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## INSTANT EXPERT

a travel professional's guide to Japan, Greater  
China & the Far East

Abercrombie & Kent





# Abercrombie & Kent

JAPAN, GREATER CHINA & THE FAR EAST

## WELCOME

The region we call, "the Far East" includes Japan, Greater China (China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan), Mongolia, the Korean Peninsula and other lands has long been of interest to travelers. For over 2,000 years records of trade, diplomatic and cultural missions, along with archeologists, adventurers and pilgrims introduced the wonders of Asia to the world. Don't forget the most famous of these travelers, Marco Polo, ignited interest in Asia with his fantastical writings about his adventures to the exotic world of "Cathay", that mysterious kingdom ruled by the mighty Khans. Nearly 1,000 years on Asia continues to intrigue the adventurer in us all. Abercrombie & Kent opened its first Asian office in Hong Kong in 1983. Today, nearly 40 years later, the A&K name is synonymous with the best in travel services throughout the region.

With offices in Beijing, Hong Kong, Wuhan, Shanghai, Tokyo (and plans to open in Seoul, South Korea), A&K has forged a true on-site presence unlike any other international travel company. This region-wide network ensures a level of expertise, on-site management and country knowledge that is unequalled. A diverse team of talents, both local and expatriate, are committed to providing the best in service, knowledge, and arrangements.

Welcome to the world of A&K and I hope you will enjoy this useful guide to our work in the region.

With warm regards,



Geoffrey Kent  
Founder, Co Chairman and CEO



## About Us

No other company has invested the time and resources into building a comprehensive regional presence able to deal with a myriad of travel requests. Be it a highly personalized individual trip, a special interest group experience or a family adventure, A&K is on-site throughout the region to assist. A&K in Japan, Greater China and other Asian destinations means informative itineraries, award-winning guides, and thoughtful arrangements. Enhancing this is unprecedented insider access to historic sites, cultural institutions, and personal contacts. A&K has strong working relationships with a diverse network of expert resources who specialize in art, architecture, archaeology, business, food, journalism, history, and much more. These specialists turn a tour into an experience.

A&K continues to expand its presence in the region: deeper into Japan, Greater China, South Korea, and newer destinations like the Philippines and Malaysia. We are part of the fabric of Asia and here to work with you to create travel dreams.

## Why Not:

- Experience the deeper meaning of the Japanese tea ceremony held in a 300-year old private teahouse and led by a family tea master.
- Enter into the "Great Within" visiting the residential quarters of the imperial family in Beijing's Forbidden City.
- Be a recording star for a day when you cut a record at a K-Pop Music studio in Seoul.
- Swim with whale sharks in the Philippines.
- Join a naturalist on a rainforest trek in Sabah, Malaysia to meet the orangutan, Asia's "Man of the Forest".
- Go behind closed doors to view Hong Kong's most celebrated art collections.

## INSIDER ACCESS

The special access, personal contacts and on-site experience that makes us different!



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### City Snapshots: A World of Travel Wonders Await!

#### BEIJING (China)

Capital of China, political and cultural centre of the country, Beijing has flourished for over 3,000 years. A fascinating city that has enchanted the imaginations of visitors for centuries – behold the juxtaposition of Chinese history and development, from the Forbidden City and the Great Wall to the modern marvels of Beijing's contemporary architecture. This is the city for all seasons.

#### KYOTO (Japan)

In Kyoto a popular saying goes, "In the cherry blossom's shade, there's no such thing as a stranger." The imperial capital of Japan for over 1,000 years, Kyoto embodies all that is memorable about Japan and her people. Explore her temples and gardens, rich cultural traditions, exquisite art, and fine cuisine – Kyoto welcomes all to experience the wonders of Japan.

#### SHANGHAI (China)

The city that never sleeps, Shanghai is the one place all young Chinese wish to experience – the city where dreams are made. Situated along the central coastline of China, Shanghai was once an international treaty port, where foreign influences helped shape a unique spirit. Shanghai today is about the experience – a fusion of contemporary culture, creative cuisine and youthful energy.

#### TOKYO (Japan)

Capital of Japan since 1868 and one of the world's largest cities, Tokyo is the heart and soul of today's Japan. Education, innovation, fashion, food and so much more – it all happens here. Tokyo astutely balances centuries of Japanese tradition with the latest in technology and contemporary culture. Start your trip in Tokyo, gateway to the magnificent country of Japan.

#### HONG KONG (China)

Hong Kong remains a unique fusion of East and West, the ideal gateway to China and beyond. The city is a kaleidoscope of activities: savor the flavours of dim sum, ride the Star Ferry at night, hike the verdant trails of her nature parks and explore her markets, temples, and art galleries. Hong Kong is truly Asia's, "first city in fun".

