

Japan's Art and Sacred Islands

Photography Journey with Harold Davis

Sunday, November 9, 2025 to
Saturday, November 22, 2025



Floating O-Torii, Miyajima

© Harold Davis

Introduction	Page 2
Overview At-A-Glance	Page 3
Day 1: Sunday, November 9 <i>Welcome to Osaka! (D)</i>	Page 4
Day 2: Monday, November 10 <i>Visit Daisen Garden, Travel to Nara, and Machiya Tea Ceremony (B)</i>	Page 5
Day 3: Tuesday, November 11 <i>Gardens and Temples of Nara (B)</i>	Page 6
Day 4: Wednesday, November 12 <i>Travel to Shikoku via Naruto Whirlpools, and Visit Temples on the Famous Pilgrimage Route (B, L, D)</i>	Page 7
Day 5: Thursday, November 13 <i>Oboke Canyon River Cruise and Vine Bridges of Iya Valley (B, L, D)</i>	Page 8
Day 6: Friday, November 14 <i>Iya Valley, Ochiai Village, and Nagaro Scarecrow Village (B, L, D)</i>	Page 9
Day 7: Saturday, November 15 <i>Morning Visit to Awagami Washi Paper Factory and then Onward to Takamatsu (B)</i>	Page 10
Day 8: Sunday, November 16 <i>Benesse Art Site and the Art Island of Teshima (B)</i>	Page 11
Day 9: Monday, November 17 <i>Visiting the Art Island of Naoshima (B)</i>	Page 12
Day 10: Tuesday, November 18 <i>Storehouses and Canals of Kurashiki (B)</i>	Page 13
Day 11: Wednesday, November 19 <i>Korakuen Garden, Hiroshima Peace Park and Travel to the Island of Miyajima (B, D)</i>	Page 14
Day 12: Thursday, November 20 <i>Floating Torii and Stunning Views (B, D)</i>	Page 15
Day 13: Friday, November 21 <i>Contemplation and Final Thoughts in Kyoto (B, D)</i>	Page 16
Day 14: Saturday, November 22 <i>Onward Travel (B)</i>	Page 16
About the Trip	Page 17
Inclusions and Exclusions	Page 20
About Harold Davis	Page 21
Terms and Conditions	Page 22

Japan's Art and Sacred Islands

Photography Journey with Harold Davis

Sunday, November 9 to Saturday, November 22, 2025 — *14 Days and 13 Nights*

Introduction: Highlights of this absolutely unique photographic journey—designed by photographers for photographers—start with photography in the heart of modern Osaka. From there, we will journey to Nara, to wander in the extensive gardens of the old imperial capital. The next leg of our adventure takes us over spectacular bridges, crossing the Seto Inland Sea to Japan's smallest mainland island, Shikoku, with a stop along the way to photograph the famous tidal Naruto Whirlpools.

Our stay in remote Shikoku will include the fabulous Iya Onsen on a cliff high above the Iya River, exploring the river, and visiting old vine bridges in the mountainous back-country terrain. After Iya Onsen, we will visit the famous Awagami Factory for a hands-on washi making workshop. Then, we will photograph Ritsurin Garden, a three-star Michelin great garden of Japan.

Next we will return to the Honshu mainland, spending a day each on the “art islands” of Teshima and Naoshima. Our agenda includes a visit to the storehouses and canals of the ancient merchant city of Kurashiki. Traveling south, we will visit Korakuen Gardens in the morning, followed by a tour of Hiroshima Peace Park, and then spend two nights in a ryoken on the sacred island of Miyajima, famous for its torii gates.

The trip will end with a final day for contemplation and exploration in Kyoto.

This photographic journey will take us to areas of Japan that Westerners often do not see, with an emphasis on photography and visual art at a pace specifically designed to enhance the photographic experience. Harold Davis will assist in group and personalized photographic teaching and artistic enhancement aimed at helping each participant achieve their creative visions. Our group will be guided by the esteemed Kana Hattori-san, whose bilingual abilities and background in Japanese cultural traditions will enhance our enjoyment of the art and sacred islands of Japan.

Group Size: This is an exclusive, small photo workshop (non-photographer significant others are also welcome) with very limited space availability. The minimum group size is six and the maximum is twelve.



