

**HARVARD GLEE CLUB ALUMNI CHORUS JAPAN TOUR**  
*October 4-15, 2013 (as of October 1, 2013)*

*Note: Anything not marked as “SINGERS” is open to all participants in our group; when you arrive at our Tokyo hotels, please advise whether you expect to participate in items marked by (\*)*

**PART 1: TOKYO**

Friday, October 4:

- Singers and family members/friends will arrive in Tokyo on various flights
  - Option 1 from Narita Airport: get tickets from just outside Customs for a Limousine Bus *(both of our group hotels are on the same bus route)*
  - Option 2: take a JR Narita Express (NEX) train to Tokyo Station, then a taxi to your hotel
- Rooms are reserved at **Capitol Tokyu Hotel** or **Excel Akasaka Hotel**; those arriving on October 4 should first look for Phil Sheldon or Mike Kuranoff in the lobby of your hotel *(see hotel list sent to each singer to confirm your hotel)*

Saturday, October 5:

- (\*) Optional Tokyo excursion led by Mike Kuranoff and Phil Sheldon, including opening time at Mitsukoshi Department Store (with 15-minute organ concert), Asakusa Temple & shopping street, the Ginza, Roppongi Hills City View and Mori Art Museum *(To offer maximum flexibility, each participant will pay for your own meals and entrance fees, and a portion of your subway pass)*
  - **9:10 am: Akasaka Excel** guests depart lobby with Phil
  - **9:20 am: Capitol Tokyu** guests depart lobby with Mike
- (\*) Lunch is at special Japanese restaurant in Roppongi (paid on your own)
  - Prior to our Roppongi Hills/Mori Art Museum visit, we will pause for lunch at a renowned noodle restaurant, Honmura-an
  - Since a group can't casually drop into such a well-known place, the lunch has been pre-reserved, but with the ability to adjust our guest count
  - The lunch will cost between \$15 and \$30 per person depending on how elaborate a meal you order
  - You will be close to both hotels at lunch time, so you can opt to leave the tour before or after lunch as you wish
  - We must confirm our lunch count on Friday evening, so please let us know if you will join us for the Saturday tour and lunch when we greet you upon arrival at the hotels on Friday
  - Return to hotels **about 4 pm**, but you can return earlier if you wish

- (\*) To simplify weekend excursion moves by subway, we will provide each guest who reserved their Tokyo hotel through HE Travel with a PASMO fare card
  - We will pre-load them with 1500 yen of ride credit (about 8 rides) for the discounted price of 1000 yen or \$10, to be paid in cash when you receive the card.
  - If you reserved your hotel on your own, you can buy a PASMO card for \$20, which covers 1500 yen of value, plus the 500 yen card deposit
  - If you do not plan to join either day of Tokyo excursions, you need not purchase the card. However if you plan to travel on your own by subway, you will find having the card is a great convenience and a good value.
- (\*) Dinner is on your own, but if there is enough interest, Mike and Phil will organize a group to a special restaurant

Sunday, October 6:

- (\*) Optional Tokyo excursion led by Mike Kuranoff and Phil Sheldon (and Tokyo-based HGC alumni if available)
  - Stops will include New City Hall near Shinjuku, Meiji Shrine, the stylish Harajuku area (for young fads) and the stylish Omotesando district (for us more mature shoppers)
  - During our tour in Omotesando, we will pass an exceptional wood block print museum. For those more interested in looking at art than looking at shoppers, this will be an excellent stop.
  - From Omotesando you can return to your hotel or check out other shops on Japan's busiest shopping day of the week
- Departure and return times for Sunday excursion
  - **9:50 am: Capitol Tokyu** guests depart lobby with Mike
  - **10:00 am: Akasaka Excel** guests depart lobby with Phil
  - Return to hotels **by 3 pm**, for singers to prepare for rehearsal
- **3:30 to 5:30 pm: SINGERS** should meet at the **Kiri Banquet Hall** of the Capitol Tokyu Hotel with music for our first rehearsal in Japan (Akasaka Excel guests should allow 15-20 minutes for the walk between the hotels)
- **5:30 to 6:00 pm: (ALL)** Tag Murphy, long-time Tokyo resident and former HGC President will host a discussion about life as an American in Japan today
- (\*) Dinner is on your own, but if there is enough interest, Mike and Phil will organize a group to a special restaurant

