



THE WALKING CONNECTION • SIGNATURE ADVENTURE • BUILT BY HI – HUMAN INTELLIGENCE

A Japanese Camino Pilgrimage Tradition

Kumano Kodo Trail & Awaji Island Adventure

MAY 9-17, 2027 | 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS | MAXIMUM 12 GUESTS

FROM \$7,398 USD

per person, based on double occupancy

The Kumano Kodo is a network of ancient pilgrimage trails included within the UNESCO World Heritage Site, **"Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range."**

Stay in traditional Japanese inns and a Buddhist temple lodging, soak in mountain hot springs, and discover the quieter landscapes and living traditions of Awaji Island.

JAPAN • PILGRIMAGE • CULTURE • WALKING



THE CAMINO(S)

The Camino de Santiago Has a Sister...

The Walking Connection has gained a global reputation for introducing travelers to the magic of Spain's **Camino de Santiago**. For years, we have led our guests along its ancient paths, crossed medieval villages, celebrated in lively plazas, and ultimately stood before the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela with a sense of accomplishment that is difficult to describe.

What many Camino veterans don't realize is that the Camino has a sister.

Not in Spain.

In Japan.

Hidden among mist-covered mountains, towering cedar forests, quiet farming villages, and centuries-old shrines is the **Kumano Kodo**, a network of pilgrimage trails that has welcomed emperors, monks, samurai, and ordinary travelers for more than a thousand years.

The Camino de Santiago and the Kumano Kodo share a distinction found nowhere else in the world. They are the **only two UNESCO World Heritage pilgrimage routes on Earth**. Although each reflects a different culture and spiritual tradition, both were created for the same reason: to slow life's pace, encourage reflection, and remind us that the journey itself is often more meaningful than the destination.

For those who have walked the Camino with us, the Kumano Kodo will feel surprisingly familiar.

For those of you who are new to the Walking Connection, or to those who are taking your first step on a pilgrimage trail, get ready to adventure along peaceful forest paths, through welcoming villages, and share conversations with fellow travelers, all while internalizing moments of quiet that linger long after the walk is over.

Transfix your perspective and view your personal pilgrimage through the lens of Japanese culture, where hospitality is an art form, hot springs restore both body and spirit, and traditions that have endured for centuries remain woven into everyday life.

This is not simply another hiking trip.

It is an opportunity to experience Japan from the inside out.

Two Pilgrimages. Two Continents. One Extraordinary Journey.

Come Walk the Kumano Kodo With Us!

THE JOURNEY

This thoughtfully paced journey begins in energetic Osaka before moving into the forested mountains of Japan's Kii Peninsula. Here, we follow portions of the UNESCO-listed Kumano Kodo pilgrimage network through small villages, cedar forests, sacred shrines, and centuries of Japanese spiritual history.

After completing our pilgrimage among the Three Grand Shrines of Kumano, we continue to Koyasan, one of Japan's most important centers of Buddhism. Our final days are spent on Awaji Island, where walking is paired with traditional indigo dyeing, local pottery, sustainable agriculture, and the island's own pilgrimage heritage.

It is a journey through sacred landscapes—but equally important, it is an opportunity to experience Japan slowly, personally, and largely beyond the crowds.

Journey at a Glance

DAY	EXPERIENCE	OVERNIGHT	MEALS
1	Arrive in Osaka and welcome dinner	Osaka	D
2	Travel to the Kumano Kodo; walk Takijiri to Takahara	Takahara	B, L, D
3	Walk Takahara to Chikatsuyu; transfer to Yunomine Onsen	Yunomine Onsen	B, L, D
4	Walk Hosshinmon-oji to Kumano Hongu Taisha	Yunomine Onsen	B, D
5	Visit Hayatama Taisha; walk Daimonzaka to Nachi Taisha	Kii-Katsuura	B, D
6	Travel to Koyasan; temples and Okuno-in Cemetery	Koyasan	B, L, D
7	Travel to Awaji Island; coastal park walk and indigo dyeing	Awaji Island	B, D
8	Hike Mount Senzan; pottery artisan and farm-to-table experience	Awaji Island	B, L, D
9	Departure transfer to an Osaka-area airport -or- Kyoto Extension	—	B



WHAT MAKES THIS JOURNEY SPECIAL

Walk an Ancient Pilgrimage Route

The Kumano Kodo is a network of pilgrimage trails crossing the mountains of the Kii Peninsula. For more than a thousand years, emperors, monks, nobles, and ordinary pilgrims have traveled these paths in search of purification, renewal, and connection with the sacred landscapes of Kumano.