#### MANILA (The Philippines)

Four hundred years of Spanish tradition overlaid with 50 years of Hollywood, Manila is a special Asian city. Ornate Catholic Cathedrals and cobble stone lanes somehow mix with glittering neon nightlife and a fashion forward youth culture. Experience the urban attitude of the city and then escape to the countryside to see some of the most beautiful landscapes in Asia.

#### SINGAPORE

From a muddy mangrove island, once a pirate's lair, Singapore is beyond compare! Boasting the highest standard of living in East Asia, world leading health care, and technological innovation, it is a verdant oasis committed to a green new world. For the traveler it still retains its traditional roots founded on its unique mix of

heritage – Chinese, Malay and Indian.

#### KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia)

Charismatic capital of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur was founded on the promise of resource riches and today, more than 100 years on, the dream flourishes. Dazzling modern architecture is nicely balanced by its elegant temples, striking mosques and tropical gardens. Travelers can experience a multi-cultural world of wonder, rich in food, festivals and fun – Malaysia is as they say, truly Asia.

#### SEOUL (South Korea)

Rebuilt from the ashes of the Korean War (1950 – 1953), Seoul is the phoenix ascendant – today it is Asia's leader in music, movies, fashion, food and fun! Called, the most "wired" city on earth, Seoul has "soul" – busy food markets, hip designer boutiques, art installations, innovative high-tech exhibitions and an insatiable drive to the future – come and discover it all!

#### TAIPEI (Taiwan)

Capital of the lovely island of Taiwan, Taipei is steeped in traditional Chinese culture while also retaining a veneer of its Japanese colonial past. Where else but in Taipei can you view the magnificent imperial treasures of China's past and then sit down to a fusion of wonderful flavors at a Michelin star Japanese restaurant? Only in Taipei, you say!



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## Let's go "Off-the-Beaten Track" with A&K

Asia is more than the sum parts of her cities - get out of the city and experience so much more – our top picks for an Asian off the beaten path experience:

### HOKKAIDO (Japan)

Japan's most northern island has the world's heaviest snowfalls making for Asia's best skiing. The island is a winter wonderland of fun for all. In the spring and summer her fields are a palette of floral colours while her cold sea waters yield a bounty of seafood. Ski, hike, bike and like all that is Hokkaido, Japan's frontier of fun.

### CEBU & BOHOL (The Philippines)

After Manila go south for fun in the sun and a myriad of activities. First to Cebu with its Spanish heritage, fine beaches and adventures galore – hike, raft and explore. On to Bohol, island of natural wonder – view her Chocolate Hills, swim tropical waters with whale sharks and then into the jungle to meet the Tarsier, the world's smallest primate.

### TIBET (China)

Set on the "Roof of the World" and the sacred seat of Tibetan Buddhism, Tibet is that secret Shangri-La we all hope to visit. Start your journey in Lhasa, holy City of the Sun exploring its old town, majestic monasteries and imposing Potala Palace. Then travel the central plateau ringed by snow-crowned mountains and home to an ancient nomadic culture.

### HONSHU (Japan)

Meet Japan's spa-loving snow monkeys who wile away the winter soaking in the warming waters of volcanic hot springs near Nagano. In the warmer months try glamping in Hakuba (the Japanese Alps) or set sail on the Guntu, the world's only floating luxury ryokan, sailing the waters of the Inland Sea where you can discover Naoshima, Japan's eccentric art island.

### JEJU ISLAND (South Korea)

Far from hectic pace of Seoul, Jeju Island is your introduction to Korea's stunning natural beauty. Situated to the south of the Korean Peninsula, Jeju is home to several UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites including rugged mountains, volcanic rock formations and sweeping meadows of wild flowers. After bustling cities and modern marvels, Jeju is the ultimate back to nature experience.

### THE SILK ROAD (China)

The ancient trade routes that once linked imperial China to ancient Rome cross China's most magnificent landscapes and culturally diverse regions. Travel this highway of history experiencing the magic of the Silk Road: the exquisite murals of the Mogao Buddhist caves, the world's largest markets and

bazaars while meeting with people descended from waves of migration that crossed a continent.

### THE RYUKYU ISLANDS (Japan)

Japan's subtropical paradise, the Ryukyu Islands run south from Kyushu like glittering emeralds in the sea. Pristine sand beaches, colourful coral reefs and a distinctive island culture make these a wonderful post-trip option when visiting Japan. In addition to its distinctive natural beauty, the Ryukyu Islands introduce you to another side of Japan, a relaxed bucolic experience found nowhere else.

### SABAH (Malaysia)

Home to the world's oldest rainforest (after the Amazon), crystalline sea waters, and majestic Mount Kinabalu, Sabah is Asia's foremost eco-travel wonder. One of the East Malaysian states on the island of Borneo, travelers can see pygmy elephants, orangutan, crocodiles, and much more. Whether on land or in the sea, Sabah is your off the beaten path travel treasure.