Monday, October 7:

- Tohoku Tour: check out and meet our bus outside the lobby of your hotel
- *Note: guests not joining the Tohoku Tour will be on your own until Thursday, October 10 (See train information in Part 3 for Sendai below)*

**PART 2: TOHOKU TOUR (Optional extension)**  
*(Bring swimsuits to enjoy the hot springs baths, which are mostly co-ed)*

Monday, October 7:

- Check out, take bags, then board bus at your hotel to begin Tohoku Tour
  - **8:30 am: Akasaka Excel** guests depart lobby with Phil
  - **8:45 am: Capitol Tokyu** guests depart lobby with Mike
- Mashiko pottery village (thank you Bernie for the arrangements!)
  - Travel north from Tokyo to the Mashiko pottery village
  - Visit the showroom, hear a lecture, and see wood and gas-fired kilns of one of Mashiko's most prominent potters, Matsuzaki Ken, whose has been a Visiting Artist of the Ceramics Program of Harvard's Office of the Arts
  - Ken will guide us on a private visit to the Hamada Family Reference Collection to learn about Living National Treasure Hamada Shoji
  - We will provide a complimentary traditional Japanese bento lunch
  - Time permitting, we'll allow some time to browse some galleries in town
- Re-board our bus to drive an hour or so into the hills to Kinugawa
  - Overnight - Kinugawa Kanko Ryokan (*western and Japanese style rooms*)
  - Dinner and breakfast are included
  - Try one of the indoor or outdoor hot springs baths

Tuesday, October 8:

- Check out of our hotel after breakfast
- Explore the picturesque sights of Nikko including:
  - Nikko Toshogu Shrine, built in honor of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the founder of one of the longest-lived empires, the Tokugawa Empire of the Edo Period, and inspiration for the book "Shogun"
  - A grove of 13,000 cedar trees, some of which date from the 1600s
- Continue north from Nikko through the mountains toward Aizu-Wakamatsu
  - Stop at Ouchijuku, a restored post town from the Edo Period
  - Visit the Aizu-Wakamatsu Castle, a large reconstructed castle whose roots go back to 1384
- Overnight at Harataki On-Sen Ryokan hot springs resort (*Japanese-style rooms*)
  - Travel up a lush green valley from Aizu-Wakamatsu
  - The resort features both indoor and outdoor baths with views of the forested hillsides
  - Our dinner will feature seasonal dishes featuring local ingredients

Wednesday, October 9:

- Check out of our hotel after breakfast
- Visit the Aizu-hongo-yaki pottery museum, celebrating a pottery village that was created in 1593 to provide tiles for the largest fortress in the region
- Continue north to Kitakata, where we will have time to stroll
  - There are over 2500 *kura* style buildings spread around the town
  - *Kura* are storehouses made from mortar and tile

- Only the *kura* survived a massive fire in 1880, so homes and businesses were rebuilt in this style
- Stop for a lunch of ramen, a local specialty
- In Kitakata, visit a sake brewery where the tradition goes back to 1790
- Tour the Aizu Lacquer Museum, located in a Meiji-period residence
- Drive north to the highest mountains of our trip to the Ura-Bandai region, known for its picturesque mountains, lakes, hot springs and treks
  - Many lakes and ponds were formed after an 1888 eruption of Mt. Bandai
  - We will explore the unique landscape of “Ura-Bandai” (behind Bandai)
  - The cone-shaped mountain resembled Fuji until the 1888 eruption
- Overnight at Urabandai Nekoma Hotel by Lake Hibara (*western-style rooms*)
  - Enjoy indoor and outdoor baths with views of the forested hillsides
  - Our dinner will feature seasonal dishes featuring local ingredients
  - Breakfast is included at our lodging

Thursday, October 10:

- Check out of our hotel after breakfast
- Today’s first stop will be at Sony’s Mount Bandai 3D World Theater to see a 3D film about Mount Bandai’s seasons, and about the eruption
- Enjoy a one-hour stroll on the 3-mile Goshiki-numa (Five Colored Pond) Walk
  - The flat well-maintained path is mostly through lovely forests
  - We’ll see numerous small ponds in various shades of blue
  - Anyway preferring not to walk can stay with our bus and drive to the other end of the path to meet us there
- We will stop for lunch in Ura-Bandai
- We expect to arrive in Sendai about 3 pm to start the next phase of our adventure!

