PRINCIPIA LIFELONG LEARNING
Engage. Travel. Learn.

APRIL 1-13, 2027

Featuring Trip Scholar
Dr. Peter van Lidth de Jeude

JAPAN

LAND OF THE RISING SUN

Orbridge

TIMELESS ELEGANCE, CULTURAL RICHNESS
AND MODERN INNOVATION

PRINCIPIA LIFELONG LEARNING
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Dear Principia Lifelong Learner,

From dazzling cityscapes filled with innovation and energy to tranquil gardens, temples and mountain sanctuaries, Japan is a land of contrasts, where the contemporary and tradition seamlessly intertwine. Join us on this spectacular journey that reveals the nation's character, exploring vibrant cities, iconic landmarks and serene natural settings.

Begin in Osaka, a cosmopolitan hub where neon-lit streets are home to celebrated castles and shrines. Then head to Kyoto, the heart of Japan's cultural heritage, and uncover gilded temples and a breathtaking bamboo grove. A special day trip to Hiroshima including Peace Memorial Park and Museum invites poignant reflection on peace and resilience through its historical sites and scenic beauty.

In Hakone, retreat to an authentic luxury ryokan nestled in the mountains surrounded by soothing hot springs—a quintessential Japanese experience that captures the country's devotion to hospitality and tranquility.

Conclude your journey in Tokyo, where the ancient meets the cutting-edge. Immerse yourself in the lively rhythm of one of the world's most dynamic capitals while exploring sacred monuments, colorful parks and architectural marvels.

Space is limited and filling quickly. Make your reservation today at principia.orbridge.com or call 866.639.0079.

Sincerely,

Susie Quitter
Principia Lifelong Learning Director

P.S. If you're interested in traveling with Principia Lifelong Learning but not available these dates, visit principia.edu/trips to explore other upcoming PLL travel programs!

Featuring Trip Scholar Sr. Peter van Lidth de Jeude

Dr. Peter van Lidth de Jeude (C'04) is Dean of Academics at Principia College and former chair of the History Department. His teaching and scholarship include work on Japan, particularly the decision-making behind the use of atomic weaponry on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the impact of the American occupation on Japan. More broadly, he is interested in the effects of war on society and how nations navigate moments of profound change and rebuilding. His academic specialization is in Modern European history, with a special emphasis on Germany. His research focuses on occupation bureaucrats during the First World War, exploring how organizational structure and culture shape strategy and how institutions respond under the pressures of extreme crisis. An engaging and wide-ranging educator, Peter has taught courses spanning European, early American, and non-Western history, as well as historical research methods. He has also served as trip scholar on Principia Lifelong Learning journeys including the Danube River and Dutch Waterways cruises

Japan | Itinerary Highlights *(subject to change)*

Day 1 **EN ROUTE FROM U.S.** Full travel day from U.S.

Day 2 **ARRIVE IN OSAKA, JAPAN** Upon arrival to Osaka's Kansai International Airport an Orbridge representative will be waiting to assist with your transfer to the hotel. Settle into your luxurious accommodations and enjoy an evening at leisure.
Overnight: Centara Grand Hotel Osaka

Day 3 **OSAKA** (B,L,D) Set off for Osaka Castle, a symbol of Japan's feudal history and a major factor of the unification of Japan during the 16th century. The 15-acre property features original gates and turrets, a series of moats, and lush gardens. Continue to a Japanese Noh theater for an inside visit. Gain insight into the history and tradition of classical Japanese dance-drama performances with an opportunity to try on various costumes. Following lunch enjoy independent time in Dotonbori, a neon-lit entertainment district lined with shops, theaters, street merchants and taverns. Tonight gather with the group for a special welcome dinner.
Overnight: Centara Grand Hotel Osaka

