

FIRST CLASS
HOLIDAYS

JAPAN





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The image here and on the front cover has been created by Joe Galindo for First Class Holidays.

Well known for quirky, unique and colourful wildlife paintings. Mixing unusual techniques with an experimental approach, Galindo's work has become a favourite amongst fine art galleries across the United Kingdom. Cover image copyright: First Class Holidays

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THE FIRST CLASS DIFFERENCE

Making your holiday dreams a reality starts with understanding what really matters to you. Whether you're a beach lover or adventurer, a lover of history and culture or the great outdoors, at one with nature or the big city; prefer luxury or authentic, being independent or part of a group. Our travel specialists will get to know what you desire and then create a holiday to match. You will experience superb service all along the way and we will use our wealth of experience to create your holiday as if we were creating our own. And you can be sure that before you go, whilst you are away and even when you come home, we will be with you every step of the way.

AWARD WINNING SERVICE

We were founded in 1996 with a desire to provide outstanding levels of service and customer satisfaction and this is still the case today. With thousands of satisfied customers and a raft of awards for exceptional service, your holiday is in the best possible hands. We are very proud that our personal, friendly service and attention to detail has led to us becoming an industry leader in providing personalised holidays. We have been recognised through the years by winning a number of prestigious awards from within and outside of the travel industry. Some of our awards include Best Long-Haul Operator, Outstanding Service Award and Best Specialist Destination Operator.

EXPERT ADVICE

With a team of over 50 people all sharing a great passion for travelling we have a wealth of knowledge and experience. Many of us have taken the holidays showcased throughout this brochure, and we know that there is nothing more important than firsthand knowledge when planning your dream adventure. We understand that no two people are the same, and that everyone's dream holiday is different, that's why we curate individual holidays to individual requirements with the emphasis on what you want to see and do. We can create itineraries for all budgets, applying the same first-class level of service to all.

TRULY PERSONAL

Our itineraries are meant to inspire you and we have crafted a fantastic range of holidays but if you find that none include everything you want to do, then our personalised travel service is just for you. We have been involved in the planning and preparation of detailed holidays for many years and would be delighted to share our knowledge to help you plan your perfect holiday. Simply visit your local travel agent, call us on **0161 888 5619** or email **enquiries@fcholidays.com** and one of our expert and friendly team will plan your ideal holiday from start to finish.

OUR PRICES

Hotel and transport prices change frequently, and we are in constant contact with our suppliers to ensure that we offer the very best prices that are available. We do not show prices in this brochure as rates do vary and fluctuate quite considerably both due to demand but also due to seasonal special offers that are frequently introduced. When creating your ideal holiday, our team will choose the best rate for the services you have selected and apply any seasonal offers that may be available.

PRICE MATCH PROMISE

We work very hard in sourcing competitive prices and have great relationships with our airlines and suppliers to ensure you get the best value for money. We regularly check prices against our competitors, however if you find a better price elsewhere sold with the same service conditions, we will happily lower our price to match. Please see terms and conditions on our website www.fcholidays.com for more details on our policy.

PEACE OF MIND

We are here whenever you need us, before you go, whilst you're away and when you come home. We are fully bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority ATOL scheme (Licence Number 5421) and with the Association of British Travel Agents (Licence Number W3550). You can book your travel arrangements with the peace of mind that your money is safe.

OUR FRIENDLY TEAM

Our team of Japan experts are passionate about Japan and there is nothing more important than speaking to someone who has been there, and we have! We are able to provide first-hand knowledge on everything, from flights and hotels to sightseeing and excursions. We are also happy to share those smaller elements that help create your perfect holiday from finding the best coffee spots to that hidden gem in your favourite city; we want to share our experiences with you.

HOLIDAYS YOU CAN TRUST

We are committed to making your holiday as incredible as possible, but don't take our word for it. We have thousands upon thousands of satisfied customers who would highly recommend our services to make your dream holiday become a reality. Why not have a look at the customer reviews on our website **www.fcholidays.com** and check out our FEEFO rating.





Sustainable Travel

We believe that the pursuit of extraordinary holidays should not compromise the well-being of our planet. Our sustainable program is a testament to our dedication to creating unforgettable experiences while respecting and preserving the environment. We meticulously choose eco-friendly hotels and services that share the same goals, offer carbon offset options, and promote ethical tourism, ensuring every adventure leaves a positive impact.

KEY PILLARS OF FIRST CLASS HOLIDAYS' SUSTAINABLE PROGRAM

Our commitment to sustainability extends beyond a tangible and impactful program that transforms the way we travel. Experience the epitome of sustainable travel with First Class Holidays.

CARBON OFFSET OFFERING

Our clients can neutralise their carbon footprint by contributing to verified carbon reduction projects. We offer the chance to plant new trees across the globe through reforestation and to simultaneously invest into clean renewable energy projects. That means a traveller's climate contribution will remove CO₂e emissions now and invest in the planet for the future. Trees are one of the most powerful absorbers of carbon emissions - by growing trees in developing countries as our clients travel, we can help to restore eco-systems, biodiversity, and support local communities.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH ECO-FRIENDLY SUPPLIERS

We are dedicated to forging relationships with hotels and services that share our unwavering commitment to sustainability. Our selection process involves stringent criteria, assessing factors such as energy efficiency, waste management practices, and sustainable sourcing. By aligning with like-minded partners, we ensure that every aspect of our travellers' experience reflects our shared ethos of environmental responsibility. Through these partnerships, we aim to create a network of destinations that serve as exemplars of eco-conscious hospitality.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

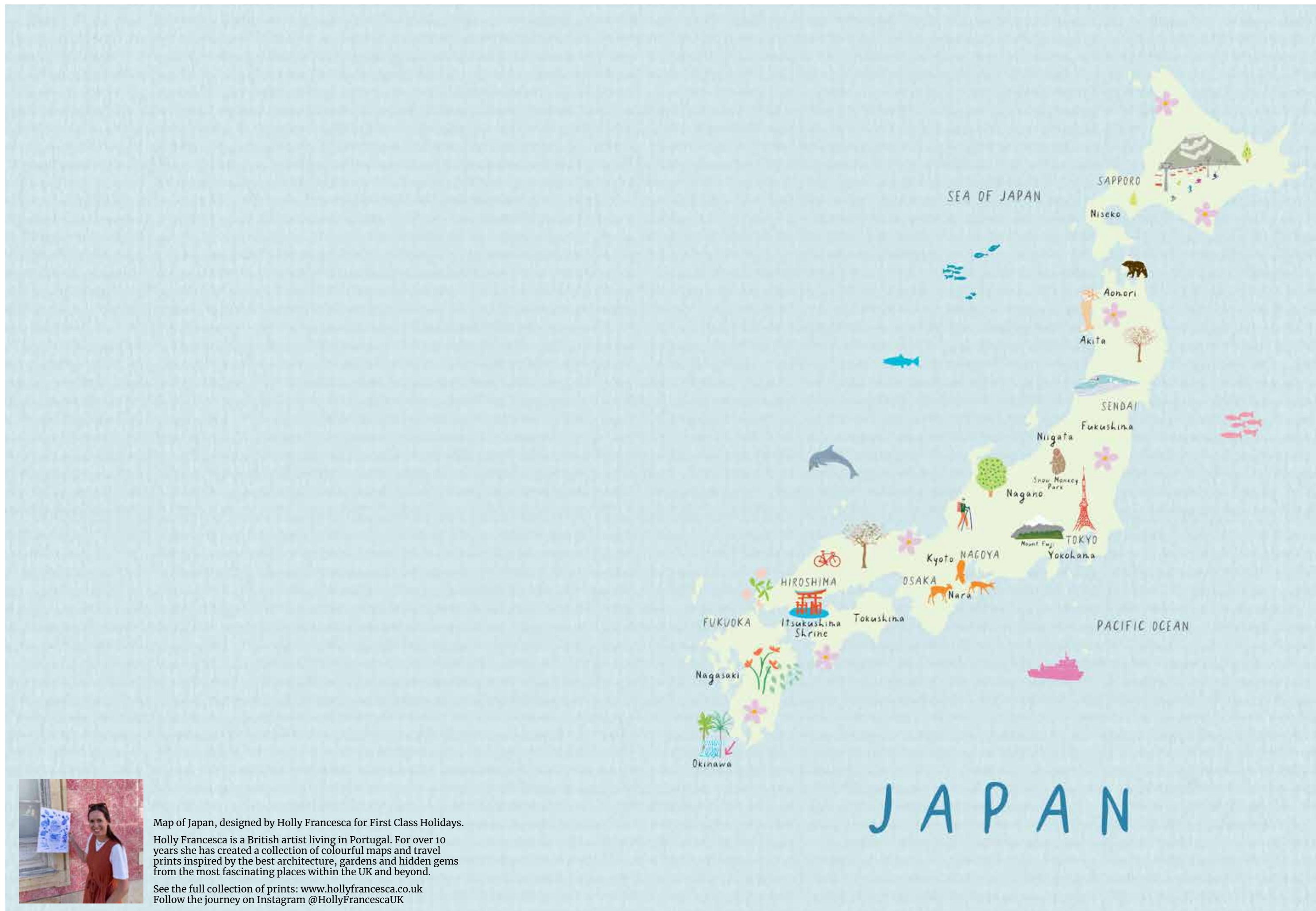
Our commitment to sustainability extends beyond travel experiences—it encompasses a dedication to educating and empowering our staff and travellers. Through our Educational Initiatives, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of sustainable practices and the environmental impact of their choices; to inspire a sense of responsibility amongst them. These initiatives are seamlessly integrated into our travel packages, offering information on local ecosystems, wildlife conservation, and responsible behaviour while traveling.

SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIES

Our dedication to sustainability extends beyond environmental conservation to embrace a holistic approach that actively supports local communities and economies. Recognising that responsible travel involves more than minimising environmental impact, we place a strong emphasis on fostering positive social and economic contributions to Japan:

- We recognise the intrinsic value of preserving cultural heritage. We actively engage with communities to understand their traditions, ensuring that our activities are respectful and promote cultural exchange without compromising the integrity of local practices, allowing us to create authentic travel experiences.

- We prioritise collaborations with local businesses. By sourcing goods and services locally, we minimise transportation-related emissions and support regional economies. This approach not only strengthens community ties but also promotes the use of sustainable and locally produced materials.



Map of Japan, designed by Holly Francesca for First Class Holidays.

Holly Francesca is a British artist living in Portugal. For over 10 years she has created a collection of colourful maps and travel prints inspired by the best architecture, gardens and hidden gems from the most fascinating places within the UK and beyond.

See the full collection of prints: www.hollyfrancesca.co.uk
Follow the journey on Instagram @HollyFrancescaUK

Japan

Japan is a beautiful country, with endless unique sights and a culture like no other. From large cities with their ultra-modern buildings and busy crowded streets, to the unspoilt countryside with a quiet, traditional charm, there is much to explore.

A country of many contrasts, many are surprised to learn that Japan comprises of over 14,000 islands, approximately 430 are inhabited, but the five islands are the ones you will explore with us – Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu and Okinawa.



Tokyo & Kanto Region

The Kanto region is where tradition meets innovation. Here you will find the ultra-modern city of Tokyo, the vibrant waterfront city of Yokohama and also many traditional sights such as Nikko Toshō-gu Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Kamakura, a coastal town with ancient temples, serene beaches, and the iconic Great Buddha statue.



Kansai

The Kansai region encompassing Osaka, Kyoto and Nara, is a captivating blend of tradition and modernity. Explore ancient temples like Todaiji Temple, savour local delicacies such as okonomiyaki, and immerse yourself in the warm hospitality of Kansai locals.



Chubu Central Japan

Chūbu is the centre of the island between the Kanto and Kansai regions. Rugged mountains define its central part, dividing it between the Pacific and Sea of Japan. The region is home to Mount Fuji, Japan's iconic peak, standing at 12,388 feet (3,776 metres). Its symmetrical conical shape is an iconic must-see sight for all visitors to Japan.



Chugoku

The Chugoku region, situated in western Japan, encompasses 5 diverse prefectures: Hiroshima, Okayama, Shimane, Tottori, and Yamaguchi. From the poignant history of Hiroshima to the tranquil beauty of Tottori's sand dunes, Chugoku offers a blend of scenic landscapes, cultural heritage, and warm hospitality.

Shikoku

Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's 4 main islands, offers a blend of culture and natural beauty. Its picturesque coastline along the Seto Inland Sea, legendary sanuki udon noodles, and the Shikoku Pilgrimage to 88 Buddhist temples, make it a unique destination.

Kyushu

Kyushu, Japan's southwestern gem, weaves a captivating tapestry of culture and nature. From volcanic peaks to onsen retreats, this island has many diverse attractions. Explore volcanic wonders, soak in rejuvenating hot springs within breathtaking landscapes, visit peaceful beaches, and indulge in a vibrant food scene.



Tohoku

The Tohoku region, located in northeastern Honshu, Japan's largest island, comprises 6 prefectures: Akita, Aomori, Fukushima, Iwate, Miyagi, and Yamagata. Known for its rugged landscapes, traditional culture, and harsh winters, Tohoku offers a unique mix of history and natural beauty.

Hokkaido

Nestled in Japan's north, Hokkaido is pristine wilderness, top-tier powder snow, exquisite seafood, and rich indigenous culture. The island offers an all-year escape into nature and a distinctive cultural experience, captivating those seeking natural tranquillity and the iconic Blue Pond.

Okinawa

Okinawa, with its numerous islands, features a warm climate, pristine beaches with vibrant reefs, and lush ancient forests. The region is a blend of rich cultural and historical heritage, and a tropical ambience. Savour unique cuisine and indulge in the laid back island lifestyle.

Ways to Explore

We understand that each holiday should be unique to the traveller which is why we offer a variety of ways to explore. Escorted tours enable you to experience the sights and sounds of a country, to absorb its culture and learn about its history and people, with guidance of an experienced tour guide. Independent journeys provide you with a choice of pre-planned itineraries with hotels and sightseeing in place but the freedom to explore in your own time and at your own pace. Japan's ultra efficient rail network enables you to travel from city to city safe in the knowledge that the schedules will operate as booked. However you choose to travel, our experts will be delighted to help create your perfect itinerary.



Itsukushima Shrine



Escorted Tours

Our carefully selected collection of escorted tours showcases the very best of Japan. These are ideal if you prefer to travel as part of a group and have the reassurance of an experienced guide with you along the way, allowing you to sit back, relax and take in the surroundings. The tours we feature are small groups, so perfect for making new friends with fellow travellers who may be from anywhere in the world as you enjoy the sights. See pages 14, to 29 for our selection of tours.



Independent Journeys

Our selection of independent journeys are designed to showcase the regions of Japan, combining hotels, transportation and sightseeing. They are all customisable so can easily be tailored to suit your exact needs. Explore a specific region or combine tours to create the ultimate journey, all with the complete assurance that each journey and each hotel is carefully planned. See pages 30 to 47 for our selection of independent tours.



Cruising

A special and unique way to explore Japan. See the country from a different perspective and perhaps discover areas that may be missed on a land-based tour. Avid cruisers will tell you that this is an effortless way to explore, unpack once and let your captain sail you from port to port. Most of the major cruise lines now feature Japan itineraries in their cruising schedule, with cruises ranging from 7 to 28 nights. Some cruise lines will offer longer itineraries that will take you beyond Japan, perfect for those who like to spend more time on board with adventures aplenty. See pages 56 to 67 for our selection of cruise lines.



Tailor-Made – Your Holiday, Your Way

This is what we love to do, create your holiday, your way. Whether your plans are for a few days or a few weeks, we will design you the perfect itinerary. We can book hotels, sightseeing and a range of transportation options throughout Japan and would be delighted to work with you to plan your perfect, once in a lifetime holiday. Simply tell us your interests, your dates and your budget and we will work with you to create your perfect trip. See pages 68 to 93 for our selection of hotels, sightseeing and rail journeys.

Escorted Touring

There is no better way to experience the sights and sounds of this extraordinary country, to absorb its culture and learn about its history and people, than on one of our Escorted Tours. New places and experiences unfold each day, as you meet and make new friends, your tour guide will ensure that you see all the sights and introduce you to history and new cultures. They'll choose the best photo stops, the best places for coffee or lunch and make sure that you fully absorb the culture and experiences of Japan.

The tours over the following pages are operated by First Class Holidays and our preferred partners Wendy Wu Tours, G Adventures & APT Touring. They are specialists in this style of holiday. Led by expert guides, you will be immersed in the fascinating culture and history of this amazing country. Many tours include some very unique and special experiences, allowing you to learn some of the ancient traditions, all with the prime intentions of giving you a deeper understanding and appreciation of this diverse land.



Why Choose an Escorted Tour

Local Expertise

No one knows Japan like the local guides on these tours do. They are passionate about sharing their country and culture with you at every step of the journey.

Unique Experiences

You will be immersed in culture and history through experiences such as meeting local families, learning ancient traditions and watching cultural shows.

Comfort & Convenience

Accommodation on all tours has been hand-picked to best suit the locations you'll visit. You'll stay in comfortable, locally rated 3 star plus to 4 star properties, ranging from smart business hotels to family-run guesthouses.

Meals included

All tours include most meals. Breakfasts tend to be a mixture of local eats and familiar dishes from home, when it comes to lunch and dinner, you'll be dining mainly in local establishments. Some tours will have 'feature meals', so you get to taste the signature dishes of the region, whilst the rest of the time you'll eat a whole, delicious range of your destination's best food.

Extend your Stay

All tours exclude international flights to give you the freedom and flexibility to extend your stay in Japan. Perhaps fly a few days before the tour starts to recover from jet lag before the tour begins, or add extra nights at the end of the tour to explore more. We will happily talk through the options with you, then we can add flights to suit your entire journey.

Our Tailor-Made Service

If you prefer to travel independently, we can certainly help there too. A selection of non-guided packages, hotels, attractions and sightseeing tours are showcased from page 30 onwards, these are just a snapshot of what we can offer. Simply tell us your interests, your dates and your budget and we will work with you to create your perfect trip.

Highlights of Japan

11 days

Experience the very best of Japan on this exclusively-crafted escorted tour with First Class Holidays, where ancient tradition meets modern innovation. Journey through the electric energy of Tokyo, discover the timeless elegance of Kyoto, reflect on the moving history of Hiroshima, and soak up the vibrant atmosphere of Osaka. Thoughtfully curated to balance iconic sights with authentic cultural experiences, this itinerary promises unforgettable moments and lasting memories.

Highlights

Tokyo – Kyoto – Hiroshima – Osaka

Tour Includes

- 10 nights accommodation
- 19 meals – 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 3 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as described
- Airport transfers and transport as described
- English speaking guide
- Small group size – maximum 15 guests

Tour is operated by First Class Holidays. Please see Page 96 for additional and important information.

Departure Dates

Selected Dates
March to December

Day 1: Tokyo

Konichiwa and welcome to Tokyo, Japan’s ultra-modern capital. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. This evening, meet your guide in the hotel lobby and enjoy a leisurely walk to a nearby restaurant for a welcome dinner, the perfect opportunity to get acquainted with your fellow travellers. Your guide will make recommendations for optional tours to enhance your journey.

Day 2: Tokyo

Start your day at Meiji Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife. Enter through the iconic 12-metre torii gate and experience the peaceful, forested grounds while observing traditional Shinto rituals of cleansing and prayer. Continue to the Imperial Palace, the residence of Japan’s Emperor since 1868. Next, take part in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony in Asakusa, guided by a tea master. This intimate experience offers insight into centuries-old rituals, where you’ll prepare and enjoy matcha in an authentic setting. End the day in the historic Asakusa District, home to Sensoji Temple.

Day 3: Tokyo

Spend today day at leisure. Optional excursions to add on include a half-day cycle tour to enjoy the lesser-trodden parts of the city. After a day of sightseeing you may wish to join an evening walking food tour.

Day 4: Tokyo – Hakone Day Trip

This morning, board the coach towards Japan’s iconic natural landmark, Mount Fuji. On a clear day, you might be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of this natural wonder. Glide across the clear waters of Lake Ashi, a stunning crater lake framed by dramatic mountains and Mount Hakone, a volcano that last erupted in 1170 CE. Continue with a scenic ride on the Hakone Ropeway, offering beautiful views of volcanic landscapes, Lake Ashi, and Mount Fuji on a clear day. Stop at Owakudani, a volcanic valley formed by ancient eruptions of Mount Hakone, with steaming vents and sulphurous hot springs. Stroll through this active geothermal area and sample the region’s famous black eggs, a local specialty said to bring good fortune and longevity. In the evening, head back to Tokyo.

***Important Note: The itinerary may be adjusted on the day of travel in response to the latest weather conditions to ensure guest safety and comfort.*

Day 5: Kyoto

This morning, take the bullet train from Tokyo and speed away to Kyoto for a 3-night stay. Kyoto is nicknamed “The City of Ten Thousand Shrines”. Upon arrival, visit Nishiki Market, a narrow shopping street lined with over 100 shops and restaurants.

Next, stroll around Kiyomizu-dera Temple, taking in the incredible vistas of the city from the high veranda. Wander around Higashiyama’s busy lanes selling Kiyomizu-yaki pottery, sweets and pickles. Finally, be a guest at a Makio performance show in the historic Gion district before returning to your hotel.

*** Important Note: Please note that your luggage will be transferred from Tokyo to Kyoto via a luggage forward service. Your luggage will be available upon arrival in Kyoto.*

Day 6: Kyoto

Discover the charm and tranquillity of Arashiyama by visiting Okochi Mountain Villa, the former estate of famed film star Okochi Denjiro. Walk around the splendid gardens which have impressive viewpoints of the city below. The villa itself is considered the finest example of Japanese residential architecture in the country. Now, it’s time to lose yourself on a peaceful stroll through the bamboo grove. Stop at Tenryuji Temple, one of the top 5 Great Zen temples of Kyoto. Then head south to visit Sanjusagen-do Temple, famous for its statues of Kannon, standing in rows of 10 and each hand-carved. Your last stop today is the enchanted Fushimi Inari Shrine with its torii gates and picturesque tunnels.

Day 7: Kyoto – Free Day

Today is a free day. Optional excursions to add on include a Bento Class, a great way to learn about Japanese dishes such as sushi, tempura and miso soup.

Day 8: Hiroshima

This morning, board the Shinkansen train at Kyoto station, taking one of the fastest trains in Japan, the Nozomi Shinkansen. Try your hand at making one of Hiroshima’s most beloved specialties, okonomiyaki. Under the guidance of an experienced okonomiyaki master, prepare your own authentic Japanese savoury pancake while learning about the history and distinctive style that makes Hiroshima’s version so unique. Next, head to Miyajima Island. Miyajima Island is the popular name of Itsukushima Island, situated in Hatsukaichi City in southwestern Hiroshima. Visit Itsukushima Shrine, a unique shrine that looks as if it is floating in the sea.

Note: Baggage will be transported separately from Kyoto to Osaka. Please arrange a small bag for 1 night in Hiroshima.

Day 9: Osaka

Travel through Hiroshima aboard its iconic streetcar, Hiroden, to your first stop of the day. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park is located at the centre of Hiroshima City.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the A-Bomb Dome, is a tangible link to Hiroshima's unique past.

Jump back onto the Shinkansen to Osaka, famously known as Japan’s kitchen. Experience the bullet trains like a local and have your bento lunch onboard as you zoom to the next destination. Upon arrival in Osaka, proceed to your accommodation for check-in. This evening, enjoy a dining experience.

Day 10: Osaka

In the morning, visit Dotonbori, Osaka's vibrant entertainment district, located along the southern bank of the Dotonbori Canal. Masses of neon lights and the atmosphere of the 17th century coexist in this area. After enjoying a walk through this unique area, head to the Umeda Sky Building and go up to the observatory to enjoy the breathtaking sights. This afternoon is at leisure before joining your newfound friends and reminisce about the fond memories you have made together over a farewell dinner.

Day 11: Depart Osaka

Enjoy your final morning in Osaka before being collected and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



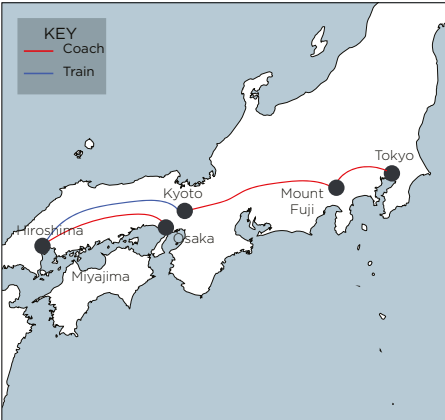
Kyoto



Hiroshima



Dotonbori Canal



Osaka

Jewels of Japan

10 days

See the classic sights of Japan, visiting modern Tokyo, iconic Mount Fuji and historic Kyoto. A visit to Hiroshima’s Peace Memorial Park and Museum and the holy island of Miyajima complete this fascinating tour. You will discover the delights of vibrant Tokyo, admire breathtaking Mount Fuji, make your own Japanese soba noodles, experience the speedy bullet train and explore Japan’s history in Kyoto.

Highlights

Tokyo – Mount Fuji – Kyoto – Hiroshima
Osaka

Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- All meals – 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guides
- Small group size – maximum 28 guests

Tour is operated by Wendy Wu Tours. Please see Page 96 for additional and important information.

Departure Dates

Selected Dates
March to May, August to November

Day 1: Tokyo

On arrival, you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transferred to your hotel.

Day 2: Tokyo

Today, take a tour by coach of this fascinating city. Begin with a stroll through the Imperial Palace East Garden before exploring the Tokyo National Museum. After lunch, head to the Asakusa district, stopping at the atmospheric Sensoji Temple, Tokyo’s oldest and most famous temple and home to a five-storey pagoda as well as the iconic large red Kaminarimon Thunder Gate lantern. Go on to browse the stalls throughout the Nakamise shopping street, followed by a visit to the observation deck of the Tokyo Skytree for panoramic views over the city. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant within walking distance of your hotel.

Day 3: Tokyo

Spend a relaxed morning wandering around the classical landscapes of the Hamarikyu Gardens and explore the Shinto Meiji Shrine, located in a green forest within the city. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel, driving by the Shibuya “Scramble” Crossing on the way.

The rest of the afternoon is free for you to explore independently or relax in the hotel. Transfer from the hotel to your boat and take a leisurely 1-hour dinner cruise on Tokyo Bay for some excellent city vistas.

