We are honored to present

High-Speed Rail Journey to Japan

Group 1: Sept 27 - Oct. 9, 2016

A custom Journey on behalf of

Midwest High Speed Rail Association

REINVENTING TRAVEL. REINVENTING THE MIDWEST.
Greetings from The Society of International Railway Travelers!

We here at The Society of International Railway Travelers are honored to be asked yet again to design a fantastic study tour for members of the Midwest High Speed Rail Association (MWHSRA) -- this time to dynamic Japan!

In cooperation with Rick Harnish, executive director, we have designed your journeys to France, Spain, France/Spain, Germany, China -- and we are thrilled to be offering this amazing new destination with its cutting-edge rail technology. On this journey, you will experience this technology and meet some of the decision-makers and designers of these amazing rail systems.

Mr. Harnish is organizing a number of site visits which are not specific in this document. At this moment, they are a work in progress, and the rail partners in Japan await finalizing these visits until they know exactly how many are coming!

But the numbers will be carefully limited to make this an important visit for you to learn -- and experience -- as much as you can on your High Speed Journey to Japan. Mr. Harnish is looking forward to your joining him in September! Please see the attached and call IRT to reserve!

Sincerely,

Eleanor

Eleanor Flagler Hardy
President
The Society of International Railway Travelers  800-478-4881
# Midwest High Speed Rail Association Japan Tour

## Itinerary and Highlights

**Tour dates:** Sept. 27, 2016 – Oct. 9 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13 Days/12 Nights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Tokyo, Morioka, Hakodate, Tokyo, Kyoto, Miyajima, Tokyo**

## Sept. 27, 2016

### Day 1

#### Welcome to Japan

**Group 1**

Upon arrival at Narita International Airport, you will meet your tour guide and head downstairs to activate your two-week JR Pass. Afterwards, catch the Narita Express Train to Tokyo, and continue to the hotel.

Tokyo is a huge metropolis, with surprises in store at every street corner. This is an exciting, vibrant and bustling city, where everything and everyone moves at high speed. At night, Tokyo reveals yet another side with its neon signs brightening the sky, thousands of lively restaurants and cars, and colorful entertainment districts. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

**Accommodation:** Shibuya Excel Tokyo Hotel

**Included meals:** Dinner
**Sept. 28, 2016**  
**Day 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Half-Day Sightseeing in the Mega Metropolis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This morning, start your time in Tokyo with a half-day visit to a few of its top sites. Using Tokyo’s extensive and punctual train lines, you will continue to the edges of the city to visit the Saitama Railway Museum, housing an impressive collection or retired train cars, steam locomotives, and even Shinkansen. Afterwards, visit the Asakusa Kannon Temple, one of Japan’s most iconic sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the afternoon, return to the hotel, and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Accommodation:** Shibuya Excel Tokyo Hotel  
**Included meals:** Breakfast |

*Tokyo Station* Photo by Rick Harnish
### Sept. 29, 2016
#### Day 3

| Enjoying the North-bound Shinkansen and Train Service |

**Note:** *Large luggage will remain in the hotel in Tokyo. Please pack a light bag for 2 nights.*

Highlights: Japan’s approach to blended service: see bullet trains at full speed and take a local train through the countryside.

This morning, transfer by rail to Tokyo station before boarding the Yamabiko Shinkansen to Fukushima. Fukushima was rocked by the tsunami in March 2011; however, it still acts a train hub servicing many areas in Northern Japan. Disembark here to briefly watch the bullet trains travel at high speeds through the station.

From Fukushima, continue by express and local trains through Yamagata prefecture, and Akita prefecture, for arrival at Morioka City, where you will walk to your accommodation for the night.

This evening dinner is included at a local restaurant.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Metropolitan Morioka New Wing  
**Included meals:** Breakfast, Dinner
Sept. 30, 2016
Day 4

By Bullet Train Under The Sea

Highlights: New bullet train station had to be constructed outside city. How did they handle needed connections and potential impacts?

