



2025 **JAPAN** & THAILAND

AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAVELERS



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MEET THE TEAM



Lawrence McLean

**CEO/FOUNDER OF AAT
TRIP HOST**

Lawrence McLean developed the concept of AAT in 2012, as a result of the constant let down of friends backing out of travel plans, or simply not sharing his interest in traveling any further than the Caribbean. He started the group, African American Travelers of Philadelphia, followed by another chapter in New York, on meetup.com. Since, he has led thousands from around the country, on the most epic, unforgettable, international tours. AAT's groups have perused six continents, including its, signature, annual NYE in Dubai experience, and taking travelers "Home for the Holidays" to the beautiful motherland, Africa, year after year. According to "Madame Noir" Lawrence has been recognized as one of the three US entrepreneurs who is changing the perception of travel to Africa!



Andrea McLean

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER
HOST ASSISTANT**

Andrea McLean is known for traveling with style, She has worked in customer service and sales for many years, mastering 60-second pitches since the spunky age of 6! She is focused on customer satisfaction, engagement, and bringing a smile to our travelers faces. Some believe that she may have been a comedian in her past life. Whenever she is around , there is always laughter.



William McLean

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER
HOST ASSISTANT**

William Mclean is our newest addition to the team. William is currently in college majoring in business acquiring relevant skills that will not only enhance your traveling experience with African American Travelers but ensure that your experience is our top priority. William loves building connections and meeting new people, as our entire team is incredibly eager to present our customers with the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and memories as that will last forever.

"Great things in business are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people."

– Steve Jobs

THE ITINERARY

SUNDAY, APRIL 13th



ARRIVE IN KYOTO



CANDEO HOTEL OSAKA THE TOWERS

3:00 PM CHECK IN



6:00 PM

BLACK & GOLD HOST DINNER

MONDAY, APRIL 14th



TOUR OF KYOTO

- 9:00 AM** DEPART FOR TOUR / KYOTO
- ☐ Kinkakuji Temple
 - ☐ Kiyomizu Temple
 - ☐ Sanjusangendo
 - ☐ Fushimi Inari Taisha

5:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

TUESDAY, APRIL 15th



FREE TIME

(For those who didn't book add-ons)



TOUR OF HIROSHIMA **(For those who booked)**

- 9:00 AM** DEPART FOR TOUR
- ☐ Tsukushima Shrine
 - ☐ Peace Memorial Park
 - ☐ Orizuru Tower

5:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

WED, APRIL 16th



**DEPART FOR TOKYO/ MT. FUJI
TOUR**

- 9:00 AM** DEPART FOR TOUR / TOKYO
- ☐ Mt.Fuji 5th station
 - ☐ Owakudani
 - ☐ Hakone Ropeway (Owakudani-Togendai)
 - ☐ Lake Ashi Cruise Pirate Ship

5:00 PM CHECK INTO SHINGAWA PRINCE HOTEL

THURSDAY, APRIL 17th



TOKYO TOUR W/ LUNCH

- 9:00 AM** DEPART FOR TOUR
- ☐ Imperial Palace Plaza
 - ☐ Asakusa Sensoji Temple
 - ☐ Nakamise Shopping Arcade

5:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

BAR HOPPING
(For those who booked)

9:00 PM DEPART FOR BAR HOPPING

12:00 AM RETURN TO HOTEL

FRIDAY, APRIL 18th



FREE TIME

(For those who didn't book add-ons)



SAMURAI EXPERIENCE TOUR
(For those who booked)

9:00 AM DEPART FOR TOUR

1:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

KARAOKE
(For those who booked)

8:00 PM DEPART FOR KARAOKE

10:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

THE ITINERARY

SATURDAY, APRIL 19th



CHECK OUT / FLY HOME

12:00 PM

CHECK OUT HOTEL / TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

THE EXTENSION

SATURDAY, APRIL 19th



FREE TIME

SUNDAY, APRIL 20th



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ARRIVE IN THAILAND



THAILAND HOTEL

3:00 PM CHECK IN



8:00 PM

BLACK & GOLD HOST DINNER

SUGAR CLUB

(For those who booked)

