



Living museums: Archaeology and national identity in Japan

University of Hawai'i Faculty Sponsored Study Tour (FaSST)

Spring: March 15-24, 2018

Summer: May 20-29, 2018

Who? Limited to eight upper-division undergraduate students. Students from all universities are eligible to apply. Japanese language skills helpful but not a prerequisite. No prior background in archaeology is expected.

Course credits

Earn 3 University of Hawai'i credits for Anthropology 385B (Undergraduate Seminar). Students at other universities may be able to transfer these credits.

Costs

\$2800. Includes 3 course credits, all transportation, 9 nights hotels/inns, all meals and entry fees. International airfare to Japan is not included.

Instructor

Barry V. Rolett, Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Hawaii, Manoa.
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Explore Japan off the beaten track. Our study tour visits three areas known for their cultural heritage sites: Saga (Kyushu), Makimuku (near Nara) and Wakasa (Sea of Japan coast). Saga and Wakasa are home to two of Japan's most fascinating archaeological parks. These are experiential "living museums" designed to transport visitors into the distant past while evoking the essence of what it is to be Japanese. Makimuku, with an unmatched concentration of elite burial mounds, is central to the history of Japan's Imperial Family.

First we fly to Saga, a small regional capital in northern Kyushu. Saga captured the public's eye in the 1980s with an extraordinary discovery – the remarkably intact remains of Yoshinogari, a 2000 year old fortified village. Following excavations, the site was restored to an archaeological park complete with rice fields, moats, watchtowers, houses, living areas and burial grounds. Yoshinogari dates to near the time when rice agriculture was introduced to Japan, and it offers a unique perspective on the origins of Japan's rice-centric food culture. Considered a national treasure, more than 1.6 million Japanese visited Yoshinogari in the first six months following the park's opening.

From Saga, we take the Shinkansen (bullet train) and local connecting trains to Sakurai in the Nara Basin for a bicycling/hiking tour of that region's iconic keyhole-shaped burial mounds. Built during the Kofun era, these are tombs of rulers identified by Japan's Imperial Family as the earliest in their lineage of 125 monarchs, who until 1945 were widely accepted as direct descendants of the Sun Goddess Amaterasu. The *kofun* burial mounds are mostly unexcavated. They are off-limits even to academic archaeologists, protected by a nineteenth century edict of the Imperial Family. Of particular interest is Hashihaka. Scholars of Japan's earliest written records argue that Hashihaka is the tomb of Queen Himiko, a legendary sorceress famous for her ability to see into the future. Today, Himiko is rebranded as a Japanese pop culture heroine – she is the charismatic cartoon mascot (*yuru-chara*) of Sakurai, the small city where we will spend three nights.

Our final destination is the Torihama archaeological park in Wakasa, a fishing village on Honshu's Sea of Japan coast. From 12,000 to 5,000 years ago (the Early Jomon era) Torihama was a thriving hunter-fisher-gatherer settlement. It exemplifies Jomon as one of the world's few cultures to develop complex village-based societies without agriculture or domesticated animals. The Torihama archaeological park, with reconstructions of Jomon daily life, reinforces idealized images of the Jomon as noble savages in tune with nature. We'll stay in a traditional wooden *ryokan*, with *tatami* rooms and meals featuring local specialties.

How does the presentation of Jomon and Yayoi heritage, at experiential parks like Torihama and Yoshinogari, reflect the importance of cherished Japanese values such as sustainability? Why are the *kofun* burial mounds, which are enormously significant for tracing Japanese cultural heritage, still off-limits to researchers? How do your other experiences in Japan help you to understand the connection between archaeology and national identity? These are the kind of questions we will address, and doing so opens a unique window to understanding both ancient and modern Japan.

This is an intensive, experiential ten-day study tour combining travel with daily readings, discussions and a series of short papers. We will spend lots of time outdoors, including walking, hiking and bicycling. The tour leader is UH-M Professor of Anthropology Barry Rolett, with logistics facilitated by Mayumi Rolett, a native Japanese with extensive travel experience to the regions we will visit. We will stay in small hotels (single rooms) and *ryokan* traditional inns (shared rooms).

Expected learning outcomes:

- A basic understanding of the origins of the Japanese people and their culture.
- An understanding of how archaeology shapes national identity and influences modern culture in Japan.

Grading

Your grade will be based on the total number of points you earn through the various assignments and your active participation. There are no exams. You will need a laptop or iPad to complete the assignments. Readings and assignments will be uploaded to Laulima.

There are 100 possible points and their distribution is as follows:

4 discussion/response papers (1.5 pp dbl-space) Based on the readings and site visits.	20
Capstone paper (4 pp dbl-space) Topic: Archaeology enriches life in modern Japan. Give your perspective, drawing upon this travel experience and the readings.	20
Presentation	10
Participation in discussions and activities	<u>50</u>
TOTAL	100

A+ = 98-100	A = 94-97	A- = 90-93
B+ = 87-89	B = 84-86	B- = 80-83
C+ = 77-79	C = 74-76	C- = 70-73
D+ = 67-69	D = 64-66	D- = 60-63
F = 59 or less		

Itinerary

Departure point: Tokyo Haneda Airport. Students coming from Kobe - meet us in Kyushu (trip price will be adjusted). Contact Prof. Rolett for details.

Day 1. Meet at Tokyo Haneda Airport. Fly to Saga or Fukuoka (Kyushu).

Day 2. Saga. Visit Yoshinogari archaeological park.

Day 3. Saga. Visit Yoshinogari archaeological park.

Day 4. Travel day. Local trains and Shinkansen (bullet train) from Saga to Sakurai (Nara Basin).

Day 5. Sakurai (Nara Basin). Bicycle tour of keyhole-shaped burial mounds (*kofun*) around Makimuku.

Day 6. Sakurai (Nara Basin). Walking tour of Hashihaka *kofun*, Queen Himiko's burial mound near Makimuku.

Day 7. Travel day. Local trains from Sakurai to Wakasa (Sea of Japan coast, Honshu).

Day 8. Wakasa. Visit Torihama archaeological park.

Day 9. Wakasa. Visit Torihama archaeological park. Evening presentations at *ryokan*.

Day 10. Travel day. Local trains and Shinkansen from Wakasa to Tokyo. Note: hotel for evening of Day 10 is not included in the trip price.