

GLOBETROTTERS' JAPAN: PLACES
FOREIGNERS ON THE TOURIST CIRCUIT IN MEIJI JAPAN
BY ALLEN HOCKLEY

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Travelling Meiji Japan

The globetrotter phenomenon in Japan, noted at its inception by Griffis and parodied at its peak by Chamberlain, was facilitated, in part, by resumption of imperial rule—the Meiji Restoration, as it was known—in 1868. The leaders of the new government recognized the need for more open interaction with Western nations in order for Japan to modernize rapidly. Hiring foreign expertise was one of several new policy initiatives enacted in the early 1870s toward this end. Much of this expertise directly facilitated the growth in tourism. Foreign engineers, architects, and naval designers helped build Japan's first railroads, taught Western-style construction techniques used in modern hotels, and helped Japan build a fleet of modern steamships that would eventually compete for globetrotter business in the Far East.



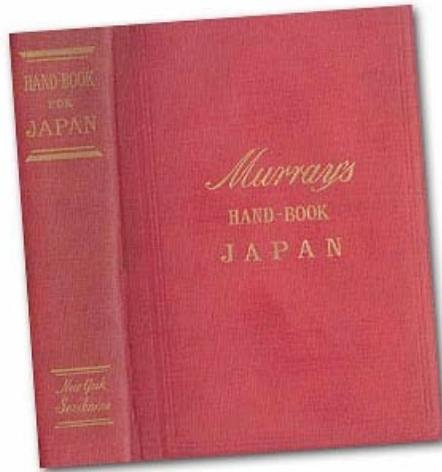
“Fukuzumi Hotel at Yumoto, Hakone”.
Photo published in Brinkley's Japan, ca. 1890

[gj10104]

As a result of these policies, a generation of foreign specialists emerged with the requisite language skills and personal experience necessary to produce far more thorough and accurate accounts of Japan and its culture. Griffis and Chamberlain exemplify this development. Both were employed as teachers and, like other foreign employees, their contracts gave them more mobility than their predecessors who were confined for the most part to the treaty ports. More important, they had ample opportunity to interact with educated Japanese on a daily basis. *The Mikado's Empire* and *Things Japanese* could not have been written without these experiences and contacts. For these reasons, their publications quickly became required reading for travelers visiting Japan.

Increased travel to Japan generated the need for guidebooks. In 1873, Griffis authored *The Tokio Guide*, one of the earliest examples. It combined personal observation, informed commentary, and practical advice—essential features still required of any good travel guide. With its singular focus on the city of Tokyo, Griffis' guide was small by comparison to *A Handbook for Travellers in Central and Northern Japan*, a 500-page