10:00 PM DEPART FOR CLUB

1:00 AM RETURN TO HOTEL

MONDAY, APRIL 21st



TOUR OF BANGKOK

8:00 AM DEPART FOR TOUR/ WITH LUNCH

- ☐ Wat Phra Chetuphon
- ☐ Temple of Daw
- ☐ Temple of Emerald

2:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

4:30 PM DEPART FOR DINNER CRUISE

9:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

THE EXTENSION

TUESDAY, APRIL 22nd



FLOATING MARKET TOUR

7:00 AM DEPART FOR FLOATING MARKET TOUR

1:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL



FLY TO PHUKET

4:00 PM CHECK OUT / TRANSFER TO DMK

7:35 PM DEPART FOR PHUKET / via flight No FD3011

9:00 PM ARRIVE IN PHUKET AND TRANSFER TO HOTEL

WED, APRIL 23rd



JAMES BOND ISLAND TOUR

10:00 AM DEPART FOR JAMES BOND ISLAND TOUR

6:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

THURSDAY, APRIL 24th



PHI PHI ISLAND TOUR (For those who booked)

10:00 AM DEPART FOR PHI PHI ISLAND TOUR

7:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

THE EXTENSION

FRIDAY, APRIL 25th



FREE TIME

(For those who didn't book add-ons)

ATV

(For those who booked)

8:30 AM DEPART FOR ATV

10:00 AM RETURN TO HOTEL

ELEPHANT BATHING

(For those who booked)

11:00 AM DEPART FOR ELEPHANT BATHING

12:30 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

YONA BEACH CLUB

(For those who booked)

5:00 PM DEPART FOR YONA

11:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

SATURDAY, APRIL 26th



FREE TIME

(For those who didn't book add-ons)

TIGER KINGDOM

(For those who booked)

1:30 PM DEPART FOR TIGER KINGDOM

3:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

PAD THAI COOKING CLASS

(For those who booked)

3:30 PM DEPART FOR COOKING CLASS

7:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL



8:00 PM
FAREWELL DINNER

SUNDAY, APRIL 27th



PHUKET HOTEL

12:00 PM CHECK OUT



FLY BACK TO HOME



IMPERIAL PALACE PLAZA

The Imperial Palace Plaza is the residence for the Imperial Family, located in the center of Tokyo surrounded by trees, flowers, moats, and the natural scenery of Japan. Built on the grounds of Edo Castle, the Imperial Palace is only open twice a year during the New Year's Celebration and the Emperor's birthday. Guests looking to see the inside of the Imperial Palace grounds are advised to book a tour, though even with the tour you won't see the inside of the Palace walls. There's still plenty to enjoy on the palace grounds, including the Lotus Moat and Nijuubashi (two bridges that form an entrance to the inner palace grounds).



ASAKUSA KANNON SENSOJI

Sensoji (Sensōji, also known as Asakusa Kannon Temple) is a Buddhist temple located in Asakusa. It is one of Tokyo's most colorful and popular temples.

The legend says that in the year 628, two brothers fished a statue of Kannon, the goddess of mercy, out of the Sumida River, and even though they put the statue back into the river, it always returned to them. Consequently, Sensoji was built nearby for the goddess of Kannon. The temple was completed in 645, making it Tokyo's oldest temple.



NAKAMISE SHOPPING ARCADE

Get a feel for old-school Tokyo at one of Japan's oldest shopping streets, Nakamise-dori, which dates back to the 17th century. Most shops in this arcade have been run by the same families for several generations, serving souvenirs, top-class street food and irresistible snacks.



MT. FUJI 5TH STATION

The Fuji Subaru Line 5th Station (Fuji Subaru Line Gogōme, also known as Yoshidaguchi 5th Station or Kawaguchiko 5th Station) lies at approximately the half-way point of the Yoshida Trail, which leads from Fujiyoshida Sengen Shrine at the mountain's base to the summit of Mount Fuji. It is the most popular of the four 5th stations on Mount Fuji and the best developed and easiest to access by public transportation from Tokyo. The Fuji Subaru Line 5th Station is accessible almost year round, snow conditions permitting, and is a popular sightseeing spot even outside of the climbing season.



OWAKUDANI

The result of a volcanic eruption over 3,000 years ago, Owakudani is a volcanic valley with active sulfur vents and hot springs. This area is one of the most famous tourist attractions in Hakone due to its volcanic activity and striking scenic views—you can even catch an amazing view of Mt. Fuji on a clear day.



HAKONE ROPEWAY

The observation platform offers breathtaking views of 'Owakudani', Hakone's most famous tourist spot. Desolate mountain-side covered by plumes of smoke produce a distinct scene so fitting the area's former name of Hell Valley. Now, the Hakone Ropeway rising above Owakudani. There are also many scenic spots to be seen from the ropeway. Traveling from Sounzan to Owakudani, passengers can see the bottom of the valley below, and, when on route to Togendai, they can enjoy views of Mt. Fuji and Lake Ashi.



