

# ROM

## Japan

### Mysterious and Modern

November 16 to 29, 2026

**A ROMTravel Art and Culture Trip**



Figure 1: Kenrokuen Garden, Kanazawa, Japan. © Beth Wanlin, 2025.

Japan, a country where ancient tradition coexists with cutting-edge modernity in perfect harmony, has long captivated the Western imagination. Once closed to

outsiders and regarded as mysterious, today it offers travellers a wealth of cultural opportunities just waiting to be discovered. With ROMTravel, we'll

explore Japan's rich tapestry of history, art, architecture, cuisine, and everyday life. Beyond the well-trodden tourist paths, we'll uncover the authentic Japan – vivid, intricate, and unforgettable – in a way that only ROMTravel can deliver.

In the modern capital city of Tokyo, our journey will begin by delving into ancient Japanese art and culture at the Tokyo National Museum, the largest and oldest museum in Japan. With this foundation, we'll continue to explore Tokyo's famous temples, markets, neighbourhoods, modern art and pop culture.



Figure 2: Tokyo National Museum, Japan. © Beth Wanlin, 2025.

Before leaving Tokyo, we will enjoy a day excursion to Nikko to visit the historic shrines and temples of this UNESCO World Heritage site. November is fall foliage time and the brilliant colours of the ginkgo trees and Japanese maples will provide a spectacular background for our travels.

Everyone wants to experience the famous “bullet” trains of Japan...and so we shall! Travelling by Shinkansen and express trains, we will head to

Matsumoto through the Japanese Alps to visit the impressive 16<sup>th</sup>-century Matsumoto Castle and striking works by Yayoi Kusama in the local art museum. The day will conclude with a relaxing overnight stay at a traditional ryokan with onsen (hot springs) baths.



Figure 3: Matsumoto Castle, Japan. © 663highland, Wikimedia Commons, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2013.

Our journey will next take us to Takayama. We will stop along the way to stroll a portion of the historic Nakasendo Trail that once connected Kyoto to ancient Edo (present-day Tokyo). This is peaceful, natural Japan at its autumnal best. Takayama is the perfect place to explore traditional wooden buildings and the work of local artisans including the lively riverside Miyagawa Morning Market. Here we will tour a boutique sake brewery to learn about the creative process of transforming rice into smooth sake.

After a beautiful drive through the central Alps, we will be transported back in time while visiting Shirakawa-go,



famous for pitched roof farmhouses called “gassho-zukuri”.



Figure 4: Farmhouses, Shirakawa-go. © 663highland, Wikimedia Commons, 2009.

It will be a short drive onward to the west coast and Kanazawa, the “City of Arts and Gardens” in the Ishikawa Prefecture. Kenrokuen Garden, one of Japan’s most beautiful gardens, is on our must-see list, as well as the 21<sup>st</sup>-century Museum of Contemporary Art and the culinary “hot-ticket” speciality of gold-leaf-covered ice cream for which the city is known.

We will be transported again on the Shinkansen, where the final leg of our journey will bring us to Kyoto. The former capital city of Japan is still known today for traditional Japanese culture. Highlights will include the Kinkakuji Golden Pavillion, Ryoanji Temple and the spectacular Nijo Castle and Ninomaru Palace.

We will slow down to enjoy a tea ceremony and have a chance to explore Kyoto’s walkable neighbourhoods.



Figure 5: Tea Ceremony, Japan. © mrhayata, Wikimedia Commons, 2009.

With Kyoto as a home base, we will embark on two short daytrips. In the Shigaraki Mountains, we will explore the famed Miho Museum and visit the historic pottery town of Shigaraki. We’ll make a second excursion to the ancient city of Nara, another UNESCO World Heritage site. Here we will stroll the sacred grounds where we can feed some of the over 1,000 deer designated as national treasures. This will be followed by a private visit to a traditional shrine. Our final night will be spent in Kyoto before departures either homeward or on to other parts of Japan on your own.

## Trip Itinerary and Highlights

### Day 1 Arrival in Tokyo

Individual arrivals at either Tokyo’s Narita International Airport (NRT) or Haneda Airport (HND). Transfers from airport to hotel.

