



Deluxe Rail Journey of Japan
November 5-14, 2016

Seven Stars in Kyushu Extension
November 14-19, 2016



Tokyo · Hakone & Kawaguchiko · Kyoto & Nara ·
Hiroshima · Miyajima

Note from our CEO & Founder, Owen C. Hardy

Dear Fellow Rail Traveler:

What kind of luxury train holds lotteries to see who gets to ride? In my 32 years in this business, I've never known a luxury train to be in such demand. There was only one thing to do: go to Japan and try it for myself.

I've just returned from my *Seven Stars* Japan adventure and I can tell you: I've never experienced such commitment to perfection. The train is truly a rolling work of art. Nothing was left to chance in the design, cuisine, staffing, or off-train program.

I am thrilled, therefore, to announce The Society of IRT's inaugural and exclusive Japanese journey featuring wonderful rail and cultural experiences – and all topped off by an adventure on Japan's luxury *Cruise Train Seven Stars in Kyushu!*

We've just announced the *Seven Stars* as the newest of our World's Top 25 Trains® – and we are honored to be the first agency in the Western Hemisphere to charter the train.

Travelers may choose to take the Deluxe Japan Rail Journey with or without the *Seven Stars* extension - although we highly recommend you join us for the entire 15-day trip.

The 10-day escorted main tour will focus on traditions both modern and ancient in Japan's most celebrated cities and regions, including Tokyo, the Hakone nature reserve, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Miyajima. The extension, of course, focuses on beautiful Kyushu and its new luxury *Cruise Train Seven Stars*.

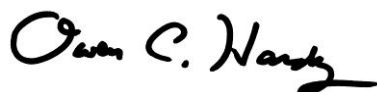
We've also included information on another bright new addition to the world of train travel: the JR Kyushu *Sweet Train*. Read all about it in the separate document we've included.

I loved my time on this train, and think you will, too. Just like its luxury cousin the *Seven Stars*, it is extremely hard to reserve and is selling like, well, hot cakes! We've saved space just for our IRT travelers.

It will add several days to the journey and will be an experience you will never forget! It is the perfect complement to a trip on the *Seven Stars*.

We hope you'll join us for both our main tour and this historic *Seven Stars* rail experience – not to mention the *Sweet Train!*

Yours,



Owen Hardy
CEO & Founder

November 5: Tokyo

Group transfer from Tokyo's Narita Airport to our Tokyo hotel (time TBA). If you are arriving at a different time, private transfers can be arranged at additional cost.

In the next few days, accompanied by a local guide, we will explore Tokyo – the center of modern Japan. Tokyo is a huge metropolis, with surprises around every corner. This is an exciting, vibrant and bustling city, where everything and everyone moves at high speed. Tokyo offers it all – from the biggest fish market in the world to high-end shopping districts and areas where you can see first some of Japan's latest technological innovations.

In the evening, meet your guide and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Palace Hotel Tokyo

Meals: Dinner



November 6: Trendy Tokyo

For your first introduction to Tokyo, you will visit Tokyo's trendiest and most fashionable areas. Many of Japan's most unique pop-cultures, sub cultures, fashions and trends have developed in these districts right alongside some of the most culturally significant shrines and temples in Japan. You will spend today in the center of the action, seeing the fusion of traditional and modern Japan as formed by today's young artists and creators. Visit:

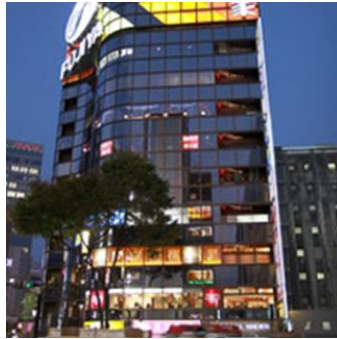
- **Meiji Shrine** – Just south of Shinjuku, the shrine is a very popular spot for weddings, and we are likely to see a ceremony of some kind.
- **Harajuku & Omotesando** - Trendy and popular districts, Omotesando is famous for its architecture; Harajuku has some crazy street fashion with a very lively and bustling atmosphere.
- From Harajuku, continue to **Shibuya**, to see the famous scramble crossing - featured in 'Lost in Translation' and many other films.