LAKE ASHI CRUISE PIRATE SHIP

The Hakone “pirate ships” ferry passengers between three lakeside piers, with the Hakone-machi dock being the closest to the old highway and checkpoint. Just a stone’s throw away the finish line of the outbound leg of the Hakone Ekiden, a long-distance relay race held every New Year (the event has become a national sporting tradition with its own dedicated museum that tourists can visit). Morning cruises depart from the Hakone-machi dock for the Motohakone docks, where it is just a short walking to Hakone Shrine and Onshi-Hakone Park.



KINKAKUJI TEMPLE

Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion) is a Zen temple in northern Kyoto whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Formally known as Rokuonji, the temple was the retirement villa of the shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, and according to his will it became a Zen temple of the Rinzaï sect after his death in 1408. Kinkakuji was the inspiration for the similarly named Ginkakuji (Silver Pavilion), built by Yoshimitsu’s grandson, Ashikaga Yoshimasa, on the other side of the city a few decades later.



KIYOMIZU TEMPLE

Kiyomizudera (literally “Pure Water Temple”) is one of the most celebrated temples of Japan. It was founded in 780 on the site of the Otowa Waterfall in the wooded hills east of Kyoto, and derives its name from the fall’s pure waters. The temple was originally associated with the Hosso sect, one of the oldest schools within Japanese Buddhism, but formed its own Kita Hosso sect in 1965. In 1994, the temple was added to the list of UNESCO world heritage sites. Kiyomizudera is best known for its wooden stage that juts out from its main hall, 13 meters above the hillside. The stage affords nice views of the numerous cherry and maple trees below that erupt in a sea of color in spring and fall, as well as of the city of Kyoto in the distance. The main hall, which together with the stage was built without the use of nails, houses the temple’s primary object of worship, a small statue of the eleven faced, thousand armed Kannon.



SANJUSANGENDO

Sanjusangendo (Sanjūsangendō) is the popular name for Rengeo-in, a temple in eastern Kyoto which is famous for its 1001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy. The temple was founded in 1164 and rebuilt a century later after the original structure had been destroyed in a fire. Measuring 120 meters, the temple hall is Japan's longest wooden structure. The name Sanjusangendo (literally "33 intervals") derives from the number of intervals between the building's support columns, a traditional method of measuring the size of a building. In the center of the main hall sits a large, wooden statue of a 1000-armed Kannon (Senju Kannon) that is flanked on each side by 500 statues of human sized 1000-armed Kannon standing in ten rows.



FUSHIMI INARI TAISHA

Fushimi Inari Shrine (Fushimi Inari Taisha) is an important Shinto shrine in southern Kyoto. It is famous for its thousands of vermillion torii gates, which straddle a network of trails behind its main buildings. The trails lead into the wooded forest of the sacred Mount Inari, which stands at 233 meters and belongs to the shrine grounds. Fushimi Inari is the most important of several thousands of shrines dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice. Foxes are thought to be Inari's messengers, resulting in many fox statues across the shrine grounds. Fushimi Inari Shrine has ancient origins, predating the capital's move to Kyoto in 794.



ITSUKUSHIMA JINJA

The centuries-old Itsukushima Shrine (Itsukushima Jinja) on Miyajima is the source of both the island's fame and its name. Formally named Itsukushima, the island is more popularly known as "Miyajima", literally "shrine island" in Japanese, thanks to its star attraction. The shrine is known worldwide for its iconic "floating" torii gate. The shrine and its torii gate are unique for being built over water, seemingly floating in the sea during high tide. The shrine consists of multiple buildings, including a prayer hall, main hall and noh theater stage, which are connected by boardwalks and supported by pillars above the sea.



PEACE MEMORIAL PARK

Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park (Heiwa Kinen Kōen) is one of the most prominent features of the city. Even visitors not looking for it will likely stumble upon the large park of over 120,000 square meters. Its trees, lawns, and walking paths are in stark contrast to the surrounding downtown area. Before the bomb, the area of what is now the Peace Park was the political and commercial heart of the city. For this reason, it was chosen as the pilot's target. Four years to the day after the bomb was dropped, it was decided that the area would not be redeveloped but instead devoted to peace memorial facilities.