Day 4 **OSAKA • NARA • KYOTO** (B,L) Board a motor coach for the scenic 30-minute ride to Nara, an ancient city abundant with UNESCO World Heritage sites, historic monuments and important pilgrimage routes. Nara's verdant green parkland is also home to more than 1,000 sika deer. Friendly and free-roaming, these sacred creatures are considered divine messengers of the gods and are highly protected wildlife. Next explore the UNESCO-listed Tōdai-ji Temple and view its nearly 50-foot tall bronze Great Buddha statue. According to historical records, more than 2.6 million people helped construct the statue and its surrounding hall, contributing materials like wood and metal, with 350,000 laborers working directly on the statue's construction. Continue to Kasuga Taisha, a shrine dedicated to the deity responsible for the protection of the city. Hundreds of bronze lanterns, donated by worshipers and lit only twice a year during festivals, hang from the various buildings. Gather for a group lunch before continuing to Kyoto by motor coach. Check into your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day and evening at leisure to explore independently.
Overnight: The Westin Miyako Kyoto

Day 5 **KYOTO** (B,D) Visit the Kyoto Museum of Crafts and Design, which showcases the traditional crafts and industries of Kyoto including lacquerware, textiles, woodworking, metalwork and basketry. Break for lunch on your own and time to explore the ancient pedestrian streets of Ninenzaka and Sannenzaka. Afterward tour Fushimi Inari Taisha, a shrine famous for its thousands of bright red-orange torii gates straddling the property's paths and trails. Each gate has been donated by an individual or company as a prayer for a wish to come true or a token of gratitude for a wish fulfilled. This evening take part in a sushi-making experience, gaining insight into the precision and creativity of Japan's culinary traditions.
Overnight: The Westin Miyako Kyoto

Day 6 **KYOTO • HIROSHIMA** (B,L) After breakfast step aboard Japan's famed Shinkansen bullet train for a day trip to Hiroshima, a vibrant urban hub that has become known for its robust food culture. Enjoy extended time to explore the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, and see the poignant A-Bomb Dome—one of the few buildings to remain standing and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The evening is at leisure at the hotel.
Overnight: The Westin Miyako Kyoto

Day 7 **KYOTO** (B) After breakfast take an inside tour of Nijo-jo Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and former imperial palace of the first shogun of the Edo Period and his family. Next experience a tranquil tea ceremony providing an intimate glimpse into Japanese tradition and hospitality. Continue to the enchanting Arashiyama Bamboo Grove for a brief walking tour. The sun-dappled pathways beneath the soaring bamboo stalks provide a stage for breathtaking photography opportunities. Conclude the day with a visit to UNESCO-listed Kinkaku-ji, the Golden Pavilion.
Overnight: The Westin Miyako Kyoto

Day 8 **KYOTO • HAKONE** (B,L,D) Travel east via Shinkansen bullet train to Hakone, a mountainous town nestled within the forested landscapes of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. Peruse the exhibits and installations at the Hakone Open Air Museum, which strives to create a harmonic balance of nature and art by positioning sculptures in cohesion with views of the surrounding valley and mountains. Arrive to your luxury accommodations for the following two nights—a traditional ryokan featuring open-air hot springs, providing a quintessential Japanese experience.
Overnight: Hakone Kowakien Ten-yu

Day 9 **HAKONE** (B,L,D) Set off for Hakone Ropeway Owakudani Station to board a cable car ascending to an observation platform for spectacular views over the valley. Afterward embark on a sightseeing cruise across Lake Ashi. Have a camera ready to capture shots of Mt. Fuji if the skies are clear. The remainder of the day is at leisure at the property—relax in one of the open-air onsen baths or the sauna. This evening enjoy a buffet dinner featuring haute Japanese cuisine.
Overnight: Hakone Kowakien Ten-yu

Day 10 **HAKONE • TOKYO** (B,L) Board a motor coach for the journey to Tokyo. En route stop to see Oshino Hakkai, a set of eight spring ponds fed by aquifer water from Mt. Fuji. Enjoy leisure time to explore followed by a visit to Hannoki Oshino, the historic village nearby. Continue to the northern shore of Lake Kawaguchiko, stopping at Oishi Park for stunning panoramic views and prime photography opportunities of Mt. Fuji and the lake. Next visit Arakura Fuji Sengen, dedicated to the deity of Mt. Fuji. Upon arrival in Tokyo check into your sophisticated accommodations and enjoy the evening at leisure to explore the city's abundant dining and entertainment options.
Overnight: ANA InterContinental Tokyo

