrine sites in Japan. It is also the second most important.

Tradition says that during the 10th month of the lunar calendar (late October-early November exactly when we will be there), all of Japan's Shinto Gods vacation in this shrine. On both sides of the main shrine are long shelters that serve as "guest houses" for the visiting Gods.

Hotel Ichibata. Dinner at hotel

Thursday, November 1

Breakfast at Hotel

Transportation to Amanohashidate via San-in Kaigan national coastal park, Tango peninsula, on the sea of Japan.

Amanohashidate, known as the bridge to heaven, is one of the three most scenic views in Japan.

Overnight in the traditional ryokan, the

Monjuso. Dinner included.

Friday, November 2

Breakfast at Hotel

Transportation to Takayama, Gifu Prefecture
HIDA TAKAYAMA-GIFU also known as little Kyoto, a timeless, town in the Japanese Alps, known for its traditional crafts and Old Japan atmosphere. The Old Town SAN MACHI SUJI district looks like it was lifted right out of the EDO period (1603-1868) with its narrow, traditional low slung wooden street scapes. HIDA MINZOKU-MURA LIVING FOLK VILLAGE, where we will see the art of Indigo dyeing. A city of museums, we will visit Shishi Kaikan, which has over 800 Lion masks and a performance of Karakuri puppets. Yatai Kaikan, which houses the city's famous matsuri floats, and Kyodo Gangan, a folk art museum housing toys from all over Japan.

Hotel Tanabe Ryokan

Our hotel is a traditional Ryokan with two natural hot springs baths, a stone bath and a cypress wood bath. A **Kasaka dinner** and traditional tatami Japanese style rooms.

Saturday, November 3

Traditional Japanese Breakfast at Ryokan

Transportation to Shirakawa-go

SIRAKAWA-GO a world heritage site located at the foot of Mt. Haku-san, a volcanic peak that is one of the three most famous peaks in Japan. In Ogimachi village are 59 Gassozukuri style farmhouses. Constructed like hands in prayer, with 60 degree steep thatched roofs made without nails, some farm houses are 250 years old. The high large attics were used to cultivate silk worms, as they stayed warm even during the heavy winters. The Folklore Park is a live museum with performances of traditional arts like dyeing and weaving. At the soba Dojo, we can make soba noodles. See a view of the whole valley from the Ogimachi Jyoseli Observatory.

Hotel Tanabe Ryokan traditional Dinner.

Sunday, November 4

Traditional Japanese Breakfast

Early Departure to Ise, Mie Prefecture

ISE JINGU is the most venerated Shinto shrine in Japan. In a dense forest of giant cryptomeria, next to the Isuzugawa river and at the foot of Mt. Kamiji and Mt. Shimaji, this area was already a sacred space before the shrine was built. First constructed in 678-686 by Emperor Temmu, the first Mikado to rule over a united Japan, the shrine complex consists of over 200 buildings that are all re-built every 20 years. The two groups of buildings are 6 km apart. Kotai Jingu or Naiku is the inner shrine, dedicated to Amaterasu Omikami, the Sun Goddess, and ancestral goddess of the imperial family.

Toyouke Daijingu or Geku, the outer shrine is dedicated to Toyouke Omikami, the Goddess of Agriculture. The ritualistic refurbishment is connected to the Japanese belief of tokowaka, the idea that through constant regeneration and renewal both the gods and the nation can remain eternally young and vigorous. After a quiet stroll over the Uji-bashi bridge, the timeless, eternal peacefulness of the pilgrimage to the shrine will remain with you.

Kyoto, **Hotel Ana** farewell **Dinner** at the hotel.

Monday, November 5

Hot Buffet Breakfast at Hotel

Morning visit to

IKENOBO school of Ikebana flower arranging has a history of over 500 years. Ikenobo Senno founder of the Kenobo Kado, originated Ikebana at the Rokkakudo temple, a place for the worship of Kannon, Goddess of mercy, in Kyoto Japan where it's world headquarters are still located. Beginning as a Buddhist floral offering, several styles have developed.

Afternoon departure, transportation to Osaka, Kansai Airport and evening return flight.

