



Japan & South Korea

WITH UBC PROFESSOR HENRY YU

October 26 - November 9, 2017

alumniUBC

This specially designed tour to Japan and South Korea is a cultural mosaic of the traditional and the contemporary. Prof. Henry Yu lent his expertise to help us design exclusive signature experiences to maximize your understanding of how ancient and modern influences affect everything from food, clothing, and architecture, to social customs and language. Our route from Tokyo to Seoul includes visits to iconic places, including Mount Fuji, historic Kyoto, Hiroshima, spell-binding Miyajima Island, coastal Busan, and the DMZ between North and South Korea.

During our time in Japan, we'll examine the interplay between high technology and centuries-old traditions, from vending machines, subway stations, and high tech toilets in Tokyo, to the beautiful scenery, traditional temples, and famous handmade tofu and pickles in Kyoto. As students do, we'll 'compare and contrast' the traditional and the contemporary to understand the importance of aesthetics and how this has evolved from ancient shrines to high design.

Japanese mastery of culinary arts can be enjoyed through perfectly prepared meals that delight the eye as well as the palate, but also through the vibrant and affordable street food, hole-in-the-wall *ramen* stalls, and local *izakaya* (pubs serving small plates similar to Spanish *tapas*). On this trip you will find out why Japanese food is so much more than sushi and tempura.

The mix of the new and old is also a striking feature of Seoul, where the inventiveness of young artists in Insadong is reflected in combinations of both traditional and modern artwork. Impressive high tech displays tell the proud story of Korean *kimchi*.

Join Henry Yu for an enriching exploration of some of the best of the old and new in Japan and Korea.



TOUR LEADER

Professor Henry Yu is currently the Principal of St. John's Graduate College, UBC's international graduate college, and is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at UBC. A Founding Board Member of the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of British Columbia (CCHSBC), Prof. Yu continues to serve on the Board of Directors and actively engages his UBC students in community history projects through CCHSBC. In 2012, he was honoured for his work with a Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:



SIGNATURE MOMENTS

Learn about traditional garden design

Walk the trails of scenic Mount Fuji

Take Sushi and Washoku cooking classes

Contrast traditional temples with radical technology

Explore Seoul's artsy Insadong district

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DAILY ITINERARY

Thursday, October 26: Arrive in Tokyo

Upon arrival at Narita Airport you will be met and transferred to our city centre hotel. Meet Henry Yu and fellow travellers at our late afternoon briefing, followed by dinner together to kick start our collective exploration of Japan and South Korea.

Overnight: *Tobu Levant Hotel Tokyo*

Meals: *Dinner*

Friday, October 27: Tokyo

Tokyo's eastern neighbourhoods have a traditional feel and this is where our explorations start. The Asakusa District is located away from the bustle of business Tokyo. Explore the area to understand how Asakusa evolved from a small fishing village into the Geisha District and how the area rebuilt after WWII. Visit Tokyo's oldest Buddhist temple, Senso-ji, and the Asakusa Shrine showing the mixture of Shintoism and Buddhism so essential to Japanese culture. Visit the Tokyo National Museum for the fabulous collection of



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Japanese art including Buddhist sculptures, gorgeous kimonos and colourful woodblock prints. Cruise the Sumida River and visit the Hama-rikyu Onshi Gardens, one of Tokyo's finest with wonderfully manicured trees.

Overnight: Tobu Levant Hotel Tokyo

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Saturday, October 28: Tokyo

Tokyo has a reputation as a centre of 'cool'. Take a walk with our guide today to understand the importance of aesthetics for the Japanese and how they have built on the traditional as the foundation for the contemporary. Our walk will take us from the Meiji Shinto Shrine to the colourful subculture of Harajuku, the high design retail outlets of Omotesando, and the Roppongi Hills urban development. Visit the Mori Museum, a hub of contemporary art at the top of the Mori Tower, and the 21_21 Design Site, Tokyo's first design museum. Marvel at what is rumoured to be the world's busiest intersection in front of the Shibuya Station filled with thousands of people, giant video screens and neon. Enjoy dinner this evening in the trendy Ebisu district.

