

Off the Beaten Path Japan: 47 Hidden Gems That Will Surprise and Delight You



Tokyo, Japan : Hidden Gems Travel Guide: Off The Beaten Path Japan 47 by eTips LTD

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Japan is a land of endless beauty and wonder, with countless places to explore. But if you're looking to get off the beaten path and discover some of Japan's hidden gems, then you're in for a treat. Here are 47 off-the-beaten-path destinations that will amaze and inspire you:

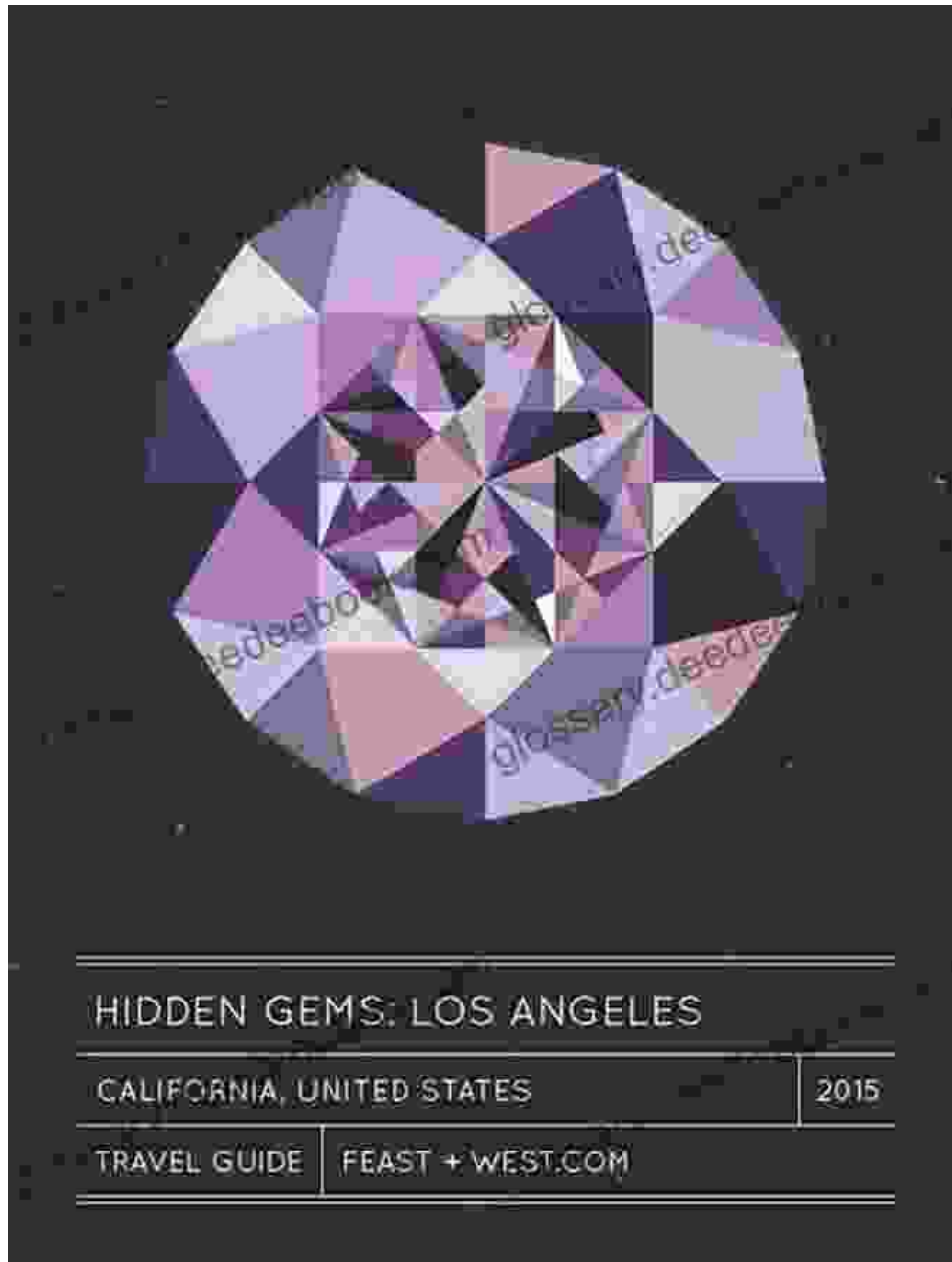
1. Naoshima Art Island

Naoshima is a small island in the Seto Inland Sea that is home to a world-renowned art museum. The Chichu Art Museum is built into the hillside and features works by Claude Monet, James Turrell, and Walter de Maria. The island is also home to several other art installations, including the Yayoi Kusama Pumpkin and the Lee Ufan Stone Circle.



