

Textiles of Japan

May 6-17, 2023

Tour Leaders: Tom Knisely and Sara Bixler



Explore the Diversity of
Japanese Textiles and Crafts

TAILORED SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS

- EXPERT TOUR LEADERS
- MAXIMUM 24 IN A GROUP
- CAREFULLY PLANNED ITINERARIES



Textiles of Japan

Explore the Diversity of Japanese Textiles and Crafts

Tour dates: May 6-17, 2023

Tour leader: Tom Knisely
Sara Bixler

Tour price: \$6,565

Single supplement: \$780

Booking deposit: \$500 per person

Maximum places: 24

Itinerary: Tokyo (2 nights),
Lake Kawaguchiko (1 night),
Nagano (1 night), Nagaoka
(1 night) Murukami (1 night), Sendai
(1 night), Hirosaki (2 nights),
Tokyo (2 nights)

Inquiries and Bookings:

For further information or to book on this tour, please contact Opulent Quilt Journeys at **877-235-3767** or info@opulentquiltjourneys.com

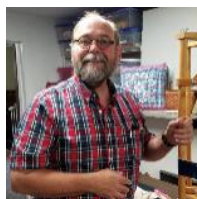
Date published: Oct 24, 2022

TOUR OVERVIEW

Experience urban excitement and natural beauty as you experience the textile heritage of Japan. The tour begins in the capital city of Tokyo, where you will take part in a hands-on saori weaving workshop. Next, travel to the Chubu region to see the area's unique weaving techniques, museums, craft villages, and textile workshops. As you head north, you meet adept craftspeople, including an indigo dyer, a sashiko expert, and a sakiori weaver.

More skilled craftsmanship is evident as you visit sites for kimono making, silk weaving, basketry, and sakiori weaving. All the while you enjoy glorious scenery and ancient temples, palaces, shrines, and more. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I hope you join us to explore the rich textile history of Japan.

YOUR TOUR LEADERS



Tom Knisely has made his career from his interest and love of textiles from around the world. Tom has been studying, collecting and teaching others about weaving and spinning for more than four decades, making him one of the most well versed weaving instructors in

North America. In addition to teaching, Tom weaves professionally and is a frequent contributor to Handwoven magazine. Voted Handwoven's Teacher of the Year, Tom is renowned among his students for his kindness, good humor, and "seemingly infinite knowledge on the subject of weaving". His broad knowledge of textiles and textile equipment has brought him international recognition and he is frequently asked to teach and lecture to groups all over. Tom is the author of several books; Weaving Rag Rugs, Handwoven Baby Blankets, Handwoven Table Linens, Huck Lace Weaving Patterns With Color and Weave Effects, Spinning 101 and 2 children's books The Weaver's Surprise and Spinning Tails.



Sara Bixler is the owner and resident instructor of Red Stone Glen Fiber Arts Center in York Haven, Pennsylvania. Her love of travel and different cultures inspire her work and the curriculum offered at Red Stone Glen, set on an idyllic 50-acre property in south central Pennsylvania.

There, students enjoy a unique opportunity to study a diverse range of fiber-arts courses, ranging from weaving to tatting. The center also presents informative lectures on relevant topics. Sara has devoted years to experimenting with color in weaving. She has focused on how color relationships are affected by yarn size, luster, sett, and weave structure. She is known for her ability to guide students through the challenging world of color theory, specifically as it relates to weaving. She is passionate about sustainability and the natural world, and that dedication is reflected in her work.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



TOKYO

Fast-paced and cosmopolitan, Japan's capital city is a leading international destination. World-class dining, shopping, and cultural attractions are plentiful. These modern locales are balanced with sites that bring the history of Japan to life: temples, castles, and specialty shops. Connected by an efficient transportation system, Tokyo welcomes visitors to explore its full wonder. Explore gems such as the Tokyo National Museum and the busy Asakusa district, site of the city's oldest Buddhist temple – and take a ride on the bullet train!