This afternoon, guests will have a choice between continued city touring to Tokyo's business district or attending an optional Ikebana Workshop (at additional cost).

Guests who opt for touring will enjoy sightseeing in Ginza, Tokyo's famous business district. Surrounded by gleaming skyscrapers, enjoy a guided tour of the area, with a visit to the fascinating Sony Showroom, displaying the latest Sony Products. (On weekend afternoons, like today, Chuo Dori in Ginza is closed to traffic and is great for walking.)

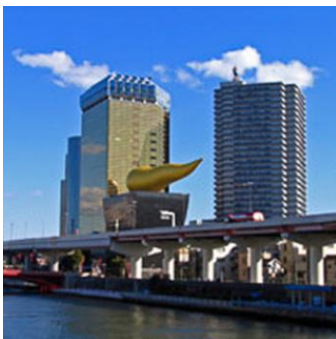
Optional Ikebana Workshop: Guests who choose this option will enjoy an introduction to the Japanese art of flower arranging, Ikebana, combined with a lesson in Japanese Etiquette and Customs, a tea ceremony, and be dressed in a Japanese Kimono. (Additional charge: \$360 per person)



Accommodation: Palace Hotel Tokyo
Meals: Breakfast

November 7: Tokyo

Today you will see a different side to Tokyo. In the morning you will visit Tsukiji Fish Market (subject to permission), the largest fish market in the world, for a tour of its outer Market, before visiting to Asakusa Kannon Temple, one of Tokyo's most famous shrines dedicated to the Buddha of Mercy. In the afternoon, enjoy a 50-minute river cruise to Odaiba, Tokyo's tech island for a brief tour of the Odaiba waterfront and, if time permits, The Toyota Showroom, which is a museum to all things Toyota. It is a Toyota "theme park" and a Tokyo-only sight, a multi-story display of Toyota's history and latest cars.



Returning to Tokyo will be a fun experience, as you board the unique Yurikamome Train line, an automatic driver-less Monorail train running on rubber wheels.

Taiko (Japanese Drumming) Workshop

An introduction to Japanese Drumming, Taiko. Taiko is a very popular sight at the festivals around Japan, and this fun and interesting workshop will teach you the basic techniques needed to produce the iconic thunderous sounds. *Workshop is subject to confirmation.*

Accommodation: Palace Hotel Tokyo
Meals: Breakfast

November 8: Hakone

Large luggage will be sent ahead to Kyoto, please pack a light bag for one night. Please send all bags to the lobby of the hotel **before breakfast.**

Today, you will travel to Hakone. Start the day with an experience on the Tokyo Metro, from the hotel to Shinjuku Station. With over 3 million people passing through each day, Shinjuku Station is counted as the busiest train station in the world.

From Shinjuku, board the Odakyu Romance Car, a scenic, sightseeing train to Odawara Station, where you will meet your private motorcoach.

The rest of the day will be spent exploring “the backyard of Tokyo,” Hakone – a nature reserve and hot springs area with great museums, as well as the possibility, on a clear day, to enjoy one of the best views of Mt. Fuji.

Another highlight in this area is the Open-Air Museum, a museum of contemporary art, which uses the beauty of the surrounding nature as a backdrop for its exhibits. This evening, you can enjoy one of the highlights of any visit to Japan: the hot springs.



Accommodation: Yamano Hotel
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

November 9: Bullet Train to the Past

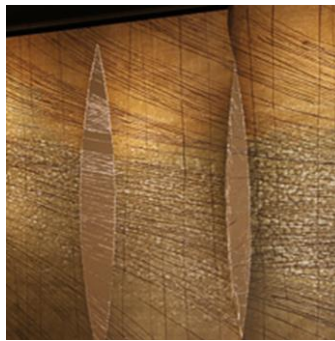
The next few days will be dedicated to Kyoto - the hub of traditional culture in Japan. This is a city that for hundreds of years has been an island of tradition in the swirling whirlpool of continual progress in urban Japan.

Kyoto has 17 World Heritage Sites - the most properties in one city – each a masterpiece representative of the era in which it was constructed.