### Day 2 Introduction to Tokyo

Our first day in Tokyo will be filled with discovery. Begin at the **Tsukiji Outer Market**, a bustling maze of stalls where

seafood, produce, and specialty ingredients showcase Japan's culinary heritage. More than a market, it is a living reminder of how central food is to Japanese culture.

At the **Tokyo National Museum**, explore one of the world's finest collections of Japanese art, from prehistoric figurines to masterful screens, woodblock prints, and elegant kimonos. Visit **Asakusa's Senso-ji Temple**, Tokyo's oldest and most iconic Buddhist temple, with its grand Kaminarimon Gate and bustling **Nakamise-dori**, lined with shops offering traditional crafts and sweets.



Figure 6: Asakusa's Senso-ji Temple. Tokyo. © Daniel L. Lu, Wikimedia Commons, 2017.

Stroll through **Yanaka Old Town**, a charming district of narrow lanes, small temples, and artisan shops that preserves the spirit of old Tokyo. This evening, gather for a **traditional Japanese welcome dinner**, a perfect introduction to the flavours of our journey.

### Day 3 Nikko

Today we will visit the **historic shrines and temples of Nikko**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here we'll see sophisticated techniques in architecture,

engineering, and crafts dating from the mid-1600s. The palatial homage dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu – shogun, general and the third of three “Great Unifiers” of Japan – awaits us here. The splendour of this lavishly decorated mausoleum is the origin of the noted Japanese saying, “Never say you're content until you've seen Nikko”.



Figure 7: Tokugawa Ieyasu's mausoleum, Nikko, Japan. © 663highland, Wikimedia Commons, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International, 2020.

### Day 4 Tokyo's Contemporary Art Scene

Today will be devoted to Tokyo's cutting-edge art and design. At the **Mori Art Museum**, discover innovative contemporary works from Japan and around the world, followed by sweeping city views from the **Sky Deck**. At the **21\_21 Design Sight**, explore thought-provoking exhibitions in a striking Tadao Ando-designed building. The **Suntory Museum of Art** highlights traditional Japanese aesthetics through exquisite objects of daily life. Enjoy lunch on your own at Tokyo Midtown Galleria, a stylish complex of cafés and boutiques. The

afternoon will be at leisure before we gather this evening for dinner.

### Day 5 Tokyo to Matsumoto

Today we will journey by bullet and express train into the Japanese Alps, arriving in the captivating city of Matsumoto. Explore the striking 16<sup>th</sup>-century **Matsumoto Castle**. Its elegant black-and-white façade is considered to be one of Japan's most beautiful and best-preserved. Stroll the atmospheric **Nakamachi Street**, where traditional “kura” (storehouses) now present craft shops and galleries. At the **Matsumoto City Museum of Art**, admire the vibrant and playful works of renowned artist Yayoi Kusama, who was born in the city.



Figure 8: At Matsumoto City Museum of Art, Japan. © Beth Wanlin, 2025.

This evening, retreat to the serene surroundings of a ryokan. Here the ryokan tradition comes to life with tatami-matted rooms, soothing onsen baths, and the gracious hospitality for which Japan is celebrated. Dinner is a highlight: a beautifully presented, multi-course “kaiseki” meal showcasing

seasonal ingredients, served in an atmosphere of refined tranquility.

### Day 6 Matsumoto to Takayama

Travel into the Kiso Valley to walk a portion of the **historic Nakasendo Trail**, once the lifeline between Kyoto and Edo.



Figure 9: On the Nakasendo Trail, Japan. © Beth Wanlin, 2025.

Our expert guides will bring this feudal-era route to life as we stroll past **wooden inns, tea houses, temples, and cedar forests**, with quiet towns evoking centuries past. Those who prefer stroll to trail will have the chance to explore the beautifully preserved towns of **Magome** and **Tsumago**, rich in history and local charm. Continue to **Takayama**, famed for its Edo-period streets and mountain setting.

