













The Oriental Caravan

masters in the art of small group exploration

2009/10 - Escorted small group tours of Japan

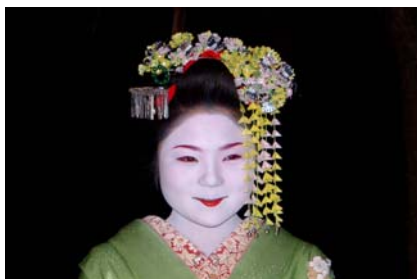
The Oriental Caravan began its journey in the year 2000 by escorting a small band of British travellers on an exploratory tour around the little-visited Japanese island of Kyushu. Since then many hundreds of adventurous souls from all over the globe have benefitted from our in-depth knowledge of all 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. In short, if you travel with us you won't just have a holiday but also a unique experience guided by one of the UK's top tour leaders.

-  **Personal service...** we only take around 80 travellers away each year. When you call us for the second time the chances are we'll recognise your voice – and 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

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



The Oriental Caravan




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

The Land of the Rising Sun



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: 26th March 2010 and 9th April 2010 -Price £1895.

The Narrow Road to the Deep North



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: 05/10/09. Price £1865.

In the Footsteps of Pilgrims



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: 09/05/09. Price £1985.

A travel dossier with full day-to-day details is available, online or by post, for all the above trips.


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, UK*



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).