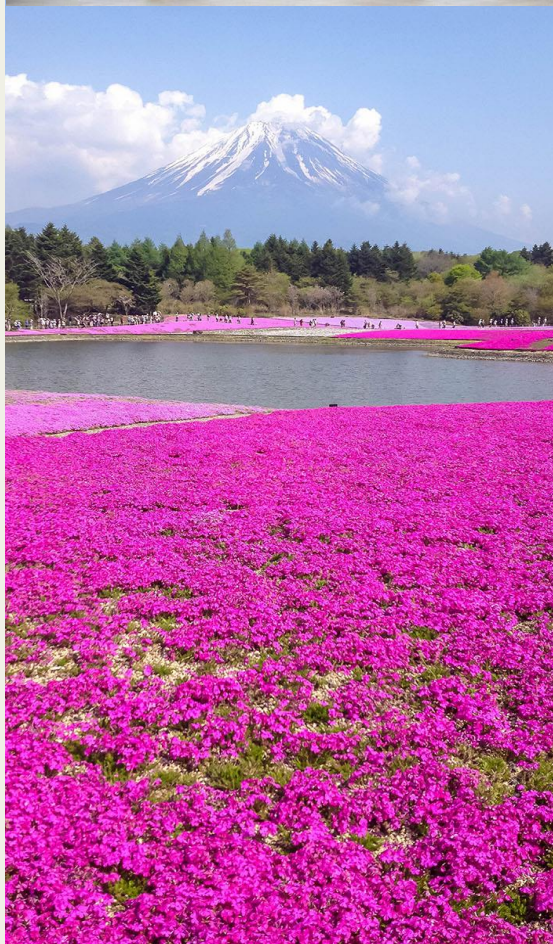
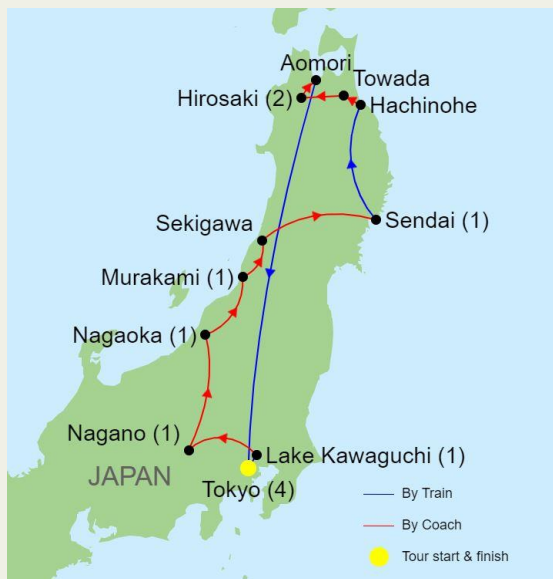
BEAUTIFUL LAND & CULTURE

Japan is a haven for natural beauty and national treasures. From Mount Fuji to glorious gardens, rich colors and sweeping views are to be explored. Just as impressive as the land are the cultural attractions, some dating back centuries. Stops include: Lake Towada, where a cruise is booked; Koishikawa Korakuen, an impressive Tokyo garden that reproduces landscapes in miniature; Itchiku Kubota Museum, which houses magnificent kimonos; and Hiroaki Castle, built in an ancient castle town on the island of Honshu.



TEXTILE & WORKSHOPS

Today's artisans lovingly preserve textile traditions in Japan. These craftsmen produce silks and other cloths of the finest grade using time-honored processes. They share their skill for weaving and cloth through museums, factory tours, and hands-on workshops that cover everything from dyeing to weaving. Indigo, shinaori, shibori, kimonos, and kasuri and sakiori weaving are among the techniques included on this tour.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Included meals are shown with the symbols B, L, and D.

TOUR START & FINISH TIME

The tour starts at 1:00 pm on Saturday, May 6, at Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo. The tour ends after breakfast on Wednesday, May 17, at Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo.

Arrival/departure transfer: Shared transfer is included. Please contact us for more details.