Day 11 **TOKYO** (B,L) Visit Meiji Shrine, dedicated to the spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. While exploring the grounds perhaps take part in a traditional Shinto activity like making an offering at the main hall or writing out a wish on an ema (wooden plaque). Afterward take a guided panoramic tour of the Shibuya Crossing, a bustling shopping and entertainment hub. Conclude the day with an inside visit to the Tokyo National Museum, home to a collection of approximately 600 pieces of art and artifacts including paintings, calligraphic works, sculptures, decorative arts and archaeological relics spanning millennia of Japanese history.
Overnight: ANA InterContinental Tokyo

Day 12 **TOKYO** (B,D) This morning explore Tokyo Imperial Palace and the Imperial Palace East Gardens, a tranquil oasis on the former grounds of Edo Castle. Continue to Tokyo Tower, the country's tallest, for unbeatable 360° views over the urban expanse from the observation deck. Enjoy lunch on your own and independent leisure time to explore Ginza, Tokyo's high-end shopping district. This famous entertainment center features an extensive variety of department stores, boutiques, art galleries and restaurants. Later rejoin the group for an interactive origami workshop. Try your hand at creating your own Japanese paper artwork to take home as a memento of your experience. This evening gather together for a special farewell dinner to commemorate your time in Japan.
Overnight: ANA InterContinental Tokyo

Day 13 **TOKYO • DEPART FOR U.S.** (B) After breakfast guests departing during the suggested times take a complimentary transfer to Haneda Airport for flights home.

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)

Activity Level: Tour days tend to be long and include many full-day excursions via various modes of transportation. Guests should be easily able to walk a minimum of 4-5 miles per day. Due to local restrictions, the guest drop-off point is typically a 15-minute +/- walk to the entrance of various sites. Guests must be able to walk at a steady, moderate pace for 15 or more minutes on gravel or inclined pathways. Many sites have historic stone stairs. Guests should be able to climb and descend 40-50 stairs at a time that may be uneven. The Arakura Fuji Sengen Shrine has upwards of 400 stairs to ascend to the top. Some included meals feature Japanese-style seating where guests will dine at a low table, sitting on the floor with room to extend legs comfortably in a sunken alcove beneath the table. Guests must be able to lower to the floor and rise without assistance as well as sit for a full meal without back support. In Hakone the accommodations feature traditional Japanese-style bed frames. Guests must be able to get in and out of a bed that is low to the floor.

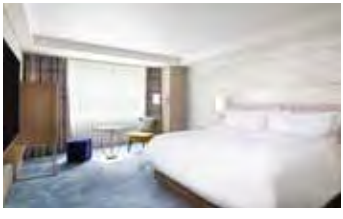
Accommodations *(subject to change)*

CENTARA GRAND HOTEL OSAKA

Ideally situated, this five-star hotel offers contemporary amenities and a variety of on-site restaurants.

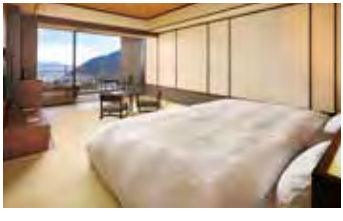
THE WESTIN MIYAKO KYOTO

Located at the edge of the Higashiyama mountain range, it's within walking distance to numerous UNESCO sites.



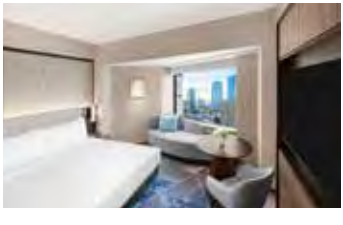
HAKONE KOWAKIEN TEN-YU

This traditional ryokan provides a serene oasis of relaxation featuring a variety of onsen (open-air) baths.



