

Day 1: Arrival in Tokyo

Arrival at Narita International Airport.

Your English speaking guides will be waiting for you in the arrival hall.

Transfer by deluxe private air conditioned 45 seat coaches with driver to Tokyo

* Baggage transfer to your hotel by truck.

Mineral water will be offered in the coaches on a daily basis during all transfers and excursions. (2 bottles per person)

Early check in.

Late afternoon, your guides will take you to the Sumo tournament

Dinner at Yoshiba (Chanko dinner, traditional sumo stew)

Overnight in Tokyo



Day 2: Tokyo

Breakfast at your hotel

Depart this morning for Tokyo sightseeing

Meiji Jingu, Tokyo's most revered shrine, Omotesando and Harajuku.

Lunch at the Musashi (Sky Tree restaurant) with a great view over Tokyo.

After lunch, Visit Asakusa, part of Tokyo's Shitamachi, or old town. Asakusa is home to Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest Buddhist temple and is also the city's oldest Geisha district.

Option 1

Samurai Sword Lesson

Option 2

Sky diving

Option 3

Taiko session

Return to your hotel

Dinner transfer to restaurant by coach.

Dinner at Mon cher Ton Ton (Teppenyaki)

Overnight in Tokyo.



Day 3: Tokyo- Hakone - Tokyo

Breakfast at your hotel

Leave Tokyo by bus for Hakone, the gateway to Mt Fuji and surrounding national park. This small town is famous for its *onsen* (natural hot springs), and has natural beauty in abundance.

On arrival, your private bus will take you for lunch by Lake Ahinoko. A majestic replica pirate ship will sweep you across Lake Ashinoko, formed by a volcanic eruption 3000 years ago, followed by a ride on the Hakone Tozan 'switchback train' which zig zags though the mountains giving amazing views of the surrounding valleys.

After lunch enjoy an amazing experience climbing trees and swinging across the forest canopy 14 meters from the ground. Mt.Fuji will be right in front of your eyes!

Option: transfer to Hakone by helicopter

For this final Tokyo evening, the dinner will take place in a boat along Sumida river

Dinner & Overnight in Tokyo



Day 4: Tokyo-Kyoto

Breakfast at your hotel

Morning is free at leisure until you leave for Kyoto by Shinkansen.

Arrived in Kyoto and transfer to your hotel.

Afternoon's cultural immersion takes place in a beautifully restored Japanese wooden town house. You will participate in the following courses: (3 choices)

- Calligraphy
- Tea Ceremony
- Ikebana

AFTER your activity the whole group will be welcomed at a Sake brewery for sake tasting.

Dinner at Sobo

Overnight in Kyoto



Day 5: Kyoto

Breakfast at your hotel

The old capital has more than 2000 temples and shrines and is a place where one can truly feel the real Japan.

You will start the first part of the day on bicycle discovering some hidden parts of Kyoto.

Then enjoy the following sightseeing by private bus:

Nijo Castle This ornamental castle was built by the founder of the

Edo Shogunate as his Kyoto residence and is surrounded by stunning gardens.

Kinkakuji, Golden Pavilion. This is one of the highlights of Kyoto. Originally built as a retirement villa for the Shogun, after his death it became a Buddhist Temple at his request and is now one of Kyoto's most famous temples.

Lunch at Tenryuji Temple followed by a *Zazen* ceremony in a World Heritage temple.

Kiyomizu Temple. From the 13m high veranda jutting out from the Main Hall you can enjoy amazing views of the whole of Kyoto whilst pondering the fact that both the Main Hall and Veranda were built without the use of nails or any kind of joiners.

Dinner at Kikunoi Honten (evening with geishas)

Overnight in Hyatt Regency



Day 6: Kyoto departure

Breakfast at hotel.

Free at leisure until your transfer to Kansai Airport.

* Baggage will be loaded into the coach.

