

CONVENE ON LOCATION

For more information on advertising in *Convene*, go to www.pcma.org/advertise

In a fresh approach to fulfilling planners' needs for concise, focused, and credible destination coverage, *Convene* produces **CONVENE ON LOCATION**.

In order to maintain the integrity of the site review and retain the reader's attention, only one destination is featured in each issue. The editorial is written from the perspective of the meeting planner, based on a site visit hosted by the advertiser, and concentrates on the areas of greatest concern, including:

- ▶ The meeting value and additional value-adds of the destination
- ▶ How the destination is geared towards small meetings
- ▶ Capabilities, issues, and booking policies for large meetings
- ▶ Seasonality and events that influence date selection
- ▶ Key information on labor, emergency planning, safety codes, and local developments that could affect meetings
- ▶ Access and transportation
- ▶ Opportunities within the destination that may stretch the meetings budget
- ▶ Key contacts and services offered by meeting partners, including area convention and visitors bureau and convention center facilities



ADDED VALUE!
Your *Convene on Location* is posted on the *Convene* Digital Edition

RATES
Contact your Account Executive for *Convene on Location* rate details

DEADLINE & MATERIAL SUBMISSION
▶ Six-page package produced, designed, written, and printed by *Convene* editorial; including three four-color ads and three pages of editorial (the ad to edit ratio is flexible).

▶ One *Convene on Location* is available per issue.
▶ Requires site visit, including travel expenses of an editorial staff/writer, at least four months prior to issue deadline in order to submit editorial and advertising materials. Contact your Account Executive for additional editorial guidelines.

After checking in and meeting our Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) representative, we headed to the lovely Chitose Dai, late a quick dinner at the International Cascares Café and headed to anticipation of the whirlwind trip to come.

Saturday
Our morning began with an inspection of the brand-new **Capitol Hotel Tokyo** (www.capitolhotel.com), which at the time of our visit in late September wasn't even open yet, it opened this past Oct. 22. The elegant, 231-room property occupies the same site, near the more than 500-year-old He Shrine and the Japanese prime minister's office, as a previous incarnation of the hotel, opened in 1963 and shuttered in 2006. It housed the Beatles in 1966, on their last visit to Tokyo. The Capitol Hotel Tokyo has a 5,000-square-foot ballroom and three 160-square-foot conference rooms.

For lunch, we drove to the Tokyo suburb of Espoishi, where we were introduced to Japanese cooking in a private home to **WAK JAPAN** (<http://wakjapan.com>), a company that can arrange authentic cultural experiences for groups, from shikona (flower arrangement) to kondo, a Japanese form of martial arts. We learned about the traditional Japanese flavors — *tempa* (fried snacks), *sake* (rice wine), *teriyaki*, *sushi*, *wasabi* (a scummy paste), and *terrina* (a type of "cooking salt") — and how to make *sushi* rolls and *misu* soup.

The rest of the day was occupied by visits to a few unique group venues.

▶ **Happo-en** (www.happo-en.com/en/ghibli), an intricately landscaped garden complex that houses ponds brimming with *koi* (carp), rolling green lawns, 500-year-old *bonai* trees, and, while we were there, 27 wedding "Happo-en" (or "marriage garden") in Japanese has 16 banquet and meeting rooms, the largest of which can accommodate 450 people for a formal dinner.

▶ **Tokyo City View** (www.tokyocityview.com/en/), a 52nd-floor observation deck atop the *Raymond* Hotel tower that offers 360-degree views of the surrounding, sprawling metropolis. You also can go out of doors — literally on top of the building — for totally unobstructed views of Tokyo. During our visit, we marveled at a beautiful golden sunset, just to the right of busy Mt. Fuji. Tokyo City View can host group events for 50 guests in each of its two Sky Terrace, or 200 to 250 people in its Italian-style restaurant, *Maido Lounge*.

▶ **Consechi** (www.gosaguchi.jp/en/casa/food/index.html), a traditional Japanese *Sakaba* — something of a public *sake* bar — where Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi took President George W. Bush (depicted grilling skewers of where we had dinner).

Sunday
Our last boat by sunset on the 844-room hotel and renovated the *Capitole* — near star French chef dining rooms. The hotel is in near future. It published ANA is including a 2.5 story for buses on for Nara and H. The next bus

CONVENE ON LOCATION
by NANCY S. SHAW

Inner calm, natural beauty, and gorgeous venues in the Land of the Rising Sun

FRIDAY ◉ WE LANDED AT 6:15 P.M. AT TOKYO'S NARITA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AMID THE GREEN CURLICE PATTERNS OF THE TARMAC'S LANDING LIGHTS. THE NIGHTMARE TAXI RIDE TO THE ANA INTERCONTINENTAL TOKYO — the best hotel for our two days in Japan's capital city — TOOK ABOUT AN HOUR ALONG SMOOTH, HUMMING HIGHWAY. ▶

148 pcma connect december 2010