

# Travel with The Met

October 7–18, 2021

Journey to the Deep North of Japan:  
Tokyo to Hokkaido Aboard  
the *Train Suite Shiki-shima*



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### ***Train Suite Shiki-shima***

This exclusive cruise train, launched in 2017, offers an unparalleled standard of Japanese luxury and hospitality. Designed by Ken Okuyama, celebrated for his work with Ferrari, Maserati, and Porsche, *Train Suite Shiki-shima* highlights traditional Japanese aesthetics with a futuristic spirit.

Admire ancient forests, mountains, and seaside vistas from your front-row seat within the glass-enclosed observatory cars. Or, for guests in the two-floor Maisonette Suite Room, watch from your window as you relax in your own *tatami* room or from your own cypress bath—unique to Japan. The open and elegant Deluxe Suite Room features high ceilings, large windows, and a fireplace. Every Suite Room is furnished with a shower and bathroom, with wall panels that use a very rare Joboji lacquer from Iwate Prefecture and closets that are designed to resemble traditional chests from Sendai City.

Savor exquisite meals from the imagination of the Michelin-starred chef, tenderly prepared with the finest seasonal, local ingredients. Apart from stopovers, train crew members are on standby at the bar on a 24-hour basis. Enjoy an original cocktail, the finest single malt whiskey, or a light meal whenever you choose. Connect with fellow travelers in the Lounge Komorebi, whose decoration evokes the interplay of light and leaves when sunlight shines through trees, and is furnished with beautiful local crafts and artwork.







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# Journey to the Deep North of Japan Aboard the *Train Suite Shiki-shima*

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

As a country with a love of tradition and an endless fascination with novelty, Japan is a dynamic destination that has always captivated travelers. Join The Met for our first-ever journey by train to Japan's "Deep North," recalling the title of the travel diary of the celebrated haiku poet Matsuo Basho, *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*. Throughout this tour, explore traditional and modern Japanese art, literature, and performance created over the course of millennia. You will also travel aboard the exquisite *Train Suite Shiki-shima*, whose title evokes an ancient poetic name of Japan, literally meaning "island of the four seasons." On this exclusive rail journey, you will experience Japanese luxury, magnificent art, engineering, and design at their pinnacles.

Starting with two nights in electrifying Tokyo, delight in an introduction to some of the city's most distinguished private collectors and museum displays. You will then board the elegant, champagne-gold *Train Suite Shiki-shima*, traveling from Tokyo to Hokkaido, the northernmost of Japan's main islands and home to the indigenous Ainu people. From the comfort of the train's glass-enclosed observatory cars, admire constantly evolving scenery. Over four days, step off to discover famous shrines, hot springs, intriguing museums, an active archaeological site from the prehistoric Jomon period, and workshops of skilled local artists.

After your return journey down the western coast of Honshu, enjoy behind-the-scenes explorations of art in the ancient capitals of Nara and Kyoto, home to wonderful museums and UNESCO-listed shrines. On your way to Kyoto, a highlight will be the new seaside art space established by Hiroshi Sugimoto, the noted photographer, architect, and head of the Tokyo-based architectural firm New Material Research Laboratory.

This is a unique opportunity to fully immerse yourself in Japan's artistic and natural splendors, with rare access to the truly unforgettable *Train Suite Shiki-shima*. I hope you join The Met on this spectacular tour in Autumn 2021.

Sincerely,



Clyde B. Jones III  
Senior Vice President for Institutional Advancement  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Hakodate City Museum of Northern Peoples, photo by Pat M2007 (top); Enoura Observatory, Odawara, photo by L.W. Yang (center); Kofuk-ji Temple, Nara (above)

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## Trip Highlights

- Experience the pinnacle of Japanese luxury aboard the ultra-exclusive *Train Suite Shiki-shima*, enjoying traditional hospitality and exquisite regional cuisine as you journey through the serene mountains and colorful scenery of eastern Honshu, north to Hokkaido
- Enjoy an exclusive tour and reception at Tokyo's Yu-un, the private museum and residence of Takeo Obayashi, one of Japan's foremost collectors of Asian and Western contemporary art
- Delight in private, expert-guided access to some of Japan's most spectacular museums and private art collections, including the superb modern displays at the recently reopened Kyoto City Kyocera Museum
- Savor a rare and private dinner with an art collector and historian with an exclusive traditional music performance and Kyoto delicacies on the grounds of a medieval Shinto shrine



