

## TOUR CONDITIONS

**Tour Deposit and Payment:** Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover) Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

**Tour Pricing:** This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated and additional charges will be assessed.

**Travel Insurance:** Please review the enclosed USI Travel Insurance Services brochure and letter. This insurance is designed to protect you from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 15 days (Plus Option) or 21 days (Elite Option) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Waiver of the Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion, to cover certain injuries and illnesses that would not otherwise be covered by the policy 2) Protection for Certain Terrorist Acts if you cancel your trip due to a terrorist incident occurring in any city on your trip itinerary, within 30 days before or after our scheduled departure date, 3) Cancel for Any Reason Coverage, if the Elite Option is purchased, and 4) Protection for Financial Default of an airline, cruise line, or tour operator. If you wish to take advantage of the special above provision, you must enroll within 15 days (21 days for the Elite Option) of the date your initial trip deposit is received. **Please Note:** Although purchasing the Travel Insurance is not mandatory for you to travel with our group, if you purchase insurance, it **must** be through USI Travel Insurance Services.

## RESPONSIBILITY

**THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

**For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815/753-1512.**

**To make your reservation visit [myniu.com](http://myniu.com) and click on travel.**

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

**Alumni Association  
Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
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**NIU**  
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The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association  
& The Office of Alumni Relations

*Present*

# Imperial Japan

March 10 - March 19, 2011

\$4,589 per person, double occupancy from Chicago



*This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations.*

## Day By Day Itinerary

### Thursday, March 10 – CHICAGO/EN ROUTE (I)

We will depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this morning by scheduled service of Japan Airlines to begin the transpacific journey en route to Tokyo, Japan. During our flight, we'll cross the International Date Line and therefore our arrival in Tokyo will be on Friday, March 11.

### Friday, March 11 – TOKYO (I,D)

This afternoon we arrive at Tokyo's Narita Airport where we will meet our Tokyo Tour Guide. Leaving Narita Airport, we'll travel to our downtown hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure. Tonight, we'll enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel as we get set to explore Tokyo, the capital city of Japan. Devastated by the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923 and the World War II bombings, Tokyo has since reinvented itself as one of the world's most modern, exciting, and energizing cities.

### Saturday, March 12 – TOKYO (B)

We begin our day with a morning sightseeing tour of Tokyo. Our first stop will take us to Yoyogi Park where we will visit the Meiji Shrine dedicated to the Emperor Meiji, the first emperor of modern Japan. Afterward, we'll travel to Asakusa, Tokyo's Old Town, where we'll find another great historical site, the Sensoji Temple. Today, the temple, better known as Asakusa Kannon, is Tokyo's oldest and most sacred. Next, we'll have an opportunity to explore the Nakamise Shopping Arcade, lined with colorful, lively stalls selling traditional Japanese souvenirs and local food specialties. Our day's sightseeing will come to an end as we return to central Tokyo to see the Imperial Palace and tour its parks. Originally built in 1590 by Tokugawa Shogun, the Imperial Palace later became the world's largest castle. The Emperor and his family still reside in the western part of the grounds, from where they greet visitors twice a year.

### Sunday, March 13 – TOKYO (Nikko Shrines) (B)

Today we travel northeast of Tokyo to explore the scenic shrines and countryside of the Nikko National Park. Nikko has been a center of Shinto and Buddhist mountain worship for centuries. The first temple founded at Nikko was the Rinnoji Temple, built by Shodo Shonin more than 1,200 years ago. Just 16 years later, the Futarasan Shrine followed. However, it was in 1616 that Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu made it known his final wish was for his successors to "Build a small shrine in Nikko and enshrine me as the God. I will be the guardian of peace keeping in Japan". What was to follow is the world-famous Toshogu Shrine. We'll visit the shrine, which took two years and over 15,000 artists from all over Japan to build. We'll also explore the Taiyuinbyo Shrine, the mausoleum of Tokugawa Iemitsu, the builder of the Toshogu Shrine, and grandson of Ieyasu, a powerful third shogun, who isolated Japan from the world for over 200 years.

### Monday, March 14 – TOKYO/KYOTO (B)

This morning we will visit the Tsukiji Outer Fish Market, the largest fish market in Japan serving some of the freshest sushi in the world. The market is an excellent spot to take in Japanese culture and have a unique shopping experience.

This afternoon we depart Tokyo aboard the Shinkansen, better known as the "bullet train", and travel to historic Kyoto. Formerly the capital of Japan, Kyoto was the Emperor's residence from 794 to 1868. As we'll soon find out, Kyoto was largely avoided by allied bombers during World War II, and its hidden temples and parks are some of the true treasures of this fascinating city.



### Tuesday, March 15 – KYOTO (B)

Today we will explore Kyoto City starting with a visit to Nijo Castle, built by Tokugawa Ieyasu as the Kyoto residence for himself and his Tokugawa era shogun successors. In addition to the beautiful gardens, Nijo Castle is best known for its unusually ornate interior and peculiar security system; the floorboards were intentionally designed to make the sound of a nightingale when walked upon. Next, we'll visit the Kinkakuji Temple, or the Golden Pavilion, built in 1393 as a retirement villa for Shogun Yoshimitsu Ashikaga. Although destroyed many times over the years, the present temple dates from 1955 and was rebuilt as a replica of the original.