Pano Kumano Sanzen

© Harold Davis

How to Register: Please send [Harold an email](#) expressing interest right away; a completed registration requires a \$1000 deposit, the trip [Reservation Form](#), and a copy of your currently valid passport page. Please see Inclusions and Exclusions ([page 20](#)) and Terms and Conditions ([page 22](#)).

For more information or to express interest, please call Harold at his studio: 510.528.9977 or email: harold@digitalfieldguide.com

Cost: \$12,975 per person (single supplement \$1,680 as explained below). See [Reservation Form](#) for payment schedule, and Terms and Conditions ([page 22](#)) in this itinerary.

Important Note about Single Supplement: The single supplement covers single rooms in Osaka, Nara, Takamatsu, Kurashiki, and Kyoto. Outside these cities, please understand that single rooms may not be available in ryokans, which are smaller, traditional accommodations. We will be traveling Japanese-style, where group members of the same sex may be paired, particularly in smaller country inns.

Logistics: Our in-bound travel partner is Oku Japan, a premiere agency for off-the-beaten-track travel in Japan.

Overview At-A-Glance:

DAY	ACTIVITY	OVERNIGHT	MEALS
1	Welcome to Osaka!	Osaka (Hotel)	D
2	Visit Daisen Garden, Travel to Nara, and Machiya Tea Ceremony	Nara (Hotel)	B
3	Gardens and Temples of Nara	Nara (Hotel)	B
4	Travel to Shikoku via Naruto Whirlpools, and Visit Temples on the Famous Pilgrimage Route	Iya Onsen (Hot Springs Ryokan)	B, L, D
5	Oboke Canyon River Cruise and Vine Bridges of Iya Valley	Iya Onsen (Hot Springs Ryokan)	B, L, D
6	Iya Valley, Ochiai Village, and Nagaro Scarecrow Village	Iya Onsen (Hot Springs Ryokan)	B, L, D
7	Morning Visit to Awagami Washi Paper Factory and then Onward to Takamatsu	Takamatsu (Hotel)	B
8	Benesse Art Site and the Art Island of Teshima	Kurashiki (Hotel)	B
9	Visiting the Art Island of Naoshima	Kurashiki (Hotel)	B
10	Storehouses and Canals of Kurashiki	Kurashiki (Hotel)	B
11	Korakuen Garden, Hiroshima Peace Park and Travel to the Island of Miyajima	Miyajima (Ryokan)	B, D
12	Floating Torii and Stunning Views	Miyajima (Ryokan)	B, D
13	Contemplation and Final Thoughts in Kyoto	Kyoto (Hotel)	B, D
14	Onward Travel	X	B

Day 1: Sunday, November 9

Welcome to Osaka!

Included meals: Welcome Dinner

Hotel: [Hotel Royal Classic Osaka](#) or similar
4 Chome-3-3 Namba
Chuo Ward, Osaka, 542-0076
+81 6-6633-0030

- Check in at the hotel: 3:00 pm
- Group meeting at 11th-floor lobby: 4:00 pm
- Welcome Dinner

Planned Activities:

Welcome to Osaka! The group will meet at our 11th-floor hotel lobby in Osaka at 4:00 pm on Sunday, November 9, 2025, where we will meet our esteemed guide Kana Hattori-san. Osaka is well served by Kansai International Airport and Itami Airport. It is also possible to fly into Tokyo and take the Shinkansen to Osaka.

After we meet, we will explore and photograph the colorful streets and alleys of the [Namba District](#). In the evening, we will walk to a local restaurant for a festive Welcome Dinner.



Namba, Osaka

© Harold Davis

Day 2: Monday, November 10

Visit Daisen Garden, Travel to Nara, and Machiya Tea Ceremony

Included meals: Breakfast

Hotel: [An Grande](#) or similar
36-3 Noboriojicho
Nara, 630-8213
+81 742-27-1221

- Daisen Garden
 - Travel to Nara
 - Photograph the Famous Deer of Nara
 - Machiya Tea Ceremony
-

Planned Activities:

After breakfast at the hotel, we will drop our suitcases off for same-day transfer to Nara. With photographic gear, we will take public transit to [Daisen Park Japanese Garden](#) on the outskirts of Osaka. This will be our introduction to photographing Japanese gardens which are rich in history and an extraordinarily important part of Japanese culture.