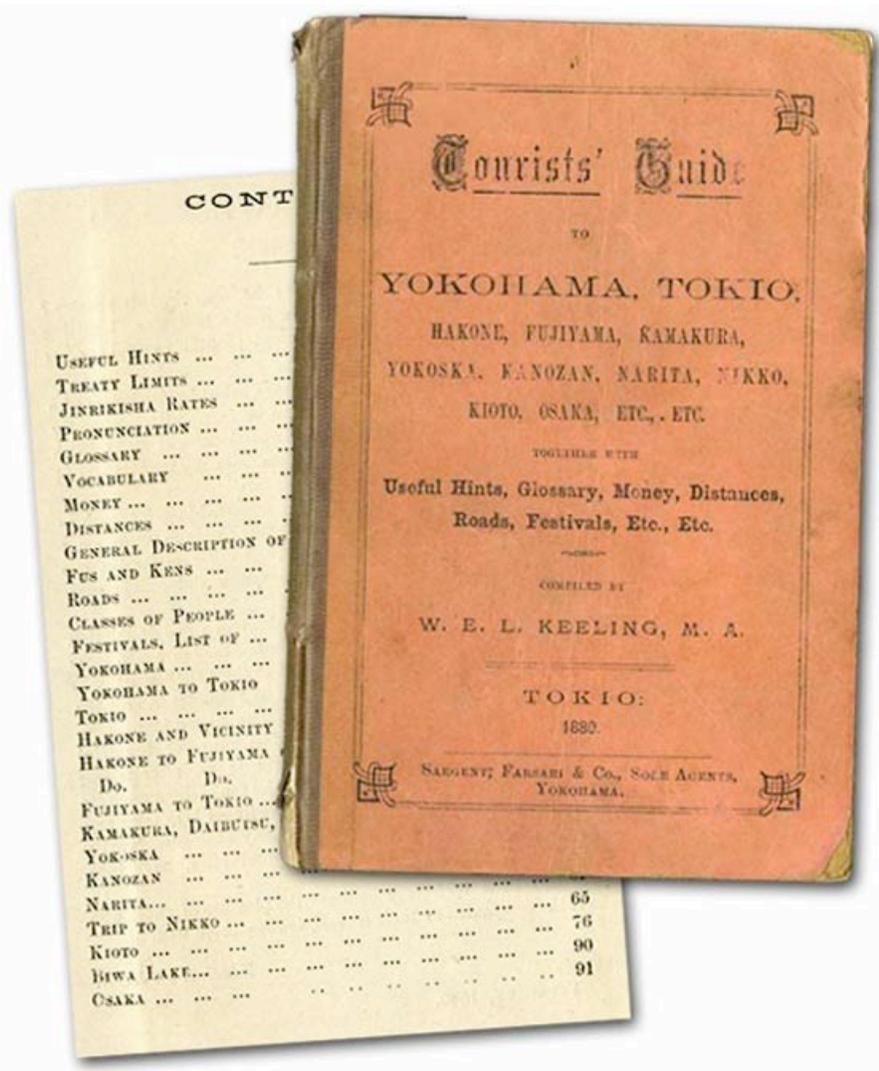
tome authored by Ernest Satow and A. G. S. Hawes in the early 1880s. Satow and Hawes' handbook set new standards for thoroughness, becoming not just a guidebook for travelers but also a valuable reference for scholarly research on Japan. In 1889, Chamberlain co-authored with W.B. Mason an extensive and similarly authoritative guide titled *Handbook for Travellers in Japan*. Updated and reissued in several subsequent editions, the popularity of this guidebook extended into the early-20th century.



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While these more voluminous publications appealed to adventurous travelers who were willing to get off the commercialized tourist routes and explore more remote destinations, globetrotters generally preferred guidebooks targeted more specifically to their limited range of potential experiences. W. E. L. Keeling's 1880 *Tourists' Guide to Yokohama, Tokio, Hakone, Fujiyama, Kamakura, Yokoska, Kanozan, Narita, Nikko, Kioto, Osaka, Etc., Etc.* provided a far more portable guidebook that focused on the globetrotter market.



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The introduction includes a range of general information deemed useful for tourists on such topics as hiring guides and *jirikisha*...

It is not easy to say, with precision, what fees should be paid for the hire of *jirikisha* (man-cart-power), as the fares vary considerably in different localities; but the following estimate may be considered liberal:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| A <i>jirikisha</i> and one coolie during a day of 9 hours | } 50 <i>Sen</i> . |
| with frequent and long rests..... | |
| Ditto with two coolies..... | 1 <i>Rio</i> . |

When the coolies have to run fast and stop but little, as in going from Yokohama to Odawara, at least double the above amount should be paid.

When a *jirikisha* is engaged by distance, 10 *sen* to each coolie per *ri*, may be quoted as fair. In fine weather and over good roads, two men will run one *ri* in thirty minutes. In every case it is better to make a bargain before starting, to prevent after disputes.

...hotel etiquette...

It is customary to take off boots or shoes before entering the matted rooms of an hotel or other house.

On the arrival of any visitor at a hotel, he should be met at the entrance by the host or hostess; who placing his or her head on the floor or mat bows in Japanese fashion, (vide General Description of Japan) saying: *Ohayo gozarimasu* a very polite way of expressing: "You have come quickly, Sir." The guest makes no reply, but enters the room allotted him. A cushion is placed on the mats for him to sit upon, and in winter, a brasier of charcoal to warm his hands. Afterwards, tea and cakes are brought as refreshments. The preliminaries being attended to, the host, hostess and those servants attending upon the visitor

...and what foods and drinks to expect in restaurants and inns.

Bass or Alsopp's Ale is to be obtained at the *Tobutsuya* (foreign shops) in every little village; and Claret and Spirits of a very drinkable quality, in the towns. Butchers' meat is not always to be procured; but in lieu thereof, there is generally a fair assortment of game, poultry and fish. The Japanese cook fish in such a manner as would shame many French cooks. Game and poultry are prepared, unless otherwise directed, by separating the bone from the meat, cutting the latter into small pieces, and stewing it with leeks, sugar, soy and a substance, made of beans, etc., called *miso*. This dish is seldom refused.

