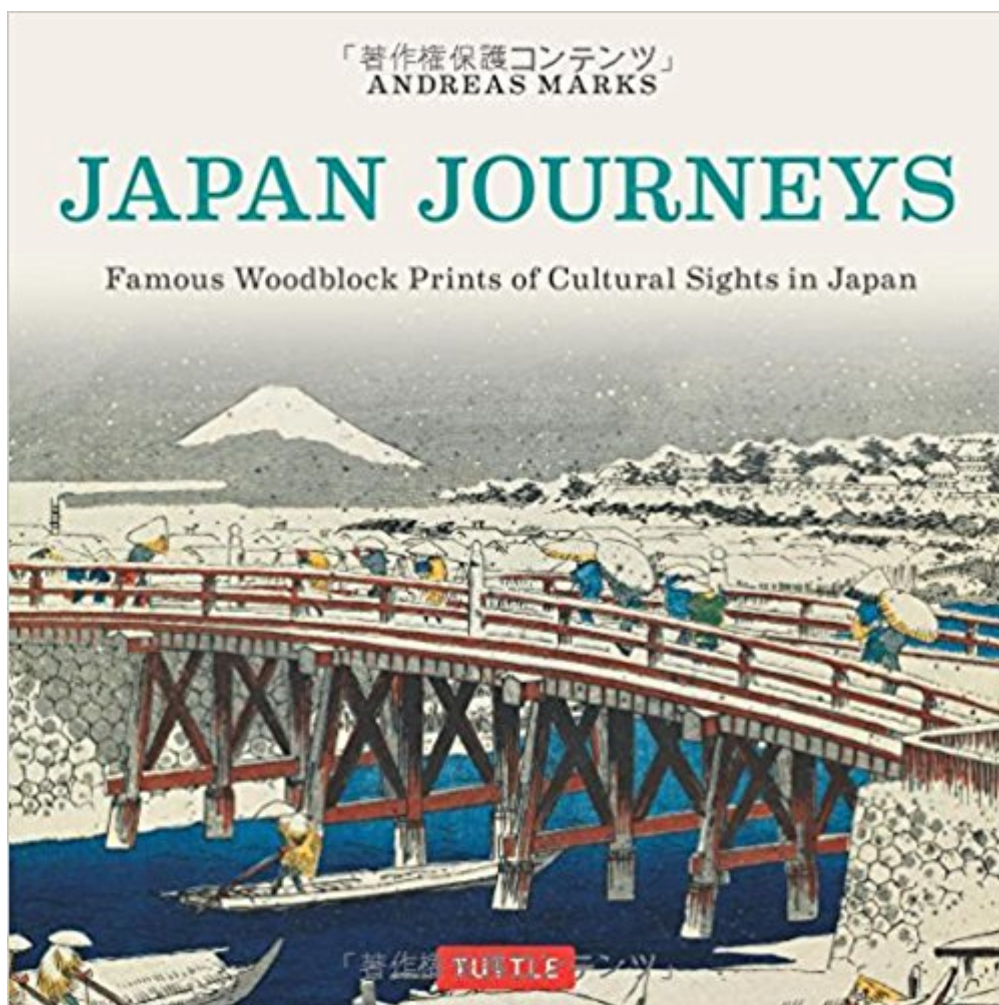


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# Japan Journeys: Famous Woodblock Prints Of Cultural Sights In Japan



## Synopsis

Presenting classic Japanese woodblock prints, Japan Journeys offers a unique perspective on the country's most famous travel destinations. This stunning art book gathers together approximately two hundred Japanese woodblock prints depicting scenic spots and cultural icons that still delight visitors today. Many of the prints are by masters such as Utagawa Hiroshige, Kitagawa Utamaro, and Utagawa Kunisada, and currently hang in prestigious galleries and museums worldwide. Katsuhika Hokusai, the artform's most celebrated artist, is also well represented, with many prints from his "Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido Road" series and "Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji" series, including his world-renowned "Great Wave" print. In addition to prints showcasing Japan's natural beauty, this carefully curated selection depicts roads and railways; favorite pastimes, such as blossom viewing and attending festivals; beloved entertainment, such as kabuki theater; the fashions they wore, and the food they ate. Author Andreas Marks is a leading expert on Japanese woodblock prints, and his illuminating captions provide background context to the scenes depicted.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A visually engaging trip through the Japanese landscape that will reward both print lovers and Japanophiles." [Library Journal](#)"Images of Japan are a continual source of fascination and delight for visitors and armchair travelers alike, and this original gift book also provided a valuable resource for art historians, scholars, and anyone interested in Japanese art, history, and traditional culture." [Cultural News](#)"The meticulous organization of information notwithstanding, it is the prints which are the chief pleasure of the book: 523 prints that bring to life a Japan of heroic tales,