Next, we will travel to the ancient imperial capital city [Nara](#). Nara was the capitol of Japan before Kyoto was established. Today, it is perhaps most famous for its tame deer at Nara Park. In the afternoon, we will enjoy a tea ceremony at the historic [Nakagawa Masashichi Shoten](#).



© Harold Davis

Nara Manhole Cover

Day 3: Tuesday, November 11

Gardens and Temples of Nara

Included meals: Breakfast

Hotel: [An Grande](#) or similar
36-3 Noboriojicho
Nara, 630-8213
+81 742-27-1221

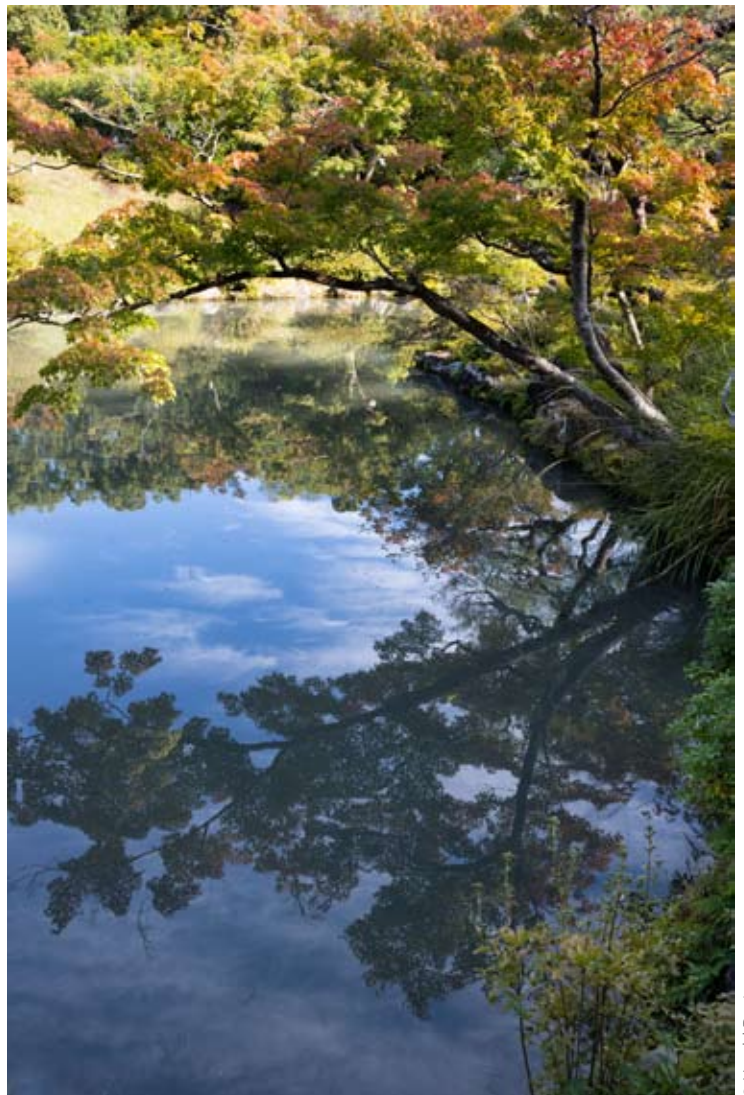
- Photographing Isuien Garden
 - Yoshikien Garden
 - Todaiji Temple and Big Buddha
 - Old Town Nara
-

Planned Activities:

We have a day of exploration in Nara beginning with [Isuien Gardens](#), a beautiful garden featuring a wide pond and meandering path. Even though the garden has a wall surrounding it, the design has been carefully curated to include nearby temples and the surrounding mountains as part of its vista. We continue onto Yoshikien Garden, one of the most scenic gardens in Nara to visit in autumn. Both gardens are great photographic subjects.

From here we will continue to [Todaiji Temple](#). Constructed in 792 CE when Nara held the seat of power, the temple is considered one of the most significant in Japan. We approach Todaiji via the Nandaimon Gates, which can be seen from Isuien Gardens. The main hall of the temple houses the Daibutsuden (Big Buddha Hall) which is one of the largest wooden structures in the world and is home to one of Japan's largest bronze statues of Buddha.