This morning, walk to Morioka station and board the Hokkaido Shinkansen to Hakodate. This train travels at high speed through the undersea Seiken Tunnel, linking the mainland Japan to the Northern island Hokkaido. Upon arrival at Shin-Hakodate station, transfer to local trains to Hakodate City.

Hakodate city was one of the first ports opened for international trade, after Japan’s era of isolation, and boast a large foreign influence in arts, architecture and design. Enjoy sightseeing in Hakodate this afternoon, with a visit to the Mt. Hakodate Ropeway, providing an excellent view over the city, before traveling by the city’s tram to your hotel for the evening.

Accommodation: La Vista Hakodate Bay
Included meals: Breakfast

Example of blended service. Photo by Rick Harnish
Oct. 1, 2016
Day 5  | Return to the Mega Metropolis

Group 1 –
Highlights: Japan’s newest and fastest bullet train. How do service offerings differ from more established lines? (Distance of Buffalo to Chicago in 4 hours)

This morning, walk through Hakodate’s morning market on your way to the station. Hakodate has a reputation for providing high quality, fresh seafood to all over Japan, so be sure to sample some before you leave.

Continue to the Shin-Hakodate station and board the express bullet train returning to Tokyo.

Group 2 –
Upon arrival at Narita airport, please proceed independently to the express train platform to Tokyo, and purchase tickets on the spot. By express train, transfer to Shibuya station, and walk to the hotel. Detailed arrival instructions will be provided.

Group 1 & 2 –
In the evening, enjoy a second welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Shibuya Excel Tokyo Hotel
Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner
Oct. 2, 2016
Day 6

Trendy Tokyo Sightseeing

Highlights: Learn how Tokyo’s metro system functions while exploring the city.

Today, travel by public transportation to Tokyo’s trendiest and most fashionable areas. Many of Japan’s most unique pop culture, fashion and sub-cultures have developed here in the heart of Tokyo. Visit the heart of Tokyo, where the action is happening; see the fusion of traditional Japan & the teenage culture, and walk along the top fashion street in Tokyo.

Accommodation: Shibuya Excel Tokyo Hotel
Included meals: Breakfast
Oct. 3, 2016
Day 7 | Activities TBA this day

*Highlights: Tokyo station complex, Sunji Sogo memorial, dispatch center.*

*Today, we will visit the Tokyo station complex. There we will witness the precision cleaning crews turn around a train in 7 minutes, see the variety of trains and services at the station and visit the Sunji Sogo memorial. We will take a tour of a bullet train control center and presentations on high-speed rail.  (currently requested; subject to permission)*

**Accommodation:** Shibuya Excel Tokyo Hotel

**Included meals:** Breakfast

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Precision Cleaning Crew ready to spring. Photo by Rick Harnish
Oct. 4, 2016
Day 8
Nagoya Factory Visits (on request)

Note: Large luggage will be sent to Kyoto, please pack an overnight bag.

**Highlights: Factory and maintenance facilities tour**

This morning, depart Tokyo and travel by bullet train to Hamamatsu Station, where you will meet your private coach for the day. Enjoy visits to the JR Central Maintenance Facility (currently requested; subject to permission) and the Nippon Sharyo Production Facility (currently requested; subject to permission).

In the afternoon, transfer to Nagoya and check-in to your accommodation.

**Accommodation:** The Cypress Mercure Nagoya
**Included meals:** Breakfast
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oct. 5, 2016</th>
<th>From the Future to the Past</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 9</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Highlights: Excellent display on how bullet trains work, several generations of bullet and express trains, the world’s largest railroad station headhouse.

*Please keep your hand luggage at the hotel lobby.*

In the morning, by train visit the Nagoya SC Maglev and Railway Park, one of Japan’s largest railway museums, with an impressive collection of return train cars, from steam locomotives to current Shinkansen. In the afternoon, return to the hotel to collect your hand luggage before boarding the bullet train to Kyoto.

