



Group Tour of Japan

September 28 ~ October 9, 2018



The **Northern California Koyasan Temple** and **Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin of Los Angeles** will lead a tour of Japan this fall. The tour will include visits to very famous temples and sightseeing (and food tasting!) in Osaka, Kyoto and Tokyo. The culmination will be a visit to Koyasan to participate in the ***Kechien Kanjo*** ceremony. You are invited to join us for an experience guaranteed to be both enjoyable and memorable.

The maximum capacity for this tour is **28 individuals**, and applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. *The tour may be cancelled if there are less than 18 applicants.*

Price of the Tour: **\$4,000 to \$4,400/person** (depending on the number who apply and the currency exchange rate). Price includes: airfare, ground transportation in Japan, hotel accommodations, food (excluding free days), instructors and registration fee for Kechien Kanjo. A trip deposit will be required in mid-June, however, we will not know the cost until we know how many have signed up. *All participants will be notified in early June about their total trip cost, and how much their deposit is and when it is due.*

Travel Requirements: A valid passport, with a remaining expiration date of a least one year, at the time of boarding. Travel insurance coverage – maximum, if possible.

The schedule and travel itinerary **cannot** be changed (i.e., changing the return date for the entire group).

The lodging accommodations for the Kechien Kanjo will be at a Shukubo (lodging temple). Because rooms are limited, you may be asked to share rooms (minimum 3 to 4 people per room).

*Because travel needs to be arranged well in advance of the trip, please notify the Temple of your interest in participating no later than **May 30, 2018**. Once the trip is confirmed, we will contact you with the exact price and any further instructions you may need.*

If you are interested in participating in this tour or have any questions, please contact:

Rev. Ryuzen Hayashi
Phone: (213) 952-8158
Email: hayashi.sensei@koyasanbetsuin.org



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOUR:

The Kechien Kanjo Ceremony – This ceremony dates back to the time of Kobo Daishi (Kukai), who first performed it in November 812, in the 3rd year of Kounin, at Takaoyama in Kyoto. It is the esoteric initiation ritual for establishing a strong bond with Mahavairocana Buddha (Dainichi Nyorai). This introductory ordination ritual is aimed at generating a karmic affinity between recipients and the divine beings in the mandala, thereby establishing recipients as practitioners of Shingon Esoteric Buddhism.

Todaiji Temple – Located in Nara, this temple houses the Daibutsu, the world's largest bronze statue of Mahavairocana Buddha.

To-ji Temple – Located in Kyoto and is where Kobo Daishi was appointed the head priest in 823 by order of Emperor Saga.

Daikakuji Temple – Currently exhibits a copy of the Heart Sutra which supposedly ended a mysterious plague. It is only exhibited to the public once every 60 years.

Chosenji Temple – Rev. Iwasawa's temple in Yokohama.

There will be a party on the final day of the tour on a Yakatabune (Japanese traditional ship).

Sightseeing – There will be free time for sightseeing in Osaka, Kyoto, and Tokyo. An optional guided tour can be provided by HIS (travel agency), if desired.

Online Information – Online information about this trip is available at:

<https://www.wetravel.com/trips/kechien-kanjo-and-temple-tour-in-japan-toshihide-kotake-koya-37951813>



Yakatabune



Osaka Dotonbori

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Todaiji Temple (Daibutsu)