

# Kyoto – More than Gardens, *a Pacific Horticulture Tour*

May 9-20, 2012 \* Escorted by Allan Mandell

**May 9 Wednesday: US/Canada to Osaka, Japan**

**May 10 Thursday: Kyoto**



Cross the international dateline enroute. Upon arrival at Osaka Kansai airport meet tour escort Allan Mandell and travel together to our ryokan in Kyoto. A welcome dinner is included at the ryokan tonight. Balance of evening at leisure. *Dinner.*

**May 11 Friday: Kyoto**

What better place to begin our journey than Daitoku-ji, one of the three main Zen temples in Kyoto, and Allan's spiritual home-base in Japan. We will wander at our own pace from one classic Zen garden to the next within the temple complex. We will then be joined by Judith Clancy, longtime resident and author of 'Exploring Kyoto.' Judith will help orient us to this lovely and fascinating city. Meeting her in the north section of town, we'll stroll to view the irises at Ota Pond, noted for its strong Shinto atmosphere. Enjoying our lunch with Judith at a stop along the way, we will continue to Kamigamo Shrine, one of Kyoto's 18 UNESCO World Heritage sites. If the spring bonsai are on display at the nearby Botanical Garden, we may stop in for a visit. *Breakfast, Lunch*

**May 12 Saturday: Kyoto**

FREE DAY - Jet-lag usually hits hardest on the second day, so today we will be taking it easy. For those with go-power, we suggest visiting the Miyako Messe traditional crafts museum, the Raku museum, the Textile Center, or any of the various art exhibits around town. For Imperial Garden enthusiasts, consider a visit to Shugaku-in Rikyu or Katsura Rikyu. These world-class gardens require advance reservations, so please let us know if you plan to visit. Another option is the Mikage Festival at Shimogamo Shrine, including elegant dance & music, or perhaps just wander the charming backstreets in the neighborhood of our ryokan. *Breakfast.*

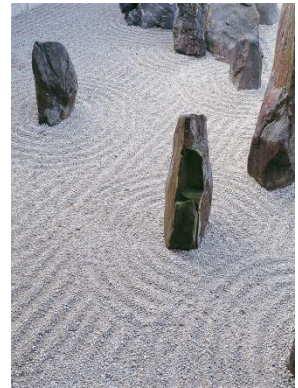
**May 13 Sunday: Kyoto**

Today we head south to spend the day in Uji, famed for producing the finest tea in Japan. The outstanding spring azalea bloom at Mimurodo Temple awaits us. From there we will cross the river to nearby Byodo-in with its dream-like Phoenix Hall, a rare example of Heian temple architecture. Enjoy the lovely riverside setting accompanied by azalea and wisteria. *Breakfast*



### **May 14 Monday: Kyoto**

Today is devoted to three unique water gardens. We begin with Chishaku-in Zen Temple and its intimate pond. We proceed to the quiet Shu Sui Tei teahouse where we can view the garden and pond from inside a traditional teahouse and home. We will picnic on the Imperial Palace grounds before our appointment to see the world-renown Saiho-ji Moss Temple. Maples will be showing their fresh spring foliage as we spend the afternoon wandering stone pathways through this idyllic moss-covered watery paradise. *Breakfast.*



### **May 15 Tuesday: Kyoto**

FREE DAY – Consider joining Allan in the morning for the Chion-ji flea market, a wild shopper’s paradise on the grounds of a Zen temple. Other suggested activities: visit an Imperial garden (after reserving in advance), rent a bike and ride alongside the Kamo River to the Kyoto Botanic Garden – the conservatory is fantastic - or attend the Aoi Festival, one of Kyoto’s three largest ‘matsuri’ of the year. Dating from the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the highlight of this festival is the huge and elegant procession that departs from the Kyoto Imperial Palace and proceeds to Kamigamo Shrine via Shimogamo Shrine, including over 500 people dressed in Heian-period classic costumes. *Breakfast*

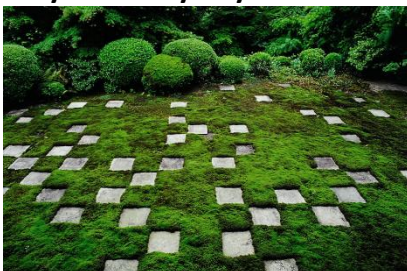
### **May 16 Wednesday: Kyoto**

Today we day-trip outside Kyoto to the splendid Miho Museum designed by I.M. Pei. Our morning is filled with fine art and architecture in a stunning rural setting. On our way back we investigate the Shigaraki pottery village for a first-hand encounter with those involved in the high quality ceramic craftsmanship that has continued for generations. And yes, we will have a chance to purchase some of these fine treasures. *Breakfast*