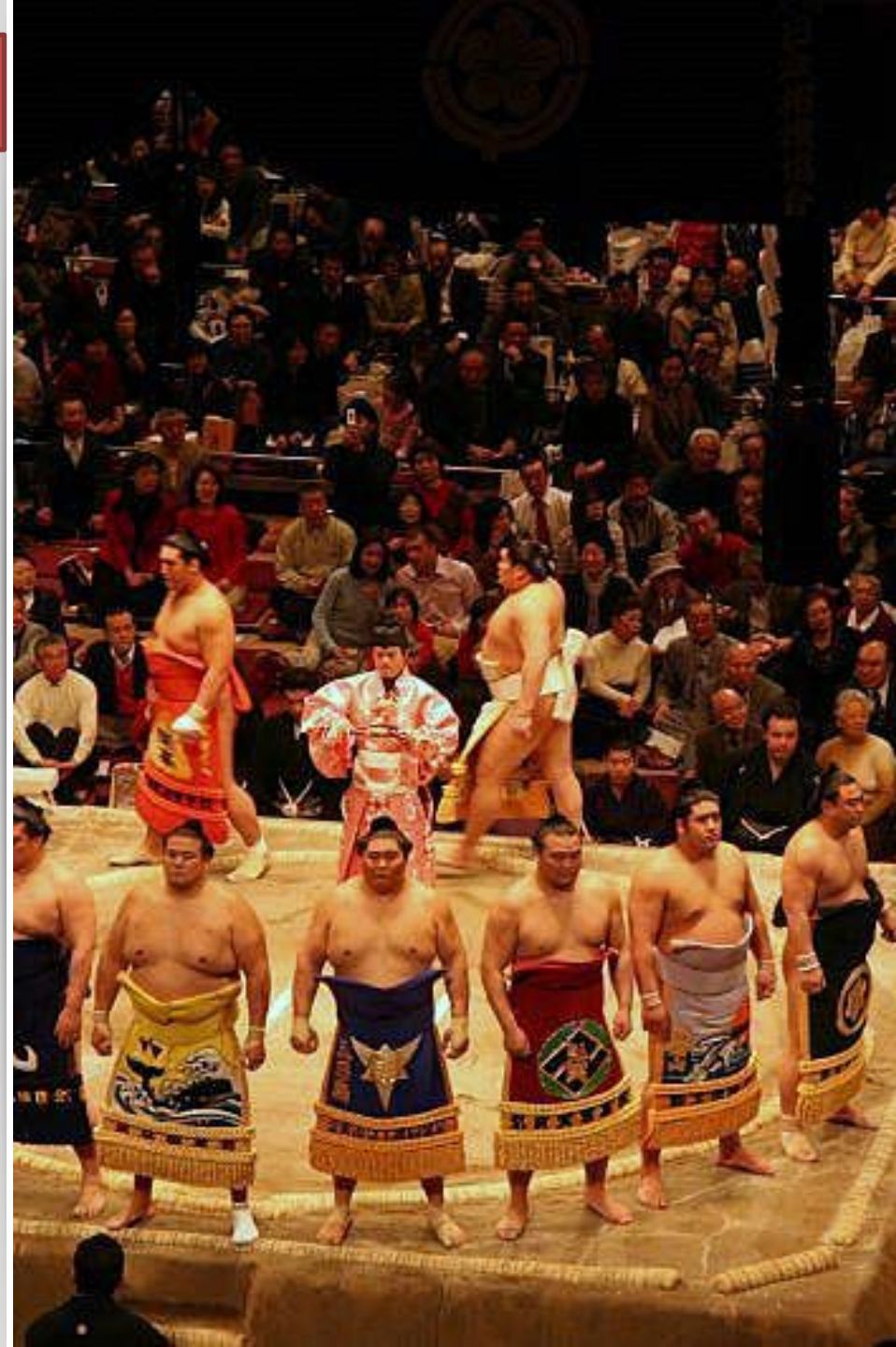
Depart Japan.



Sumo Fight

Sumo is a Japanese style of wrestling and Japan's national sport. It originated in ancient times as a performance to entertain the Shinto Gods