Day 4: Mount Fuji and Five Lakes

Journey through the foothills of the iconic Mount Fuji to its base, where you will find the Fuji Five Lakes. The region is spectacular with the calm waters of the five lakes, formed by past volcanic eruptions, reflecting Fuji’s picture-perfect cone. Head up to Fuji’s 5th Station for spectacular mountain views. After lunch, visit the Itchiku Kubota Art Museum to view the elaborate dyed silk creations before exploring the Iyashi no Sato historical village, located on the western shores of Lake Saiko, famous for its thatched-roofed houses. Transfer to Mishima and check into your hotel.

Day 5: Kyoto

Begin the day with a visit to Oshino Hakkai, a scenic area of ponds full of crystal-clear spring water created by Fuji’s melting snow. Stroll around the area before trying your hand at making traditional Japanese soba noodles, which you will then tuck into for lunch. Continue to Mishima Station to board a 2-hour bullet train to Kyoto.

An enchanting city, Kyoto was capital for a thousand years; today it is the legacy of ancient Japan, full of tranquil temples, silk-clad geisha and sublime gardens. Check in to your hotel and have dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 6: Kyoto

Enjoy a full day tour of Kyoto, starting with a visit to the spectacular Kiyomizu Temple. Next, immerse yourself in the culture, learning the traditional Japanese handicraft of origami before enjoying the art of a tea ceremony. After lunch, visit a traditional teahouse where you will be joined by a Tea Master. Afterwards, visit the famous Fushimi Inari Shrine with its thousands of vermilion torii gates.

Day 7: Hiroshima

Begin the day with a visit to Ryoanji Temple, home to Japan’s most famous zen garden and Kinkakuji Temple, also known as the 'Golden Pavilion' due to its golden exterior. Continue by coach to Osaka to have lunch in the vibrant Dotonbori district. Transfer to the train station and take the bullet train to Hiroshima. A modern and prosperous city, Hiroshima will be forever remembered as the world’s first atomic bomb target.

Day 8: Hiroshima

Hop on the ferry to the holy island of Miyajima, where sightseeing will be at a leisurely pace on foot. Visit Itsukushima Shrine and explore the traditional market town at leisure. Return by ferry and then coach to Hiroshima where you will have lunch. Later, visit the famous Peace Memorial Park and Museum. You will also visit the Orizuru Tower, Itsukushima shrine and enjoy free time on Miyajima Island to explore the local streets or make the walk up to Daisho-in Temple.

Day 9: Himeji Castle

Travel to Himeji to visit its famous castle. The feudal era fort, one of the most impressive in Japan, towers over the city and is recognisable as the backdrop to several major films. Take time to appreciate its turbulent past before strolling around Kokoen, the Edo-style gardens just across the castle moat. Later, transfer to Osaka for an overnight stay.

Day 10: Osaka

This morning is free at leisure before transferring to the airport for your return or onward journey.

Extend your stay

If you wish to explore more of Japan, we can offer a range of additional packages that can be added either before or after your tour. On pages 48 to 57 you will find our short duration packages many of which can be added to this tour.

Our recommendations for this tour:

Explore the South & the Okinawa Islands, see page 57

Spend 6 nights exploring the islands and all their beauty.

Explore the North & the Sapporo region, see page 56

Spend 4 nights exploring the capital and largest city on the northern island of Hokkaido.



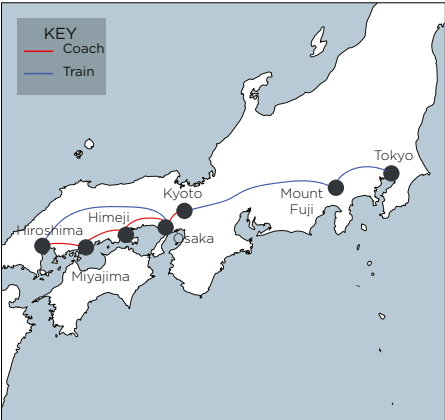
Fushimi Inari Shrine



Tokyo



Kinkakuji



Itsukushima Shrine

Discover Japan

12 days

This tour is the perfect introduction to the fascinating country of Japan, where skyscrapers give way to paddy fields and crowds disperse into the tranquillity of serene gardens. Discover the delights of futuristic Tokyo, admire breathtaking Mount Fuji, experience the speedy bullet train, get a glimpse of Buddhist life In Koyasan and explore the Vibrant city of Osaka.

Highlights

Tokyo – Mount Fuji – Matsumoto
Takayama – Kanazawa – Kyoto – Nara
Koyasan – Osaka

Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- All meals – 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches & 11 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guides
- Small group size – maximum 28 guests

*Tour is operated by Wendy Wu Tours.
Please see Page 96 for additional and
important information.*

Departure Dates

Selected Dates
March to November

Day 1: Tokyo

On arrival, you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

Day 2: Tokyo

Tokyo is the ultimate 24-hour city, but look behind its frantic, high-tech frontage and you will find plenty of tranquil backstreets and old temples to explore. Begin at the observation deck of the 634-metre Skytree, the tallest structure in Japan, before wandering through the old district of Asakusa. Stop to seek out the tranquillity of the ancient Buddhist Sensoji Temple, Tokyo’s oldest. Discover Tokyo’s historical heritage with a drive past the Imperial Palace Plaza. Later, stroll through the classical landscapes of Hamarikyū Gardens. This evening, take a relaxed dinner cruise on Tokyo Bay for some excellent city vistas.

Day 3: Mount Fuji

Take the super-fast bullet train to Odawara. Enjoy a boat trip on Lake Ashi for spectacular panoramas of this beautiful area before venturing up the Komagatake Ropeway.

Next, ascend over 2,000 metres up Mount Fuji to the 5th Station (weather permitting) and take in the breathtaking views over the Fuji Five Lakes area below. The region is spectacular with the calm waters of the five lakes, formed by past volcanic eruptions, reflecting Fuji’s picture-perfect cone.

Day 4: Matsumoto Castle

Transfer to Matsumoto and explore the formidable 16th century Matsumoto Castle, also known as ‘Crow Castle’, due to its intense black exterior Stop at a Miso House to learn about the process of making this famous Japanese seasoning. Travel on to Takayama, nestled high in the mountainous Hida region, also known as the Japanese Alps.

Day 5: Takayama

Browse the local handicrafts and fresh produce at the Miyagawa morning market and wander past some of the lovely traditional houses. Visit several of the excellent local museums – including the Festival Floats Museum, Kusakabe Folk Crafts Museum and Takayama Jinya. Enjoy some free time in Kamisannomachi Street and make use of the onsen facilities at your overnight hotel.

Day 6: Shirakawago and Kanazawa

Get a glimpse of rural Japan at the World Heritage Listed village of Shirakawago which is famous for its farmhouses built in the unique gassho-zukuri architectural style. Continue to Gokayama to have a go at washi paper making, then travel to Kanazawa and meander through the beautiful Kenrokuen Garden, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan.

Day 7: Kyoto

Begin the day learning the process of making gold leaf. Next, stroll through traditional Higashi Chaya (Eastern Teahouse District), visiting Ochaya Shima – a historical geisha house. Later, journey to Kyoto. Capital for 1,000 years, until 1869, today Kyoto is the legacy of ancient Japan, full of tranquil temples, silk-clad geisha and sublime gardens.

Day 8: Kyoto

Start the day with a visit to Ryōanji, the ‘temple of the peaceful dragon’ and the famous Kinkakuji, also known as the ‘Golden Pavilion’. In the afternoon, head to a restored Japanese wooden town house and try your hand at origami and enjoy the age-old rituals of a tea ceremony with a Tea Master.

Day 9: Nara

Visit Fushimi Inari Shrine, remarkable for its 10,000 vermillion torii gates. Continue to Nara, a relaxed and charming town virtually untouched by the ravages of modernity. Another former capital, Nara also has a huge cultural legacy, considered second only to Kyoto. Home to many archetypal pieces of early art and architecture, stroll through Nara Park to Todaiji Temple, meeting the resident sika deer enroute, before exploring Isuien Garden.

Day 10: Koyasan

The holy mountain of Koyasan is home to a cluster of over 100 monasteries nestled in a valley enclosed by peaks said to resemble a lotus flower. Arguably the most sacred mountain in all of Japan, Koyasan is the heart of Shingon Buddhism and the resting place of Japan’s best known Buddhist, known as both Kukai and Kobo Daishi. Wander around Okunoin – a vast cemetery of 200,000 stupas and enjoy the tranquillity and spectacular views as you discover Kongobuji Temple and the Garan Temple Complex. Later, continue to Osaka.

Day 11: Osaka

Begin the day exploring Osaka Castle, which is one of Japan’s most famous. Next, take a short cruise along the Yodogawa River and stroll through Dotonbori, a restaurant mecca, where you can sample the local delicacies for lunch. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore this fascinating city.

Day 12: Osaka Departure

This morning is free at leisure before you transfer to Osaka airport for your return flight home.

Please note: the Isui-en Garden in Nara, visited on day 10, is closed for maintenance weekly on Tuesdays. Departures coinciding with this will visit the Kasuga Taisha Shrine as an alternative.



Osaka



Matsumoto Castle



Koyasan (Okunoin)



Kenrokuen Garden

Japan Uncovered

16 days

One of the most extensive tours of Japan, this tour includes all the classic sights and key cultural activities. Featuring modern cities, historical sights and beautiful landscapes, Japan Uncovered ensures you get the most out of your trip to this fascinating land. Discover delightful Kyoto and Nara, reflect in Hiroshima and Miyajima, admire beautiful Mount Fuji, search for the snow monkeys, feel the rush of Tokyo and Osaka and explore Kanazawa and Takayama.

Highlights

Osaka – Nara – Hiroshima – Kyoto
Kanazawa – Takayama – Nagano
Matsumoto – Mount Fuji – Tokyo

Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- All meals – 15 breakfasts, 14 lunches & 15 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guides
- Small group size – maximum 28 guests

Tour is operated by Wendy Wu Tours. Please see Page 96 for additional and important information.

Departure Dates

Selected Dates
March to December

Day 1: Osaka

On arrival you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transferred to your hotel. Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is at leisure to start soaking up the local culture.

Day 2: Nara

Spend the morning in Nara, the small, history filled city that was Japan’s first capital. Stroll through Nara Park to Todaiji Temple and admire the traditional Isuien Garden. Return to Osaka and visit the impressive Osaka Castle.

Day 3: Himeji Castle

Depart Osaka for Hiroshima, stopping en route to explore the magnificent 17th century Himeji Castle, widely considered Japan’s most magnificent castle for its imposing size and beauty, both a national and world heritage listed treasure. You will also explore the neighbouring Kokoen, a traditional-style garden.

Day 4: Hiroshima

Hiroshima is a vibrant, forward-thinking city that is a pleasure to explore. Reflect on the city’s tragic past at the Peace Memorial Park and Museum paying homage to the victims of the 1945 atomic bomb. Next, take the ferry to the holy island of Miyajima to visit the Itsukushima Shrine and enjoy some time at leisure.

Day 5: Kyoto

Start the day with a journey by bullet train to Kyoto. Capital for 1,000 years, this enchanting city is the epitome of traditional Japan. Visit Ryoanji Temple, home to Japan’s most famous Zen garden and Kinkakuji Temple, also known as ‘Golden Pavilion’.

Day 6: Kyoto

Enjoy one of Kyoto’s most delightful spots, Kiyomizu, a 17th century Buddhist temple, before experiencing the age-old rituals of a traditional tea ceremony with a Tea Master. After lunch, visit Fushimi Inari Shrine, renowned for its 10,000 vermilion torii gates.

Day 7: Kanazawa

Travel by road to Kanazawa. This afternoon, enjoy a meander through Kenrokuen, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan.

Day 8: Takayama

Visit the Nomura Samurai House and Garden before departing Kanazawa. Stop in Gokayama for lunch and a hands-on washi paper making workshop, washi is a type of Japanese paper made from fibres of bark, often used in the art of origami.

Continue to Shirakawago, where you will explore the 300-year-old Gassho-style Wada House, before continuing to Takayama.

Day 9: Takayama

Browse the local handicrafts and fresh produce at the Miyagawa morning market and wander past some of the lovely traditional houses. Also visit several of the excellent local museums, including the Festival Floats Museum, Kusakabe Folk Crafts Museum and Takayama Jinya followed by a stroll down Kamisannomachi Street. Enjoy the onsen facilities at your overnight hotel.

Day 10: Nagano

Travel to Matsumoto and explore the formidable 16th century Matsumoto Castle. Visit a miso house and learn about this famous Japanese seasoning. Also spend some time at a wasabi farm to learn about its cultivation before continuing to Nagano, host city of the 1998 Winter Olympics and access point for the Japanese Alps.

Day 11: Snow Monkeys

Travel deeper into the Japanese Alps where you may see the Japanese macaques (snow monkeys) bathe and play in their hot spring pool at the Jigokudani Monkey Park.

Accustomed to humans, the monkeys can be observed up-close, and they almost completely ignore their human guests.

Continue to Zenkoji, one of Japan’s most prolific Buddhist temples and then to Matsumoto.

Day 12: Mount Fuji

Travel to the Fuji Five Lakes area and ascend by road to the 5th Station (weather permitting). View Mount Fuji, the highest of Japan’s mountains and an iconic symbol of the country. Mount Fuji is notoriously shy and is often enveloped by clouds. Also visit the Itchiku Kubota Art Museum to view the elaborate dyed silk creations of artist Kubota Itchiku. Stay overnight in Mishima or nearby and enjoy the public onsen facilities.

Day 13: Hakone and Tokyo

Begin the day with a cruise on the peaceful waters of Lake Ashi, formed after Mount Hakone’s last eruption 3000 years ago, Lake Ashi is the symbol of Hakone and on a clear day offers spectacular views of Mount Fuji in the distance. Next, soar high on the Hakone Ropeway over the hilltops to the volcanic Owakudani Valley and discover the dramatic natural hot springs of Mount Hakone. Later, proceed to Tokyo.

Day 14: Tokyo

A dazzling, high-tech metropolis, Japan’s capital has wonderfully traditional roots. Start your explorations at the Imperial Palace East Garden, visit Meiji Shrine and stop by the famous Shibuya Crossing.

Day 15: Tokyo

Stroll the vibrant Asakusa district and soak up the ambiance of Sensoji, Tokyo’s oldest Buddhist temple. Ascend to the observation deck of the 634-metre Skytree and enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. The afternoon is free until the evening, when you will board a traditional yakata boat for a dinner cruise.

Day 16: Depart Tokyo

This morning is free at leisure before transferring to the airport for your return flight home.

Please note: the Isui-en Garden in Nara, visited on day 3, is closed for maintenance weekly on Tuesdays. Departures coinciding with this will visit the Kasuga Taisha Shrine as an alternative.



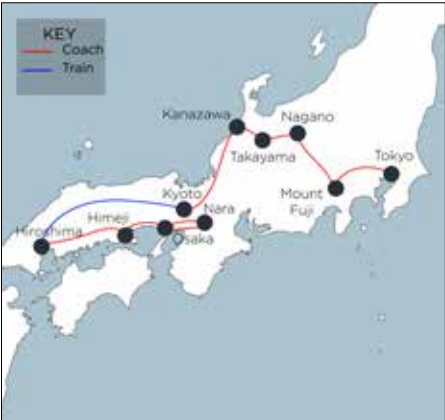
Kyoto



Snow Monkeys



Kinkakuji Temple



Tokyo

Classic: Discover Japan

14 days

From the towers and gadgets of Tokyo to the serenity of sacred shrines and the soaring beauty of Mount Fuji, this tour provides the perfect blend of guided excursions and free time to explore this fascinating region at your own pace. Linger in the gardens of Kyoto, shoot through the mountain air on a Shinkansen bullet train, and stay in a traditional Japanese Inn.

Highlights

Tokyo – Kanazawa – Takayama
Hiroshima – Kyoto – Fujikawaguchiko
Tokyo

Tour Includes

- 10 nights hotel accommodation
- 3-nights traditional inn (2 night shared facilities)
- Meals – 1 breakfast & 1 dinner
- All activities as stated
- All transport between destinations
- Chief Experience Officer
- Local guides where appropriate
- Small group size – maximum 15 guests

*Tour is operated by G Adventures
Physical Grading 3 – Average – see page 96*

Departure Dates

All year round

Day 1: Tokyo

Arrive at your first hotel by 4pm settle in before joining your Chief Experience Officer and fellow travellers at 6pm and learn more about your tour.

Day 2: Kanazawa

In the morning collect your JR Pass. Board a bullet train for Kanazawa in the afternoon. The evening is yours to explore or opt to attend a dinner with the group.

Day 3: Kanazawa

Explore the city's well-preserved geisha district. Then, stroll through Kenroku-en, ranked one of the nation's top three gardens before exploring the historic Nagamachi samurai district.

Day 4: Takayama

Arrive in picturesque Takayama and relax in the traditional Japanese inn

Day 5: Takayama

Visit the Hida Folk Village, an outdoor museum where various buildings from the 1600s are open to tour. The steep, thatched roofs of the farmhouses are said to resemble praying hands. Peek inside to see tools and furniture from the original village. Use free time today to sample sake or visit a nearby hot spring for a soak.

Day 6: Hiroshima

Board a Bullet Train and arrive in Hiroshima. Walk through the Peace Park in the centre of Hiroshima, a living memorial dedicated to the tens of thousands who died from the atomic bomb blast in 1945. Visit the statue of Sadako Sasaki, a young girl who died of leukemia as a result of the bomb blast, despite folding 1,000 origami paper cranes to appeal to the gods to make her well. See the frame of the Gembaku Dome, the sole building to withstand the explosion. Reflect, remember, and be reminded of the power we all hold to create peace.

Day 7: Hiroshima

Join a ferry to the sacred island, Miyajima, famed as one of Japan's most scenic spots. See the famous floating torii Gate, set out in the bay, which glows extraordinarily at sunset. The island is dotted with shrines and temples, populated by deer, and traversed with hiking trails for those who want to get some exercise. There are also lanes full of souvenirs and tasty treats. Visit Miyajima at your own pace, and have the option to hike up to the peak of the island, Mount Misen, to see spectacular views of the surrounding islands. Explore how you choose.

Day 8: Kyoto

Get to your next destination on board a Bullet Train. Visit the Fushimi Inari shrine, located just outside of Kyoto. Walk under the thousands of iconic torii gates (as seen in the film Memoirs of a Geisha) and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere. The shrine itself is at the base of the Inari mountain but includes many trails up to smaller shrines in the area.

Day 9: Kyoto

Explore Kinkaku-ji or the Golden Pavilion, named for the temple's top two floors that are covered in gold leaf. The temple is surrounded by trees and sits on a reflective pond, making this must-see in Kyoto a perfect place for photos. While the temple can be busy, there are gardens around the area to explore once you've had enough of the view. Visit the Nijo Castle, the residence of the first shogun of the Edo Period built in 1603. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the property is divided into three areas: the Honmaru (main circular fortification), Ninomaru (secondary circle of defense), and the gorgeous gardens that surround both. Discover more of this cultural city with some free time.

Day 10: Kyoto

Spend a full free day discovering the Zen gardens, huge wooden temples, pagodas and shrines of Kyoto. Opt to enjoy the Zen gardens of Ryoan-ji and the Silver Pavilion, and take a leisurely stroll down the lovely Philosopher's path to Nanzen-ji.

Day 11: Fujikawaguchiko

Your train travel today will showcase the efficiency of the rail network in Japan with multiple changes to the Mount Fuji region. Enjoy optional walks around Lake Kawaguchi. Savour an amazing Japanese kaiseki dinner. Visit the natural hot springs in traditional style and soak in the waters and feel all your troubles float away.

Day 12: Tokyo

Set out on a walk through this pocket of the Five Lakes region for unforgettable views of the local landscape. Depending on the weather, capture a glimpse of the snow-capped summit of Mount Fuji. Later today travel by train to Tokyo.

Day 13: Tokyo

Spend free time visiting any must-see sights you missed, touring a museum, or picking up souvenirs for friends back home. There are five optional activities if you are still keen to explore further.

Day 14: Depart Tokyo

Depart Tokyo at any time or extend your stay to fully experience this vibrant city.



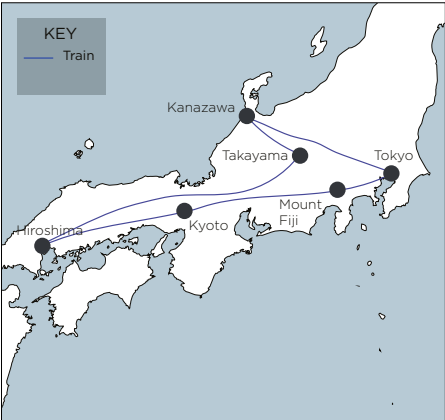
Himeji Castle



Fushimi Inari



Hiroshima



Samurai lesson



Samurai lesson

Journeys: Iconic Japan

12 days

Immerse yourself in this intriguing culture, beginning in sprawling Tokyo, before heading by rail into the countryside to visit traditional villages and tranquil shrines. Explore quaint geisha districts, savour the fresh flavours of Japanese cuisine; and get a glimpse of the ancient soul of this fascinating, futuristic country. Your “Journey Highlight Moments” such as the TsukigiSushi Experience and “Hands-On Moment”.

Highlights

Tokyo – Tsumago– Kanazawa
Hiroshima – Kyoto

Tour Includes

- 10 nights hotel accommodation + 1 night traditional inn (shared facilities)
- Meals – 11 breakfasts, 1 lunch & 1 dinner
- All activities as stated
- All transport between destinations
- National Geographic Expedition Leader
- Local guides where appropriate
- Small group size – maximum 15 guests

Tour is operated by National Geographic Journeys with G Adventures.

Physical Grading 3 – Average – see page 96

Departure Dates

All year round

Day 1: Tokyo

Arrive at your hotel by 4pm for check in and an early evening meeting with your National Geographic Expedition Leader and fellow travellers.

Day 2: Tokyo

Spend the day exploring vibrant Tokyo—one of the world’s most populous cities—by public transit. Experience the traditional side of the Japanese capital on a visit to the Meiji Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife. Get a glimpse of the city’s quirky, modern side on a walk through Harajuku, a centre of Japanese pop culture and a great place to sit back and people watch.

Day 3: Tokyo

This morning, set out to visit the Tsukiji fish and seafood outer market. Learn about Japan’s massive fishing industry and round off the experience with a sushi-making class. Learn how to identify the freshest fish, prepare, fillet, and present; then enjoy a taste of your tasty creations. After your sushi lunch, take a stroll in Asakusa, the historic heart of Tokyo.

Day 4: Tsumago

Depart Tokyo by train. Disembark at Nagiso and continue to a local minshuku, a traditional Japanese bed-and-breakfast, where you will spend the night. Enjoy a walk through the countryside, passing lush farms and rice paddies into Tsumago, a protected cultural area dating to the Edo period. Explore the charming town, where motorized vehicles are prohibited on the main street during the day and phone lines and power cables hidden from view to preserve its traditional feel. Back at the minshuku, feast on a kaiseki meal—a ritualistic multi-course dinner emphasizing artful presentation and fresh ingredients.

Day 5: Kanazawa

Continue by train to the historic city of Kanazawa, the seat of the powerful Maeda clan during the Edo period. Venture to Nagamachi, the city’s well-preserved samurai district located at the foot of Kanazawa Castle, and learn about the lifestyle of Japan’s ancient, elite warrior class. You will also visit the Nomura residence, the beautifully restored home of a wealthy samurai family, boasting a collection of antique heirlooms and a stunning garden.

Day 6: Kanazawa

Spend the day exploring Kanazawa. Visit the Myoryuji Temple—commonly known as the Ninja Temple—which doubled as a military outpost, and discover its many hidden defenses and escape routes. Take a walk through the Higashi Chaya geisha district and gain insights into geisha culture, viewing one of the district’s traditional wooden houses. Then visit a local craft studio, where you will learn about the city’s time-honoured crafts and learn to paint chopsticks with gold leaf.

Day 7: Hiroshima

Travel by bullet train to Hiroshima. Pay a visit to the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, located in the heart of the city, which commemorates the tragic atomic bombings of 1945. Take your time to wander through the park, pausing at memorials dedicated to the victims of the attack, and visit the moving statue of Sadako Sasaki at the Children’s Peace Monument, a reminder of the thousands of young lives lost as a result of the bombings.

Day 8: Hiroshima

Catch a ferry to Itsukushima Island, popularly known as Miyajima. Here, you’ll find one of Japan’s most beautiful and sacred temples, the 12th-century Itsukushima Shinto shrine.

This UNESCO World Heritage site is built over the water, with a red torii or wooden gateway that appears to float at high tide. Spend the afternoon at leisure and explore at your own pace.

Day 9: Kyoto

This morning, visit the World Heritage-listed Himeji Castle, widely considered Japan’s most spectacular and best-preserved castle. The castle was completed in the early 17th century and features an elegant white facade with multiple wooden roofs. Later, hop on a train to Kyoto, which served as Japan’s imperial capital for more than a thousand years. Explore the city’s stunning temples, shrines, and gardens at leisure. This afternoon, take a guided stroll through the lantern-lined streets of Gion, Kyoto’s renowned geisha district.

Day 10: Kyoto

Venture to the breathtaking Fushimi Inari shrine just outside of Kyoto, dedicated to the Shinto god of rice. Walk under the temple’s iconic red gates, where a scene from Memoirs of a Geisha was filmed.

Spend the rest of the day discovering ancient Nara, the site of Japan’s earliest capital. Visit the impressive Todaiji temple—home to the largest bronze Buddha statue in the world—and wander the walkways of Kasuga Taisha, one of Japan’s most sacred Shinto shrines.

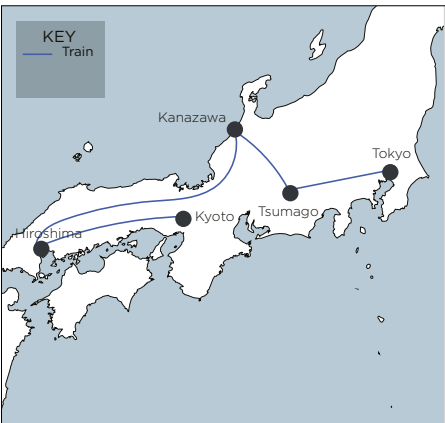
Day 11: Kyoto

This morning, visit a local temple to learn about the history and practice of Zen Buddhism in Japan. Meet with a local monk for a lesson in Zen meditation and calligraphy; then head to the shimmering Kinkakuji, or “temple of the golden pavilion,” one of Kyoto’s most magnificent sites. Later, you will learn the basics of samurai etiquette and the practice of kembu, or traditional Japanese swordplay. Try your hand at this delicate art form, and witness a memorable performance by kembu masters.

