



KYOTO & TOKYO IN-DEPTH TOUR

HOSTED BY TED SCOTT

Experience this in-depth tour visiting Japan’s cultural heartland— enjoy shrines, castles, temples, gardens, enchanting traditional residences, food, and tea—with Japan expert, architect, photographer, author, lecturer, and Japanese speaker Ted Scott.

April usually brings to Japan perfect weather before the hot and humid summer. A light jacket should suffice, with a sweater, just in case. An umbrella is always prudent.

Strolling in the gardens is a pleasure, with some stairs here and there for a bit of exercise. In fact, strolling is pretty much what we’ll do most of the time, unless we’re being served tea, or getting about to our city destinations in local taxis or subways (the fare is included!), rubbing elbows with the always-polite locals.

Combine the best of Tokyo and Kyoto on this exciting tour of Japan!

INCLUDES:

- International airfare
- 11 nights in 4-star centrally located hotels in Tokyo and Kyoto
- Daily breakfast, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip Shinkansen (Nozomi) train Tokyo to Kyoto to Tokyo
- All entrance fees and transportation as per the itinerary
- Roundtrip airport transfers and Tokyo Hotel/Tokyo Station transfer
- All taxes and gratuities
- Premium Lounge pass
- Tour host

\$7,200* p.p.

13 days

Departs Toronto

Apr. 17–29, 2016

Ted Scott has a Master’s degree in architecture from the Graduate School of Waseda University in Tokyo (and speaks Japanese), a past lecturer of photography, architectural history, and of Japanese culture at the Art Gallery of Ontario and the University of Toronto, a photographer, an author of *Photographs of Provence & Imperial Japanese Gardens*, available at Amazon.com.

Ted is a skilled guide with substantial experience and knowledge of Tokyo and Kyoto as a resident of both cities, and as a specialist in historical Japanese architecture and gardens.

merit travel
...for the experience



ITINERARY

BREAKFAST INCL. (B), LUNCH INCL. (L), DINNER INCL. (D)

Day 1 | Sunday, April 17

DEPARTURE FROM TORONTO – TOKYO

Toronto departure at 1:40 p.m. and arrive in Tokyo at 3:35 p.m. the next day via Air Canada.

Day 2 | Monday, April 18

TOKYO

Arrive at Haneda Airport and transfer by private coach to the Shiba Park Hotel in downtown Tokyo, capital since 1868; free time to settle in.

Local subway to an evening walkabout downtown on the Ginza, Tokyo's Main Street.

Accommodations: The Shiba Park Hotel Tokyo. Hotel address: Shibakoen, Minato, Tokyo 105-0011, Japan. Tel: +81 3-3433-4141.

Shiba Park Hotel is just a 2-minute walk from Onarimon Subway Station and a 4-minute walk from Daimon Subway Station. JR Hamamatsucho Train Station is an 8-minute walk from the hotel. Tokyo Tower, Zojo-ji Temple and Atago Shrine are a 10-minute walk away. Nearby stations offer direct links to Akihabara and Asakusa. The spacious guest rooms include a flat-screen TV and complimentary wireless internet access is available at all areas. There is a Michelin star getter in this hotel for your inhouse dining, but if you love to eat out, there are hundreds of little great restaurants around this hotel in Minato-ku, Tokyo.



Day 3 | Tuesday, April 19

TOKYO (B)

Leisurely morning visit to the Tsukiji fish market; visit to the Meiji Shrine, then stroll through the nearby hectic youngsters' shopping arcade for the thrill of it; free time in Tokyo.

Day 4 | Wednesday, April 20

TOKYO (B, L)

Intensive sightseeing-bus tour of the city; visits to Tokyo Tower, Happo-en (garden and tea ceremony), Chinzanso (garden and lunch), Imperial Palace Gate, Sumida River cruise, Asakusa Temple and shopping arcade (for the cultural experience).

Day 5 | Thursday, April 21

TOKYO — KYOTO (B, D)

Morning transfer by private coach to Tokyo Station; Bullet Train to Kyoto; settle into the central Granvia Kyoto Station Hotel; local subway to a walkabout of central Kyôto: Takashimaya, among Japan's more elegant department stores (kimonos and everyday Japanese household articles), Ponto-chô and Gion entertainment districts which exude the traditional air of Kyôto's architecture and culture; welcome dinner.