Overnight: Tobu Levant Hotel Tokyo

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday, October 29: Tokyo

Early risers have the chance to visit the Tsukiji Fish Market - the largest in Japan and one of the largest in the world. Prepare to be awakened by a sensory overload of marine treasures. No visit to Tsukiji is complete without sushi, and a hands-on class will provide an intimate glimpse into this culinary tradition. After freshening up at the hotel, visit Edo Tokyo Museum which focuses on the history of Tokyo during the Edo Period (before the Meiji Restoration and the opening of Japan). Contrast that with a visit to Akihabara Electric Town with its dizzying kaleidoscope of images, including heavy focus on the fascinating world of anime characters. This evening enjoy that great Japanese entertainment - karaoke!

Overnight: Tobu Levant Hotel Tokyo

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Monday, October 30: Hakone - Mount Fuji

Enjoy new landscapes today as we travel southwest to beautiful Hakone with breathtaking views of Mount Fuji. If skies are clear above Hakone National Park during a 30-minute Lake Ashi boat cruise, our closest looks yet at snow-capped Mount Fuji are sure to impress. The hills surrounding the lake are largely undeveloped and covered in forest. Next, it's off to the Hakone Open Air Museum. Using nature as a dramatic backdrop, it showcases masterpieces of 20th Century sculpture in spectacular setting of glens, formal gardens, ponds and meadows. It is then onward towards Mount Fuji at the so-called 5th Line at Fuji Subaru Line road. It is from this point that many hikers begin their trek up mighty Fuji.

Overnight: Hotel New Akao Royal Wing

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Tuesday, October 31: Train to Kyoto

There may be nowhere else that screams traditional Japan more than Kyoto. Its vermilion temples, mysterious geisha, sacred tea ceremony, Zen rock gardens, three imperial palaces, sumptuous cuisine, glittering kimonos, bamboo groves, street-corner shrines and ancient festivals preserve the Japan of yesteryear so that it continues to flourish even in an age of rapid change. This afternoon we focus on three of the most spectacular gardens of the city. Visit the dazzling Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavillion) with its lush gardens used for contemplation and entertainment. The Karesansui Garden at the Ryoanji Temple is a classic example of Zen dry rock garden with a stylized landscape created from gravel and rock. At the Ninna-ji, see a garden with both wet and dry features and the residence of the head priest built in the style of an imperial palace.

Overnight: Kyoto Tokyu Hotel, Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday, November 1: Kyoto

Kyoto's Nishiki Market offers a staggering display of weird and wonderful foods. A good look at the market is an excellent preamble to our 'washoku' cooking class. 'Washoku' is the traditional cuisine of Japan, using tofu in its many forms as a principle ingredient. Japanese culture and spirituality combine elements of Shintoism, Japan's native spiritual belief system and Buddhism that was imported from China. This afternoon's walk will take in key shrines that exemplify the synchronicity of these two spiritual paths; the Yasaka Shinto Shrine in the Gion with its deities known as kami; the Kiyomizu-dera temple to learn about how Buddhism was imported to Japan; the Zen Kennin-ji temple founded in 1202 and surrounded by classical gardens. This evening, attend a geisha performance, that most traditional of Japanese arts.

Overnight: Kyoto Tokyu Hotel, Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Sake barrels

Thursday, November 2: Kyoto

The great castle Nijo-jo demonstrated the military might of Japan's great shoguns of the 1600's. Admire the ostentatious style of its construction designed to rival the emperor's power and the Ninomaru Palace Garden designed by an outstanding tea master. The Ginkaku-ji is an elegant temple designed originally as a retirement villa for one of the earlier great shoguns in the late 1400's. The name translates as 'Silver Pavilion' although the shogun's plan to cover the building with silver was never accomplished. Sumptuous gardens complete the vision. After a classic vegetarian lunch at a Buddhist temple, the afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the city.

