













# The Oriental Caravan

masters in the art of small group exploration

## 2012 - Escorted small group tours of Japan

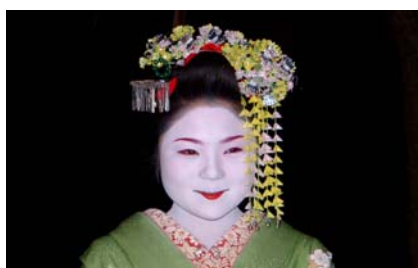
The Oriental Caravan began its journey in the year 2000 by escorting a small band of British travellers on an exploratory tour around the little-visited Japanese island of Kyushu. Since then countless adventurers from all over the globe have benefitted from our in-depth knowledge of all things Japanese - and from our long experience in the art of making small group tours really work. Founded by lifelong Orientalist Phil Colley The Oriental Caravan specialises in the design of well thought out, intelligent itineraries that really help the traveller get the most from their visit to the complex, mysterious land that is Japan.

-  **Personal service...** we are a small and friendly company motivated primarily by our love of travel. We don't cater for the mass market so when you call us for the second time the chances are we'll recognise your voice – and probably know your name!
-  **A warm welcome...** TOC has established excellent local contacts and our travellers benefit from all the consequent good will and hospitality.
-  **Meticulously planned itineraries...** mean that no time is wasted hanging around. We visit all the classic sights as well as Japan's little known off-the-beaten-track wonders.
-  **Unique...** Japan is our speciality and consequently all of our trips are personally researched and constantly improved upon.
-  **A careful balance...** of organised sightseeing and free time with all the stress taken out of arranging your holiday.
-  **Accompanied throughout...** by an experienced Japanese-speaking tour escort from the UK, there to make sure that you get the most from your holiday.
-  **Real experience...** we make use of Japan's incredible transport system so you can get close up to Japan's incredible culture – in comfort and on time!
-  **Flexibility...** whatever your interest we will do our best to facilitate your requirements.
-  **Departures...** timed to coincide with the best chances of catching good weather - and the cherry blossom!
-  **Environmentally friendly...** apart from this flyer we run a virtually paper-free operation. In Japan we generally use small characterful establishments thereby supporting local business and enterprise.



[www.theorientalcaravan.com](http://www.theorientalcaravan.com)

Please see below for a selection of 3 unique itineraries...



The Oriental Caravan



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[info@theorientalcaravan.com](mailto:info@theorientalcaravan.com)

# ***In the footsteps of poets, pilgrims, merchants and explorers...***

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## **The Land of the Rising Sun**

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This classic introductory tour of Japan is highly popular and perfect for those who want to see Japan's most famous sights in Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Tokyo whilst also getting off the beaten track to explore the many wonders of Kyushu. Aside from the gardens, our favourite parts are the magical nights we spend exploring the island of Miyajima and joining in for some old time Japanese rock 'n' roll in the spa town of Beppu!

**14 days. Start dates: 23rd March 2012, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2012, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012. Prices from £2125.**

## **The Narrow Road to the Deep North**

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This fascinating journey around Japan's mysterious north follows the route taken by the *haiku* poet Matsuo Basho and is named after his famous travelogue of 1689. We stay in a variety of characterful local accommodation including *ryokan* and monastic, mountaintop *shukubo*. We witness horseback samurai archery at Nikko's Toshogu festival and learn the secrets of the self-mummified monks of Tsuruoka. We cruise among Matsushima's pine-clad islets and at Osore San we visit surely one of the eeriest travel destinations in the world!

**15 days. Start date: 5th October 2012. Price from £2165.**

## **In the Footsteps of Pilgrims**

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This charming tour is loosely themed on the life of Japan's greatest monk, the remarkable Kobo Daishi and is about as off-the-beaten-track as you can get. We concentrate on exploring the sleepy island of Shikoku, one of the few places in the world that mass tourism has yet to find. We visit the mountain-top monasteries of Koya, bathe in the ancient hot springs of Dogo and explore the isolated valleys of Iya, Japan's 'Little Tibet'. Our old Japan hands love this trip. Join us to find out why!

**15 days. Start date: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Price from £2325.**

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**Two extra tours for 2012 are now available for viewing on our website...**

**Hokkaido – a Caravan through the Land of the Ainu (Starts 05/02/12);**

**Honshu – in Search of the Last Samurai (Starts t.b.a.)**

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## **On many of our trips over half of the group are repeat customers. Here are just a few of their comments...**

"Phil Colley's insight and kind personality were perfect in the guidance and molding of a diverse group. I've travelled overseas many times and he is the best guide I've ever had". *Mr J. McDermott, Connecticut, USA*

"This is the first holiday where I genuinely felt part of a different culture and not so much of a tourist ...this made for a truly amazing journey". *Mr J. Dyke, Gloucestershire, UK*

"Something of interest every day and excellent value for money. Phil was just brilliant". *Mrs A. Seymour, Surrey, UK*

"I have so many wonderful memories. Thank you for a perfect holiday". *Mrs S. Cosham, Redhill, U*

**The Oriental Caravan** is a truly independent, UK-based tour operator, founded in 2000. All client payments are deposited into an independently monitored trust fund, namely The Oriental Caravan Trust Account. A firm of solicitors acts as independent trustee and sole signatory, and will only sign over money to The Oriental Caravan once the tour has taken place, thereby guaranteeing that, in the unlikely event of The Oriental Caravan's insolvency, any money paid by you remains fully protected in compliance with the relevant European consumer protection legislation, this being The Package Travel, Package Holidays & Package Tours Regulations 1992 (directive No. 3288).