During your time in Kyoto, you will encounter the history, cultural aesthetics, religion, and folklore that make up the Japanese puzzle. You will discover and experience the past rippling through the everyday life of locals.

In the morning, catch your private coach to Mishima Station, and board the famous bullet train to Kyoto. The train journey will last two hours.

Upon arrival at the train station, we meet our coach and visit one of the most famous sights of Kyoto, the iconic Fushimi Inari Shrine. Enjoy a short walk through some of Fushimi Inari's 10,000 red *torii* gates.



Following the visit to Fushimi, head to Kyoto's downtown area for a meeting and presentation with a leading contemporary *Washi* Paper Artist.

Sake Tasting and Japanese Pottery

Sipping *nihonshu sake* marks the end of the day, a taste of respite from the busy day. In Japan, depending on the season, the taste and method of serving *sake* changes, as do the vessels it is served in. Taking a moment out of your touring, we invite you to join our specialist in Japanese *sake* and pottery for a bit of quiet and reflection while savoring the flavor of rice wine, and taking in the subtle shift in colors and design of *sake* cups and bottles designed by Japanese artisans, taking your favorite home with you at the end of the experience. *Workshop is subject to confirmation.*



Tonight you are on your own to try any of the fabulous restaurants in Kyoto. We will make reservations at your request.

Accommodation: Hyatt Regency Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast

November 10: Classic Kyoto

Today we'll visit Kyoto's sights by private motorcoach, deepening your knowledge of Kyoto and Japan. You will be exposed to the fundamentals of aesthetics, Zen, architecture, and horticulture through visits to famous places such as the distinguished stone garden at Ryoanji temple, the spectacular Golden Pavilion, the Shogun castle, and a downtown market. You will also have the chance to experience a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.

Nishiki Market Scavenger Hunt and Iron Chef Challenge

Finish your day in Kyoto by seeing its Kitchen! Nishiki Market is affectionately known as the Kitchen of Kyoto, a bustling market filled with interesting sights, smells, and most importantly, food! In this workshop, you will split into teams to find ingredients throughout the market. Once you collect the ingredients, they will be prepared by an expert chef for your dinner this evening. *Workshop is subject to confirmation.*



Accommodation: Hyatt Regency Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast; Dinner

November 11: Eastern Kyoto Mountains

Continuing your journey in Kyoto, visit the graceful garden of Heian Shrine, the acclaimed Silver Pavilion, and enjoy a leisurely walk along the tranquil and meditative Path of Philosophy. Return to the city to visit Sanjusangendo, a towering pavilion from olden times.

An Evening with a Geisha

Brilliant red against radiant white. These are the colors illuminating faces behind teahouse windows in Kyoto's Gion district. Movies and books strive to capture their essence, yet only by speaking with one can you understand the dedication, the talent, the people that make up all that is beautiful about Japan's geisha. We offer you the chance to speak with one of these masters of Japanese tradition, and experience up-close some of Japan's most classical arts, an affair conventionally reserved for Japan's rich and well-connected. Throughout an evening of fine dining at one of Kyoto's top-tier establishments, guests are treated to a performance that has been refined through years of schooling and apprenticeship. Our personally-selected geisha and guides make the evening even more memorable as they remove communication and cultural barriers, inviting you to participate in a few of the geisha games of old, and encouraging you to directly ask questions about the geisha

lifestyle and life in Kyoto. By the end of the experience, you will have fascinating stories to take home, memories to cherish, and photographs that any fellow traveler will envy. *Experience is subject to confirmation.*



Accommodation: Hyatt Regency Kyoto
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

November 12: From Kyoto to Hiroshima

Large luggage will be sent ahead to Miyajima, please pack a light bag for a two-night stay. In the morning, transfer to Kyoto station by taxi, where you will board the bullet train to Hiroshima, the city that entered the world's collective memory in that moment of horror on August 6, 1945. You might be surprised to find a modern, fast-paced vibrant city. You will begin your tour with a visit to the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, commemorating all those who died in the A-bomb attack in 1945, as well as a unique Japanese Garden.



