



A view of Hong Kong's jammed skyline across Victoria Harbor from Kowloon

極東でのクルージング

Cruising in the Far East

On a voyage through the South China Sea and the Sea of Japan

Random watercolor impressions painted by Michael Killelea in the autumn of 2019

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Asia



Aboard the VIKING ORION

The voyage begins among the skyscrapers of Hong Kong, before sailing to Taipei, the capital of Taiwan. Then off to six Japanese cities...while brushing a typhoon on the way.



Taipei TAIWAN The massive memorial to Chang Kai-shek, Nationalist Chinese leader and founder of the country, overlooks Liberty Square. It's flanked by the National Theater and National Concert Hall.

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Nagasaki JAPAN

The north entrance to Chinatown is a colorful introduction to this lively shopping district.

Today it attracts locals and visitors, although the original Chinese traders there were restricted to living within its six block precinct.

Kagoshima JAPAN

Sakurajima is an active volcano on the bay opposite the city of Kagoshima.

In this view, the ferry Kikai enters the inner harbor under lowering clouds that hide smoke from the volcano.



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Beppu JAPAN

In the autumn, Shinto shrines celebrate Shichi-Go-San (the “7-5-3” Festival). In this tradition, families bring their 3, 5 or 7 year old children to the shrine dressed in kimonos for a blessing and individual or family portraits that will become family heirlooms.

The Asami Shrine (above) in this city filled with natural steam baths is considerably out of the tourist loop. It exudes a serene feeling in spite of the kimono clad families who come with their little ones. They all bring their professional photographers.

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Hiroshima JAPAN

Although Hiroshima Castle with its moat and walls (left) is a beautiful setting for local visitors, it is impossible to ignore the shadow of this tortured city's history.

The Atomic Bomb Dome (above) has stood since 1945 in stark testimony to the horrors of atomic war.

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Osaka JAPAN

Japan's second largest city and Tokyo's principal rival is also a major maritime center.

And it's the home of Sumiyoshi-taisha ("Sumiyoshi Grand Shrine"), the country's major Shinto shrine. Among its attractions is the beautiful "Drum Bridge".



Tokyo JAPAN

Ancient and ultra-modern, Tokyo's city center (below) is one of the most dynamic examples of post WWII reconstruction.

The bridge entrance to the Imperial Place (right) embodies strength and serenity.



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Shimizu JAPAN The stunning vista of Mt. Fuji is a classic view and the principal attraction of this former industrial port city. The mountain overlooks Suruga Bay and the major fishing industry based there.



MICHAEL KILLELEA is a watercolor artist in love with as many of the world's cultures as he can experience. He commonly records his impressions of them while traveling.



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