### **PART 3: SENDAI TOURING, REHEARSAL AND CONCERT DAYS**

*(Directions to all venues will be provided in Sendai)*

Thursday, October 10:

- Travelers from Tokyo will take Hayabusa 15, departing Tokyo at 11:56 am and arriving Sendai at 1:33 pm (arrange own transportation to and from train stations)
- All guests check into hotel for 5-night stay at Sendai Kokusai (International) Hotel or ANA Holiday Inn or Westin Hotel
- **Singers:** rehearsal 7 pm to 9 pm (Sendai Shimin Kaikan)

Friday, October 11:

- (\*) **Full day excursion to pine-covered island of Matsushima (included for all)**
- 9 am: take a bus and boat to visit the Zuiganji Temple, the Japanese garden of Entsuin, and Godaido Temple, located on a small island off of Matsushima
- Lunch will be included during the tour, then we’ll return to Sendai about 2 pm
- **Singers:** 4 pm to 6 pm: Joint HGC/KGC rehearsal (Chuo Shimin Center)
- **ALL:** 7 pm to 9 pm: Joint HGC/KGC kickoff party (Hotel Leoplace)

Saturday, October 12 (\*) (Sendai activities arranged by our KGC friends):

- **Westin guests:** please walk across street to Kokusai before 9:00 am
- **Sendai Kokusai Hotel guests:** depart from lobby at 9:00 am
- **ANA Holiday Inn guests:** depart from lobby at 9:15 am
- 10 to 11:30 am: International Research Institute of Disaster Science presentation
- Lunch will be arranged by KGC hosts
- 12 noon to 2:30 pm: tour to Natori, a seaside town affected by the tsunami
- 3:30-4:00 pm: return to hotels (no group plans for the evening)

Sunday, October 13:

- **Singers:** 10 am to 12 noon: HGC solo rehearsal (Chuo Shimin Center)
- **Singers:** 12 noon to 2 pm: HGC singer lunch break
- **Singers:** 2 pm to 4 pm: Joint HGC/KGC rehearsal (Chuo Shimin Center)
- (\*) **Non-singers:** 9:30 am: women from Group Mori Chorus and KGC wife Wakako Ohki have planned a delightful tour of their “City of Trees” for visiting HGC and KGC spouses and friends. Visit the Zui Ho Den Mausoleum and Sendai Castle, then have lunch at a nice restaurant. At 2:30 those interested can attend a portion of the Yosakoi Dance Festival. *Cost is 5000 yen (about \$50) and includes lunch, taxis and entrance fees.*

Monday, October 14:

- **Singers:** 10:00 am – be at concert hall (HGC rehearsal from 10:30 am)
- **Non-singers:** KGC will provide a brochure with details about how to get from our hotels to the concert hall
- 2 pm to 4 pm: Concert at the Kawauchi Hagi Hall of Tohoku University
- 5 pm to 7 pm: Post-concert party nearby at Mori no Dining Hall
- After party, KGC arranged a chartered bus for everyone to return to our hotels

Tuesday, October 15:

- For travelers on ANA 3232 departing Sendai at 8:05 am: group transfer to airport
  - ANA Holiday Inn: depart from lobby at 5:45 am
  - Sendai Kokusai Hotel: depart from lobby at 6:00 am
  - Westin Hotel: cross the street to Kokusai Hotel by 6:00 am
- Train passengers who reserved seats to Narita with HE Travel will have assistance to get the five blocks to the Sendai train station then take:
  - **Hayabusa 8: depart Sendai 9:32 am; arrive Tokyo 11:08 am**
  - Mike Kuranoff will travel with you, guide you between trains, and buy your tickets for the express connecting train to Narita Airport
  - You will arrive at Narita Airport between 12:30 and 1 pm, to allow plenty of time for the earliest flight departing at 3:10 pm
  - *Warren Pyle and Lisl Urban depart at 8:55 am to Tokyo & Kyoto*
- For travelers on ANA 3234 departing Sendai to Narita Airport at 3:20 pm: we will provide taxi instructions