Day 1 Saturday May 6

Arrive Tokyo

Meet the tour members at 1:00 pm in the lobby. First take a stroll through the beautiful **Imperial Palace East Garden**, then onto visit **Japan Folk Crafts Museum**. The museum houses a collection of some 17,000 examples of craftwork from around Japan, in a farmhouse-like building. Group dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 2 Sunday May 7

Tokyo

After breakfast, visit one of Tokyo's oldest and best Japanese gardens, **Koishikawa Korakuen**. Like most traditional Japanese gardens, Koishikawa Korakuen attempts to reproduce famous landscapes in miniature, using ponds, stones, trees, and man-made hills to replicate both Japanese and Chinese scenery. Next visit is the **Tokyo National Museum** in Ueno Park, the oldest and largest of Japan's top-level national museums. The museum features one of the largest and best collections of art and archaeological artifacts in Japan, made up of over 110,000 individual items including nearly a hundred national treasures. Later, visit the **Senso-ji Temple**, wander through the busy **Asakusa district**, and explore **Japan Traditional Crafts Aoyama Square** where you can find some special souvenir. (B)

Day 3 Monday May 8

Lake Kawaguchiko

Today travel by coach to Kawaguchi Lake with a stop at the beautiful **Itchiku Kubota Museum** to see the stunning Kubota Kimono Collection. Later we attend the **Fuji Shibazakura Festival**. The festival features the moss phlox flower with Mount Fuji in the background. This evening enjoy the view of Mt. Fuji from your onsen hotel. (B D)

Day 4 Tuesday May 9

Okaya Silk Museum and Nagano

After breakfast, depart for **Silk Fact Okaya**, the only museum in Japan where visitors can view silk-spinning at the adjoining silk mill while learning about the history of the development of the silk-spinning industry. Next visit **Matsumoto Castle**, one of Japan's principal historic castles; it is considered a National Treasure of Japan. (B)

Day 5 Wednesday May 10

Kimono Factory and Yamakoshi Village

After breakfast, depart for Tokamachi to visit **Kimono Factory Aoyagi**. Aoyagi, founded in 1938 in Tokamachi, aspires to capture the true essence of the Japanese kimono. Fabric of the highest class is produced, woven, dyed, and assembled here to make some of the best kimono in the nation.

Later make a stop at **Yamakoshi Village**, home to terraced rice fields, unique cuisine and friendly locals before check-in at hotel in Nagaoka. (B D)

Day 6 Thursday May 11

Ojiya and Murakami

Today travel to Ojiya, where the delicate, crinkled **Ojiya chijimi** fabric has been produced from ramie for over 400 years. Creating this delicate crepe textile requires multiple processes, from extracting the plant fibers and turning them into thread to naturally bleaching and softening the woven fabric in the snow. These steps are detailed in displays at the Orinoza Exhibition Hall. Experience a kasuri weaving demonstration to see how the fabric is woven with threads dyed to create a pattern. Next travel to the town of Murakami for overnight. Tonight enjoy famous Kaiseki Ryori of salmon. (B D)

Day 7 Friday May 12

Murakami, Sekigawa and Sendai

Murakami is a castle town of Murakami clan, even now there are still vestiges of Samurai and merchant town. It is famous as tea-growing district of the northern limit, salmon and Murakami Beef especially it's famous about salmon. Today visit **Sennenzake Kikkawa**. Kikkawa sells processed salmon products such as the local gem that is "Shiobiki-zake" (salted salmon), along with over 100 other salmon products. The reason Kikkawa is famous is that at the back of the shop you can find around 1000 salmon hung up from the ceiling being dried for processing. Travel to Sendai with an en route stop at the **Sekigawa Shinaori Centre** for a weaving experience. People in the Sekigawa area create Shinaori fabrics from Shina tree fiber. It is considered one of the three best fabrics in Japan, and its production dates to prehistoric times. Learn how this time-honored fabric is made during a hands-on workshop in the center's Nukumori hall. After this stop, continue to Sendai with check-in upon arrival. (B)





Day 8 Saturday May 13

Hirosaki

Board the bullet train from Sendai and board a coach to travel to Towada. Here, visit Takumi Studio, which is replete with looms to make **sakiori** cloth using bits of rags. Enjoy a hands-on workshop. Then continue to Hirosaki with an en route stop at **Lake Towada**, where you will enjoy a cruise. Continue to Hirosaki; check in to hotel. (B D)