PRONUNCIATION.

The Japanese words used in this book are pronounced according to the following rules:—

- A* is pronounced like a in arm.
E " " e " prey.
I " " i " machine.
O " " o " no.
Ō " " ow " own. [silent
U " " oo " moon, and is frequently
AI has the sound of i in isle, or like eye.
AU " " ow " how.
SH " " sh " shall.
YE " " ai " aim.
HI is pronounced very nearly like she in sheaf.

The consonants b, d, h, j, k, m, n, p, r, s, t, w, y and z are pronounced as in English.

G in the Tokio dialect has the sound of *ng*, as in *long*, and in the Nagasaki dialect, that of *g*, as in *good*.

When two consonants come together, both must be carefully pronounced, as the meaning may depend upon it. For example: *Ama* is a fisherwoman, but *Amma* is a shampooer.

—o—

GLOSSARY.

Form of Expression, Names of Articles, Etc.

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------|---------|----------------------|
| All right! | <i>Yoroshii.</i> | Baked. | <i>Yaita.</i> |
| Be quick! | <i>Hayaku.</i> | Bring. | <i>Motte-koi.</i> |
| Be careful. | <i>Abunai.</i> | Bath. | <i>Oyu or Yu-ba.</i> |
| Be silent! | <i>Damare.</i> | Boat. | <i>Fune.</i> |
| Behind. | <i>Ato.</i> | Barber. | <i>Kami-kiri.</i> |
| Boiled. | <i>Niita.</i> | Bill. | <i>Kanjō.</i> |

Shopping was an integral part of the globetrotter experience. Guidebooks often provided much needed practical advice on the subject: currency conversion charts and directions to the more reputable dealers, for example.

Money.

THE denominations of the paper currency are respectively, ten, twenty and fifty *sen*; one, two, five and ten *rios* (or *yens*) etc. Compared with the American or Mexican dollar, the paper *rio* is generally at a great discount, rarely being at par, and still more rarely at a premium.

The Japanese silver *yen* has lately been accepted at the banks in Yokohama, as equal to the Mexican dollar; and the native gold coins (5 and 10 *yen*) are at a premium.

The small copper money are fractions of the *sen*, and are called *cash* by foreigners, but by the natives, *mon*. They are three in number, viz: 10, 15 and 20 *mon*.

10 *mon* equal 1 *rin* (*Ichi rin*):

80 ,, or 8 *rin* equal 1 *tempo* (a large oval coin, going out of circulation.)

100 ,, (*Huaku mon*) ,, 1 *sen*, (*Is'sen*):

100 *sen* equal 1 *rio* (*Ichi rio*).

The old denominations of money were the SHIU (*Is'shiu*), TWO SHIU (*Ni shiu*), and the BU (*Ichi bu*). SHIU is sometimes pronounced SHI.

$6\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* equal one *shiu*.

$12\frac{1}{2}$,, ,, two ,,

25 ,, ,, one *bu*.

The *Is'shiu*, *ni-shiu* and *bu* are mentioned, as they represent sums of money, long likely to be remembered and used.

Another section of the Keeling guide, titled "General Description of Japan," introduces Japan's climate, geography, natural environment, religions, social structure, and a wide variety of cultural practices.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION
OF JAPAN.

JAPAN is the name by which this country is known in most parts of the world, but *Nihon* is its correct name. It is written with the two Chinese characters 日 (NI- the sun) and 本 (HON source)—the source of the sun; since it was presumed by the ancient Japanese, that the sun had its source in this country. We see, therefore, why many writers call Japan the "Land of the Rising Sun." The Chinese pronounce 日本, Yapan; and the Ya has been changed by the Dutch into Ja,—hence the name Japan.

It is a very fertile country and contains a population of about 34 millions. The climate is very healthy and salubrious. In the North the winters are long and severe, while snow thickly covers the ground; but in the South it is seldom or never seen. In Tokio, the Thermometer registers, in the shade, from 34° in the winter, to 89° Fahr. in summer. The country is sometimes visited by severe shocks of earthquake; and frequently about the time of Autumnal Equinox, a *taifu* (strong wind) passes over the Empire, causing a great deal of destruction.

