

Insider's Japan

October 18-30, 2025

13 days from \$8,684 total price from Los Angeles

(\$7,995 air & land inclusive plus \$689 airline taxes and fees)



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Odysseys Unlimited,
seven-time honoree
Travel + Leisure's World's
Best Tour Operators award.



**An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Alumni and Friends of Brandeis University**

*Featuring Aida Yuen Wong, Nathan Cummings and Robert B. and
Beatrice C. Mayer Chair in Fine Arts and Professor of Fine Arts, East
Asian Studies and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program*

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join Brandeis Travelers on a majestic 13-day journey through Japan. Discover centuries of rich history, art, culture, and awe-inspiring scenery in a land of many wonders.

Begin in the nation’s capital Tokyo, with visits to the Imperial Palace, tranquil Meiji Shrine, the famed Ginza district, and Tokyo National Museum. Experience the world’s most revered volcano, Mount Fuji in Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, and enjoy a scenic cruise on Ashi Lake. After overnighing in a traditional ryokan inn, travel by express train to Takayama in the Japanese Alps. Experience Japanese culture first-hand with a tea ceremony and cooking class.

In Kanazawa, visit the famed Kenrokuen Garden and a gold leaf museum. Conclude your journey in Kyoto, with visits to the beloved Golden Pavilion temple, Nijo Castle, and the Fushimi Inari Shrine. Enjoy an optional three-day/two-night post-tour extension to Hiroshima.

In partnership with local guides and experts, our tour will be led by Aida Yuen Wong, Nathan Cummings and Robert B. and Beatrice C. Mayer Chair in Fine Arts and Professor of Fine Arts, East Asian Studies and Head of the Division of Creative Arts, who will enrich and inform the journey with her knowledge of Japanese contemporary art, calligraphy, and gardens.

Join us for a uniquely Brandeis experience — one that offers stimulating conversation, camaraderie, and connection with other intellectually curious alumni and friends.

Make your reservation today as space is limited, and we expect this small-group tour will fill quickly.

Sincerely,

F. Patricia Fisher
Vice President, Alumni Relations
Brandeis University

BRANDEIS RESERVATION FORM: INSIDER’S JAPAN

To reserve your place on tour, **please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765**. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to the Odysseys Unlimited’s office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**
Attn: Special Interest Groups
One Newton Place
275 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton, MA 02458

INSIDER’S JAPAN • OCTOBER 18-30, 2025

I/We would like to request _____ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)

Full Passport Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Gender ____

Class Year _____

Full Passport Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Gender ____

Class Year _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail(s) _____

Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____

I/We request an air upgrade to _____

I will share a room with _____

I request a single room (limited availability) ☐

Post-Tour “Hiroshima: City of Peace” Extension: Please sign me/us up ☐

Insider’s Japan

13 days from \$8,684 total price from Los Angeles
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It’s a land of delicate art and bustling commerce, of rich traditions and dizzying modernity; a jumble of sights, sounds, and tastes that, for many visitors, are entirely new and truly fascinating. This well-crafted tour features the highlights of Tokyo and Kyoto, engages us in local life, and takes us off the beaten path to the lovely historic cities of Takayama and Kanazawa.



Day 1: Depart U.S. for Tokyo, Japan

Day 2: Arrive in Tokyo Upon arrival in Japan’s financial, commercial, and political capital, we transfer to our hotel. As guests’ arrival times may vary, we have no scheduled activities or meals planned.

Day 3: Tokyo After a briefing about the journey ahead, we set out to discover a small part of this amazing city that covers a staggering 840 miles. Our sightseeing features the Meiji Shrine, a peaceful enclave of Shinto temples and gardens. We also visit the gallery of pre-eminent calligrapher Koshun Masunaga, where we learn about this ancient art of artistic writing and browse the collection. Our tour ends in Ginza, Tokyo’s famed shopping, dining, and entertainment district, where we can stay to explore as we wish or return to our hotel for an afternoon at leisure. Tonight, we gather for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. *B,D*

Day 4: Tokyo Our tour of Tokyo continues this morning at the Imperial Palace, surrounded by moats and ramparts and home of the Imperial Family. Here we visit the East Gardens, part of the innermost circle of defense of the historic Edo Castle that once stood here. We continue on to the Buddhist Asakusa Kannon, Tokyo’s oldest temple (c. 645 CE), and the adjacent Nakamise shopping arcade, dating to the 17th century. Last, we visit the Tokyo National Museum, housing an extensive collection of art and antiquities from Japan and other Asian countries. This afternoon is free for independent exploration; lunch and dinner are on our own in this city with endless dining options. *B*