In the afternoon, we will explore the old town and merchant district of Nara. These narrow streets are home to museums, restaurants, cafés and even a sake brewery!



Isuien Garden

© Harold Davis

Day 4: Wednesday, November 12

Travel to Shikoku via Naruto Whirlpools, and Visit Temples on the Famous Pilgrimage Route

Included meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Hotel: [Hotel Iya Onsen](#) or similar

Matsumoto-367-28

Ikedacho Matsuo, Miyoshi, Tokushima 778-0165

+81 883-75-2311

- Travel to Shikoku Island
 - Naruto Whirlpools
 - Photograph Pilgrimage Temples
-

Planned Activities:

Today we will travel by private coach across the bridges to Shikoku Island, stopping along the way for an excursion to photograph the [Naruto Whirlpools](#) from a boat. This natural phenomenon is caused by tidal water travelling between the Seto Inland Sea and the Pacific Ocean. We will aim to time our journey with the tide to get the best chance to photograph the whirlpools in action. From Naruto, we continue our journey to Shikoku where we will visit a few of the [88 temples on the famous pilgrimage route](#). We will spend three nights at Iya Onsen, high in the interior mountains of Shikoku.



Photographed at a Shikoku Pilgrimage Temple

© Harold Davis

Day 5: Thursday, November 13

Oboke Canyon River Cruise and Vine Bridges of Iya Valley

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Hotel: [Hotel Iya Onsen](#) or similar

Matsumoto-367-28

Ikedacho Matsuo, Miyoshi, Tokushima 778-0165

+81 883-75-2311

- Travel to Iya Valley
 - Oboke Canyon River Cruise
 - Ancient Vine Bridges
 - Free Time for Photography
-

Planned Activities:

We start the day in the [Iya Valley](#) high in the heart of Shikoku Island. The spectacular Iya Valley is surrounded by high mountains and deep gorges. To keep communities connected, [vine bridges](#) were built more than 1,000 years ago to allow travel between these remote villages. At one time, 13 bridges spanned the valley, but only three survive today. The largest of the remaining bridges is almost 150 feet long and spans the Iya River.

The day's activities include a cruise on a small river boat on the calm waters of [Oboke Canyon](#) and a visit to the [Kazurabashi Bridge](#). In the afternoon, we will have free time to enjoy the unique baths at Iya Onsen and for photography.



Iya Valley Sunrise

© Harold Davis

Day 6: Friday, November 14

Iya Valley, Ochiai Village, and Nagaro Scarecrow Village

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Hotel: [Hotel Iya Onsen](#) or similar

Matsumoto-367-28

Ikedacho Matsuo, Miyoshi, Tokushima 778-0165

+81 883-75-2311

- Hi no Ji Valley (Iya Gorge)
 - Peeing Boy
 - Ochiai Village
 - Nagaro Scarecrow Village
-

Planned Activities:

Today, we will travel to the highest accessible points in the [Iya Valley](#), where sheer cliffs form the Iya Gorge carved by the Iya River. This beautiful valley is known as “Hi no Ji Vaelley” for its resemblance to the Japanese letter “hi.” Along the way, we will photograph vistas and visit the Peeing Boy statue which stands on a protruding rock at the edge of a precipice. Stories say that local children would show their bravery by standing on the cliff and urinating into the ravine. (If you decide to emulate the statue, Harold will take absolutely no responsibility!)

Our next photographic subject will be [Ochiai Village](#). The village has been classified as a National Important Preservation District because of its collection of old houses, some well over 200 years old. Our visits will include Nagaoka-ke Historic House, a traditional house lovingly restored to its former glory.

Following a picnic box lunch, we will visit [Nagaro Scarecrow Village](#). As the population of Nagaro declined, one elderly resident began to create *Kakashi* (scarecrows) to replace people who had left or died. The *Kakashi* are often celebrated as they are said to bring back good memories to the local community.



Fog in the Mountains

© Harold Davis

Day 7: Saturday, November 15

Morning Visit to Awagami Washi Paper Factory and then Onward to Takamatsu

Included meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Hotel: [JR Hotel Clement Takamatsu](#) or similar
1-1 Hamanocho
Takamatsu, Kagawa 760-0011
+81 878-11-1111

- Awagami Factory Tour
 - Paper-Making Workshop
 - Ritsurin Garden
 - Travel to Takamatsu
-

Planned Activities:

Moving on from the Iya Valley we will travel to the world-renowned [Awagami Factory](#). For eight generations, the Fujimori family have produced some of the finest washi. In 2022, [Yoichi Fujimori](#) was honored as a Sacred Treasure by the Emperor of Japan.