Our itinerary follows carefully selected sections of the Nakahechi route, combining meaningful walking with time to understand the shrines, villages, beliefs, and traditions that shaped the pilgrimage.

Experience Traditional Japanese Hospitality

This journey includes several distinct styles of Japanese lodging. Along the way, we stay in modern Western-style hotels, traditional ryokan and minshuku inns, a mountain hot-spring resort, and a Buddhist temple lodging known as a shukubo.

Tatami floors, futon bedding, communal baths, yukata robes, seasonal meals, and the quiet rituals of Japanese hospitality are all part of the experience. *More on the "Communal Baths Below"*

Complete the Three Grand Shrines of Kumano

Our journey includes Kumano Hongu Taisha, Kumano Hayatama Taisha, and Kumano Nachi Taisha. Together, they form the spiritual heart of the Kumano region.

Stay in a Buddhist Temple on Koyasan

Koyasan has been a center of Shingon Buddhism since the ninth century. We spend the night in a temple lodging, dine on traditional Buddhist vegetarian cuisine, and explore the temples and memorials of this sacred mountain community.

Discover the Living Culture of Awaji Island

Awaji offers a different side of Japan—coastal landscapes, local crafts, family traditions, sustainable agriculture, and a quieter pace of life. Our experiences include natural indigo dyeing, a mountain temple walk, a visit with a local pottery artisan, and a visit with a sustainable food producer.



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 Welcome to Osaka

Arrive in Osaka and make your way independently to our hotel in the city center.

Osaka is one of Japan's great urban centers—energetic, informal, food-loving, and an excellent place to begin our journey. After checking in and settling into your room, meet your Walking Connection hosts, Japanese tour leader, and fellow travelers.

This evening, we walk to a nearby restaurant for our welcome dinner. Greeting new friends and renewing friendships with past Walking Connection travel mates over our first meal together, we will introduce the journey ahead, review the walking program, and settle in to a new adventure.

Meals: Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Royal Classic Osaka - Modern Western-style hotels are used in Osaka and Awaji. Rooms include private bathrooms, air conditioning, television, and a small refrigerator.

PLEASE NOTE

Transportation from the airport to the Osaka hotel is not included. Detailed arrival instructions will be provided before departure.

DAY 2 Into the Mountains of Kumano — Takijiri to Takahara

After breakfast, we leave Osaka by train for Kii-Tanabe, then take a local bus to Takijiri. Takijiri marks the traditional entrance to the mountainous interior of Kumano and the beginning of our walk on the Nakahechi section of the Kumano Kodo. From here, the trail climbs steadily through the forest toward Takahara, a small ridge-top settlement overlooking the surrounding mountains.

Although today's walk is relatively short, the ascent begins almost immediately and provides a proper introduction to the terrain of the Kumano Kodo. Stone steps, exposed roots, forest paths, and steep sections remind us that this is an ancient pilgrimage trail—not a landscaped walking path.

Tonight, we settle into our first Japanese-style accommodation and enjoy dinner featuring regional ingredients.

Walking Distance: 4 km / 2.5 miles

Ascent: 417 m / 1,368 ft

Descent: 186 m / 610 ft

Walking Time: About 2 hours

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Organic Hotel Kirinosato
Traditional Japanese Ryokan Style. Western beds and a private toilet. Private showers and bathing are in separate, gender-specific communal hot-spring baths; there is no shower facility in the room.

