



**BONSAI**  
*Gardens*

914 SOUTH MAIN ST.  
(ROUTE 126)  
BELLINGHAM, MA 02019  
**508 883 2842**

## Japan Bonsai Tour 2010—New England Bonsai Gardens

Here's an update on our Japan Bonsai tour in November. The pieces are coming together. John and I are in touch with the tour guides and travel agents. Here is the basic itinerary and costs. Some things in the itinerary may change and we will definitely get more specifics to you as we solidify the information.

We have been to Japan and know the good places to go—some well known and others more of a secret. Please bear in mind that we are not professional travel agents or tour guides but are committed to making this experience a fun and memorable one for you.

For some of you this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience bonsai in Japan and we are sure you will not be disappointed.

Yoshi Nakamizu will guide us in Tokyo.

Jun Imabayashi will be with us as translator and interpreter in Kyoto and Shikoku. Jun is a native Japanese speaker and fluent in English as well as a bonsai apprentice and world traveler.

Yoshi Nakamisu speaks fluent English and is a professional bonsai tour guide. We could not be in better hands.

MOST activities will be planned but there will be some free time to explore on your own, if you like.

We need a minimum of 15 people to get group rates for hotel, air etc. Maximum 20.

### **COST**

\$4300 per person double occupancy.

Tour package will include:

Airfare R/T from Boston or Providence (tbd)

Hotel accommodations

Train and taxi costs during group activities\*

Some meals. (tbd)

All translation and tour guides for the group.\*

\*These costs are not covered if you visit somewhere outside of the group.

Does not include personal expenses. Bring some extra cash for yourself!

Deposit of \$500 due by May 1st 2010.

Full payment due by October 1st 2010

Cancellation policies to be determined.

Naturally, if WE cancel for any reason you will be fully refunded.



## Taikan-ten Show

Taikan-ten, Great Viewing Exhibit —Kyoto.  
Description of the show from Dr. Thomas Elias.

This outstanding, four-day national exhibit of bonsai is the largest and best of the late season shows. This is another of the exhibits that is held for hobbyists although many of the better trees have been styled and maintained by bonsai professionals. Held in late November, the Taikan-ten features bonsai, satsuki azaleas, and suiseki. The Nippon Bonsai Association, the Taikan-ten Organizing Committee, the City of Kyoto, and the local Kyoto Television and Newspaper companies jointly sponsor this exhibit. It has gained popularity and notice in part due to the widely publicized bonsai contest sponsored by Japan Airlines (JAL). This is a worldwide contest where individuals submit photographs of their best bonsai for judging by an expert panel. The winners of this annual contest are flown to Kyoto where the photographs of their prize-winning bonsai are displayed at the Taikan-ten exhibition. Like other major exhibits, a large sales area is present and the organizing committee publishes an annual photo album of the plants displayed. Kyoto is the ancient capital of Japan and has many important and impressive shrines, temples, and museums. A side visit to the old Gion District near the Kamo River is a must. One of the finest Kabuki Theaters in Japan is located downtown. This is an opportunity to combine a great bonsai exhibit with a large slice of ancient Japanese culture.

### **BASIC ITINERARY** **/SUBJECT TO SOME CHANGES/**

- November 15—Leave the United States.
- November 16—Arrive in Japan. Narita.
- November 17/18/19—Tour Tokyo bonsai nurseries and museums. Including Kobayashi and Omiya village.
- November 19-23—Taikan-ten bonsai show in Kyoto. Japanese Garden and Shrines and museums in Kyoto and environs.
- November 24—Shikoku Island Kinashi. Visiting bonsai nurseries. More details to come.
- November 25—Return to Tokyo/ Narita.
- November 26—Fly home.





## General Cultural and Travel Information

**PASSPORT.** Your U.S passport must be current. It can take six weeks to process so make sure you check the date on your current passport or apply for one if you don't have one. No visa is required. (maybe just your Visa card!)

**GIFTS.** Japan is a nation of gift giving. As ambassadors of New England Bonsai Gardens we will be bringing gifts for all the nurseries and friends we visit as a group. You do not have to bring anything for them unless you want to. If you do- pack a small, light token something (like a Boston Red Sox cap!) that is easy to transport and has a regional flavor. You will want to buy gifts for your friends at home, so leave a little room in your luggage for the things you'll be taking home.

**FOOD.** The Japanese diet consists generally of rice or noodles, vegetables and meat or fish, almost always accompanied by the ubiquitous bowl of miso soup, pickles and other condiments and side dishes. The food is delicious and plentiful but may be somewhat different from what you are used to.

### **BUYING BONSAI and bonsai items.**

After much deliberation (AND a recent buying trip as a dry run) we have decided that it is too complicated for you to pick bonsai out to purchase from the nurseries we visit. This is unfortunate but because of agents, importing/exporting laws and procedures, it just isn't feasible. You CAN buy pots, tools and other bonsai accessories. You can pack these items and ship them to yourself or bring home in your luggage.

Just a reminder...it is not permissible to bring trees back with you. Also you are not allowed to ship them to yourself. Any bonsai found by customs or through the mail are confiscated and/or destroyed.

We look forward to traveling with you!  
John Romano and Teddi Scobi

New England Bonsai Gardens  
1 508 883 2842  
[www.nebonsai.com](http://www.nebonsai.com)