After lunch, we will stroll along bustling Teapot Alley to visit the Kiyomizu Temple, famous for its wooden terrace from where there is a stunning view of the city. Below the terrace, you can taste the spring water, which gives the temple its name and which is said to have healing power. We'll also visit the Kodaiji Temple built in 1605 for the widow of Toyotomi Hideyoshi. In addition to fine temple halls, Kodaiji features a small bamboo grove and a landscape garden with tea houses designed by leading contemporary masters. We'll end our day's sightseeing with a visit to the Sanjusangendo Temple, famous for its 1,001 statues of Kannon, the Goddess of Mercy. The elongated Main Hall, which houses the statues, is Japan's longest wooden structure and induces an almost hallucinatory effect.

**Wednesday, March 16 – KYOTO (Uji & Nara) (B)**

This morning we leave Kyoto and travel south to the city of Uji. Here, we'll visit the exquisite Byodoin Temple, a national treasure, built in 1052 by the Regent Fujiwara Yorimichi. The temple is dominated by the Phoenix Hall built to house the Amitabha Tathagata image of the Buddha.

Following our visit to Uji, we will travel to Nara, the original capital of Japan in the 8th century before it was changed to Kyoto. Located just an hour's drive from Kyoto, the wooded hills and temple parks of Nara make this ancient city a symbol of tranquility. Our destination is Nara Park, a 1,300-acre area that is home to many of the city's main attractions, and also home to hundreds of free roaming deer. Considered messengers of the gods, Nara's deer are protected by Buddhist traditions and have become a symbol of the city. A tour of the park grounds will introduce us to the Todaiji Temple, the largest wooden building in the world, which houses the world's largest bronze statue of Buddha. We'll also visit the Kasuga Taisha Shrine, Nara's most celebrated shrine, established at the same time as the capital and dedicated to the deity responsible for the protection of the city.

**Thursday, March 17 – KYOTO (Hiroshima & Miyajima) (B)**

Today we travel by the Shinkansen to Japan's southwestern Chugoku region to visit the city of Hiroshima. It was a sunny morning in Hiroshima on August 6th 1945, when the Atomic bomb dropped out of the sky, obliterated the city, and changed the course of world history forever. Today this beautiful city of nearly 3 million people offers some of the most somber and moving sightseeing in Japan. We'll explore the sights of Peace Memorial Park, located at ground zero of the Atomic bomb's explosion, and visit the Peace Memorial Museum that presents the facts of the atomic bombing, with the aim of contributing to the abolition of nuclear weapons throughout the world, and promoting world peace.

Following our visit, we will travel by ferry to sacred Miyajima Island. Here we'll visit the famous Itsukushima Shrine, known worldwide for its Torii Gate, unique for being built over water, seemingly floating in the sea during high tide. The shrine complex consists of multiple buildings, all connected by boardwalks and supported by pillars above the sea.

**Friday, March 18 – KYOTO (B,D)**

Today is at leisure in the old imperial capital of Kyoto where scores of the country's famous monuments are preserved in this lively modern city. Spend the day seeking out numerous monuments and sights on the Philosopher's Walk along the Old Canal, return to the charming Higashiyama district, or venture further out to the unspoiled beauty of the Arashiyama district. Each of these districts offers different highlights of Kyoto's rich history. Perhaps you would like to immerse yourself in the local culture by taking a class in Japanese cooking, calligraphy, origami, dance or wearing a kimono. Additionally, Kyoto offers many different specialty shops to purchase traditional souvenirs, gifts, and specialty restaurants where you can relax and savor the delicious local cuisine. Whatever you choose to do, Kyoto has something for everyone!

Tonight we will end our vacation in grand style with a visit to the Gion District, Kyoto's best-known geisha quarter to experience an overview of seven kinds of Japanese traditional arts and entertainment. Afterward, we'll enjoy a farewell dinner complete with a Geisha in attendance to dance, sing, pour sake and talk about her fascinating life.

**Saturday, March 19 – KYOTO/CHICAGO (B,I)**

Today it is time to say "sayonara" as we travel to Osaka's Itami Airport in preparation for our return journey home. Our transpacific flight will once again take us across the "International Date Line" and therefore our arrival in Chicago will be the same day.

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

**Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.**

**The Tour Price Includes:**

- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of Japan Airlines. Meals and light beverages served in-flight according to airline schedules.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach and Shinkansen train with accompanying local Tokyo and Kyoto Tour Guides.
- Accommodations in first-class hotels with private bath or shower.
- Breakfast each morning and two evening dinners as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portorage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes, customs service charges, and fuel surcharges and security fees of \$320 per person.**

**The Tour Price Does Not Include:** Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; optional tours and excursions; tips to the motor coach drivers, Tokyo and Kyoto Tour Guides and local guide(s); luggage handling at airports; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.