DAY 3 Takahara to Chikatsuyu

Following an early Japanese breakfast, we leave our inn on foot and continue through the forests and small settlements of the Kumano Kodo.

The trail passes several small subsidiary shrines known as oji. These shrines historically served as places where pilgrims could rest, pray, and prepare spiritually as they traveled deeper into Kumano.

Today's walk is longer and more demanding than yesterday's, with repeated climbs and descents through peaceful countryside. We eventually descend toward Chikatsuyu, a village beside the Hiki River.

From Chikatsuyu, we transfer by vehicle to Yunomine Onsen, one of Japan's oldest hot-spring villages. Thermal water rises naturally beside the village stream, and bathing has long been associated with purification before visiting the sacred shrines of Kumano.

After arriving at our ryokan, there will be time to soak in the hot-spring baths before or after our multi-course dinner.

Walking Distance: 10 km / 6.5 miles

Ascent: 480 m / 1,575 ft

Descent: 520 m / 1,700 ft

Walking Time: 4–5 hours.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Yunomineso – (*Ensuite toilets*) - *Traditional Japanese Ryokan Style features tatami mat flooring, sliding shoji screens, low tables, and futon bedding. Private individual showers are located near same-gender communal baths.*

DAY 4 Hosshinmon-oji to Kumano Hongu Taisha

This morning, we travel by local bus from Yunomine Onsen to Hosshinmon-oji, a traditionally important spiritual gateway. From here, pilgrims entered the innermost sacred territory surrounding Kumano Hongu Taisha.

Our walk follows one of the gentler and most historically significant sections of the Nakahechi route. We pass through small mountain communities, forested paths, and rural landscapes before approaching Kumano Hongu Taisha, one of the Three Grand Shrines of Kumano.

Kumano was traditionally associated with death, rebirth, purification, and the mysterious world beyond ordinary human experience. Visiting Hongu Taisha helps us better understand the combination of nature worship, Shinto beliefs, Buddhism, and pilgrimage traditions found throughout the region.

Following our shrine visit, we will have time for lunch before returning by local bus to Yunomine Onsen.

Walking Distance: 7.1 km / 4.4 miles

Ascent: 173 m / 568 ft

Descent: 438 m / 1,437 ft

Walking Time: About 2½ hours

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: (*Ensuite toilets*) - *Traditional Japanese Ryokan Style features tatami mat flooring, sliding shoji screens, low tables, and futon bedding. Private individual showers are located near same-gender communal baths.*

PLEASE NOTE

Lunch today is not included and may be purchased locally.

DAY 5 The Grand Shrines and Nachi Falls

After breakfast, we travel by private vehicle to Kumano Hayatama Taisha, the second of the Three Grand Shrines of Kumano.

From Hayatama, we continue to the base of the Daimonzaka. This historic stone approach leads through an avenue of ancient cedar trees toward the sacred complex surrounding Nachi Falls.

We climb the Daimonzaka stone stairway to Kumano Nachi Taisha and the nearby Buddhist temple of Seiganto-ji. The combination of shrine, temple, pagoda, forest, and waterfall creates one of the most memorable landscapes in Japan.

Nachi Falls drops approximately 135 meters from the forested mountainside and has been revered as a sacred presence since ancient times. With our visit to Nachi Taisha, we complete our journey among the Three Grand Shrines of Kumano.

Later in the day, we continue to our hotel on Katsuura Bay. The property offers several indoor and outdoor hot-spring baths, providing a fitting place to relax after our pilgrimage.

Walking Distance: About 1.5 km / 0.9 miles

Walking Time: About 40 minutes, with an extended stone stairway and climbing.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Nakanoshima (Ensuite bathrooms)

Style: *Traditional Japanese ryokan with contemporary luxury Western-style beds or traditional tatami rooms with futon bedding, depending on room type.*

DAY 6 Koyasan: A Sacred Mountain Community

This morning, we travel by private vehicle to Koyasan, located approximately 900 meters above sea level in the mountains of the Kii Peninsula. Koyasan was established in the ninth century by the Buddhist priest Kukai, also known as Kobo Daishi. It remains the spiritual center of Shingon Buddhism and is home to more than 100 temples and monasteries.