Day 12: Depart Kyoto

Following breakfast, it is time to depart at your leisure.

Optional activities are also available during your tour which you can discuss and book with your National Geographic Expedition Leader.



Enchanting Japan

12 days

Traverse the highlights of Japan in style, combining coach travel and the efficient rail network. Experience the iconic wonders of Tokyo before admiring the beauty of Hakone, the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Shirakawa-go and culturally rich Kanazawa. Finish in Kyoto, where you'll take part in a tea ceremony and enjoy a private dinner with a maiko or geisha. Included are unique experiences thoughtfully curated to take you on an inspiring journey beneath the surface of local history, culture and traditions.

Highlights

Tokyo – Hakone – Nagoya – Shirakawa-go
Kanazawa – Kyoto – Osaka

Tour Includes

- 11 nights accommodation
- 11 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 6 dinners
- Freedom of Choice inclusions in 3 locations
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- Services of an APT Tour Director
- Bullet train/limited express train
- Small group size – maximum 24 guests

Tour is operated by APT Touring.

Departure Dates

Selected Small Group Departures March, May, September & November

Day 1: Tokyo

Upon arrival in Tokyo, you will be met and transferred to the hotel. Tonight, meet your Tour Director and fellow travellers at a welcome dinner at your hotel, savouring Japanese flavours with a modern flair.

Day 2: Tokyo

Meet your guide and head to Roppongi, where you'll soak in the scenery at the Tokyo City View observation deck at Mori Tower. Head to Tokyo's old town of Asakusa, which is home to the city's oldest temple, Sensoji. Visit the iconic Buddhist temple and stroll through the Nakamise shopping street. Enjoy an exhilarating sumo demonstration, soak in the atmosphere while savouring the specialty of chankonabe, a delicious stew with vegetables, meat, fish and tofu.

Day 3: Tokyo

Visit Meiji Shrine this morning, a Shinto shrine dedicated to the deified spirit of Emperor Meiji. Take part in a sushi-making class and learn to prepare maki sushi (rolled sushi) and nigiri sushi (sushi rice topped with a slice of raw fish) before savouring your creations for lunch. Next, head to Ginza, Tokyo's renowned upscale shopping district. In the afternoon, explore the Kabukiza Gallery and the vibrant streets of Ginza before enjoying the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 4: Hakone

Depart for the town of Hakone this morning by coach. Lunch is served at a local restaurant before continuing to Sekishoato Port. Here, embark on a Hakone Yusen Cruise and take in exceptional views as you glide across the waters of Lake Ashinoko (Lake Ashi), a large volcanic crater lake. Arrive at Hakone-en Port, enjoy panoramic views of Lake Ashinoko and Mount Fuji in fine weather. At Komagatake's peak, admire Hakone Shrine Mototsumiya—the original Hakone Shrine—before descending the mountain by ropeway. This evening, enjoy access to an onsen, a traditional Japanese thermal bath, at your accommodation.

Day 5: Nagoya

Board a bullet train bound for Nagoya. On arrival, drive to Nagoya Castle, stopping en route for lunch at Kinshachi Yokocho. Explore the majestic 17th century fortress of Nagoya Castle. Wander through the lavish interiors of Honmaru Palace, see the famous golden shachihoko, and immaculate gardens.

Then, discover the Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology. This evening, you'll have the chance to sample the region's renowned Hida beef at a local restaurant

Day 6: Nagoya

Depart for Inuyama Naritasan Daisho-ji Temple, on arrival observe a Goma Fire Ritual, a traditional Buddhist Ceremony. Later visit the castle town of Inuyama and join a guided tour of Karakuri Museum, admiring a range of Karakuri mechanical dolls.

The next stop is Dondenkan, an exhibition showcasing Inuyama's famous spring festival parade floats. Enjoy lunch at your leisure.

This afternoon, visit the Seki Hamono (blade) Museum dedicated to Japan's long history of traditional blade-making.

Day 7: Kanazawa

Today you will visit the World Heritage-listed village of Shirakawa-go en route to Kanazawa. Some of the village's famous gassho-zukuri farmhouses date back more than 250 years. Continue to Kanazawa and the marvellous Kenroku-en garden. Spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Enjoy your choice of restaurant for dinner.

Day 8: Kyoto

Start your day in the Higashi Chaya District, Kanazawa's largest geisha district. Enjoy some free time to explore the area, before visiting the traditional Shima teahouse. Following lunch, you will be transferred to the train station

to board a bullet train to Tsuruga, then change to a limited express train to Kyoto. Upon arrival, walk to your nearby accommodation before savouring a delicious dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 9: Kyoto

Set out for Arashiyama this morning, climbing aboard a rickshaw for a ride past Nonomiya Shrine and the spectacular Arashiyama Bamboo Grove. After lunch, head to the famous Kinkakuji temple, commonly known as the Golden Pavilion for its gold-leaf-covered upper floors. You'll then visit historic Nijo Castle before returning to your hotel. This evening is at leisure.

Day 10: Kyoto

Delve into a traditional Japanese culture with a special tea ceremony experience. Take part in the ceremony wearing a festive kimono and gain a better understanding of the variety of kimonos used for different occasions. This afternoon's activity is your choice: cycle through the Miyagawacgho and Gion geisha districts on an e-bike, or perhaps visit Nishiku Market and learn how to make Kyoto-style wagashi (sweets), other guests may prefer to sit back and cruise along the Hozu River on a scenic boat ride.

Day 11: Kyoto

This morning, visit Fushimi Inari Shrine, home to more than 10,000 red torii gates. Visit Nara, Japan's former capital for 74 years. Admire the temples and shrines built during this era, including Tōdai-ji temple and home to Japan's largest Buddha statue. Explore Nara Park, where friendly deer roam freely and bow their heads to visitors.

Your next stop is Naramachi, Nara's beautifully preserved former merchant district.

A special night of private entertainment with a maiko or geisha awaits. Enjoy a wonderful dinner and drinks all accompanied by music played on a shamisen.

Day 12: Kyoto, Osaka Departure

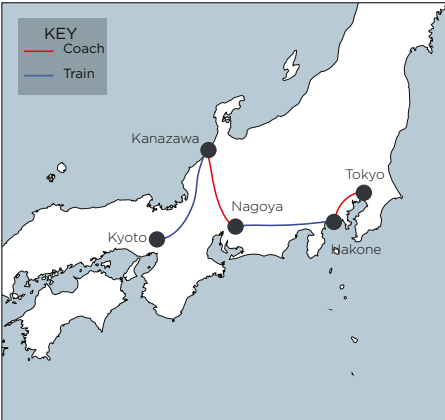
Following breakfast, unwind during your transfer back to the airport for your next adventure. Alternatively, we can extend your stay as an independent tour in Osaka to continue your Japanese experience.



Kyoto



Hamarikyu Gardens



Mount Fuji

Independent Touring

Over the following pages we have a selection of tour packages that combine the most popular regions in Japan. These packages grant you the freedom that comes with travelling independently but with all the pre-planning taken care of. Packages include transportation between each overnight location, often using the highly efficient rail network and all hotels. To enhance your time in Japan, most itineraries also include one or more sightseeing tours with local English-speaking guides, this will give you a unique insight into the city you're visiting and most tours can be tailored with your guide if there are specific sights you wish to visit.

Our selection of tour packages are featured over the next 16 pages

Classic Japan – 9 nights

Golden Route – 11 nights

Japan Essentials – 13 nights

Plum & Cherry Blossoms – 13 nights

Story of Japan – 13 nights

Northern Japan – 11 nights

Family Adventures in Japan – 15 nights

Trains & Traditions of Japan – 15 nights

Documentation & Local Assistance

Each tour has been carefully planned to ensure that you can travel confidently and independently. You will be provided with a full documentation pack which will include a detailed itinerary and timings which should answer any questions you have regarding your booked services. You will also be given local contact details for our partners based in Japan giving you the reassurance that there will always be local support available throughout your journey.

Our Tailor-Made Service

All our featured tours on the following pages can be tailored, so should any not be the perfect itinerary for you let us know and we will be happy to adjust the details to meet your requirements. We can also tailor-make a full itinerary, simply let us know your interests, dates and budget and we will work with you to create your perfect trip.

Classic Japan

10 days

Discover the city of skyscrapers and the World Heritage Sites with guided tours through capitals old and new. Explore the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park with a private guide and driver and learn about the place of Hakone in Japan's medieval history. Meet and interact with a real Maiko while attending a tea ceremony. Ride the bullet train, an exceptionally unique and efficient travel experience.

Highlights

Tokyo – Hakone – Kyoto

Tour Includes

- 9 nights accommodation
- Admission fees, transportation and licensed tour guides as shown
- Bullet train Hakone/Odawara to Kyoto
- Please note: sightseeing tours utilise public transportation

Departure Dates

Year round

We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.

- Choose your preferred hotel and location
- Add or remove nights
- Add, amend or remove sightseeing

Day 1: Tokyo

On arrival meet your driver and be transferred to the hotel by private vehicle. Check in for a 4-night stay.

Day 2: Tokyo

Enjoy a full day tour today with an English-speaking guide. Meet your guide at your hotel and hop on public transit to visit many of the city sights, including Meiji Shrine, Shibuya, one of most famous shopping locations in Tokyo, Kokyo Gaien and the oldest temple in the city, Sensoji. Your day ends at the Tokyo Skytree, the tallest free-standing broadcasting tower in the world.

Day 3 and 4: Tokyo

Two free days to explore the city as you please.

Day 5: Tokyo to Hakone

This morning you will be met by your guide and driver for the day to explore Hakone National Park for a day of fresh air and sightseeing at one of Japan's most iconic parks in the shadow of Mount Fuji. Throughout the tour you will have a chance to take a glimpse at this awe-inspiring mountain, but please bear in mind that it needs to be a clear day. Included is entrance to the Hakone Open Air Museum, one of the must see places in Hakone.

After the tour, the driver and guide will leave you at your accommodation in Hakone around 4pm.

Day 6: Kyoto

Check out of your hotel and meet the driver that will take you to Odawara station where you will board your Bullet train to Kyoto. On arrival in Kyoto, make your own way to your hotel and check in for your 4-night stay.

Day 7: Kyoto

Explore with a knowledgeable local guide, utilising Kyoto's comprehensive bus system. Start your day with a visit to Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), Nijo Castle, an ornamental castle, famous for its architecture, then, head to Heian Shrine, built on the occasion of the 1100th anniversary of the capital's foundation before your final stop at Kiyomizu Temple to enjoy the panoramic views of Kyoto.

Day 8 and 9: Kyoto

Two days to explore Kyoto as you please.

Day 10: Departure

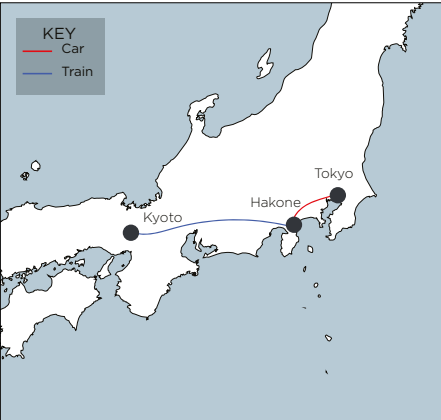
Your package ends with the check out from your hotel and an included transfer to the airport. We can assist with your onwards journey either within Japan or beyond.



Tokyo



Kyoto



Todai-ji Temple

Golden Route

12 days

Explore the Golden Route. Explore Tokyo with plenty of free time. In Hakone, soak in the relaxing mineral waters of an onsen hot spring, one of Japan's most restful cultural practices. An exceptionally efficient travel experience. Visit some of the most famous sights with the option to enhance your tour by adding unique optional activities such as Sushi Making Lesson in Tokyo and tea ceremony in Kyoto.

Highlights

Tokyo – Hakone– Takayama – Kanazawa Kyoto

Tour Includes

- 11 nights accommodation
- Admission fees, transportation and licensed tour guides as shown
- Bullet trains and public transport services between Hakone/Odawara Takayama, Kanazawa and Kyoto
- Please note: sightseeing tours utilise public transportation

Departure Dates

Year round

We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.

- Choose your preferred hotel & location
- Add or remove nights
- Add, amend or remove sightseeing

Day 1: Tokyo

On arrival meet your driver and be transferred to the hotel by private vehicle. Check in for a 4-night stay.

Day 2: Tokyo

Enjoy a full day tour today with an English-speaking guide using public transit to visit many of the city sights, including Tokyo Skytree, the tallest free-standing broadcasting tower in the world.

Day 3 and 4: Tokyo

Two free days to explore the city as you please.

Day 5: Hakone

This morning you will be met by your guide and driver for the day to explore Hakone National Park. Throughout the tour you will have a chance to take a glimpse at the awe-inspiring Mount Fuji. After the tour, the driver and guide will drop you at your hotel in Hakone.

Day 6: Takayama

Check out of your hotel and transfer to Odawara station to board your bullet train to Nagoya, here you will connect to Takayama on the limited express service. On arrival, check in for your 2-night stay.

Day 7: Takayama

Enjoy a full day exploring Takayama with your private guide. Included is a 1-day bus pass, by far the best way to travel from sight to sight.

Day 8: Kanazawa

This morning, travel by bullet train and public transport to Kanazawa. Upon arrival, make your way to your hotel and you are free to explore at your leisure.

Day 9: Kyoto

Enjoy a morning tour of Kanazawa, meet your guide and use the loop bus to visit the sights including Kanazawa Castle Park, Kanazawa Noh Museum and Nagamachi Samurai District. After the tour, make your own way to the rail station to board your local express train to Kyoto. On arrival, check in for your 3-night stay.

Day 10: Kyoto

Explore with a knowledgeable local guide utilising Kyoto's comprehensive bus system. Start your day with a visit to Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) and Nijo Castle, famous for its architecture, then head to Heian Shrine before your final stop at Kiyomizu Temple for panoramic views of Kyoto.

Day 11: Kyoto

A free day to explore Kyoto as you please.

Day 12: Departure

Your package ends with the check out from your hotel and an included transfer to Osaka airport. We can assist with your onwards journey either within Japan or beyond.



Bullet Train



Kanazawa



Kyoto

Japan Essentials

14 days

Explore the many essential sights of Japan on this 14-day tour. Travelling between cities using the unique bullet trains, you will be immersed into the unique culture and history of each location. With multiple nights in each city, free time is included ensuring that you can explore at your own pace.

Highlights

Tokyo – Hakone – Kyoto – Hiroshima
Osaka

Tour Includes

- 13 nights accommodation
- Admission fees, transportation and licensed tour guides as shown
- Please note: sightseeing tours utilise public transportation

Departure Dates

Departs: Daily
January to December

We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.

- Choose your preferred hotel & location
- Add or remove nights
- Add, amend or remove sightseeing

Day 1: Tokyo

Upon arrival in Tokyo, you will be met by your driver and transferred to your hotel by private vehicle. Check in for a 3-night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure; relax after your journey or begin exploring one of the world’s most exciting cities at your own pace. From dazzling neon-lit districts and peaceful shrines to elegant shopping streets and hidden local eateries, Tokyo offers countless opportunities for a memorable first impression.

Day 2: Tokyo

Begin your day by meeting your guide in the lobby of your hotel. Your guide will accompany you for up to four hours and will show you around Tokyo. If you have some locations on your must-see list, you may choose the area you’d like to explore, or simply follow your guide’s recommendations. Discover what Tokyo has to offer at your own pace.

Day 3: Tokyo

Day 3 is yours to enjoy at leisure. You may wish to explore one of Tokyo’s distinctive neighbourhoods, browse its renowned shopping districts, or immerse yourself in the city’s world-famous food scene.

Day 4: Hakone

This morning, make your own way to Odawara station and travel to Hakone. Check in for your 2-night stay. Surrounded by mountains, forests and hot springs, Hakone offers a peaceful contrast to Tokyo and is renowned for its beautiful natural scenery throughout the seasons.

Day 5: Hakone

On your second morning in Hakone, meet your guide to explore Hakone National Park, one of Japan’s most iconic parks in the shadow of Mount Fuji. Board a pirate ship and sail across Lake Ashi, a crater formed by a volcano nearly 3,000 years ago, while enjoying spectacular views across the surrounding landscape when weather conditions allow.

Day 6-8: Kyoto

Your next train takes you to Kyoto for a 3-night stay. Included is a sightseeing tour with a knowledgeable local guide, utilising Kyoto’s comprehensive bus system to visit some of the city’s famous sights. Once the imperial capital of Japan, Kyoto is renowned for its magnificent temples, tranquil gardens, and traditional wooden townhouses. Kyoto offers an incredible insight into Japan’s rich cultural heritage. Throughout your stay, enjoy time to appreciate the city’s timeless atmosphere, where centuries of history continue to shape everyday life.

Day 9: Hiroshima

Catch a bullet train to Hiroshima today. On arrival, check in to your hotel for a 2-night stay. The remainder of the day is free for you to begin exploring independently. Whether you choose to take a stroll through the city or simply relax after your journey, Hiroshima offers a welcoming atmosphere and an important place in Japan’s history.

Day 10: Hiroshima & Miyajima

Today’s guided tour will allow you to discover the ancient and more recent history of Hiroshima. Visit the moving Peace Memorial Park and Peace Memorial Museum, where you’ll gain insight into the city’s past and its enduring message of peace. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to explore before boarding a ferry to Miyajima Island, an ancient holy site famous for its iconic floating torii gate and friendly free-roaming deer. Surrounded by forested mountains and coastal scenery, Miyajima is widely regarded as one of Japan’s most beautiful destinations. Its peaceful atmosphere and remarkable natural setting make it a fitting conclusion to today’s exploration.

Day 11 and 12: Osaka

Board your next bullet train to Shin-Osaka Station. Upon arrival, make your way to your hotel and check in for your 2-night stay. During your stay, enjoy an included half-day tour with a local guide using public transportation. Renowned for its vibrant energy and outstanding culinary scene, Osaka is affectionately known as the “Nation's Kitchen”. Among its most famous specialities are okonomiyaki (Japanese pancake) and takoyaki (octopus balls). During your tour, you will have the opportunity to sample these delicious local dishes while exploring some of the city’s best-known attractions.

Day 13: Tokyo

Please use the Rail Pass to catch a bullet train to Tokyo today. After checking in to your hotel, the remainder of the day is free for some last-minute sightseeing, shopping, or simply soaking up the atmosphere of the city one final time. Browse for souvenirs to remember your journey or savour one last delicious meal before preparing for your journey home.

Day 14: Departure

Your package ends with check-out from your hotel and an included transfer to the airport. We can also assist you with arranging your onward journey, whether you wish to continue exploring Japan or travel to another destination beyond.



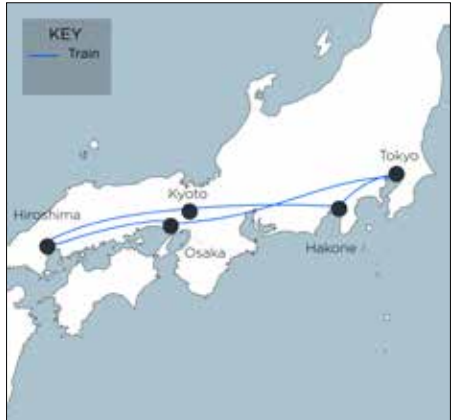
Lake Ashi



Tokyo



Tokyo



Hiroshima

Plum Trees & Cherry Blossoms

14 days

Japan’s cherry blossoms, known as ‘sakura’, are a remarkable sight to behold. A short yet colourful season, they make this a great time to visit Japan and this tour is perfect for taking you to several locations where the blooms are at their most spectacular. The exact bloom date is never certain but during February and early March is peak time.

Highlights

Tokyo – Atami – Odawara – Nagoya
Kyoto

Tour Includes

- 13 nights accommodation
- Transportation by bullet train and local services
- Sightseeing with local guides as shown
- Please note: sightseeing tours utilise public transportation

Departure Dates

Departs: Daily*
February to Mid March*

*Cherry blossom season is subject to change due to weather and bloom times.

We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.

- Choose your preferred hotel & location
- Add or remove nights
- Add, amend or remove sightseeing

Day 1: Tokyo

On arrival, a shared transfer is included to your hotel. Check in for a 4–night stay.

Day 2: Tokyo

Meet with your English–speaking private guide for a day exploring East Tokyo. Visit Kameido Tenjin, known as the “Flower Shrine”, in late winter it bursts with pink plum trees and in spring it is famous for its purple wisteria. Next head to Kyunaka River, one of the best spots to see Kawazu–zakura, also known as early blooming cherry blossoms. After enjoying the riverbank, you will then move to Asakusa district to the Sensoji Temple.

Unlike the common sakura of Tokyo and Kyoto which typically bloom around late March, the sakura trees of Kawazu bloom in early February, and the blossoms last for about a month.

Day 3: Tokyo

After a free morning, meet your guide to explore the west side of the city. You will visit Shinjuku Gyoen, a public park popular during the cherry blossom season, where you can also find plum trees and tea houses. Later, enjoy an exciting food tour. Shinjuku's nightlife at Omoide Yokocho, home to rustic food stalls and bars dating back to the 1950s. Visit Kabukicho and learn about this famous area.

Your last stop will be Shinjuku's Golden Gai, an area filled with over 200 small pubs, stalls, and karaoke bars (this evening tour is for adults aged 20 and over).

Day 4: Tokyo

A free day to explore Tokyo as you please.

Day 5: Atami

Leaving Tokyo, a short bullet train ride brings you to Atami Station where your next guide will meet you. You will see the shopping areas near the station before moving to The Atami Plum Garden, where from early January to early March the annual plum festival is held that showcases close to 500 plum trees in 59 different varieties. Your last stop will be Ito River path where you can see early cherry blossoms, some of the earliest to bloom.

The Atami sakura is a very unique species of cherry blossom because it is resistant to cold weather. The early and late blooms of the cherry blossom form two layers on the same branch, allowing visitors to enjoy month–long viewing. Flowering time: Late January to February.

Day 6: Atami and Kawazu

Board the local train to Kawazu. This is the best spot to see early cherry blossoms. This early–flowering variety of cherry tree starts opening around the beginning of February. These trees bloom slower and last longer compared to the most typical variety. The tour will end back in Atami.

Day 7: Odawara

Take a rail journey to Odawara and then you will catch the short local train to Shin–Matusda. Here, it’s a short walk to Nishiharabatake Park to see cherry blossoms, where, weather permitting, you can enjoy a perfect and unique view of Mount Fuji together with the blossoms. Enjoy the park, the flowers, and the beautiful blooms before returning to your hotel in Odawara.

Day 8: Odawara

Meet your guide at Odawara station and journey to Miharashi Chaya for a hike along the 500–year–old Tokaido Highway. Enjoy rice tea in the 4–century old Amazake Chaya teahouse that has seen Emperors and Shoguns do the same. Continue hiking to Lake Ashi and stop for lunch by the lake. Afterwards, walk out to Hakone Shrine with its famous red torii gates standing in the lake. Catch the local bus to Genbegawa World Water Heritage area in Mishima, then have a short walk along the river to Mishima station.

Your tour ends as you take the train back to Odawara. Note: the hike today is approx. 6kms.

Day 9: Nagoya

Your next train brings you to Nagoya. Meet your guide at the station and visit Nagoya Castle. About 70 plum trees of more than 10 varieties decorate the Nishi–no–Maru and Ni–no–Maru areas. They come into bloom from mid–February to mid–March. The tour ends back at the last place visited or at your hotel.

Day 10: Nagoya

Meet your guide and set of to explore, Nagoya. First, you will visit Arimatsu District. This old town was established around 1608 and it is along the Old Tokaido, the old highway that used to connect Edo (Tokyo) to Kyoto). Arimatsu is famous for tie–dyeing “shiborizome”. Listen to stories about buildings and history. Enter the Tie–Dyeing Museum and watch two masters making shibori. Enjoy lunch break before heading on to Atsuta Jingu, a shrine that has been one of the greatest centres of worship in Japan since ancient times.

Next stop is Shiratori Garden before your final stop in Sakae District, where visitors will find the Mirai Tower and Oasis 21 Spaceship. When Shiratori Garden is closed, Kusanagi–kan will be visited instead.

Day 11: Kyoto

Board your next train to Kyoto. Meet your guide and your Kyoto adventure begins. Your first stop will be Kiyomizudera, one of the most celebrated temples in Japan and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit Kiyomizudera and Otowa Waterfall.

You will also experience a traditional kimono–wearing tea ceremony with a Tea Master at Kyo–machiya traditional wooden house.

Day 12: Kyoto

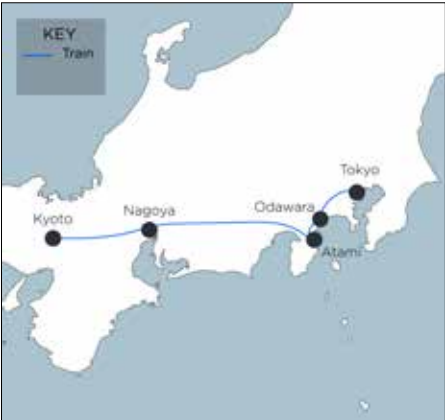
Your first stop today will be Nijo Castle, a World Heritage Site built in 1603, famous as one of the great places to view cherry blossoms and home to 101 plum trees. Afterwards, visit Kitano Shrine, one of the most famous places in Kyoto for viewing plum blossoms. Your day will finish at Kinkakuji, the Golden Pavilion, a pagoda that houses the sacred relics of Buddha and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The tour will end here or at your hotel.

Day 13: Kyoto

A free day for you to explore at your leisure.

Day 14: Departure

Your package ends with check–out from your hotel and a shared transfer to the airport.



Story of Japan

14 days

Explore the story and history of Japan using the train network. Discovers the sights, sounds and tastes of Tokyo and the culture of Kyoto. Continue to Nara, Japan’s’ first capital and onto Hiroshima, visitors are surprised by the greenery in this peaceful, vibrant city where meaningful history blends gently with beautiful scenery. We have slowed down the pace to ensure you explore even deeper and feel connected to this diverse country.

Highlights

Tokyo – Kyoto – Hiroshima– Nagasaki Fukuoka

Tour Includes

- 13 nights accommodation
- Admission fees, tours and transfers as described
- Transportation including rail/train travel, water travel/ferries, and ground transportation as shown
- Please note: sightseeing tours utilise public transportation

Departure Dates

Departs: Daily, January to December

We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.