Dinner service on *Train Suite Shiki-shima*

# Journey to the Deep North of Japan Aboard the *Train Suite Shiki-shima* October 7–18, 2021



Tokyo's contemporary art and architectural scene. Stop for lunch in Roppongi Hills. In the late afternoon, delight in a private tour and wine reception at a fabulous modern mansion with a great contemporary art collection. This evening, indulge in a delicious dinner at one of the hotel's fine restaurants. B, L, R, D

well as the White Room, a former first-class lounge. As you make your way to Hakodate, enjoy cocktails and evening views in the Lounge Komorebi. B, L, D

## Tokyo / Embark *Train Suite Shiki-shima* / Nikko

Monday, October 11

After checking out of the hotel, board the elegant *Train Suite Shiki-shima* for a welcome lunch and beautiful views of the Japanese countryside. In the afternoon, step off for an exclusive tour of the Nikkozan Rinnoji Temple, the most famous shrine of the Nikko region designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the temple's Sanbutsudo Hall under the expert guidance of a temple priest, in addition to viewing some other facilities that are normally not available to the public. On the return to Nikko Station, visit the royal space built for the Emperor Taisho as

## Hakodate

Tuesday, October 12

Disembark in the morning at Hakodate, a place of bustling trade ever since the prehistoric Jomon period (11,000-300 B.C.). With the arrival of Commodore Perry in 1854, Hakodate developed as a primary gateway to Japan. After departing the station, enjoy local seafood dishes during lunch at a renowned restaurant. Afterwards, venture to Gotoken, a long-standing cultural institution that first opened in 1879, to witness the unique traditional dances of Hokkaido's Ainu people. Visit the Hakodate City Museum of Northern Peoples to behold artifacts from the indigenous cultures of Hokkaido. Wander through the well-preserved historic streets and fragrant stalls of Hakodate's Morning Market to discover what makes Hokkaido

## Departure

Thursday, October 7

Depart for Tokyo on an overnight flight.

## Tokyo, Japan

Friday, October 8

Upon arrival, transfer individually to the luxurious Peninsula Tokyo Hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. In the evening, enjoy a welcome reception at the hotel. R

## Tokyo

Saturday, October 9

Explore various special exhibitions at the Tokyo National Museum and other museums in the area this morning. After lunch, visit the atelier of an organization of weavers dedicated to creating unique textiles through a combination of traditional Japanese practices and experimental technologies. Later this afternoon, enjoy an exclusive guided tour and reception at one of Tokyo's most important private contemporary art galleries. Gather this evening for our welcome dinner at a celebrated restaurant. B, L, R, D

## Tokyo

Sunday, October 10

In the morning, enjoy a lecture, followed by an exclusive exploration of some of the finest private museums and collections in the Roppongi district, the vibrant heart of



Restaurant, *Train Suite Shiki-shima* (top) and onsen in Atsumi (above)





Aomori Museum of Art, photo by bryan

cuisine distinctive and delicious. Finally, take an exclusive retro-tram ride back to Hakodate Station before departing for one of three Hokkaido *onsens* for the night. B, L, D

## Aomori or Tsugaru

Wednesday, October 13

After reboarding *Train Suite Shiki-shima*, lunch featuring local and imported delicacies will be served onboard the train. Meticulously prepared by master chefs from Sapporo's Molière Café, enjoy a fusion of French cuisine and the finest of rustic Hokkaido flavors. After the meal, choose between two ways to spend the day.

You may enjoy the option of exploring painstakingly restored buildings from the Jomon period, and visit the Sannai-Maruyama archaeological site, Japan's largest complex of ruins, dating back to this fascinating era. With the assistance of an expert guide, participate in the rare viewing of an active excavation in progress. Travel to the Aomori Museum of Art, home to vast stage backdrops painted by Chagall, where we will enjoy a dinner prepared by chef Masanori Kawaguchi.

