



SEE YOU THERE

February 2023

An example of a day in Tokyo

This will focus on different aspects of Japan's vibrant capital including its varied and distinctive art traditions which could go a little something like this...

You begin with the ultimate in Virtual Reality and art with a visit to TeamLab Borderless, a stunning experience imagined by a group of artists, programmers, engineers, CG animators, mathematicians and architects who have created a living dreamscape of art and imagination.

Then enjoy a visit to the bustling Tsukiji Fish Market, once the largest seafood market in the world. The outer market is a thrill to explore with its lanes and



alleys lined with a dizzying array of goods, from dried foods and seasonings to fresh produce

and all manner of kitchen utensils.

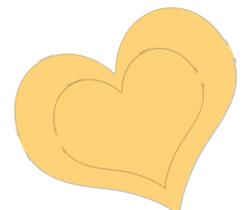
Your morning ends with a visit to the magnificent Imperial Palace Plaza, part of the palace complex which serves both as the residence and administration for the imperial family.

Next up, touring the Yayoi Kusama Museum dedicated to the whimsical innovative art of the avant-garde artist Yayoi Kusama. Run by the Yayoi Kusama Foundation the museum opened in 2017 to great international acclaim.

February is upon us so be sure to get your sweetheart the gift he/she has always wanted... travel!!! Some travel inspiration on a special part of the world... let's start in Japan!

一期一会 – “ONE LIFE, ONE ENCOUNTER”

This Japanese saying, used to describe the meaning of the tea ceremony, best sums up the essence of Japan and her people. Japan is a remarkable conundrum: deeply traditional yet also strangely forward thinking; innovative yet entrenched. Just when you might think you understand it, you realize how much more there is to comprehend. For the traveler there are few, if any other countries and cultures, that make such a lasting impression. Steeped in history, shaped by a strict cultural tradition but eager today to engage with the world, Japan is a wonderful travel destination.



Covering all regions of Japan from the four main islands: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu, to the southerly Ryukyu Islands, myself and my partners will introduce you to the whole experience of Japan. My fascination with Japan is manifested in many areas: art, cuisine, architecture, history, philosophy, nature and the people.

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Let's discover Kyoto next!

First up, visit the iconic Golden Temple, Kinkaku-ji, which has become synonymous with Kyoto. Originally a villa of the Saionji family it was converted into Golden Pavilion, Rokuonji, in the 16th century.

Next, visit to the Sagano Bamboo Forest, where you can either ride bicycles or take a guided walk through the lush bamboo grove.



Following your walk or bicycle ride through the bamboo groves, visit the ethereal Tenryuji Temple – first erected in 1339, and now one of Kyoto's most beloved UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Another highlight in the Arayashima area is the Togetsukyo Bridge. Also known as "Moon Crossing Bridge" which was built during the Heian period 794 – 1185, which is held up as the finest example of bridge building in Kyoto.

How about trying your hand at one of two great Kyoto cultural traditions: origami (paper folding) or calligraphy?!



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Spotlight on cool activities



In the spirit of the Samurai...

The samurai, derived from the word "saburau" were the ancient warrior class that served the rival noble clans who vied for regional power throughout Japanese history from the 10th through 19th centuries. Today the term suggests honour, discipline, and commitment. Of all things associated with the samurai it is their use of the sword for which they are most respected for. Drawing on the spirit of this warrior class, experience an introductory class in the use of the samurai sword – your key to unlocking the spirit of this deeply respected tradition.



Arrive at the class venue and change into the samurai costume. This is followed by an introduction to the samurai code, your class and the rules of instruction. Led by a master sword specialist enjoy guided instruction in Katana (samurai sword movement) learning the basic skills and movements.

Following your class you get the opportunity to photograph this unique experience and then you receive a certificate of completion to make it official.



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