

## Outbound Journeys to Japan

April 9 to April 26, 2017

These journeys provided a total immersion in a fascinating world so different from our own. To our surprise, as the result of a late spring, we found ourselves right in the middle of the cherry blossoms at their prime.

After arriving in Tokyo on April 6 and spending two days touring a number of exciting locations and adjusting to the 13 hour time difference from Haliburton, we were off via bullet train to our first journey in Nara. Our visit was filled with many highlights including a kimono fashion show, a Japanese cooking party, a Japanese style barbecue lunch, digging for bamboo shoots and a spectacular demonstration of Japanese Taiko drumming. Our hosts also dressed all of us in traditional Japanese style:



**Then we were off to Hiroshima and a visit the Hiroshima Memorial, a very profound experience that none of us will ever forget. Our Hiroshima hosts also guided us on a day tour to a spectacular nearby island shrine.**

**From Hiroshima we were off to Shizuoka for our final homestay. For this trip we were scheduled to change bullet trains in Nagoya with 4 minutes between arrival and departure. To our amazement it went off within out a hitch for our entire group. Those trains run on time!**

**Arriving in Shizuoka we found ourselves in the presence of Mount Fuji.**





**Our journey here included a visit to Mount Fuji, a visit to a bonsai museum and training in how to make a Japanese flower arrangement.**