Alternatively, choose to visit the Tsugaru region, which covers the western half of the Aomori Prefecture. With the broad-leaved, UNESCO-designated forests of the Shirakami-Sanchi highlands extending from the west, picturesque Owani is located at the meeting place of the three most beautiful forests in Japan. Visit a small woodworking studio, which specializes in hand-carving Japan's famous Aomori Hiba wood into a vast array of household products. This evening, savor dishes prepared by the chef at famed eatery Suzume-no-oyado, paired with local sake. B, L, D

## Shonai / Tsubame / Tokyo / Disembark

Thursday, October 14

Choose from three early morning activities on our stop in Shonai: watch jellyfish floating dreamily in the Kamo Aquarium; take a refreshing morning bath at the Atsumi Hot Springs; or observe the making of *shina-ori* cloth. Return to the train to enjoy a sumptuous breakfast of seafood and mountain vegetables native to the Shonai region of Yamagata. Then, explore the city of Tsubame in Niigata, known for the quality and elegance of its metalware. Visit a studio whose expertise has been molding copper using a metal hammer for nearly 200 years. Back aboard the train, enjoy sushi prepared by masters with seasonal Niigata ingredients and locally sourced fish. As you pull into Tokyo's Ueno station, delight in a festive farewell reception. Following disembarkation, check into the deluxe Peninsula Tokyo hotel, and enjoy dinner at one of its restaurants. B, L, R, D

## Tokyo / Odawara / Kyoto

Friday, October 15

After checking out of the hotel, journey by bullet train to Odawara, at the foot of Mount Fuji. There, discover the Enoura Observatory, a seaside exhibition space on a picturesque citrus grove with stunning views of Sagami Bay. Established by contemporary artist Hiroshi Sugimoto, the Observatory houses an art gallery, a stone stage, optical glass stage, tea house, and garden. Board the bullet train to ancient Kyoto, home to over 2,000 temples, shrines, meditation halls, and historic sites. Check into your hotel, and this evening, attend a lecture, followed by dinner at one of the hotel's restaurants. B, L, D

## Kyoto / Nara / Kyoto

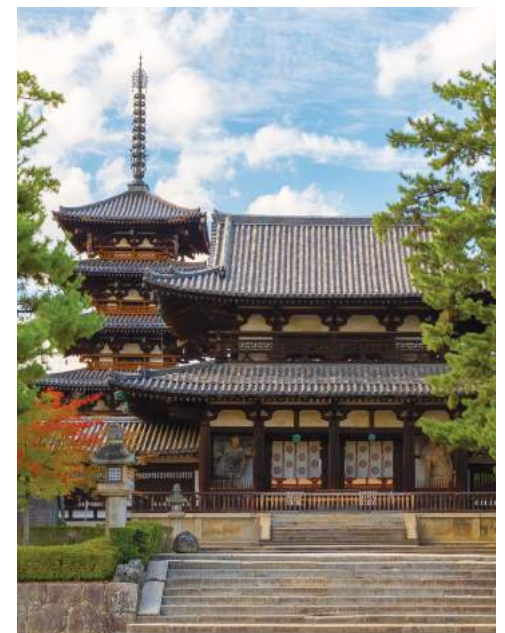
Saturday, October 16

After breakfast, travel to the ancient city of Nara. Explore its incomparable collection of temples and shrines dating to the 8th century, when Nara was the capital of Japan. Stop at Todai-ji, once the chief Buddhist temple complex in Japan, a landmark of ancient engineering. Tour Daibutsu-den, once the largest wooden building in the world, which houses an impressive 50-foot-tall bronze Buddha. Next, visit Kasuga Taisha, the most celebrated Shinto shrine in Nara, and Kofuku-ji Temple, famous for its Buddhist statuary. Afterwards, head over to the Horyu-ji Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There, a highlight is the *Kondo* (main hall), with its collection of statues, and the temple's five-story pagoda stands among the world's oldest surviving wooden structures. On the way back to your hotel in Kyoto, stop for an exclusive reception and dinner at a restored medieval Shinto shrine, the residence of a renowned East Asian art specialist and author, indulging in local delicacies while enjoying a traditional music performance and a wonderful private collection. B, L, R, D