Accommodations: Hotel Granvia Kyoto. Hotel address: 600-8216 Kyoto, Kyoto, Shimogyo-ku Karasuma-dori Shiokoji-sagaru JR Kyoto Station Karasuma Chuo-guchi, Japan. Tel: +81 0-75-344-888.

Hotel Granvia Kyoto offers a superb location and is an integral part of the JR Kyoto Station Building, a visually striking architectural masterpiece which also includes a department store, museum, musical theater, and a vast underground shopping mall. From this convenient location, hotel guests have direct and easy access to and from Kansai International Airport and major metropolitan destinations across Japan. Hotel Granvia Kyoto features 535 tastefully decorated rooms including complimentary wireless internet access in all guest rooms.

Day 6 | Friday, April 22

KYOTO (B)

This morning we'll visit Kyoto's delicate, residential-style Silver Pavilion (Temple) and two levels of gardens; then a leisurely stroll along the stream of Philosophers' Walk for scenery and quaint shops (perhaps a coffee or tea?); then to Nanzen Temple and its Zen architecture and gardens; and finally to the grand, serene Shosei-en Garden; we'll walk back to our hotel, about five blocks, to experience the sidewalk culture.

Day 7 | Saturday, April 23

KYOTO (B, L)

Today: We'll take the local train into the countryside, and stroll from the station to Hikone Castle, a national treasure, and the original building. Besides the castle's main keep, most of the inner moats, walls, guardhouses and gates also remain intact, giving visitors a good impression of a relatively complete Japanese feudal castle. Also, the adjacent Genkyuen Garden, lunch in the town.

Day 8 | Sunday, April 24

KYOTO (B)

This morning we're off to the hills of eastern Kyôto and the delightfully chaotic pedestrian lanes and quaint shops which cascade down the narrow streets which lead to Kiyomizu Temple which clings to a steep slope; then to potter Kawai Kanjiro's charming house and avant-garde work. Free Afternoon.

Day 9 | Monday, April 25

KYOTO (B)

Guided visit of the breath-taking Sento Gosho Imperial Palace and gardens; then to Kyoto's northwest quadrant and the Ryôan Temple with its famous sand-and-rocks garden, etc.; then to the nearby gold-covered Kinkaku Temple and its elegant reflection among the isles in the pond garden.

Day 10 | Tuesday, April 26

KYOTO (B)

This morning, a quiet demonstration of the Tea ceremony at the Urasenke Museum of Japanese Tea (we will be served sweet cakes and powdered green tea); traditional Kyoto occupations include fabric weaving and dyeing, and for that we'll visit the Nishijin textile museum and enjoy a kimono fashion show, weaving demo, and a chance to buy woven, silk fabric related items; then to a stroll through the sumptuous Ninomaru Palace interiors and its beautiful surrounding gardens.

Day 11 | Wednesday, April 27

KYOTO (B, L)

Long before we leave Toronto, I'll apply for us to visit the exclusive Moss Temple in the southwest quadrant of Kyoto. The garden of this temple, abandoned and neglected for decades hundreds of years ago, covered itself with a lush carpet of moss, and the effect of that, and its ponds, islands, and hills must be something like the atmosphere in the Garden of Eden; before entering, we are required to copy some of the sutras—in Japanese characters! Lunch at a small restaurant nearby. Free Afternoon.

