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Kyoto

October 16 - 23 , 2018

Price TBA

(based on double occupancy)

Land Package price includes:

- **Hotel Accommodations**
- **Ground transportation as indicated in itinerary**
- **Admission as indicated in itinerary**
- **Daily Breakfast, one lunch, and one dinner**
- **Tour Escort from Hawaii**

October 16, 2018 **Tuesday** **Day One** **Honolulu to Osaka**

A morning flight takes us to Japan.

October 17, 2018 **Wednesday** **Day Two** **Osaka to Kyoto**

We arrive in the afternoon in Osaka. Upon arrival we must pass through immigrations and customs. From there we will head to our hotel. After we check in you are free to relax.

October 18, 2018 **Thursday** **Day Three** **Kyoto**

On our first day, we will head to **Arashiyama**, an area in Western Kyoto. There we will ride the **Sagano railway**, which is a converted coal train, that travels along the river bank before riding the **Hozu river** back to Arashiyama. We will enjoy a **shojin ryori** or vegetarian monk's lunch at a nearby temple. We will visit **Tenryu-ji**, the top temple of Kyoto's Gozan temple system, with its beautiful garden and Buddhist treasures. We will also have a chance to learn to decorate **Japanese candies or wagashi**. Lastly we will stroll through Arashiyama's famous **bamboo forest**.

October 19, 2018 **Friday** **Day Four** **Kyoto**

Today we will visit **Kiyomizudera**, a temple located on a hill overlooking the city. It is famous for its stage which juts out over a cliff and features in a famous saying that is similar to "taking a leap of faith". We will have a chance to walk through the street leading up to the temple that has many small shops. From there we will visit the **Gion district** which is famous for geisha and its preserved district. Here you can stroll through and imagine what it might have been like to live in Kyoto during its heyday.

In the afternoon, we will visit the **Kyoto International Manga Museum**. Here you can browse the many shelves filled with one of Japan's most beloved mediums as well as exhibits on its evolution from the end of the 19th century through its explosive evolution after World War Two. Manga is the Japanese version of comics, but the medium is enjoyed by people of all ages.

From there we will go to **Nishiki Ichiba**, also known as Kyoto's Kitchen. This area is famous for locally made food products, as well as being in Kyoto's shopping district. Here you can also find handcraft supplies and items. There is even a small shrine that sells Hello Kitty omamori..

October 20, 2018 **Saturday** **Day Five** **Kyoto**

In the morning we will visit **Ginkakuji** or the Silver Pavilion, built by Ashikaga Yoshimasa, and was meant to be covered in silver leaf, like his grandfather's retirement pavilion, Kinkakuji. However, due to circumstance he was not able to complete it before his death and it now stands as an example of wabi-sabi, a philosophy in the western world known as imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete. From there we will take a stroll down the **Philosopher's Path**, a walk made famous by a 20th century Japanese philosophy professor. It is a picturesque walk that happens to link Ginkakuji and Nanzenji. **Nanzenji** was considered the top temple in Japan in the 14th century and is today the headquarters for one of the

branches of Rinzaï Zen Buddhism. Its rock garden is considered a top example of its type as well as a number of treasures in its main hall.

We will then head over to the **Kyoto National Museum**. One of just four national museums in Japan and houses a fine collection of pre-modern Japanese art ranging from paintings to sculpture to textiles and more. It houses one of the world's largest Heian period artifacts. We will then cross the street to visit **Sanjusangendo**, a Buddhist temple famous for its one thousand statues of the thousand armed Kannon. Its name comes from the thirty three planks between the pillars of the temple. Originally built in the middle of the twelfth century, it also has a reputation for the martial arts with hosting an archery tournament since the Edo period and it is believed that Miyamoto Musashi dueled in front of the temple in 1604.

October 21, 2018

Sunday

Day Six

Kyoto

In the morning we will visit **Toji Temple**, where on the 21st of each month, they hold a large flea market celebrating the day when Kobo Daishi entered into eternal meditation. Here you will find antiques, kimono, local foods, and other souvenirs. You will also have a chance to explore the temple grounds as well.

We will then head to **Uji**, known for its production of high quality green tea. While there we will visit **Byodo-in**, whose famous Phoenix Hall is found on the 10 yen coin. We will then visit a **local green tea shop** where we will learn about how green tea is made and how it is featured in green tea ceremony.

Our last stop will be to **Fushimi**, which is famous for the **Fushimi Inari Shrine**, which is the head Inari Shinto Shrine. Inari is the god of rice, industry, fertility, foxes, tea, and sake. It is the shape of the fox's ears that give inari sushi its shape and is most associated with Inari. Its most famous feature is the thousands of tori or gates that line the hillside behind the main shrine. We will also visit a **local sake brewery**. Fushimi is one of the top producers of sake in Japan due to high quality water.

October 22, 2018

Monday

Day Seven

Kyoto

Today we will get to see the **Jidai Matsuri**. This festival is one of Kyoto's three top festivals and celebrates the city's history as Japan's capital for over a thousand years. This two hour procession on imperial grounds chronicles the various periods of Kyoto's history in full costume.

After the parade the afternoon is free to do as you wish. Your escort will be available to assist you if needed. Here's is a chance to visit any sites of special interest we have not visited or to do any last minute shopping.

October 23, 2018

Tuesday

Day Eight

Kyoto to Osaka to Honolulu

The morning is free to relax and finish packing. In the afternoon we will head to Osaka to catch our evening flight back to Honolulu.