

The Untold Japan

Tokyo · Yokohama · Hakone · Osaka · Kobe · Hiroshima — with a Beyond the Circuit and Okinawa extension

Black sailors served in Commodore Perry's fleet at the opening of Japan in 1853. In 1905, W.E.B. Du Bois read Japan's victory over Russia as proof against white supremacy as natural law. From 1945 on, Black GIs shaped postwar Japan and Okinawa — a presence still visible today. This is the history most tours skip.

The Untold Japan traces that story in the places where it actually happened — alongside the food, the craft, and the everyday life of a country most visitors never get to see this way. Guests who want to go further can extend into Beyond the Circuit, an optional add-on through Japan's quieter regions, or add an Okinawa extension that continues the story into the present day.

Every Blaisian journey is personally hosted throughout by David Wright. Every detail, every transition, every moment of friction is handled before you notice it as a problem.

“The Black American story traveled further through Asia than most people know.”

— David Wright, Founder & Scholar-Host, Blaisian

YOUR SCHOLAR-HOST

David Wright

David Wright holds a Master's degree from Yale University and completed doctoral research at UC Berkeley in American History, with a focus on Black-Japanese encounters from Commodore Perry's opening of Japan through the postwar period. He has lived in Tokyo for over twenty years, speaks Japanese fluently, and travels with every Blaisian group for the full duration of the journey.

Education	Yale University (MA) · UC Berkeley (doctoral research, American History)
Based	Tokyo, Japan · 20+ years residence
Languages	English · Japanese
Operating	Since 2015 · Cultural Connections Asia LLC · Wisconsin-registered

In-Country Scholar

Mirei Sato translates for Japan's premier newspaper, Asahi Shimbun. A fellow academic at UC Berkeley, her PhD research focused on Japan–Black American relations — the same field as David's doctoral work. That shared intellectual foundation makes her contribution to these journeys unique rather than supplementary.

THE JOURNEY

The Untold Japan is the inaugural cohort. Beyond the Circuit is a separate, optional route through Japan's quieter regions — it pairs naturally with The Untold Japan or stands on its own. The Okinawa extension continues the story into the present day.

Journey	Duration	Description
The Untold Japan	9 nights	Tokyo · Yokohama · Hakone · Osaka · Kobe · Hiroshima. Hyatt properties throughout, a Hakone onsen, First Class on the Shinkansen. Hiroshima okonomiyaki, Kobe teppanyaki, Osaka street food, Tokyo Edomae sushi. Private scholar sessions in Tokyo & Hiroshima. Karaoke night, Soul Food House (Azabu Juban), ONE LOVE Jamaican Kitchen (Shimokitazawa).
Beyond the Circuit OPTIONAL ADD-ON	9 – 15 nights	Kanazawa's samurai quarter and Kenrokuen Garden · Niigata & Sado Island's taiko heritage · a Hokkaido food journey through Sapporo & Otaru's seafood markets and dairy country, with a Jozankei Onsen day trip. For guests who want to see the Japan most tours never reach. Pairs with The Untold Japan or stands alone.
Okinawa Extension OPTIONAL	4 nights	Naha · Shuri Castle · Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum · the Black GI presence in postwar Okinawa, still visible today · Ryukyuan cuisine · an awamori distillery · Okinawan craft traditions. The continuing story of the Black American relationship with Japan, in the place where it is most present today.
Custom / Bespoke	Any duration	Designed entirely around you. Discussed by proposal.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The hotel is not the brand.

Accommodations are selected to match the character and goals of each journey — not the other way around. The tier is a guide; the final selection is always tailored to the traveler.

SIGNATURE Well-placed. Consistently excellent.

Premium hotels in excellent locations, without the international luxury brand price point.

PREMIER Hyatt properties throughout

International luxury brands in landmark locations — the standard for The Untold Japan's inaugural cohort.

BESPOKE Exceptional. Irreplaceable.

Asia's most celebrated properties, for guests who want the accommodation itself to be part of the story. For Beyond the Circuit, this includes Kayotei in Kanazawa — a Blaisian-exclusive property distinct from Cultural Connections Asia's own Kanazawa selection.

Accommodations are confirmed at the time of proposal and discussed directly with each guest.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

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- ✓ Personally hosted throughout by David Wright, Scholar-Host
- ✓ Accommodations matched to your journey tier
- ✓ All ground transportation, transfers, and Shinkansen travel
- ✓ Private scholar sessions, curated meals, and listed activities
- ✓ Dedicated host available throughout — logistics handled in real time

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- Domestic flights to/from Okinawa or Hokkaido (arranged on request)
- Travel insurance (required)
- Personal expenses

JOURNEY INVESTMENT

The Untold Japan: From USD 8,500 per person

Inaugural cohort · 9 nights · Land only · 2 – 8 guests · Price increases after February 2027

Includes Hyatt properties, a Hakone ryokan, all transport, private scholar sessions, and David as Scholar-Host throughout.

Journey	Duration	From (per person)
The Untold Japan	9 nights, inaugural cohort	\$8,500
Beyond the Circuit — Signature	9-night core	\$4,834
Beyond the Circuit — Premier	9-night core	\$5,775
Okinawa Extension — Premier	4 nights, add-on	\$2,725

Shown for planning purposes only — every proposal is priced individually and confirmed before booking. Okinawa extension pricing is quoted separately from either core journey.

BEGIN THE CONVERSATION

Request the Itinerary

Every Blaisian journey begins with a conversation. Tell us which journey interests you and when you're thinking of traveling — David responds personally to every inquiry.

Email	dwright@blaisian.com
Response	Within 48 hours
Based	Tokyo, Japan
Group size	2 – 8 guests · Private journeys only