Day 9 Sunday May 14

Hirosaki

Hirosaki is an ancient castle town on the island of Honshu in Aomori prefecture. The city offers a wealth of exciting experiences and traditional crafts. At its center is **Hirosaki Castle**, built in the Hirayama--or flatland-mountain--architectural style. Visit this grand castle and see thousands of cherry trees planted around the grounds, which makes it one of Japan's most spectacular cherry blossom locales. Next to the castle is **Tsugaru Natural Indigo Dyeing Store**, where a hands-on dyeing experience awaits. This activity is followed by a visit to Saito Yoko Kogin Tenjikan. (B)

Day 10 Monday May 15

Tokyo

This morning, visit the **Hirosaki Koginzashi Institute** to see a lovely collection of old kimonos and patterns. The Institute is a place where local women bring in sashiko pieces they have been commissioned to stitch. Later, transfer to station to take the bullet train to Tokyo; upon arrival, transfer to hotel (B)

Day 11 Tuesday May 16

Tokyo

In the morning, enjoy a **Saori Weaving Workshop** at Saori no Mori. Saori is a forgiving weaving method that embodies the concept of freedom and self-expression. At Saori no Mori, there is no such thing as failure!

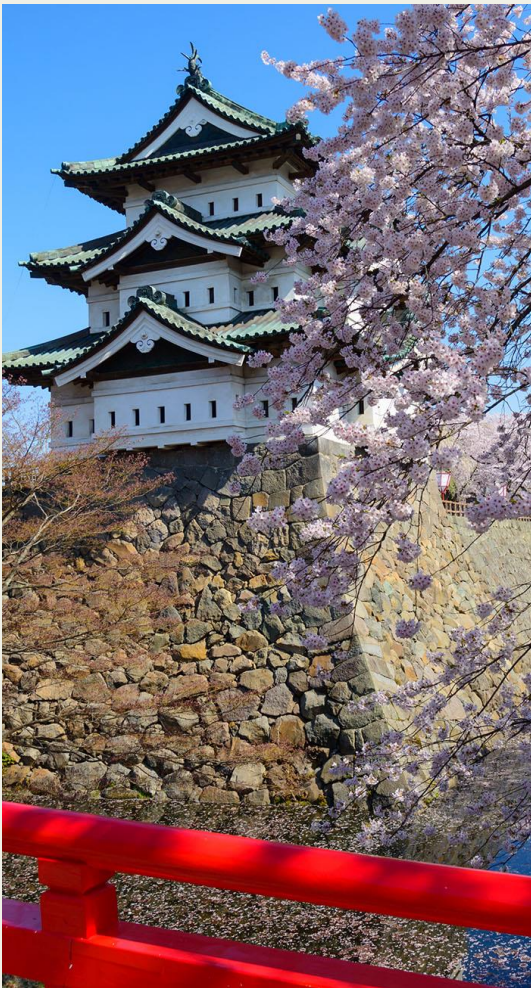
In the afternoon visit **Meiji Shrine**, a tranquil Shinto haven amidst the megalopolis of Tokyo. Dedicated to reformist Emperor Meiji, it's a reminder of how he encouraged Japan's modernity, and the end of feudalism. Then enjoy a leisurely stroll in **Omotesando area**. The main street, Omotesando dori, is often compared to the Champs-Élysées in Paris.

