

Highlights

September in Japan marks the beginning of the fall season, when the hot summer has yielded to cooler weather, the air is fragrant with the intoxicating scents of late summer flowers and carefully tended sidewalk gardens bloom gloriously. Forests of giant bamboo sway in the gentle breeze and the foliage is a brilliant electric green.

Against this ideal seasonal backdrop, we explore the traditions of master craftsmanship that have continued to grow and flourish for centuries. Today, these enduring traditions of artisanship provide continuing inspiration for the creation of exciting new works infused with superb design and impeccable attention to detail.

Join **Nancy Moore Bess**, author of *Bamboo in Japan* as she

- **Explores** exciting Tokyo and provincial Kyoto's neighborhoods,
- **Enters** artist workshops, sees their work and hears their stories,
- **Encounters** temples and gardens;
- **Savors** local tastes;
- **Experiences** markets and galleries.



Sample Itinerary

Japan's Enduring Craft Traditions September 17-October 1, 2008



September 17 Wednesday Depart USA by individually arranged flights.

September 18 Thursday Arrive Tokyo
Transfer to the Villa Fontaine Hotel, conveniently located in the exciting Roppongi district.

September 19 Friday Tokyo
Visit Meiji Shrine for an experience of Shinto spirituality and a special ceremony with ancient court dance and music. Lunch and walking tour of the Omotesando district, with its exciting retail architecture and galleries. At an antique kimono gallery, we'll have an introduction to Japanese textiles. Visit the studio of an American woodblock printer and who works with washi (handmade paper) and his wife, who also is an artist.
Included meals: Breakfast and lunch.

September 20 Saturday Tokyo
Visit the Mingeikan, the folk craft museum founded by Sori Yanagi. Stop for a quick lunch in Shibuya, then continue by local train to attend the Heiwajima Antiques Fair, a vast event taking place four times a year, where dealers from all over Japan sell fine work.
Included meal: Breakfast



September 21, Sunday Tokyo

Excursion to Kamakura to visit the giant bronze Buddha statue and spend time at Torado, a workshop and showroom focusing on fine bamboo craft items.

Included meals: Breakfast and lunch

September 22, Monday Tokyo

Out of town excursion to Akiruno for a private show of antique bamboo baskets in restored thatched room farmhouse. Visit the studio of Maki Textiles and participate in a basketry workshop with Masako Maki.

Included meals: Breakfast and lunch

September 23, Tuesday Tokyo

Early morning to Tsukiji's inner and outer markets. Visit Nuno Textile Gallery for a presentation about their high tech fabrics. Lunch and visit to the Mori Art Center in Roppongi Hills. Visit Amy Katoh's Blue and White Shop, free time to explore Azabu Juban, one of Tokyo's most charming local neighborhoods.

Included meals: Breakfast and lunch

September 24, Wednesday Tokyo to Kyoto

Travel by high speed Shinkansen train to Kyoto. Our accommodations are at the Mitsui Garden Hotel, conveniently located near the Sanjo shopping street and close to the Karasuma Oike subway station. Artisan visit and neighborhood walk. Dinner in a beautifully restored merchant house.

Included meals: Breakfast and dinner

September 25 Thursday Kyoto

Begin the day at the exquisite Okochisanso Garden, the former villa of a silent screen actor. Walk through bamboo forest and visit an artisan who makes chochin, lanterns made with a bamboo skeleton covered in washi (handmade) paper.

Free afternoon at the Kitano Shrine Flea Market
Included meal: Breakfast

September 26 Friday Kyoto

Visit the Kyoto Rakusai Bamboo Park, where over 200 species are cultivated. After lunch, we visit Takehei, a wholesaler of rare and exotic varieties of bamboo. Visit a maker of bamboo implements for the tea ceremony.

Included meals: Breakfast and lunch.

September 27 Saturday Kyoto

Excursion out of town to Ohara, a village just north of the city for a country walk through a village with thatched roof farmhouses. Demonstration at Ohara Kobo natural dye studio. Visit Sanzen in Temple. End the afternoon with a visit to the studio of a renowned performance calligrapher. Dinner at a casual yakitori restaurant.

Included meals: Breakfast and dinner

September 28, Sunday Kyoto

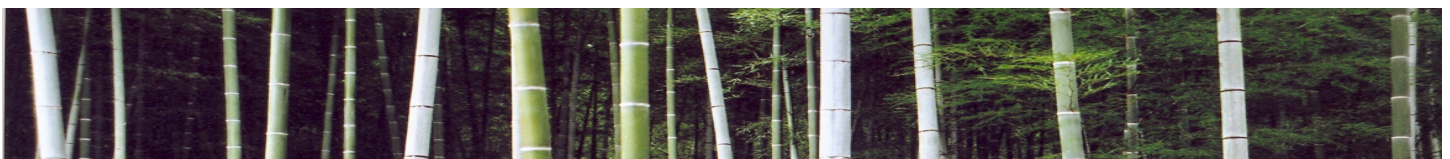
Optional early morning Buddhist chanting service at Chishakuin Temple, then return to the hotel for breakfast. Visit the studio of an American felt maker for a demonstration and talk about her work.

Included meals: Breakfast and lunch

September 29 Monday Kyoto

Visit Daitoku-ji Zen Monastery for a private tea ceremony, meeting with the temple abbot at one of the sub-temples, and garden stroll. Zen-style lunch then visit the studio of an artist who works with washi in an innovative way. Tour the Nishiki market and downtown galleries and shops.

Included meals: Breakfast and lunch



September 30 Kyoto

Train to Yasu, a village in nearby Shiga Prefecture. Visits to bamboo artist, indigo dyers
Return to Kyoto, the remainder of the afternoon is free until our farewell dinner.
Included meals: Breakfast and dinner

October 1 Depart for US

Vans to Kansai Airport timed for individual flights.
Included meal: Breakfast



\$4850 estimated tour price includes:

- 12 nights accommodations (based on twin occupancy)
- Daily breakfast and additional meals as indicated.
- Baggage shipping for one suitcase to facilitate travel by train.
- Airport transfers and transport for all included touring .
- A full program of informative commentary by an Esprit tour leader fluent in Japanese.
- Daily touring, including admissions and transportation.

Single supplement~ approximately \$600

A \$350 per person deposit will hold your place on the tour.

Estimated tour price is based on a group of at least 14 participants and is subject to adjustment after hotels are confirmed in October 2007. Tour price may be adjusted for currency fluctuation at the time of final payment.

Note: The itinerary will be finalized approximately 30 days prior to departure to allow for the inclusion of special exhibitions, visits and events, and are dependent on the schedules of our Japanese colleagues.

For more information, contact:

Nancy Moore Bess
186 Harkness Road
Amherst, MA 01002
413-253-0459