Excursion June 4 (Sat)

Route1  NARA main route for sightseeing  (maximum capacity is 40)

- Theme
  Visit the monuments of Nara Park (recommended for first-time visitors to Nara).

- Schedule
  Departure time: around 9 AM / Arrival time: around 4 PM (travel by bus)

  09:30  Visit the Buddha Hall of Todaiji Temple guided by a Buddhist monk
  ↓
  11:30  Visit Kasugataisha shrine for prayers guided by a Shinto priest
  ↓
  13:30  Lunch at I・RA・KA [L'orchestrata Ristrante]
  ↓
  14:30  Visit to Heijyokyo Palace Site

- Features

  Todaiji Temple  ~See the world's largest gilt-bronze Buddha statue ~
  It is no exaggeration to say that Todaiji Temple is the symbol of Nara. The Buddha Hall of Todaiji Temple is one the world's largest wooden structures and houses the 15 meter Rushana Buddha statue which is the world's largest gilt-bronze Buddha statue. The tour around Buddha Hall will be led by the chief priest who will take visitors to the special viewing platform to see the Buddha up-close.

  Kasugataisha shrine ~Formal visit to the Shinto shrine at a special time in its history~
  For the past 1,200 years Kasugataisha shrine has been periodically rebuilt every twenty years. This is in the tradition of the “Shinkinen-Zotai” ceremony to purify the site and to please the gods. This year, 2016, is the year of “Shinkinen-Zotai” and visitors will be able to experience Kasugataisha shrine and receive a lecture from a Shinto priest.

  Heijyokyo Palace Remains ~ Visit the recently restored ancient capital~
  Heijyokyo Palace served as the emperor’s residence and government offices when Nara was the first fully developed capital of Japan from 710 to 784. Visitors can see and learn about the large-scale archeological excavation and continuous research done about the site. From 2001 to 2010 the Great Hall of State (Daigoku-den) traditionally used for ritual ceremony, was reconstructed at its original site.

  Nara Kasugano International Forum ~I・RA・KA~ [L'orchestrata Ristrante] (Lunch)
  L'orchestrata Ristrante is located inside a Japanese garden where you will be able to enjoy Italian cuisine using locally-grown fresh ingredients.

※Our menu complies with customers who are vegetarian or halal
※Tour schedule will be changeable.
Excursion June 4（Sat）

Route 2  Explore ancient architectural sites (maximum capacity is 40)

- Theme
Discover the significant sites of Nara and learn about the architecture

- Schedule
Departure time: around 9 AM / Arrival time: around 4 PM (travel by bus)

09:40  Visit Horyuji Temple and learn about the methods to preserve the site
↓
11:00  Lunch at Jikoin Temple where vegetarian meal and a cup of green powdered tea will be served
↓
14:00  Special visit to Toshodaiji Temple guided by a Buddhist monk
↓
15:05  Visit to the Heijyokyo Palace Site

- Features

_Horyuji Temple  ~Explore the ancient site still intact after 1,200 years ~_
Founded in 607, Horyuji temple was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993. During the tour you will be able to
learn about the preservation of the ancient temple buildings and see the abundance of national treasures found in the precinct.

_Jikoin  ~ Learn about the starting point of the tea ceremony ~_
Jikoin is one of the earliest schools of the tea ceremony in Japan. While visiting the birthplace of the tea ceremony you will be
able to take part in the wabi-cha style of tea ceremony. Enjoy making tea in a simple and scenic setting, while appreciating a
well-maintained beautiful garden and learning from a temple master.

_Toshodaiji temple  ~A temple for peace and friendship representing the international aspect of ancient Nara ~_
Toshodaiji Temple is located to the west of Nara city. It was founded in 759 by the Chinese priest Ganjin-Wajyo who endured
many hardships to arrive in Japan. Currently, two important buildings remain: the main hall (kondo) and the lecture hall (kodo)
both built during the Nara period. These buildings reflect the breadth of architecture during the 8th century.

_Heijyokyo Palace Remains ~ Visit the newly restored ancient capital ~_
Heijyokyo Palace served as the emperor’s residence and government offices when Nara was the first fully developed capital of
Japan from 710 to 784. Visitors can see and learn about the large-scale archeological excavation and continuous research
done about the site. From 2001 to 2010 the Great Hall of State (the Daigoku-den) traditionally used for ritual ceremonies, was
reconstructed at its original site.

