

# Japan Theater Experience

## March 15 - 26, 2012

Led by Professor George Bellah

**Itinerary:**

**Mar 15:** Today we will transfer you to the airport for your flight to Kyoto. The adventure begins!

**Mar 16:** You will arrive at the airport where you will be transferred to your accommodation.

**Mar 17: Kyoto (B, L, D)**

Today we will start with a trip to the **Yuzen-En Museum**, which has many wonderful displays of kimonos and other garments. There is also a 15 minute educational film on the art and process of Yuzen dyeing. You will learn about the whole process of Yuzen dyeing and how they make the fabrics color fast and stunningly beautiful. You can then try your hand at Yuzen dyeing.

**Tonight:** You will have your **Kyogen class at 7pm with a professional Kyogen actor**

Then you will have a special welcome dinner.

**Mar 18: Kyoto – Day Trip to Nara (B)**

Today you will be driven early in the morning to Nara with possible lectures en route. Feed the deer. Then you will be taken to the beautiful temple named **Tōdai-ji** which is home to the **Daibutsu**, the largest Buddha statue in Japan and one of the largest in the world, appropriately, the **Daibutsuden**, which houses it, is said to be the largest wooden building in the world. It's listed as a



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UNESCO World Heritage site. The giant front gate, **Nandai-mon**, is guarded by two fierce, awe-inspiring protectors. (It's also swarmed by deer, who know this is the best place to come looking for a hand-out.) Through the gate is a stone path leading to the outer walls surrounding the Daibutsu-den. Follow the signs to the left to enter the inner courtyard; if you happen to have a stick of incense with you, join the crowd around the incense offerings before you head onward. To the right of the entrance to the Daibutsu-den is a statue of the **Yakushi Nyorai**. Though a bit scary-looking on first glance, it's actually a Buddha of medicine and healing. Touching a part of the Yakushi Nyorai and then the corresponding part of your own body is said to heal any ailments you have there. Then we **will take you back to your hotel in Kyoto**.

**This evening, we will have our guide take you on a visit to the Minamiza Kabuki Theatre to catch a late performance.**

### **Mar 19: Kyoto – Day Trip to Osaka (B)**



We will take you to the **National Theatre in Osaka** for a demonstration of the **BunRaku puppetry**. You will observe a master puppeteer demonstration, including seeing the components of the Bunraku puppet and the two assistant puppeteers for the fluidity of movement (subject to availability). Some of you can even possibly have a “hands-on” experience with the puppet. If available, you will also see a show.

### **Mar 20: Kyoto – Kanazawa (B)**

After breakfast you will visit the beautiful **Kiyomizu Temple**. This lovely hillside Temple has many beautiful buildings and gardens as well as a lovely view of the city. You will also be able to drink from the pure mountain spring water and observe a Japanese cultural experience. We will also take you down a traditional street. Then we will take you to the famous **Gion area**, where the Geishas and Meikos are found.

Then you will travel to Kanazawa. Upon arrival make your way to hotel.



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### Mar 21: Kanazawa (B)

This morning you will **visit the Noh Museum**. The Kanazawa Noh Museum introduces the structure of Noh Theater with an actual stage reproducing Noh play. Besides, the museum exhibits Kaga Hosho's precious Noh masks and costumes handed down over generations.



This afternoon you will have some time to enjoy the traditional **Japanese Style baths**.

**Tonight you will attend a Noh Performance.**

### Mar 22: Kanazawa – Tokyo (B)

In Kanazawa you will visit the **Castle**. From 1583 to the end of the Edo Period, **Kanazawa Castle** was the seat of the powerful Maeda Clan, lords of Kaga, a feudal domain ranking second only to the Tokugawa possessions in terms of size and rice production. Next you will visit **Kenrokuen Garden**. The name Kenrokuen literally means "Garden of the Six Sublimities", referring to spaciousness, seclusion, artificiality, antiquity, abundant water and broad views, which according to Chinese landscape theory are the six essential attributes that make up a perfect garden.



Finally you will visit **Myoryuji Temple**, commonly known as **Ninjadera** ("Ninja Temple"), was built by the Maeda lords, rulers over the region during the Edo Period. While not actually associated with ninjas, the temple earned its nicknamed because of its many deceptive defenses.

Then you will return to the hotel to collect your luggage and you will continue onto **Tokyo**. Upon arrival in Tokyo you will transfer to your hotel. The rest of the evening is free.

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### Mar 23: Tokyo (B)

You will start with a tour the morning in **Ueno Onshi Park**. Then we will make our way to the **Tokyo National Museum** which has a wonderful array of exhibits including some marvelous Shogun costumes, swords, ceramics, artwork and historic exhibits. The grounds



also include a lovely gardens and trees. The area is surrounded by parks and a Buddhist Cemetery.

Then continue to the **Asakusa Kannon Temple (also known as Senso-ji-Temple)**, Journey onwards for a leisurely cruise on the **Sumida River**. The boat ride is 40 minutes long and goes from Asakusa to Hinode pier.

Then we will take you to the **Kabukiza (6pm performance)**, which is the main Kabuki theatre in Tokyo. This is a wonderful theater to experience quality Kabuki theatre. They perform throughout the day, however, the performance is broken down into segments (between 1-2 hours typically). This way you can enjoy the theatre for as short or long as you want. You can also rent a headset which provides live narration and notes to enrich the experience.

### Mar 24: Tokyo (B)

**Morning:** This morning you will visit the outer market of the **Tsukiji Fish Market**. This market is best known as one of the world's largest fish markets, handling over 2,000 tons of marine products per day. The sight of the many kinds of fresh fish, shellfish, and various seafood and the busy atmosphere of scooters, trucks, sellers and buyers hurrying around make this market a very fun place to visit.

Next we will travel to the Ometesando area. From here we'll visit the Meiji Shrine. Next we will visit the **Ota Memorial Museum of Art** which specializes in **Ukiyo-e paintings**. Inside, 12,000 Ukiyo-e paintings collected by businessman Seizo Ota are housed.



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### Mar 25: Tokyo (B)



This morning you will visit the Kita Nogakudo [theatre] in Tokyo. 11:45am - 1:30pm **Noh Play**

1:30: **Kyogen performance** then an intermission

2:00- 3:40pm - **Noh Performance - Matsui Akira Sensei performing**

### Mar 26: Tokyo – Home (B)

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home with a lifetime of wonderful memories.

## End of Tour

**\* NOTE:** This tour is focused on the various types of theater that Japan has to offer. The main trip is being offered through Central Washington State University and is being led by Professor George Bellah. This tour is open to additional travelers but as per the request of CW University is primarily for students and/or those affiliated with academics. Exact tour itinerary is subject to change especially due to exact performance times etc. Tour numbers are limited and exact price is subject to change without notice until a deposit has been placed.

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**Japan Theater Experience: \$4,986/person**

**Includes:**

*International airfare (From SEA, LAX or SFO)\**  
*Transfers & Internal Transportation (Trains, Buses & Public Transport)*  
*Accommodations As Listed*  
*(Takigawa Ryokan Style Kyoto, Toyoko Inn – Kanazawa, B-Akasaka Tokyo)*  
*Touring including admissions*  
*Theaters Performances (as listed)*  
*1 Lunch, 1 Welcome Dinner*  
*Breakfast Daily*

**Does not include:**

*Travel Insurance*  
*Tips for guides/drivers/porters*  
*Additional Meals Not Listed*

*\* For alternate departure points please contact us and we can provide customized quote.*

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