

## ROSS GARDEN TOURS

### JAPAN IN AUTUMN

13 - 27 NOVEMBER 2020

#### ITINERARY

*Graham Ross will tell you autumn is his favourite season with richly coloured gardens and landscapes. He'll take you to 'Master' gardens to appreciate exquisite design. Share ancient traditions on this journey; it's more than a holiday, it's the total Japanese experience.*

#### DAY 1 FRI 13 NOV HOME TO TOKYO

Meet your Ross Tours' representative at Sydney International Airport for your morning flight to Tokyo. Check into the Hotel New Otani Tokyo for the next 2 nights. Welcome dinner included tonight.

**Accommodation: New Otani Hotel, Tokyo**

#### DAY 2 SAT 14 NOV TOKYO

We start the tour with a visit to the extensive, world-class chrysanthemum exhibition held at Shinjuku Gyoen since 1929. Rikugien Garden is next, a strolling garden laid out in 1695 and restored in the 18th century. Once the residence of powerful Yanagisawa Yoshiyasu, there are 88 stops around the lake, symbolic representations of classical Japanese literature. The rhythm achieved by alternating dark and bright zones, spacious and confined areas, sunlit groves and mysterious forests, produces virtually a musical effect. The massed planting of Japanese maple along the river should set the scene for autumn.

**Accommodation: New Otani Hotel, Tokyo**

#### DAY 3 SUN 15 NOV TOKYO TO NIKKO

Today our coach takes us to Nikko, an ancient imperial retreat north of Tokyo. On the way, we'll stop at Omiya Bonsai Village, home of some of Japan's finest Bonsai. Visit the superb Omiya Bonsai Art Museum which houses a stunning collection of ancient bonsai masterpieces, some are 1,000 years old. Later we stop to see the Sacred Way of ancient Cryptomeria Cedar trees before visiting the recently restored original 18th C Kanaya Hotel Samurai House. Check into the historic Nikko Kanaya Hotel for two nights. It is the oldest Japanese resort hotel with more than 100 years of traditions. Dinner included at our hotel tonight.

**Accommodation: Kanaya Hotel, Nikko**

#### DAY 4 MON 16 NOV NIKKO

Sightseeing today includes a walking tour of the nearby Toshogu Shrine, built in 1542 with its ornate Yomeimon Gate. Rinnoji Temple is located on the avenue leading up to the shrine and contains three gigantic gilded wooden images of Buddha. Here Shintoism and Buddhism combine to commemorate the Taiyuin Mausoleum for Iemitsu, third in line of the ruling Tokugawa Shogunate Family. Hear the history behind this sacred region and its traditions. See the giant cryptomerias over 1000 years old, the Shinkyo Sacred Bridge across the turbulent waters of the Daiya River, and giant bronze and stone lanterns all wrapped in a mountain mist and maples dotted amongst the lush green. The entire site is World Heritage Listed. This afternoon walk through the home and garden of the Tamozawa Imperial Villa, the summer residence of the royal family. The remainder of the day is at leisure to soak in the tranquil atmosphere of this quaint town.

**Accommodation: Kanaya Hotel, Nikko**

#### DAY 5 TUE 17 NOV NIKKO TO KANAZAWA

Cross the spine of Japan's main island with forests of Japanese Cryptomeria cedar, Chamaecyparis cypress trees and millions of different maples in stunning autumn colour. A short Shinkansen (bullet train) ride to Kanazawa the capital of the Ishikawa Prefecture and once a feudal castle town, home to the powerful feudal Maeda clan. On arrival, we walk the famed Samurai district where their families still live today and visit a Samurai home with a small but exquisite traditional garden. Check into the Tokyu Hotel for two nights.

**Accommodation: Tokyu Hotel, Kanazawa**

#### DAY 6 WED 18 NOV KANAZAWA

Visit Kenroku-en Garden, famous for its mature conifer trees and channel gardens of water iris. Kenroku-en combines the six essential features of true gardens: vastness, symmetry, solemnity, coolness, antiquity and pleasure. Japan's first water fountain can be seen here surrounded by Japanese maples. This is one of Graham Ross' favourite gardens in the world. The unique stone lanterns, a symbol of Kanazawa City, are beautifully canopied with delicate maples in autumn colours.

The remainder of the day is free. Kanazawa is famous for traditional arts & crafts, gold leaf and Kutani - ware porcelain. Graham will direct you to the best shopping areas.

**Accommodation: Tokyu Hotel, Kanazawa**

#### DAY 7 THU 19 NOV SHIRAKAWAGO

A very different experience commences today as we travel deep into the snow-capped Japanese Alps to visit Shirakawa-go Village nestled in a rural setting reminiscent of old Japan. Listed by UNESCO in 1995 as a World Heritage Site, Shirakawa-go is famous for its steeply thatch-roofed traditional farmhouses called Gassho Zukuri style from over 250 years ago. The architecture, horticulture and cuisine of the region will make this a unique experience of the tour. Overnight stay at a traditional Japanese Ryokan, including a Japanese style dinner. This will be a memorable evening.