### Day 7 Takayama

Begin at the lively **Miyagawa Morning Market**, where vendors offer seasonal produce, regional specialties, and hand-crafted goods. At the **Yatai Kaikan Hall**, admire the elaborately decorated floats of the celebrated Takayama Festival, some dating back centuries. The **Kusakabe Mingeikan Folk Museum**, set



in a stately 19<sup>th</sup>-century merchant's house, reveals the artistry of everyday life. A walking tour of the atmospheric **Sanmachi Suji district** showcases preserved wooden houses and artisan workshops. This will be followed by a visit to a boutique **sake brewery** to learn about and taste the artistry of Japan's most famous libation.



Figure 10: Sake barrels at the brewery, Takayama, Japan. © Beth Wanlin, 2025.

## Day 8 Takayama to Shirakawa-go to Kanazawa

Drive through the dramatic Japanese Alps to Shirakawa-go, famous for its distinctive “gassho-zukuri” houses with steeply pitched thatched roofs resembling hands pressed together in prayer. These houses are built without nails with spacious interiors over multiple floors and have been used historically for silkworm farming. Continue to Kanazawa, a cultural gem on Japan's west coast, renowned for its samurai heritage, traditional crafts, and well-preserved Edo-period districts. Explore the **Nagamachi Samurai District** from the Edo Era (1603 to 1868) and the **Nomura-ke Museum**, an elegant

samurai residence offering a glimpse into the refined lifestyle of the former warrior class.

## Day 9 Kanazawa

Explore the “City of Arts and Gardens”, starting at the **Kenrokuen Garden**, considered one of Japan's most beautiful. Its tranquil ponds, stone lanterns, and seasonal blossoms are especially stunning during the autumn season.



Figure 11: Kenrokuen Garden, Kanazawa, Japan. © 663highland, Wikimedia Commons, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2013.

The 21<sup>st</sup>-century **Museum of Contemporary Art** showcases cutting-edge exhibitions, including Leandro Erlich's famous "Swimming Pool" installation. As we explore the city, we'll visit artisans maintaining traditional lacquer making and washi paper workshops before sampling a playful local specialty: **gold-leaf-covered ice cream**.

## Day 10 Kanazawa to Kyoto

Travel from Kanazawa to Kyoto by bullet and express train. In Kyoto, the cultural

heart of Japan, begin with the shimmering **Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion**, a jewel-like temple reflected in its surrounding pond, symbolizing harmony between architecture and nature.



Figure 12: Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion, Kyoto, Japan. © Beth Wanlin, 2025.

Nearby lies the **Ryoanji Temple**, home to the world's most famous Zen rock garden. Our guides will interpret the symbolism of its fifteen stones set in waves of raked gravel, “an entire universe in sand and stone”.

### Day 11 Kyoto: The Miho Museum and Shigaraki Pottery

Venture into the **Shigaraki Mountains** to the striking **Miho Museum**, a masterpiece by architect I.M. Pei, where art, architecture, and nature merge seamlessly. Approximately 80% of the structure is built underground; visitors approach the museum via a scenic path leading through a tunnel and across a suspension bridge, symbolizing a journey into a hidden paradise. The museum's remarkable collection spans tea ceremony utensils, Buddhist art, and treasures from across Asia.



Figure 13: Entrance to the Miho Museum, Japan. 663highland, Wikimedia Commons, 2007.

Continue to **Shigaraki**, one of Japan's Six Ancient Kilns, where our visit to the **Museum of Contemporary Ceramics** reveals both traditional Shigaraki ware and the global influence of Japanese ceramic artistry.

### Day 12 Kyoto: Sacred Nara

Travel to the ancient city of Nara, Japan's first permanent capital. Among its historic treasures, we'll visit the **Todaji Temple** with its monumental bronze Buddha.



Figure 14: An honoured wedding guest at Todaji Temple, Nara, Japan. © Hama Haki, unsplash, 2018.

We'll stroll in the spacious **Isuien Gardens** with numerous teahouses scattered throughout and feed some of the over 1,000 deer designated as natural treasures.

In the afternoon, get an authentic glimpse into Japanese spiritual culture. Step into the serene atmosphere of a traditional shrine and discover Japan's rich culture through a warm, personal experience. The visit includes a blessing ceremony in the main hall, followed by a guided tour through the sacred and beautifully landscaped gardens, where you will learn about the symbolic motifs and meanings.

