

TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS IN 2015

Do Ho Suh, Home within Home within Home within Home within Home, MMCA, Seoul



# Korea and Japan: Classic and Contemporary

SEOUL – KYOTO – NAOSHIMA

with Ann MacArthur  
11–25 May 2015 (15 days)



# Korea and Japan: Classic and Contemporary



## TOUR LEADER

### Ann MacArthur

Ann MacArthur lived in Japan for a total of seven years, is fluent in Japanese language and holds a senior qualification in the Japanese tea ceremony. As Senior Coordinator of Asian Programs at the Art Gallery of NSW, she produces an extensive range of events from symposia to school excursions.

At once ancient and modern, Korea and Japan offer the sophisticated traveller an abundance of cultural heritage contrasted with the world's latest trends in the arts, fashion and lifestyle.

This tour will take a fresh look at Asian art in three very different destinations – Seoul, Kyoto and Naoshima – where the traditional sits side by side with the contemporary.

Whether you want to learn more about the classical arts of Japan and Korea, or are in search of cutting edge art and architecture, this tour seeks to introduce you to the unique cultural dynamism of these two countries at the forefront of the Asian century.

## At a glance

- Get to know the dynamic and vibrant city of Seoul
- Relax and reflect in the timeless beauty of Kyoto
- Discover the extraordinary 'art island' of Naoshima
- Explore the traditional arts and cultural heritage of Korea and Japan
- Come up-to-date with the latest trends in contemporary art of Asia and the world



# Itinerary

**Mon 11 May 2015**

**Australia – Seoul**

Morning departure from Australia on Asiana Airlines flight to Seoul (Incheon) Airport, arrive early evening. Transfer to your hotel on arrival.

**Tue 12 May**

**Seoul**

Join Ann and fellow members for a welcome breakfast and briefing.

Begin with an orientation drive through the city of Seoul, passing by the unique City Hall where a glass tsunami structure folds around a modernist building and Gyeongbok Palace, home to kings since 1395. Visit the National Museum of Korea, the flagship museum of Korean history and art, and the country's largest museum.

After lunch at a local restaurant, experience the traditional culture of Korea while remaining in the heart of the city, with a walking tour of Insa-dong. The main street of Insa-dong is free of vehicles; vendors are set up along the street peddling their antiques, ceramics and artworks. Enjoy a tea tasting at a traditional tea house. **B L**

**Wed 13 May**

**Seoul**

Today will be spent exploring three of Korea's major art destinations. Begin with the Leeum Samsung Museum of Art which exhibits both traditional and modern works of art by both Korean and international artists.

Head into the heart of the city to the Seoul site of the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA), opened in 2013. This newly opened branch focuses on showcasing global contemporary art.

Later wander the chic Samcheong-dong street, lined with numerous hanoks (traditional houses) that have been renovated into galleries, restaurants and cafes. Continue onto Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP), the futuristic cultural centre designed by world-famous architect Zaha Hadid. **B**



**Thu 14 May**

**Seoul**

Morning tour of the Bukchon Hanok Village, a traditional residential area with a history spanning 600 years. Visit boutique museums of Gahoe folk painting, embroidery and Korean knots.

Watch an artist at work at the Seoul Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre. Established in 2005, it aims to preserve and promote Korean traditional arts and crafts.

Following lunch, begin your exploration of the Changdeok Palace, one of the 'Five Grand Palaces' built by the kings of the Joseon Dynasty. The palace was listed in 1997 as a UNESCO World Heritage site for its historical significance, simplicity and subtleness.

Explore the 'secret garden' located on 78 acres at the rear of the palace. It was originally constructed for the use of the royal family and palace women. The garden incorporates pavilions, a lotus pond and landscaped lawns. **B L**

**Fri 15 May**

**Seoul – Osaka – Kyoto**

Morning at leisure, followed by a coach transfer to Seoul Airport.

Lunch at the airport prior to boarding a mid-afternoon flight to Osaka. Late afternoon arrival in Kansai Airport and transfer to Kyoto (approx. 110 km; 2 hrs).

Dinner at a local restaurant. **B L D**

**Sat 16 May**

**Kyoto**

Morning visit to the Kyoto National Museum for an introduction to the traditional arts of Japan. Continue to Sanjusangendo, a uniquely shaped long hall rebuilt in 1251 to house its central image of the thousand-armed bodhisattva Kannon, surrounded by 1,000 gilt bronze images of Kannon.

After lunch (own expense), a personal introduction to Zen meditation at Shunkoin, a small 16th century temple. The American-educated vice abbot offers an introduction to Rinzaï Zen and a tour of the garden and artworks. **B**



**Sun 17 May**

**Kyoto**

Morning visit to the Miho Museum nestled among the verdant Shigaraki Mountains. The museum houses the Shumei Family Collection of rare treasures from the ancient world and traditional Japanese art.

After lunch (at own expense), continue on to Shigaraki Village, famous since the Middle Ages for its ceramics. **B**

**Mon 18 May**

**Kyoto**

Begin with a tour of the elegant Nijo-jo Castle, built by the first Tokugawa Shogun, a striking example of the splendid decoration and luxury of the Momoyama period (1587–1615). Continue to the Kyoto Handicrafts Centre.