In addition to stewarding traditional approaches to washi and paper making, Awagami has pioneered the use of washi prepared for modern printers, and has collaborated with artists world-wide. We will make our own washi in a hands-on private workshop.

After making paper, we will travel by private bus to photograph [Ritsurin Garden](#), one of the great gardens of Japan. Construction started on this garden in 1625 and it is considered one of the top horticultural attractions in Japan.

Please Note: After breakfast, have your suitcases ready for transport to the hotel in Kurashiki. We will be without our suitcases overnight so that we can easily walk across Teshima Island without burdens. Do keep your photographic gear with you.



Peonies mon Amour © Harold Davis. Printed on Awagami Unryu washi.

Day 8: Sunday, November 16

Benesse Art Site and the Art Island of Teshima

Included meals: Breakfast

Hotel: [Kurashiki Ivy Square](#) or similar
7-2 Honmachi
Kurashiki, Okayama 710-0054
+81 86-422-0011

- Benesse Art Site
 - Teshima Island
 - Teshima Art Museum
 - Les Archive du Couer
 - Ferry to Kurashiki
-

Planned Activities:

Today we will travel by ferry from Takamastu to Teshima Island. Before leaving for Teshima, we will stop at a Kombini (a Japanese convenience store) to pick up picnic lunches.

Teshima is home to the [Teshima Art Museum](#), situated among terraced rice fields, which stimulates its visitors' senses with a play of water drops. In addition to this exciting installation, the island is home to some remarkable art work.

We will take our time exploring what Teshima has to offer, as we travel by private vehicle, visiting three fishing villages along the way. At the end of the day, we will leave the island by ferry to travel to Kurashiki where we will spend three nights. This evening we will be reunited with our luggage.



Benesse Art Site

Via Teshima Art Museum

Day 9: Monday, November 17

Visiting the Art Island of Naoshima

Included meals: Breakfast

Hotel: [Kurashiki Ivy Square](#) or similar
7-2 Honmachi
Kurashiki, Okayama 710-0054
+81 86-422-0011

- Benesse Art Site
 - Naoshima Island
 - Return to Kurashiki by Ferry
-

Planned Activities:

This morning we will travel by ferry to visit the well-known art installation island, Naoshima. Again, we will stop at a Kombini to pick up lunches before the ferry.

The philosophy of the creators of the [Benesse Art Site](#) is to “bring art that had a message to modern society, to an unspoiled region that was losing its vitality.” The art changes over time as its exposed to the elements and seasons but that’s what makes Naoshima so unique. We will take our time as we travel by private vehicle around the island. In the afternoon, we will return to Kurashiki by ferry.

Included in the cost is a visit to Benesse Art Site, and one other museum on the island.



Yayoi Kusama - Pumpkin

Via Kimon Berlin / Flickr

Day 10: Tuesday, November 18

Storehouses and Canals of Kurashiki

Included meals: Breakfast

Hotel: [Kurashiki Ivy Square](#) or similar
7-2 Honmachi
Kurashiki, Okayama 710-0054
+81 86-422-0011

- Kurashiki City
- Photographing Bikan Historical Quarter
- Museums and Merchant Homes

Planned Activities:

Today we will explore [Kurashiki City](#). Kurashiki was under direct control of the Shogunate Government during the Edo Period (1603–1867) and was an important rice distribution center for the region. It is famous for the picturesque scenery of its preserved canal area, framed with weeping willow trees and white-plastered storehouses ('Kura') from the Edo period. Many of Kurashiki's former storehouses have been converted into museums, shops and cafes. We'll wander through the [Bikan Historical Quarter](#), including the Canal and Ivy Square with our cameras, visiting key museums, and merchants homes.