- Choose your preferred hotel & location
- Add or remove nights
- Add, amend or remove sightseeing

Day 1: Tokyo

On arrival in Tokyo, you will be transferred by private vehicle to your hotel, check in for your 4 –night stay.

Day 2: Tokyo

Enjoy a morning private tour of Tokyo’s main highlights with an English–speaking guide. Begin your day with a visit to Asakusa District once an entertainment district in the Edo era, but now, home to charming shops and restaurants and the oldest temple in the city, Sensoji. You will also visit Meiji Shrine, one of the most famous Shinto shrines and then to Shibuya, one of the most famous shopping locations in Tokyo.

Day 3: Tokyo

The day is free until late afternoon. At approx. 5.30pm meet your guide for an evening to experience the fun of izakaya. Your first stop is at Monzen Nakacho station, where you’ll find Tatsumi Shindo, a street that’s a slice of Tokyo in the olden days. Wander through the narrow walkway and take in the quaint atmosphere of the small izakaya pubs. Now it’s time to dash over to Yurakucho, where underneath the train overpasses lie an abundance of street–side eateries.

Take in the bustle as you sit amongst friendly locals and taste some mouthwatering foods. At the end of the tour, your guide can either return you to your hotel or you can explore some other great izakaya joints.

Day 4: Tokyo – Kyoto

Board your first Bullet train and journey to Kyoto. On arrival check in at your hotel for a 3–night stay and the remainder of the day is free for you to explore.

Day 5: Kyoto

Explore the former imperial capital of Japan with a knowledgeable local guide, utilising Kyoto’s comprehensive bus system to visit some of the city’s famous World Heritage Sites. Start your day with a visit to Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion); see Nijo Castle, an ornamental castle built surrounded by stunning gardens; Heian Shrine, and Kiyomizu Temple (Pure Water Temple) where you can enjoy the panoramic views of Kyoto from the 13 metre high veranda.

Day 6: Kyoto

Join your guide for a Nara and Fushimi Inari full day private tour. Begin with a visit to Nara, Japan’s first capital. See Todaiji Temple, the world’s largest wooden building and Nara's most celebrated shrine, Kasuga Taisha.

Before returning to Kyoto, take a wander through Nara Park, where over a thousand tamed yet wild deer freely roam its grounds. Return to Kyoto, with a stop at Fushimi Inari Shrine and if time allows, walk up to Yotsutsuji intersection to enjoy the panorama of Kyoto below, before descending and returning to your hotel.

Day 7: Hiroshima

Board your train to Hiroshima, referred to as the “City of Water” via shinkansen from Kyoto Station. Make your way to your hotel for a 2 night stay, drop off your luggage before meeting your local guide. This afternoon you will visit The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. The A–Bomb Dome, also known as the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, is what remains of the former Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the A–Bomb Dome is a tangible link to Hiroshima's unique past. Get a bird's eye view of the Peace Park from Orizuru Tower. On a clear day you can see all the way to Miyajima. Your tour concludes at the last place visited or at your hotel.

Day 8: Hiroshima

Meet your guide at your accommodation this morning and set out to explore the mystical Miyajima Island, home of the UNESCO World Heritage Itsukushima

'floating' shrine and giant torii gate in the water. After your visit to the shrine, take the cable car up Mount Misen at the centre of the island for majestic views back over the Seto Inland Sea towards Hiroshima. Hiroshima Streetcar passes are also included, so you can also take the tram to explore more of Hiroshima with your guide.

Day 9: Nagasaki

Today, take the shinkansen from Hiroshima Station to Shin–tosu Station, and transfer to the limited express train bound for Takeo Onsen Station. At Takeo Onsen station, transfer one last time and board the shinkansen bound for Nagasaki for a 2–nights stay. Upon arrival, the rest of the day is free to enjoy at your own pace.

Day 10: Nagasaki

Explore Nagasaki at your leisure. Consider visiting the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum to learn about Nagasaki’s perspective of the war and dropping of the atomic bomb. As an alternative, consider making your way to Glover Garden and appreciate the Western style architecture in this open–air museum. Alternatively, visit the well–known Dejima Island and explore the historical buildings on this artificial island.

Day 11: Fukuoka

Today, take the shinkansen from Nagasaki Station to Hakata for 2 nights stay. Hakata is situated along the eastern edge of Fukuoka City facing the sea and historically a prominent merchant town. the rest of the day is free to enjoy at your own pace.

Day 12: Fukuoka

Enjoy a full day exploring the cosmopolitan city of Fukuoka with your private guide today. See the beautiful parks, grand avenues and ancient Shofokuji, the oldest zen temple in Japan. At the end of the day, your guide will drop you off at the famous yatai stalls where you can explore further on your own. (most closed Sundays).

Day 13: Tokyo

Head to Hakata Station and board the Shinkansen bound for Tokyo. The bullet train reaches a maximum speed of 300 kilometres an hour. This is the perfect time to rest before your return to Tokyo. After checking in to your hotel, you’ll have the rest of the day to explore Tokyo and see all the sights you might have missed!

Day 14: Departure

Your package ends with the check out from your hotel and a private transfer to the airport.



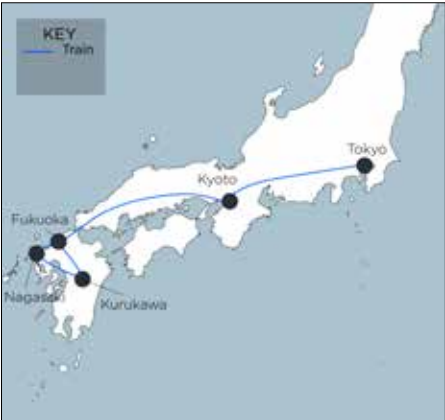
Kyoto



Kyoto



Bullet Train



Kurokawa Onsen

Cultures of Japan

15 days

Explore the culture of Japan on this 14-night tour. Beginning in Tokyo, journey to some of the most historic parts of Japan. You will enjoy many tours with local guides who delight in sharing their regions with you. Special highlights are a walking tour of Hida Furukawa, a Bento Box cooking class and a unique stay in Koya-san.

Highlights

Tokyo – Matsumoto – Takayama – Kyoto
Naoshima – Okayama – Osaka – Koya-san
Osaka

Tour Includes

- 14 nights accommodation
- Admission fees, tours and transfers as described
- Transportation, rail journeys, transfers and ground transportation as shown
- Please note: sightseeing tours utilise public transportation

Departure Dates

Year round

We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.

- Choose your preferred hotel & location
- Add or remove nights
- Add, amend or remove sightseeing

Day 1: Tokyo

On arrival in Tokyo, you will be transferred by private vehicle to your hotel, check in for your 3-night stay.

Day 2: Tokyo

Enjoy a 4-hour private tour of Tokyo's main highlights with an English-speaking guide. Begin your day with a visit to the Asakusa District, once an entertainment district in the Edo era, but now, home to charming shops and restaurants and the oldest temple in the city, Sensoji. You will also visit Meiji Shrine, one of the most famous Shinto shrines and then to Shibuya, one of the most famous shopping locations in Tokyo.

Day 3: Tokyo

The day is free for you to explore. Teamlab Tokyo ticket is included, a museum for the new generation combining digital art and the beauty of nature.

Day 4: Matsumoto

Journey by train today to Matsumoto, located in the Japanese Alps. Check in for your 1-night stay.

Day 5: Matsumoto and Takayama

Meet your private guide for a 4-hour tour of scenic and historic Matsumoto. You will be provided with a day pass which can be used to ride any of the 4 'Sneaker' buses to explore this small city. Start at Black Crow Castle, one of only twelve original castles in Japan, Its turret structure and characteristic black wainscoting give an air of grandeur and poise. The wooden interior is one of the very few not reconstructed in ferro-concrete, making it one of the most authentic experiences of feudal Japan. After your tour, you will transfer to Takayama for your next 2 nights.

Day 6: Takayama

This afternoon experience the charms of rural Japan on a relaxing afternoon walking tour of Hida-Furukawa. The tour begins after a short train journey from Takayama to Hida-Furukawa station, where you will be met by a local tour guide. Hida-Furukawa is small mountain town famous for its woodworking and skilled carpenters. The town is very well preserved, with charming canal-lined streets and traditional white-walled buildings. This tour offers you the ideal chance to experience a small Japanese town through the eyes of a local resident. You will be charmed by this peaceful little town and fascinated by its rich culture and history.

Day 7: Kyoto

Travel by rail today to Kyoto, on arrival check in for a 3-night stay.

Day 8: Kyoto

Explore the former imperial capital of Japan today with a knowledgeable local guide, utilising Kyoto's comprehensive bus system to visit some of the city's famous World Heritage Sites. Start your day with a visit to Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) which was originally built as a retirement villa for the Shogun but, at his request, became a Buddhist Temple after his death. Next, make your way to Nijo Castle, an ornamental castle built by the founder of the Edo Shogunate and surrounded by stunning gardens. famous for its architecture, decorated sliding doors and ‘chirping’ nightingale floors.

Then, head to Heian Shrine, dedicated to the spirits of the first and last emperors who reigned from the city, Emperor Kammu and Emperor Komei. Finally, make a visit to Kiyomizu Temple (Pure Water Temple) and enjoy the panoramic views of Kyoto from the 13-metre-high veranda jutting out from the Main Hall. Learn about the interesting history of the building and how both the Main Hall and Veranda were built without the use of nails or any kind of joiners.

Day 9: Kyoto

Enjoy a morning Bento Class, a great way to learn about typical Japanese dishes such as sushi, tempura, and miso soup. During the 3-hour class, your teacher will demonstrate and explain the tricks to making these beautiful dishes, then you will give it a try. After preparing, you will enjoy the lunch you just made.

Day 10: Okayama

Today, take the Shinkansen from Kyoto Station to Okayama for your 2-night stay. Upon arrival, the rest of the day is free to enjoy at your own pace.

Day 11: Okayama

Your guide will meet you at your hotel to travel off the beaten track to Naoshima, an island in the Seto Inland Sea that is known for its modern art museum, architecture and sculptures. The island has a Mediterranean atmosphere with sandy beaches, sunny weather and a laid-back rural feel. The main draw for the island is its installations and sculptures, giving it the title of Art Island. In addition, the islands municipal buildings and schools were designed by the modern architect Ishii Kazuhiro. Included in your visit are the Chichu Art Museum and Benesse House Museum. You will also be given free time to explore on your own by foot or maybe rent a bicycle.

Your guide will accompany you to your hotel at the end of the tour.

Day 12: Osaka

Your bullet train journey brings you to Osaka. After checking in, enjoy an evening tour of Osaka, the city that gets even more lively at night. Explore the best spots, a mix of street food, standing bar, sit-down Izakaya, and delicious wagyu beef grill.

Day 13: Koya-San

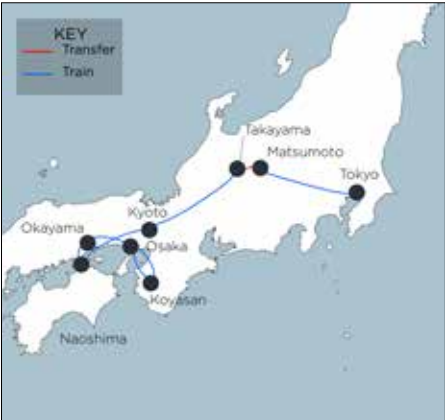
Travel by rail today to Koya-san (via Gokurakubashi). On arrival check-in to your unique accommodation at Eko-in, or similar. This is an unforgettable stay experience in a Buddhist temple. Koya-san Eko-in offers Japanese-style accommodation with a beautiful garden and voluminous Syojin cuisine in your room. Have a pleasant stay in the quaint old temple which is different from a ryokan or a hotel. Guests are free to attend Buddhist morning services, the Goma fire ritual and meditation.

Day 14: Osaka

After an unforgettable stay, return to Osaka for your final night.

Day 15: Departure

Your package ends with the check out from your hotel and a private transfer to the airport.



Northern Japan

12 days

Start this “off the beaten track” journey in Tokyo where you will find a fascinating mix of tradition and innovation to the relaxing hot springs of Hakone, your independent tour then heads north into the heart of Tohoku. Explore the vibrant city of Sendai, wander the historic samurai streets of Kakunodate, and end in Aomori, where rich culture, beautiful scenery, and local flavours come together for an unforgettable finale. Along the way, embrace the spirit of adventure as each destination reveals a new side of Japan waiting to be discovered.

Highlights

Tokyo – Hakone – Sendai – Kakunodate – Aomori

Tour Includes

- 11 nights accommodation
- 11 breakfasts, 2 lunches
- Admission fees, transportation and licensed tour guides as shown
- Train transfers and transportation as stated

Departure Dates

Year round

We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.

- Choose your preferred hotel & location
- Add or remove nights
- Add, amend or remove sightseeing

Day 1: Tokyo

Welcome to Tokyo. Upon arrival, take your private transfer to your hotel. Check in and spend the rest of the day as you please. If you are feeling adventurous, consider exploring the area surrounding your hotel. Tokyo has so many secrets to discover.

Day 2: Tokyo

Join your English-speaking private guide for an immersive full day exploration of Tokyo. Your guide will show you the ropes; they will teach you how to use an IC card, navigate the complex train and subway systems, and learn the etiquette and differences of shrines and temples. Included in the tour are one-day transport passes and entrance fees amounting to 4000 JPY per person. Your guide will have suggestions for places to visit during this Orientation Tour. However, feel free to customise your itinerary to make your day personal to you. Your guide's will be happy to make recommendations and insights. If you possess a Japan Rail Pass, your guide will assist in activating it and reserving seats. Don't forget to bring along your JR Pass voucher and passport for this enriching experience. By the end of the day, leave with stronger confidence and cultural understanding, and feel ready to explore Japan independently.

Day 3: Hakone

Your guide will meet you this morning and be ready to set off departing Tokyo and drive to Hakone. Leave the city behind and a very different view awaits. scenery turns greener and more mountainous. Start at Amazake Chaya, a centuries-old teahouse where you can enjoy a quick break with tea and mochi in a calm, traditional setting. Continue on to Hakone Shrine, nestled among tall cedar trees near Lake Ashi; take a relaxed walk around the grounds. Next, visit the Hakone Checkpoint and Cedar Avenue, a restored historic site that offers a brief look into travel during the Edo period. Stop by the Mount Taikanzan Observation Deck to take in wide views of Lake Ashi and Mount Fuji on clear days. From there, head to Gora to explore the Hakone Open-Air Museum, where modern art blends seamlessly with the surrounding mountains and open spaces. Once you arrive at your hotel the rest of the day is free to relax.

Day 4: Hakone

Today is a free day for you to spend at your leisure. Perhaps you will spend your day enjoy the hot springs of Hakone. If you have an adventurous spirit, you make go for a hike in the area. If you wish to see some more popular spots, consider visiting Owakudani, the famous volcanic valley.

Day 5: Sendai

This morning, make the journey to Sendai. Start in Hakone and head to Odawara Station where you will board the shinkansen. Make a transfer at Tokyo Station and board the shinkansen bound for Sendai. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day.

Day 6: Sendai

Follow the footsteps of samurai lord Date Masamune on this full day food and culture tour through Sendai City. Explore modern streets while discovering the history and culinary traditions that shaped the region with a knowledgeable local guide. Throughout the day, enjoy a variety of local specialties including sake, sweets, and light meals while visiting lively markets, hidden temples, and nostalgic shopping streets. You will also experience hands on food culture such as tasting traditional Sendai snacks. In the afternoon, travel by taxi to Zuihoden, the ornate mausoleum of Date Masamune, and the ruins of Aoba Castle. From its scenic viewpoint, enjoy panoramic views before concluding your tour.

Day 7: Aomori

This shared, guided tour lets you enjoy the fishing traditions of Rifu with an experienced local captain. Board a cruise through the scenic Matsushima Bay to unique locations where both traditional fishing methods and rod fishing are practiced.

After returning to shore, savour a BBQ lunch made with the day’s fresh catch— fish tempura, sashimi, and other seasonal delights. The tour begins and ends at Sendai Station, making it an easy and memorable day trip into the culture and flavours of Miyagi’s coastline.

Day 8: Kakunodate

This morning, board the shinkansen and take a 90 minute journey to Kakunodate, a former castle town which flourished during the Edo period. Known as the “Little Kyoto of Tohoku”, the town is home to a district 800-meters in radius consisting of samurai residences and traditional architecture. On your half day tour an experienced local guide will take you to both the merchant and samurai districts, where you'll visit a historic samurai house and experience local craftmanships. From there, enjoy a tour of the Ando family soy sauce and miso brewery. A seventh-generation family member will guide you through the historic buildings including the warehouse. Finish with a visit to Bukeyashiki, the town's historic samurai street.

Day 9: Kakunodate

Today is at leisure or you may choose to add on one of our recommended experiences.

A Zen Meditation tutorial: the temple where this experience is held, places particular emphasis on Zen meditation among the various denominations of Buddhism. Get beneath the skin of this religion and practice as you learn some of the spirit of Zen that has been passed down from generation to generation. For the more active guest, join a half day Lake Tazawa E-bike tour around the shores of the deepest lake in Japan, and the rural landscape that is synonymous with Akita.

Day 10: Aomori

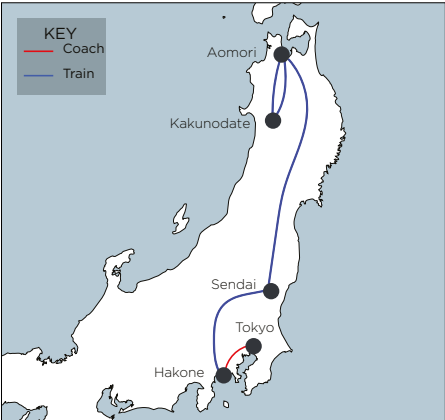
Say farewell to Kakunodate and make the journey to Aomori. There will be a transfer at Morioka Station and Shin-Aomori Station. Enjoy the scenic views of Tohoku on this roughly three-hour train ride to Aomori Station. On arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy the rest of your day at leisure.

Day 11: Aomori

Today is a free day with no activities planned for the day. However. If you are feeling up for more adventure, we would be happy to make personal recommendations.

Day 12: Depart Aomori

We hope you enjoyed discovering the beauty of Northern Japan. Today we can assist you with your onward travel arrangements.



Family Adventures in Japan

16 days

Japan is a great place for families, and this tour emphasises experiences for children. You will explore the main cities and sights with private guides, and family adventures include cycling tours and theme parks such as Disneyland, Studio Ghibli Park, Manga Museum and Universal Studios. Family fun is blended with history and culture on this tour.

Highlights

Tokyo – Nagano – Takayama – Kanazawa
Kyoto – Nara – Osaka

Tour Includes

- 15 nights accommodation
- Admission fees, tours and transfers as described
- Transportation, rail journeys, transfers and ground transportation as shown
- Please note: sightseeing tours utilise public transportation

Departure Dates

Departs: Daily
January to December

We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.

- Choose your preferred hotel & location
- Add or remove nights
- Add, amend or remove sightseeing

Day 1: Tokyo

On arrival in Tokyo, you will be transferred by private vehicle to your hotel. Check in for your 4-night stay.

Day 2: Tokyo

Enjoy a 4-hour private tour of Tokyo's main highlights with an English-speaking guide. Begin your day with a visit to the Asakusa District, once an entertainment district in the Edo era, but now home to charming shops and restaurants and the oldest temple in the city, Sensoji. You will also visit Meiji Shrine, one of the most famous Shinto shrines, and then head to Shibuya, one of the most famous shopping locations in Tokyo.

Day 3: Tokyo Disneyland

Enjoy a magical day at Tokyo Disneyland where smiles grow wider and memories are made to last a lifetime. Meet your favourite characters, take a jungle cruise, or, for those feeling brave, climb aboard Big Thunder Mountain and be prepared to get wet on Splash Mountain. Then slow down, sit back and enjoy endless shows and parades which will entertain the whole family.

Day 4: Tokyo DisneySea

Visit eight themed ports of call, each one inspired by different regions of the world, including Mediterranean Harbour and Arabian Coast.

This is a day of discovery and exploration, from tranquil boat rides to flying carpets and culinary delights from around the globe.

Day 5: Nagano

Board a bullet train to Nagano, an outdoor sports mecca particularly famous for skiing and snowboarding. Often called the "Roof of Japan," it boasts the highest mountain ranges in the country. On arrival, check in for a 2-night stay.

Day 6: Studio Ghibli Park

Tickets are included today for Studio Ghibli Park, a theme park dedicated to the films of Studio Ghibli. Opened in November 2022, the park is built within the grounds of the Expo 2005 Aichi Commemorative Park.

Day 7: Takayama

Board your next bullet train to Takayama and enjoy a 2-night stay in this beautifully preserved rural old town.

Day 8: Naoshima and Takamatsu

Get away from the hustle and bustle of the big city, with a cycling tour of Hida-Furukawa. Your friendly and knowledgeable guide will show you around in a way that only a local can. You will meet locals and learn about the culture and spirit of rural Japan.

Hida-Furukawa is a small mountain town, well preserved, with charming canal-lined streets and traditional white-walled buildings. Japan is a nation of cyclists and this is one of the best ways to immerse yourself in local life.

Day 9: Kanazawa

Get a glimpse of Japan's traditional and rural side on a full-day tour. Depart from Takayama and travel to Inami by private car. Inami is Japan's woodcarving capital, home to over 120 workshops and 300 craftsmen, making it a great destination to witness traditional crafts. Visit Zuisenji Temple, regarded as the birthplace of the Inami woodcarving tradition. Take in the intricately carved decorations before joining the guild and getting hands-on in a woodcarving workshop. Next visit Ainokura, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is a quaint village surrounded by spectacular mountain scenery. Take a stroll through the charming countryside village, capturing the awe-inspiring views along the way, and stop by a folk museum to learn about the iconic architecture style.

Day 10: Kanazawa

A ½ day private tour will showcase Kanazawa's longstanding connection to Japan's iconic warriors, the samurai. Meet your guide and transfer on the loop bus to Kanazawa Castle Park, an architectural relic of the age of samurai.

Continue your guided wander as you approach Nagamachi Samurai District. Preserved as the former residential area of the city's illustrious samurai, it's full of winding lanes, tile-topped roofs and several former homes of samurai that you can enter. Visit the Nomura Samurai House, a historic home and garden that's perfectly preserved.

Day 11: Kyoto

Today is a free day to explore at your pace.

Day 12: Kyoto

Discover a different side to Kyoto on a 3-hour bicycle adventure of the city. Starting at the cycling terminal near Kyoto, your local guide will showcase the captivating history and cultural heritage of the former Japanese capital. Cycle the hidden backstreets and winding alleyways of this atmospheric town and pedal through 2 renowned geisha districts, Miyagawacho and Gion. Cycle along the Shirakawa River past beautiful wooden houses and willow trees, before taking a trip through the spacious Kyoto Imperial Palace Park, home to two Imperial Palaces. End your tour back at the cycling terminal.

Day 13: Kyoto and Nara

Enjoy a full day tour with a local guide today to Nara, Japan's first capital. See the many sights including Todaiji Temple, the world's largest wooden building and home to the world's largest bronze Buddha statue enveloped in a golden halo. Visit Nara's most celebrated shrine, Kasuga Taisha. Before returning to Kyoto, take a wander through Nara Park, one of the oldest parks in Japan where over 1,000 tamed yet wild deer freely roam its grounds.

Day 14: Osaka

Board your final bullet train today for the short journey to Osaka. The day is free to explore. Late afternoon, meet a local guide for a night tour of the best spots for local food. The tour is a mix of street food, standing bar, sit-down Izakaya, and delicious wagyu beef grill.

Day 15: Universal Studios Japan

Included today are 1-day admission tickets to Universal Studios Japan.

Day 16: Departure

Your package ends with the check-out from your hotel and a private transfer to the airport.



Tokyo Disneyland



Nara



Studio Ghibli



Nara

Trains & Traditions of Japan

17 days

Explore the traditions of Japan on this 17 day tour. There are many fabulous sights to see from the dazzling neon lights of Tokyo, to the history and culture of Hiroshima, Kyoto and Osaka. Local guides will join you at each key location and take you on a guided tour of the highlights of their city and favourite places. Travelling by train, both bullet trains and local services you will enjoy the efficiency of the famously on-time schedules.

Highlights

Tokyo – Takayama – Kanazawa – Kyoto
Hiroshima – Osaka – Hakone

Tour Includes

- 16 nights accommodation
- Admission fees, tours and transfers as described
- Transportation, rail journeys, transfers and ground transportation as shown
- Please note: sightseeing tours utilise public transportation

Departure Dates

Departs: Daily
January to December

We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.

- Choose your preferred hotel & location
- Add or remove nights
- Add, amend or remove sightseeing

Day 1: Tokyo

On arrival meet your driver and be transferred to the hotel by private vehicle. Check in for a 3-night stay.

Day 2 and 3: Tokyo

On day 2, meet with your English-speaking private guide who will assist you in exchanging your rail voucher for your actual rail pass and assist with making any seat reservations for your various journeys. Continue your day visiting some of the main sights of Tokyo with your guide.

Day 4: Takayama

Leave Tokyo today, board the train to Takayama for a 2-night stay. After checking in the day is free for you to explore.

Day 5: Takayama

Today, you will visit the morning markets, known as Asaichi, there are 2 morning markets held daily in Takayama. Begin the day at the more recent one, started in the early 20th century, then on to the older one, originating in the early 1800s. Takayama's markets are a great example of traditional establishments surviving the pressure from large chains and stores. With both markets near the old town, it is a wonderful area to stroll by, sample some of the delicious food, and admire the architecture.

Towards the end of the tour, you may stop by a local sake brewery and try jisake, local sake at one of the breweries of Takayama.

Day 6: Kanazawa

Your next train brings you to Kanazawa for a 2-night stay. After checking in the day is free for you to explore.

Day 7: Kanazawa

Meet your English-speaking local guide at your hotel for a comprehensive tour of Kanazawa. See Japan's top three gardens, Omicho Market and Kazue Machi, one of the preserved tea house districts. Here you can try your hand at one of the traditional crafts that Kanazawa is famous for, gold leaf embellishment. Roll up your sleeves and learn how to decorate a lacquered plate with delicate and intricate gold leaf, making a unique souvenir in the process. You will also walk to the neighbouring Higashi Chaya, the largest preserved geisha district in Kanazawa. Explore Shima Teahouse, which has been converted into a museum. Admire the beautiful details of this space that has been kept in the traditional style, observing the costumes and musical instruments that geisha used to entertain patrons. After learning more about Kanazawa's fascinating past, return to your hotel for the rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 8: Kyoto

Your next train brings you to Kyoto for a 3-night stay. After checking in the day is free for you to explore.

