Japan

Bashō's Road to the North

October 11–23, 2019

Edward Kamens '74, '82 PhD
Sumitomo Professor of Japanese Studies
Dear Yale Traveler

Matsuo Bashō (1644-1694), the most famous poet of Japan’s Edo period and recognized as the greatest master of haiku, renounced the intellectual scene of Edo (modern Tokyo) to wander throughout the countryside seeking inspiration for his writing. Bashō’s most famous poetic travelogue, Narrow Road to the North, is one of the great works of Japanese literature. On this extraordinary tour, we’ll travel in the company of Dr. Edward Kamens, Sumitomo Professor of Japanese Studies. You’re sure to be inspired following Bashō’s travels in northern Honshu Island from Tokyo to Sendai, then across to the northwest coast and down to Kanazawa, enjoying gorgeous scenery, delicious Japanese cuisine, and wonderful museums, temples, and shrines.

Fascinating glimpses into Bashō’s world will punctuate our tour. At the Bashō Kinenkan (museum), we’ll view scrolls of his poetry and souvenirs from his journeys. The Bonsai Museum will host us for a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, and further afield, we’ll marvel at the many shrines and temples in Nikko, including Toshogu, Japan’s most lavishly decorated shrine. A cruise on scenic Matsushima Bay will be followed by a drive along the "Bashō Route" from Yamagata to the Mogami River, and a river cruise on "Bashō’s Rhine." Our travels conclude in Kanazawa, with its well-preserved Edo-era districts, art museums, regional handicrafts, and celebrated Kenrokuen Garden.

We hope to count you among the small group of Yalies on this exclusive journey. Please reserve your space by visiting yaleedtravel.org/japan19. If you have any questions, contact Yale Educational Travel at edtravel@yale.edu or 203-432-1952 to learn more.

Sincerely,
Lauren Summers
Senior Director of Lifelong Learning and Travel

Discover the iconic sites from Japan’s classic 17th-century poetic travelogue Narrow Road to the North which depicts the poet Matsuo Bashō’s wanderings through the Japanese countryside in search of inspiration.

Immerse yourself in the serenity of Zen temples, meet with Buddhist monks and learn about meditation practice.

Highlights

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Edward Kamens is Sumitomo Professor of Japanese Studies at Yale University, where he has taught since 1986. He has published books and articles on Buddhism in Japanese literature, classical poetry, and literary interactions with the visual arts, and he is currently directing a digital humanities research project focused on a 17th-century calligraphy album in the Beinecke Library ("The Tōkagami-jō.")

From 1998 to 2008 he was Associate Head of Saybrook College and served as Head in 2009 and 2011. Kamens has been Chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures for several terms and also has served a term as Acting Director of the Whitney Humanities Center. He was the founding Chair of Yale’s Committee on Language Study and helped launch Yale’s highly successful Richard U. Light Fellowship (for the study of Chinese, Japanese and Korean in East Asia.)

Professor Kamens has frequently accompanied his wife Mary Miller, Sterling Professor of History of Art and former Dean of Yale College (and Director of the Getty Research Institute as of January 2019), on Yale Educational Travel trips to Mexico and Guatemala.

Yale Study Leader

Yale Educational Travel   •  Yale Alumni Association
Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010
Reservations: (203) 432-1952   edtravel@yale.edu

Upcoming Trips

A Rhine and Moselle Cruise aboard the Royal Crown
May 6–19, 2019
Prof. Carlos Eire ‘79 PhD
History & Religious Studies

Shores of Iberia: Spain & Portugal aboard Sea Cloud II
May 16–29, 2019
Prof. K. David Jackson
Portuguese

Insider's Israel:
Odyssey to the Holy Land
November 7–17, 2019
Prof. Gregory Sterling
Yale Divinity School
ITINERARY
OCTOBER 11–23, 2019

WELCOME PHONE CALL  
Tuesday, October 1 (tentative)  
Join the group at 4:00 PM Eastern for a pre-trip welcome call to learn more about what to expect and to ask any questions you may have.

