

Stanford **TRAVEL/STUDY**

MOUNTAINS OF JAPAN

May 12 to 26, 2022

Consider both past and present—from Kanazawa’s feudal past at its 16th-century castle to its ultra-modern 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art—and gain insights from international policy scholar Daniel Sneider. **Tradition blooming.** Attend Kyoto’s annual Aoi Matsuri festival, where hundreds of participants proceed in Heian period clothing and ornate ox-drawn carts are decorated with *aoi* (hollyhock) leaves and blossoms. **A cultural cornucopia.** Watch an authentic geisha and maiko dance that’s performed only in May, visit a wasabi farm, enjoy a tour of a sake brewery and stroll through a Zen rock garden. **Best of Tokyo.** Spend three days in this ultramodern city, touring the Edo-Tokyo Museum and the Meiji Shrine, among other highlights.

FACULTY LEADER

Daniel Sneider

Daniel Sneider, a lecturer in international policy and East Asian studies at Stanford, has focused his research on Japanese, Korean and U.S. foreign policy in Northeast Asia. The son of a diplomat, he spent much of his childhood in Asia and witnessed his father’s negotiations for the return of Okinawa to Japanese sovereignty during his college years. Since then, he has traveled to Japan regularly as a journalist and in the last decade as an academic, most recently working on a diplomatic history of the creation and management of the U.S. security alliance with Japan. A former foreign correspondent who has covered Japan, India and the former Soviet Union, Dan is a frequent contributor to several major U.S. periodicals, as well as the widely read online edition of the leading Japanese magazine *Weekly Toyo Keizai*. In addition to serving as national/foreign editor at the *Mercury News* in San Jose, California, he also wrote a twice-weekly column for the newspaper that was syndicated nationally by the Knight Ridder news service and addressed international issues and national security from a West Coast perspective.

Positions:

- Lecturer and associate faculty member, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University
- Lecturer, Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University
- Former associate director for research, and director, the Divided Memories and Reconciliation project and the Nationalism and Regionalism project, Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University
- Visiting researcher, Canon Institute for Global Studies, Tokyo
- Former national/foreign editor, *Mercury News*; former syndicated columnist, Knight Ridder; Moscow bureau chief, 1990–1994, and Tokyo correspondent, 1985–1990, *Christian Science Monitor*

Publications:

- Co-author, *Divergent Memories: Opinion Memories and the Asia-Pacific War*, Stanford University Press, 2016
- Co-editor, *History Textbooks and the Wars in Asia: Divided Memories*, Routledge, 2011

— Contributor, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Slate*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *New Republic*, *National Review* and *International Herald Tribune*

Accolades:

— National Asia research fellow, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the National Bureau of Asian Research, 2010

Education:

— BA, East Asian history, Columbia University

— MPA, public administration, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

ITINERARY

THURSDAY, MAY 12

OSAKA, JAPAN / KYOTO

Upon arrival in Osaka, transfer to Kyoto and check in to our comfortable and well-located hotel. The evening is free to relax and rest after our flights. WESTIN MIYAKO

FRIDAY, MAY 13

KYOTO

Begin the day in Kyoto's Fushimi district, one of Japan's main centers for sake production. Visit the Inari Shrine with its hundreds of vermilion *torii*s, traditional gates usually leading to a Shinto shrine, and the UNESCO World Heritage site Sanjusangen-do, a temple famous for its 1,002 statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy. Following a tea ceremony, attend a Kamogawa Odori, a dance that is performed for only two weeks in spring, which re-creates dances of the geisha and maiko (apprentice geisha) from the 1872 Kyoto Exhibition. WESTIN MIYAKO (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, MAY 14

KYOTO

Today's explorations begin at the Gingaku-ji (Silver Pavilion), from where we stroll along the Philosopher's Path, a mile-long stone trail along a canal lined with cherry trees and temples. We end at Nanzen-ji, a Zen temple known for its rock garden and art collection. This afternoon visit Kodai-ji, a magnificent Zen temple, established by a high-ranking 16th century priestess and renowned for its elegant *makie* (gold lacquer) interiors, which is flanked by two impressive gardens designed in different styles. WESTIN MIYAKO (B,L)

SUNDAY, MAY 15

KYOTO – AOI FESTIVAL

Spend the day at Kyoto's annual Aoi Matsuri (Hollyhock Festival), a celebration that originated in the 7th century. From specially reserved seats at the Kyoto Imperial Palace, observe a courtly procession of people wearing traditional clothing in the style of Heian-era (794–1185) nobles, attendants, government officials and warriors. See flower-bedecked ox-drawn carts, portable shrines and palanquins draped in hollyhock leaves, an ancient symbol of protection from natural disaster. Experience traditional entertainment such as horse races and archery demonstrations as ancient Kyoto comes to life. WESTIN MIYAKO (B,L)

