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Continuing the Journey with YP journeys

Two roads diverged in a wood and I – I took the one less traveled by. – Robert Frost

Welcome to the YP journeys monthly newsletter. I am Yuri Pross, the owner of YP journeys, and your guide to travel, adventure, and lifetime experiences. With extensive (and expanding) travel experience, I hope to inform and excite you as you ponder your future journeys. Read more about me at https://www.ypjourneys.com/about.html

Each month, you will learn about my latest adventures (maybe you would like a similar experience), travel trends, and exciting new opportunities for your next journey.

Japan – Adding new experiences to old memories

To visit Japan is to simultaneously experience the breadth and depth of new and old.

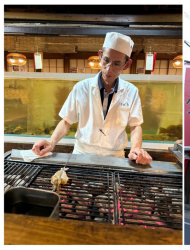
A visit to Japan can be a fascinating mix of ancient history and modern bustling city life. This past May, I spent two incredible weeks in Japan. My goal was to experience sights I hadn't seen during my many visits and time living there, while also reconnecting with Japanese friends and revisiting beloved places. Below, I've included some of these terrific sights! From left to right: the world-famous Shibuya Crossing in Tokyo, just as the lights allow people to cross; Osaka Castle, recently spotlighted in the TV adaptation of James Clavell's Shogun; Mt. Fuji as viewed from Station 5 – climbing season was not yet upon us, but we plan to return in 2026 to make the ascent; a Buddha statue in Nara; and the historic Kokyo Gaien National Gardens set against the modern skyline of Tokyo. These represent just a sample of the old and the new often juxtaposed in Japan.







We also visited Iwakuni, a town where we lived for nearly five years. While we were in the area, we visited the Hiroshima Peace Park for the first time. We stopped by a favorite neighborhood restaurant, Zubora, for a familiar and delicious dinner after visiting with some dear friends.




Interruptions and delays are often the norm when flying these days. When trying to deal with these issues real-time, your personal involvement with the airlines serves you best.

The pros and cons of booking your own flights

If you've been keeping an eye on the travel industry since the end of the pandemic, you've probably noticed that airline flights and schedules are routinely sold to capacity as airlines strive to recoup lost revenue and profits. Flights fill up quickly, so securing the reservations you want can come down to a matter of minutes. While booking your air travel through a travel agent can alleviate the headache of dealing directly with the airline or navigating complex websites, booking directly with the airline or through their website will absolutely increase your chances of getting the exact reservations you desire.

Once your flight is booked, the jam-packed nature of air travel means there is very little flexibility for rescheduling when delays occur. If you book through a travel agent, any subsequent changes must be made through the agent, which might add extra time to the already critical process. Alternatively, directly contacting the airlines for modifications allows for quicker communication, ensuring that your needs and decisions are addressed promptly and effectively.

We recommend booking your airline travel directly with the airlines to maximize access and flexibility in case of changes. For all other travel needs, including accommodations, activities, and complete travel itineraries, YP journeys is here to enhance your travel experience every step of the way. Safe travels and remember to always #takethetrip.

Antarctica January 2025



Azamara Pursuit – Japan Intensive May 3 – 18, 2025



Upcoming Opportunities!!

I had posted a few newsletters ago about an upcoming trip to Antarctica in January 2025. Well, if you want to go but didn't book yet, I am sorry; it is completely sold out! 😢

In the last newsletter, I announced the Azamara group opportunity with spectacular rates on Azamara Pursuit: 15 nights around Japan from Tokyo to Kobe, including a stop in Busan, South Korea (see the flyer to the left). If you are interested, I hope you had a chance to attend the webinar; if you didn't get a chance to attend, send me a note and I will send you a link to view a recording. This cruise is booking up quickly with just a few staterooms remaining at these rates.



Combining the allure of Japan with an amazing ship to circumnavigate the country, join us for 15 days of cultural exploration. Azamara will take you to remarkable destinations to experience the expanse of Japanese culture from the ancient to the modern and a wide range in between. When not experiencing the enlightening excursions ashore, you can enjoy drinks, dining, spa treatments or even a nap onboard. This itinerary is jam-packed with places to visit; many of them are not tourist hotspots, which is great for us! This cruise is the easiest way to unpack once and see so much of Japan. Details for this amazing trip can be found here or by clicking on the picture to the left.

Finally, if an African Safari is on your bucket list, please join our informational webinar on July 18th at 7:00pm Eastern. Register here. Exploring Kenya's Culture & Wildlife with SKYIN.

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