2. Takayama

Takayama is a charming town in the Japanese Alps that is known for its preserved Edo-era streets. The town is home to several historical buildings, including the Takayama Jinya, a former government building, and the Takayama Matsuri, a famous festival that is held twice a year.



3. Shirakawa-go

Shirakawa-go is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is known for its traditional thatched-roof houses. The village is located in the Japanese Alps and is surrounded by stunning scenery. Visitors can learn about the traditional way of life in Japan and experience the beauty of the Japanese countryside.



4. Kenrokuen Garden

Kenrokuen Garden is one of the three great gardens of Japan. The garden is located in Kanazawa and is known for its beautiful landscaping, which includes a pond, a waterfall, and a teahouse. Kenrokuen Garden is a popular spot for cherry blossom viewing in the spring.



5. Kamakura

Kamakura is a coastal town that is home to several important temples and shrines. The town is also known for its beautiful beaches and its laid-back atmosphere. Visitors can explore the Great Buddha of Kamakura, a massive bronze statue of Buddha, and visit the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine, a famous Shinto shrine.



6. Nikko

Nikko is a city that is located in the mountains of Tochigi Prefecture. The city is home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the Toshogu Shrine, a lavishly decorated shrine that is dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa dynasty. Nikko is also known for its beautiful scenery, which includes Lake Chuzenji and Mount Nantai.



7. Hakone

Hakone is a mountain resort town that is located in the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. The town is known for its hot springs, its beautiful scenery, and its views of Mount Fuji. Visitors can enjoy a variety of activities in Hakone, including hiking, biking, and boating.



8. Nara

Nara is a city that is located in the Kansai region of Japan. The city is home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the Todai-ji Temple, which is home to the world's largest bronze statue of Buddha. Nara is also known for its Nara Park, which is home to a large population of wild deer.



9. Himeji Castle

Himeji Castle is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is located in Hyogo Prefecture. The castle is widely considered to be the finest surviving example of Japanese castle architecture. Himeji Castle is also known as the White Heron Castle due to its white exterior.



10. Miyajima Island

Miyajima Island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is located in Hiroshima Prefecture. The island is known for its beautiful scenery, which includes Mount Misen and the Itsukushima Shrine. The shrine is built over the water and is famous for its floating torii gate.



11. Kumano Kodo

The Kumano Kodo is a network of ancient pilgrimage trails that lead to the Kumano Sanzan, a group of three shrines that are located in the Kii Peninsula. The trails pass through beautiful scenery, including forests, mountains, and waterfalls. The Kumano Kodo is a popular destination for hikers and pilgrims.



12. Gokayama

Gokayama is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is located in Toyama Prefecture. The village is known for its traditional thatched-roof houses, which are known as gassho-zukuri. Gokayama is a popular destination for tourists who want to experience the traditional way of life in Japan.



13. Takachiho Gorge

Takachiho Gorge is a natural wonder that is located in Miyazaki Prefecture. The gorge is formed by the Gokase River and is surrounded by towering cliffs and lush vegetation. Visitors can explore the gorge by boat or on foot.