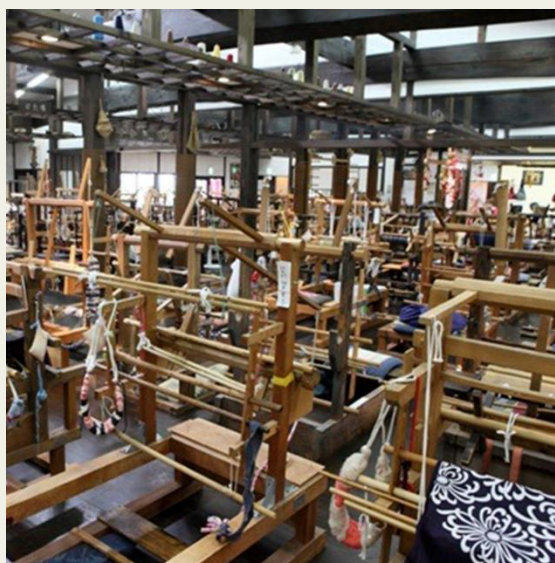
Enjoy our farewell dinner tonight. (B, D)

Day 12 Wednesday May 17

Depart Tokyo

Tour concludes after breakfast. Transfer to airport by airport limousine shuttle bus. (B)





Price per person (Land Tour):

The tour price is \$6,565 per person, twin share. The supplement for a twin or double room for sole use is \$780 per person. A deposit of \$500 per person is required to secure a place on the tour.

Inclusions:

- Transportation in Japan, including trains and chartered coaches
- 12 nights twin-share accommodation at well-appointed hotels with breakfast daily
- Meals as stated in the itinerary
- Visits and workshops as stated in the itinerary
- An English-speaking guide throughout the trip in Japan

Exclusions:

- International airfare to Japan
- Arrival and departure airport/hotel transfer
- Travel insurance
- Porterage at hotels and personal expenses
- Gratuities and anything not mentioned

Fitness to participate: In order to get the most from your travels and keep up with the group, a reasonable level of fitness is required. You will need to be able to walk for a few hours at a gentle pace; use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities); undertake walking tours of 1-2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones, and other uneven surfaces; stand for long periods in museums and other sites; embark/disembark coaches, trains, and other methods of transportation without assistance; and handle your own luggage.



TOUR NAME:

TOUR DATE:

TOUR LEADER:

Tour code

BOOKING FORM

TO SUBMIT YOUR BOOKING FORM:

OPTION 1: Complete the form. Save, print and sign. Please scan the completed form and email it to us at info@opulentquiltjourneys.com

OPTION 2: Print the form, complete it manually and post it back to our mailing address

Opulent Quilt Journeys, 20701 N. Scottsdale Rd., Ste. 107-426. Scottsdale, AZ 85255

YOUR DETAILS:

PASSENGER 1

Your title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr etc):

Your full name (as it appears on your passport):

Preferred first name:

Date of birth:

Postal Address:

City:

State:

Postcode:

Email:

Phone:

Cell:

Name of next of kin (in case of emergency):

Relationship to you:

Contact number:

Email:

PASSENGER 2

Your title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr etc):

Your full name (as it appears on your passport):

Preferred first name:

Date of birth:

Postal Address:

City:

State:

Postcode:

Email:

Phone:

Cell:

Name of next of kin (in case of emergency):

Relationship to you:

Contact number:

Email:

Please provide a copy of the photo page of your passport together with this booking form.

ROOMING PREFERENCES

I am traveling: on my own with a friend or family member

Name of friend or family member (if not passenger 2)

I/we would like: a single room a twin share room (2 beds in the room) a double room (1 bed in the room)

If a single would you like us to organize twin-share on your behalf? Yes No

Are you a smoker? Yes No

(Please note that Single Supplement will be payable if we are unable to arrange twin-share for you)

YOUR SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS/ALLERGIES

Please indicate below if you have any special dietary requirements. Appropriate meals will be requested for you on group meals based on this information.

PASSENGER 1

I do not have any specific dietary requirements or allergies

I have the following specific dietary requirements/allergies:

PASSENGER 2

I do not have any specific dietary requirements or allergies

I have the following specific dietary requirements/allergies:

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Please indicate below if you have any serious health issue that may affect your travel insurance coverage, your physical capacity to undertake some activities on tour or may otherwise need to be considered by the tour leader/manager during the tour.

