

KOBE, JAPAN

The Semester at Sea Field Program has a strong academic component. Faculty members develop field requirements that constitute 20% of the contact hours for each course they are teaching. As part of these field requirements, all Semester at Sea faculty design and lead field trips that integrate with their course work. The following is a representative sampling of the types of Faculty-Directed Practica (FDPs) that may be offered during this voyage:

THE GARDENS OF KYOTO [FDP: HISTORY OF ART & ARCHITECTURE]

Among the highest achievements of Japanese arts are the gardens of Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines. No place in Japan has more numerous outstanding examples than Kyoto. We will visit the 15th century rock and sand garden of Royan-ji, the 14th – 15th century garden of Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion), and the 16th century garden of Soami of Ginkaku-ji (Silver Pavilion.) A stop will also be made at Sunjusangendo Hall. (PRICE: \$64.00)

JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY [FDP: SOCIOLOGY, RELIGIOUS STUDIES]

We will visit Myoshinji Zen Temple in Kyoto, escorted by a Zen master, to participate in a tea ceremony under his direction. This highly disciplined practice involves a combination of Zen arts and attitudes - flower arrangement, gardens, calligraphy and immediate, profound awareness. Observe the structure and uses of the Zen Buddhist Temple, experience interaction with an authentic Zen master and cultivate serenity of spirit. (PRICE: \$14.00)

GION CORNER [FDP: THEATRE ARTS]

At Gion Corner in Kyoto, we will be given a brief introduction to a variety of traditional Japanese arts. We will enjoy Bunraku (puppet theatre), Kyogen (ancient comic drama), Gagaku (court music dance), Kyomai (Kyoto style dance), Ikebana (flower arranging), Koto music, and the traditional tea ceremony. Though brief, each item is authentically presented. We will meet at Gion Corner in Kyoto. Out of pocket expenses including round trip train fare to Kyoto and admission to Gion Corner are estimated at \$40.00. (PRICE: \$34.00)

ARASHIYAMA PARK [FDP: BIOLOGY]

Arashiyama Park is a local park north of Kyoto that is much favored by the Japanese. There are hot springs and opportunities for long walks through wooded areas. Our primary interest will be to observe the colony of Japanese macaques (primates) that is free living in the forested area and to observe local and migrant birds. The trip is planned for all day as there is much to see, and the area is very pleasant. As we will use public transportation, those who wish to leave early to sightsee in Kyoto may do so. (PRICE: \$63.00)



The remaining trips in the Semester at Sea Field Program provide a variety of opportunities for students to enhance their overall study abroad experience. Students can visit sites of historical and cultural interest; learn about local environmental, political, economic and social issues; interact with local university students and other residents; become involved in community service; explore what is unique in each country; and enjoy some recreational activities. The following is a representative sampling of standard field trips that may be offered during this voyage:

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE: KANSAI UNIVERSITY, RITSUMEIKAN UNIVERSITY or OSAKA UNIVERSITY



This university-hosted exchange provides an opportunity to meet and interact with Japanese university students. You will have a chance for in-depth personal and intellectual exchanges with your student-hosts. This is also an excellent opportunity to see some of the sights of Kyoto with Japanese students as your informal guides. Overnight accommodations are in university guesthouses, youth hostels or students' homes. (PRICE: \$10.00 - \$73.00)

ROKKO MOUNTAIN HIKE

The Japanese are known for their attention to and value of the aesthetic qualities in nature. Many of their art forms portray the beauty and the infinity they find in nature. You hike alongside the Japanese and enjoy with them the refreshing countryside as you escape the frantic pace of city life. You will hike with several members from the Kansai Ramblers Hiking Club. The Kansai Ramblers organize hikes for both native and foreign hikers to promote friendship, cultural exchange and international understanding. The hike covers approximately ten miles and passes numerous temples, shrines and scenic points of interest. (PRICE: \$5.00)