“I myself have been tempted for a long time by the cloud-moving wind - filled with a strong desire to wander.”

HOME / TOKYO, JAPAN  
Friday–Saturday, October 11–12  
Depart home on an overnight flight to Tokyo. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel to check in and relax.  
Dai-ichi Hotel

TOKYO  
Sunday, October 13  
Following a morning orientation and lecture, visit the Edo Tokyo Museum for a fascinating look at the history of the city. After lunch, set off on a walking tour of Fukagawa, where Bashō moved to escape the bustle of the city in 1680. Gather this evening for a welcome reception before dinner.  
Dai-ichi Hotel (B,L,R,D)

NIKKO  
Monday, October 14  
Drive to Nikko, nestled in scenic mountains north of Tokyo and packed with shrines and temples. See the ornate Toshogu Shrine, a lavish Shinto complex that doubles as a mausoleum, and the neighboring Rinno-ji Temple, an 8th-century Buddhist retreat.  
Nikko Kanaya Hotel (B,L,D)

SENDAI  
Tuesday, October 15  
En route to Sendai, stop at the Shirakawa Barrier, once a vast wall erected to separate the south from the north. Continue to Sendai and enjoy a private cruise on Matsushima Bay before a sunset visit to Shiojima Shrine, surviving as described in detail by Bashō. This evening, enjoy time at leisure in Sendai.  
Westin Hotel Sendai (B,L)

YAMAGATA  
Thursday, October 17  
Drive to Yamagata by way of the scenic Naruko Gorge, famous for fabulous fall foliage beginning this time of year. See a downsized statue of Bashō at Hojin-no Le; the infamous Shitomae no Seki border checkpoint where he was nearly not allowed to pass; and the mountaintop Risshaku-ji Temple in Yamadera, where he was inspired to write some of his most famous haiku.  
Hotel Metropolitan Yamagata (B,L,D)

TSURUOKA  
Friday, October 18  
Descend to the bank of the Mogami River and enjoy a short cruise along “Bashō’s Rhine” en route to Tsuruoka, facing the Sea of Japan. Stop to see the lovely Shiraito-no Taki waterfall and hike through a cedar forest on the sacred Mount Haguro. Dinner is at leisure.  
Daiichi Hotel Tsuruoka (B,L)

Included meals indicated as B,L,R,D  
= Breakfast, Lunch, Reception, Dinner.

During his most famous sojourn, Bashō was on the road for five months, walking for 2,400 kilometers through the villages and mountains of northern Honshu.
TSURUOKA
Saturday, October 19
Explore the Kanmanji Temple, a beacon for writers for generations before Bashō arrived, then witness the roaring Naso no Shirataki and 30-meter-wide Mototaki Fukuryusui waterfalls. After lunch, visit the Kisakata Local Museum for displays about Bashō’s time in the area and Kisakata’s unique history as a region of islands and lagoons.
Daiichi Hotel Tsuruoka (B,L,D)

KANAZAWA
Sunday, October 20
Drive south along the Sea of Japan to the ancient Yahiko Shrine, a popular and powerful Shinto pilgrimage destination. Continue to Saishoji Temple to view its curious collection of bones and mummies before boarding a train for the final leg to Kanazawa.
Hotel Nikko Kanazawa (B,L,D)

KANAZAWA
Monday, October 21
Visit the exceptional Kenroku-en Garden, widely regarded as one of the most beautiful gardens in Japan. Originally the private outer garden of Kanazawa Castle, it has been dazzling the public since 1871. Also see beautifully preserved row houses in the Higashi Chaya district, designated as national cultural assets, where geishas entertained guests during the Edo period. Stop at the Buddhist Natadera Temple, a blissful retreat since the 8th century, before an evening at leisure.
Hotel Nikko Kanazawa (B,L)

“Real poetry, is to lead a beautiful life. To live poetry is better than to write it.”