Day 12 | Thursday, April 28

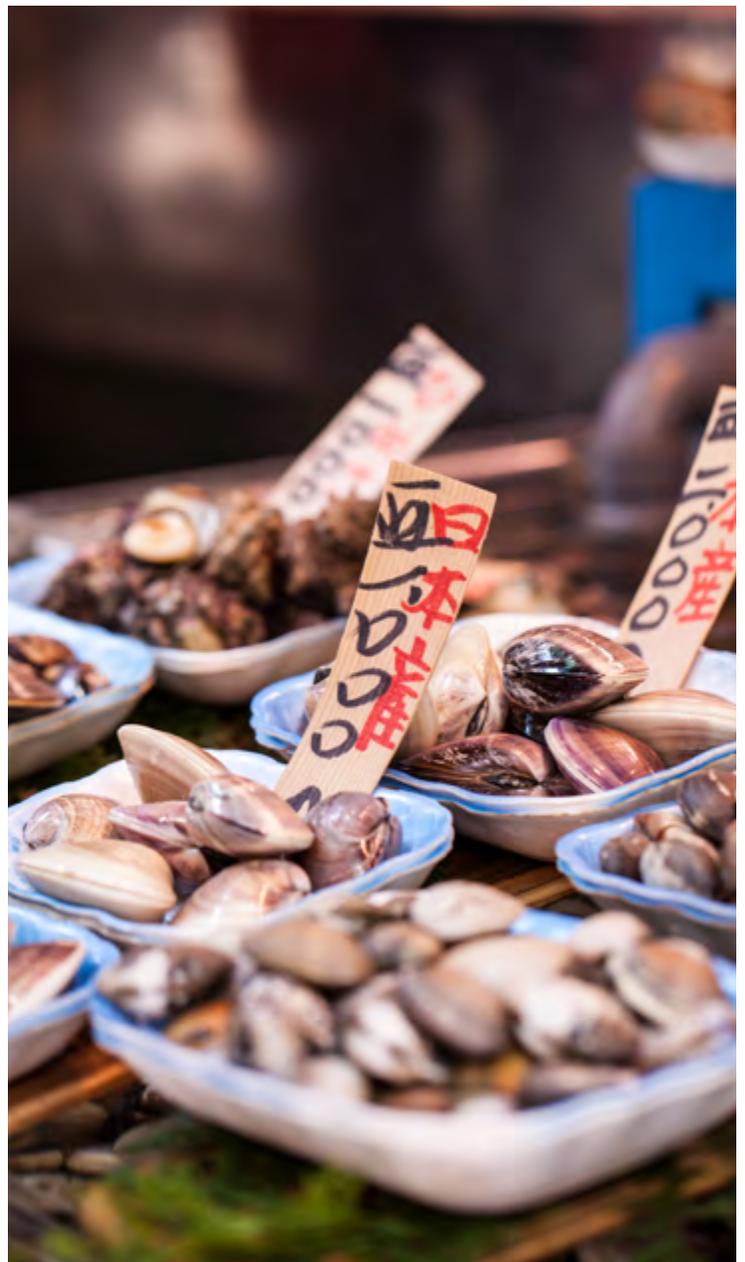
KYOTO (B, L)

We're off to the Chinese influenced Heian Shrine, a two-thirds-size replica of one of Kyoto's ancient capital buildings; its timeless surrounding garden is a haven in Kyoto's midst. From there we'll walk to the Handicraft Center where six floors of workshops and stores display artisans creating some of the country's finest traditional arts which are for sale; buffet lunch on the top floor. Free afternoon.

Day 13 | Friday, April 29

KYOTO — TOKYO — TORONTO (B)

Transport today from Kyoto to Tokyo Station and private coach to Haneda Airport for a 5:40 p.m. departure to Toronto; 4:40 p.m. arrival same day (we arrive in T.O. on Friday one hour before we leave Tokyo on Friday by crossing the international dateline, again).



TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESPONSIBILITY

Merit Travel Group Inc. doing business as Merit Travel, acts solely as agents for the Travel Service Suppliers such as hoteliers, airlines, ground service operators, bus operators, etc. who are providing their facilities as described in this brochure. We do our best to select such suppliers but exercise no control over them and cannot be held responsible for the failure of these suppliers to carry out any obligations. Any and all bookings made with these suppliers by us, for you, are subject to the terms and conditions of each and every such supplier. Supplier liability may also be limited by law, tariffs, or conditions set forth in their documentation, tickets, etc. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Merit and its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, successors, assigns, agents and other representatives are not responsible for any and all claims for losses, damages (whether direct, indirect, special, punitive, or other consequential damages, lost profits or opportunities) delays, illness, injuries, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, or anxiety (whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and even if Merit and the Travel Service Suppliers have been advised of the possibility of damages to such party or any other party) arising from:

- (a) Fault or negligence or omissions on the part of the said travel service suppliers;
- (b) Illness, theft, strikes, mechanical problems, quarantine, governmental intervention, weather conditions, acts of hostility or violence, and any other grounds beyond our control;
- (c) Your failure to obtain passport, visas, other travel documents or inoculations
- (d) Your failure to advise us the name of the traveller exactly as it appears on the passport;
- (e) Your failure to report on time at an airport or ground transfer facility;
- (f) Material damages, theft or other mysterious disappearances of your goods;
- (g) Personal injuries or death;
- (h) Force Majeure - an event(s) beyond our, or our supplier(s), reasonable control including, but not limited to, acts of God, strikes, lockout or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts of restraints imposed by governmental authorities.

PRICING

All prices are per person in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted. GST, HST and provincial taxes are applicable on tours as noted.

INCREASE IN TOUR COSTS

Merit reserves the right to increase tour prices in the event of an increase in government and airport authority imposed taxes and fees, fuel and currency surcharges, supplier price increases, or any other cost increase. If the increase is greater than 7% of the tour cost, the client may cancel the booking within seven days of notification and obtain a full refund.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required at the time of booking. Full and final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Deposit requirements for some tours may vary. You will be advised of such cases at time of booking.

LIABILITY

Merit cannot assume responsibility for any costs incurred for any travel arrangements purchased separately from the Merit tour. Merit's responsibility shall extend only to the provisions of advice as to industry-standard or supplier recommended connections and check-in times.

Provided Merit supplies such advice, they shall not be responsible for missed connections or departures, regardless of the cause.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN (INSURANCE)

Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, medical and hospital insurance, baggage insurance, and various additional insurances are available and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. If you choose not to purchase insurance, you are required to sign an Insurance Waiver Form. Note that if you choose not to purchase insurance, you

are fully liable for any and all penalties imposed as stated under Cancellation Policy on this page. Please speak to your representative at the time of making reservations about insurance.

REFUNDS

The nature of travel involves risks and unpredictable weather and thus Merit cannot assure any departure or arrival times at any point of an itinerary. Your right to receive a refund is limited.

There will be no discounts or monies refunded for any missed or unused services.

Merit reserves the right to cancel the tour for any reason. Should this occur, a full refund will be made to the traveller.

CANCELLATION POLICY

While Merit will do its utmost to minimize any penalties charged, there are irrecoverable costs associated with your tour. The following penalties will be considered the costs incurred with cancellation:

- (A) 90 days or more prior to departure: Loss of total deposit.
- (B) 89 – 60 days prior to departure: Loss of 50% of total tour cost.
- (C) 59 days or less prior to departure: Loss of 100% of total tour cost.

Cancellation penalties for some tours will vary and there may be additional penalties associated with the airfare. If so, these policies will be noted separately at time of booking and will prevail.

TOUR CHANGES

We reserve the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond our control. In such cases we will do everything possible to ensure the locations visited, the excursions taken and the hotels offered are similar to the ones originally planned. Any change to itineraries will not result in eligibility for a refund.

REVISION FEE

Changes to your tour reservation might not be possible. Should you request a change and we are able to accommodate it, you will be subject to any charges imposed by the airline or tour suppliers. In addition, we reserve the right to charge a \$50 revision fee for any change made after the deposit is paid. A change in name or departure date may constitute a cancellation, and the corresponding penalties may apply.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION

All passengers travelling internationally must travel with a passport. Many countries require the passport to be valid for 6 months beyond the traveller's return date. Visas may be required for some destinations. It is the passenger's responsibility to obtain at the passenger's expense, all documentation required by all relevant authorities. In the event that the passenger does not possess the correct documentation, the air carrier has the right to refuse passage.

DESCRIPTION

Every effort has been made to describe and produce the travel services and photographs as accurately as possible in the printed tour description. However we reserve the right to correct errors and we will make all reasonable efforts to inform you should any significant changes occur.

Please note that the living standards and local conditions during your tour may be different from what you are accustomed to at home.

CONSENT

Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute your consent to the above terms.

If you encounter any concerns during your tour, please inform your local travel service provider. If the matter cannot be resolved, please inform Merit Vacations in writing upon your return.