We visit Kongobu-ji, the principal temple of the Shingon school, and walk through Okuno-in, one of Japan's most sacred cemeteries. The forested approach is lined with thousands of graves, statues, lanterns, and memorials honoring monks, feudal lords, prominent families, and people from every level of Japanese society.

Our accommodation tonight is at a Buddhist temple. Dinner is shojin-ryori, the traditional vegetarian cuisine developed in Buddhist temples. Depending upon the temple schedule, guests may also have an opportunity to attend an early-morning religious service.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Koyasan Shukubo – Buddhist Temple Lodging

Guest rooms are Japanese-style with tatami mat floors and futon bedding. Western-style toilets, while bathing facilities are generally communal and separated by gender.



DAY 7 Awaji Island and Traditional Indigo Dyeing

After breakfast, we leave Koyasan and travel toward Awaji Island, crossing the impressive Akashi Kaikyo Bridge from mainland Japan.

Awaji is associated with some of Japan's earliest creation mythology and retains a strong local identity shaped by agriculture, fishing, craftsmanship, and island life.

After arriving, we enjoy a walk through Akashi Kaikyo Park. This landscaped coastal park features seasonal flowers, open lawns, sea views, and peaceful walking paths.

Later, we participate in a traditional indigo dyeing workshop. Indigo dyeing has a long history in Japan, and during the workshop, we learn about the process while creating a small, individually dyed piece to take home.

We then continue to our hotel for dinner and a relaxing evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Shimahana Hotel - Modern Western-style rooms that include private bathrooms, air conditioning, television, and a small refrigerator.





DAY 8 Mount Senzan, Senkoji Temple and Awaji Island Traditions

Our final full day begins with a short but steep hike up Mount Senzan, also known as "Awaji Fuji" for its distinctive shape. According to Japanese creation mythology, Mount Senzan was the first mountain formed when the deities Izanagi and Izanami created Awaji Island. **(This is walk is at your option).**

At the summit, we visit Senkoji Temple, the first temple of the Awaji Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage. The climb provides a final connection between the walking and pilgrimage themes that have shaped our journey.

Later, we visit the gallery and workshop of a local pottery artisan. Located in his grandmother's traditional home, the studio reflects a slower and more sustainable approach to art, community, and daily life.

We also meet a local food producer who transforms surplus island vegetables into handcrafted products. The visit provides insight into Awaji's agricultural traditions and the creative ways local businesses are responding to food waste and sustainability.

This evening, we gather for dinner and reflect on our journey from the sacred forests of Kumano to the farms, studios, and communities of Awaji Island.

Walking Distance: About 2.3 km / 1.4 miles

Ascent: About 397 m / 1,302 ft

Walking Time: About 1 hour

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Shimahana Hotel - Modern Western-style rooms that include private bathrooms, air conditioning, television, and a small refrigerator.

PLEASE NOTE

Today's hike is relatively short but steep. Walking poles may be useful. This walk is included, but your option.

DAY 9 Departure – Or Kyoto Extension (3 Nights, 4 Days)

Our journey concludes after breakfast.

A transfer is included and arranged to either Kansai International Airport or Osaka International Airport. Our guide will be available in the morning to assist with departure arrangements and directions for onward travel.

Meals: Breakfast

PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

The Walking Experience

This adventure is best described as moderate, with several challenging sections.

The Kumano Kodo is an ancient mountain trail. Surfaces may include packed earth, exposed roots, rocks, uneven stone steps, wet leaves, and steep climbs and descents. Rain can make parts of the route slippery.

The longest scheduled walk is approximately 6.5 miles, but distance alone does not tell the entire story. Elevation changes and trail conditions can make walking more demanding than a similar distance on a paved or level surface.

