

August 23, 2010

To: Group Leaders

From: Reverend Koho Takata, Executive Assistant

Re: Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Service at Honzan and the 14th World BWA Convention

1) Shinran Shonin's Historical Site in Kyoto

Attached optional tours by JTB.

HQ is responsible to inform about location of visitation, number of visitors, date, and time to Honzan because of limited capacity and parking space. All group leaders are requested to reply about the followings:

	DATE	TIME	Number of Visitors
Morning Service at Honzan	, 2011	6AM	
Hongwanji Shoin & Hiunkaku	, 2011		
Ryukoku Museum	, 2011		
Optional Tour 1	, 2011	AM or PM	
Optional Tour 2	, 2011	MORNING	
Optional Tour 3	, 2011	MORNING	
Optional Tour 4	, 2011	AFTERNOON	

If your group has your own tour for Shinran Shonin's Historical site in Kyoto, Please submit the itinerary to HQ.

The deadline is October 15, 2010.

2) The Confirmation Ceremony

It will be held on May 15, 2011 immediately after the Shinran Shonin's Memorial Service at Honzan. Please submit the attached application form. The cost for the Confirmation Ceremony is 10,000 Yen. It will be collected later. **The deadline for the application is October 15, 2010.**

3) Necessary Items to bring

All are requested to bring your own Nenju and Monto Shikisho to the Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Service at Honzan and the 14th World BWA Convention. Please contact HQ Bookstore if you want to purchase Nenju or Monto Shikisho.

OPTIONAL TOUR 1: MT. HIEI

During the Heian Period, Mt. Hiei, the site of a vast Tendai Monastery complex was recognized as the highest institute of Buddhist learning in Japan. By the time Shinran Shonin ascended Mt. Hiei, however, it had degenerated greatly from its former prominence.

Shinran Shonin spent his days and nights on Mt. Hiei poring over the sutras and performing austerities to an unprecedented extent. However, the harder he studied and undertook difficult practices, the more he became aware of how empty his actions were. He realized how impossible it would be for him to become free of his blind passions. As he began to realize how difficult it would be for him to follow the Path of Sages and attain liberation through the prescribed religious practices, he was gradually drawn to the Pure Land teachings.

Fortunately, a brilliant predecessor in the Pure Land teachings by the name of Genshin had been long associated with the Yokawa area of Mt. Hiei. It is said that even during Shinran Shonin's time, the teaching and practices of Nembutsu was still being practiced in the Yokawa region as it had been during Genshin's time.

At one time, in history, Mt. Hiei boasted 3,000 temples and buildings on its summit. Today, it is still the headquarters of the leading Tendai denomination of Japanese Buddhism where religious practices are still performed. Many of the great Buddhist religious masters of the Kamakura Period including Honen Shonin and Shinran Shonin studied and practiced on Mt. Hiei.

ITINERARY:

Hotel Pick up (7:30am) – Yokawa – Ninaido – Konponchudo – Daijyoin – Come back to Hotel (12:00pm)

OR

Hotel Pick up (13:00pm) – Yokawa – Ninaido – Konponchudo – Daijyoin – Come back to Hotel (17:30pm)

TOUR FARE:

Full-Paying:		15people up	20people up	25people up	30people up
	<i>Free</i>	1	1	1	1
Excursion to Mt. Hiei (AM or PM)	<i>In JPY</i>	\10,400	\8,000	\6,700	\5,700
	<i>In USD</i>	\$124.00	\$96.00	\$80.00	\$68.00

CONDITIONS:

Transfer: By chartered motor coach
(Size of the bus may vary depending on the passenger count)

Guide: English-speaking local guide will escort the tours

Admissions: Included as mentioned in the itinerary

OPTIONAL TOUR 2: ROKKAKUDO, ANYOUJI, SUMINOBO BETSUIN

ROKKAKUDO: When Shinran Shonin was 29 years old, he left Mt. Hiei, the Tendai Monastery complex, and went into retreat for a hundred days at Rokkakudo Temple praying for guidance. Then, Prince Shotoku, who is said to have introduced Buddhism to Japan, appeared in a vision at dawn of the ninety-fifth day. Taking this vision as a sign to seek Honen Shonin's guidance, Shinran Shonin immediately went in search of Honen Shonin who was sharing the Nembutsu Teachings nearby at Anyouji Temple..

ANYOUJI: Anyouji Temple is where Shinran Shonin met with Honen Shonin. It is said Shinran Shonin visited Honen Shonin daily, for one hundred consecutive days inquiring about matters that weighed on his heart and mind such as how could persons who must work for a living fettered by attachment to their families and unable to engage in spiritual practices attain enlightenment? Honen Shonin said, "...as for the matter of liberation in the afterlife, there is no difference between a good person or evil person, for only the single-hearted nembutsu is necessary in order to become liberated from the suffering of birth and death."

SUMINOBO BETSUIN: Suminobo Betsuin marks the spot where Shinran Shonin is said to have passed away on January 16, 1262. His biography describes his last moments in the following way. "About the end of winter, Shinran began to feel ill. From that time on, he never talked about worldly matters. He expressed how profound his indebtedness to the Buddha was by ceaselessly reciting the Nembutsu. He never spoke about anything else. He only recited the Nembutsu. ...he lay on his side with his head facing north and his body facing west, and breathed his last while reciting the Nembutsu."