Kurashiki Canal

© Harold Davis

Day 11: Wednesday, November 19

Korakuen Garden, Hiroshima Peace Park and Travel to Miyajima Island

Included meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Hotel: [Hotel Miya Rikyu](#) or similar

849 Miyajimacho

Hatsukaichi, Hiroshima 739-0588

+81 829-44-2111

- Korakuen Garden
 - Hiroshima Peace Park
 - Ferry to Miyajima Island
 - Sunset Photography of Famous Torii
-

Planned Activities:

Moving on from Kurashiki where we have spent three nights, our first stop of the day is one of Japan's most beautiful gardens. [Korakuen Gardens](#) was built in 1687 during the Edo era by Daimyo Ikeda as a place for his family and important guests to visit. The garden's distinctive design boasts spacious lawns and groves of plum, cherry, and maple trees. We will explore and photograph the garden before making our way to Hiroshima, where we'll visit the [Peace Park, Atomic Bomb Dome, and Museum](#).

Most people associate Hiroshima with the dropping of the first atomic bomb. As we wander through the grounds of the park and explore the museum, the reality of the terrible event is apparent. The city has worked hard to reinvent itself into the vibrant, modern city it is today. But it is important to keep in mind the trauma involved in this horrific event.

From Hiroshima, we will take the ferry to the sacred island of [Miyajima](#) in time for sunset photography. Afterwards, we will enjoy dinner at our ryokan on the island.



Korakuen Garden

© Harold Davis

Day 12: Thursday, November 20

Floating Torii and Stunning Views

Included meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Hotel: [Hotel Miya Rikyu](#) or similar
849 Miyajimacho
Hatsukaichi, Hiroshima 739-0588
+81 829-44-2111

- Exploring Miyajima Island
- Itsukushima Shrine
- Cable Car to the Summit of Mount Misen

Planned Activities:

This is a day to explore and enjoy [Miyajima](#), and discover the island's breath-taking vistas. The UNESCO World Heritage site of the [Itsukushima Shrine](#) sits tranquilly on the shores of the island, appearing to float, as does its famous torii gate, sometimes considered the iconic emblem of Japan.

We will visit the shrine, and take the [cable car up the slopes of Mount Misen](#). Those who wish can continue to the top of the holy mountain (about a 30 minute walk past shrines) and enjoy the stellar view over the islands of the Inland Sea. If you don't want to walk to the summit, you can alternatively return directly down via the cable car or on foot.

Returning to sea level, either on foot or via the cable car, we will explore Miyajima, and then meet at our ryokan for supper.



Floating O-Torii

© Harold Davis

Day 13: Friday, November 21

Contemplation and Final Thoughts in Kyoto

Included meals: Breakfast and Farewell Dinner

Hotel: [Hotel Granvia Kyoto](#) or similar
901 Higashishiokojicho
Kyoto, Shimogyo Ward 600-8216
Kyoto Station Building
+81 75-344-8888

- Travel to Kyoto by Ferry and Train
- Philosopher's Path
- Discussion of the Philosophy of Photography
- Farewell Dinner

Planned Activities:

In the morning we will leave sacred Miyajima by ferry and then travel by train to Kyoto. Upon arrival and check in at our hotel, we take private taxis to the [Philosopher's Path](#). The path is spectacular in autumn, and if we are lucky we will be greeted with a sea of reds, orange, and yellow during *Momiji* (the peak season for red maple leaves). As we walk and during the farewell dinner, we will spend time discussing our creative photographic journey to off-the-beaten-track Japan.



Savory Crackers

© Harold Davis

Day 14: Saturday, November 22

Onward Travel

Included meals: Breakfast

Planned Activities:

After our last breakfast, anyone not staying in Japan will make their own way back to the airport for their flight home. Your guide will be on hand in the morning to assist with any questions.

About the Trip

When and Where to Meet

We will meet at the [Hotel Royal Classic Osaka](#) (or similar), a hotel located in the Namba district of Osaka and convenient to the train to Kansai International Airport. Your adventure to Japan includes pre-paid, first night accommodations. Please note at check-in that you are with the Harold Davis group. The hotel will have each of your names with the reservation.

We will meet in the 11th-floor lobby of the Hotel Royal Classic Osaka, at 4:00 pm on Sunday, November 9, 2025. In the evening we will walk to a local restaurant for a festive Welcome Dinner hosted by Harold. Please be checked into the hotel before we meet. (See [page 4](#) of this itinerary for details.)

Photographic Items to Bring with You

Please bring a camera, tripod, wide-angle and telephoto lenses, and a remote release. You may want a head lamp in case we do evening and night photography. Bring plenty of memory cards, your charger, and extra batteries for anything that takes batteries.