Minerals are very numerous and abundant, comprising gold, silver, lead, tin, copper, and precious stones; amber, sulphur, nitre, salt, lime, marble, etc. Whole mountains of porcelain earth are met with, and thermal and mineral springs exist in many parts of the country. The grains and forest trees of the temperate zone abound in the North, and the products and fruits of the torrid zone in the South. The manufactures are, silk, cotton, porcelain, paper and lacquered ware.

Most of the animals native of temperate climates, are found in Japan, donkeys, sheep and a few others, have only within the last few years been introduced into the country. Badgers, foxes and snakes are held in superstitious reverence; while the two latter are worshiped by many of the most intelligent Japanese.

Japan includes four large principal islands, and a great number of smaller ones, occupying an area of 150,000 square miles. The largest of these, or *Nihon* proper, is called *Dai Nihon*, by foreigners;

The nature of globetrotter travel—short stays with limited exposure to indigenous culture—required that excursions from the treaty ports be convenient, above all else. Globetrotters preferred the security and Western-style amenities of the treaty ports. Excursions by rail were acceptable, and travel by *jinrikisha* and palanquin (*kago*, below) was part of the Japan experience globetrotters sought, but few would commit to these modes of travel if they extended over several days.



Hakone Road

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Accordingly, the range of places most often visited by globetrotters dictated the content of Keeling's guidebook and others like it. Globetrotters typically arrived in Yokohama and spent a couple of days exploring the treaty port and its immediate environs.



Yokohama

Main Street (above) and Grand Hotel.

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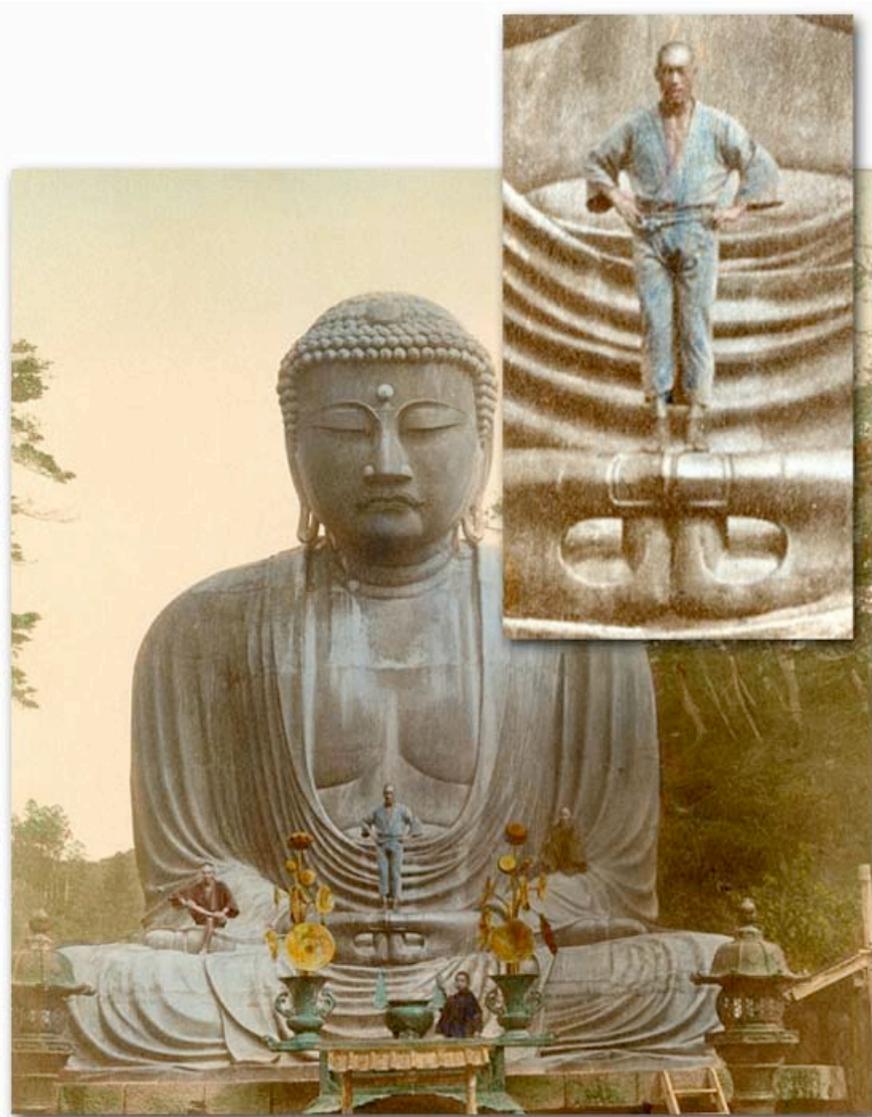
One-day excursions from Yokohama to Kamakura or Tokyo were common. Tokugawa-era restrictions on travel were still enforced, but foreigners could apply for passports that allowed them to journey to more remote destinations. These were easily available through Japanese authorities stationed in the treaty ports.