ITINERARY:

Hotel Pick up (8:30am) – Rokkakudo – Anyouji – Suminobo Betsuin – Come back to Hotel (12:00pm)

TOUR FARE:

Full-Paying:		15people up	20people up	25people up	30people up
	<i>Free</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
Kyoto Morning Tour	<i>In JPY</i>	\9,200	\6,900	\5,600	\4,600
	<i>In USD</i>	\$110.00	\$83.00	\$67.00	\$55.00

CONDITIONS:

- Transfer: By chartered motor coach
(Size of the bus may vary depending on the passenger count)
- Guide: English-speaking local guide will escort the tours
- Admissions: Included as mentioned in the itinerary

OPTIONAL TOUR 3: ROKKAKUDO, ANYOUJI, SUMINOBO BETSUIN, OTANI HONBYO

ROKKAKUDO: When Shinran Shonin was 29 years old, he left Mt. Hiei, the Tendai Monastery complex, and went into retreat for a hundred days at Rokkakudo Temple praying for guidance. Then, Prince Shotoku, who is said to have introduced Buddhism to Japan, appeared in a vision at dawn of the ninety-fifth day. Taking this vision as a sign to seek Honen Shonin's guidance, Shinran Shonin immediately went in search of Honen Shonin who was sharing the Nembutsu Teachings nearby at Anyouji Temple.

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OTANI HONBYO: Shinran Shonin passed away at the site presently occupied by Suminobo Betsuin. He was cremated the next day at Ennin Temple. Later his remains were transferred to Otani. Kakushinni, the youngest daughter of Shinran Shonin, builds a monument over her father's ashes. Otani Honbyo/Mausoleum is the origin of what later becomes the Hongwanji.

ITINERARY:

Hotel Pick up (8:00am) – Rokkakudo – Anyouji – Suminobo Betsuin – Otani Honbyo - Come back to Hotel (13:00pm)

TOUR FARE:

Full-Paying:		15people up	20people up	25people up	30people up
	<i>Free</i>	1	1	1	1
Kyoto Morning Tour <i>(Including Otani Honbyo)</i>	<i>In JPY</i>	\9,200	\6,900	\5,600	\4,600
	<i>In USD</i>	\$110.00	\$83.00	\$67.00	\$55.00

CONDITIONS:

Transfer: By chartered motor coach
(Size of the bus may vary depending on the passenger count)

Guide: English-speaking local guide will escort the tours

Admissions: Included as mentioned in the itinerary

OPTIONAL TOUR 4: HINO TANJYOIN, SHORENIN, ROKKAKUDO

HINO TANJYOIN: Shinran Shonin is said to have been born on May 21, 1173, in an area southeast of Kyoto in a place called Hino, and given the name Matsuwakamaru. His father, Arinori, belonged to a branch family of the Fujiwara clan known as the Hilo Family and was a court official. Shinran's mother, Kikkonyo is said to have been from another branch family of the Fujiwara clan. Apparently, she passed away when Shinran Shonin was 8 years old. This temple was built to mark the birthplace of Shinran Shonin. It is of more recent origin, but constructed in an architectural style of temples built during the Heian Period. An image of Shinran Shonin's father Hino, Arinori can found at the temple and on the temple grounds is the umbilical cord mound where Shinran Shonin's umbilical cord is said to have been buried.

SHORENIN: Because of the turbulent fighting for political power during the late Heian Period, the once proud Hino Family, including father and all five sons, was driven to enter the priesthood in order to survive. Losing his father in 1181, the young Shinran Shonin was brought by his uncle, Lord Noritsuna, to the Shorenin Temple in Higashiyama, where he was hurriedly initiated into the priesthood by Jien Sojo and given his name Hannen.

ROKKAKUDO: When Shinran Shonin was 29 years old, he left Mt. Hiei, the mountaintop Tendai Monastery complex overlooking the city of Kyoto, and remained in the retreat for a hundred days at Rokkakudo Temple, praying for guidance. It is said Prince Shotoku who introduced Buddhism to Japan, on the dawn of the ninety-fifth day, appeared to him in a vision revealing the path to awakening. Taking this vision as a sign to seek Honen Shonin's guidance, Shinran Shonin immediately went in search of Honen Shonin.

ITINERARY:

Hotel Pick up (13:30Pm) – Hino Tanjyoin – Shorenin – Rokkakudo - Come back to Hotel (17:00pm)

TOUR FARE:

Full-Paying:		15people up	20people up	25people up	30people up
	<i>Free</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
Kyoto Afternoon Tour	<i>In JPY</i>	\9,200	\6,900	\5,600	\4,600
	<i>In USD</i>	\$110.00	\$83.00	\$67.00	\$55.00

CONDITIONS:

Transfer: By chartered motor coach
(Size of the bus may vary depending on the passenger count)

Guide: English-speaking local guide will escort the tours

Admissions: Included as mentioned in the itinerary