

Immerse yourself in Rural Japan

A fully escorted, small group, 10 day exploration of culture and spirituality

**Kunisaki Peninsula, Kyushu
Hiroshima, Kyoto**



**Rob Ferguson:
your escort**



**Jo Tomooka:
your host**

**31 October-10 November
2009**



Homestay with local people in Kitsuki town, eat locally



Reflect together as a group each day



**Walk samurai streets. Visit castles and houses of the samurai era
Enjoy the tea shop and tea ceremony crafted by the owner who is the 9th generation on the same site**



**Explore Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines
Take a morning in a village temple with a Buddhist priest
Soak in a hot pool**



Travel by Shinkansen (bullet train) to Hiroshima, Kyoto, stay in a temple complex and ryokan



**For further inquiries and expressions of interest, please contact Rob:
021 2244582, 03 942 2848
fergies@paradise.net.nz**

Jo Tomooka, our host and translator, has lived in rural Kyushu for 13 years. Married to Masahiro, Jo lives in the small town of Yamaga, about a 2 hour drive from Fukuoka, the major city of Kyushu. Jo runs an organic farm, and is known throughout the area as a collector of local customs relating to food and family life, often recording these as they disappear. Fluent in Japanese language, Jo will be with us each day, and is organising the home stays for the group.

Rob Ferguson, minister of St Ninians Presbyterian Church, in Christchurch, has traveled to all the sites we visit, will escort the group and guide reflection times. A writer of spirituality resources, and a photographer, Rob has a keen interest in the multitude of ways we connect with our world and with “God.”

These explorations offer a safe experience for people who want to do something out of the ordinary. It is perfect for people who don't want to travel alone. This trip will show you a Japan that tourists cannot find. You will be challenged in your thinking. A fun time is guaranteed!

The group is limited to 12 participants.

Costs:

In-Japan costs are \$4,400 (NZ \$) per person.

This covers all accommodation, all meals, all entry to temples, and all internal transport within Japan. The only extras are your drinks with meals, and the gifts you buy to bring home!

Air fares are over and above this amount. We have not included this amount in order for your arrangements to be as flexible for you as possible.

Travel

Our experience begins in Fukuoka. The city is accessible via Singapore or Tokyo. You can make your own bookings or we can help you through our travel agent. Add-on suggestions are available if you'd like to visit Tokyo or other parts of Japan. Group members often travel together from NZ.

A deposit of \$500 NZ is payable by 29 May 2009.

If the trip fails to have the needed numbers and is cancelled, your deposit will be refunded.

Itinerary

On registering your interest a detailed itinerary will be forwarded to you.