Tokyo

*Japanese Hotel (above), the Yoshiwara, and the Main Entrance to the Imperial Palace.
Photos published in Brinkley's Japan, ca. 1890*

[gj10704] [gj10720] [gj10706]



Kamakura

*Great Buddha, with an enlarged detail (above) of a man standing on the hands.
Photo published in Brinkley's Japan, ca. 1890*

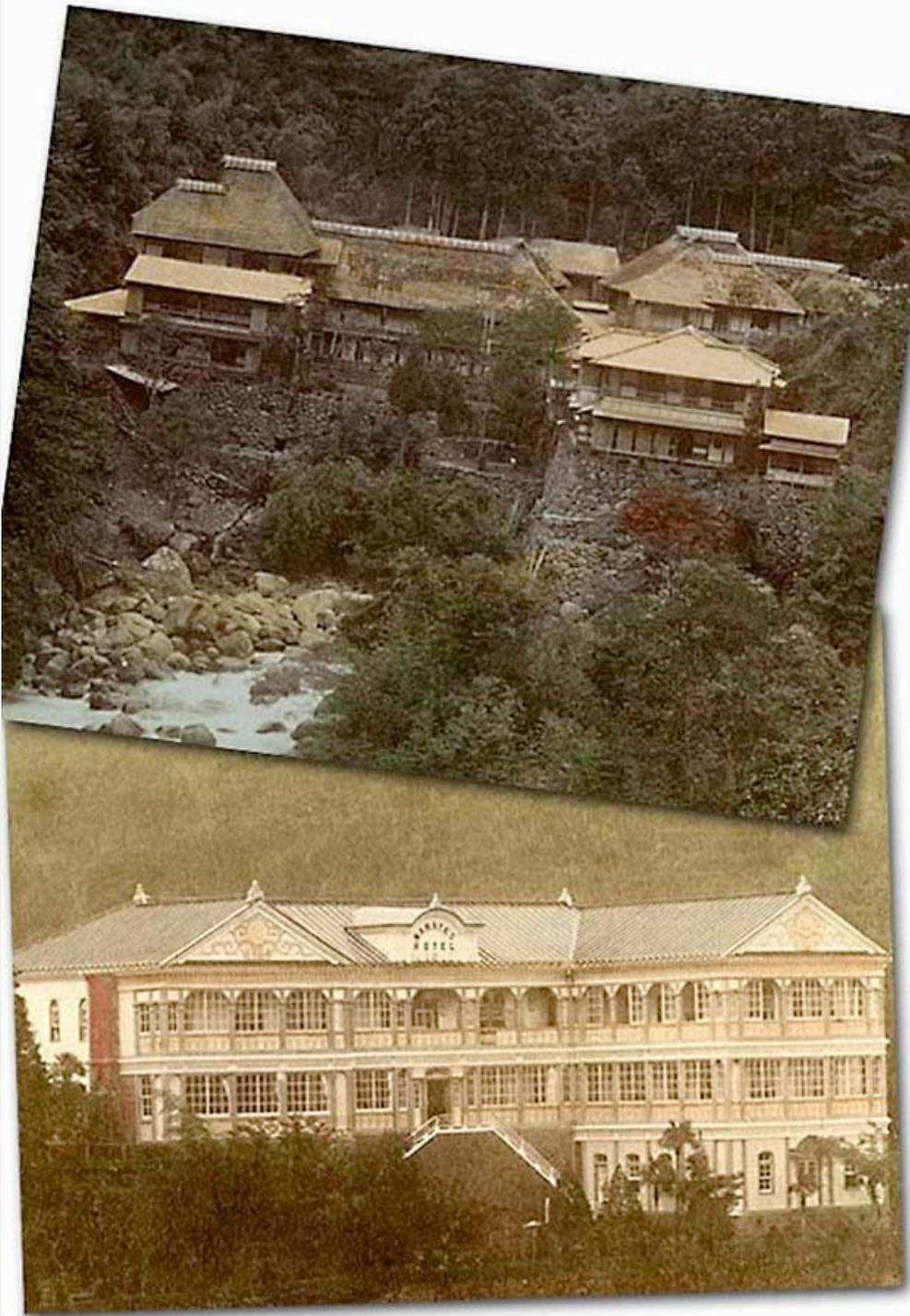
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Longer trips to the Mt. Fuji area via Hakone were popular as they afforded travelers the opportunity to enjoy the lavish hotels that had been developed around hot springs in the vicinity.