### **Day 13 Kyoto: Castle and Temple**

Start the day at **Nijo Castle**, a window into the culture and history of Kyoto, and a symbol of the power and prestige of the Tokugawa shogunate. The complex is surrounded by massive stone walls and a wide moat, creating a formidable yet elegant impression. Within, the **Ninomaru Palace** features beautifully preserved interiors adorned with opulent sliding doors ("fusuma") painted by artists of the Kano school and famous "nightingale floors" that chirp underfoot to guard against intruders.

Partake in a traditional **tea ceremony** to learn the customs and etiquette of tea serving, the relationship between tea masters and Kyoto's pottery workshops, and the principle of "wabi-chai" (beautifully simple tea). Conclude our journey with a farewell dinner, celebrating the experiences and friendships of our time in Japan.

### **Day 14 Kyoto to Osaka**

Group transfer to Osaka's Kansai International Airport (KIX) for individual departures.

### **Hotels**

#### **Tokyo**

The Royal Park Hotel Iconic Tokyo

Shiodome

4 nights

#### **Matsumoto Onsen**

Tobira Onsen Myojinkan

1 night

#### **Takayama**

Mercure Hotel Hida Takayama

2 nights

#### **Kanazawa**

Hotel Nikko Kanazawa

2 nights

#### **Kyoto**

Hotel Higshiyama Kyoto Tokyu

4 nights

### **Resource Guides**

ROMTravel is pleased to have two expert guides, both based in Japan, joining us for this trip. The first guide specializes in Japanese history and culture, while the second specializes in both the ancient and contemporary arts and crafts of Japan.

### **ROMTravel Coordinator**

Beth Wanlin is a ROM volunteer and an experienced traveller. Beth loves to organize and enjoyed her career in corporate sales incentive programs and group travel programming.



## **Dietary Needs**

There are still many areas, restaurants, activities, and accommodations in Japan that have difficulty catering to dietary needs and/or restrictions. Please indicate any special needs on the application form at the time of booking so that we may ascertain our ability to provide this to you.

## **Mobility Requirements**

This trip has a level 3 activity rating out of 5 and therefore requires good mobility. Our days will range between comfortable moderate activity to more challenging activity. Many sites have stairs as the only access point. The ability to tolerate some longer walking distances, stairs and uneven ground is important to your enjoyment of this trip. Please ask the ROMTravel Coordinator for more information if required.

## **Trip Cost Per Person**

Double Occupancy: \$ 14,980

Single Supplement: \$ 3,995

All quoted costs are in Canadian dollars.

Trip begins at either Tokyo's Narita International Airport (NRT) or Tokyo's Haneda Airport (HND). Trip ends at Osaka's Kansai Airport (KIX).

Trip cost does not include international flight costs between your home and Japan. Pre-trip and/or post-trip Japanese domestic flight costs are NOT included

## **Contact Information**

ROMTravel Trip Coordinator

Beth Wanlin

Phone 416.586.8034

Email [travel@rom.on.ca](mailto:travel@rom.on.ca)

Worldwide Quest International

Justin Peter

Phone 416.633.5666 or 1.800.387.1483

Email [justin@worldwidequest.com](mailto:justin@worldwidequest.com)

## **Terms and Conditions**

### **Japan: Mysterious and Modern**

**November 16 to 29, 2026**

Living standards and practices at the destination and the standards and conditions there with respect to the provision of utilities, services and accommodation may differ from those found in Canada.

#### **Trip Cost Per Person**

All quoted costs are in Canadian dollars.

Double Occupancy: \$ 14,980.00

Single Supplement: \$ 3,995.00

Trip cost does not include international flight costs between your home and Japan. Pre-trip and/or post-trip Japanese domestic flight costs are NOT included. Worldwide Quest International can assist with booking flights.

Trip begins at either Tokyo's Narita International Airport (NRT) or Tokyo's Haneda Airport (HND). Trip ends at Osaka's Kansai Airport (KIX).