NARA

Capital of Japan for a brief period (710-784 CE), Nara was able to avoid the wars that destroyed many other ancient capitals. Buddhism in Nara represents an early exuberant form of Buddhism, with rich symbolism throughout the city. Your first stop, Horyu-ji, is one of the most important temples in Japanese history, art, and culture. The grounds cover an area of 25 acres and contain 45 buildings, all of which are designated either as National Treasures or Important Cultural Properties. Enjoy lunch and a stroll through Nara Deer Park where the well-known tame deer are found in large numbers. Next visit the most important temple in all of Nara, Todai-ji (Great Eastern Temple). The temple's Daibut-su (Hall of the Great Buddha) enshrines a huge bronze image of the Cosmic Buddha. Although Todai-ji has been destroyed numerous times by fire, the present building dates from 1706 and is said to be the largest wooden structure in the world. Proceed to Kasuga Taisha Shinto Shrine, which, according to Shinto concepts of purity, was torn down and rebuilt every 20 years from 768 to 1863. Visual highlights are the spectacularly colored pillars and the 3,000 stone and bronze lanterns. You may wish to visit the Treasure House (¥420 admission at your own expense) to see the shrine's treasures, including armor, swords and Noh masks. (PRICE: \$65.00)



KYOTO

Kyoto was an imperial capital for nearly 1000 years, and some of Japan's finest temples, palaces, villas and gardens are found here. Culture and lifestyle are refined in this city that is dotted with oases of tranquility and beauty, exemplifying the best of Japan. You will first visit Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion), which was constructed in the 1390s as a retirement villa for Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, and features a three-story pavilion covered in gold leaf and topped with a bronze phoenix. Next, you will visit Nijo Castle. Built in 1603, this castle was the residence of the Tokugawa Shogun and is known for its contrast of solemn appearance and gorgeous interiors as well as its perfectly manicured garden. After lunch at Maruyama Park (box lunches from the ship), you will view Heian Shrine, a shrine that honors the peaceful period from 794-1192. Your last stop will be Kiyomizu Temple where you will enjoy a sweeping view of the entire city from its terrace. (PRICE: \$63.00)



HIGHLIGHTS OF KOBE CITY

The Kobe City Government and the Hyogo Prefectural Government sponsor this trip. It includes a number of sights and experiences designed to give you a closer look at Japanese life and culture. First, visit the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, which is a facility that preserves the experiences and lessons from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995 and contributes to the mitigation of damage from disasters both in Japan and abroad. Then, visit the Sakagura sake factory to view the production of traditional rice wine and taste the final product. After lunch, travel to Mt. Rokko where you can enjoy a scenic view of the city. Then, make pressed paper pictures and other crafts with Japanese paper. (PRICE: \$10.00)

FAREWELL RECEPTION IN KOBE

Approximately 100 Japanese students will be invited aboard the MV Explorer to meet and interact with Semester at Sea students. This will provide an excellent opportunity to meet Japanese students. Hyogo Prefecture sponsors a program, Hyogo Joint Summer Session at Sea (Seminar at Sea), which is similar to our Semester at Sea. The reception activities will provide you with an introduction to Japanese culture as the visiting students will present demonstrations of Kendo, Karate, Japanese dance, and/or other arts and cultural traditions. Then it's your turn! Semester at Sea students should be prepared to share their talents – perhaps a demonstration of the latest dances, a guitar solo, a song, or a Semester at Sea band performance. An informal social hour will follow. (PRICE: \$5.00)

HIROSHIMA

Drive by air-conditioned motorcoach (approximately five hours) to Hiroshima for a day of sightseeing at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum. The museum is dedicated to the explosion of the atomic bomb on August 6, 1945 that made Hiroshima known around the world. Two hundred thousand people were killed and many more injured in this explosion. Inside the museum you will see exhibits of charred clothing, melted tires and other remains as well as photographs of the aftermath of the explosion. Temperatures were said to reach 7000 degrees Celsius, melting statues of Buddha and imprinting human shadows on granite steps. No one who ever sees this exhibit is likely to forget the experience. Then, visit Shukkei-En Garden, a historic Japanese garden in Hiroshima. Return to the ship, stopping for dinner (at your own expense) en route. Note: This is a long day with lots of time on the bus (10-11 hours). However, the cost is significantly less than travel to Hiroshima by bullet train (approximately \$220). (PRICE: \$90.00)