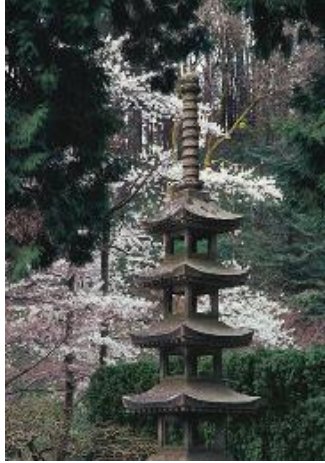
### **May 17 Thursday: Kyoto**

This is our day for garden-hopping, each destination with its own character. The morning takes us to Shisen-do, a retired samurai’s retreat, with its finely raked sand, tiered levels and rustic woody backdrop. Then we go to the nearby stately and tranquil Manshu-in where we will continue to take in the verdant foliage of the northeastern hills. After lunch we will experience Entsu-ji, a garden famed for ‘capturing alive’ its scenic view. This garden is best enjoyed while sitting quietly on tatami mats, contemplating the ever-changing subtleties within the perfectly proportioned vista as Mt. Hiei floats in the distance. *Breakfast.*

### **May 18 Friday: Kyoto**



This morning we will explore the stroll gardens of the Heian Shrine. Here we will find a profusion of iris as we wander through four different Meiji-era garden settings. Then it’s on to a private studio beside the Kamo River for a full-afternoon lesson with Shoho Sakai sensei, ikebana master. This is a hands-on experience providing insight into the Japanese aesthetic through the art of flower arranging. *Breakfast*



### **May 19 Saturday: Kyoto**

Our final day starts with Ginkaku-ji, the Silver Pavilion, and its striking raked sand beds, ponds, and pathways set in the wooded eastern hills. From there we walk to nearby Hakusasonso and enjoy local kaiseki cuisine in a charming garden setting. Multiple courses of seasonal delicacies will be offered in an unhurried fashion, and after a week in Kyoto our senses will be tuned to full appreciation. Your final afternoon is free, visit that special garden you've saved for last, enjoy a lazy bike-ride along the river, stroll through Kyoto to a favorite spot, or shop for fine crafts to take home with you. *Breakfast, Lunch.*

### **May 20 Sunday: to USA/Canada**

Today we bid farewell to Kyoto. Those departing to the US & Canada will take a shuttle bus to the Osaka Kansai Airport. Or perhaps continue to other destinations in Japan. *Breakfast*

### **Tour Escort:**

**Allan Mandell** is a professional garden photographer who shoots assignments for national and international garden magazines and book projects. He has worked on location in public and private gardens in the USA, Canada, China, Europe, and Japan. The Japanese aesthetic, clearly evident in the gardens of Kyoto, remains at the source of his inspiration.

### **TOUR LAND COST PER GUEST:**

Based on a minimum of 10 paying guests: \$4998.00  
Single supplement: \$1578

### **COSTS INCLUDE:**

10 night's accommodations in Shuhokaku Ryokan  
All hotel taxes and service charges  
10 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner  
Deluxe private mini-coaches and top drivers  
Special local guide for the excursions  
All sightseeing and entrances as per the itinerary (except free days)  
Deluxe portfolio of documents  
Escorted by Allan Mandell  
Donation of \$250 to Pacific Horticulture  
Limited to 11 guests



### **COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE:**

Airfare and Travel insurance

Tour subject to attached Sterling Tours, Ltd Terms and Conditions. Prices quoted are based on a minimum number of guests and on exchange rates as of Aug.2, 2011. In the event of lower numbers or currency fluctuation, Sterling Tours reserves the right to adjust rates accordingly. As special permission and appointments are required to visit some of the garden sites, itinerary may be subject to adjustment.

# Kyoto – More Than Gardens \* A Pacific Horticulture Tour

Escorted by Allan Mandell \* May 9-20, 2012 \* Terms & Conditions

***This information is important. Please read it carefully. Submission of an online or printed Booking Form along with payment of required trip deposit indicates you have read and expressly agree to these Terms and Conditions.***

**Reservations and Payments** – A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required at the time of booking. Written confirmation will be provided upon receipt of this deposit. The balance of payment will be due 60 days before departure. Tour price based on exchange rate as of July 2011 and is subject to adjustment on final invoice.