#### **Trip Cost Includes**

Arrival transfer from either Tokyo's Narita International Airport (NRT) or Tokyo's Haneda Airport (HND) to hotel is provided on any arrival day. Note that a group transfer will be provided to guests arriving within roughly one hour of each other.

One group departure transfer from hotel to Osaka's Kansai Airport (KIX) on Day 14. For those who do not join the group transfer, an individual transfer can be arranged at an extra cost.

Porterage of one standard sized suitcase per person at the hotels, where available. Porterage of one standard sized suitcase as required for train travel.

Ground transport in private air-conditioned coach for transfers and excursions as per itinerary. Trains as per itinerary.

Shared accommodation in double occupancy room with private facilities in hotels listed or similar.

Free internet access inside the hotels.

Meals: Buffet breakfast daily, 8 lunches and 7 dinners, including welcome and farewell dinners. All included lunches and dinners include a choice of bottled water, soft drink, or tea. Welcome and farewell dinners include a choice of bottled water, soft drink, coffee or tea, plus wine, sake or beer.

Bottled water daily on the bus.

All visits, entrance fees, speakers' fees and events as per itinerary.

All taxes and tips for all goods and services, drivers, hotel, restaurant and guiding staff related to the basic trip.

All hotel and local taxes.

Headset listening devices for tours.

Services of two English-speaking Resource Guides, a ROMTravel Coordinator, and a Worldwide Quest Tour Manager.

Pre-trip meetings; post-trip reunion.

A trip handbook.

### **Not Included**

International flight costs not included.  
Fuel surcharges.

Single supplement and room upgrades.

Internet access outside the hotels.

Items of a personal nature such as laundry or phone calls, for example.

Airline baggage or video camera fees, if any.

Visa fees. Canadians do not require a visa.

Meals, snacks, beverages, and other services unless specified.

Additional meals and accommodations due to delays for any reason.

Emergency evacuation costs.

Trip cancellation, interruption, baggage and out of province health insurance.

### **Costs**

All costs quoted herein are based on rates, fees and taxes as of October 1, 2025. Costs are subject to change without notice. Should trip costs increase, Worldwide Quest International (as per TICO regulations) reserves the right to increase the cost accordingly up to a maximum of 7%. Worldwide Quest reserves the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines, vehicles, or vessels due to conditions beyond their control. Any change to itinerary will not result in eligibility for a refund.

### **ROM Membership Requirement**

Participants must be members of Royal Ontario Museum. For a full list of membership levels and benefits, visit the [ROM website](#). Only one person per room must be a member.

### **Deposits and Final Payment**

An initial non-refundable deposit of \$2,725.00 per person is required at the time of booking. A second non-refundable deposit of \$4,000.00 is due on May 15, 2026. The balance of payment of \$8,255.00 per person, and if applicable, single supplement of \$3,995.00 are due on August 14, 2026.

### **Reservations**

As the number of participants is limited, reservations should be made as soon as possible. In the event of over-subscription, a waiting list will be maintained.



**Physical Limitations or Disabilities**

Any physical limitation or disability requiring special attention or treatment must be reported when reservation is made or when it occurs, if later.

ROMTravel, Worldwide Quest International and/or its agents reserve the right to decline to accept or to retain anyone who may in their sole judgment require care and attention beyond that which can be provided.

**Cancellations and Refunds**

All cancellations must be made in writing to Worldwide Quest International. All payments are non-refundable. No refunds will be given for payments made or unused services.

For more information, read Worldwide Quest International's [Trip Cancellation and Refund Policy](#).

**Travel Documentation**

A passport valid for six months after the return date is required. It is the individual participant's responsibility to ensure proper visas, affidavits, COVID-19 test results, proof of vaccination and/or any other documents that may be required to enter and or to not have to quarantine at the destination or upon returning to your home. Neither Worldwide Quest International nor ROMTravel is responsible for missing or incorrect travel documents. Note that public health entry and quarantine requirements for any country may change with little notice. Entry to another country may be refused even if

the required information and travel documents are complete.

**Publication of Contact Information**

Your contact information will be published in the trip handbook unless you advise ROMTravel not to do so. It is for the sole use of trip participants, ROMTravel and the travel agency. ROMTravel will not share such contact information with anyone else. For this trip, Worldwide Quest International will not publish a list of participants and will not use photographic images of you for future promotional purposes.

