



Thank you for your interest in Walking Softly Adventures. Below is the schedule of current adventures. Photographs, slide shows, and more information about each trip are on-line at [www.walkingsoftly.com](http://www.walkingsoftly.com). (Our mountain hiking trips are described on-line at [www.MountainHikingHolidays.com](http://www.MountainHikingHolidays.com).) Please call us at 1-888-743- 0723 if you would like a detailed itinerary for any trip. You can reserve a spot now on-line or by phone for any of these trips. We look forward to traveling with you!

Amy and John Osaki, and the Walking Softly Team

## Walking Softly Adventures: Art, History and Architecture Trips

### Japan: Temples, Gardens, Castles & Villages, November 3-12, 2011

Behind contemporary Japan's facade of modernity lies an alluring, centuries-old culture that's yours to discover! In Kyoto, experience a treasury of temples and gardens. Visit Himeji-jo, the best preserved samurai castle in Japan. Retreat to the mountains to spend a night at traditional Japanese lodgings at Koyasan before exploring Nara, Japan's ancient capital. Enjoy a home-stay in a thatched-roof farmhouse in Shirakawago. From the bustle of modern Nagoya where you'll visit the impressive Tokugawa Museum, take a day trip back in time to walk a portion of the ancient samurai path from Edo (now Tokyo) to Kyoto. 10 days, \$4,895.

### Los Angeles Art Adventure, December 7-9, 2011

Join Amy Osaki for an art feast in Los Angeles. Savor a unique art experience which includes exclusive early-hours and behind-the-scenes tours at the Huntington Library and at Gamble House (a masterpiece of Arts and Crafts architecture created by Greene & Greene). Special tours at the Getty Villa in Malibu and at the Getty Center in Los Angeles will be followed by leisurely explorations of their stellar collections. Immerse yourself in the art masterworks at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Art. Extra insights by award-winning art educator Amy Osaki round out the experience. Four memorable meals are included as is local transportation and museum admission. Friday evening is free for you to select from a rich menu of optional choices which include evening concerts and performances. 3 days, \$895.

### Art in Italy, April 17-24, 2012

Join award-winning art educator Amy Osaki for an exploration of the art treasures of Italy in April 2012. Immerse yourself in the Medieval and Renaissance splendor of Florence and Venice, the gem cities of Tuscany and the Veneto. Explore the renowned hill town of Siena. Experience the art of Donatello, Giotto, Michelangelo, Brunelleschi, Fra Angelico, Titian, Rubens, Raphael, and Piero della Francesca. Savor the great art repositories of the Uffizi, Bargello, Pitti Palace, and the Accademia. And throughout the trip, revel in the joys of being in Italy in the springtime. In addition to an unforgettable immersion into the art of Italy, images of the Ponte Vecchio reflected in the waters of the Arno River and gondolas on the canals of Venice add sparkle to this art adventure. 8 days, \$3,495

### Silk Road Adventure, September 2013

Since ancient times, the Silk Road was the major trading route between East and West serving as a conduit for the exchange of ideas and technologies. Journey along the eastern portions of this ancient trading route beginning in the city of Xi'an, imperial capital of two Chinese dynasties and often referred to as the eastern terminus of the Silk Road. Other highlights include Jiayuguan (the westernmost portion of the Great Wall of China), the imposing sand dunes of the Gobi Desert at Dunhuang, and the impressive Mogao grottoes filled with statues and paintings spanning a thousand years of Buddhist art. The oasis town of Turpan, the Bezeklik grottoes, the stunningly beautiful alpine lake of Tianchi and the fabled bazaars of Kashgar are also on the menu as is a side trip to Lake Karakul from where you'll see the tallest peaks in the Pamirs and Kunlun mountain systems. 10 days/11 nights, 2011 trip price was \$4,385; 2013 dates and price to be announced.

## Hiking Trips

Walking Softly's hiking trips are now offered under our "Mountain Hiking Holidays" label. You can access information about our hiking trips at the Mountain Hiking Holidays website at [www.MountainHikingHolidays.com](http://www.MountainHikingHolidays.com).