Day 9: Kyoto

Explore the former imperial capital of Japan with a knowledgeable local guide, utilising Kyoto's comprehensive bus system to visit some of the city's famous World Heritage Sites. Start your day with a visit to Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) which was originally built as a retirement villa for the Shogun but, at his request, became a Buddhist Temple after his death. Next, make your way to Nijo Castle, an ornamental castle famous for its architecture, decorated sliding doors and 'chirping' nightingale floors. Then, head to Heian Shrine, built on the occasion of the 1100th anniversary of the capital's foundation in Kyoto. Finally, make a visit to Kiyomizu Temple (Pure Water Temple) and enjoy the panoramic views of Kyoto from the 13-metre-high veranda jutting out from the Main Hall.

Day 10: Kyoto

A free day for you to explore as you please.

Day 11: Hiroshima

Your next train brings to you Hiroshima for a 2-night stay. After checking in the day is free for you to explore.

Day 12: Hiroshima

This morning, meet your guide before transferring by public transit to Memorial Peace Park. Hiroshima's tribute to its tragic past and hopes for the future. Visit the Peace Memorial Museum next, whose exhibits display artefacts and photographs of the bombing and its aftermath. After some free time for lunch take the train to the ferry to cross the shore to Miyajima Island, an ancient holy site, a sacred and beautiful national treasure of Japan. Featuring stunning Shinto shrines, Buddhist pagodas and temples, spectacular natural beauty, and charming Edo-style walkways, the island offers a slice of ancient Japanese culture. Afterwards, make some time to stop and shop at the charming souvenir shops in town, or try some local delicacies before returning to the mainland and your hotel.

Day 13: Osaka

Your next bullet train brings you to Osaka. On arrival meet your guide and walk around the main attractions of this vibrant city.

Day 14: Hakone

Today, you will board the train heading towards Odawara station. Continue on by train to your hotel in Hakone and check in for a 2-night stay.

Day 15: Hakone

This morning you will be met at your accommodation in Hakone by your guide for the day to explore Hakone National Park, one of Japan's most iconic parks in the shadow of Mount Fuji. Throughout the tour you will have a chance to take a glimpse at this awe-inspiring mountain, weather permitting. Explore Hakone using an included 3-day pass which provides local transport. Take the cable car from Gora Station to the Hakone Ropeway and soar above the active volcanic site, Descend the mountain to Togendai, where you'll board a pirate ship and sail across Lake Ashi. A crater formed by a volcano nearly three-thousand years ago, these charming waters offer beautiful views of the enveloping mountains. Included in today's tour is entrance to the Hakone Open Air Museum, one of the must-see places in Hakone.

Day 16: Tokyo

Use your Hakone Free Pass to make your way to Tokyo today, to catch the train for your onward journey to Tokyo.

Day 17: Departure

Your independent tour ends.



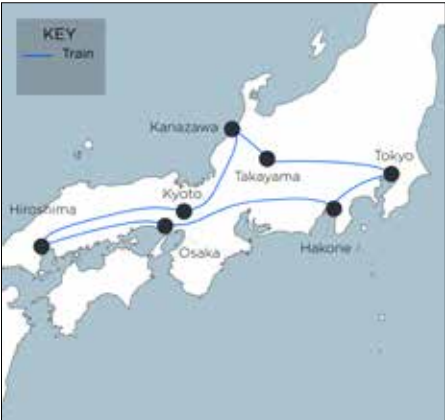
Kyoto



Hiroshima



Tokyo



Osaka

Short Stay Packages

Over the following pages we have created a selection of short packages designed to showcase some of the most popular regions of Japan.

These packages are perfect should you only have a few days available, perhaps before or after joining a cruise, or if you are stopping over on a trip to Asia or Australasia.

Many of the packages are based on travelling around Japan using the ever-efficient rail network, this is by far the easiest and most convenient way to travel between the main cities and regions.

We can tailor any of the packages to meet your exact requirements, we will recommend hotels but if you have a preferred hotel or location, just let us know and we will quote accordingly.

Our short stay packages are featured over the next 6 pages

Experience Tokyo – 5 nights

City Explorer – Tokyo & Kyoto – 5 nights

Best of Osaka, Kyoto and Hiroshima – 6 nights

Cities Blossoms and Monkeys – 6 nights

Sapporo – Explore the North – 4 nights

Okinawa & Islands – 6 nights

Our Tailor-Made Service

If you prefer to travel independently, we can certainly help there too. A selection of hotels, attractions, and sightseeing tours are showcased from page 68 onwards, these are just a snapshot of what we can offer.

Simply tell us your interests, your dates and your budget and we will work with you to create your perfect trip.

Experience Tokyo

6 days

Tokyo, the vibrant capital of Japan, is a melting pot of cultures, where old temples coexist with modern skyscrapers. Our 5-night package is perfectly designed to showcase the best of the city. A private tour will introduce you to the highlights, then 2 free days allow you to explore more or revisit your favourite places. A day tour to the majestic Mount Fuji is also included.

Highlights

Tokyo – City Sightseeing
Mount Fuji Day Tour

Tour Includes

- 5 nights in Tokyo
- Private Tour of Tokyo
- 5 'Must Try' Experiences
- Full Day tour to Mount Fuji

Departure Dates

Departs: Daily
January to December

We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.

- Choose your preferred hotel & location
- Add or remove nights
- Add, amend or remove sightseeing

Day 1: Arrive Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo and check in at your hotel. After checking in, the remainder of the day is free for you to explore. We can tailor the hotel used for this package to suit your preferred location or budget. Please see our selection of preferred Tokyo hotels on pages 72 and 73 or ask us for your preferred property.

Day 2: Tokyo

Experience the best of Tokyo's iconic landmarks and cultural highlights on a Full Day Tokyo Tour with an English-speaking guide and a private vehicle. This immersive tour will take you on a captivating journey through the vibrant city. From ancient shrines to futuristic towers, this tour is an unforgettable day filled with fascinating sights. Throughout the tour, the English-speaking guide will provide fascinating insights into Tokyo's history, culture, and local customs. Your guide will tailor the tour to visit the attractions that are most suited to you.

Alternate City Tours are available:

Choose from a full day bus tour, a half day walking tour with a private guide or a half day private tour.

Day 3: Tokyo Cultural Experiences

The day is free for you to explore at your own pace. We have included a short tour that introduces you to 5 popular Japanese cultural experiences: Matcha tea ceremony, Geisha performance, Kimono experience (dance and Samurai dance lessons), Calligraphy lesson and an Origami workshop.

Day 4: Mount Fuji Day Tour

A full day tour takes you to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mount Fuji, around 2-hours from Tokyo. Your tour begins from the Tokyo Bus Terminal at 8am, your first stop will be for stunning views of Lake Kawaguchi and Mount Fuji at Oishi Park. Visit the Arakurayama Sengen Shrine, enjoy the best view of Mount Fuji from the five-storied Pagoda, visit Mount Fuji 5th Station (weather permitting) and the natural pond of Oshino Hakkai to feel and taste the natural water of Mount Fuji. *Note: all views of Mount Fuji are weather dependent.*

Day 5: Free Day

A final day for you to explore Tokyo at your leisure.

Day 6: Departure

Your package ends with the check out from your hotel. We can arrange transfers to rail stations or to the airport.



Tokyo



Tokyo



Arakurayama Sengen Shrine



Mount Fuji

City Explorer – Tokyo & Kyoto

6 days

A short tour that will introduce you to 2 of Japan’s most famous cities. Enjoy 3 nights exploring Tokyo, a full day tour will give you an opportunity to see the highlights followed by a free day to explore further at your own pace. Board a bullet train to Kyoto where you explore on an eco-friendly bicycle tour of the winding alleyways and renowned geisha districts and enjoy a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.

Highlights

Tokyo – Bullet Train – Kyoto

Tour Includes

- 3 nights in Tokyo
- 2 nights in Kyoto
- Airport transfers
- Tokyo Full -day tour as described
- Bullet train – Tokyo to Kyoto
- Kyoto 3 hour cycling tour and Tea Ceremony

Departure Dates

Departs: Daily
January to December

We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.

- Choose your preferred hotel & location
- Add or remove nights
- Add, amend or remove sightseeing

Day 1: Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo Airport, you will be met and assistance provided for your transfer to your hotel.

Day 2: Tokyo

Explore the city on a full day tour that includes the Tokyo Bay cruise and a trip up the Tokyo SkyTree. See sights like the Meiji Jingu Shinto Shrine, the Imperial Palace, and the Senso-ji Temple in Asakusa. Your tour utilises public transportation with an English-speaking guide who will share their insights into the city.

Day 3: Tokyo

A free day of exploration in Tokyo. Alternatively, choose to add an excursion or activity, we can offer a day tour to Mount Fuji, or perhaps a sushi-making class or a sword-cutting class, both offering insights into delicate Japanese arts.

Day 4: Kyoto

Take the bullet train from Tokyo to Kyoto. Here, take a cycling tour of Kyoto, taking in geisha districts, beautiful ornate wooden houses, willow trees, and the Imperial Palace Park. The guide will share their knowledge of the former Japanese capital.

After your cycle tour ends, make your way to a tea house to partake in a Japanese Tea Ceremony called Sado. This is an explanation, demonstration and a hands-on experience of making Kyoto’s famous matcha green tea.

Day 5: Kyoto

A free day of exploration in Kyoto. There are optional tours available to explore further and enhance your stay. Perhaps a Kyoto half day tour, taking in the shrines and temples of this ancient city, including the world-famous Kiyomizu-Dera Temple, or join a tour to Nara, Japan’s first capital. Nara is full of historical significance, and you will also see the tame deer in Nara Park.

Day 6: Departure

Enjoy the last morning in Kyoto before heading to the airport for your onward journey.



Kyoto



Tokyo



Kyoto



Tokyo

Best of Osaka, Kyoto and Hiroshima

7 days

Spend a week of exploring some of Japan’s most interesting cities. Osaka, a modern city with striking modern architecture, a vibrant nightlife scene and tasty local cuisine. Kyoto, where modern life meets old traditional Japan, rich in heritage sites and culture. Finally to Hiroshima, the site of the world’s first atomic bomb attack, now a modern, cosmopolitan city with excellent cuisine and a bustling nightlife.

Highlights
Osaka – Kyoto – Hiroshima
Bullet Train Journeys

- Tour Includes**
- 2 nights in Osaka
 - 2 nights in Kyoto
 - 2 nights in Hiroshima
 - Bullet train – Osaka – Kyoto – Hiroshima – Osaka
 - Walking tour of Osaka
 - Full day tour of Kyoto and Nara
 - Walking tour of Hiroshima

Departure Dates
Departs: Daily
January to December

- We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.**
- Choose your preferred hotel & location
 - Add or remove nights
 - Add, amend or remove sightseeing



Cities, Blossoms and Monkeys

7 days

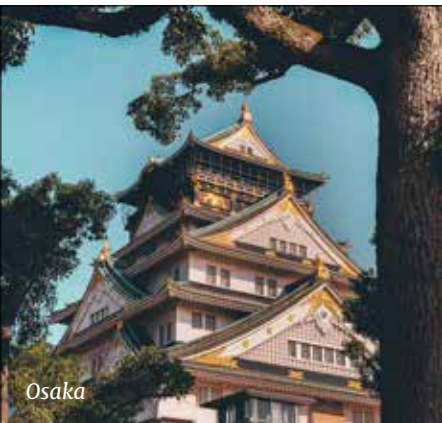
A fascinating 3 city adventure. Travel by train and experience the many attractions that each city has to offer. In Osaka, a walking tour will showcase the amazing sight of the cherry blossom (when in season) and in Nagano a tour takes you to see the Japanese macaque, also known as the snow monkey, a species native to Japan.

Highlights
Osaka – Tokyo – Nagano – Tokyo

- Tour Includes**
- 2 nights in Osaka
 - 2 nights in Tokyo
 - 2 nights in Nagano
 - Bullet train tickets Osaka – Tokyo – Nagano – Tokyo
 - Station to hotel transfers in Osaka and Nagano
 - Cherry Blossom walking tour (*when in season**)
 - Nagano full day tour

Departure Dates
Departs: Daily
January to December

- We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.**
- Choose your preferred hotel & location
 - Add or remove nights
 - Add, amend or remove sightseeing



Day 1: Osaka
Arrive Osaka, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. We can tailor the hotel to suit your preferred location or budget.

Day 2: Osaka and Cherry Blossom*
Today, join a walking tour of the Karahori district, a true hidden gem where the spirit of old Osaka remains. Mingle with the locals and walk the maze-like back streets to a secret spot where shrines and Cherry blossom trees mix together.
**Cherry Blossom season is short, about one month from the first tiny buds to the finish of the season. Cherry blossom season in Osaka typically begins in late March and extends into the first week of April, these are average dates and the actual timing can vary based on the weather, and for these reasons viewing blossom is not guaranteed.*

Day 3: Tokyo
Check out from your hotel and transfer (included) to the rail station for your bullet train to Tokyo. On arrival in Tokyo check in at your hotel and the day is free for you to explore.

Day 4: Tokyo
A free day to explore the city. We can add sightseeing if required, choose to add anything from city tours, private tours with English-speaking guides or perhaps a full day excursion to Mount Fuji.

Day 5: Nagano
Board your bullet train today to Nagano located in the centre of Japan. Check in at your hotel and explore at your leisure.

Day 6: Snow Monkeys
A full day tour with an English-speaking guide introduces you to Nagano. Visit Nagano's Zenko-ji Temple, filled with history and legend. Enjoy lunch at one of the most popular restaurants followed by an afternoon at the world-famous Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park. The park is inhabited by Japanese macaques, known as snow monkeys. Accustomed to humans, the monkeys can be observed from very close and almost completely ignore their human guests. *Please note: This a private guided tour using public transportation.*

Day 7: Tokyo Departure
A transfer will return you to the rail station to board your bullet train to Tokyo, where on arrival, your package concludes.



Sapporo – Explore the North

5 days

Explore Sapporo, the capital and largest city of the northern island of Hokkaido. Here you will find many sights including the Sapporo Clock Tower, which has been marking time for over a century, Odori Park more than 1,400 meters long and of course, the Sapporo Beer Museum which traces the city’s brewing history. The city is also perfectly placed for exploring the north as showcased in the excursions included here in this package.

Highlights
Sapporo – Lake Toya – Otaru – Hokkaido

- Tour Includes**
- 4 nights accommodation in Sapporo
 - Full day private tour of Sapporo
 - Full day tour to Hokkaido

Departure Dates
Departs: Daily
January to December

- We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.**
- Choose your preferred hotel & location
 - Add or remove nights
 - Add, amend or remove sightseeing

Day 1: Sapporo
Arrive in Sapporo and check into your hotel. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore.

Day 2: Sapporo
Join your guide for a tour of Sapporo’s main sights. Walk around Odori Park, enjoy a fresh seafood lunch in the Wholesale Fish Market. Visit Shiroi Koibito Park, a chocolate entertainment park operated by a Japanese confectionery manufacturer which produces Shiroi Koibito, one of the famous sweets in Japan. The park is a beautiful world where British and Hokkaido cultures merge. Next visit the Clock Tower, a symbol of Sapporo, constructed during the early period of Sapporo's development in 1878. Your tour will end at Sapporo Beer Museum, one of the oldest and most popular beer brands in the country, beer has been brewed in Sapporo since 1877.

Note: This is a private guided tour using public transportation. The schedule, duration, and destination of this private tour can be adjusted to suit your needs.

Day 3: Hokkaido Day Tour
Embark on a captivating day tour, immersing yourself in the refreshing ambiance and captivating scenery of 2 of Hokkaido's magnificent lakes, Lake Toya and Lake Shikotsu. Begin at Jigokidani, a sulfurous geothermal crater, often referred to as the Valley of Hell, where the landscape is adorned with steaming geysers and a rugged, primordial allure. Continue to the volcanic Shikotsu-Toya National Park, where you'll indulge in a delightful lunch amidst the natural splendour. Revel in panoramic vistas of Lake Toya and the iconic Showa Shinzan Mountain. Also included is a visit to Noboribetsu Bear Park, a wildlife facility dedicated to the conservation and care of bears. Here you can take in the views of mountains and forests while exploring the park, gain awareness about the park's role in wildlife conservation and the measures taken to protect and care for bears.

Day 4: Sapporo
A free day to explore at your leisure.

Day 5: Departure
Your package ends with the check out from your hotel.



Hokkaido



Susukino Street



Lake Toya



Shiroi Koibito Park

Okinawa Islands

7 days

Japan's southernmost prefecture, Okinawa is a chain of 160 islands stretching from the main island in the north to Ishigaki and beyond. This package introduces 3 of the islands, Okinawa Main Island, Ishigaki and Miyako, with time to explore and relax on each.

Highlights
Okinawa – Ishigaki Island – Miyako Island

- Tour Includes**
- 2 nights on Okinawa Island
 - Guided Tour of Okinawa Island
 - Flight from Okinawa to Ishhigaki Island
 - 2 nights on Ishhigaki Island
 - Flight from Ishhigaki Island to Miyako Island
 - 2 nights on Miyako Island

Departure Dates
Departs: Daily
January to December

- We can tailor this package to perfectly suit your requirements.**
- Choose your preferred hotel & location
 - Add or remove nights
 - Add, amend or remove sightseeing

Day 1: Okinawa Main Island
Arrive on Okinawa, the largest and most populated of the islands. It's home to World Heritage Sites, a national park and local culture. It's also surrounded by a many smaller islands, several of which are accessible by bridges. Check in to your hotel for a 2 night stay.

Day 2: Okinawa Main Island
Explore the island with a local guide, see the island's sights including Shurijo Castle, Kokusaidori, Himeyuri Peace Museum, Peace Memorial Park and Shikinaen Garden. *Please note: This a private guided tour using public transportation. Admission tickets to attractions are not included. Tour duration is 6 hours.*

Day 3: Ishigaki Island
A short flight will bring you to Ishigaki Island, the southernmost city in Japan, around 2,000 kilometres away from Tokyo. Ishigaki has a beautiful coastline with magnificent beaches and excellent hiking trails in the centre of the island. Spend 2 nights here relaxing and exploring.

Day 4: Ishigaki Island
The day is free for you to explore. Swimming, snorkelling, diving, and glass-bottom boat tours are among the most popular water activities available. At night spectacular sunsets await and with no light pollution the skies are filled with dazzling stars.

Day 5: Miyako Island
Another short flight brings you to Miyako Island, the fourth largest island in the prefecture halfway between Taiwan and Okinawa. Miyako Island is a peaceful getaway, expect your visit to be full of beaches and sea views. Spend 2 nights relaxing and exploring the island.

Day 6: Miyako Island
The day is free to relax or explore as you please. The island is surrounded by coral reefs and an emerald sea.

Day 7: Departure
Your package ends with the check out from your hotel. We will arrange your flights onward to your next destination, there are direct flights available to Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, and Fukuoka, so where to next?



Ishigaki Island



Ishigaki Island



Shureimon Gate



Miyako Island

Cruises

Cruising around Japan is a truly spectacular way to experience the four main islands and miles of coastline that make up the country. In contrast to our tailor-made journeys in Japan, any cruise itinerary will allow you to explore the smaller, enchanting islands as well as the larger and most historic sights in a different and convenient way.

A week-long cruise will allow you to discover the highlights and major cities, whilst longer itineraries will showcase lesser-explored areas along with some more relaxing days at sea.

A cruise in Japan takes the ambition associated with a land-based journey away, providing a great entry into fascinating locations coupled with the luxury of unpacking once, and letting the cruise line guide you through the must sees of each port.



Our Favourites

Numerous cruise lines sail around the islands that make up Japan, mainly from March through to October each year. We are able to offer a variety of durations and itineraries to suit your needs, taking into account the sites and ports that you are wanting to visit.

Most cruises start and end in Yokohama, the neighbouring port to Tokyo, providing great accessibility to other regions either pre or post cruise, or enabling you to travel on further from the main airports here too.

The following pages will give you a summary of the different cruise lines that offer itineraries in Japan, and showcase a variety of different ports. Be sure to check out the shore excursions that your chosen line offers to ensure that you discover the most that each fascinating location has to offer.

Our featured cruise lines:

Tokyo Cruise Itinerary Extensions – pages 58–59

Holland America Line – pages 60–61

Ponant – page 62

Oceania – page 63

Celebrity Cruises – page 64

Princess Cruises – page 65

Regent Seven Seas – page 66

Silversea Cruises – page 67

Our Tailor-Made Service

We love to create unique holidays designed around everything you like to do. We'd be delighted to tailor a holiday around your cruise, allowing you to explore more of Japan.

A selection of hotels and sightseeing tours are showcased throughout this brochure but these are just a snapshot of what we can offer. Simply tell us your interests, your dates and your budget and we will work with you to create your perfect trip.



Tokyo Cruise Itinerary Extensions

Cruising from Tokyo opens a side of Japan that many visitors never experience, allowing you to discover remote islands, spectacular coastlines, and regions that are often difficult to access on a traditional land-based holiday.

To truly maximise your time in Japan, we highly recommend combining your cruise with a bespoke pre- or post-cruise itinerary. Tokyo is the perfect place to begin. Taking time to acclimatise before your cruise will enhance your overall experience, and a guided full-day tour offers invaluable insight into local customs, etiquette, and daily life. Understanding the cultural nuances, along with practical travel tips and advice, will help you navigate Japan with confidence.

These are just a few of our personal favourites and examples of what can be incorporated into your journey. Whether there is a particular region, experience, or hidden corner of Japan that your cruise doesn't cover, we would be delighted to create a bespoke itinerary tailored specifically to your interests, ensuring you experience the very best of this fascinating destination.

Tokyo & Hakone 7 days



Hakone



Bullet Train



Ryokan

Explore the fascinating city of Tokyo before taking the Bullet Train to Hakone. Nestled in the mountainous region of Kanagawa Prefecture, Hakone is a sublime blend of scenic beauty, rich history, and cultural depth. Known for its hot springs, the iconic Lake Ashi, and views of the illustrious Mount Fuji, Hakone offers an immersive escape from the hustle of city life.

Highlights

Tokyo – Bullet Train – Hakone

Price includes

- 3 nights in Tokyo
- Sightseeing tour of Tokyo
- 3 nights in Hakone
- Bullet Train from Tokyo to Hakone & return
- Return hotel to station transfers in Hakone
- Hakone Freepass transport pass

Departure Dates

Departs: Daily, January to December

Day 1: Arrive Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo and check in at your hotel, the remainder of the day is free to explore.

Day 2: Tokyo

Enjoy a half-day tour of Tokyo where your guide will introduce both modern and traditional aspects of this dynamic Japanese capital. This is a 4-hour tour that can be tailored to your interests.

Day 3: Tokyo

Free day.

Day 4: Hakone

This morning take the Bullet Train from Tokyo to Odawara Station. On arrival, an included transfer will take you to your accommodation. In Hakone, we can offer a selection of hotels, but here we recommend a stay in Ryokan Senkei for a traditional and unique stay.

Day 5: Hakone

We have included the Hakone Freepass. The pass provides access to 8 different transportation systems in the area, such as the Hakone Tozan Line, the Hakone Ropeway, the Hakone Sightseeing Cruise, allowing you to explore Hakone at your leisure.

Day 6: Hakone to Tokyo

A transfer today will return you to Odawara for your return Bullet Train to Tokyo. Enjoy one final night in Tokyo.

Day 7: Departure

Your package ends with the check out from your hotel.

Local Tokyo & Snow Monkeys 6 days



Nagano



Tokyo



Nagano

On this tour you will get to know Tokyo through the eyes of a passionate local and experience an authentic matcha tea ceremony. Take the Bullet Train to Nagano, in the centre of Japan surrounded on all four sides by 3000-metre-tall mountains, where you will be perfectly placed to visit the Jigokudani Wild Monkey Park, the only place in the world you can see wild monkeys bathing in an onsen.

Highlights

Tokyo – Nagano – Snow Monkeys – Tokyo

Price includes

- 3 nights in Tokyo
- 3-hour Tokyo Walking Tour with a local
- 3-hour Traditional Tea Ceremony
- 2 nights in Nagano
- Bullet Train tickets Tokyo – Nagano – Tokyo
- Station to hotel transfers in Nagano
- Nagano Full day private tour including Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park

Departure Dates

Departs: Daily, January to December

Day 1: Arrive Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo and check in at your hotel.

Day 2: Tokyo

This morning you will get to know the city through the eyes of a passionate local. Your guide will provide a general overview of the city with practical information from a local's perspective (attraction admissions and transport costs are not included). After saying goodbye to your guide, this afternoon you will join a Tea Making Ceremony and learn about tea ceremony history and etiquette.

Day 3: Nagano

Board your Bullet Train today to Nagano, located in the centre of Japan. Check in at your hotel and explore at your leisure.

Day 4: Snow Monkeys

A full-day guided tour introduces you to Nagano. Visit Nagano's Zenko-ji Temple, filled with history and legend. Enjoy lunch followed by an afternoon at the world-famous Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park. The park is inhabited by Japanese Macaques, known as snow monkeys. *Please note: This is a private guided tour using public transportation.*

Day 5: Tokyo

A transfer will return you to the train station to board your Bullet Train to Tokyo, for a final night in this fascinating city.

Day 6: Departure

Your package ends with check-out from your hotel.

Holland America Line

One of the leaders in international cruising for over 150 years, Holland America's fleet showcases spacious and comfortable ships with a wealth of activities, dining and quality services on board. From a 2 week voyage around Japan's neon cities, to more in depth sailings taking in the white-sand beaches of Okinawa and further afield to Japan's neighbour South Korea, any cruise with Holland America is sure to provide a lasting memory of the Land of the Rising Sun. Choose to have a more inclusive cruise with the Have It All Package, giving you access to speciality dining, drinks made by top mixologists and a chance to enjoy some activities whilst exploring the numerous ports you will visit.