**Insurance**

Travel insurance for cancellation and interruption is available and is highly recommended should an unexpected event occur or should your trip become inoperable for reasons beyond Worldwide Quest's control. Emergency medical insurance is mandatory. Proof of medical insurance coverage is required.

Insurance can be purchased from many different insurance providers. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that they have adequate out of province medical, hospital, trip cancellation and interruption insurance and baggage insurance to cover changes in health or other circumstances prior to, or during, the trip, including coverage related to COVID-19 or other transmissible diseases. All losses suffered or additional costs incurred associated

with failure to have insurance, or to have sufficient insurance, are the sole responsibility of the participant. Insurance purchased through Worldwide Quest International is underwritten by Manulife Financial. The insurance premium is non-refundable. Insurance may be purchased up to the time the initial deposit is processed, or at a later time but, if purchased later, would be subject to any changes to the premiums and/or to the participant's health or other circumstances at the time of purchase. Travellers may provide their own travel insurance or purchase travel insurance through another provider. A ROMTravel waiver of insurance will be required if the participant does not purchase insurance through Worldwide Quest International. For coverage options and complete coverage details, limitations and exclusions, please contact Worldwide Quest International for a quote.

#### **Limitation of Liability for The Royal Ontario Museum**

None of The Royal Ontario Museum, ROMTravel or the Department of Museum Volunteers of The Royal Ontario Museum, or any of their respective trustees, officers, employers or members (collectively "ROM") assumes any responsibility for financing, arranging, conducting or performing the trip. ROM shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental,

special, punitive, incidental, consequential damages relating to, in connection with, or arising out of, the group trip, including but not limited to, loss of enjoyment, lost profits, or travel expenses, whether such damages are based on contract, tort (including negligence and gross negligence), strict liability or any other legal theory, even if such damages could have been foreseen or prevented or if ROM was advised of the possibility of same and whether or not a representative of ROM accompanies the group trip. The maximum liability of ROM to the participant for any claims relating to, in connection with, or arising from, the group trip shall not exceed \$50.00. This limitation applies to all claims, including those based on breach of contract, tort (including negligence and gross negligence), or any other cause of action.

#### **Governing Law and Jurisdiction**

The Terms and Conditions are governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario. Any disputes arising from these Terms and Conditions shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the Province of Ontario.

#### **Responsibility and Jurisdiction**

Worldwide Quest International and their agents act solely as agents for passengers regarding all services provided by others, including but not limited to transportation,

accommodations, restaurants, guides, and attractions. Therefore, Worldwide Quest International will exercise reasonable care in making arrangements and conducting the trip. Passengers must understand that living standards and practices at the destination may differ from those in Canada, affecting the provision of utilities, services, meals, and accommodations.

### **Limitation of Liability for Worldwide Quest International**

Worldwide Quest International does not assume responsibility or liability for any claims, damages, expenses, or other financial losses, whether to persons or property, resulting from injuries, accidents, deaths, cancellations, delays, alterations, inconveniences, acts or omissions of hotels, carriers, restaurants, cruise lines, or other service providers on the trip. This applies to external events, including but not limited to natural disasters, pandemics, illnesses, strikes, quarantines, wars, armed conflicts, humanitarian crises, weather, force majeure, or any other causes beyond the control of Worldwide Quest International.

Individual travellers must recognize there are inherent risks associated with certain activities, including but not limited to, swimming, sports, biking, adventure activities (e.g., ziplines, off-road vehicles, horseback riding, skiing, rappelling and hiking), water-based

activities, (e.g., boating, swimming, canoeing), and motorized vehicles (e.g., scooters, e-bikes, ATVs, jet-skis, helicopters, etc.). Participation in activities involves inherent risk, danger and hazards including but not limited to: accidents which occur in the water; slips, trips, falls; overturning or upsetting of watercraft; entrapment by trees, logs, deadfall and/or equipment; falling from watercraft; encounters with domestic or wild animals including bees and jellyfish; high winds or adverse conditions; equipment failure; failure of safety equipment; variation in water conditions, surfaces or currents; negligent first-aid; infectious disease contracted through viruses, bacteria, parasites and fungi which may be transmitted through direct or indirect contact; the negligence of other participants.