KANAZAWA
Tuesday, October 22
Spend the day at Yamanaka Onsen, a hot spring haven at the foot of Mt. Hakusan, praised by Bashō as one of the best hot springs in all of Japan. It was here that Bashō and his traveling companion Kawai Sora said goodbye to each other. Return to Kanazawa for a farewell reception and dinner this evening.
Hotel Nikko Kanazawa (B,L,D)

KANAZAWA / TOKYO /
RETURN HOME
Wednesday, October 23
Board a “bullet” train from Kanazawa to Tokyo and connect to airports for flights home, or board a train to Kyoto for an optional 3-night extension. (B)

Optional Post-Tour Extension
KYOTO
October 23–26, 2019
Extend your trip by three days to explore Kyoto and Nara, including Nijo Castle, Kinkaku-ji Temple, and the Kasuga Taisha Shrine.

Additional details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.

Reserve Your Trip To Japan Today
Book online: yaleedtravel.org/japan19
WHAT IS INCLUDED

• Program of lectures and discussions with Yale study leader Ed Kamens
• All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary including 11 hotel nights
• Airport transfers on group arrival and departure days
• Baggage handling
• Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, and drivers
• Entrance fees
• Welcome and farewell wine receptions
• Bottled water on motor coaches
• Professional tour manager throughout the program
• Emergency medical evacuation services

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

• U.S. domestic and international airfare
• Passport and visa expenses
• Medical expenses and immunizations
• Airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days
• Travel insurance
• Deviations from the scheduled tour
• Excess-baggage charges
• Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted
• Laundry or dry cleaning
• Room service
• Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges
• Gratuities for non-group services
• Other items of a personal nature

ITINERARY CHANGES AND COST ADJUSTMENTS

The itinerary as presented is subject to modification by Yale Educational Travel and Criterion Travel (the tour operator), should unforeseen world events and conditions require such alterations for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant. Program rates are based upon current taxes, tariffs, fuel prices, currency values, and a minimum number of participants, and are subject to change (e.g., should fuel prices increase). If there are significant changes, we will notify participants in advance of departure.

PROGRAM RATES

Per person, sharing
$9,690
Single supplement
$1,900

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

Please Note: U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Round-trip economy-class airfare between New York and Tokyo is approximately $1,235 per person as of December 2018 and is subject to change without notice. Airtreks is our preferred provider for airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (800) 350-0646. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

GROUP SIZE

Up to 31 participants

PHOTO CREDITS

(From Dreamstime.com): Toshogu Shrine © Cowardlion; Eihei-Ji Temple © Victor Turek; Kenroku-En Garden © Michaelahavranova; Shiraito Falls © Sihasakprachum; Mount Haguro Temple © Tatsuo115; Mount Haguro Steps © Dominique Bonnet; Yamadera © Suphakorn Jaijan; Matsushima Bay © Greir11; Toshogu Shrine © Sean Pavone; Toshogu Shrine © Pstedrak; Japanese Meal © Martin Darley; Rinno-Ji Temple © Serge001
To register, return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person to YET. Final payment is due June 13, 2019.

1) NAME AS ON PASSPORT

DATE OF BIRTH

YALE CONNECTION

PASSPORT ORIGIN

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GUEST

2) NAME AS ON PASSPORT

DATE OF BIRTH

YALE CONNECTION

PASSPORT ORIGIN

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GUEST

Contact Information

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PRIMARY PHONE

E-MAIL

To reserve, return the above form with credit card authorization or check payable to “Criterion Travel” to Yale Educational Travel, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Phone: (203) 432-1952. Fax: (203) 432-0587.
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**Marvel** at the beauty of Japan’s waterfalls, gorges, rivers, and coast – the very inspiration for Japan’s poetry and gardens.

**Enjoy** a private day cruise on Matsushima Bay and float down the Mogami River, known as Bashō’s Rhine.