Day 5: Tokyo/Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park/Hakone Japan’s pastoral side is on tap as we leave Tokyo for Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. Here sits imposing Mt. Fuji, a dormant volcano (it last erupted in 1707) with a perfectly symmetrical cone that rises to 12,388 feet. We learn about environmental and conservation efforts on the mountain at the Mt. Fuji World Heritage Center, then enjoy a relaxing cruise on Ashi Lake, with Mt. Fuji in the background. Leaving the park, we travel to the town of Hakone, where we spend the night at a *ryokan*, a traditional Japanese inn where we take off our shoes upon entering, enjoy a Japanese-style *Kaiseki* dinner, and sleep on a futon. *B,D*

Physical Activity Level

3 **Moderate**

Walk 2–4 miles per day, often on uneven terrain; uneven, steep terrain at Mt. Fuji National Park, many stairs throughout tour; need to take shoes off to enter various temples and sites; embarkation/disembarkation of multiple trains

Your Tour at a Glance

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Tokyo		
2-4	Tokyo	Dai-ichi Hotel Tokya	Deluxe
5	Hakone	Hakone Setsugetsuka (ryokan)	Not Rated
6-7	Takayama	Hida Hotel Plaza	First Class
8-9	Kanazawa	Hotel Nikko Kanazawa	First Class
10-12	Kyoto	The Thousand Kyoto	First Class
13	Depart Kyoto for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.



We visit Kyoto's Fushimi Inari shrine on Day 12.

Day 6: Hakone/Takayama Today we travel first by bullet train then by Wide View Hida express train to lovely Takayama in the Japanese Alps, considered one of the country's most attractive towns with its beautifully preserved Old Town. Our explorations center on three narrow streets in the San-machi-suji district where, in feudal times, merchants lived amidst the authentically preserved small inns, teahouses, and sake breweries. This afternoon we attend a traditional Japanese tea ceremony here, an historic ritual of form, grace, and spirituality. *B,D*

Day 7: Takayama We pay an early visit to the river-side Miyagawa Morning Market, a blaze of dazzling colors. Here we meet a local chef to gather ingredients for the lunch we will prepare together at a nearby site. After enjoying the fruits of our labors, we embark on a walking tour, visiting Takayama Jinya, an historic government house; the local sake brewery; and Takayama's old town, whose well-preserved buildings and homes date to the Edo Period (1600–1868). *B,L*

Day 8: Takayama/Shirakawago/Kanazawa We leave Takayama this morning for the UNESCO World Heritage site of Shirakawago Gassho-zukuri Village. Comprising buildings relocated from authentic villages nearby that were razed for a dam, the village is also a vibrant community whose residents work together to preserve the unique traditional architecture here known as Gassho style. Then we visit Gokayama Village to see how traditional Japanese *washi* paper is made. Late this afternoon we reach the castle town of Kanazawa, an alluring coastal city that survived the ravages of World War II. We dine tonight at a local Japanese restaurant. *B,L,D*

Day 9: Kanazawa Today's tour of this culturally rich city features renowned Kenrokuen Garden, a national landmark whose origins date to 1676.

We also see Ishikawa Gate, the only remaining section of the town's original castle; Hakukokan, a museum celebrating the art and craft of gold leaf technology; and the Higashi Chayagai teahouse and geisha area. Last, we visit the Kutani Kosen Kiln, where artists fashion the prized, highly decorated pottery. *B*

Day 10: Kanazawa/Kyoto We depart this morning by train for Kyoto, formerly Japan's Imperial Capital and now the country's cultural and artistic center, with more than 1,600 temples, hundreds of shrines,

Post-Tour Extension

October 30-November 1, 2025

Hiroshima: City of Peace

3 days/2 nights for \$1,195 total price

Single Supplement: \$245

Discover the city reborn from the atomic destruction of World War II, a modern and cosmopolitan urban center whose residents warmly welcome American visitors.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Rail transportation Kyoto/Hiroshima, Hiroshima/Osaka
- 2 nights' accommodations at Hotel Granvia Hiroshima (First Class)
- 3 meals: 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch
- Extensive included sightseeing: excursion to Miyajima Island and Daisho-in Temple; Hiroshima touring by local "Hiroden" train; visit to Peace Memorial Park and Museum; Atomic Bomb Dome
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Gratuities for dining room servers, hotel porters, and all drivers



A WANDERER:
LET THAT BE MY NAME...”