After lunch, visit Ryoan-ji Temple, which houses the most famous Zen rock garden, before visiting Kinkaku-ji, the Golden Pavilion built in 1397 as a villa for Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu. **B L**

**Tue 19 May**

**Kyoto**

Today visit the Moss temple (Kokedera). The temple gardens are estimated to have 120 different varieties of moss. Contemplation of the garden is enhanced by the experience of first using brush and ink to copy a Buddhist sutra under the guidance of temple staff.

Continue to the Arashiyama-Sagano area situated on the western outskirts of Kyoto. The area is known for its scenic beauty that was favoured by the noble classes 1,200 years ago. Enjoy its natural setting, narrow streets, old villas and temple compounds. **B D**

**Wed 20 May**

**Kyoto – Okayama – Naoshima**

Depart Kyoto after breakfast and travel via fast train to Okayama (1 hr). The largest city in the Chugoku region after Hiroshima, Okayama developed as a castle town during the Edo Period (1603–1867), became a significant regional power and is today an important transportation hub.

Transfer by coach then ferry to Naoshima Island (approx. 35 km; 1.5 hrs), home to the Benesse Art site.

Dinner at a local restaurant. **B D**



Miho Museum, Kyoto

Please note that you will be required to pack a small bag for travel on the fast train and the three-day stay on Naoshima Island. Your main suitcase will be transferred directly from Kyoto to the Osaka hotel.

**Thu 21 May**

**Naoshima**

Begin with a tour of the Chichu modern Art Museum.

After lunch visit Benesse House Museum. One of the pleasures of visiting Benesse House is unexpectedly encountering works of art, not only within the walls of the museum but also while strolling around the grounds, enjoying the abundant natural beauty of the Inland Sea region. **B L D**

**Fri 22 May**

**Naoshima**

In the morning take the ferry to the Inujima Art Project Seirenshe, a museum that preserves and reuses the remains of a copper refinery on the island. The project embraces the concept of a recycling-based society as a model for a new type of regional revitalisation through industrial heritage, architecture, art and the environment.

Early afternoon return to Naoshima Island. **B L D**

**Sat 23 May**

**Naoshima – Osaka**

Morning visit to the Art House Project.

Afternoon transfer by ferry to Okayama followed by a coach transfer to Osaka (approx. 214 km; 3.5 hrs).

Tonight celebrate the conclusion of the tour with a farewell dinner with Ann MacArthur and fellow art lovers. **B D**

**Sun 24 May**

**Osaka – Seoul – Australia**

Afternoon departure on Asiana Airlines to Australia via Seoul. Overnight in flight. **B**

**Mon 25 May**

**Arrive Australia**

Morning arrival in Australia.



Golden Pavilion, Kyoto



*Black Porgy in Uno, Naoshima Island ©Osamu Nakamura*

## **Benesse Art Site**

It combines Benesse House (a symphony of nature, art and architecture), the Art House Project (which weaves threads of everyday home life with the substantial strands of history), and Chichu Art Museum, a fresh reinterpretation of the potential of art museums.

Benesse House Museum opened in 1992 as a facility integrating a museum with a hotel, based on the concept of 'Coexistence of nature, art and architecture'. The facility consists of four buildings, all designed by Japanese architect Tadao Ando: Museum, Oval (opened in 1995), Park and Beach (both opened in 2006). The museum, which performs the complex's principal function of displaying art, is an imposing structure open to the outside world, and visitors can sense the presence of nature even inside the building. In addition to the works in its collection, the museum also contains permanent site-specific installations that artists have created especially for this building, locating the installations on their own and designing the works for those spaces.

The Art House Project started in 1998 in Naoshima's Honmura district. The project takes empty houses scattered about residential areas, and turns the spaces themselves into works of art, weaving in the history and memories of the period when the houses were homes. Meetings between visitors to the island and the island's people in places where they go about their daily lives also provide occasions for a variety of interesting encounters.

Chichu modern Art Museum is built into the hillside overlooking the southern coast of Naoshima. Designed by Ando Tadao, it is primarily underground and utilises natural light to illuminate artworks by Claude Monet, Walter De Maria and James Turrell.



*Moss temple © Christopher Flowers*



*Sisters, Jeong-soo Koh 1979 (detail), MMCA Seoul*

## Your hotels★★★★



### Lotte Hotel Seoul

Conveniently located in the heart of Seoul's central business district, the Lotte Hotel offers 1,120 guest rooms, all with wired and wireless internet. The hotel is easily accessible by public transportation, and is within close proximity to government and public offices, businesses and historical landmarks. Dining options include cuisines from traditional Italian and Japanese fare, as well as South Korea's only Michelin 3-star restaurant, Pierre Gagnaire. Leisure facilities include the Sulwhasoo Spa and a fitness club.