Mt. Fuji

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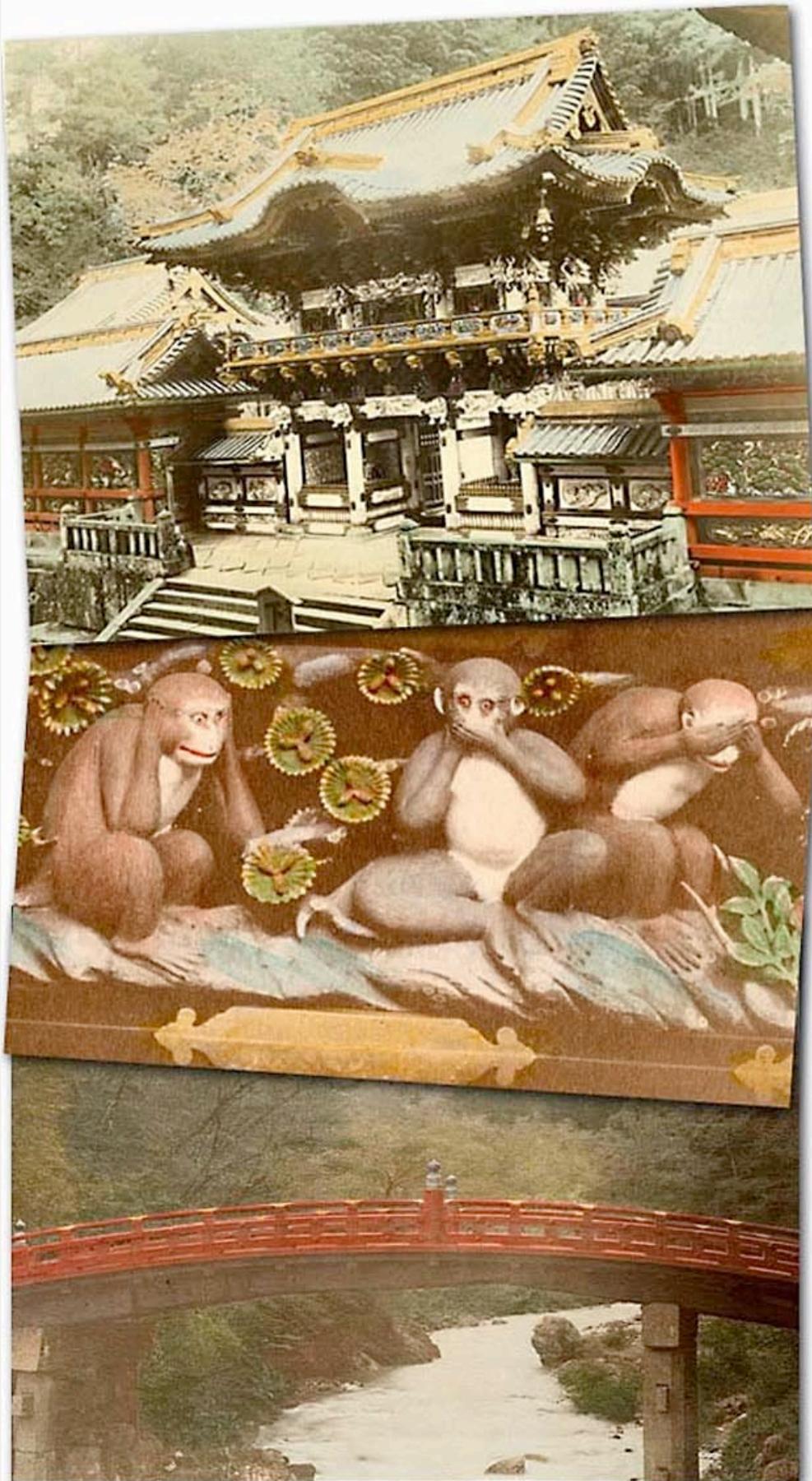


Hakone and Miyanoshita

Dogashima Hotspring, Hakone (above) and Naraya Hotel, Miyanoshita

[gj10102] [gj10110]

Nikkō was a favorite destination because of its spectacular architecture.



