Free Horyuji Tour Guide

On the morning you check out, you can avail of a free Horyuji Temple tour just for our hotel’s overnight guests. Our hotel’s staff are deeply familiar with the best parts of the temple, such that after hearing their tour you’ll never look at Buddhist temples the same way again! It’s great even for total Buddhism novices, so please feel free to join!

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
* Up to 25 people can join. Please make a reservation in advance.
* For any of a variety of reasons, this may be altered, postponed, or canceled without prior notice.

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Cultural Activities
Prepare Your Body and Soul to Enter the Holy Site

[Zuko Rubbing Incense]
When you check in to the hotel, we will provide you with zuko, or powdered rubbing incense. Zuko is an ancient way of purifying your body before entering a Buddhist temple or before engaging in Buddhist ritual practice. Aside from purifying your body, the different types are said to have powers such as forming a good romantic partner, avoiding danger, and strengthening life. Recent studies have also shown that it is effective in improving concentration, helping you relax, and so on.

[Bathing Hall]
Reserve one of the Bathing Hall baths to experience the very roots of Japanese bathing culture in true Japanese temple bath. With names like “Gekko (Black Moon),” “Yuki (Silver Moon),” “Tabi (Feet),” and “Bunûkei (White Tiger),”, these names are derived from the guardian deities of the four directions of north, south, east, and west, as depicted on the walls of ancient burial mounds such as the Ikfit and Hokusaiton in Asuka Village to the southeast of Horyuji. You’re invited to have a special time in one of these exceptional facilities.

[Tea Ceremony] [Calligraphy]

Horyuji Gallery Bar: Live Presentations with Slides
Every night at the Gallery Bar in the Tobe Kan, you can hear fascinating talks about Nara’s history and culture, appropriate for a temple town hotel located right beside the Horyuji World Heritage Site. Experience an original WAQOO program based around the concept of “You’ll Want to Go to the Temple Tomorrow!” Spend the kind of evening you can only get at a temple town hotel as you enjoy delicious alcoholic beverages.

Some Examples of Presentations
1. Buddha Statues: You’ll Want to Go and Talk to Them
2. The Great Monks Who Established Japanese Buddhism
3. People Linked to Ikaruga
4. How to Walk Around Horyuji
5. Japan’s Fascinating Asuka Period

[Time] 5:00-9:00 p.m. (40 mins. each) / Free to join
* When you check in to the hotel, we will inform you of the specific schedule.
* For any of a variety of reasons, this may be altered, postponed, or canceled, without prior notice.

Japanese Cultural Activities

*Nigirizumi Activity*
Why not make your own “Nara-sumi” - the kind of traditional craft you can only try in Nara?
Did you know that 95% of Japan’s sumi ink is produced in Nara City? This traditional craft in Nara dates to the 13th century, and it is said that each one can be used for more than 1,000 years.
You can experience the creation of “nigirizumi,” or raw sumi gripped by hand to create a shape, for yourself.
Why not make your own original Nara-sumi today?

*Making Yamato Noi-bukuro*
Make your one-and-only scented bag (noi-bukuro) with the theme of “Incense and Health.”
The way you experience smell changes depending on the condition of your body on any particular day.
Make your own noi-bukuro with the scents of a combination of around 10 different traditional Chinese medicine ingredients.

*Flower Arrangement*
Tea Ceremony: Hyoyo Ikoma
He is a freelance flower arrangement teacher who teaches at the Hyosyuki Flower Arrangement School (Yamamura Goyu tradition), which calls the site of Enshoji Temple in Nara City home. He is an assistant professor of the Yamamura Goyu school of flower arrangement.

*Yamato Matcha Art*
With this Matcha Art activity you can try creating images in your Yamato matcha (powdered green tea) in the style of latte art.
Yamato matcha is grown in the historic and tea-appropriate environment of Nara.

*Matcha Art*: involves freely creating images, symbols, and the like using the foam atop the tea as art. It resembles latte art, but there is no milk, only matcha. Think of what you want to "paint" beforehand to make it run more smoothly. Anyone can join with ease. Why not create beautiful art with Yamato matcha that was grown by people, history, and nature?