### Hotel Monterey Kyoto

Combining Kyoto's stylish culture and Britain's traditional heritage, the 327-room Hotel Monterey Kyoto offers practical amenities for a comfortable stay. Located at Karasuma Sanjo, in the centre of Kyoto, each guest room is equipped with both free Wi-Fi service and a LAN cable connection. The hotel facilities include a Concierge Desk, the top floor 'Spa Trinite' and Chapel St. Simon Zelotes, a recreation of a church of the same name in Upper Chelsea. Dining options include French restaurant 'Escale', Japanese restaurant 'Zuientei' and café/bar 'The Library'.



### Benesse House, Naoshima

Located on Naoshima Island far from the hustle and bustle of city life, Benesse House offers views of a verdant green lawn and the sparkling Inland Sea. Hotel facilities include 'SPA: The Theatre', the Benesse House Shop and the Chichu Art Museum Store. Dining options include restaurant 'Etoile de la Mer' and the Museum restaurant 'Issen', serving Japanese 'kaiseki' cuisine with seafood from local waters. Free Wi-Fi is available in all rooms.

## Tour Prices

Per person twin-share	AUD \$9,950
Single supplement (single room)*	AUD \$1,650
Single supplement (double room for single use)*	AUD \$2,450
Deposit per person	AUD \$500
Final payment due	12 March 2015

\*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

**Tour code** AGI506

**Fitness level** Moderate

Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

**Airline** Asiana Airlines

Please contact Renaissance Tours for business class supplement on Asiana Airlines

### Tour price includes

- Accommodation in centrally located 4-star hotels with private facilities and daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner) including special farewell meal
- Return economy class fares Australia – Seoul (Incheon) – Osaka (Kansai) – Australia on Asiana Airlines (30 kg luggage allowance)
- Transfers on arrival and departure if travelling on group flights
- Comprehensive sightseeing, including local guides and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Lectures and talks with your tour leader throughout
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)

### Tour price does not include

- Transfers on arrival and departure if not travelling on group flights
- Drinks with meals
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry, taxis etc.
- Airport and railway station portorage
- Travel insurance

### Nikko Osaka

Located in the prime area of central Osaka, the 635-room Hotel Nikko Osaka faces the tree-lined Mido-suji Avenue - the city's main shopping and leisure district, home to the headquarters of major businesses. Relax and unwind in the hotel's guestrooms offering high speed internet access to all guests. Facilities include an array of international cuisines including the continental restaurant 'Les Celebrities' and the 'Vol de Nuit' main bar.

**NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted**

### Single rooms in Japan

Most hotels in Japan have single rooms which are smaller rooms with a single bed and private facilities. The single supplement is based on a single room. If you wish to have more room we offer a single supplement for a double room for sole use.

# Terms & Conditions

## HOW TO BOOK

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit and page one of your passport.

## DEPOSIT / FINAL PAYMENTS

Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payments are accepted in cash and by cheque, bank transfer, American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa. A 3% service charge applies for payment by American Express and Diners Club.

## CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

**a) Cancellation by You** – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

**b) Cancellation by Us** – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by

Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

## PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

## TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received.

In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

## FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter,

mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (e.g. remote rail), certain tours will require an ABOVE AVERAGE or CHALLENGING level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

## MODERATE

For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

## ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

## CHALLENGING

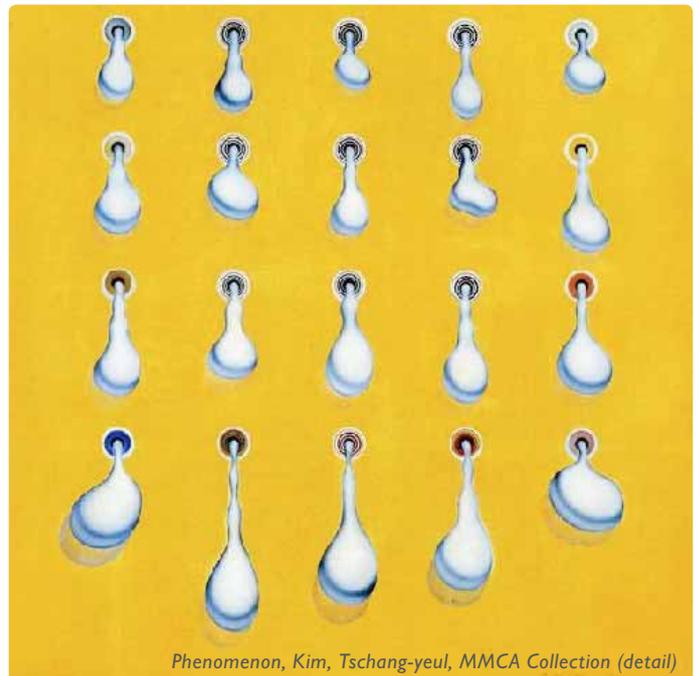
In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 metres and above).

You can find the full terms & conditions on the Renaissance Tours booking form. They can also be found at [www.renaissancetours.com.au/booking-conditions/](http://www.renaissancetours.com.au/booking-conditions/) or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.



Samcheong-dong street, Seoul



Phenomenon, Kim, Tschang-yeul, MMCA Collection (detail)



Yayoi Kusama's iconic Pumpkin on Naoshima



Tadao Ando Museum, Naoshima



Naoshima Public Art 'Sunken Boat' © John Lander

**R**  
**Renaissance**  
Tours

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