Guests should be comfortable:

- Walking for four to six hours
- Climbing and descending uneven forest trails
- Using extended stone stairways
- Carrying a daypack & Hands-free Hydration System
- Walking in rain or changing weather
- Entering and leaving trains, buses, and other public transportation

Regular walking and hill training before departure are strongly recommended. ([SEE: Journey30 on WalkingConnection.com](https://www.walkingconnection.com/journey30))



Accommodation

The accommodations on this adventure have been carefully selected to reflect our philosophy of experiencing Japan from the inside out. Rather than simply staying in familiar style hotels, you'll enjoy a variety of properties that showcase the country's rich hospitality traditions, from modern Western-style hotels to family-run inns, traditional ryokan, and even a night in a Buddhist temple.

Our **Western-style hotels** offer the comforts and amenities most North American travelers are accustomed to. **Our traditional Japanese inns and temple lodging**, however, provide a very different experience. Tatami mat floors, futon bedding, communal baths, and centuries-old customs are all part of everyday life in Japan, and part of the adventure.

In other words, these accommodations aren't just places to sleep; they're part of the journey itself.

Before you begin packing, we'll walk you through each property, explaining the style of accommodation, bedding arrangements, available amenities, and what to expect during your stay. That way, there won't be any surprises, except perhaps discovering that sleeping on a futon is far more comfortable than you imagined.

Western-Style Hotels

Modern Western-style hotels in Osaka and Awaji. Rooms include private bathrooms, air conditioning, television, and a small refrigerator.

Japanese hotel rooms are generally smaller than comparable rooms in North America. Twin rooms are more common than rooms with one large bed.

Ryokan and Minshuku

Traditional Japanese inns in Takahara, Yunomine Onsen, and Kii-Katsuura.

Rooms generally have tatami-mat flooring, with futon bedding laid out on the floor in the evening. All rooms have ensuite toilets. Private showers are located near same-gender communal baths.

Buddhist Temple Lodging

At Koyasan, we stay in a shukubo operated by a Buddhist temple.

Rooms are simple and similar to those found in a traditional inn, although facilities may be more limited. Meals feature shojin-ryori, traditional Buddhist vegetarian cuisine.

Single Rooms

The single supplement guarantees a private room only at the Western-style hotels in Osaka and Awaji.

Single rooms may not be available at traditional inns, ryokan, minshuku, or the Buddhist temple lodging. At these properties, solo guests may have to share with another member of the same-gender group. Availability is limited and will be confirmed as early as possible. Please confirm your request for single occupancy with Jo Ann before depositing on this trip.

A Note on Gender Identification

The Walking Connection recognizes that gender identification is personal and we respect and support all. For this adventure, we will follow the traditions and adhere to the policies of each hotel property regarding their designations for gender-based showers and communal baths. Registration for the adventure requires you to do the same.

Price & Payments

Price per person:

- Double occupancy: *from \$7398.00 USD.*
- Single occupancy: *a limited number of single rooms are available.. All single-occupancy rooms will be issued after a direct consultation with Jo Ann Taylor.*
- Highly Recommended - Optional post-tour extension to Kyoto. (TBA)

Our tour prices are subject to change due to currency fluctuations at the time of final payment.

Deposits:

An initial deposit of \$1000.00 USD per person is required to reserve your space. Space cannot be held without a complete deposit. (Deposits from postponed trips can only be transferred and not refunded.)

Payments:

Payments must be made according to the schedule & are subject to the cancellation and penalty policy. Final payment is due on or before 90 days prior to the trip. We request that all final payments be made by check, wire transfer, WISE or credit card. Credit card and PayPal payments for the final amount due are subject to a 3.5% surcharge of the total due. Canadian (or other non-U.S.) credit cards are subject to a 4.5% surcharge. Payments can be made by mail, online or by phone.

Price Variation:

Prices are based upon the current government fees for park, concession fees and sanctuary entry and all taxes at the time of publication of this information. Should the government impose new taxes, raise current taxes, or increase entry costs to any park or sanctuary, the price increase will be passed along to you. If fuel surcharges are imposed, this increase will also be passed on. You will be notified of this increase when Walking Connection is notified. All payments received by Walking Connection are subject to the cancellation policy already published and in effect.