## Kyoto

Sunday, October 17

This morning, explore renowned temples rich in history for Sutra writing and tea ceremonies. Tour the newly opened Fukuda Museum and then visit Ryoan-ji Temple, known for its expertly maintained rock garden



Horyu-ji Temple, Kyoto

and peaceful paths. After lunch, discover Kyoto's private collections and galleries. Meet representatives of the Kyoto City Kyocera Museum of Art, which is emerging from a multiyear renovation project. Discover the reimagined museum, which has maintained its iconic architecture while improving the display of its comprehensive collection of art, from Western-style paintings to local *nihonga* (Japanese-style paintings), sculptures, crafts, calligraphy, and prints. Enjoy a celebratory champagne reception in this striking space. This evening, savor a truly special farewell dinner at a local restaurant in the company of a *maiko* (apprentice geisha), who will share the incredible history of her craft. Dine on a traditional multi-course meal called *kaiseki ryori*, a culinary art form that balances the taste, texture, appearance, and colors of food. During the evening, the *maiko* will perform traditional dances and teach popular Japanese drinking games. B, L, R, D

## Kyoto / Return

Monday, October 18

Depart the hotel early this morning for flights home.

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).



Train Suite Shiki-shima design detail

## Program Rates (per person)

Cabin Categories	Double Rates	Single Rates
Suite	\$29,999	\$44,999
Deluxe Suite	\$38,999	-----
Maisonette Suite	\$49,999	-----

## Rate Includes

- Ten nights hotel/train/onsen accommodations as per itinerary
- All meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, R=Reception); bottled water, coffee/tea, soft drinks, and juices with all meals; beer, wine, and cocktails at all meals
- Airport/hotel/airport group or private transfers for all participants from Narita Airport into Tokyo and from Kyoto to Kansai Airport
- Bullet train (Tokyo/Odawara/Kyoto)
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

### Not included in rate

International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than included above; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

## Accommodations

### Train Suite Shiki-shima

#### The Peninsula Tokyo

Named a "Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star hotel" in 2019, the Peninsula Tokyo has enacted increased health and hygiene measures that go beyond the necessary protocols required by local government authorities.

#### The Ritz-Carlton, Kyoto

This sumptuous retreat's amenities include a luxury spa with indigenous treatments, 24-hour fitness center and indoor pool, and complimentary Wi-Fi. Ritz-Carlton is a committed member of the AHLA Stay Safe Advisory Council.



Photos clockwise from top left: Train Suite Shiki-shima; Suite; Lounge; Cuisine

## Journey to the Deep North of Japan: October 7-18, 2021

### Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full. Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

### Accommodations

Train Suite Shiki-shima cabin preference \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel room preference  One bed  Two beds  Single

I wish to share a room with \_\_\_\_\_

### Form of Payment

Check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*)  Debit card  Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

**Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms) and detailed in program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.**

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638) or to opt out from receiving mail, email [travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org](mailto:travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org)





# Journey to the Deep North of Japan: Tokyo to Hokkaido Aboard the *Train Suite Shiki-shima* October 7–18, 2021

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10028



Interior spread: *Train Suite Shiki-shima* Observation Car.