From the architecturally stunning Kyoto Station, take taxis to the hotel.

**Accommodation:** Karasuma Kyoto Hotel or similar  
**Included meals:** Breakfast
**Oct. 6, 2016**  
**Day 10**  
**Kyoto’s Classic Sites**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highlights: Kyoto</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Today, you will visit Kyoto’s sights by private coach, deepening your knowledge of Kyoto and Japan. You will be exposed to the fundamentals of aesthetics, Zen, architecture, and horticulture through visits to famous places such as the distinguished stone garden at Ryoanji temple, the spectacular Golden Pavilion, the Shogun castle, and a downtown market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You will also have the opportunity to visit the brand new Kyoto Railway Museum, opening Spring 2016.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Accommodation:** Karasuma Kyoto Hotel or similar  
**Included meals:** Breakfast |
**Oct. 7, 2016**

**Memorable Hiroshima and the Floating Red Wooden Gate**

*Note: Large Luggage will be sent to Tokyo; please pack an overnight bag.*

Highlights: Streetcars and interurban train.

This morning, take taxis to Kyoto station, and board the bullet train to Hiroshima (a transfer at Shin-Osaka station will be necessary). Upon arrival, your hand luggage will be sent ahead to the Ryokan.

As an introduction to Hiroshima, you will ride the local street cars to visit the Peace Memorial Museum and Peace Park, which commemorates the historic moment of terror that was the atomic bombing on Aug. 6, 1945. The park and museum are also dedicated to promoting peace and the end of warfare. Following the Peace Park, you will take a local train and ferry to Miyajima, an island near Hiroshima, known for its large red shrine gate—the Grand Torii—which looks as if it is afloat at high tide. If time permits, you will also visit a temple with many small sculptures and unique ceremonies.

In the evening, enjoy a Japanese dinner at the ryokan.

**Accommodation:** Marikyu Ryokan Miyajima or similar  
**Included meals:** Breakfast, Dinner
**Oct. 8, 2016**

**Day 12**

**Returning to Tokyo**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 8, 2016</td>
<td>Enjoy a Japanese-style breakfast in Miyajima this morning, as you prepare for the return journey to Tokyo by the high-speed Shinkansen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By ferry and local train, return to Hiroshima station and board the Sakura Express Train to Shin-Kobe station, and transfer to the Hikari to Tokyo. The total journey should take 4.5–5 hours, so we recommend packing some water and something to eat, even though both trains do have a food cart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upon arrival in Tokyo, transfer to the hotel where you will be re-united with your large luggage.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In the evening, visit a local restaurant for a farewell dinner.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Accommodation:** Shibuya Excel Tokyo Hotel  
**Included meals:** Breakfast, Dinner
Oct. 9, 2016
Day 15

Sayonara! See you again!

Today, you will start your way back home. We wish you a pleasant and safe trip home.

Transfer by express train to Narita Airport.

We are happy knowing that you are taking with you lasting memories of places and people you encountered over these all-too-brief days of adventure in the Land of the Rising Sun. And most importantly, ready to share all you have learned about the magnificent high-speed trains of Japan!
Pricing for the journey:

**Group 1 (Sept. 27-Oct. 9, 2016)**
$5,909 per person, double occupancy
$1,184, single supplement

**Group 2 (Oct. 1-Oct. 9, 2016)**
$4,698 per person, double occupancy
$882, single supplement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price includes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 12 nights’ accommodation (including breakfast)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 6 dinners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Transportation as mentioned in the itinerary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Services of Rick Harnish, executive director of MWHSR Association throughout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All activities as mentioned in the itinerary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All entrance fees on guided days, as mentioned in the itinerary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Baggage handling as mentioned in the itinerary (1 piece per person)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• JR train tickets as mentioned in the itinerary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hotel porter fee (where applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Driver’s daily tip (please see tipping information above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tips for the guide</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not included in tour price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• International Flights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Beverages with meals (unless explicitly stated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Travel Insurance. <strong>All guests must purchase medical/evacuation insurance</strong> - ranging in price from $28 to $126, depending on your age. Highly recommend adding trip cancellation insurance to protect your travel investment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Anything not clearly noted above as “included:”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Terms & Conditions of Booking

Payment and pricing
To confirm services we ask for a non-refundable deposit of 30% of the total fare amount in USD. The balance will be due 120 days prior to departure (May 27, 2016).