ORIZURU TOWER

The Orizuru Tower standing right next to the Peace Memorial Park includes a variety of facilities such as Hiroshima Hills, a roof observation deck where you can overlook the Atomic Bomb Dome, The Orizuru Square, where a variety of digital attractions can be enjoyed, and SOUVENIR SELECT Hito-to-Ki, where famous products from Hiroshima are sold. Also, it includes "Akushu Café" where you can stop by during sightseeing and strolling. Since its opening in 2016, it has welcomed many guests from Japan and abroad, and is now popular and essential for sightseeing in Hiroshima.



Wat Phra Chetuphon

The first iteration of Wat Pho (officially Wat Phra Chetuphon Wimon Mangkhalaram Rajwaramahawihana) was built in the 16th century as a late Ayuthaya-period monastery. Originally known as Wat Phodharam, it was restored in 1788 by King Rama I, who by then had built the Grand Palace next door and established Bangkok as the capital of Thailand. Much of what visitors see today was completed during the reign of King Rama III who extended much of Wat Pho in 1832, particularly the South Vihara and the West Vihara, where the Reclining Buddha is housed. The Reclining Buddha was completed in 1848 and remains the largest in Bangkok. The figure itself is modelled out of plaster around a brick core and is finished in gold leaf.



Temple of Dawn

Wat Arun Ratchawararam, meaning Temple of Dawn, is also known locally as Wat Chaeng. The temple, which is named after the Indian God Aruna (God of Dawn) sits majestically on the Thonburi side (west bank) of the Chao Phraya River and is easily one of the most recognizable and memorable landmarks of Bangkok's skyline. The most spectacular view of the glittering monument can be seen from the east side of the river at sunset as Wat Arun's colorfully decorated spires sparkle radiantly over the water. Wat Arun was envisioned by King Taksin in 1768. It is believed that after fighting his way out of Ayutthaya, which was taken over by a Burmese army at the time, he arrived at this temple just as dawn was breaking.



Temple of Emerald Buddha

History does not tell us where the Emerald Buddha originated from nor does it tell us who carved it. The first historical reference to the figurine is its discovery in Chiang Rai in northern Thailand in 1434 CE when lightning cracked open the stucco wall of a chedi (bell-shaped Buddhist stupa) and revealed its hiding place.



Private Dinner Cruise

Sail along the famous Chao Phraya River as the sun goes down on this elegant dinner cruise. From your spot on the luxury boat, enjoy the views of Bangkok's skyline or head to the cabaret bar for a special performance or to see a classical Thai dance show. On the open air deck, dance the night away, or simply relax and dine in luxury in the bar and dining room.



Floating Market Tour

The floating markets of Bangkok are foodie heaven! Away from the hustle and bustle of the city is a tranquil escape into the local Thai culture. Floating to these food stalls along the riverbanks is an outstanding way to taste delectable local treats. With your amazing Bangkok local by your side, you will have an adventure of a lifetime in a floating market tour!



Tiger Kingdom

Tiger Kingdom Phuket is located in the central part of Phuket Island. Visitors can get up close and personal with majestic and beautiful tigers of all ages and watch them play. All tigers here have been receiving training since birth so visitors can feel safe getting close to them. Animal trainers encourage visitors to trust the tigers as they have been accustomed to human contact their whole lives.



Pad Thai Cooking Class

Based on your choice of dish, a culinary expert will lead participants through a traditional Thai recipe. Beginning with an overview of the ingredients, your instructor will review cooking preparations and culinary techniques to use in the kitchen, and provide tips for selecting the best ingredients for future cooking experiences.



Phi Phi Island Tour

The Phi Phi islands are an archipelago of 6 islands, with the 2 main islands being Phi Phi Don and Phi Phi Leh. Just a 45-minute speedboat trip or a 90-minute ferryboat ride from either Phuket or Krabi, these picture postcard islands are excellent tropical getaways in Southeast Asia. Phi Phi has pristine beaches, stunning rock formations, and vivid turquoise waters teeming with colorful marine life. The larger and inhabited Phi Phi Don attracts hundreds of travelers to its lovely shores, while the smaller uninhabited Phi Phi Leh has beautiful bays and beaches, including the iconic Maya Bay.



James Bond Island Tour

A starring role in the 1974 James Bond movie "The Man With the Golden Gun" put the towering limestone islands of Ko Khao Phing Kan and the 66-foot-tall (20-meter) islet Ko Tapu firmly on Thailand's tourist trail. While boats are forbidden from getting too close to the islands, opportunities for sightseeing abound in the surrounding area.

ACCOMODATIONS



**CANDEO HOTEL
OSAKA THE TOWERS**



ACCOMODATIONS



ACCOMMODATIONS



ACCOMODATIONS