In the afternoon, head to Miyajima, considered one of Japan's three most scenic spots. On arrival, we will check in to a traditional *ryokan*. You will have some time to see the wonderful Grand Torii at sunset -- one of the most iconic sites in Japan.

Accommodation: Iwaso Traditional Ryokan on Miyajima
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



November 13: Miyajima

Today will be dedicated to exploring Miyajima, known for its large red shrine gate - the Grand Torii - which looks as if it's afloat at high tide. Visit the famous seaside Itsukushima Shrine. A ropeway to the top of the mountain on the Island provides stunning views of the Inland Sea islands. If time permits, you can visit a temple with many small sculptures and unique ceremonies. At night you can enjoy a sunset behind the gate, the special light up of the gate, and your accommodation on this remote quiet island: Ryokan Iwaso.

This *ryokan* opened in 1893 and was the first on Miyajima. Iwaso is situated in a very beautiful part of Momijidani Park and when it was first constructed, the owner built a tea shop and planted the area with maple trees. Iwaso was constructed in the “miya-daiku” style, by the same craftsmen who built Japanese shrines. Previous guests have included famous authors, artists, and members of the Japanese royal family. There are 42 Japanese-style rooms located in three different buildings - the Shinkan, the Honkan, and the Hanare. The Honkan (original building) at Iwaso is the oldest one and is more ornate and traditional than the Shinkan (annex). However, the rooms in the Honkan do not have private baths while the rooms in the Shinkan have private baths. There are also shared baths at Iwaso (same gender only). Traditional Kyoto-style meals are served to the guests.



For guests not continuing on the extension, this will be your final evening and will conclude your introduction to the fascinating people and places of Japan. We are certain you will leave with enduring memories and impressions of your personal, in-depth encounter with the Land of the Rising Sun.

Accommodation: Iwaso Traditional Ryokan on Miyajima
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

November 14: Departure or Continue to Fukuoka & Seven Stars Extension

Continue to *Seven Stars* extension or transfer to the airport for departure flights.

PRICING:

\$7,100 per person, double occupancy

\$2,440 single supplement

Special Ikebana, Kimono & Etiquette Workshop: \$360 per person

Sumo Wrestling Tickets: TBA

Included in the tour cost:

- Total accommodation for 8 nights
- Accommodation for 8 nights in four- and five-star hotels
- Accommodation for 2 nights in a traditional Japanese Inn, a *ryokan*
- English speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- All activities and sightseeing as mentioned in the itinerary
- All entrance fees on guided days as mentioned in itinerary
- 8 breakfasts
- 5 dinners
- Beverages included with each meal throughout
- Special events as indicated in the itinerary.
- Sightseeing by air-conditioned coach
- Local train Tokyo to Hakone Odakyu Romance Car
- Unique Yurikamome Train
- High Speed train Hakone - Kyoto Green car - first class
- High-speed train Kyoto-Hiroshima - Green car - first class
- Public transport where noted
- Taxis where noted included
- Group arrival transfer
- Private departure transfer
- Driver & guide gratuities
- Hotel porter fee
- Baggage sent separately as mentioned in the itinerary

Not included:

Anything of a personal nature, any activity or meals not mentioned in the itinerary, travel insurance.

Seven Stars in Kyushu Extension **November 14-19, 2016**

In conjunction with our
Deluxe Rail Journey of Japan
November 5-14, 2016





Itinerary: Cruise Train Seven Stars Extension November 14-19, 2016

November 14: Arrive Fukuoka

For guests continuing from the main tour: After your included breakfast, we leave the beauty of our *ryokan* and travel with our guide by ferry and a local train to Hiroshima station to board the bullet train to Fukuoka. Our seats will be in first class.

Fukuoka is a lively and surprising city. The extensive shopping and entertainment area is a delight to explore; or relax with a stroll along the seaside boardwalk. Meet our private coach and enjoy an introduction to the city, visiting Hakata's local sake breweries, and exploring its vibrant shopping district. Dinner is on your own tonight as you explore the city. Or, if you choose, attend the Grand Sumo Wrestling Tournament being held in the city while we are here.

For new guests arriving today: Arrive at Fukuoka Airport or at the train station. A private transfer to the hotel will be arranged for your arrival.