Cancellation, Penalty & Refund Policies:

Should you have to cancel your tour, the following terms will apply:

A refund of your deposit (less a \$300 service fee) will be given if we are notified 6 months or more prior to this departure date. If your deposit was a credit from a previous trip postponement, it will be applied as a future credit. After that:

- For cancellations 91 days – 6 months, your \$1000 deposit is nonrefundable.
- For cancellations 90 days or less, and no-shows, 100% of the trip price is nonrefundable.

No refunds will be made for any unused portion of the tour.

All cancellations must be made in writing and delivered to Walking Connection via email. Your cancellation date is the date your notice is received and confirmed by Walking Connection, not the date sent.

MEALS, LUGGAGE & INCLUSIONS

Meals and Dietary Requirements

Most included meals will be Japanese cuisine, with an emphasis on regional ingredients and local specialties.

Meals at traditional inns are generally served as fixed multi-course menus. They may include fish, rice, vegetables, tofu, miso, pickled foods, seaweed, soup, and other seasonal dishes.

Vegetarian meals may be available with advance notice, but choices can be limited. Strict vegan, gluten-free, soy-free, or other highly restrictive diets may be difficult to accommodate.

Fish-based dashi stock, soy sauce, and miso are commonly used throughout Japanese cooking, including in dishes that may otherwise appear vegetarian.

Please list all dietary requirements on your trip registration form. Requests made after the trip begins may not be accommodated.

Tipping is generally not required in Japanese restaurants.

Luggage Transfers

Japan's luggage-forwarding system allows us to travel more comfortably on trains, buses, and other transportation.

Your primary suitcase will be forwarded on selected days. Because luggage does not always arrive at the next accommodation on the same day, you will need a comfortable overnight backpack for clothing, medications, toiletries, and personal items.

The primary luggage-forwarding schedule is expected to be:

- Day 2 to Day 3
- Day 5 to Day 7

One larger piece of luggage per person is included.

The maximum forwarded-bag allowance is:

- Weight: 25 kilograms / 55 pounds
- Combined dimensions: 160 centimeters / 63 inches

A small or medium wheeled suitcase and a comfortable daypack or overnight backpack are recommended.

Traditional inns provide towels, soap, shampoo, slippers, and cotton yukata robes. Yukata are commonly worn around the inn and at dinner, allowing guests to pack lightly for the evenings.

WHAT YOUR TRIP INCLUDES

INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED
• Unique itinerary designed by Walking Connection co-founder, Jo Ann Taylor, in partnership with our local team in Japan. • Escorted by Walking Connection Founders, Gene and Jo Ann Taylor. • Detailed <i>Know Before You Go</i> information, including recommended websites, resources for entry and departure, reading lists, packing lists, and weather forecasts. • Eight nights of accommodation. • Meals indicated in the itinerary. • Transportation between scheduled tour locations • Standard-class train travel. • Local buses, private vehicles, motorcoach transportation, and taxis as required. • Entrance fees for scheduled temples, museums, workshops, and attractions. • Full-time English-speaking Japanese tour guide • Assistant guide for groups of eight or more guests • Forwarding of one larger bag per guest on designated days. • Arranged departure transfer to Kansai International Airport or Osaka International Airport.	• Local driver and guides, tips and gratuities. • International airfare. • Transportation from the arrival airport to the Osaka hotel. • Meals not specifically listed. • Alcoholic beverages and personal purchases. • Optional activities. • Entrance fees for unscheduled attractions. • Additional luggage-forwarding charges. • Additional hotel stays: pre- or post- scheduled itinerary. • Early check-in or late check-out of rooms. • Optional tours. • Photographs or phone calls. • Discounts/Refunds on any unused portion of the tour. • Travel insurance. • Anything that is not expressly stated in the itinerary or on the inclusion list.

Travel Arrangements

Travel Roommates and Single Supplements:

There is limited availability, and a supplement will apply. Please contact us for details. If you have registered for double occupancy but don't have a travel roommate, you may be charged for a Single Supplement for any portion of the trip where you will be rooming as a single.