It is the individual choice of each participant to engage in activities. Worldwide Quest International assumes no responsibility or liability for injuries, damages, or losses resulting from participation in activities. It is strongly advised that travellers review their travel insurance to ensure it provides adequate coverage for any high-risk or optional activities they choose to participate in.

By signing the Terms and Conditions you agree to waive your legal rights including the right to sue for negligence, breach of contract, breach of liability or claim compensation:



- Waive any and all liability against Worldwide Quest International including vicarious liability, except in circumstances of gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- Not commence or participate in any type of claim, lawsuit, or class action against Worldwide Quest International, except in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- Release, indemnify, hold harmless, and forever discharge Worldwide Quest International for any losses or injuries arising during their participation in the travel program, except in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct. In entering into this Release Agreement, I am not relying on any oral or written representation or statements made by Worldwide Quest International staff, agents and suppliers with respect to water, mountain, jungle or desert conditions and safety of participating activities.
- Assumption of Risk: You must be aware that participation in water activities and other activities involves inherent risk, danger and hazards including but not limited to: accidents which occur in the water; slips, trips, falls; overturning or upsetting of watercraft; entrapment by trees, logs, deadfall and/or equipment; falling from watercraft; encounters with domestic or wild animals including bees and jellyfish; high winds or adverse conditions; equipment failure; failure of safety equipment; variation in water conditions, surfaces or currents; negligent first-aid; infectious disease contracted through viruses, bacteria, parasites and fungi which may be

transmitted through direct or indirect contact; the negligence of other participants. Communication on the water, mountains or other isolated territory is difficult and in the event of an accident rescue and medical treatment may not be available. I am aware camping, hiking, skiing and trekking involve risks and hazards including but not limited to: steep slopes, eroded riverbanks, glaciers and crevasses, obstacles and hazards; uneven terrain that is not regularly patrolled; becoming lost or separated from the guide; risks associated with camp or forest fires.

In the event of a Canadian Government Level 3 or Level 4 Travel Advisory, Worldwide Quest International does not assume responsibility or liability for any losses arising from cancelled travel plans for airlines or bundled land services including but not limited to accommodations and transportation.

All tickets, coupons, and orders are subject to the terms and conditions imposed by the suppliers. If a performance or festival included in your itinerary is cancelled, the remainder of the tour will proceed as scheduled. If required to cancel, standard cancellation terms will apply.

In case of an accident or crime during the land portion of the tour, the passenger must submit any claims to the competent judicial authorities in the jurisdiction where the accident occurred, exclusively in accordance

with the laws of that jurisdiction. Airlines and other transportation companies whose services are featured in these tours are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their conveyance. The passage contract issued by these companies constitutes the sole contract between the companies and the purchasers of these tours and/or passengers.

Worldwide Quest International reserves the right to modify the itinerary when necessary to ensure the safety and convenience of the participants. Changes may include adjustments to transportation, accommodations, restaurants, attractions, and excursions. Any additional costs arising from these changes will be the responsibility of the participants. Deposits and payments made by participants to Worldwide Quest International are allocated to the various service providers and are non-refundable for any unused portions of the tour. For group trips, no adjustments to the itinerary or group sizes will be permitted from clients after the final payment deadline, as such changes can disrupt the integrity of the tour.

For trips that include airline group bookings, generic seating arrangements are provided by the airline when names are submitted for ticketing. Worldwide Quest

International cannot guarantee specific seat assignments as seating is managed directly by the airline. Passengers may adjust their seating at the time of check-in, subject to availability.

Group airfares are based on a minimum number of travellers. Any requests to deviate from the group airline booking will be considered on a special request basis and are subject to availability. Travellers are fully responsible for any additional costs associated with booking a deviation. Deviation requests must be submitted at least 120 days before departure to be considered. Refunds or credits for unused group airfare are not guaranteed.