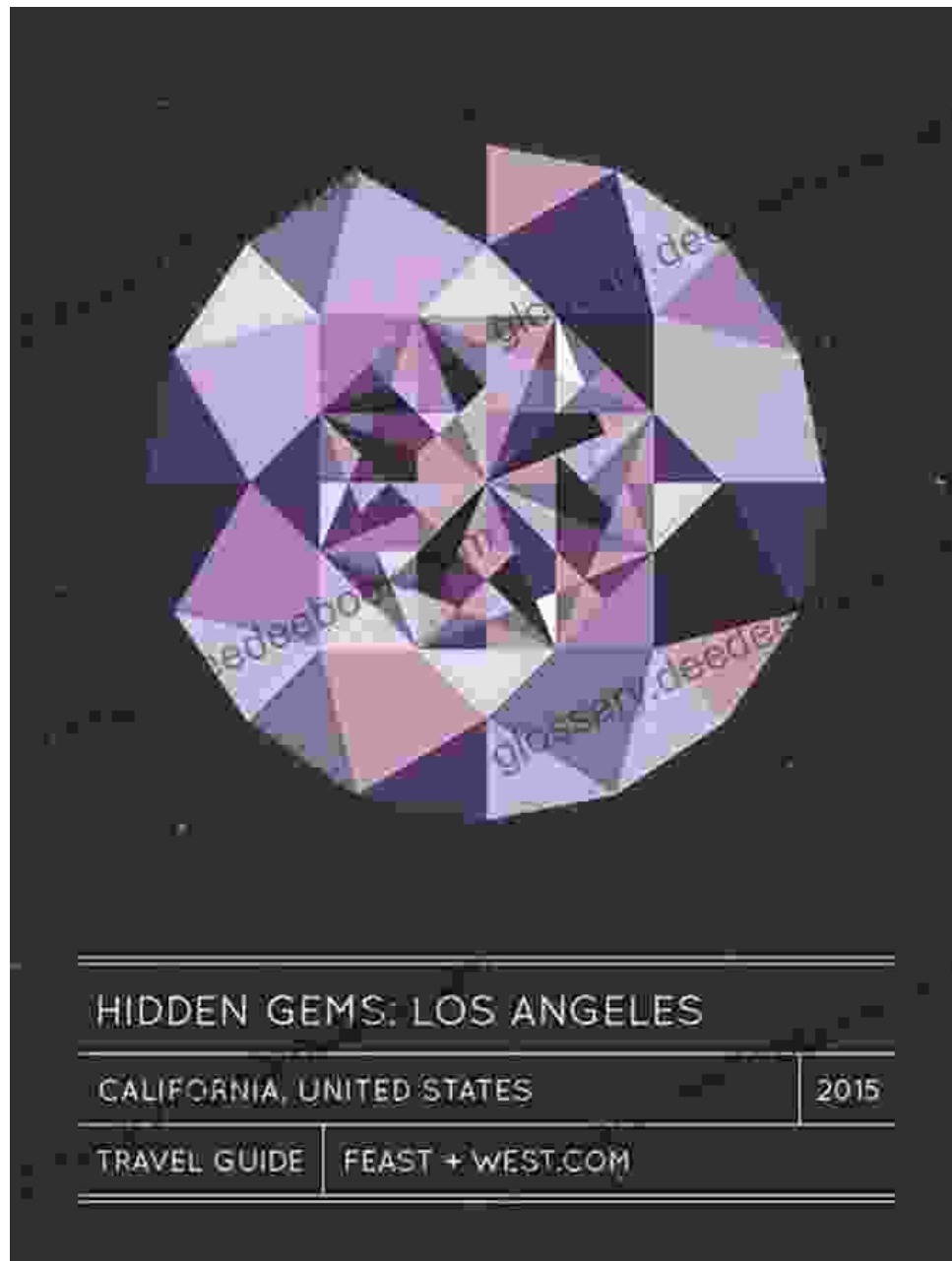
14. Naoshima Benesse House

Naoshima Benesse House is a museum and art gallery that is located on Naoshima Island. The museum is home to a collection of contemporary art, which includes works by Yayoi Kusama, Lee Ufan, and James Turrell. The museum also has a number of outdoor installations, which are located throughout the island.



15. Kanazawa Castle

Kanazawa Castle is a castle that is located in Kanazawa. The castle was built in the 16th century and is now a popular tourist destination. The castle is surrounded by a beautiful park, which is a popular spot for cherry blossom viewing in the spring.



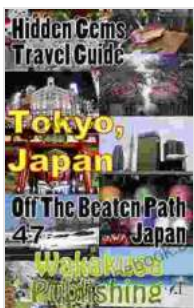
16. Nezu Shrine

Nezu Shrine is a Shinto shrine that is located in Tokyo. The shrine is known for its beautiful azalea garden, which is in full bloom in the spring. Nezu Shrine is also a popular spot for weddings and other celebrations.



17. Iya Valley

Iya Valley is a valley



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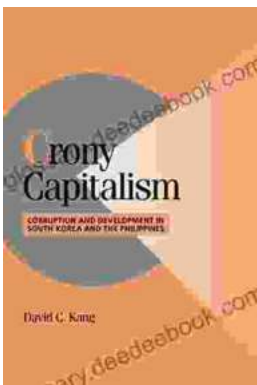
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