

The Japan America Society of Minnesota

In cooperation with

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Presents

Exploring Gardens and Landscaped Parks of Japan: A Trip to Some of Japan's Famous and Unique Garden Treasures

November 6–November 19, 2013

The Trip

Gardens have long been viewed as treasured arts of Japan. Greatly admired for their simple beauty and graceful landscaping, the gardens of Japan have fascinated people around the world. This tour will take travelers to some of the famous gardens and landscaped parks of Japan. There will be visits to well-known gardens that are treasures for viewing. There will also be strolls through lesser known and uniquely landscaped parks and gardens in areas less traveled. This tour is for people who like to travel with a spirit of exploration and adventure, open to a sense of wonder and unexpected view.

The tour will be led by J. Bernard (Ben) van Lierop, executive director of the Japan America Society of Minnesota and Mary Hockenbemy Meyer, professor and extension horticulturist of the University of Minnesota.

Our Itinerary

Arrive Tokyo, Nov. 7

Keio Plaza Hotel, Shinjuku (3 nights) We will spend two full days in Tokyo visiting Meiji Shrine, Kiyosumi Garden, Rikugien and Showa Koen in Tachikawa.

Kobe, Takamatsu and Kurashiki

In Kobe, board a ferry for a cruise on the scenic Island Sea to Takamatsu on the Island of Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's main islands. Ritsurin Park and then to the famous Korakuen Park in Okayama and on to Kurashiki, a jewel of old Japan with a cluster of museums, including the Folk-craft Museum. (3 nights)

Kumamoto in Kyushu

Visit Kumamoto, the region near famous Mt. Aso, Suizenji Garden and Kumamoto Castle, on to Arita, the famous pottery town. We will stay in a traditional Japanese inn. (2 nights)

Hiroshima and Kyoto

In Hiroshima visit to Shukkeien Garden and the Memorial Peace Park. Then on to Kyoto, the Classical City with its temples, shrines and gardens made for strolling and viewing. Visit Nijo Castle, the Imperial Palace Garden, Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion) Garden, Ryoanji (Rock Garden) and other scenic parks and garden gems of the old capital of Japan (4 nights)

Tokyo

For the return flight home (or wherever the participants choose to go.)

Included

Hotel: 12 nights in 3-star hotels. Rooms are double occupancy (see below for single supplement) all rooms are non-smoking and have private baths.

Transport: All inter-city transportation by air-conditioned coach, train and transportation between hotels and bus and train terminals for tour activities.

Food: Breakfast in hotels, eight dinners, including a kaiseke (traditional multi-course Japanese meal), 6 lunches organized for the group.

Admissions: All garden and park admissions for tour activities, all tour guides.

Not Included

Transportation between Tokyo and participants' point of origin.

Ground travel: Any ground transportation other than that described above.

Other meals: Any meals other than those organized by the tour and described above.

Other: Any services not specifically identified under "What's Included?" above.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

If you cancel prior to September 3, 2013, Japan America Society of Minnesota will refund your deposit, less a \$200 per person cancellation fee. After that date, refunds can be made only if the tour is sold out and your space can be resold, in which case a \$500 per person cancellation fee will apply. No refunds for participant cancellation will be made after September 20, 2013.

All participants must sign and return Waiver and Release of Liability forms, which will be mailed to you after we receive the deposit and completed reservation form. No reservation will be considered complete until Japan America Society of Minnesota has received these signed forms.

Japan America Society of Minnesota reserves the right at all times to cancel all or part of the tour and refund appropriate monies paid by the participant, without further liability. For this reason, we strongly encourage participants to not make non-refundable reservations until we have confirmed that the tour will take place.

Eligibility and Reservations

All participants must be at least 21 years of age, and able to walk some distance. Reservations will be taken by Japan America Society of Minnesota on a first come, first served basis. Total participation is limited to 24 people.

The price of the tour is \$5,500 per person, based on double occupancy (Single Room Supplement: \$600). A partially refundable deposit of \$2,000 (by check or credit card to Japan America Society of Minnesota) is due no later than Tuesday, September 3, 2013, the balance must be paid no later than Friday, September 20, 2013. You may call or email for a registration form, or you may download one from our Web site. Complete details about the itinerary can be found on our Web site: www.mn-japan.org. * *The price of the tour is based on current Yen-Dollar exchange rates. Should the exchange rate change considerably we may be forced to adjust the price of the tour accordingly.*