

# Spring Spectacular in Japan

7 - 23 April 2018

## Spring Splendour in Japan

Every season in Japan offers something very special and Spring is famous for cherry blossom. Be in awe of hundreds of Sakura trees located everywhere from castles, temples to world-renowned parks such as Ritsun in Takamatsu.

From Osaka we travel to Himeji and Bizen to see famous ceramics, enjoying the spectacular cherry blossom and wonderful gardens along the way, visiting the art islands of Teshima and Naoshima, travelling through the Iya Valley to the oldest onsen in the whole of Japan located in Matsuyama and finally ending in Hiroshima and Miyajima.

The tour will also venture to a more rustic side by visiting angarama kilns in Bizen, walking the vine bridge in the Iya valley, soaking in one of the traditional onsens and enjoying the spectacular Chichu Gallery on Naoshima with exquisite cherry blossoms not too far away.

For those who love the delights of tasting different foods, Spring offers delicacies ranging from luscious strawberries to bamboo shoots in your bento box. Why not try temperua fern shoots or dine on an amazing Okonomiyaki (Japanese pancake) made with tantalising flavours like seasonal clams. Be wowed by tasting Sakura Mochi (sweet rice cake flavoured with cherry blossom) or shop for a special gift of Yuzen Washi paper (cherry blossom patterned paper).

Join Sandy on this adventure of Honshu from Osaka down through Takamatsu on Shikoku then up to Hiroshima before heading home after 16 action packed days.

Earlybird  
Bonus \$100  
discount  
For bookings  
deposited by  
31 May 2017

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## Sandy Marker Tour Guide

Sandy's passion for Japan stems from her love of Japanese art forms such as ukiyo-e (wood block prints), garden designs, architecture, ceramics to Sogetsu Ikebana.

Sandy was the recipient of the Norman and Mary Sparnon Scholarship in 2016 involving a 3 months study trip to Japan in 2016.

In early 2007 Sandy held her first solo exhibition 'Shadows' - all the works were inspired by the shadows created around living plants and flowers and the elements of Sogetsu.

In January 2008, she was awarded first place in an International Exhibition held in Adelaide and titled 'Graduate Metal XI - Emerging Ideas in Jewellery and Objects'. Her winning work was a set of hand forged and shaped sterling silver spoons. The work was originally inspired by an Ikebana concept of Japanese Water Iris leaves blowing in the wind. Painting and fibre art are also part of her repertoire when time allows and Sandy particularly also enjoys Sumi-e painting (Japanese brush stroke art).

Sandy served as the NSW Director of The Australian Sogetsu Teachers' Association NSW Inc. for over two years during which she encouraged the Association to move into the era of new technology using the internet as a means of drawing awareness to Sogetsu Ikebana.

## Tour inclusions:

- Arrival airport transfer from Kansai International Airport to accommodation in Osaka
- 4 nights at a 3 star Western hotel in Osaka including daily breakfast
- Luggage transfer from Osaka to Takamatsu, Dogo Onsen to Hiroshima
- 2 nights at a ryokan in Bizen including daily breakfast and dinner
- Anagama Kiln Visit
- 1 night at a 3 star Western hotel in Okayama including breakfast
- 5 nights at a 3 star Western hotel in Takamatsu including daily breakfast
- Use of private bus on 11 - 22 April
- 2 nights at a ryokan in Dogo Onsen including daily breakfast and dinner
- 2 nights at a 3 star Western hotel in Hiroshima including daily breakfast
- Departure airport transfer from accommodation in Hiroshima to Hiroshima Airport
- All transportation as per itinerary
- All entrance fees as per itinerary
- Service of English speaking guide throughout the tour

LAND ONLY COST: \$8350 p/p twin share

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1000

Airfares on application



## Optional post tour to Hong Kong

April 22- 1May, 2017

### Tour highlights:

- Transfer from Hiroshima to Tokyo
- 3 nights in Tokyo
- Ikebana classes at Sogetsu headquarters
- Transfer to Tokyo airport for flight to Hong Kong
- Arrival transfer to hotel in Hong Kong
- Visit to Hong Kong flower markets
- Ikebana International Convention in Hong Kong (own arrangements) x 3 days
- Transfer to Hong Kong for flight home

Not included : Flights, Ikebana International Convention registration etc.

Price on application