Overnight: Kyoto Tokyu Hotel, Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Friday, November 3: Train to Hiroshima

All aboard the bullet train to Hiroshima! The Shinkansen reaches speeds of more than 300 kilometres/hour, so prepare for an exciting whirlwind journey. On arrival, the Peace Memorial Park awaits. It is a special place devoted to peace memorial facilities after having been the political and commercial centre of Hiroshima prior to the city's devastating destruction. Of particular note are the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and A-Bomb Dome, which was built to symbolize the wish for everlasting peace. Ruins of the Industrial Promotion Hall have been preserved, just as when it was bombed, as a reminder of the tragedy.

Overnight: Granvia Hiroshima

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Saturday, November 4: Miyajima Island

Miyajima Island is ranked one of the three most scenic spots in Japan. Just 30 minutes from Hiroshima, Miyajima lies in the Seto Inland Sea. Its most famous landmark is the huge red torii, or shrine gate, rising out of the water. Erected in 1875 and made of camphor wood, it's one of the largest torii in Japan, measuring more than 16m (53 ft.) tall, guarding Itsukushima Shrine. Depending on the level of the tide, one can either walk right up to the shrine or see it floating atop the sea in a wonderful example of architectural design and nature working in harmony.

Overnight: Granvia Hiroshima

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday, November 5: Hiroshima - Fukuoka - Busan (South Korea)

Today is a long but exciting day, with an early departure for Fukuoka on the northern coast of the island of Kyushu. From here, it's farewell to Japan before boarding a ferry to Busan, South Korea. Due to its natural harbour and gentle tides, the port of Busan is the largest port in the country and the third largest in the world.

Overnight: Busan Crowne Harbour

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday, November 6: Gyeongju - Seoul

Today is our final travel day as our coach takes us towards our ultimate destination: Seoul. Established by the founder of Joseon Dynasty in 1392, the capital of the Republic of Korea has a population of more than 12,000,000 people. Seoul is a city of

incredible contrasts which, despite its immense size, make it one of the most fascinating cities in the world. This dynamic city is a fantastic mash up of the deeply traditional and the cutting-edge modern.

Overnight: Centremark Hotel, Seoul

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Tuesday, November 7: Seoul

Start the day in Seoul's 2000-year-old past. Visit Gyeongbokgung Palace (the "Palace Greatly Blessed by Heaven"); the construction dates from 1395 although it was greatly damaged during the Japanese occupation. The Changdeokgung was the monarchy's working palace; its asymmetrical design follows the contours of the landscape. South of these palaces, explore the very walkable Insadong district, a popular artistic district after the Korean War, now lined with antique and craft shops and coffee houses. Visit the Gwagnjang Market to see the wondrous choice of Korean silks and ceremonial wedding outfits and sample from the fabulous street stalls - a foodie heaven! Explore the hilly laneways of Samcheong-dong where traditional hanok houses made of timber walls and curving tiled roofs have been preserved. Stroll along the Cheong-gyecheon Stream, a linear park along the river that was covered by an elevated highway in the post-war period. The site was restored in the early 2000's and is now a peaceful counterpoint in the heart of the hyper modern city.

Overnight: Centremark Hotel, Seoul

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Wednesday, November 8: Seoul

Today takes us to the Demilitarized Zone (or the DMZ, as it is more commonly called): the 241km-long (150-mile) strip of land that separates North and South Korea. It has served as a buffer zone since the signing of the 1953 ceasefire agreement that ended the fighting during the Korean War (although the war itself has officially never ended). This afternoon see some of the Seoul's most modern buildings which have made the city a world leader in modern urban landscape planning; the GT Tower East is a stunning reinvention of the conventional skyscraper with a billowing illusion; the Samsung Museum of Art complex was designed by three international superstar architects; the Dongdaemun Design Palace is dubbed the "Metonymic Landscape" for its curvaceous concrete structure partially coated with lawns; and the Hyundai headquarters, an enormous sculpture in glass, concrete and steel. Celebrate our journey with a special dinner this evening.

Overnight: Centremark Hotel, Seoul

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 9: Seoul - Depart Incheon Airport

After breakfast, there is time at leisure to continue exploring the city, before the afternoon transfer to the airport at Incheon for your flights home.