Nikkō

Yomeimon (above), "The Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Monkeys," and Sacred Bridge.

[gj10610] [gj10605] [gj10607]

From Yokohama, globetrotters typically booked passage on local steamer service to Kobe where excursions to Osaka, Kyoto, and Nara were readily available.

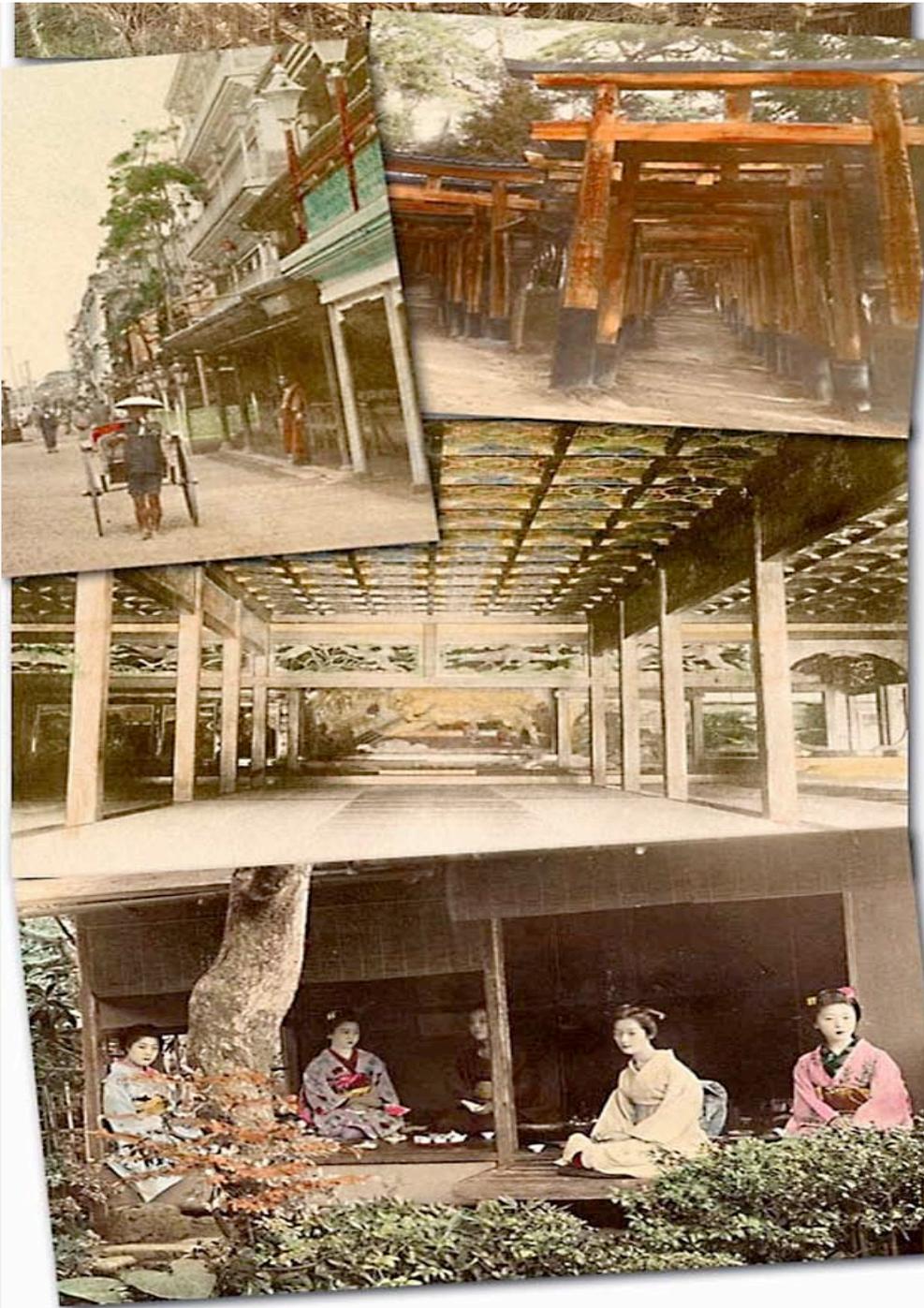


Kobe

The Bund

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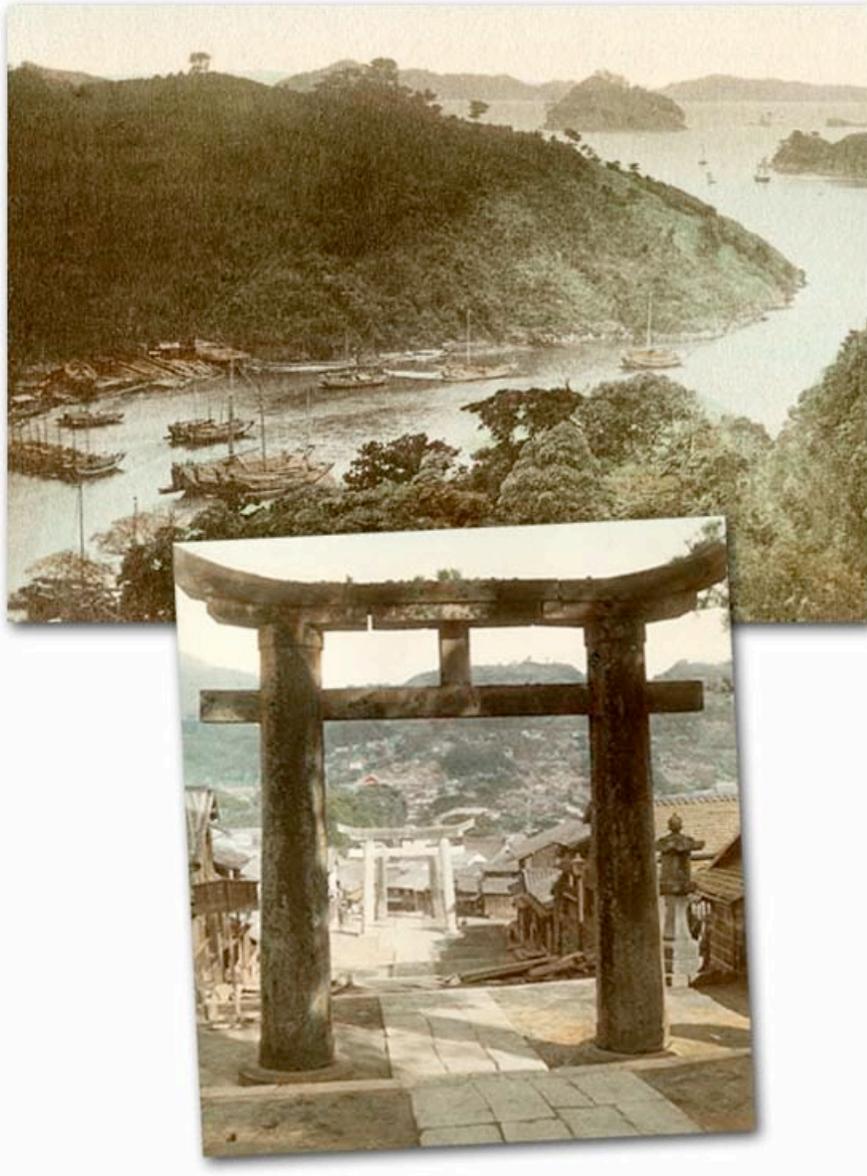


Kyoto

*From top: Arashiyama, Kiyomizu, Inari Temple,
Yoshiwara, Chionin, Tea House.*

[gj10403] [gj10412] [gj10410] [gj10422] [gj10404] [gj10423]

From Kobe, they sailed the Inland Sea to Nagasaki, often staying in this famous port for one or two days before moving on to China.



Nagasaki

Entrance to Harbor (above) and Stone Torii.

[gj10501] [gj10503]

Globetrotters traveling west to east around the world sometimes did the journey described in reverse order, arriving in Nagasaki and departing from Yokohama, but this was less common.

Brinkley's *Japan* courtesy of Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College

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