Optional: Fukuoka Grand Sumo Tournament

Experience one of Japan’s most iconic sporting events, the Grand Sumo Tournament. Held six times per year, the tournament pits the giant wrestlers against each other in a public arena. This is a late afternoon event, beginning around 4 p.m. *Tickets are limited, and subject to availability; not included in base tour fare. We will order these as soon as the booking window opens. Please advise us of your interest at time of booking.*

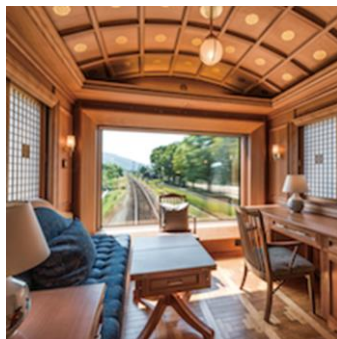
Accommodation: Grand Hyatt Fukuoka
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (for guests continuing from main tour only)

November 15: Board the Seven Stars Train

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, and a morning at leisure before our guide arranges the luggage transfers and the taxis from our hotel to Hakata Station. There, personnel from the luxurious *Cruise Train Seven Stars in Kyushu* will accompany you to the *Seven Stars’* Kensei (Venus) private lounge in the station. Relax and nibble some delectable sweets, enjoy the music by the pianist and toast your impending departure with a glass of champagne.

With the clang of a traditional railroad bell, each *Seven Stars* passenger will be welcomed, then accompanied to the platform. In just a few minutes, the *Seven Stars* will arrive, and you’ll be shown to your cabin, where your luggage will already be stowed.

The *Cruise Train Seven Stars in Kyushu* will be your luxurious base for the next four days. Note two nights will be on the train and one will be in a beautiful *ryokan*.



Settle in to your beautiful private cabin as the train heads east. Your first stop will be at Yufuin, a small town on the east coast, where you will enjoy selected afternoon activities and sightseeing. Return to the train and head south, down the east coast of Kyushu.

Tonight, enjoy a drink in the beautiful “Blue Moon” bar / lounge car, followed by an excellent dinner on board with all-inclusive drinks. You can expect beautiful live music to entertain you tonight.

Accommodations: On board Seven Stars train
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

November 16: Mimitsu, Miyazaki & Kirishima

Arriving at Mimitsu station this morning, you'll have the opportunity to stretch your legs for a morning walk around the little seaside town. Return to the train for breakfast and then continue to your next stop, Miyazaki. Group sightseeing in the Miyazaki area, where there is a collection of islands, temples, shrines and beautiful parks.



Re-board the train to your next destination, and transfer by bus to Kirishima and an exquisite, boutique *ryokan* (Japanese inn), which is famous for its luxurious natural hot springs. You will leave your large suitcases on board and take just an overnight bag to the *ryokan*.

Accommodations: Kirishima Ryokan
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

November 17: Kagoshima & Sengen-en Park

After a late breakfast, you will depart the *ryokan* and join the locals in a tradition of planting a small tree, before enjoying lunch at Tenku no Mori park.



Returning to the train, travel to Kagoshima, one of Kyushu's most famous portside towns, in the shadow of Sakurajima—an active, smoking volcano. Enjoy the day's activities before dinner at the famous Sengen-en Park. Overnight on board the train.

Accommodations: On board Seven Stars train
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

November 18: Aso

On your final day aboard the *Seven Stars* train, you will arrive at Aso station in the early morning. Enjoy a light breakfast before enjoying the day's activities of exploring Mt. Aso National Park. This is the largest active volcano in Japan and among the largest in the world. Its peak is 5,223 feet above sea level.



Traveling via Oita, you will enjoy the farewell luncheon on board while traveling back to Hakata Station, decorated brilliantly for the upcoming festive season. In the late afternoon, the train arrives. Our guide will meet our group and escort us back to the hotel for our final night in Japan. Dinner is on your own tonight in one of the many wonderful restaurants as you prepare for an early departure tomorrow for home.

Accommodation: Grand Hyatt Fukuoka
Meals: Breakfast, Luncheon

November 19: Departure

After your included breakfast, depart for home any time today. A private transfer from the hotel to the airport is included.



