

Ensemble Experience

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

Ship/Sailing:	Seven Seas Mariner	September 18, 2008
Tour Date:	September 30, 2008	
Ship Time in Port:	8:00 am (9/30) -	2:00 pm (10/1)
Tour Name:	<i>Yokohama's Sights and Heights, with Lunch</i>	
Half-Day Tour:	Depart: 9:00 am	Return: 1:30 pm

Discover the many sides of Yokohama on your tour today, beginning with a visit to Sankeien, a marvelous garden filled with masterpieces of architecture and designed for strolling. Hara Tomitaro, a silk merchant, created the garden in the image of the Nara countryside and opened it to the public in 1906. Over the years he scoured ancient capitals for buildings that he then had moved to garden. The sanctum of Kamakura's 16th century Tokei-ji arrived in 1907, followed by the three-story Tomyo-ji pagoda from Kyoto in 1914. Placed at the tip of the garden's high ground, it dates from the middle of the 15th century and comes into view across the pond as the visitor walks along a curved path. There is also an inner garden that was once Hara's private enclave. Now open to the public, his influence for creating this area was the work of the eminent 14th century priest, Muso Kokushi.

Your next stop will be the 296-meter-high, 70-story Yokohama Landmark Tower. Opened in 1993 as Japan's tallest building it has the world's fastest elevator traveling at 750m a minute and whisking visitors to the 69th floor observatory in just 40 seconds. The observatory offers superb views of Mt. Fuji, the Tanzawa Mountains, the Boso Peninsula, and Tokyo. The Landmark Tower's skeleton is flexible in order to withstand the many earthquakes that jolt the Kanto region. At its base stands Old Yokohama Dock No.2. Built in 1896 it has been restored as an event plaza called Dock Yard Garden.

Then it's on to Chinatown, the largest one in Japan. Chinatown's gates are appropriately oriented in accordance with feng shui principles and in this bustling enclave you will also find Japan's oldest Kuang Di Miao Temple, rebuilt after a fire in 1986. The first Chinese settlers arrived here in the 1860s, not long after Yokohama was opened to trade with Western nations and ran businesses that catered to foreign merchants. Restaurants only became the anchor of Chinatown in the last few decades. The oldest is the Heichinro, in continuous operation since 1887. Others are branches of famous restaurants in Hong Kong and elsewhere. About half serve Cantonese cuisine, including the ubiquitous dim-sum, but Beijing, Shanghai, Sichuan and Taiwanese cooking are also well represented. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before returning to the ship.

Ensemble Experience shore excursions are capacity controlled, subject to change without notice and require a minimum number of participants. All times are approximate. Your Ensemble Traveler host onboard will advise final details.