Trip Minimum and Maximum:

Minimum of 8 full-paying guests and a maximum of 12 guests. Walking Connection specializes in small-group travel. We often stay in boutique hotel properties, historical inns, private homes, and bed & breakfasts. For this and contractual reasons, some trips may require a minimum number of guests traveling together. FOR THIS TRIP, an additional Small Group Surcharge of \$300.00 USD may be assessed, or the trip may be canceled at the option of Walking Connection if sign-ups do not meet the 8-person minimum. This trip will be guaranteed to be conducted either when we have reached the minimum number of guests or evaluated 90 or 60 days before departure. Also, if the minimum is not met, Walking Connection may, in its sole discretion, elect to operate the trip without a Walking Connection host. **Please do not make your international or domestic air arrangements until the trip is confirmed.**

Japan Passports/Visas:

Valid passports must have 3 blank pages and at least 6 months remaining before expiration. Visas are NOT required for all US and Canadian citizens to enter Japan.

For passport applications and renewals:

<http://www.passportvisasexpress.com/?affld=992183579f5e584ff2a965b511618cc9>

Air Arrangements:

Arrival airport: Osaka International Airport (ITM) on May 9, 2027. This trip begins at our host hotel in Osaka. **Optional pre-night stays are available.**

Departure airport: Kansai International Airport (KIX) or Osaka International Airport (ITM). This trip ends on May 17, 2027 after breakfast. If you would like to explore more of Japan, **we recommend extending your stay to Kyoto with the group.**

BEFORE you make your international airline arrangements, please contact Walking Connection by email (info@WalkingConnection.com) to reconfirm the details of the trip. Walking Connection will provide you with recommended arrival and departure airports, times, and any additional information you may need **BEFORE** you book your flights.

Travel Insurance Center

Discover Peace of Mind with Travel Insurance

Insure ALL Your Travels Through The Walking Connection

The Walking Connection proudly offers several great travel insurance options. Generali has been a preferred vendor with our company for more than 25 years. Allianz is a new preferred Travel Insurance Provider offering new benefits such as annual Travel Insurance for multi-trip travelers and a connected mobile app to assist you on the go. Click the logos below to receive a list of coverages and programs and to receive a personalized FREE QUOTE!



More Details

Gear & Personal Items:

We will provide a detailed list of personal items you will need to ensure your journey is safe and convenient. No special gear is required for this trip, though you will receive a list of recommended items, including supportive hiking boots and socks. We can help with information on types, brands, and what to look for when purchasing new gear for the trip.

Special Supplier Gifts & Items:

As a local custom, vendors, suppliers, ground operators, restaurants, and hotel properties may offer complimentary beverages, some of which may or may not contain alcohol. Should you elect not to accept this gift, complimentary water may not be offered as a replacement and may incur an extra charge. This is a local custom beyond Walking Connection's control.

Your Local Guides and Trip Host/Escort:

At Walking Connection, our philosophy is simple: Each trip is designed in partnership with locals and delivered by local legends. We work with a small number of trusted travel partners to deliver the best experiences in the safest way possible. During this trip, you and your small group will be accompanied and led by two of our highly trained professional guides. Walking Connection Founders Gene and Jo Ann Taylor are scheduled to host this trip.

CONTACTS:

Jo Ann Taylor - +1 623.800.3649 info@WalkingConnection.com

QUESTIONS TO ASK? READY TO BOOK? If you want to get in touch, please email or call us. We accept bookings online, by email, or over the phone. A deposit of \$1000 USD is required at the time of booking to secure the trip, with the balance payable 90 Days before departure. If booking less than 90 days before the trip start date, full payment of the adventure is due with registration.

Walking Connection – Person-to-Person Guest Hotlines: Info@WalkingConnection is your best way to ask and receive information about all departures. To chat directly, please call +1 623.561.0846.

**We will do everything within our power to ensure that you have a great adventure.
Thank you for choosing the Walking Connection.**

"We Know The Way"

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