Please continue reading for more detail about Seven Stars...

**About the Train: Cruise Train Seven Stars in Kyushu
By Owen C. Hardy**

CEO & Founder, The Society of International Railway Travelers





IRT Photos by Owen Hardy

This amazing wooden screen, on the right, is put together with no nails --the work of Kyushu artisans using just wood pieces of different designs. It casts a shadow in the afternoon on the facing wall -- one of the many beautiful design touches on this train. *Seven Stars* stands for Kyushu's seven prefectures (similar to U.S. counties). The train has seven cars: the "Blue Moon" bar/lounge car, whose entire rear wall is a giant picture window, dining car "Jupiter," and five sleeping cars.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The train carries just 28 passengers in its five luxurious sleeping cars. Four of the cars have three Standard Suites each. The fifth sleeper boasts two Deluxe Suites. Each Deluxe Suite can accommodate up to three guests. For the best view in the house, opt for Deluxe Cabin A, whose rear wall is a large picture window (located on the opposite end of the train from the bar/lounge car).

All the compartments, including the Deluxe Suites, have en-suite bathroom and twin beds separated by a night stand. The beds are quite comfortable and can easily accommodate a six-foot-tall person. During the day, the beds are converted to seating. The hand-made washbasins – different in each cabin – are made by a Kyushu master potter.



Deluxe Suite A (226 square feet) boasts a private glass picture window at the end of the car and two large closets. It has a beautiful combination of woods, including pear and cherry sections, and in the spacious bathroom, white sycamore walls with castor aralia floor.



Deluxe Suite A

Deluxe Suite B (183 square feet) is 183 square feet. It has one large closet. It has a combination of rosewood in the sitting room and maple in the bedroom. The furniture is rosewood; the washroom is all maple.

The 12 **Standard Suites** each accommodate up to two passengers. They are 108 square feet. Standard suites include a writing desk, with pull-out section for additional table space. Standard suite bathrooms contain a shower with cypress plank walls and a typical Japanese toilet with multiple controls. There is one wheelchair-accessible room, No. 301.

Each Suite is unique, constructed of varying combinations of woods: pear, quince, Nara oak, maple, Brazilian walnut and cherry. Mr. Hardy's cabin was constructed of beautiful, honey-colored pear wood; the furniture was pear and cherry and the bathroom was all maple. This is Mr. Hardy's compartment, pictured here. (He noted that his bed was quite comfortable and easily accommodated his six-foot frame.)



IRT Photo by Owen Hardy

Each Standard Suite window has five separate sections: an outer layer of glass, followed by a second layer of thin, wooden slats; then two sliding traditional Japanese windows with paper panes; then, two heavier sliding wooden windows. The final layer is a light gauzy curtain of gathered material.

All suites contain a minibar stocked with wonderful Japanese juices, green tea, “Swan Cider Tomosu” in its tiny bottle, Asahi “Dry” and Santory “The Premium Malts” Pilsner Beer, and other Japanese soft drinks. Drinks from the minibar are included in the fare.



Each compartment contains two plugs, one in the bathroom and one in the bedroom, plus a 3-socket multi-plug unit, for charging multiple devices. U.S. and Canadian electronics can be used without an adapter in Japan and on the *Seven Stars*. WiFi is available throughout the train and works quite well (except in tunnels and other such places).

Also provided in all compartments: hair dryer, slippers, robe, towels, soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, shaving set, shower cap, hair brush, razor, toothbrush set and cotton balls.

SERVICE

The surfeit of over-the-top design elements is matched by an expert staff, who know how to combine Asian elegance and hospitality with genuine warmth.

Moreover, the *Seven Stars* staff is bilingual and couldn't be friendlier. Menus and signs are in English and Japanese.

DINING

Also near perfect is the *Seven Stars* kitchen, which turns out delicacies as beautiful as they are tasty. All of the meals are set menus; all drinks are included. Meals are served in both the dining and lounge cars. There is room for up to 30 passengers to dine at the same time.



There are six tables for two in the lounge car but there is enough flexibility so that they can seat a total of up to 18 passengers in the lounge car.