PASSENGER 1

I do not have specific medical condition

I have the following medical condition(s):

PASSENGER 2

I do not have specific medical condition

I have the following medical condition(s):

YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

I/we plan to undertake additional travel before/after the tour and would like Opulent Quilt Journeys to organize this (please describe destinations and length of stay required below)

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Pay directly by check made payable to **Ju Yang Tours LLC**

Mail to:

Opulent Quilt Journeys

20701 N. Scottsdale Rd., Ste. 107-426.

Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Pay by credit card (Please complete details below, or call Opulent Quilt Journeys 877-235-3767 for account details)

MasterCard Visa American Express

Card Number:

Name on card:

Expiry Date:

3 or 4 digit security code:

Card Holders Signature:

Date:

(Payments by credit card will be subject to a Merchant Administration Fee as follows: 3% for Visa / MasterCard / American Express)

AUTHORIZATION: By submitting this booking form you are authorizing us to charge the cost of deposits for booking on this tour. No further charges will be made without your prior authorization.

YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF BOOKING CONDITIONS

I/we have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I/we am/are able to meet these requirements.

I/we accept the conditions on page 1 of this booking form

Opulent Quilt Journeys reserves the right to decline the booking or terminate the holiday of any traveller.

AUTHORISATION

By submitting this booking form, you are agreeing to the terms and conditions on page 1 of this booking form and on our website, and the inclusions and non-inclusions listed in the detailed itinerary for the tour.

Signature 1:

Signature 2:

Date:



BOOKING FORM TERMS & CONDITIONS

TOUR OPERATOR: Ju Yang Tours LLC dba Opulent Quilt Journeys, hereafter referred to as Opulent Quilt Journeys.

This information is very important, please read it carefully. It is the responsibility of the traveler to read and agree to these Terms and Conditions before signing up or making payment for any tours.

DEPOSIT

A deposit is required to confirm your booking on a tour. Please refer to the specific tour for the deposit amount required. This deposit is non-refundable. Reservations must be made in your name as it appears on your passport.

TOUR PRICES

All prices are in US Dollars, on twin share basis. Prices quoted in our itineraries, brochures, advertising and/or on our website are based on exchange rates at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change due to significant currency fluctuations in exchange rates, fuel cost and other operating costs on which prices are based. Opulent Quilt Journeys reserves the right to adjust prices whether or not you have already made full payment. We will advise you at the earliest opportunity in the event of a price variation. You will have the option of accepting the amended prices or withdrawing from the tour, receiving a full refund of all monies paid, less an administration fee.

FINAL PAYMENT

Final payment of the tour fee will be due to us 75 days before the tour start date. Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in the cancellation of your booking and loss of any payments made to date.

CHANGES BY US

While we will use our best endeavours to operate all tours as advertised, by entering into this contract you acknowledge and accept that it may prove necessary or advisable to vary or modify a tour or its contents due to prevailing local conditions. We reserve the right at any time to cancel or change any of the facilities, services or prices described in the brochure (including flights, transport, accommodation or other arrangements) and to substitute alternative arrangements of comparable monetary value without compensation. If a service or facility becomes unavailable due to circumstances beyond our control ('force majeure') and no alternative arrangement of comparable monetary value is available, we will attempt to substitute the best alternative available and/or will refund you for any cost saving.

Force Majeure

'Force majeure' includes any event which Opulent Quilt Journeys or its suppliers could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid (e.g. advice against travel from the Department of State, war, threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, epidemics pandemic, health risks, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire or

adverse weather conditions, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes imposed by cancellation or rescheduling of flights by an airline or main charterer, the alteration of airline or aircraft type).

CANCELLATION BY YOU

If you decide to cancel your booking the following charges apply:

Over 75 days	Forfeit of all deposits paid*
75-31 days	50% of the tour cost
30 days or less	100% of the tour cost

* Your deposit may be credited to another Opulent Journey tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked.

Cancellation fees for air tickets issued by or on behalf of Opulent Quilt Journeys will apply as determined by Airline Tariff Regulations and may vary as to the type of ticket issued. Depending on the reason for your cancellation, these charges may be recoverable by the insurance policy you purchased.