**Number of Guests:** A maximum of 11 guests can be accommodated. A minimum of 10 guests are required to operate the tour at the quoted price. Purchase of non-refundable services outside of the tour itinerary (such as airline tickets) before minimum number of guests have registered is at the sole risk and expense of the guest.

**Cancellations** – All cancellations must be made in writing. As noted, final payment is due 60 days prior to departure and is non-refundable. Accordingly we strongly recommended that you purchase appropriate cancellation insurance.

**Hotels** – Hotels are shown on your itinerary. Sterling Tours reserves the right to change any hotel due to any circumstance---the substitute will be of equal or higher quality.

**Scheduled Activities** – Every effort will be made to provide such services as listed, but where unavoidable circumstances necessitate changes, the best substitute alternatives will be made at the discretion of Sterling Tours, the local escort, or the ground operator without financial compensation to tour members.

**Service Fees, Tips & Taxes** – Today there are frequently service charges and taxes imposed by hotels, suppliers, and governments. These fees and taxes are included to the extent possible, but where pre-payment is not possible the amounts concerned must be paid locally by tour members. Tips to your guides and drivers are not included and are left to your discretion.

**Baggage** – Sterling Tours is not responsible for loss, theft or damage to your baggage---travel insurance is strongly recommended to protect against loss. Guests are responsible for airline and government-imposed baggage regulations and fees.

**Exclusions** – Your arrangements exclude excess baggage charges, items of a personal nature such as laundry, communication expenses, room service, meals not specified in your itinerary, gratuities to guides and drivers, optional sightseeing and other excursions, and any items not listed in your documents.

**Travel and Trip Cancellation Insurance** – We strongly recommend that you purchase Travel Insurance.

**Travel Documents-** A passport valid for at least 6 months after last date of this tour is required.

**Responsibility Clause – SterlingTours** – the “Operator”, **Allan Mandell, Pacific Horticulture Society** and or their agents or representatives, act only as agents for the various companies involved in providing services. They assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any means of conveyance which may be used either whole or in part in the performance of its duty to the passenger. Likewise they will not be responsible for any act, error or omission or for any personal injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, irregularity or inconvenience which may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any vehicles, or through any act, neglect or default, or any company or person engaged in carrying out the purpose for which tickets or coupons are issued, whether negligent or not, including, but not limited to, any act of God, terrorism or war. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the Operator. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, also to decline to accept or retain passengers as members of the tour. Legal proceedings against the Operator may be instituted only in a State or Federal Court within the County of San Diego, State of California, and any claim involved in such proceedings shall be decided in the County of San Diego, State of California. Any legal proceedings against the Operator must be commenced within one year following the date of tour completion. Neither the Operator nor Allan Mandell nor Pacific Horticulture Society shall in any case be liable for compensatory damages, and you hereby waive any right to punitive damages.

**STERLING TOURS, LTD** A California Corporation 2907 Shelter Island Drive Suite #105-262  
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Allan Mandell, Pacific Horticulture, and Sterling Tours invite you to join

**Kyoto: More Than Gardens May 9-20, 2012**

*IMPORTANT: Submitting this form and paying tour deposit confirms you have read and accept the Terms and Conditions for this tour. Please review and be sure you understand the terms and conditions before registering for this tour.*

**RESERVATION FORM ----PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER PERSON TRAVELING**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Full Name as on your passport: \_\_\_\_\_

Name you prefer to be called: \_\_\_\_\_ Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport # \_\_\_\_\_ Issue Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip, Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name and Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Special Food or Physical Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOTEL ROOM** *Please check appropriate room type*

Double Room, One Large Bed: \_\_\_\_\_ Double Room, Two Beds: \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing room with : \_\_\_\_\_

Single Room, I am willing to share \_\_\_\_\_ Single Room, not sharing \_\_\_\_\_

(We will attempt to find a roommate, but if unsuccessful the single supplement will apply)

**INSURANCE : See enclosed information and note pre-existing condition waiver time limit**

**TOUR DEPOSIT** *(Airfare is additional, please let us know if you would like help arranging flights)*

Tour Price is \$4998 per person based on double occupancy

Single occupancy of a room requires payment of \$1578.

A nonrefundable deposit of \$500 per person is required to register for this tour. If paying by check, please make payable to Sterling Tours, Ltd and mail with this form to the address below.

**If paying deposit by credit card please sign here:** \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: **VI MC AX** Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sterling Tours, Ltd.** 2907 Shelter Island Drive Suite #105-262 San Diego, CA 92106 USA

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