**Accom: Tsujinoya Hananoshō, Komatsu**

#### DAY 8 FRI 20 NOV AWAZU TO KYOTO

Travel to Kyoto by fast train. On arrival visit Nijo Castle, dating from 1603 and famous for its fortress-like interior and ingenious escape routes of the Tokugawa Shogun. The garden here, Ninomaru Garden, is planted with

ancient, beautifully manicured pine trees. A special dinner tonight attended by a Maiko/Geisha and shamisen performance after a walk through the adjacent 16th C private garden. Check into The Westin Miyako Hotel for the next three nights.

**Accommodation: The Westin Miyako, Kyoto**

**DAY 9 SAT 21 NOV  
KYOTO**

Visit the Silver Pavilion (Ginkakuji Temple) dating back to 1489. This famous temple and its Zen garden, formerly the villa of Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimasa, silver in name only, he died before the silver leaf could be applied. See raked and moulded gravel mounds that represent sea and mountains. Designed in the 'Zen' style, this serene garden features ancient pines, ginkgos, maples and hundreds of other autumn trees.

At Hakusasonso witness a traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony performed in the beautiful garden built in 1915. This private garden is a showcase of Japanese plants and Chinese statuary. Our Tea Master is a descendant of the famous artist Kansetsu Hashimoto who created this villa garden and museum. A traditional Japanese lunch is included today.

**Accommodation: The Westin Miyako, Kyoto**

**DAY 10 SUN 22 NOV  
KYOTO**

Early morning visit to Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) built in 1397 by Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, which he used for entertaining, contemplation

and to view the expansive landscape. This three-tiered pavilion glows with a covering of 18-carat gold leaf. Admire the perfect reflection on the broad Mirror Lake before it. See the Shogun's bonsai that become a garden masterpiece. Ryoanji Temple is our next stop, renowned throughout the world as Japan's finest example of a rock and sand garden (seki-taki). Take time here to reflect on the meaning of these raked patterns and enigmatic placement of rocks. It is also home of the stone water-basin, Tsukubai, engraved with famous Zen script. The outer is planted with hundreds of exquisite maples and rare Japanese Cedar tree varieties. Dinner included tonight at a local Shabu Shabu restaurant.

**Accommodation: The Westin Miyako, Kyoto**

**DAY 11 MON 23 NOV  
KYOTO TO NAGOYA**

Travel to Nagoya by bullet train. Visit the iconic Nagoya Castle and spectacular chrysanthemum exhibition. A special treat today to walk through the recently restored, magnificent Hommaru Palace and see the lavish rooms. Precision timber joinery and artworks in the palace are breathtaking. Master craftspeople went to great lengths to recreate the opulence of the residence. Check into the Nagoya Marriott Associa Hotel for two nights.

**Accom: Marriott Associa Hotel, Nagoya**

**DAY 12 TUE 24 NOV  
NAGOYA**

Free time this morning. In the afternoon visit Nabana No Sato in Mie

prefecture. This botanical theme park is a new concept in world-class show gardens covering 30 hectares with beds filled with thousands of different flowers including cosmos, roses and dahlias, plus huge glasshouses overflowing with tuberous begonias and more hanging baskets than you could count. Time this evening to experience the 8.5 million LED light show, voted Japan's best illumination event.

**Accom: Marriott Associa Hotel, Nagoya**

**DAY 13 WED 25 NOV  
NAGOYA TO TOKYO**

Travel back to Tokyo by bullet train. On arrival, we'll discover more of Tokyo on our city sightseeing tour this afternoon. Check into the New Otani Hotel, Tokyo. Farewell dinner included tonight.

**Accommodation: New Otani Hotel, Tokyo**

**DAY 14 THU 26 NOV  
TOKYO TO HOME**

Morning at leisure in Tokyo. Stroll down the famous Ginza, visit Hibiya Park, go shopping or enjoy the many temples this city has to offer. Evening transfer to Tokyo Haneda Airport for our overnight flight home.

**DAY 15 FRI 27 NOV  
ARRIVE HOME**

## DETAILS

- Tour escorted by Graham Ross
- Luxury air-conditioned motorcoach
- Deluxe accommodation for 13 nights
- Breakfast daily
- 1 Lunch
- 7 Dinners
- Entrance fees to all gardens and sightseeing including Shinjuku Gyoen, Rikugien Garden, Nezu Garden, Rinnoji Temple, Kenrokuen,

Ryoanji, Heian Shrine, Hakusasonso, Nabana no Sato, Omiya Bonsai Art Museum, Kanaya Samurai House, Toshogu Shrine, Shinkyo Sacred Bridge, Tamozawa Imperial Villa, Seisonkaku, Nomura Family House, Shinise Kinenkan Museum, Shirakawago Gassho Zukuri Minka-en, Nijo Castle, Golden Pavilion, Hashimoto Art Museum, Silver Pavilion and Nagoya Castle.

## PRICE

- Twin Share land only \$13,595 pp
- Twin Share inc airfare \$14,795 pp
- Single Supplement \$2,995

All prices in Australian dollars. Prices based on minimum 15 passengers.

## DISCOUNTS

- Earlybird \$300 - Pay by 15/7/2020
- Previous Traveller \$100
- Garden Clinic Member \$50

BOOK ONLINE [www.rosstours.com/japanautumn](http://www.rosstours.com/japanautumn)



1300 233 200



[travel@rosstours.com](mailto:travel@rosstours.com)

OR CONTACT ROSLYN OR MELISSA



MEMBER

ACCREDITED