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## AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>CHINA</b>												
Beijing	2°	5°	12°	21°	27°	30°	31°	30°	26°	19°	10°	4°
Chengdu	9°	12°	17°	22°	26°	28°	30°	30°	26°	21°	16°	11°
Hong Kong	19°	19°	21°	25°	28°	30°	31°	31°	30°	28°	24°	20°
Lhasa	8°	10°	13°	17°	21°	24°	23°	22°	21°	18°	13°	9°
Urumqi	-7°	-5°	5°	17°	24°	29°	31°	30°	24°	14°	3°	-5°
<b>JAPAN</b>												
Tokyo	10°	10°	14°	19°	23°	26°	30°	31°	27°	22°	17°	12°
<b>MALAYSIA</b>												
Kota Kinabalu	31°	31°	32°	32°	33°	32°	32°	32°	32°	31°	31°	31°
Kuala Lumpur	32°	33°	33°	33°	33°	33°	32°	32°	32°	32°	32°	32°
<b>MONGOLIA</b>												
Ulaanbaatar	-16°	-10°	-1°	9°	17°	22°	24°	22°	16°	7°	-5°	-14°
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>												
Manila	30°	31°	32°	34°	33°	32°	31°	31°	31°	31°	31°	30°
<b>SINGAPORE</b>												
Singapore	31°	32°	32°	32°	32°	32°	31°	31°	31°	32°	31°	31°
<b>SOUTH KOREA</b>												
Seoul	2°	5°	11°	18°	23°	27°	29°	30°	26°	20°	12°	4°
<b>TAIWAN</b>												
Taipei	19°	20°	22°	26°	29°	32°	34°	33°	31°	27°	24°	21°

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### ACROSS CHINA: TIBET & THE YANGTZE

Day 1 Arrive Beijing	Day 7 Chengdu	Day 12 Cruising the Yangtze
Day 2 Beijing	Day 8 Chengdu/Lhasa	Day 13 Cruising the Yangtze
Day 3 Beijing	Day 9 Lhasa	Day 14 Yichang & Shanghai
Day 4 Beijing/Xian	Day 10 Lhasa	Day 15 Shanghai
Day 5 Xian	Day 11 Lhasa/Chongqing-	Day 16 Shanghai
Day 6 Xian/Chengdu	Yangtze River	Day 17 Depart Shanghai



### THE TIMELESS TRADITIONS OF JAPAN

Day 1 Arrive Tokyo	Day 8 Kanazawa
Day 2 Tokyo	Day 9 Kanazawa/Kyoto
Day 3 Tokyo	Day 10 Kyoto
Day 4 Tokyo/Kamakura/Hakone	Day 11 Hiroshima Day Trip
Day 5 Hakone	Day 12 Kyoto
Day 6 Hakone/Takayama	Day 13 Depart Kansai
Day 7 Takayama/Shirakawa/Kanazawa	



### THE WONDERS OF SOUTH KOREA

Day 1 Arrive Seoul	Gyeongju	Day 9 Busan/Jeju Island
Day 2 Seoul	Day 6 Gyeongju	Day 10 Jeju Island
Day 3 Seoul	Day 7 Overland transfer	Day 11 Jeju Island
Day 4 Seoul	Gyeongju/Busan	Day 12 Depart Jeju Island
Day 5 High speed train Seoul/	Day 8 Busan	

### THE WONDERS OF THE MALAYSIA

Day 1 Arrive Kuala Lumpur	Lumpur/ Sandakan (Sabah)	Day 12 Danum Valley/ Lahad Datu/ Kota Kinabalu
Day 2 Kuala Lumpur	Day 8 Sandakan/Sukau by boat	Day 13 Kota Kinabalu
Day 3 Melaka Day Trip	Day 9 Sukau, Kinabatangan River	Day 14 Kota Kinabalu
Day 4 Kuala Lumpur/ Penang	Day 10 Sukau/Lahad Datu/Danum River	Day 15 Departure via Kuala Lumpur or Singapore
Day 5 Penang	Day 11 Danum Valley	
Day 6 Penang		
Day 7 Penang/Kuala Lumpur		

### THE WONDERS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Day 1 Arrive Manila	Cebu	Day 9 El Nido
Day 2 Laguna Day Trip	Day 5 Cebu	Day 10 El Nido
Day 3 Manila/ Laguna/Manila by vehicle	Day 6 Bohol Day Trip	Day 11 El Nido
Day 4 Fly Manila/	Day 7 Oslob Day Trip	Day 12 Departure via Manila
	Day 8 Fly Cebu/El Nido	

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