The dining car has seating for two, and for four. There are three tables for four; one is a private booth that is curtained off. There are two tables for two. Sixteen can be seated at once time in the dining car.



DRESS

In general, smart casual dress would be typical for day time: for meeting the train in the departure lounge, tea time, and the farewell event on board as well as for sightseeing.

Semi-formal clothing would be expected for dinner on board for the first night of the *Seven Stars* itinerary. This would be for men, a basic suit, or blazers, jackets, and for women, dress, or a suit, jacket and blouse. In either case, Japanese kimono is also acceptable.

Not acceptable any time: jeans, shorts, T-shirts or sandals except when wearing a Japanese kimono. Sneakers are acceptable only during excursions.



Every element on the train is specifically designed for the *Seven Stars*, save one one (we won't spoil your experience by naming it; see if you can guess!).



I loved this little dog sculpture! Look for it when you're on board. We truly hope you will enjoy our journey to Deluxe Rail Journey of Japan. We have crafted it with care with the finest Virtuoso partners in Japan.

Seven Stars Extension Pricing

For guests continuing from the main tour:

\$7,820 per person, double occupancy

\$3,235 single supplement

Guests doing the Extension only:

\$8,765 per person, double occupancy

\$3,235 single supplement

Upgrades on board the Seven Stars: *Sold out

Deluxe Suite A: \$2,540 per person

Deluxe Suite B: \$1,460 per person

Included in the tour cost:

- Transfer from Miyajima to Fukuoka with our guide
- Sightseeing in Fukuoka with our guide
- 2 overnights at Grand Hyatt Fukuoka
- 4 days on *Seven Stars in Kyushu* cruise train
- 5 nights accommodation over all: 2 overnights in the Grand Hyatt Fukuoka, 2 on the *Seven Stars* and 1 in a boutique *ryokan*
- All meals and drinks while on the train program
- All luggage handling: baggage will be sent separately as mentioned in the itinerary
- Up to one piece of luggage per person is included
- Hotel porter fee
- Private arrival transfers for those arriving for just this program
- Private departure transfers for all passengers
- Private accommodation in a boutique *ryokan* as part of the program. This will be one overnight.
- Sightseeing by private air conditioned coach
- All included activities as per the itinerary
- Sightseeing as described in the itinerary.
- High Speed train in the Green Car, first class Hiroshima to Hakata
- Taxis for short transfers to/from the station as required in the itinerary
- All gratuities for all drivers and guides are included in your package. No other tips are required

Not included:

- Any items of a personal nature
- Tickets to Sumo Wrestling tournament subject to availability and will be additional
- Meals unless specifically mentioned

Booking terms:

A deposit of 20% of total is due upon booking by check or credit card. A signed booking form will be required. Final payment is due July 1, 2016 by check, credit card or wire transfer. All payments are nonrefundable.

Medical/evacuation insurance is required for this journey. We highly recommend full tour cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment. We will send out information about insurance and/or a quote upon booking.

Please note that the Japanese Government intends to raise the national consumption tax 2-3% in the fall of 2016. If this raise occurs, the price will be adjusted accordingly. Further, the pricing of the *Seven Stars* is subject to change as is the itinerary.

U.S. Dollar pricing is based upon the value of the Yen at the time of printing and is subject to change. Trip cost will be reevaluated at time of final payment and adjusted accordingly.

This journey is subject to minimum numbers of 20 persons booking the journey. Once this is confirmed, all special "windows" to Japan will be confirmed. If for some reason one event is not available, another exciting event will be replacing it.

Recommended add-on:

JR Kyushu Sweet Train, a two-hour journey from Sasebo to Nagasaki. Owen Hardy tested out this train - and loved it, too!

Already 10 of our guests who have booked our Deluxe Rail Journey of Japan have booked the Sweet Train. See separate *Sweet Train* document for details.

If Owen loved this train -- we know you, will, too. It will add several days to the journey and will be an experience you will never forget! It is the perfect complement to a trip on the *Seven Stars*.







We hope you will join us on the very first North American charter of the fabulous new Cruise Train Seven Stars in Kyushu!



The Society of International Railway Travelers

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