ANA INTERCONTINENTAL TOKYO

This five-star hotel's guest rooms are adorned with traditional Japanese tones and origami-inspired décor.



What's Included

- 11 nights accommodations at 4- and 5-star properties
- 11 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 5 dinners including special welcome and farewell dinners
- All excursions described in the itinerary including admission and fees
- Bullet train rail fare between Kyoto, Hiroshima and Hakone
- Academic insight from Principia trip scholar Dr. Peter van Lidth de Jeude
- Attentive support from a Principia Lifelong Learning host
- Optional Christian Science church services
- Expert guidance by an Orbridge Travel Director and English-speaking local guides
- Transfer and excursion transportation aboard air conditioned motor coaches
- Gratuities for Orbridge Travel Director, local guides, attendants and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times

Optional Post-Tour Japanese Alps

Discover forested mountains, crystal-clear lakes and ornate shrines tucked among towering cedars. Immerse yourself in the refined elegance of imperial landmarks and centuries-old spiritual sites surrounded by Nikko National Park's dramatic natural splendor and rejuvenating, mineral-rich hot springs.

Day 13 **TOKYO • NIKKO** (L,D) Depart Tokyo for the tranquil mountain region of Nikko, a UNESCO World Heritage area celebrated for its scenic grandeur and sacred sites. Travel along the winding Irohazaka Road before reaching the Akechidaira Plateau for photography opportunities of Kegon Falls, one of Japan's most famous cascades. Continue to Lake Chuzenji for a relaxing scenic cruise. Later settle into your accommodations—an authentic ryokan—followed by a group dinner at the property.
Overnight: Nikko Kinugawa Hotel Mikazuki

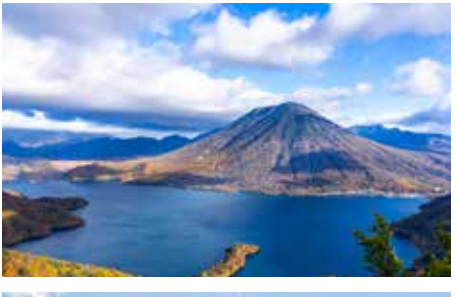
Day 14 **NIKKO** (B,L,D) Begin the day with a visit to the ornate Toshogu Shrine, an architectural masterpiece adorned with elaborate carvings and vibrant colors. This lavish mausoleum is dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, founder of the Tokugawa shogunate. Continue to the museum and memorial park of Tamozawa Imperial Villa, once a summer retreat for Emperor Taishō. Walk the peaceful grounds and gain insight into Japanese imperial culture.
Overnight: Nikko Kinugawa Hotel Mikazuki

Day 15 **NIKKO • TOKYO** (B,L) This morning visit Rinnoji Temple, founded in the 8th century by the Buddhist monk who introduced Buddhism to Nikko. Walk through the colorful Shoyoen Garden located behind the temple's treasure house. Later return to Tokyo via motor coach for an evening at leisure.
Overnight: ANA InterContinental Tokyo

Day 16 **TOKYO • DEPART FOR U.S.** (B) After breakfast guests departing during the suggested times take the complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home.

What's Included

- Round-trip motor coach transportation between Tokyo and Nikko
- 2 nights accommodations in Nikko and 1 night accommodations in Tokyo
- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners
- Admission to all sites listed in the 4-day itinerary
- Touring by an English-speaking guide
- Gratuities for Orbridge Travel Director, local guides, porters, attendants and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested times



APRIL 1-13, 2027

Japanese Alps Post-Tour: April 13-16, 2027

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Japanese Alps Post-Tour

Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	~~$3,199~~	$2,995
Single	~~$4,499~~	$4,295

DEPOSIT AMOUNT PER PERSON

$850 main tour • $500 post-tour

*Special group rates; limited offer. All rates are per person in U.S. dollars based on double occupancy except where noted as Single. Single availability limited. Unless noted otherwise, airfare is not included.

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Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.

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