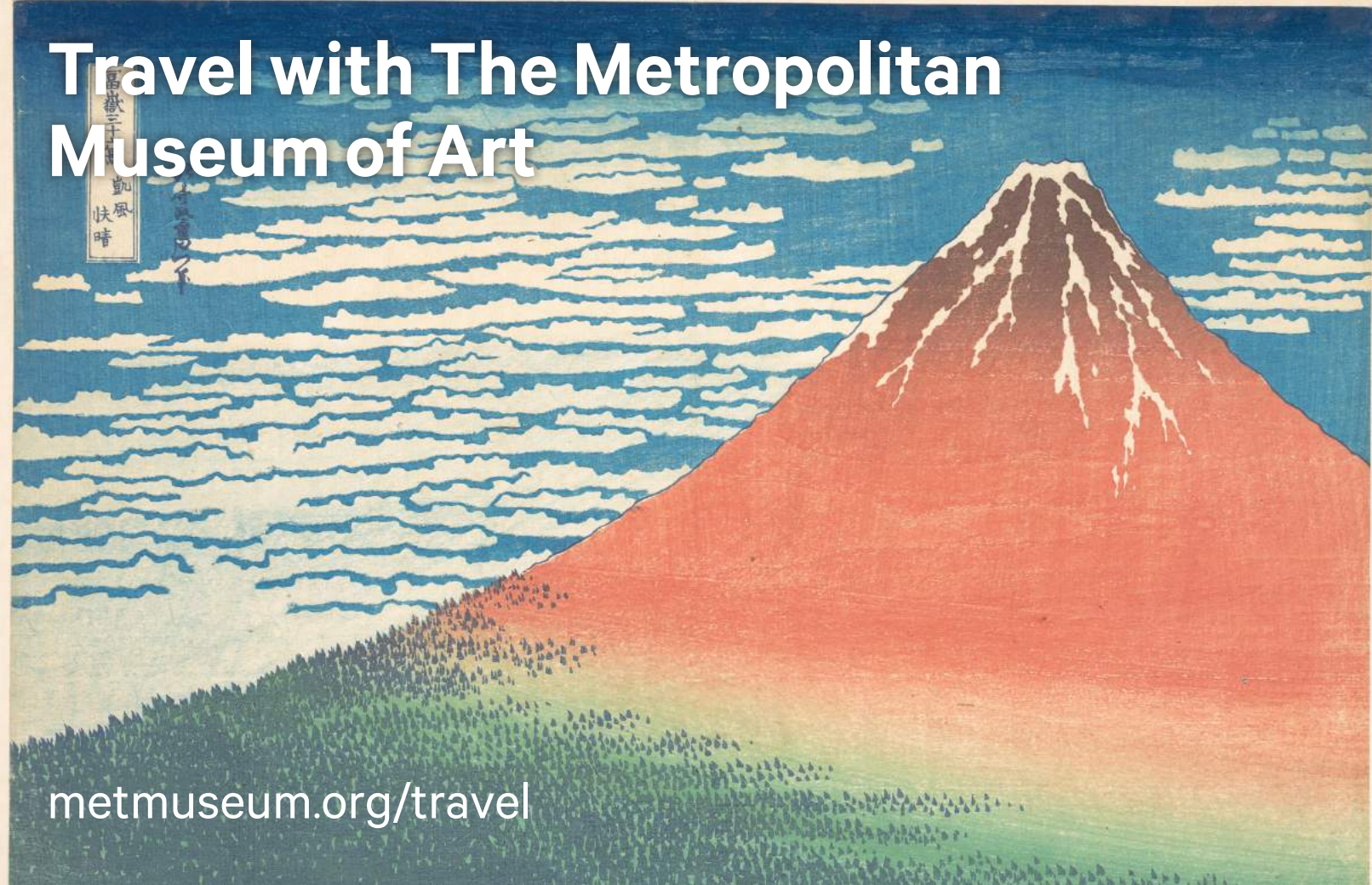
Front cover: *Poem by Sarumaru Dayū*, from the series *One Hundred Poems Explained by the Nurse (Hyakunin issshu uba ga etoki)*. 1839. Katsushika Hokusai (Japanese, Tokyo (Edo) 1760–1849 Tokyo (Edo)). Polychrome woodblock print; ink and color on paper. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Louis V. Ledoux, 1931 [JP2403].

Back cover: *Train Suite Shiki-shima* (top); *South Wind, Clear Sky (Gaifū kaisei)*, also known as *Red Fuji*, from the series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji (Fugaku sanjūrokkei)* ca. 1830–32. Katsushika Hokusai (Japanese, Tokyo (Edo) 1760–1849 Tokyo (Edo)). Polychrome woodblock print; ink and color on paper. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Howard Mansfield Collection, Purchase, Rogers Fund, 1936 [JP2568] (bottom).

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# Travel with The Metropolitan Museum of Art



[metmuseum.org/travel](https://metmuseum.org/travel)