MONDAY, MAY 16

KYOTO / KANAZAWA

Travel by train to Kanazawa on Japan's north coast, domain of the 16th-century Maeda clan, which, due to its absence of military targets, completely escaped damage during World War II, leaving its historic sites in remarkable condition. Visit the magnificent Kanazawa Castle, with its Gyokusen'inmaru Garden, a fine example of feudal landscaping. Also explore Kenroku-en, ranked as one of Japan's top three gardens, and Seisonkaku, a superbly preserved samurai mansion. HOTEL NIKKO (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MAY 17

KANAZAWA

Today visit the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, with its award-winning architecture and exhibitions of the world's foremost modern art, whose mission is to serve as a bridge between the region and the art of the future. Also visit one of the *kutani-yaki* workshops where Kanazawa's famous colorful porcelain is fashioned and explore Higashi Chaya-gai, an exquisitely preserved 19th-century geisha district. HOTEL NIKKO (B,L)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

KANAZAWA / TAKAYAMA

Depart Kanazawa this morning, traveling by coach up into the Japan Alps. Stop at Shirakawa-go, a UNESCO World Heritage-designated village famous for its early-1800s farmhouses, whose thatched roofs are constructed in a unique architectural style known as *gasso-zukuri*, or "praying hands," as their steep gables are thought to resemble the hands of monks at prayer. Continue to the mountain town of Takayama, where we view a display of replica parade floats from its two annual festivals and visit its Kami-Sannomachi district, with its merchant dwellings dating back to the Edo era (1603–1868). Check in to our hot-springs resort hotel, with its choice of Western- or Japanese-style rooms. Enjoy our hotel's 12 different types of *onsen* (hot-spring baths), both indoor and outdoor. ASSOCIA TAKAYAMA RESORT (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, MAY 19

TAKAYAMA / TATEYAMA / MURODO

Drive to the town of Tateyama this morning to embark by train on the first half of our 56-mile journey into the mountains along the Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route. Gain 6,480 feet in elevation traveling by train, cable car and highland bus. Arriving in the small alpine village of Murodo (elevation: 8,038 feet), take in stunning views of nearby 9,890-foot-tall Mount Tateyama, one of Japan's three holy mountains, affectionately known as the "Roof of Japan." HOTEL TATEYAMA (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MAY 20

MURODO / OGIZAWA / MATSUMOTO

Embark on the second half of the Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route with a ride through the heart of Mount Tateyama in a 2.3-mile-long tunnel via electric trolley bus, the only one in Japan. Descend to Kurobe Dam, Japan's tallest dam, by way of cable car and Japan's only underground funicular, then travel by electric bus through the 3.7-mile-long Tateyama Tunnel to the town of Ogizawa. There we board our coach and drive to Matsumoto to check into our hotel. HOTEL BUENA VISTA (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, MAY 21

MATSUMOTO

This morning explore Matsumoto-jo, one of Japan's rare original samurai castles, often referred to as the "Crow Castle" due to its black stone exterior, then head to Kamikochi, a pristine highland valley nestled below snow-capped peaks in Chubu Sangaku National Park. Hike along the Azusa River, taking in some of the most spectacular scenery of the Northern Japan Alps before returning to our hotel. HOTEL BUENA VISTA (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MAY 22

MATSUMOTO / NAGANO

Drive to Nagano, host of the 1998 Winter Olympics. Stop along the way at the Daio Wasabi Farm, the largest cultivator of horseradish in Japan, an idyllic spot to wander around and learn about the significance of this important ingredient in Japanese cuisine. Also stop at a brewery that produces "mountain" sake to enjoy a tasting of Japan's most famous alcoholic beverage. Upon arrival in Nagano, visit Zenko-ji, a 17th-century temple that is home to the first Buddhist statue brought to Japan. Though the statue is hidden from view, the temple is nonetheless one of Japan's most popular pilgrimage sites. Check in to our hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure. HOTEL METROPOLITAN (B,L)