On board your cruise with Holland America Line

Holland America offer multiple itineraries around Japan, and whichever one of their elegant ships you sail on, you will experience a wealth of luxurious amenities. Enjoy spacious cruise ship rooms, fine dining and activities on board in a range of speciality restaurants, bars and entertainment venues. Suites and staterooms across all ships are equipped with Mariner's Dream™ bedding, complimentary 24-hour in-room dining, generous storage, Elemis Armoapure bath amenities and deluxe bathrobes. Choose a stateroom with a verandah for dining alfresco and to enjoy the views after you return from a day of exploring.

Departures in March, April & October.



Circle Japan - 13 Days

Enjoy the best of Japan on this two week cruise, discovering Japan's heritage and tradition, as well as lesser explored seaside villages. A round-trip from Tokyo, take in the views and vibrancy of each port, and on some departures, you will also experience some of the mountains, beaches and ancient temples of South Korea.

Ports of Call may include: Yokohama (Tokyo), Aomori, Otaru, Hakodate, Akita, Sokcho (South Korea), Sakaiminato, Fukuoka, Kagoshima, Kochi, Osaka, Shimizu, Kobe, Miyako.



Circle Japan Collector - 28 Days

A voyage centring on contrasts, showcasing modern and futuristic cities with ancient Japanese tradition from centuries gone by. This four week itinerary also features an overnight in the attractive city of Kobe – a historic port for foreign trade in the 19th century and now boasting some of Japan's best cuisine and dining.

Ports of Call may include: Yokohama (Tokyo), Kochi, Kagoshima, Sasebo, Busan (South Korea), Kanazawa, Akita, Otaru, Aomori, Hakodate, Shimizu, Kobe, Kochi, Hiroshima, Sokcho (South Korea), Tsuruga, Toyama, Akita, Miyako.



Japan & Taiwan - 14 Days

You'll feel a world away from the busy streets of Japan's cities as you sail through the crystal waters of Okinawa's islands. As you continue to Taiwan, marvel at the coastal landscapes and bustling markets. Returning to Japan, witness otherworldly traditional and tropical contrasts in Kagoshima, and the blend of old and new in Kochi and Kobe before arriving back into Tokyo.

Ports of Call may include: Tokyo, Aburatsu, Amami, Naha, Ishigaki Island, Hualien (Taiwan), Keelung (Taiwan), Nagasaki, Kagoshima, Kochi, Kobe.



Ponant

Ponant brings a more curated and bespoke style of cruising, fitting with the elegant nature of the ports and journeys you will experience if choosing to sail with them around Japan. Featuring itineraries that take you off the beaten path, Ponant's fleet of small-sized ships ensure a personalised service with a focus on adventure in a luxury setting with just 132 staterooms. Their cutting-edge technology and top-quality gastronomy courtesy of renowned chefs goes hand in hand with a trip around this land of contrasts, as you experience Japan's modern innovations and ancient relics.

Departures in April, May and October (Gastronomic Cruises)



Oceania

Oceania Cruises is the world's leading culinary and destination-focused cruise line. With a fleet of 8 small, luxurious ships designed to carry a maximum of 1,250 guests, the experience includes The Finest Cuisine at Sea and destination-rich itineraries that span the globe. Expertly curated travel experiences are available aboard the designer-inspired, small ships, which call on more than 600 ports, in over 100 countries on 7 continents. Choose Oceania for a luxury, adults-only experience within a refined environment, with attentive, personalised service and travel to discover, not just arrive.

Departures in March, April, September and October



Authentic Japan – 13 Days

Get to know the Land of the Rising Sun, its culture, its ancient traditions, its cultural heritage, and explore the Seto Inland Sea. Discover an extraordinary land of historic towns and cities and a rich Shinto heritage (including Toba and the UNESCO-listed Itsukushima Shrine). Among your included excursions: see the UNESCO-listed Himeji Castle, visit the Itsukushima Shrine from Miyajima, discover the cultural heritage of Nagasaki.

Ports of Call may include: Osaka, Toba, Shingu, Himeji, Takamatsu, Itozaki, Hiroshima, Miyajima Island, Beppu, Oita, Miyazaki, Kagoshima, Karatsu, Nagasaki, Busan (South Korea).



Japanese Ancestral Traditions and Legendary Shrines – 9 Days

Travel to the heart of Japan to discover its many facets: its history and ancestral traditions, its unbridled modernism, its magnificent landscapes. Exceptional heritage with numerous UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Itsukushima Shrine from Miyajima Island, the mountainous island of Yakushima, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. Enjoy one included excursion per person per stop during your cruise, from a selection curated by our destination experts.

Ports of Call may include: Osaka, Takamatsu, Miyajima Island, Hiroshima, Beppu, Oita, Hagi, Tottori, Ine, Miyazu, Sakaiminato, Busan (South Korea).



Sumo, Sake and Samurai – 10 Days

An immersive itinerary exploring the rich history and culture of Japan. Visit ancient castles, witness traditional sports and indulge in local culinary experiences, as you sail from Tokyo. Explore samurai castles in Kyoto, pay your respects in peaceful Hiroshima, soak in Beppu's famous onsen and explore some of Korea's culture and history on an unforgettable voyage..

Ports of Call may include: Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Kochi, Kagoshima, Nagasaki, Busan (South Korea), Fukuoka, Hiroshima.



The Oceania Difference

Oceania welcomes guests to discover Your World. Your Way. Guests enjoy speciality dining in all restaurants, in-suite and in-stateroom dining, unlimited Wi-Fi, soft drinks, teas and coffees plus still and sparkling water, juices, smoothies, gelato and gourmet ice cream, laundrette plus laundry and pressing services for concierge and suite guests. Shipboard gratuities are also included.



Celebrity Cruises

Sailing to more than 300 destinations across the globe, their cruises are a popular choice and provide a wealth of onboard experiences. Celebrity ships are designed to offer the intimate feel and welcome of a smaller size vessel, whilst still combining the excitement and facilities of larger ships. On a cruise to Japan with Celebrity, sit back and relax with a glass of your favourite wine and take in a fiery Japanese sunset. From the moment you step onboard, expect a vast array of globally inspired dining, fantastic music and dance shows in the state-of-the-art theatre, stylish bars and lounges and The Retreat – an exclusive all-suite space complete with butler service, and a private suite-only restaurant.

Sail on selected dates from March to October

Best of Japan – 13 days

Explore a region where history meets innovation, offering a rich tapestry of experiences to captivate the senses. Wander colourful markets, take in scenic landscapes and indulge in unforgettable culinary experiences showcasing diverse flavours. Engage in local traditions, discover hidden gems and create lasting memories from the wonders of Japan.

Ports of Call may include: Tokyo, Kobe, Kyoto, Kochi, Busan (South Korea), Nagasaki, Kagoshima, Shimizu for Mount Fuji.



Celebrity Millennium

Equal parts stylish and intimate, Celebrity Millennium is one of the first cruise ships in the world to receive a coveted Four-Star Rating from Forbes Travel Guide. Relax and renew at the redesigned spa, enjoy a cocktail at the Sunset Bar and discover live entertainment and activities throughout the day. Redesigned staterooms are the perfect place to restore, and if you're staying in The Retreat, you'll enjoy an exclusive sundeck and lounge along with private dining at Luminae.



Call us for more information on sailing dates



Princess

Renowned for their high levels of service and comfort, Princess Cruises are frequent winners of prestigious cruising awards. Every vessel in the fleet is designed with spacious decks, comfortably elegant public spaces and inviting balcony staterooms. Yet each also creates wonderful opportunities to socialise with a variety of sensational activities and entertainment to suit your mood. Throughout your cruise, whether you love activity or crave tranquillity, there is something for everyone, including a wide variety of freshly prepared cuisine and enriching experiences.

Departures throughout the year



Japan & South Korea – 7 Days

Embark on a circular voyage from Tokyo and South Korea taking in two contrasting countries steeped in tradition, blended in harmony of ancient sites and natural wonders. From the bustling city of Tokyo, you'll continue to Nagasaki, enjoying a slower pace and time of reflection in the Peace Memorial Park. Your next port of Seogwipo the second largest city on Jeju Island. Incredible features of the island is a regular maze of tunnels, caves and pillars formed by the cooling of lava flows from ancient volcanoes. Kobe is your gateway to Kyoto, Japan's ancient imperial capital and the nation's cultural and spiritual centre. Your final stop leads to stunning views (*weather permitting*) of the sacred and snow-capped Mount Fuji towering ring over the region. Returning to Tokyo, your circumnavigation of Japan and South Korea comes to an end.

Ports of Call may include: Tokyo (Yokohama), Nagasaki, Jeju (Seogwipo, South Korea), Kobe (Kyoto), Shimizu (Mount Fuji).



On board the Diamond Princess

Princess Cruises' sailings in Japan are on board the Diamond Princess, winner of Best International Ship in Japan from Cruise Magazine. Princess' ships are a treasure trove of activities and delights and are as much of a destination in themselves. Diamond Princess also features the Izumi Japanese Bath, modelled on a traditional onsen that is the largest of its kind at sea – a unique treat on board one of these sailings, complete with ocean views, sauna and steam room.

Call us for more information on sailing dates



Regent Seven Seas

Boasting the accolade of the world's most luxurious cruise line, guests aboard Regent will have their every need catered for. An all-inclusive travel experience with smaller ships that allow for a closer exploration of each port, coupled with the refined service on board is all part of the majesty of a Regent Seven Seas cruise. Immerse yourself into Japanese culture from the multiple shore excursions included and return to your ship to continue your experience in one of Regent's suites.

Departures in March, April and May



Silversea Cruises

For those seeking an intimate voyage of discovery, Silversea cruises are a perfect match. Their smaller ships enable you to get closer to the charm and unexplored areas of the ports of call, and dedicated butler service for all suites ensures that this unique, intimate service continues back on board with your every need taken care of. A truly personal and customisable experience from the in-suite amenities to food and beverage offering, you'll enjoy a home from home wherever you choose to travel with Silversea in the highest standard of luxury.

Departures in March, April, September and October



Japanese Traditions and Temples - 12 Days

Whilst cherry blossoms in springtime are a huge attraction, Japan is equally as impressive in autumn which is when this voyage departs. Vibrant colours of the season across Japan's national parks and towering temples are showcased on this sailing, as well as highlights including Beppu's bubbling hot springs and possible views of Mount Fuji from the Port of Shimizu.

Ports of Call may include: Tokyo, Shimizu, Tokushima, Kyoto, Kochi, Hiroshima, Busan (South Korea), Nagasaki, Hakata, Beppu.



Your All-Inclusive cruise includes:

- Unlimited shore excursions
- Exquisite dining options
- Unlimited beverages and in-suite minibar replenished daily with your preferences
- Unlimited access to spa facilities
- Pre-paid gratuities
- Unlimited Wi-Fi
- Valet laundry service
- 24 hour in-suite dining



Japan Cruise - 12 Days

Departing Tokyo on this round-trip, Silversea's 12 Day Japan and South Korea cruise will showcase the electric skyline of Tokyo to nearby Kyoto's spiritual temple gardens. Explore Kochi's original feudal castle before heading for Busan, across the Korea Strait. Returning to Japan, follow in the footsteps of samurai and elegant geishas in Kanazawa. Ease north to admire the views that spread out from Mount Hakodate before returning to Tokyo.

Ports of Call may include: Tokyo, Kobe, Kochi, Busan (South Korea), Sakaiminato, Kanazawa, Hakodate (Hokkaido).



Sailing with Silversea

Silversea's unique smaller ships ensure an intimate experience, and Japan sailings are on either the Silver Nova, Silver Muse or Silver Whisper. All ships feature the highest standard of luxury, and with a staff to guest ratio of almost 1:1, you'll get an highly personalised service. Your all-inclusive cruise with Silversea includes the below:

- Luxury oceanview suites with butler service and lavish amenities
- The best dining experiences from fine dining to informal venues to in-suite service
- Unrivalled spa and fitness facilities
- All inclusive beverages with an in-suite mini-bar stocked to your preferences
- Included tips and gratuities
- Complimentary shore excursions in every port of call (1 per port per day)

Tailor-Made

When designing your holiday, the arrangements should be just as you want them. Crafting tailor-made itineraries is where our expertise lies, meeting the requirements of all our discerning clients. The following pages are full of holiday suggestions across all regions of Japan. Should you not have seen anything that meets your wishes in our previous suggested tours and itineraries, then our tailor-made service is for you. Simply tell us what you'd like to do, and we will take care of the rest. We can suggest regions that may be of interest depending on your travel check-list and select the right hotels and excursions to match.

Consider a traditional stay in one of Japan's ryokans:

Although western-style international hotels are common in Japan, why not consider a traditional stay in one of Japan's charming ryokan inns as part of your tailor-made itinerary? Ryokans can range from guesthouses to sophisticated establishments, and we can always suggest the best ones to fit within your travel arrangements. Common in Japan's many hot spring resorts, ryokans are an opportunity to experience a traditional Japanese lifestyle and hospitality incorporating elements such as tatami rooms, futon beds and often elaborate Japanese cuisine with breakfast and dinner usually included.

Please keep in mind that because of the emphasis on traditional style, a ryokan stay involves certain procedures and etiquette that must be followed by guests, and we would be happy to inform you of these should you wish to include one on your holiday, or see our general and important information on pages 96-97.

Japan's four main islands offer huge variety and contrast, and we can tailor-make your trip according to your interests featuring as much as the country as you'd like. From the wild north of Hokkaido to the pristine beaches of Okinawa in the south, these pages are designed to showcase the best each region has to offer. If you have any other areas of interest, our tailor-made travel specialists will use their expertise to create the perfect holiday for you.

Our Favourites across Japan

Tokyo – pages 70-73

Chubu (Central Japan) – pages 74-75
Nagoya, Fujikawaguchiko and Hakuba

Kansai – pages 76-77
Kyoto, Osaka and Nara

Chugoku – pages 78-79
Hiroshima, Kurashiki and Okayama

Shikoku – pages 80-81
Kochi, Matsuyama and Naruto

Kyushu – pages 82-83
Nagasaki and Fukuoka

Tohoku – pages 84-85
Sendai, Aizuwakamatsu, Aomori and Akita

Hokkaido – pages 86-87
Sapporo, Niseko, Hakodate and Otaru

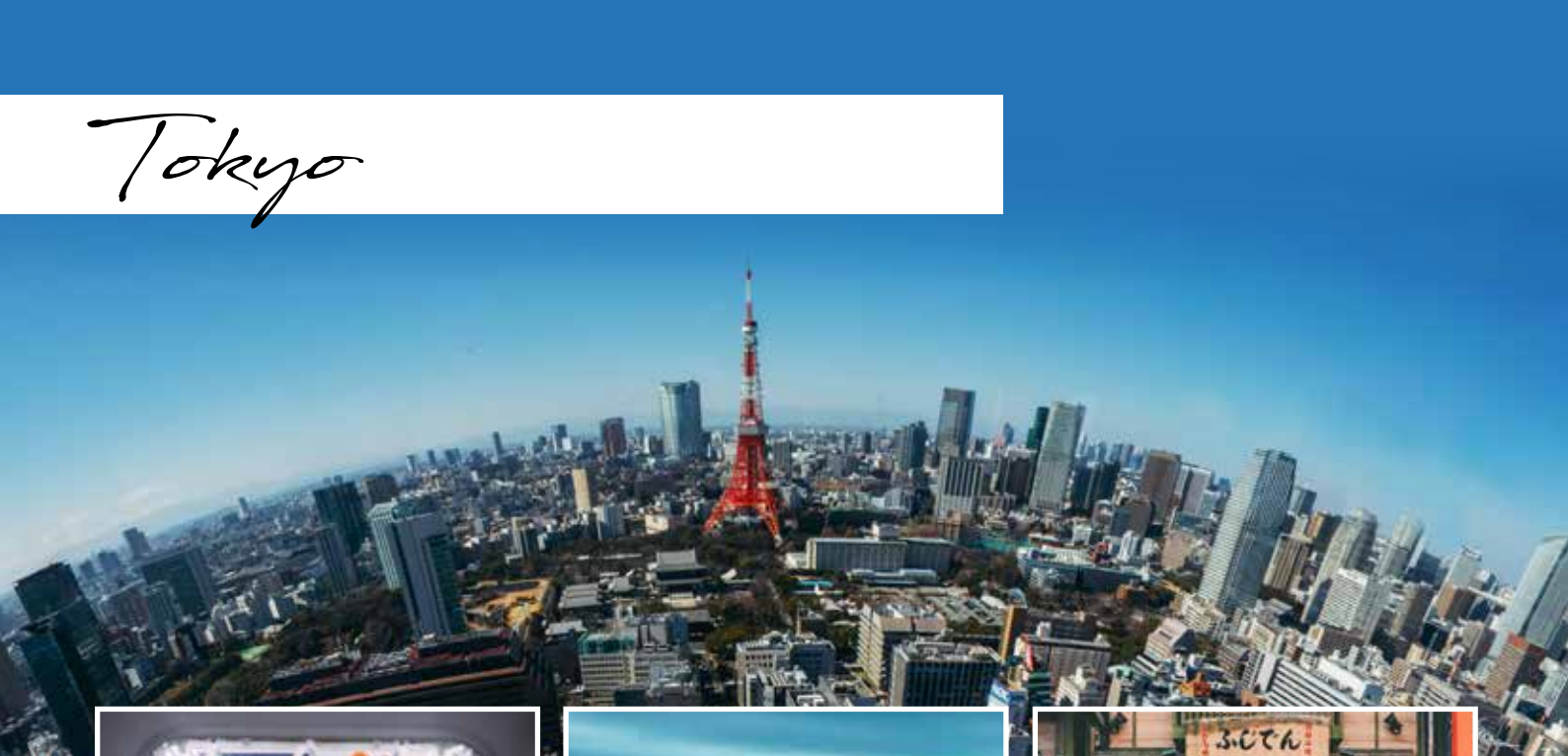
Okinawa – pages 88-89
Okinawa, Ishigaki and Miyako Islands

Our Tailor-Made Service

Our hand picked selection of hotels and sightseeing excursions are shown on the following pages. We also have access to many more locations, hotels and tours, so if your preferred city, property or excursion is not shown, please call us and we will be happy to quote accordingly.

Simply tell us your interests, your dates and your budget and we will work with you to create your perfect trip.

Tokyo



Train travel

Travel by train is an essential, convenient mode of transport in Tokyo. The network of JR East and Tokyo Subway covers all areas well, so you can easily navigate your way around the city.



Skyscraper views

This mega city turns into an expanse of bright lights after nightfall. Nighttime views from tall landmarks and skyscrapers are stunning, and you may have more chance of seeing Mount Fuji from Tokyo during the winter due to the clarity of the air and good weather.



Culinary delights

Tokyo's food scene is vast and varied from high-end restaurants to local street food. Along with fresh seafood, some shops at Tsukiji outer market offer old fashioned Japanese café food and simple Japanese favourites.



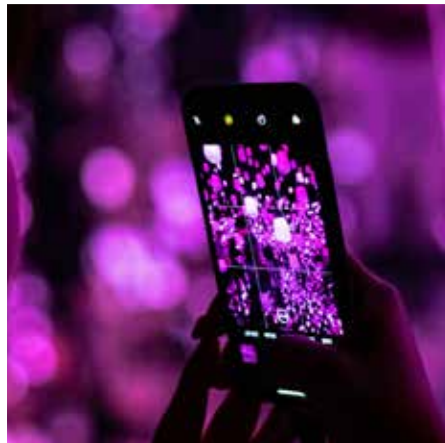
Contrasts of new and old

Despite the continuous modernisation in Tokyo, many people seek tranquillity and nostalgia in 'shitamachi' (downtown) areas like Asakusa and Nezu. Craft shops and food stalls amongst temples contrast with the skyscrapers and neon lights.



Shops galore

Tokyo offers so many shopping opportunities. Find electronics in Akihabara, and unique and fashionable clothes between Harajuku and Shibuya. Check out 100-yen shops, where you may uncover some surprising gadgets and utensils.



Museums and theme parks

While away the hours in digital art museums TeamLab Planets and TeamLab Borderless. Tokyo became the second city in the world to open the Warner Bros studio tour Tokyo – making of Harry Potter, and Tokyo Disney Resort is a must for Disney fans.

Our Favourite Sightseeing Tours

Tokyo Orientation Full-Day Tour

Join your English-speaking private guide for an immersive full-day exploration of Tokyo. Your guide will show you the ropes; they will teach you how to use an IC card, navigate the complex train and subway systems, and learn the etiquette and differences between shrines and temples. Included in the tour are one-day transport passes and entrance fees amounting to 4000 JPY per person and lunch. Your guide will have suggestions for places to visit during this Orientation Tour. However, feel free to customise your itinerary according to your preferences and make use of your guide's recommendations and insights. If you possess a Japan Rail Pass, your guide will assist with activating it and reserving seats. By the end of the day, leave with greater confidence and cultural understanding, and feel ready to explore Japan your way.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 8 hours

Mount Fuji with Kawaguchiko Lake

Enjoy the calm and tranquillity of a UNESCO World Heritage Site on this tour that will take you over 2 hours from the urban centre of Tokyo. No trip to Tokyo could be complete without gazing upon the mythical Mount Fuji, one of Japan's 3 holy mountains. Depart from bustling Shinjuku station, and travel with ease to a variety of sites on this tour. You'll see Mount Fuji in its glory from Oishi Park, take in further stunning views at Lake Kawaguchi and even have a chance to try Fuji's natural waters from the pond at Oshino Hakakai before travelling back to Tokyo.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 10 hours

Tsukiji Fish Market Tour

Wander the streets of Japan's 'Food Town' – the Tsukiji district, through the historic marketplace at the heart of Tokyo's culinary scene. This famous area is also home to the Tsukiji Hongan-ji Buddhist temple, dating back to the 17th century, that you'll also catch a glimpse of if you can tear yourself away from the colourful, lively lanes and alleyways making up the outer market. From purveyors of Japanese staples such as tea and nori, to tiny sushi shops and ramen stalls, there is plenty here to satisfy your taste buds. You'll be treated to some tastings, before also visiting an observatory to fully appreciate your surroundings.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 3 hours

Tokyo Bay Tea Ceremony Cruise

Choose this unique way to experience Japanese traditions while sightseeing in Tokyo. Cruise aboard a traditional Japanese yakatabune houseboat on Tokyo Bay where you will capture photographic opportunities of the Rainbow Bridge and Odaiba skyline from the water. Watch a Japanese tea ceremony, known as chanoyu or sadō, demonstration before participating in one of Japan's better-known cultural activities. Enjoy a live shamisen performance showcasing traditional Japanese music as you cruise around the bay. In keeping with tradition guests will be requested to remove shoes before boarding. Both traditional tatami and Western-style seating are available on board.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 1½ hours

Hakone Day Tour

Departing from Shinjuku on this coach tour, you will travel to Hakone, one of the most famous sightseeing spots for volcanic activity in the 'Owakudani Boiling Valley', and enjoy a lake cruise on Lake Ashi with views of Mount Fuji. You will also see the mountain from the air by taking the Hakone Ropeway. With stunning scenery, hot springs, and natural beauty, Hakone is one of the most popular destinations amongst travellers looking for a break from Tokyo. In the afternoon, choose to visit shopping outlets, or perhaps visit the hot springs (entrance at additional cost).

Departs: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
Duration: 8 hours

Kawagoe Tour

Transport yourself back in time to Edo-era Japan as you travel to Kawagoe, just north-west of Tokyo. Take a stroll through the 17th-century wooden buildings that make up this period castle town. A selection of shops and eateries are housed in traditional charcoal-tiled warehouse buildings or 'kurazukuri', and as you meander through the streets you will forget all about the neon lights you've left behind in Tokyo. The Museum of Folklore and Penny Candy Lane where you can pick up some Japanese confectionery enhance the story-book feel of this charming area.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 8 hours



Tokyo Station Hotel

The Tokyo Station Hotel is a blend of classic European and Japanese influences, set in an unrivalled location connected to the Tokyo station. The hotel has been a part of the Tokyo skyline for over 100 years, boasting the best of Japanese hospitality within its selection of over 10 eateries, chic bars and lounges. The variety of room categories throughout the property feature vaulted ceilings, period features and top-quality furnishings and amenities, with views of the surrounding city, palace or parks. There is also space for relaxation at the on-site spa, or a chance for a workout in the fitness lounge. The Tokyo Station Hotel is the perfect indulgent sanctuary to return to after a day of exploration and excitement in Japan’s capital.

Location: Tokyo Station

Our rating: ★★★★★



Hilton Tokyo Odaiba

This hotel towers 15 stories above Tokyo Bay, with views reaching across the skyline and Rainbow Bridge. With excellent transport links, you will never be far from the action especially with the complimentary shuttle to and from the Tokyo Disney Resort. Spacious guest rooms with balconies, some offering waterfront views, are equipped with all of the modern amenities of a quality city hotel. Explore Japanese, Cantonese and European cuisines across the dining options available at the Hilton Odaiba, before you retreat to the 5th floor spa with indoor and outdoor pool to look over the city lights.

Location: Odaiba

Our rating: ★★★★★



Cerulean Tower Tokyu Hotel

Rising above the streets of Shiubuya and its famous shopping, dining and road crossing, you are just a 5-minute walk from multiple train and subway lines connecting you to the rest of the city at the Cerulean Tower. Spacious and elegant guest rooms with panoramic city views are located on the 19th floor and above where you’ll forget about the metropolis below – you may even catch a glimpse of Mount Fuji whilst relaxing in your room. When you have spent your days taking in the heart of the city, save some time to sample local delicacies at one of the hotel’s award-winning restaurants and also visit the flagship Tower’s Bar for a carefully mixed cocktail or taste of Japanese whiskey.

Location: Shibuya

Our rating: ★★★★★



Hotel Groove Shinjuku

For a first-time visitor to Tokyo, the Hotel Groove is ideally located next to Shinjuku station for you to experience the energy of Tokyo’s entertainment scene. Rooms feature pops of colour and texture with floor to ceiling windows, ensuring that you don’t miss out on any views across this neon-lit city. Suites are designed by Japanese artists, with some showcasing traditional Japanese décor, ensuring that time spent staying at the Hotel Groove is far from the usual city hotel experience. Enjoy an array of street-food, bars and shopping before retreating to your room ahead of another day of sightseeing. A laundry facility is also offered here, perfect if this hotel is just one part of a longer journey.