Please note that Society of IRT will be paying for this journey in Japanese yen (JPY). Therefore, the journey final payment is subject to readjustment in case of a major yen shift. The USD amount is based on the Yen value on March 15.

**Please note that when you confirm within 90 days of the arrival date, full payment is required at the time of confirmation.

Payment Methods

Credit Card
Payment can be made by credit card through our secure online form. Society of IRT will send a secure link for passengers to make their payments to Society of IRT in USD. Please let us know by email or phone if you wish to book, and we will send the link. 800-478-4881 or tourdesk@irtsociety.com

We need: Your name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, your address and phone and your email. We can then send the payment link.

Bank Transfer
Payment can be made via bank transfer to our bank account. Details will be provided along with the invoice we will send upon your confirmation of the tour. Transaction fees charged by the bank for your first bank transfer transaction will be covered by our agency. Any other charges will be absorbed by the guest.
Changes Policy
The itinerary is subject to change based on situations beyond our control. Midwest High Speed Rail
Association will be confirming all technical details closer to the time of departure.

Booking your Air
Please do not book your nonrefundable air until the minimum numbers required for the journey are reached.
You will be notified.

Documents
We will require a color copy of your passport picture and signature pages. We will also require some signed
personal information documents. These will be sent to you along with your official confirmation of your
booking and your invoice. These are usually sent by email. If you prefer it by mail, please advise at time of
booking.

Additional Terms and conditions
These are found on our web site: here is the link: Terms and conditions.
Note all payments for this journey are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

Insurance:
Medical and evacuation insurance are required for participation in this journey. Information will be sent at
time of booking. This insurance costs from $28 to $126 pp, depending on age. Trip cancellation/interruption
coverage is also available and would be additional. Full coverage is highly recommended to protect your travel
investment.

Payment and Cancellation Policy:
• 30% deposit is nonrefundable. Participants shall make this within 3 days of reserving. The IRT team will
  send you a secure payment portal link to make your payment by credit card.
• Final payment will be due 120 days before departure from the US by check or credit card. We will use the
  same portal for final payments by credit card.
• All payments are fully nonrefundable.

Hotels, Services, and Pricing
Hotels, services, and charges may change depending on availability and pricing at the time of tour
confirmation/booking.

We will execute the final detailed itinerary, as suggested by us and agreed to by you prior to your arrival, to
the best of our abilities. Please know that there can be unforeseen circumstances or conditions such as
weather, service providers’ personal circumstances, traffic and etc. that might deem some destinations or
activities unsuitable. Windows to Japan, and your guide or driver on the spot, reserve the right to alter or
cancel activities or destinations. We will endeavor to replace any such cancelled activities or destinations with
alternative(s) of equal interest, but shall not be liable in the event of any delays or cancellations.

Cancellation Fees for Reservations for Restaurants, Activities, Meetings, Experiences, Etc.
In Japan confirmed reservations are considered serious, honor-bound commitments. Cancellations are not
taken lightly no matter the reason. In the case of cancelation, compensation to the service provider is required.

For any confirmed reservations for restaurants, meetings, experiences, activities, etc., we reserve the right to
charge a cancellation fee of 10,000JPY or more depending on/according to the cancelation fee(s) required of
the service(s) and/or as required to keep our relationship(s) with our service provider partners so that future
guests can enjoy their services. Even if an activity/experience/etc. is free to book, we reserve the right to
charge such a cancellation fee/fees.