beautiful women, ghosts, warriors, demons, and spring cherry blossoms. The exuberance of color, motion, and expression, all carefully arranged, make this a book for scholars and browsers, serious collectors and hedonists alike." [ForeWord Reviews](#)"Marks's (director & chief curator, Clark Ctr. for Japanese Art) clear, informative text, while valuable for scholars beginning research, also remains accessible to the average reader. With excellent production values and a modest price, this volume is recommended for all libraries, academic and public." [Library Journal](#)"[recomm](#)ended for arts holdings and collections strong in Japanese culture alike." [Midwest Book Review](#)"The text is sparse but provides some historical context while allowing the images to tell the story of Japan in its many moods and seasons." [Publishers Weekly](#)"The print quality of the book is excellent. Colors are vibrant and the paper has a pleasant feel. I know. Talking about the feel of a book's paper in the digital age seems a little odd. I enjoy the feel of good paper between my fingers while I read. Some books have cheap feeling paper that ruins the reading experience. It feels as if the book will come apart in your hands. This is particularly disappointing in art books. Luckily, Japan Journeys doesn't have this problem." [Japan Powered blog](#)"In 19th-century Japan, the tradition of woodblock prints flourished and offered a vivid glimpse into the daily lives of its nation's people. Japan Journeys, a new book written by art historian Andreas Marks, brings together a gigantic selection of these beautiful and historic prints to show a stunning look into Japan's rich cultural heritage." [BuzzFeed](#)

Dr. Andreas Marks is the Head of the Japanese and Korean Art Department and Director of the Clark Center at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. From 2008 to 2013 he was the Director and Chief Curator of the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture in California. Before coming to the U.S., he was the Managing Director of an international exhibition and fair organizer based in Germany with branches in Calif., the U.K., Australia, and China. He has a master's degree in East Asian Art History from the University of Bonn, and a Ph.D. from Leiden University in the Netherlands. At locations like the Berkeley Museum of Art, Detroit Institute of Arts, Honolulu Museum of Art, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, San Antonio Museum of Art, and San Diego Museum of Art, Dr. Marks has curated and co-curated 14 exhibitions on various aspects of Japanese art including paintings, prints, ceramics, weaponry, as well as works of bamboo. Amongst others, he is the author of *Japanese Woodblock Prints: Artists, Publishers and Masterworks, 1680-1900*, *Genji's World in Japanese Woodblock Prints*, and *Kunisada's Tokaido: Riddles in Japanese Woodblock Prints*. His *Publishers of Japanese Prints: A Compendium*, is the first comprehensive reference work on print publishers from the 1650s to 1990s. In June 2014, he receives the annual Award of the

International Ukiyo-e Society in recognition of his research and publications. He is currently working on his new exhibition and catalog *Seven Masters: 20th-century Japanese Woodblock Prints from the Wells Collection* that will be shown at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in fall of 2015.

Images are great but the small format of the book doesn't do justice to the subject. Grab your magnifying glass. Book cover measures approximately 8.5 inches by 8.5 inches. Page 166 is titled "Full Versions of Cropped Images" and has 19 thumbnail images, no fold outs here. This is understandable due to the price point of the book but I believe the subject would be better served with fewer images and a larger format. Personally I would have gladly paid a higher price for a larger print. Works as quick starting point for further research.

Absolutely beautiful book and terrific overview of Japanese landscape prints, primarily 19th c.. I found that taken as a whole it concisely represents the composition, levels of detail and texture used by these artists. What is stated in the introduction is achieved. Examples of these prints very widely in saturation, contrast, this book tends towards saturation which I don't see as a problem. So if you have this book and see an included print on a wall, this is probably closer to what the artist pulled from the last block. I found the size of the reproductions to be more than adequate. Prints I've seen from original blocks are about double the size of these reproductions. I bought this to give as a gift. I expect it won't be long before I'll order another; it's the kind of art book you'll return to again and again.

I checked this book out of the library three times. Then I realized any book I enjoyed that much, was one I really should keep. Thank you. My copy arrived in excellent condition. I knew what I was getting and it absolutely lived up to my high expectations

I had borrowed from the library so knew how comprehensive it is. A lovely addition to my personal browsing library.

Beautiful little book with great reproductions of the Japanese wood prints.

Lovely book. Great read!

looks good but I did not even open it. it is a gift for my niece. ask me again after Christmas.

Japan Journeys is a lovely book featuring woodblock art from the 19th and 20th centuries. That's also a period of time when Japanese started to travel more. This 168-page hardcover offers a glimpse into the lifestyle of the Japanese back in those days using the predominant visual media of that time, the woodblock. The artworks look really beautiful although there's some degradation due to how old some of those pieces are, but most are restored quite well. The book claims there are 523 pieces of artwork but I see that each page has only either one or two pieces featured. There are works from famous woodblock artists such as Utagawa Hiroshige, Katsuhika Hokusai (famous for The Great Wave), Kawase Hasui and many more. What's interesting about the book is you get to see the traditional lifestyles of the Japanese back in those days, how life is like on the streets. There are scenes of hot springs, blossom viewing, kimono, tea-drinking, sumo, kabuki, geisha, Japanese bridges, mountains, festivals, temples, buildings and many more. Most artworks are printed across the length or height of the book. They look great. The composition, subject matter are captured wonderfully. The accompanying captions also provides insight to the images. If you have visited Japan, you may probably recognised a few familiar sights, such as the temples or architectural details that have remained the same over the years. The places featured are Tokyo, around Tokyo, Hakone, Mount Fuji, Kyoto and a handful of other sights around Japan. One thing that's missing is they didn't talk specifically about how this woodblocks are made, and how the prints are coloured. I'm impressed by many of the artworks that almost resemble pen and ink work with that high level of details. Amazing. It's a good book for those who want to check out woodblock prints or sights from past Japan. (See more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

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