Harold travels with his laptop, processes his images on-the-fly when he can, and presents on various photographic topics of interest to the group. You are welcome to bring your own computer if you would like to process your images and to experiment with the techniques that Harold shows. Bringing a laptop is not, however, required. If you do bring a computer, please be sure to include a card reader.

Contacting Harold and Phyllis

If you have any questions at all, please contact Harold by email at harold@digitalfieldguide.com or Phyllis at phyllis_davis@sonic.net. Harold's mobile phone when he is traveling is +1.510.295.3982.



Green Dragon, Osaka

© Harold Davis

About the Trip, continued

Accommodation Notes

The following types of accommodation are used on this tour:

- **Hotel** (Osaka, Nara, Takamatsu, Kurashiki, Kyoto).

Modern western-style hotels are used in cities and larger towns. The rooms are generally smaller than equivalent hotels in the West. All have en-suite facilities, air-conditioning, TV and fridges in rooms

- **Ryokan** (Iya Onsen, Miyajima).

Ryokan are traditional Japanese Inns. They may be in modern concrete or older wooden buildings but the rooms are always in the Japanese style with tatami (straw) matting and futons laid out in the evening. Evening meals are served together usually in the dining room, and are exquisitely prepared multi-course meals. Many ryokan have both en-suite bathrooms (with the exception of some older buildings) and communal hot spring style baths (segregated by sex).

Single rooms

We offer the option of a single room in Osaka, Nara, Takamatsu, Kurashiki and Kyoto. Single rooms may not be available in traditional Japanese Inns and we may pair up members of your group of the same sex. In Japan ryokan rooms are less intimate spaces and we will travel the way the Japanese do.

Meals

Most meals will be Japanese cuisine. Vegetarian options are available, but limited. Alcoholic drinks are not included. Tips are not generally expected in Japan.

Baggage Handling

Using Takkyubin (Japanese courier service), on Day 2 your bag (one per person) will be transferred same-day from Osaka to Nara so that you do not have to travel with your bag on public transit (keep your photo gear with you). On the morning of Day 7 your bag will be picked up at Iya Onsen and reunited with the group on Day 8 at Kurashiki Ivy Square Hotel (keep your photo gear and what you will need overnight with you).

There are no porters for this trip, so you will carry your own baggage on/off the trains, buses, and ferries, and from and to the airport. Your suitcase should weigh no more than 20–25 lbs. at time of departure. The total dimensions of the bag when adding the bag's external length, width, and height should be no more than 62 inches. (For example, a piece of soft-sided luggage that measures 25 x 18 x 14 would have total dimensions of 25+18+14 or 57 inches and are within these size limits).

On the topic of luggage, Harold's strong recommendation for this trip is to ***travel as lightly as possible***. There's so very much more enjoyment to be had if you are not worrying about carrying heavy luggage. Also, all of Japan's accommodations provide garments for you to use while staying at each lodging, so this means you can pack less clothing.

About the Trip, continued

Clothing

For this autumn trip, long sleeves are recommended, but you should not need heavy sweaters. You should be prepared for rain, and have a light windbreaker or a rain jacket, fleece as well as a selection of light layers to wear.

Yukata (simple cotton kimono) are provided at each ryokan, and you can wear this during your stay in the Japanese style accommodation both indoors and outdoors. Yukata and slippers provided by regular hotels are normally only used in the private rooms. Soap and shampoo are always available at any accommodations.

It is important to know that bathing suits cannot be used in the public baths (onsens). Please advise us if you have any visible tattoos, as this may require special consideration when visiting Japan.

Appliances and Plug Adapters

Hairdryers are provided in the regular hotels and in the public bathrooms in Ryokan.

If bringing any appliances, please note that most North American appliances can be used in Japan. Please ensure your appliances have plugs with 2 flat prongs, or bring a 3-prong to 2-prong adapter. Outlets in Japan do not accept 3-prong-grounded plug types. Some lodgings may only have a limited number of outlets in the room, so if you are charging more than one item of equipment, you may wish to bring a small multi-socket adapter.