_Sekishu cuisine : Vegetarian cuisine  (Lunch)_
A type of Japanese cuisine that originated by Buddhist monks in the temples, the meal consists of vegetables, beans, and
grains, and does not include meat, fish, or alcohol.
※Our menu complies with customers who are vegetarian or halal
※Tour schedule will be changeable.
Excursion June 4 (Sat)

Route 3 Experience the traditional crafts and natural sights in Nara (maximum capacity is 40)

- Theme
  A tour to experience the intangible heritage of Nara beyond the temples

- Schedule
  Departure time: around 8AM / Arrival time: around 4PM (by bus)

  08:00  Experience the “deer call”
  ↓
  09:30  Experience making wheat noodles which is local specialty at Menyu-kan operated by Miwa-wheat noodle Yamamoto company.
  ↓
  11:30  Offer prayers to the one of the oldest shrines in Japan: Omiwajinja Shrine
  ↓
  13:30  Lunch at L'Auberge de Plaisance de Sakurai

- Features
  Shika yose or “deer call” ~An experience only found in Nara~
  In the expansive tobihino field, you will experience the fun attraction of the “deer call.” While Beethoven is played on a horn, you will see the magnificent site of deer coming from every direction. This worthwhile experience is only available in Nara.

  Menyu-kan ~Soul food in Nara; experience making wheat noodles~
  Somen is a white long wheat noodle that resembles strings. Somen is a delicious noodle found in many Japanese dishes. While it requires many steps, people enjoy the process of making somen. Experience tenobe, by grabbing the noodle at both ends to stretch and to thin the noodles. You will be able to bring home your hand-made somen and enjoy hot and fresh noodles with your family and friends.

  Omiwa Shrine ~Where the mountain itself is the god~
  Dating back to the age before emperors in Japan, Omiwa Shrine is known as the oldest shrine in the country and has the largest tori (gate) in Japan. The Omiwa Shrine is dedicated to the mountain and believers worship Mt. Miwa as a god. During the tour, you will have the opportunity to observe a religious ceremony held by the Shinto Master. You will also see where the god of sake is enshrined in Mt. Miwa and learn about the relationship between sake and god in Japan.

  L'Auberge de Plaisance Sakurai (Lunch)
  L'Auberge de Plaisance Sakurai serves French cuisine using locally sourced ingredients from the fertile land in Nara. During lunch you will have the opportunity to taste French cuisine using locally grown Yamato vegetables and Yamato beef, pork, and chicken. Fresh seafood is sourced from Wakayama Prefecture and Ise Bay.

※Our menu complies with customers who are vegetarian or halal
※Tour schedule will be changeable.
Excursion June 4 (Sat)

Route 4  Discover the Latest Tour Attraction and Historical Spots in Kyoto  (maximum capacity is 40)

・Schedule  
  Departure time: around 9AM / Arrival time: around 4PM (by bus)
  10:00  Visit to the Kyoto Railway Museum
  ↓
  11:30  Lunch at Ganko Takasegawa Nijo-en
  ↓
  13:00  Visit to Hanamikoji street
  ↓
  14:00  Visit to Fushimi Inari Shrine

・Features
The Kyoto Railway Museum opened in April 2016 and is the newest addition to the tourism sites of Kyoto; a city where both tradition and modern innovation are valued. It offers the opportunity to experience Japan’s steps toward modernization through the country’s railway history.

The museum’s exhibitions will take you on a journey by tracing the history of train engineering to the present day by highlighting the cutting-edge technologies installed in the latest models of trains.

After visiting the Kyoto Railway Museum, you will be welcomed to Ganko where you may enjoy traditional Japanese cuisine. Next you will enter Gion, located just a few steps from the fashionable center of Shijo Street. In the historic Gion district, you will be able to experience the traditional side of Kyoto.

Fushimi Inari Shrine is considered to be one of the most important Shinto shrines in Kyoto. Popular with visitors, it is also known to bring about good luck in business. The shrine is known for its thousands of vermilion “torii” or gates, all of which are built by donations. The trail through Fushimi Inari leads to the top of Mount Inari, where you will be able to enjoy a spectacular view over the city of Kyoto.

※: Our menu complies with customers who are vegetarian or halal
※: Tour schedule will be changeable.