– BASHŌ

artful gardens, and historic architecture. Upon arrival, we visit Kinkaku-ji, the beloved lakeside Temple of the Golden Pavilion set on pillars suspended over the water. Next: Ryōan-ji, a Zen Buddhist temple whose acclaimed dry garden epitomizes the simplicity of Zen meditation. *B,D*

Day 11: Kyoto More of Kyoto is on tap today, beginning with a visit to the otherworldly Arashiyama Bamboo Grove; the Kyoto Museum of Traditional Crafts (Fureaikan), showcasing all of Kyoto’s 74 different *métiers* in one place; and Nijo-jo Castle (c. 1603), the extravagant residence and fortifications of the *shōguns* who ruled Japan for more than 250 years. Dinner tonight is on our own in this traditional, yet modern city. *B*



Geishas in traditional dress

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 11 nights’ accommodations: 10 nights in Deluxe and First Class hotels; 1 night in traditional Japanese *ryōkan*
- 19 meals: 11 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 6 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Rail transportation as described
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Faculty Lecturer



Aida Yuen Wong is the Nathan Cummings and Robert B. and Beatrice C. Mayer Professor in Fine Arts and East Asian Studies as well as the Head of the Division of the Creative Arts. Among Prof. Wong’s research interests are Japanese gardens, East Asian calligraphy, Chinese fashion history, and French-Asian connections in modern art. She received the Ratner Distinguished Teaching Award in 2024 for her innovative pedagogy and record of making a difference in her students’ lives and careers.

Day 12: Kyoto We continue our encounter with Kyoto today, first at the important Fushimi Inari shrine, with its trails straddled by red *torii* gates; Sanjūsangendo Hall (c. 1266), an important Buddhist temple housing 1,000 statues of the Thousand-Armed-Kannon deity; and Nishiki Market, “Kyoto’s Kitchen” of restaurants, stores, and stalls selling everything food-related. Then this afternoon is at leisure; tonight, we toast our adventure at a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *B,D*

Day 13: Depart Kyoto for U.S. This morning we travel by motorcoach to Osaka, where we board our return flight to the United States. *B*

Tour Departs: October 18, 2025

Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Los Angeles	\$8,684
Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$8,984
Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix	\$9,184
Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Miami, Milwaukee, Orlando, Tampa, Washington, DC	\$9,284
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$7,395

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$689, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,695. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Pacific flights: Business Class: from Los Angeles: \$4,995 per person; from other cities: \$8,995 per person; Premium Economy: \$3,995 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

For questions about the tour or to make a booking, call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at **888-370-6765** Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

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Unlimited, Inc.

Institutional Advancement Division
Brandeis University, Mailstop 124
415 South Street
Waltham, MA 02454-2110

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following is intended to provide you with a description of what to expect when you reserve this tour. Upon booking, you will be asked to acknowledge your acceptance of the full Terms and Conditions on the secure on-line portal, My Odyssey.

Disclaimer: Brandeis University is not responsible for any tour operator policies or for any refunds. Odysseys Unlimited is the operator of this program and solely responsible for carrying out the responsibilities associated with it. Additionally, Brandeis University, as a sponsor, has no financial or legal responsibility for the program. For applicable Terms & Conditions associated with your participation in this program, please read this section carefully.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas, if required; immunizations and inoculations; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-85 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.**

Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

Responsibility: The liability of Brandeis University, as sponsor, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. Brandeis University and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Brandeis University and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Travel Protection: Brandeis Travelers partners exclusively with Meyer and Associates to offer trip insurance for our tours. Please inquire about trip insurance options once you've made your reservation to meet any time-sensitive requirements. For more information, please call Meyer and Associates at 800-635-7801 or email info@meyerandassociates.com.

Air Transportation – Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

Please Note: The professor's participation is contingent on a minimum number of booked guests.



JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
TOUR TO JAPAN!

Guaranteed Small Group:
Limited to 24 Guests