Shirakawa River, Kyoto

© Harold Davis

Inclusions and Exclusions

Included in the tour cost:

- 13 nights accommodations in hotels, Japanese-style inns (ryokan); note that Japanese-style accommodations will be in tatami-mat rooms.
- Meals as included in the itinerary as noted in each day's description (13 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 7 dinners)
- Transportation between tour locations is included. This will be using private coaches, trains, taxis, ferries, etc.
- Full-time services of a bilingual guide
- Photographic teaching and coaching by Harold Davis
- Excursions, entrances to museums, temples, etc., as noted in the itinerary, including boat to Naruto Whirlpools, Oboke Canyon River Cruise, Tashima Art Museum and Benesse House.
- Awagami Factory exclusive paper-making workshop.
- Luggage transfers (one suitcase per person), same day luggage transfer from Osaka to Nara on Day 2, luggage transfer Day 7 from Iya Onsen to Kurashiki Ivy Square Hotel on Day 8.



© Harold Davis

Not included in the tour cost:

- Flights to and from Japan
 - Airport transfers
 - Meals not listed as included
 - Drinks with meals, snacks, and miscellaneous items
 - Excursions and entrance fees to museums, temples, etc., not listed in the itinerary
-

About Harold Davis

Harold Davis is a world-class [artist and photographer](#) who has expanded the parameters of his field with [imagery](#), [new techniques](#), and as an [author](#) and [educator](#). Honored with the prestigious Photographic Society of America Progress award in 2022 for his development of a unique technique for [photographing flowers for transparency](#), these works have been described as “ethereal” and having “a purity and translucence that borders on spiritual.” (Popular Photo Magazine)

Harold's most recent books include [Composition & Photography](#), [Creative Garden Photography](#), and [Creative Black & White](#), all from Rocky Nook.

He is also recognized as a master of black and white. The Seattle Times put it this way: “Harold Davis is the digital black and white equal of Ansel Adams's traditional wet photography.”

In 2022, two of Harold's floral images were produced as [United States postage stamps](#). A set of five new stamps [were published by the USPS](#) in 2024.

Translucent Flora: Photographs by Harold Davis was exhibited at the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture at the San Francisco Botanic Garden in 2023.

Harold is a sought-after workshop leader, who has led groups all over the world and taught and lectured at many institutions including the School of Visual Arts, New York, Google, Maine Photographic Workshops, and the Heidelberg Summer School of Photography in Germany.

Click [here for Harold's blog!](#)



Photograph by Nan Phelps

Terms and Conditions

Subject to Change

All itinerary details are subject to change depending upon conditions before and during the workshop.

Refunds

We will refund your trip deposit at your request until June 30, 2025.

You should purchase travel insurance as we will not be able to offer refunds or credits under any circumstances, other than refunding your deposit until June 30, 2025.

It is the participant's responsibility to protect their investment in the Destination Travel Workshop.

Travel Insurance

You should purchase Travel Insurance (sometimes called Trip Insurance) for this Destination Travel Workshop in case of any unforeseen emergency or situation that requires you to cancel, or should there be a reason that you cannot attend. This includes, but is not limited to, natural disasters, health safety, outbreaks, epidemics, illness, acts of God, or closures that prevent the workshop from taking place on schedule. ***It is your responsibility to protect your investment in this Destination Travel Workshop.***

Since we will not be able to offer refunds or credits after June 30, 2025, please do purchase Travel Insurance. You should check to make sure that the insurance policy you purchase covers potential medical expenses and medical evacuation, as well as the cost of the Destination Travel Workshop, and airfare. There are advantages to purchasing insurance within 14 days of sending your registration and deposit (typically, pre-existing health limitations do not apply; check the policy for details).

In addition, please be aware that you may not be protected without purchasing Cancel For Any Reason (CFR) Insurance. Please do check the details of the insurance to make sure that it provides the coverage that you really want; for example, an unexpected event, such as a pandemic, should be covered.

There are many highly-regarded travel insurance companies, and you should probably price compare. Be sure to read all terms and conditions carefully. Some reputable travel insurance companies are [Travel Insured International](#), and [World Nomads](#).

We must emphasize to travel comes with risk. We are not responsible for global pandemics, acts of God, terror, accidents, thefts, delays, weather, or any unforeseen event or catastrophe. Please be sure to protect your investment in the Destination Travel Workshop by purchasing travel insurance when you send in your registration.