



KOBE

In the Kobe area four cities are easily accessible and each offers distinct individuality exemplifying historical Japan. The popular oriental cities recommended for your sight - seeing visit to Kobe are Osaka, Kyoto and Nara.

Kobe, the largest port metropolis in the Far East is rich in culture blended hundreds of years ago by Chinese and Koreans, and mixed with Japanese tradition, the city is picturesque of modern Japan.

As Japan's busiest seaport, shopping centers have a large selection of merchandise in the line of silks, dolls, rubber goods, tortoise shell and bamboo ware, making it a valuable city of import and export trade.

The contrast between ancient and the modern makes the area around Kobe and Osaka one of the foremost tourist attractions of Japan.

The modern shopping and entertainment facilities and cosmopolitan customs of these cities have made them favorites for western visitors. On the other hand, ancient beauties, traditional accommodations and points of interest of Kyoto and Nara lend to the early history of Japan.

OSAKA

Osaka is the industrial center of Japan often referred to as "Venice of Japan", because of its fourth century canals and bridges, and is the second largest city in Japan.

Well known also as a dramatic center of Japan, Osaka offers both classical and modern kabuki drama. Listed among the numerous theaters is the famous "Bunraku Theater" that offers puppet shows in their purest form.

Kyoto, arts and craft center of old Japan and its ancient capital city was the center of Japan's civilization for ten centuries.

History of Kyoto began in 794 A.D., its name meaning "Capital City". After the establishment of the capital at Tokyo, Kyoto lost much of its brilliance, but still remains the classical capital of the country. The ceremony of the enthronement of successive emperors takes place in Kyoto.

Today, Kyoto has over 1700 shrines and temples and a lot of palaces with elaborately designed gardens attesting to the glory and splendor of its history.

The city is among the leaders in production of silk fabrics, embroidery work, and porcelain and lacquer ware.



NARA

Nara, one of the oldest national capitals of Japan from 710 to 748 A.D., and the first fixed capital of the nation, has played an important role in Japan's history as the cradle of arts, crafts, literature and industries. A few of the ancient buildings still stand and house the early treasures of culture contrasting the development that Japan has made since her early history.

Transportation from Kobe to the near-by cities can be taken by express train which leaves Sannomiya Station (5 minutes from pier by taxi) every 20 minutes. Time is 26 minutes to Osaka and 70 min-