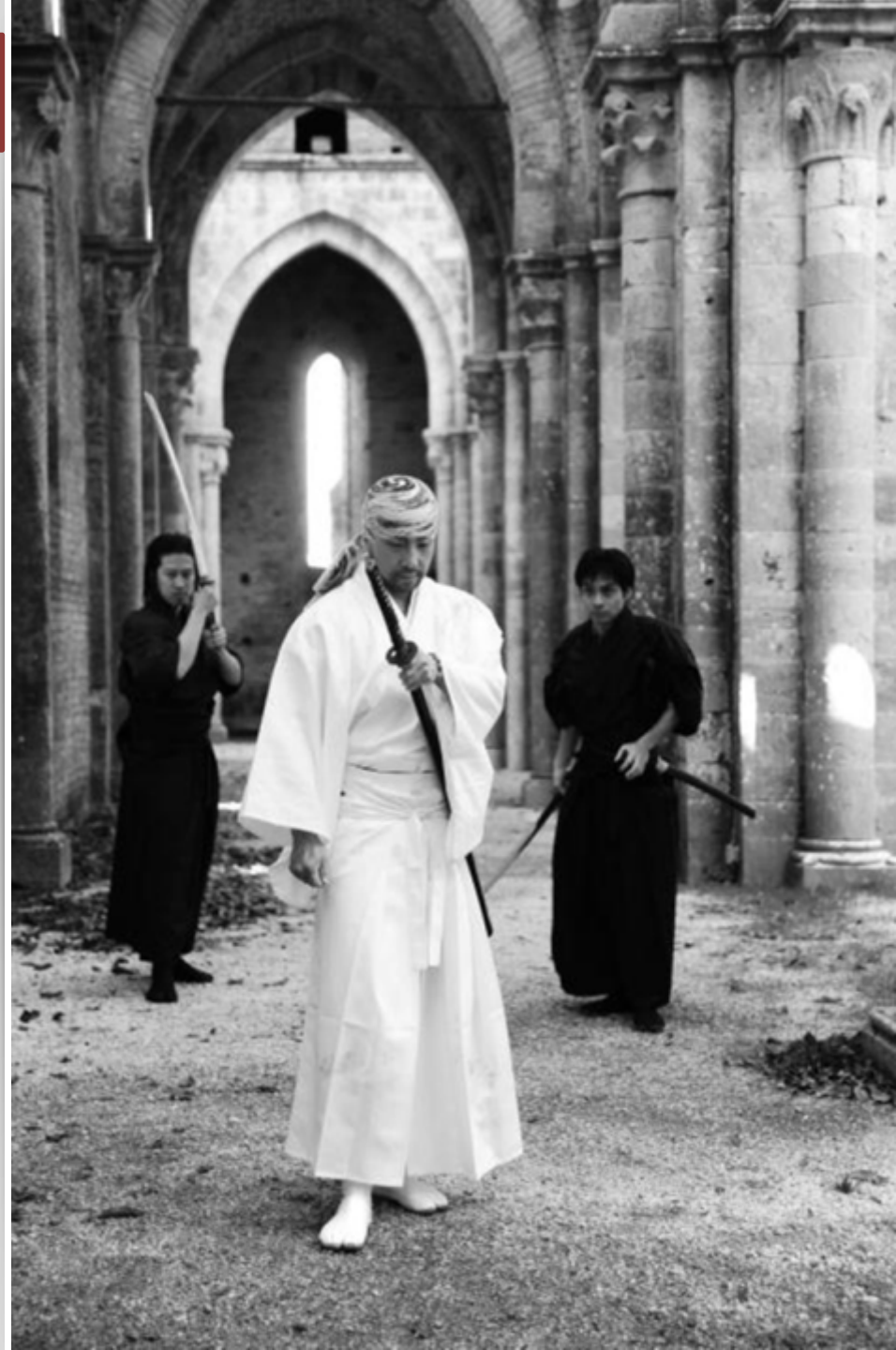
May is the 3rd tournament of the year and is held in Tokyo.



Samurai Sword lesson

Shimaguchi was the head choreographer in Tarantino's Kill Bill: Volume One, choreographing Uma Thurman's final climatic fight scene in the snowy garden. He also played the role of Miki, the first punk to fall to Uma's sword in that scene.

Shimaguchi is one of only a handful of professional sword fight choreographers in Japan today making this a very unique experience!



Introduction to Japanese culture

Today you will visit a beautifully restored *machiya* (traditional Kyoto wooden townhouse) for a fantastic cultural experience.

- **Calligraphy** - learn how to draw *kanji* (Japanese pictographs)
- **Tea Ceremony** - receive a full explanation of Japanese tea and the tea ceremony, its long history and its relationship with Zen Buddhism.
You will be able to try your hand at making tea before enjoying your teas master's green tea accompanied with Japanese sweets.
- **Ikebana** - you will also be able to observe an instructor performing the Japanese art of *ikebana* (flower arrangement). More than just simply putting flowers in a vase, this art form literally



Cycling Tour

Cycle along the Shirakawa canal, lined with weeping willow trees, past traditional Kyoto style tea houses.

Next we stop at the Imperial Palace Park, located in central Kyoto. Formerly where the residences of the Imperial family and court nobles once stood, the area was turned into a park after the capital was moved to Tokyo and made open to the general public. With its wide paths and abundant beautiful green trees and lawns, this park is known as an urban oasis for birds.



Evening with Geishas

Kyoto is famous for its temples but even more so for its *geisha*. Tonight we have a very unique experience for you with the chance to meet and dine with a *geisha*.

Enjoy an exquisite dinner in the company of a *geisha*. With the help of your guide/interpreter, you will be able to ask questions about the *geisha* and their world. The food on this occasion will be a traditional multi course *kaiseki* meal, another great introduction to the rich culture of Kyoto.

