



FEBRUARY
2023



KOKUFU TOUR

Join us in Feb 2023 for the Kokufu-ten,
and tour some of Japan's most famous
bonsai nurseries and gardens!

9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

Sign up today at
www.bjornbjorholm.com

TOUR ITINERARY

Day One International Departure	Depart from your hometown airport and travel across the globe.	Meals
Day Two International Arrival <i>February 3 (Friday)</i>	Arrive in Osaka at either KIX or ITM airport. Transportation will be arranged from the airport to bring you to the hotel in Kyoto.	
Day Three Kyoto <i>February 4 (Saturday)</i>	In the morning, head to north Kyoto to visit Hoshun-in at Daitoku-ji temple complex, home to the city's first public bonsai collection, housing some of the region's most well-known trees. In the afternoon visit Nijo-jo Castle , followed by a trip to Ginkaku-ji , aka the Silver Pavilion, in Kyoto's eastern mountains, and learn about the connection of the temple to bonsai art and Japanese culture.	B, L
Day Four Kyoto, Fushimi & Uji <i>February 5 (Sunday)</i>	In the morning, visit Fushimi-Inari Taisha , famous for its red torii gates, as featured in <i>'Memoirs of a Geisha.'</i> Next, head to Tofuku-ji , home to the world famous garden designed by Shigemori Mirei, who intended to express the simplicity of Zen in the Kamakura period with the abstract construction of modern arts. After lunch, travel to the World Heritage Site Byodo-in , featuring Japan's oldest wooden building dating from 1052 CE. Finish the day with a tour of the Gekkeikan Okura Sake Brewery , one of Japan's top sake brewing companies dating from 1637 CE. There, sample 3 of their best sake products.	B, L
Day Five Kyoto to Tokyo <i>February 6 (Monday)</i>	In the morning, catch the Shinkansen Bullet Train from Kyoto to Tokyo. In the afternoon, you will be free to explore Tokyo city on your own. Visit modern skyscrapers, explore Japanese fashion and pop-culture, or travel back in time in the city's old district for the afternoon.	B
Day Six Tokyo, Hanyu & Omiya <i>February 7 (Tuesday)</i>	In the morning, travel to Uchiku-tei Bonsai Garden (S-Cube) in Hanyu north of Omiya. After lunch, visit the garden of world-renowned bonsai artist Masahiko Kimura to see some of the best bonsai in the world. In the late afternoon, head to Kunio Kobayashi's famous Shunka-en Bonsai Museum in Edo-gawa Tokyo. Mr. Kobayashi's garden is home to some of Japan's most famous bonsai, suiseki and ceramics.	B, L
Day Seven Omiya <i>February 8 (Wednesday)</i>	In the morning, travel to the Omiya Bonsai Village . Visit the Omiya Bonsai Museum and participate in a half-day bonsai workshop with a world-renowned bonsai master from the village. Spend the remainder of the day visiting some of the Japan's top bonsai gardens. Bjorn will guide you through Fuyo-en and Mansei-en Bonsai Nurseries , providing commentary on bonsai and translation services for any inquiries you might have throughout the day. Bonsai related items may also be purchased at many of these gardens.	B, L
Day Eight Tokyo & Ueno <i>February 9 (Thursday)</i>	In the morning, head to the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum to see the Kokufu-ten Japanese National Bonsai Exhibition . Bjorn will provide commentary on some of the trees on display in the show. Spend the day exploring the show and perusing the vendor market at the Ueno Green Club. Bjorn will provide translation services for those wishing to purchase items at the vendor market.	B
Day Nine Tokyo & Ueno <i>February 10 (Friday)</i>	In the morning, visit the National Suiseki Exhibition at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum, before returning to the Kokufu-ten to explore the show once more, and visit the vendor area to make your final bonsai related purchases of the tour! In the evening, to celebrate the completion of the tour and the friendships formed through bonsai, gather as a group for the special farewell dinner and open bar .	B, D
Day Ten International Departure <i>February 11 (Saturday)</i>	Depart from Narita Airport (NRT) or Haneda Airport (HND) back to your home country.	B

Top Left - Omiya Bonsai Museum
Middle Left - Kokufu-ten
Bottom Left - Byodo-in



Top Right - Masahiko Kimura
Middle Right - Shunka-en
Bottom Right - Fushimi Inari



Costs

Land Package (double occupancy)	\$3180 US
Single occupancy supplement	\$300 US

Land Package includes:

- 8 nights double occupancy hotel room
- All ground transportation
- Garden entrance fees
- Complete guided tour
- 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner/open bar
- All taxes

Land Package excludes:

- Airfare from/to home country
- Daily snacks, soft drinks & alcohol
- Souvenirs and personal items

Hotel Details

The land package includes a double occupancy hotel room (two people per room); however, you can choose to have a single occupancy room for an additional \$300 US. If you wish to stay in a double occupancy room, please arrange your roommate yourself prior to signing up. Participants will stay in a combination of four star and three star hotels, and hotels cannot be upgraded or changed after bookings are made. All booking will be handled by Eisei-en Bonsai.

Airfare Details

Airfare is not included in the land price. Please purchase your airfare on your own or through a booking agency. After booking, please e-mail a copy of your flight itinerary to tours@bjornbjorholm.com. Limit one checked bag and one carry-on per person please.

Food Details

The land package price includes 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and a special farewell dinner with an open bar. All other evenings, participants will be on their own for dinner.

Land Transportation Details

The land package price includes all land transportation from the time of arrival in Japan until departure from Japan. After finishing each day, if you choose to explore local nightlife alone, you're responsible for your own additional transportation fees. Participants will be transported by means of coach bus, train, taxi, and shuttle van throughout the duration of the tour. Land transportation and schedule details are subject to change prior to arrival in Japan. If you plan to extend your trip, there are no partial refunds for airport pick-up and drop-off, so please arrange your own transportation to/from airport. Tour officially ends upon checkout from the hotel on the last scheduled day.

Deposit

The \$100 deposit will reserve your spot on the tour. This deposit will be deducted from the total cost of the tour package, and the remaining balance will be due by **November 1, 2022**. Failure to pay the remaining balance by this date will result in automatic forfeiture of your deposit and cancellation of your spot on the tour.

Cancellation

Cancellations made prior to November 1, 2022 will receive a full refund of all fees paid-to-date. Cancellations made after November 1, 2022 will receive no refund of fees paid to date. Exceptions will be made if you test positive for covid or in the event of other medical emergencies just prior to the tour (a PCR test result or doctor's confirmation will be required).

Payment Options

Payment of the remaining amount owed can be made by direct bank deposit (we will provide you with these details after signing up).

Insurance

Eisei-en Bonsai recommends that participants purchase travel and/or airfare insurance. Eisei-en Bonsai is not responsible for sickness, injury, or death for the duration of the tour. Eisei-en Bonsai is also not responsible for loss of or damage to personal property during the tour. A "you break, you buy" policy is enforced at the nurseries as well, and Eisei-en Bonsai bears no responsibilities in such cases.

Itinerary Details

Itinerary details are subject to change at any time before or during the tour based on scheduling, weather, and other unforeseen issues. This includes changes to the cities and gardens that might be visited.

Covid Restrictions

As of now, Japan's current policy requires that you be fully vaccinated (three shots), as well as get a negative test within 72 hours prior to arrival in Japan. For full information, please visit https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

For further inquiries, please contact us at
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