HIROSHIMA/MIYAJIMA/HIMEJI (TWO DAYS/ONE NIGHT)

“Rest in peace for the error shall not be repeated,” is the inscription on the Memorial Cenotaph in Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park. The tragic event of August 6, 1945, made Hiroshima known around the world. The memorials and monuments related to the first use of an atom bomb in warfare have inspired millions of visitors to resolve that the inscription will remain true. Nearby Miyajima on the Inland Sea is the site of an impressive shrine honoring three female deities, the daughters of the thunder god. The shrine, a huge red torii, seems to float in the water at high tide. On the island, you can visit a variety of shrines, temples, and shops. Tame deer roam freely on the island.

Take the bullet train to Hiroshima, then travel by motorcoach to Miyajima-guchi for a short ferry ride to Miyajima Island to visit the "floating shrine." Transfer back to Hiroshima to visit Shukkeien Garden. The next day, visit the Peace Memorial Park with its museum, Cenotaph and "Dome of Peace." Then board the bullet train for Himeji. Visit Himeji Castle, the finest example of a feudal castle in Japan, and return to the ship. (PRICE: \$489.00)



NARA/KYOTO - JAPANESE RYOKAN STYLE ACCOMMODATIONS (TWO DAYS/ONE NIGHT)

The Nara and Kyoto areas contain the most significant monuments and sites associated with the development of Japan's political, artistic and religious identity. Located in the Nara area is the site of the first permanent capital, called Heijokyo, which was settled in the early 8th century. This was a period of astonishing development in Japanese culture and was marked by profound influence from China. All aspects of Japanese life were touched by this contact, and what we now regard as typical Japanese culture emerged. The capital eventually moved to Heian, later named Kyoto, where it remained for 1,000 years. This period, known as the Heian Period, also saw tremendous cultural growth and development. It is therefore not surprising that Kyoto has remained the cultural heart of Japan.

Travel by motorcoach to Nara, where your first visit will be to Horyu-ji, the oldest temple in Japan. Built in 607 CE by Prince Shotoku, it contains some of the rarest art treasures in the country. You will have lunch at a restaurant in Nara and also visit *Todai-ji* (Great Eastern Temple), housing a huge bronze image of the Great Buddha; Kasuga Shrine; and Deer Park. Travel to Kyoto for a Japanese dinner and overnight stay in a *ryokan* (Japanese inn). There will be 4-6 persons per room. You will each be given a *yukata* (Japanese robe) for lounging and will sleep on a *futon* (thick mat) on the floor. Some *ryokans* have private baths while others have semi-communal facilities. In any case, you wash BEFORE entering the deep, hot bath for a soak. Don't forget to remove your shoes and slip into the house slippers that are provided before entering your room. (Special toilet slippers are found at the door to the toilet and are to be worn only in this facility.) Visits in Kyoto will include Nanzen-ji; Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion), a three-storied structure entirely covered in gold foil; and Nijo Castle, which was the opulent residence of Ieyasu Tokugawa and the Shoguns that followed in his line. After a tempura lunch, your afternoon will include visits to the Kiyomizu Temple, famous for its wooden veranda suspended over a deep gorge, and Sanju Sangendo Hall. (PRICE: \$446.00)



OVERNIGHT HOMESTAY

Your homestay will begin with a Welcome Party aboard ship to meet your host family. The Hippo Family Club (H.F.C.) which is a volunteer group in the field of International Exchange has arranged these homestays. A homestay provides an excellent opportunity to spend time with a Japanese family in their home and to gain first-hand knowledge of contemporary Japanese culture. Plan on spending most of the second day with your host family, as they will typically want to see or do something with you. If you need to return to the ship at a specific time, please inform your host family right away. Please take a small thank-you gift for your hosts (such as a box of sweets or something from your home city or university). Packing lightly is advised, as you will most likely travel by train. (PRICE: \$10.00)



From the time this Sample Field Program is posted until the time the Final Field Program is available, a number of changes will occur.