

BEAUTY OF THE BOUSOU PENINSULA, HALF/FULL DAY

Depart in the AM from hotel in Tokyo by car for the Boso Peninsula of Chiba Prefecture, an area of stunning natural beauty dotted about an hour's drive from the city with rolling hills and surrounded on three sides by Tokyo Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

Upon arrival at the commercial fishing port of Kyonan, board the Nokogiriyama Ropeway and take in the breathtaking view while enjoying a 680-meter ascent to the top of Nokogiriyama (Saw Mountain), so named because of the deep carved notches in the mountain's rock that resemble the teeth of a giant saw blade.

From the ropeway station, hike approximately 10 minutes to the main entrance of Nihonji Temple, a sprawling Buddhist temple complex originally founded in 725 AD on the orders of Emperor Shoumu during the Nara period and now dedicated to the Soto sect of Zen Buddhism.

Once inside the temple grounds walk to see the famous Nihonji Daibutsu (Big Buddha), a 31-meter statue of the Yakushiji Nyorai, the Buddha of healing, carved out of solid rock in 1783. From the Buddha statue, hike up a series of steep staircases and pathways carved out of the mountain to the peak, while stopping periodically to photograph the 1,553 *rakan* (Arhat, or Buddhist saint) stone statues that line the trail.



Before ascending the final set of stairs to the top of the mountain, wander through the massive mysterious notch carved out of the summit and emerge to photograph the spectacular Hyakushaku Kannon (One Hundred-league Goddess of Mercy), a 10.3 meter-tall Buddhist statue carved into the rock face. Afterward, make the final push to the summit of Nokogiriyama and shoot the stunning 360-degree panoramic view afforded of the peninsula, Tokyo Bay, the Pacific Ocean, and Tokyo/Yokohama (and on really clear days, Mt. Fuji as well). Stand on the tip of Jigoki-nozoki ("a peek into Hell"), a cliff that offers a harrowing view of the terrain below.

Climb down from the summit and return to the ropeway station, departing for the parking lot on the ropeway and then embark by car.

HALF-DAY:

Return to Tokyo via the Tokyo Bay Aqua-line, the fourth-longest underwater tunnel in the world with an overall length of 14 km. Stop on the way at Umi-hotaru ("Sea Firefly"), an artificial island in the middle of Tokyo Bay consisting of restaurants, shops and amusement facilities for lunch. Drop off at hotel after lunch.



FULL-DAY:

Depart Nokogiriyama and proceed down the Uchibou coast to the fishing village of Amatsu-kominato by way of Tateyama, a resort town featuring rolling sand dunes, and Minamiboso-shi, a collection of small towns and villages with very scenic beach views of the Pacific Ocean. After stopping for a lunch of fresh locally-caught sushi, disembark at Tanjoji Temple, an ancient Buddhist temple built in 1276 by Nichiren, the founder of the Nichiren sect of Buddhism.

Walk across the street to the photogenic fishing port with its colorful boats, nets and lures and then walk around the sea wall to a secret location where we will photograph the sunset behind two little islets in the Pacific that feature Shinto *torii* gates on them.

After the sun sets, cut across the peninsula back to the Uchibou coast and return to Tokyo via the Aqua-line with an optional stop at the Umihotaru complex. Drop off at hotel.



[N.B.] Please be aware that the terrain on which Nihonji Temple is situated is extremely steep and demands a high level of physical exertion to get around—a good pair of hiking boots and plenty of drinking water is strongly recommended.

Also, please note that the full-day course may be done in reverse order depending upon lighting conditions and time of year.

Tour price includes full guidance and instruction by award-winning bilingual/bicultural professional photographer Jon Sheer, transportation by private car, lunch and all applicable admission fees. Other incidental expenses are excluded.