MONDAY, MAY 23

NAGANO / TOKYO

Travel to the small town of Obuse to view some of the works of famed *ukiyo-e* (woodblock print) artist Katsushika Hokusai. Best known for his iconic *The Great Wave off Kanazawa*, Hokusai spent the last years of his life in Obuse. View what is arguably the finest collection of the artist's work at the Hokusai Museum and visit Gansho-in, a Zen Buddhist temple, to admire the brilliantly hued, 365-square-foot ceiling painting, *Phoenix Staring in Eight Directions*, which Hokusai created in 1848 at the age of 89. Return to Nagano this afternoon and board the *Shinkansen* (high-speed train) for Tokyo. After checking in, independently explore Ginza, the tony shopping district where our hotel is located, whose streets are closed to vehicular traffic on weekends. IMPERIAL HOTEL (B,L)

TUESDAY, MAY 24

TOKYO

Visit Meiji Jingu, a Shinto shrine constructed in 1921 to honor the spirits of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken. Set in an evergreen forest in the middle of the city, the shrine was rebuilt in 1958 after the original was destroyed during World War II; the area is a place of both pilgrimage and recreation. Drive along Omotesando, a tree-lined boulevard known for the unique architecture of its luxury-brand boutiques, to Hamarikyu Gardens, a landscaped park set on Tokyo Bay whose traditional style contrasts sharply with its neighboring skyscrapers. This evening you may choose to join an optional excursion to attend a Kabuki performance at a theater located within walking distance of our hotel. IMPERIAL HOTEL (B,L)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

TOKYO

Drive to Ueno Park to explore the Tokyo National Museum, whose vast collection includes works of art, archaeological artifacts and antiquities. Also visit the Edo-Tokyo Museum, which highlights Tokyo's 400-year history during the Edo period (from 1603 to 1868) through displays of original objects and replicas from its 600,000-item collection. Celebrate our spring sojourn in Japan at a festive farewell reception and dinner. IMPERIAL HOTEL (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, MAY 26

TOKYO / U.S.

After breakfast and checkout, transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

INFORMATION

Covid-19 and Travel

With travel requirements and local Covid-19 conditions changing weekly, travel protocols for specific destinations will be shared with confirmed travelers closer to departure. To read more about Travel/Study's approach to ensuring traveler health and safety, visit our [Covid-19 Travel page](#).

Size

This trip requires a minimum of 22 participants and is limited to 35. Travel/Study is committed to providing a low-density experience on all programs and will implement protocols to do so, including social distancing on transportation as well as during lectures, meals and excursions. Single accommodations are limited.

Cost*

\$10,295 per person, double occupancy

\$12,195 per person, single occupancy

*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add \$300 per person.

Included

- Educational program with lecture series and predeparture materials, including an education resource list and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Gratuities to guides and drivers for all group activities
- 12 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations, 2 nights of *ryokan* (traditional Japanese inn) accommodations
- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 7 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- On-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- General medical, accident and evacuation insurance

Not Included

- Your personal flights to and from the program
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- Baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements

You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these independent arrangements, we will send you details with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

What to Expect

The spring is an ideal time of year to visit Japan. Flowers are in bloom, festivals are plentiful and the weather is very pleasant. We consider this trip to be moderately strenuous. On average, daily programs involve one to three miles of walking, often over uneven terrain. In some instances, such as at temples, stairs may not have handrails. In the mountains we will be above 6,000 feet of elevation and we may encounter snow. Though all our accommodations feature Western amenities and are quite comfortable, hotels in Japan tend to be less luxurious than in many other parts of the world and twin-bed rooms tend to be more spacious than single-bed rooms. In Matsumoto, we stay at a typical Japanese *ryokan*, where we sleep on traditional tatami mats and futons. Though Western-style breakfasts are available at our hotels, most lunches and dinners consist of Japanese cuisine, as do the breakfasts during our two-night *ryokan* stay. We expect that participants will be a self-selecting group whose interest in exploring Japanese culture outweighs the need for familiar food and lodging. Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with an active group of travelers. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS**Eligibility**

We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association, as the program cost for nonmembers is \$300 more than the members' price. The nonmember fee is waived for anyone traveling as a paid guest of a current member, as well as for emerita or emeritus faculty and staff. To purchase a membership, call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership.

Deposits, Payments and Cancellations

A \$1,000-per-person deposit is required to reserve space on this program. Final payment is due 120 days prior to program start. Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a \$500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to program start. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and we resell your place(s), in which case a \$1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance

Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage, as well as on-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage, under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage and/or baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be included in your confirmation materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your insurance within 14 days of receiving your welcome email.

Responsibility

The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates include arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. We reserve the right to cancel any program prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. We also reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association, nor Stanford University, nor our operators accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect at the time the brochure is published and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign an Assumption of Risk.

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