Meals: Breakfast

Note: The itinerary and accommodation described in this tour brochure are subject to change due to logistical arrangements and to take advantage of local events.



Seoul

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Cost (per person): US\$6995*

Single Supplement: US\$1495*

If you are travelling on your own and would like to share accommodation, we would be happy to try to match you with a suitable roommate. If we are unable to do so, the single cost applies.

Group Size:

Limited to 16 participants

What's Included:

- Airport transfers for passengers arriving and departing as per the group itinerary
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in hotels listed or similar
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- All transportation by coach, bullet train, regular train
- Ferry to Busan
- Bottled water on the coach
- All activities and entrance fees
- Services of specialized English speaking guides
- Gratuities for escort, local guides, drivers, hotel and group meals
- Taxes
- Fully escorted by Henry Yu

Not Included:

- Roundtrip airfare from your home to join the tour
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Beverages with meals
- Fuel surcharges, if applicable
- Excess baggage charges
- Items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance
- Additional arrangements required due to any emergency or other situation
- Any item not mentioned in "included features" above

Payment Details:

A deposit of US\$500 per person is required to reserve your space on this tour. A payment of US\$1000 is due six months prior to departure. The balance is due 90 days prior to departure.

HOW TO BOOK

Please contact Amanda
at the Worldwide
Quest Office.

1-800-387-1483

WHAT TO EXPECT

Joining Instructions

This tour begins with our briefing and welcome dinner at 7PM on October 26th. Please ensure that you arrive at Tokyo Narita Airport by 4PM to join the group. When you make flight arrangements or any pre-trip night booking with Worldwide Quest, your transfer from the airport to our group hotel on arrival is included. If you are making your own flight or pre-trip hotel arrangements, this transfer can be provided at additional cost. The tour concludes with a single included transfer from the hotel to Incheon Airport on November 9th. Please contact us to verify timing of this transfer prior to making any flight arrangements.

Level of Activity: Moderate

An average level of fitness is important for this trip. We will be doing quite a bit of walking to explore the city centres. You should be comfortable with every day activities including stair climbing and be able to walk for up to two hours unassisted. Not all places we visit have elevators.

Accommodation

We are staying in comfortable Western style hotels throughout. All hotels are centrally located, 4 star standard with air conditioning and private bath facilities.

Transportation

We will travel by private coach driven by a professional driver. We will be travelling by bullet train from Kyoto to Hiroshima and by ferry from Fukuoka to Busan.

Weather

May is a lush and beautiful time of year in Japan and South Korea, with average daytime highs of 23°C and average daytime lows around 10-15°C. This is the dry season with warm temperatures, sunny skies and minimal rainfall.

Travel Documents

You will require a passport for this trip. Please ensure it is valid for at least 6 months beyond your scheduled return date.

Updated May 19, 2017

ADDITIONAL INFO

Terms and Conditions

For additional information about our terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form, the current brochure or our website. All participants booking with Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - License # 2667946).

Cancellation Policy

All payments are non-refundable, however you may transfer your initial deposit for any land tour to another tour 90 days or more prior to your scheduled departure date. Initial deposits for cruises are non-refundable and non-transferable. Your second payment and your final payment are non-refundable and non-transferable. If you cancel within 90 days prior to trip departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credits will be given for services not used. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing.

Travel Insurance

We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation and medical insurance in place, should an unexpected event cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip or should the tour not be operable per our terms and conditions. We will offer you Manulife insurance coverage. Medical insurance including emergency medical evacuation coverage is mandatory on all our tours.

Travel with *alumni UBC*

It's your travel experience.

Indulge your curiosity as we take you to unique places you've always dreamed about.

UBC experts and knowledgeable local hosts provide context. That allows you to develop a deep connection to the people you meet and the cultures, cuisines and landscapes you're exploring.

- Best value in educational travel
- Meaningful local experiences
- Thoughtful itineraries

See our complete list of tours at:
WorldwideQuest.com/alumniUBC



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