Location: Shinjuku

Our rating: ★★★



Shiba Park Hotel

In the heart of Tokyo, Shiba Park Hotel, a Library Hotel offers a gateway to Japan’s rich heritage. Just steps from historic landmarks such as Zojoji Temple and Shiba Maruyama Kofun, guests will find the spirit of where old Edo entwines with modern Tokyo. Surrounded by history, guests can explore and discover the city at their own pace, or simply slow down and indulge in a choice of over 2,000 books centred on the city’s climate, people and history. Rooms lean towards a calm, elegant and tranquil stay, with delicate Japanese elements. Dining is an elevated experience throughout, indulge in Chinese, Western and Japanese cuisine. The Shiba Park Hotel combines contemporary comfort with timeless cultural charm.

Location: Shiba Koen

Our rating: ★★★★★

The Gate Hotel Kaminarimon by HULIC

The Gate Hotel Kaminarimon showcases its creative individuality throughout its design, offering a boutique style within the sprawling city of Tokyo. Located in Asakusa with its traditional craft shops and street-food stalls, the blend of modern and traditional can be seen clearly as you explore nearby sights including the Sensoji temple. Rooms range from a semi-double to two bedroom suites with large picture windows overlooking the city, some even with triple bedding configurations ideal for a group of friends or families. The on-site restaurant and bar will ensure your stay is fully catered for and offers a stylish setting with a backdrop of the iconic Tokyo Skytree.

Location: Asakusa

Our rating: ★★★★★



Keio Plaza Hotel

Located just 10 minutes from the world’s busiest train station in Shinjuku’s skyscraper district, the Keio Plaza Hotel was the first high-rise hotel built in Japan. A stay here is centred around the multitude of delights that Shinjuku has to offer including shopping, dining and entertainment, whilst being in easy reach of the rest of the city by many public transport links. Relax in one of the Keio Plaza’s many rooms, complete with panoramic views of the surrounding city, in your own personal urban oasis whilst still maintaining a central Tokyo location. Indulge in a range of cuisines in the several dining options, and make sure to sample some premium sake in the clouds at the bar on the 45th floor.

Location: Shinjuku

Our rating: ★★★★★

Shangri-La Tokyo

Drawing on a distinctly Asian influence, the Shangri-La Tokyo is understated opulence at its best. Close to the Imperial Palace, the regal feeling continues inside the spacious bedrooms, decorated with the well-travelled guest in mind, with quintessential Japanese design and modern features working in harmony together. Service is paramount here, and anyone will understand that after spending some time in any of the hotel’s restaurants or bars, with Japanese and Italian cuisines on offer. As far as the location goes, you can’t get closer to the rest of the city, with Tokyo Station on your doorstep, as well as being surrounded by a shopper’s paradise in the Marunouchi retail district. Why not take a dip in the pool high above Tokyo’s streets on the 29th floor as you experience a true urban utopia during your stay.

Location: Tokyo Station

Our rating: ★★★★★





Chubu / Central Japan



Chubu

The Chubu region makes up the central part of the main island of Japan, Honshu. The stunning mountainous peaks here give the area its name of the Japanese Alps, so it's no surprise that the area is popular with those seeking winter sports. The Alps are not the only jewels to be seen in the Chubu area—one of the oldest temples is here with over 1,400 years of history, and of course, the national treasure, mythical Mount Fuji, is the crowning glory. Amongst the historical and natural sites scattered around Japan's heart, make sure to visit the famous Snow Monkey Park, where you'll see the Japanese macaques at home in the hot springs, alongside the surrounding 'Hell Valley' with its erupting steam vents and hot springs.



Takayama & Shirakawa-go Day Tour from Nagoya

Explore rural wonders on a day tour from Nagoya to the city of Takayama and quaint village of Shirakawa-go – perfect for any cultural enthusiast. A world away from the fast-paced cities you may have visited, the architecture here is of a traditional design, and you'll feel as though you have travelled back in time in Japan's countryside. Be sure to try some of the local cuisine including the Hida Beef, regarded as delicate and delicious as the famous Wagyu, and native to this region.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 9 hours

Full Day Nagano Tour

Visit the heart of the region on this day tour, splitting your time between exploring the ancient Zenkoji Temple, and also the Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park. Discover the Zenjoki Temple, where Buddhism was first introduced to Japan and wonder at its history spanning over 1,400 years, before taking in the museum that showcases intricate Buddhist carvings with unique characteristics. At the Snow Monkey Park, see how the Japanese macaques gather around the hot pools in their natural habitat in an area that is covered in snow for a third of the year, although you can see the monkeys bathing year-round.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 8 hours



Flavours of Kanazawa Evening Tour

Thanks to its unique location, nestled between the Sea of Japan and the Japanese Alps, Kanazawa's cuisine is a perfect blend of land and sea. The city is known for its incredibly fresh seafood and premium sake, crafted using pure alpine spring water. On this walking tour, your English-speaking guide will take you on a food trail as you explore the charming backstreets of the Korinbo District, a lesser-known area rich in local flavour and atmosphere. Along the way, you'll stop at two carefully selected restaurants, where you'll enjoy a variety of regional dishes, drinks, and the warm hospitality that makes Kanazawa so special.

Departs: Daily except Wed
Duration: 3 hours

Accommodation Chubu/Central Japan

Nagoya Marriott Associa Hotel

Widely regarded as one of the best hotels in Japan, the Nagoya Marriott Associa Hotel has an enviable location just above the JR Takashimaya Department Store and next to the train station in central Nagoya. Large, well-appointed guest rooms are complemented by panoramic views of the city, all within close reach of a wealth of eateries and attractions. Choose this hotel for your stay if travelling by rail throughout Japan, with Nagoya station's impeccable links to Tokyo and Kyoto by bullet train. Your stay will be elevated by the top-quality service and excellent hospitality – the perfect base to return to after exploring all that Nagoya and to the surrounding Chubu region.

Location: Nagoya



Our rating: ★★★★★

La Vista Fujikawaguchiko Hotel

Check into La Vista Fujikawaguchiko Hotel and enjoy the perfect location, surrounded by natural beauty just 5 kilometres from Lake Kawaguchi, with some rooms offering breathtaking views of nearby Mount Fuji. Each of the well-appointed guest rooms provides a comfortable base to return to after you have explored the beautiful surroundings of the Japanese Alps. The tranquil atmosphere you'll experience, including the Maple Corridor just a short walk away, is echoed in the hotel's traditional Japanese design elements with a French twist. Retreat to the on-site Provencal-style gardens, or the spa, sauna or hot tub, whilst still being in close reach of cultural gems including traditional Japanese villages, museums and delights for nature lovers.

Location: Fujikawaguchiko



Our rating: ★★★★★

Mitsui Garden Hotel Kanazawa

Discover a unique blend of samurai heritage and modern art at Mitsui Garden Hotel Kanazawa, an ideal cultural base to explore. Located near Kenrokuen Garden, deemed to be one of the greatest gardens in Japan, Kanazawa Castle, and Omicho Market, where foodies can indulge in local specialities and fresh seafood. Guest rooms are modern in style with amenities to suit. Local Kanazawa artwork is showcased throughout the public areas, reminiscent of traditional crafts and works of modern art. Relax in the top-floor public bath overlooking the castle park, and enjoy a traditional Japanese breakfast, made with cooking methods from Kaga and Noto, served on stunning Kutani ware in the courtyard-view restaurant. Experience the best of Kanazawa's artistry and hospitality.

Location: Kanazawa

Our rating: ★★★★★



The Happo

Designed with the active, modern traveller in mind, the Happo is located in Hakuba, a mountain resort in the Japanese Alps. From the proximity to the slopes and the state-of-the-art technology, the Happo prides itself on luxury and convenience, being surrounded by restaurants and nightlife options for the discerning guest. You can check yourself in electronically and order room service with their online platform. Soak in the onsen and enjoy the Finnish sauna, sample an artisanal coffee or perhaps something to eat at the on-site Japanese restaurant, after you have enjoyed all this village has to offer. Sumptuous beds in spacious, light-filled rooms are a haven to return to once you have spent a day on the slopes.

Location: Hakuba



Our rating: ★★★★★



Kansai



Kansai

A trip to Japan would not be complete without including its cultural epicentre, the Kansai region. From Kyoto's temples and tradition to Osaka's food-filled streets, explore the region that is famed for birthing much of modern-day Japanese culture. Kansai has something for all, whether it be the nightlife and bright lights of Osaka, to the ancient capitals of Kyoto and Nara with centuries of history. Beauty and tranquillity are also never far away and if your ideal destination is the pinnacle of civilisation with the backdrop of nature, then look no further. Towering castles that have shaped a nation, the peaceful waters of Japan's largest lake, Lake Biwa, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites will leave you feeling enlightened.



Kyoto Highlights Tour

Experience Japan's oldest temples and shrines in the perfect way to explore all that Kyoto has to offer. The best way for the first-time visitor to Kyoto to ensure they tick everything off their sightseeing list, indulging in a wealth of compelling culture and natural beauty. The ticket includes most of Kyoto's highlights, such as the Kiyomizu-Dera Temple, Sanjusangendo Temple, Fushimi Inari Taisha Shinto Shrine, Sagano and Arashiyama and Kinkakuji Temple. Some alternatives may be included if any attractions are closed, and the tour does require some walking.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 8 hours

Nara Heritage Walkabout and Todai-ji Temple

Nara's ancient roots will be the centre of this day tour as you pass through the ancient Todai-ji temple, Nara Park and Kasuga Shrine. Journey through the fascinating history and become enlightened by the significance this area has over the rest of Japan. This former capital is home to a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, an enchanting blend of natural beauty and cultural heritage, not to mention the top attraction of the free roaming Shika deer.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 4 hours



Kyoto Coast, Amanohashidate and Ine Bay

Depart from Osaka or Kyoto to the coast, Amanohasidate and Ine Bay on this full day tour. Described as one of the top sceneries in Japan, Amanohasidate is famous for its iconic pine sand bar stretching across the bay. Affectionately known as 'Heaven's Bridge', the area resembles a bridge stretching towards the sky. Pure natural beauty and ocean views are in abundance as you take the cable car to Mount Monju to view Amanohasidate from above. You'll continue to the Chionji Temple, where you can observe the omikuji (fortune telling paper).

Departs: Daily
Duration: 9 hours



The Gate Hotel Kyoto Takasegawa by HULIC

Experience the celebrity welcome and service at the Gate Hotel Kyoto Takasegawa. Located in the heart of Kyoto, walking distance from major museums and near to the river Takase, part of the building was a former primary school that has been tastefully renovated with a new contemporary feeling. The hotel beautifully blends Western design and Japanese tradition together, with service and amenities to match including a fitness centre, restaurant and massages available on-site. This hotel mirrors the sophisticated, artistic nature of the surrounding city, with subtle nods to its history as a place of education. Take in the panoramic views of the city from the eighth-floor reception, outdoor terrace, and restaurant.

Location: Kyoto

Our rating: ★★★★★



Candeo Hotels Osaka Shinsaibashi

Perfectly positioned in the heart of Osaka, Candeo Hotels Osaka Shinsaibashi places you just moments from the vibrant streets of Dotonbori, Shinsaibashi's famous shopping district. Contemporary rooms offer a peaceful retreat after a day of exploring, while the rooftop SkySpa invites you to unwind in open-air baths overlooking the city skyline. Throughout the day, Shinsaibashi's vibrant dining scene is right on your doorstep, with everything from authentic izakayas and sushi restaurants to stylish cafés and street food. Combining modern comfort with an unbeatable location, it's the ideal base for experiencing the energy and charm of Osaka.

Location: Osaka

Our rating: ★★★★★



Citadines Namba Osaka

This serviced aparthotel is surrounded by a wealth of shops and restaurants, providing a convenient location for guests, just a 10- minute walk from Namba Station. Spacious, bright rooms range from studios to family rooms, giving travellers the luxury of extra space with separate living areas available in one-bedroom units, with select apartments also featuring fully equipped kitchens and laundry facilities. The hotel is also equipped with a residents lounge, fitness area, launderette, and 24-hour guest services. On-site dining is at the Numero 5 restaurant, serving an international buffet breakfast and casual Italian food during the day, or choose to immerse yourself in 'Osaka's Kitchen' at Kuromon Market, just a 5-minute stroll away.

Location: Osaka

Our rating: ★★★★★



Nara Hotel

Founded at the beginning of the 20th century, a stay at the Nara Hotel is a journey through time. Located within Nara Park, the hotel has welcomed distinguished guests since its opening and is located a short stroll away from the deer that are the symbol of the city. Decorated in a traditional style but fully equipped with contemporary standards of comfort, French and Japanese influence work in harmony together to create a classic, unique space that has been a centre of tranquillity for over 100 years. Nara Hotel is the natural choice for anyone wanting to spend time at the heart of this peaceful, welcoming city, discovering the delights of one of the country's most important historic and cultural locations.

Location: Nara

Our rating: ★★★★★



Chugoku

Home to Hiroshima, Japan's oldest shrine and gateway to the Seto Inland Sea, Chugoku makes up the Western part of Japan's main island of Honshu. The region is an area of contrasts, divided between the urban Sanyo region, and the rural Sanin region along the Sea of Japan Coast, echoing other areas of Japan that you may have also uncovered on your journey here. Most travellers' entry point to western Japan would start with Hiroshima – a place for reflection and peace in the Peace Park, and famous floating red torii gate at Miyajima, but there is more to explore. Consider Okayama with stunning gardens and the historic canal district of Kurashiki, Shimane that is steeped in mythology or off the radar Tottori and Yamaguchi that has changed little over the centuries.



Uncover Kurashiki: Historical Walking Tour

A representative from the 9th generation prominent Hara family will guide you through the Bikan (literal translation – beautiful look) quarter. Your guide will explain the 400 year story of how the streets of Kurashiki were a feudal domain during the Edo period. The peaceful and quiet Achi shrine is located at the top of Mount Tsurugata and is considered the protector of the city from its hilltop setting. Continue to the Tsurugatayama Tunnel, learning of the history and connections to Emperor Showa, before your tour ends at the beautiful Café El Greco.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 3 hours

Hiroshima and Miyajima Tour

On this day tour, experience highlights including the Hiroshima castle, and Peace Memorial Park. After exploring the park with views of the Atomic Bomb dome, visit the museum to view their collection displaying the devastation caused by the atomic bomb through to present day and the resilience of the residents of Hiroshima. A short ferry journey will take you to Miyajima, with its famous floating torii gate, one of the most peaceful settings in Japan. Spend some time visiting the Itsukushima Shrine on the sea and stroll through Omotesando shopping street lined with souvenir shops and street food.

Departs: Monday to Thursday, and Saturday
Duration: 7 hours



Okayama Half-Day Tour

Discover the highlights of Chugoku's capital Okayama on this half day tour with a private guide. Okayama castle has the nickname 'crow castle' due to its imposing crow-black colour. After you cross the Tsukimi-bashi over the river Ashi, you'll have the chance to visit the jewel of the city – Korakuen, one of the three great gardens of Japan. Enjoy the cherry blossoms here in the spring, and the vibrant maple trees in the autumn. The garden covers 14 hectares complete with tea houses, ponds and an aviary. From the top of the garden, experience beautiful views of the city.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 4 hours

Accommodation **Chugoku**

Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima

Enjoy a luxury stay on the Seto Inland Sea at the Grand Prince in Hiroshima. Retreat from the city, just 15 minutes away by car, with all guest rooms overlooking the water and mountains. Large windows in each room show the contrasts between the Sentoaikai National Park and the sea, and by nighttime, a stunning view of the city lights. The famous sites of Hiroshima, such as Miyajima, and can be accessed by high-speed boat from the pier outside the hotel. Both eastern and western cuisines with seasonal ingredients are on offer in several dining options at the hotel, ensuring you are fully catered for as you feast on both the food and the views.

Location: Hiroshima

Our rating: ★★★★★



Hotel Granvia Hiroshima South Gate

Enjoying an unrivalled location directly above Hiroshima Station, with seamless access to the city, Hiroshima Airport, and the wider rail network. Ideally placed for exploring, the hotel is within easy reach of Hiroshima's most significant landmarks, including Peace Memorial Park and the Atomic Bomb Dome, while Hiroshima Castle and Sukkeien Garden offer a glimpse into the city's rich heritage and natural beauty. Guest rooms, located on the 9th to 21st floors, feature warm wood-grain interiors inspired by the landscapes of the Setouchi region. Dining options are available throughout the day, from leisurely breakfasts to relaxed evening meals. Combining modern comfort, excellent dining, and outstanding connectivity, this is an ideal base from which to discover Hiroshima and its surrounding treasures.

Location: Hiroshima

Our rating: ★★★★★



Kurashiki Royal Art Hotel

Designed to provide a serene and relaxing atmosphere in the charming city of Kurashiki, the Royal Art Hotel is an unforgettable location for any guest. Art and comfort are married together in each of the hotel's rooms, nestled within the heart of the action amongst boutiques, museums, and the well-preserved canals dating from the Edo era only a 5-minute walk away. Featuring both local and western dining, the hotel offers 2 excellent restaurants open for lunch and dinner. For those wanting a more authentic dining experience, opt to dine at the 'kontatsu', a traditional covered table on the floor with a heater underneath, showcasing the region's local seafood and produce.

Location: Kurashiki

Our rating: ★★★★★



Hotel Granvia Okayama

Stay at the Hotel Granvia Okayama and you'll be within easy reach of fascinating history. Ideally located in front of Okayama station, you can drop your bags as soon as you arrive on one of Japan's famed bullet trains, and begin to explore the city that is famed for its stunning gardens, imposing castles, and delicious fruits. Bedrooms are modern and are designed for a comfortable and relaxing stay, with attentive service to match. Whether you are looking for an expertly crafted cocktail, or some time in the sauna or indoor pool after a day of exploration, you will be able to find an activity to suit at the Hotel Granvia Okayama.

Location: Okayama

Our rating: ★★★★★





Shikoku



Shikoku

Shikoku may be the smallest of Japan’s major islands, but it certainly packs a cultural and natural punch. The area showcases stunning coastlines across the Seto Inland Sea and is synonymous with the pursuit of spiritual perfection with over 88 sacred temples. Shikoku is also home to Japan’s most famous, ancient pilgrimage dating as far back as the 9th century, as well as the oldest bathhouse in the country – Dogo Onsen. Many of Japan’s ‘original’ castles are found here amongst lush valleys, and culinary delights such as legendary udon noodles are highlights of the region. Shikoku is the perfect place to explore the rural side to Japan, consider this area your foray into traditional, untouched Japan.



Whirlpool Cruise

Take a cruise to see the natural phenomena in the Strait of Naurto – the Naruto whirlpools. Created by the large volumes of water moving between the Seto Inland Sea and the Pacific Ocean, the whirlpools occur along the Shikoku coast. On board your cruise, the vessel gets as close as possible for you to get the best views of the whirlpools, passing right above them. For optimal viewing, we recommend this tour that allows for a higher vantage point from the first class deck.

Departs: Multiple departures daily
Duration: approximately 30 minutes

Kochi Highlights Tour

Join a local guide to see the sites of Kochi, a city full of enterprising spirits and tradition, that has prospered as a centre of economic innovation. There are four main highlights: Kochi Castle dating from the pre-Edo period, Hirome Market where you’ll enjoy lunch and some foods unique to the city, Makino Botanical Gardens spanning 3,000 hectares, and Chikurinji Temple, home to a secret Buddha that is only revealed to the public once every 50 years. Please note that this tour includes some travel by public transport.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 6 hours



Dogo Onsen Annex Asuka-no-Yu Admission

Experience Japan’s oldest and most famous hot spring resort located in Matsuyama city. Reservations are required to bathe in the soothing spring waters that have attracted visitors for centuries for their healing properties. Please note, shampoo, conditioner and shower gel are provided at the first floor bath, towels are charged locally and coin-operated lockers are available. Onsens typically require full nudity and guests with tattoos will be prohibited from entering. Admissions available daily : 06:00–23:00 (last entry 22:30) – closed for one day every December

Accommodation **Shikoku**



OMO7 Kochi

The ethos of OMO is to provide the perfect base for urban exploration, where city lovers will gain an insight into the local culture through original experiences and first-hand knowledge. Kochi is a city known for its food scene, abundant nature, and natural caves. The OMO7 Kochi by Hoshino Resorts offers 133 rooms which are simple and modern in style. OMO Dining offers gourmet buffet dishes inspired by the Kochi banquet dish ‘Sawachi’ for breakfast and dinner. There’s also a café bar with an a la carte menu. Guests at the hotel can also enjoy performances of Kochi’s famous Yosakoi dancing, which takes place each evening. Relaxation comes in the form of the indoor and outdoor hot spring public bath, which is surrounded by trees.

Location: Kochi

Our rating: ★ ★ ★



Richmond Hotels by Kochi

This comfortable hotel is in a busy location in the Obiyamchi shopping area and only a 5 minute walk from Hirome Market, a must for those looking to explore the Kochi cuisine. The hotel is also close to easy transport links whilst attractions such as Kochi Castle and the Harimaya Bridge are just a short stroll away, making it an ideal base for exploring the city. The 234 rooms are bright and welcoming and feature everything needed for a comfortable stay and the breakfast restaurant offers a wide variety of local hot and cold buffet items.

Location: Kochi

Our rating: ★ ★ ★



ANA Crowne Plaza Matsuyama

Offering a central location in the city, the ANA Crowne Plaza Matsuyama is a stylish and modern hotel with an array of facilities and dining options. The rooms are comfortable and elegant and decorated in calming tones, offering a relaxing place to retreat to after a day of exploring. Facilities include a fitness centre and 4 dining experiences. The Tea Lounge is open throughout the day serving, tea, coffee, and homemade cakes. Unkai offers Japanese seafood and seasonal dishes, whilst Tohen specialises in Chinese cuisine. The Sky Lounge is open for breakfast, before transforming into a cocktail bar by night.

Location: Matsuyama

Our rating: ★ ★ ★



AoAwo Naruto Resort

The AoAwo Naruto Resort sits within the Tokushima prefecture in the city of Naurto and offers a seafront location, with the most beautiful ocean views. The 2 towers with 206 guest rooms, afford a selection of room categories including both Japanese and western styles. Dining comes courtesy of 5 restaurants including regional Awa cuisine, French, seafood, a grill and a breezy café. This lovely hotel offers a range of traditional experiences including Awa folk dance performances, and local Awa tie-dye workshops. Guests can rent bicycles, relax on the private beach or by the swimming pool. There are marine activities including banana boats, paddle boards and kayaks and the night skies are popular for star gazing.

Location: Naruto

Our rating: ★ ★ ★



Kyushu

Once a gateway for trade and missionaries from overseas, Kyushu has a strong influence of Christianity and western culture. Fukuoka is the largest city within this region, and Hakata train station is pivotal in connecting Kyushu to Tokyo and the rest of Japan. The region is a confluence of energy and history, with dynamic landscapes, volcanoes and modern cities with a wealth of history behind them. The history of trading can be found in the Glover Garden in Nagasaki, where three merchants houses look over the port. You'll also sample some spectacular cuisine should you visit in May for the Hakata Dontaku festival. Offering a taste of modernity and slower-paced Japanese life, Japan's southern island is a place to experience a wealth of activity.



Nagasaki Sightseeing Tour

Visit Nagasaki Peace Park commemorating the atomic bombing in 1945. Nagasaki Peace Statue holds the names of the victims of the bombing and those lost in the tragedy. Glover Garden offers a history of the city coupled with views of the port. The house of Scottish merchant Thomas Glover who contributed to the modernisation of Japan is also here, amongst the open air museum. Lastly, you will take a trip to Megane Bashi, a stone bridge with a reflection that is said to look like a pair of glasses in the Nagashima River.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 4 hours

Itoshima Tour

This tour starts with a visit to Itoshima Shokudo to taste fresh seafood for lunch. The next destination is Itoshima Farmhouse UOVO café. This popular free-range chicken farm produces high quality eggs and are used for breads, sweets and cheesecakes. You'll also observe salt production at Kobo tottan and try salt pudding (crème caramel with caramel sauce sprinkled with salt). Meoto iwa (husband and wife rocks) at Futamigaura beach is a breathtaking view, where you'll see the two large rocks tied with a rope through the ivory torii gate standing at the beach.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 4½ hours



Fukuoka Highlights & Hidden Gems Walking Tour

A private guide will navigate you through Japan's gateway to Asia. Experience Nakasu District's electric atmosphere and your guide will lead you to the premier street food spots for Hakata ramen. Move on to Yanagibashi Rengo market for the finest seafood vendors and hidden stalls for a taste of Fukuoka's rich culinary scene. Explore the historic Fukuoka Castle Ruins with the ancient tales and panoramic city views from Maizuru Park.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 3 to 8 hours (choose from 3, 4, 6 or 8 hours)



Hilton Nagasaki

Offering a central location in Nagasaki, this modern and comfortable hotel offers a great base from which to explore. The Nagasaki railway station is next door and the Amu Plaza shopping centre is only a 3 minute walk away. The Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum is a 7 minute drive or 25 minute walk and the open air Glover Garden museum is a 10 minute drive. There is a choice of guest rooms and suites which are stylish and well-appointed with the executive level rooms giving access to a guest lounge. De Vaert is the all-day dining restaurant offering traditional Nagasaki dishes, whilst other dining options include the contemporary Chinese restaurant Fukukairo, and Tamatsurumi for sushi. Other facilities include a fitness centre.

Location: Nagasaki

Our rating: ★★★★★



Nagasaki Marriott

This new hotel forms part of the redeveloped Nagasaki JR rail complex and the hotel is only a short walk from the shinkansen platform. Guests are welcomed into the hotel on the 7th level with stunning views of the harbour and Mount Inasa, this is also where the hotel's onsite dining options including an all-day restaurant, a sushi restaurant and a teppanyaki restaurant are located. There are 207 rooms and suites, which are light and airy and feature city, Nagasaki Harbour or Mount Inasa views. Upgrade to a premium room or suite for a private balcony. The hotel also features a fitness centre, lobby bar, grab and go café and gift shop. Key attractions within Nagasaki are within a 10-minute drive.

Location: Nagasaki

Our rating: ★★★★★



Miyako Hotel Hakata

The Miyako Hotel offers a resort style feel in the heart of the city and is designed around the concept of green, water and light. The effect is peaceful and calming, making it a lovely place to return to after a day of exploring. The rooms and suites feature modern Japanese design with large windows to allow an abundance of natural light. There is a beautiful top floor spa with a natural on-site hot spring, indoor bath and sauna and cascading waterfall. There are a choice of restaurants including a lobby bar and an all-day dining option. Fukuoka attractions including the Tochoji Temple, Dazaifu Tenmangu and Nakasu, famed for its night food stalls lining the area between the Naka and Hakata Rivers are easily accessible on foot or using local transport.