CANCELLATION BY US

Opulent Quilt Journeys reserves the right to cancel a tour for any reason (including failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure (as outlined above) or your failure to pay the final balance, we will make a final decision to proceed or cancel a tour no less than 60 days before departure. If you have paid in full, we will credit or refund all monies paid, excluding an administration fee. No other compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Opulent Quilt Journeys. The refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

CREDITS AND REFUNDS

Opulent Quilt Journeys will always attempt to provide a cash refund of all amounts paid but, depending upon the specific circumstances, which are outside our control, you acknowledge that any credit or refund may take the form of a substitution of a similar tour at a later date, or a credit voucher for a tour with Opulent Quilt Journeys at a later date.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

PASSPORT AND VISA

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure that they possess the necessary travel documentation for the tour, such as a valid passport and any required visas. In general a passport should be valid at least 6 months beyond the end of your journey and have two clear pages for each country to be visited to allow for entry and exit stamps en-route or for any visas applicable for countries in your journey.

RESPONSIBILITY: Ju Yang Tours LLC, hereafter indicated dba Opulent Quilt Journeys acts only as an agent for all suppliers of services, or in accepting reservations for services on its tours. The suppliers or independent contractors providing transportation, accommodations and all other services are not agents or employees of

Opulent Quilt Journeys. To the extent that Opulent Quilt Journeys or its supplier is involved in sale of air/or cruise transportation to you, Opulent Quilt Journeys, acts only as an agent of the air carrier and/or cruise line. By utilizing the services of all suppliers, the passenger agrees that neither Opulent Quilt Journeys, nor any representatives shall be liable for any accident, injury, including loss of life, damage, loss, delay, irregularity or expenses arising from acts of God, strikes, war, weather, quarantines, sickness, terrorist activity, government restrictions or regulations, from any act or omission of any individual, firm, or corporation furnishing transportation, sight-seeing, accommodations, or any services in connection with such travel plans or from any other occurrences what so ever. All such expenses or losses are the responsibility of the passenger. Ju Yang Tours LLC dba Opulent Quilt Journeys is not responsible for any costs of medical treatments or transportation a passenger may require on a tour.

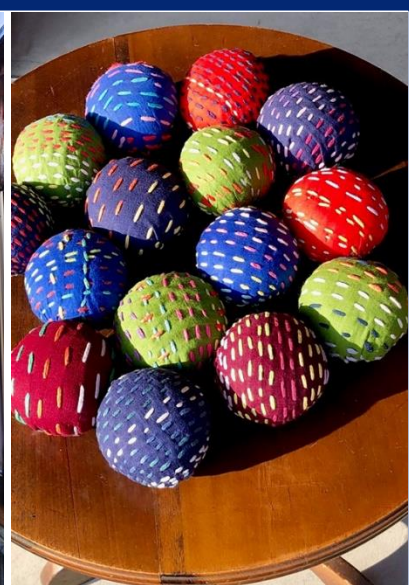
By commencing travel, the passenger willingly assumes all risks and responsibilities expected or unexpected involved with such travel. We urge purchase of travel insurance to protect against such risks.

By signing and submitting this document, I state that I have read and understood this document, the on-line itinerary, the travel brochure/flyer, or other communications and acknowledge that it affects my legal rights and agree to be bound by its terms. By accepting this agreement, it further signifies my intentions to relieve and indemnify Ju Yang Tours LLC (dba Opulent Quilt Journeys), its owners, officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, and subcontractors from any liability for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death which I might suffer during my travels on the scheduled tour. In addition, I have noted the policy on cancellations, refunds, and limitations of responsibility.

I/we accept the conditions on this booking form and on Opulent Quilt Journeys website. I/we have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour and confirm that I/we are able to meet these requirements:

Signature 1:	Date:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Signature 2:	Date:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Please send your completed booking form and passport copy to **Opulent Quilt Journeys**
Mail to: 20701 N. Scottsdale Rd., Ste. 107-426.
Scottsdale, AZ 85255
Or email to: info@opulentquiltjourneys.com
Call: 877-235-3767



For tour details, please contact **Opulent Quilt Journeys**

Phone: 877-235-3767

✉ info@opulentquiltjourneys.com

opulentquiltjourneys.com