Worldwide Quest International, as the organizer of the group and its agents, reserves the right to decline, accept, or retain any participant or tour member at any time. Worldwide Quest International reserves the right to decline or remove any participant whose behaviour is deemed harmful to themselves and/or other group participants. Travellers agree to abide by the laws of the countries they visit, especially with respect to the use of alcohol and drugs. It's important to note that while cannabis may be legal in Canada, its legality may differ in other countries. Participants agree to abide by the rules of hotels, resorts, and villas where they stay. All additional costs associated with early

departure from the trip will be assumed by the participant, and there will be no refund for the unused portion of the trip. Any costs associated with room or property damage deemed intentional by hotel, resort, and/or transportation suppliers will be the sole responsibility of the occupants and individual travellers.

Any changes in health or medical status must be reported as soon as possible and in some cases may result in Worldwide Quest International withdrawing services and canceling the participant's trip. Group trips typically involve active itineraries, requiring participants to walk approximately 6 kilometres (about 4 miles) per day over uneven terrain including but not limited to: cobblestone streets, staircases, bridges and unpaved walking trails. Unless specifically arranged and agreed upon during the tour planning process, tours are not designed to accommodate physical disabilities or limited mobility. Worldwide Quest International reserves the right to cancel a participant's booking if significant changes in health or mobility occur between the deposit and the commencement of the tour, compromising the participant's ability to complete the itinerary or affecting the group's overall experience. Any resulting losses or costs will be the sole responsibility of the traveller. Worldwide Quest International does

not provide or make booking arrangements for mobility aids (such as scooters, walkers, or crutches) or a personal support worker. Any additional costs incurred due to reduced mobility or injury will be the sole responsibility of the traveller.

Participants are strongly advised to have adequate travel insurance, including coverage for trip interruption or cancellation due to health changes, including COVID-19, prior to departure.

Dietary restrictions and allergies must be disclosed at the time of registration. While Worldwide Quest International and individual restaurants will make every effort to accommodate these needs, not all requests can be fulfilled, and reasonable substitutions will be provided when possible. Travellers should be aware that meals in foreign countries often reflect local customs and may differ significantly from Canadian standards. Kosher or Halal meals cannot be guaranteed, and in such cases, vegetarian options may be recommended. Worldwide Quest International assumes no responsibility if meals do not fully meet dietary requirements or in the event of an allergic reaction.

If a traveller requires a single-occupancy room for any reason, this must be disclosed at the time of registration. The additional cost of a single supplement will be the sole responsibility of the traveller. Similarly,



if a traveller requires a personal support worker or assistant for any reason, all related costs must be covered by the traveller. Worldwide Quest International, including group tour leaders, do not provide personal support or assistance to individual travellers. Accommodation is assigned based on the "best in class" available at the time of booking. However, Worldwide Quest International cannot guarantee specific room views, amenities, bed configurations, or floor locations at individual properties.

The decision to travel is solely the participant's choice, and each traveller is accountable for their personal safety while abroad. Participants agree to take all reasonable precautions to protect their well-being during the trip, including but not limited to the proper use of safety devices and adherence to all posted signs, as well as verbal or written health and safety warnings. Worldwide Quest International and its third-party suppliers are not liable for

any loss, injury, or damages resulting from a participant's failure to follow safety guidelines or warnings.

### **Additional Terms and Conditions**

Worldwide Quest International has additional Terms and Conditions, which you must accept when completing Worldwide Quest International' online registration form.

Worldwide Quest International' Terms and Conditions concerning **Group Participation** are superseded by ROMTravel's **Publication of Contact Information**.

### **Contact Information**

ROMTravel Trip Coordinator  
Beth Wanlin  
Phone 416.586.8034  
Email [travel@rom.on.ca](mailto:travel@rom.on.ca)

Worldwide Quest International  
Justin Peter  
Phone 416.633.5666 or 1.800.387.1483  
Email [justin@worldwidequest.com](mailto:justin@worldwidequest.com)

**ROMTravel**  
100 Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M5S 2C6

Phone 416.586.8034  
Email [travel@rom.on.ca](mailto:travel@rom.on.ca)  
[Website](#)

**ROMTravel** is organized by ROM's Department of Museum Volunteers to provide support for the Museum. ROM is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