Location: Fukuoka

Our rating: ★★★★★



Hotel Okura Fukuoka

This charming hotel is in the lively Nakasu area forming part of the Hakata Riverain, a complex of theatre, art, fine dining, and shopping. The hotel is also easily accessible from the Nakasu-Kawabata station. The design is modern and elegant with 264 beautiful rooms and suites, an impressive array of dining options including a teppanyaki grill, sushi, Chinese, Japanese and French. There is also a delicious bakery and a craft beer and pizza option. Relaxation comes in the form of the health club on the 6th floor which offers a full fitness centre, indoor heated swimming pool, jet bath and sauna.

Location: Fukuoka

Our rating: ★★★★★



Tohoku

Tohoku offers beautiful natural scenery throughout the year, from outdoor summer adventures to spectacular powder snow in the winter. Fresh foliage emerges after winter enhancing the richness of the landscape. Weeping cherry blossoms decorate the Bukeyashiki street in pink in the spring time, and Aomori hosts the Nebuta festival in the summer with incredible floats and lights. The shift into autumn brings deep red maple leaves surrounding the Tsuruga Castle, before snow covers the west side of the Ou mountains in the winter. As one of Japan's rice producing regions, sake breweries can be found throughout the region – why not enjoy one of the finest sake brands, 'Urakasumi' in its home city of Shiogama with some authentic sushi.



Aomori Highlights Tour

Your guide will collect you from Aomori port for your private tour of the city. Visit the Sannai Maruyama Ruins of the largest and best-preserved villages from the Jomon Period. The Aomori Museum of Art is also featured, showcasing local and world wide artists. A seafood lunch is included, followed by Nebuta Museum. Call into the A-Factory, a market style shopping centre selling local products including Aomori cider as the area is Japan's top apple producer.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 5 hours

Full Day Matsushima Tour

Explore the famous archipelago and one of Japan's three best scenic places on this full day tour. Known for the picturesque bay dotted with pine trees, your day begins with a cruise around some of the 260 islands, followed by a visit to Entsuin Temple full of fascinating history and spiritual importance. Continue to Zuiganji Temple, one of the most significant Zen temples in Tohoku, and Godaïdo – an iconic temple hall with panoramic views. The area even inspired Haiku poet Matsuo Basho with its breathtaking scenery.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 8 hours



Zao Fox Village and Ginzan Onsen Tour

Depart Sendai station by bus to explore Zao Fox village and Ginzan Onsen. Foxes are a popular creature in Japanese folklore, and 6 varieties of them roam freely here where you can feed them in designated areas. You will also have the chance to try the local speciality, delicate Shiroishi Umen noodles for lunch. Arriving later in the secluded hot spring town Ginzan Onsen, once surrounded by the traditional buildings you'll feel transported to the Taisho era.

Departs: Tuesdays and Fridays
Duration: 10 hours

Accommodation **Tohoku**

The Westin Sendai

The Westin Sendai is a modern, comfortable hotel with an excellent central location from which to explore the city. Sitting within the upper floors of the Sendai Trust Tower, the hotel offers guests wonderful panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, Aobayama Park and the Zao Mountain range. The 292 rooms and suites are stylishly appointed with signature Westin Heavenly® beds, over size bathtubs and floor to ceiling windows. In-house dining options include French and Japanese and there are plenty of restaurants nearby. The hotel features a 24-hour fitness studio and a day spa with 5 treatment rooms. The Anpanman Children's Museum and Mall is a 5-minute drive away, and attractions such as the Zuiho-den Mausoleum, Sendai Castle ruins and city museum are all nearby.

Location: Sendai

Our rating: ★★★★★



Konjakutei

Nestled in the heart of Aizuwakamatsu, Konjakutei is a tranquil retreat for the discerning traveller. Japanese-style rooms with tatami flooring and futon beds are offered at this ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn. There are also Western style rooms available, with some rooms featuring open-air baths. Ryokan rules are observed here, and guests should be aware that tattoos are not permitted and there may be curfews in place for guests as meals are often included. This ryokan is proud of its fine cuisine, making use of seasonal local produce. Please ask us for further information on the procedures in place when staying at a ryokan.

Location: Aizuwakamatsu



Our rating: ★★★★★

Daiwa Roynet Hotel Aomori

This modern hotel offers comfortable accommodation close to the railway station, allowing for easy access. The hotel offers 218 modern, spacious guest rooms, a fitness centre, grocery store and a restaurant. Attractions such as the Nebuta Museum and the Aomori Museum of Art are only a short walk away, whilst the Sannai-Maruyama Ruins are a 5-minute drive. The Daiwa is a great base from which to explore the city and the surrounding area and for those who want to get out of the city the Hakkoda Mountains are an hour away.

Location: Aomori



Our rating: ★★★★★

Akita Castle Hotel

Known for its variety of festivals and events throughout the year, Akita lies in the northern Tohoku region of Honshu Island. The Akita Castle Hotel is a comfortable base, close to the station, from which to explore the city. The hotel has 150 rooms and facilities include 3 restaurants, a bar, hair salon and shop. Nearby attractions include the Akita Museum of Art, Masakichi Hirano Museum of Fine Art, Shenshu Park and the Old Kaneko Family House.

Location: Akita



Our rating: ★★★★★



Hokkaido

The northernmost of Japan’s islands, Hokkaido is a paradise for nature lovers. Cold winters make the region popular with world-class skiers and snowboarders on its powder snow, whereas hot summers make it a haven for campers, cyclists and hikers. Hokkaido is the perfect escape in all seasons, famous for its natural beauty, delicious seafood and indigenous culture just a short flight away from the metropolis of Tokyo and can also be accessed by the Shinkansen rail services. Perhaps the most famous export from Sapporo, Hokkaido’s main city, is the Sapporo beer, but venture further into this destination to explore natural hot springs, volcanic lakes and unique culture.



Sapporo Morning Tour

Take in the sights of Sapporo on this morning tour including Shiroy Koibito Park, Okurayama Jump and the Outer Market. Join the audio-guided tour to see the finest attractions in the area and immerse yourself in the local culture. Departing from the Sapporo Station Bus Terminal, first visit the Hokkaido Shrine, before continuing to the Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium for a self-guided tour. You’ll also see Shiroy Koibito Park and make sure to sample some of their famous sweet treats, and the Sapporo City Market full of stalls ranging from fresh fruit to dried fish.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 4 hours

Hakodate Full Day Tour

Explore Hakodate and its long history of international trade making it a city with a distinctly European feel through its architecture and nostalgic streetcars that run through the city. Tailor your tour with a private guide to ensure you see everything this city has to offer. Take in the spectacular views from Mount Hakodate, visit the Western-style citadel Fort Goryokaku, or the Hakodate morning market to sample exciting seafood. There is also a range of shopping at Hakodate Port, or choose to visit the museum of Northern Peoples to learn more about the Ainu indigenous culture of Hokkaido.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 6 hours



Otaru Rickshaw Tour

Otaru offers a fun and unique experience for visitors to take in the city’s hot spots with a personal guide. Choose the duration of your rickshaw ride from 30 minutes to 2 hours. Guides will take you around the city to popular locations, like the Otaru Canal as well as hidden gems off the tourist trail. Piers, canals and stockyards will remind visitors of the bustling old days of this port city, known for its music boxes, glassworks and sake distilleries, that was once the trade centre of Hokkaido.

Departs: Daily
Duration: From 30 minutes to 2 hours (choose the duration of your tour)



Accommodation **Hokkaido**

Sapporo Grand Hotel

This elegant hotel opened its doors in 1934 and was the first western style hotel in Hokkaido. Centrally located in the city, the Sapporo Grand offers an excellent base from which to explore. The famous Sapporo clock tower is a 4 minute walk and the former Hokkaido government neo-baroque building, known locally as ‘Akarenga’ is a 5 minute stroll, it’s beautifully lit up at night. For shopping the Tanukikoji shopping area is under a 10 minute walk. The hotel has a choice of rooms and suites and facilities include a Starbucks, the Grand Arcade shops and a choice of restaurants including Japanese, Chinese and Western dining, 2 bars and a beer hall serving a wide range of beers, sake produced in Hokkaido and fresh seafood. There is also a popular bakery and pastry shop.

Location: Sapporo

Our rating: ★★★★★

Hilton Niseko Village

Perfect for winter and summer visitors, the Hilton Niseko Village is at the foot of Mount Annupuri close to the gondola and adjacent to the Niseko Village Golf Course. Facilities include natural hot spring baths (onsen) and a fitness room, there is also a wide range of experiences including horse riding and hiking in the surrounding area. The hotel offers a range of well-appointed rooms and suites, some of which offer views of Mount Yotei and an extensive array of dining options including Teppanyaki, sushi, Japanese and a grill restaurant. Ezo is an Apres-ski pub located next to the gondola, it opens during the summer months too, and The Flame Bar & Lounge is a relaxing space with a focal hanging fireplace.

Location: Niseko

Our rating: ★★★★★

La Vista Hakodate Bay

Offering panoramic views, particularly as night falls, La Vista is a classically elegant hotel in Hakodate, one of the oldest ports in Japan. Just 20 minutes from the airport and a 15 minute walk from the railway station makes it an ideal base from which to explore the historic buildings, wonderful views and superb dining of the city. The charming rooms and suites are a delightful place to relax after a busy day, as is the top floor natural hot spring and spa complete with a rock bath, ceramic bath, barrel bath and cypress bath and dry sauna. Dining options include a seafood buffet, steak and a Chinese restaurant, along with a bar on the 12th floor.

Location: Hakodate

Our rating: ★★★★★

Grand Park Otaru

Surrounded by mountains and overlooking the panoramic waters of Ishikari Bay, the Grand Park Otaru is centrally located and offers a very comfortable place to stay in Otaru. The hotel is adjacent to the Wing Bay Otaru, one of Hokkaido’s largest shopping malls, offering an array of shopping and dining, it’s also close to the railway station, and the historical buildings, stone warehouses and canals this port town is known for. 296 rooms offer a choice of western or Japanese style with ocean or mountain views and facilities include bicycle rental and a choice of 3 restaurants ranging from a brasserie, Teppanyaki diner, seaside bar, lounge, and a patisserie.

Location: Otaru

Our rating: ★★★★★



Okinawa



Okinawa

The islands of Okinawa are a diverse collection of raw, natural beauty and rich heritage. The perfect chance to escape the cities of Japan, and explore the castle ruins, picturesque coves and clear waters that make up Japan’s southernmost prefecture. Okinawa’s distinct island culture has long been a draw for visitors, with its own history as an independent kingdom and subtropical climate. Easily accessed from the mainland by short flights, a visit to Okinawa is a must to see the magnificent coastline, white sand and vibrant reefs. Made up of 160 different islands, Okinawa’s Main Island serves as the gateway to the outlying islands of this fascinating region and is also home to the cosmopolitan city of Naha from which you can begin your journey.



Ishigaki Canoe & Paddleboard

Discover the wonders of Ishigaki’s mangroves on this canoe and stand-up paddleboard tour. Paddling across the water is a great way to spot birdlife and take in the natural environment in a relaxed way. This tour also includes a landing at Phantom Island, so named as its sandy shores change shape dependent on the tides. You’ll have the chance to snorkel here and enjoy the surrounding sea that is a haven for fish and corals – a true natural aquarium.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 6 hours

Okinawa Sightseeing Tour

Get to know the sights and history of this fascinating region on this bus tour. Highlights on the tour include Shuri Castle, UNESCO Heritage site and residence of the Ryukyu kings for several centuries, Okinawa World – a theme park showcasing Okinawan culture, the Cornerstone of Peace monument and the Himeyuri Peace Museum. The tour also has an option to end at the airport, making this an ideal pre-flight tour (please allow ample time before your flight in case of adverse traffic conditions).

Departs: Daily
Duration: 7 hours



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Snorkelling in the Kerama Islands

Explore the Kerama Blue – the turquoise clear waters of the sea surrounding the Kerama Islands on this full day snorkelling tour. Departing from Naha, enjoy snorkelling in the National Park including Tokashiki, Zamami and Aka Islands. Your guide will show you the delights of the waters filled with tropical fish and various coral species. Dependent on season, you may catch a glimpse of humpback whales and sea turtles. Your tour also includes lunch and transfers.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 9 hours



Accommodation **Okinawa**

Hotel Nikko Alivila

Enjoy a stay at this Spanish colonial-style resort in the dazzling sun of Okinawa. Bright guest rooms open out onto the ocean, and you’ll be spoilt for views whether you spend your time at the oceanside pool or relaxing on your balcony. The hotel’s interiors echo the subtropical island resort feel, with undersea blues and calming tones. Okinawan ingredients are celebrated in the hotel’s dining options, with both Japanese and European delicacies to be had. You may choose to rent some snorkelling equipment, or a canoe or kayak to fill your days on the islands, even a glass bottom boat tour is within easy reach of this property. If you need to relax further, visit the spa and wellness centre before you end your day a few steps away on the beach.

Location: Yomitan Resort, Okinawa Island

Our rating: ★★★★★

Hilton Okinawa Sesoko Resort

This beachfront resort is located just 15 minutes from the Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium and 20 minutes from the UNESCO-listed Nakijin Castle Ruins. The perfect place to combine a cultural and beach stay, the hotel features a spa and ocean-facing balconies in most guest rooms. You’ll be just 100 metres from the picture-perfect Sesoko beach, and make sure to organise some water sports and activities with the hotel’s concierge. Dining options here are designed to offer variety during your stay, start with a tropical breakfast overlooking the pool, to local and international dishes throughout the day. The resort also boasts a full service spa, and really is the ideal combination of escapism and activity being within easy reach of attractions.

Location: Sesoko Island, Okinawa Island

Our rating: ★★★★★

ANA Intercontinental Ishigaki Resort

Situated at the southernmost point of Okinawa, the ANA Intercontinental Ishigaki Resort is a true haven of natural beauty. This property is the gateway to the Yaeyama archipelago, with stunning views of azure waters and within easy access of Maesato Beach. You’ll truly feel on ‘island time’ here, with panoramic views of the sea and gardens from your arrival in the lobby, to spending your time relaxing at one of the poolside cabanas. The area is also home to the rare blue coral reef of Shiraho, and some of the best diving spots Japan has to offer. With several eateries and stylish modern guest rooms and suites, the ANA Intercontinental is the perfect island getaway.

Location: Ishigaki Island

Our rating: ★★★★★

Hilton Okinawa Miyako Island Resort

Located just 15 minutes from Miyako Airport, and just 1 kilometre from the white sands at Sunset Beach, the Hilton Miyako Island Resort is an ideally located hotel for travellers wanting to explore the delights of the island. Modern guest rooms with a coastal design feel are the perfect retreat from when you have spent the day at any of the hotel’s three outdoor pools or dined at the all-day Azure restaurant with international and Japanese flavours. The Yunai bar also offers a selection of wine, beer and cocktails with sunset ocean views from the rooftop, and the onsite Twuriba spa features Ryuku treatments to experience the full relaxation in Okinawa.

Location: Miyako Island

Our rating: ★★★★★

Rail

Japan's rail network is arguably one of the best in the world. Services are safe, reliable and above-all punctual, so it is no surprise that travelling by train is one of the most popular and time efficient ways of travelling around Japan.

The rail network is vast and includes subway systems, local inner-city services and of course, the renowned bullet-fast journeys between the major cities. The leading railway company, Japan Railways, has a well-organised and well-established railway network, including the Shinkansen, also known as the bullet train which connects most of the main cities throughout Japan.

Escorted Tours

Such is the efficiency of the rail network, both in terms of punctuality and distances covered, many of the Escorted Tours we feature will include some train travel. The journey is seamless, your guide may travel with you and your group, but rather than travel long distance by road, the train takes the strain and allows you to experience the uniqueness of the trains as part of your tour experience.

Independent Tours & Packages

We don't recommend car rental in Japan, unless it's in the quieter, less populated regions such as Okinawa. We have therefore created our Independent Tours and Short Packages using the rail network whenever possible. Japan trains operate with extreme punctuality, the on board service as you'd expect is impeccable, so you can plan your holiday safe in the knowledge that your services will operate as booked and the rail sections of your itinerary will be an absolute highlight of your holiday.

Rail Journeys & Rail Passes

We can book your individual rail journeys, or if your plans include several journeys, we can offer the JR Rail Pass options. See the following pages for more information on tickets and passes.

Our Tailor-Made Service

This is what we love to do, create your holiday, your way. Whether your plans are for a few days or a few weeks, we will design you the perfect itinerary. We can book hotels, sightseeing and transport options throughout Japan and would be delighted to work with you to plan your perfect, once in a lifetime holiday.

Simply tell us your interests, your dates and your budget and we will work with you to create your perfect trip, using the rail network as the basis wherever we can.



Rail Pass or Rail Tickets?

We will discuss the best ticket options with you when we're creating your itinerary. If your plans involve just one or two journeys we will likely recommend that you book individual rail tickets. If however, your itinerary involves several rail journeys within Japan, we may recommend a JR Rail Pass. These offer the best value but do come with restrictions as detailed on the next page.



Bullet Trains

A unique transport system used by locals and tourists alike. These high-speed futuristic trains are the pride and joy of Japan's transportation system, carrying hundreds of passengers at speeds of 200 miles per hour. The shinkansen (bullet) train network is wide and connects most of the major cities.

Rail Tickets

Rail tickets for individual journeys can be purchased in advance through us or directly from the ticket machines in train stations. We recommend booking in advance so you can choose your train time that best suits your itinerary and you will be guaranteed to have a seat on your preferred departure.

Pre-booking removes the worry of language barriers either at the ticket machine or with the ticket agents at the rail station. The trains are used by locals too, so certain departures can be busy so pre-booking ensures you can travel at your preferred time.



IC Cards

IC Cards are prepaid cards that offer the most convenient way to ride the regional public transport in Japan including the subway systems. IC Cards can be purchased at ticket machines with a refundable deposit. You can top up the cards at the machines as and when needed. To use, simply touch the card on the reader as you pass through the automatic gates. More information on IC cards will be provided in your travel documentation.

As of July 2024, in Tokyo and Kanto region, physical IC cards (Suica and Pasma) are not on sale. Welcome Suica (valid for 28 days) can be purchased at Haneda airport.



JR Pass

- Valid for 7, 14 or 21 days.
- Allows unlimited travel on all Shinkansen (Bullet) Trains (except Nozomi and Mizuho), JR buses and JR Ferries. Some exceptions apply.
- Free seat reservations (bookable once pass is activated, supplements apply).
- You must purchase the pass within 3 months of your departure date (the pass has to be mailed to your home address so late bookings are not possible, the pass cannot be emailed).
- You receive an 'Exchange order', on arrival in Japan you head to a JR Exchange office to exchange your order for your actual JR Pass (this can only be done in person on arrival in Japan).
- You will be asked for your preferred start date for the pass.
- Once activated your pass is valid for the duration purchased.
- JR Passes are only available if you are a foreign tourist visiting Japan from under the entry status of "temporary visitor".
- Choose between Ordinary Class or Green Class.
- Green (First Class) includes separate first class carriages, extra width seats, more privacy and more luggage space.
- Note: There are also many Regional Rail Pass options that cover only certain areas or cities, we will be pleased to discuss all options with you when creating your itinerary.
- Not recommend to book during peak season, our Japan specialists will advise.





Business Class

Japan Airlines

A member of the oneworld® alliance, Japan Airlines (JAL) has maintained a 5-Star Skytrax Airline certification for seven consecutive years, reaffirming the high quality of its airport services, on board products, and exceptional staff service. Your Japanese experience begins the moment you step aboard.

JAL operates worldwide from its main international hubs of Tokyo Haneda and Narita International Airports, as well as Osaka’s Kansai International Airport. Together with its codeshare partners, JAL's global network covers 384 airports in 66 countries and regions; and offers a comprehensive Japan network serving nearly 60 destinations. It operates a state-of-the-art fleet of 227 aircraft, including the very latest, more fuel-efficient Airbus A350 and Boeing 787 aircraft.

Japan Airlines (JAL) operates offers twice daily direct flights between London Heathrow and Tokyo Haneda, with a choice on board of up to 4 classes of cabin, depending on the aircraft type.

JAL Economy Class: The seven-times Skytrax award-winning World’s Best Economy Class seat with improved leg space, and a 10.6-inch touch screen TV makes your journey even more comfortable and enjoyable.

JAL Premium Economy Class: On top of our dedicated check-in counters, priority luggage handling, and complimentary lounge access, JAL offers a Premium Economy seat with the most generous legroom in its class: a full 42-inch (106 cm) seat pitch.

JAL Business Class: Relax in our Skytrax award-winning business class suite with its fully flat, 6ft 2in (188cm) bed. Every JAL Sky Suite has unobstructed aisle access, and comes with airweave bedding, and a 23-inch personal TV screen.

JAL First Class: Experience the ultimate in relaxation and privacy in one of the largest suites in the sky. A most refreshing sleep is assured when resting in our over 6ft 6in (199cm) long bed with innovative airweave mattress.



Business Class

Finnair

Finnair is one of the world’s oldest operating airlines. Since it was founded in 1923, the company has grown from a small airline to a strong and respected member of the international airline industry. You can now fly to many destinations in Japan with Finnair and their partner airlines. Finnair offers low prices, exceptional flight experience, and excellent connections through the modern Helsinki Vantaa airport.

Finnair’s elevated long-haul experience now includes Premium Economy travel class, completely renewed Business Class and refreshed Economy Class. The Finnair fleet is one of the most modern in Europe, with mostly Airbus aircraft, Airbus A350s and A330s. Everything on board is chosen with its environmental impact in mind.

Flying via Helsinki means that you can enjoy the compact and uncrowded Helsinki Airport, where all the gates and services are located under one roof. All gates are located in one terminal building, along the same short walkway which means you can be confident that you'll reach your connecting flight fast and hassle-free.

Economy Class: Finnair economy has everything you need for an enjoyable flight. The refreshed cabin has some of the widest seats in the industry (46cm), memory foam cushions and improved ergonomics coupled with an 11-12 inch entertainment screen. You’ll receive a hot meal and a selection of non-alcoholic beverages. You can also treat yourself to snacks and drinks from the Nordic Kitchen onboard menu.

Premium Economy: The newest travel class to Finnair offers more choice, space and comfort and an upgraded food and beverage service. A 38 inch seat pitch with leg rest and increased recline, 13 inch screen and exclusive amenity kit are part of this smaller cabin sitting between economy and business.

Business Class: Enjoy an updated Nordic interior and service experience. Relax in furniture-like comfort with the new Collins’ AirLounge seat that amplifies personal space with a contoured shell design. The seat turns into a spacious lay-flat bed with proper mattress pad and Marimekko design textiles.



Business Class

British Airways

Our flagship carrier, British Airways is a global airline and has been bringing people together for more than 100 years.

With BA you’ll great quality British food and drink including a range by Michelin-starred chef, Tom Kerridge, passionate about sourcing with integrity and serving the best of Britain.

British Airways flies direct to Tokyo and through partnerships with Finnair, Iberia and Japan Airlines allows you to connect to several Japanese cities. With direct flights from London to Tokyo, customers can select from 18 flights to Japan a week. The direct British Airways flight departs from London Heathrow Terminal 5 to both Tokyo Narita and Haneda airports. You can also fly direct to Tokyo from London Heathrow Terminal 3 to Tokyo Haneda on partner carrier Japan Airlines.

Connecting flights are available from Aberdeen, Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds/Bradford, Manchester and Newcastle. Jersey, Isle of Man and Dublin also offer domestic services, please note some domestic services are operated by British Airways subsidiaries or partner airlines.

World Traveller: British Airways’ economy seats are ergonomically designed with adjustable headrest, lumbar support and recline. Hot, cold and alcoholic drinks are included, and access to movies, series, games, music and audio books on the in-flight entertainment system.

World Traveller Plus: A smaller, intimate cabin with attentive service and a wider seat with greater recline, lumbar support, head rest and foot rest. There are also noise-cancelling headphones for your personal entertainment system, a stylish amenity kit and more free baggage allowance.

Club World: Your own spacious seat and chair that converts to a 6ft flat bed. You will also have access to airport lounges, dedicated check-in and priority boarding, with luxury bedding and amenities by The White Company.

First Class: Available on selected aircraft and routes, enjoy a haven of style and comfort in your own private suite. Exceptional service from when you board from the exclusive First Lounge to indulgent dining on board, it truly is the most luxurious way to fly.



Qsuite

Qatar Airways

A multiple award-winning airline, including winner of ‘World’s Best Business Class’ on several occasions, Qatar offer flights from 5 UK airports with connections through Doha’s Hamad International to both of Tokyo’s main airports and Osaka.

Connecting through the Doha hub, Hamad International Airport, is simple, the ‘World’s Best Airport’, as voted by voted by Skytrax for several years. In 2024, Hamad International Airport also received the ‘Best Airport in the Middle East’ accolade for 10 consecutive years, as well as ‘World’s Best Airport Shopping’ for the second year in a row.

Prepare for an unparalleled experience on board, with spacious cabins, destination-inspired cuisine and excellent hospitality. Stay connected on board with Wi-Fi available on selected aircraft and keep yourself entertained with Oryx One entertainment system which has over 8,000 options to choose from including movies, TV shows, games and music.

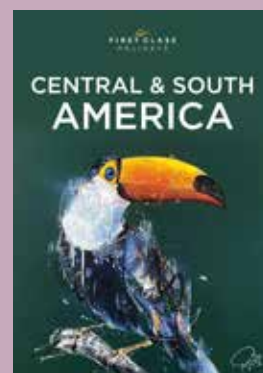
Qatar is also a member of the oneworld® alliance, offering smooth transfers between partner airlines such as British Airways, Japan Airlines and Finnair.

Economy: Some of the widest economy seats with adjustable head rest and cushioning. A meal and beverage service is included, along with access to a vast array of entertainment options to explore, as well as WiFi on selected aircraft.

Business Class: Type of cabin and seat depends of aircraft and routes, but expect to enjoy a spacious cabin with ambient lighting, and the award-winning Q Suites with their enhanced privacy, closing doors and lie flat beds. Passengers will also receive an Exclusive Diptyque amenity kit and on-demand a la carte menu.

First Class: On selected A380 routes, experience hand-picked signature dishes, Diptyque amenity kits and The White Company loungewear. The on-demand a la carte menu is still available, and the cabin is truly exclusive with just 8 seats.

FIRST CLASS
HOLIDAYS



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