

Highlights of Japan

Tokyo, Hakone, Takayama, Kyoto

10 days / 9 nights

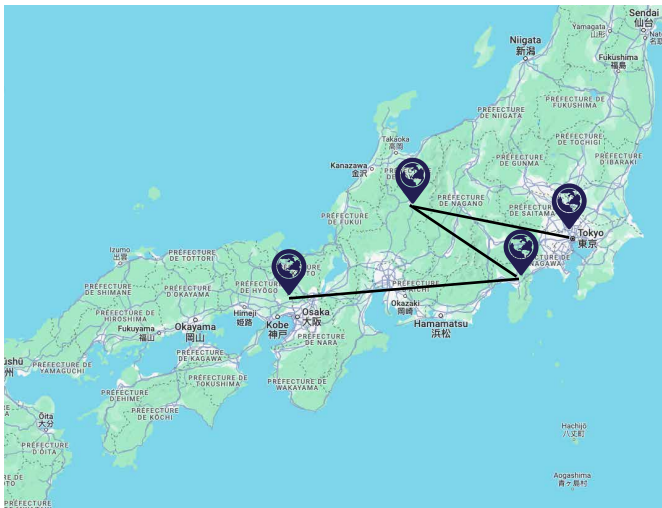
From
\$6,299

Per person/Double occupancy/Land package
September 15, 2024 departure

Enjoy a “chanko” lunch, a Japanese stew traditionally eaten by sumo wrestlers in vast quantities as part of a weight gain diet.

Follow the meandering paths through the soaring stalks of bamboo which make up the bamboo groves of Arashiyama just outside of Kyoto.

Enjoy a traditional kaiseki meal as you're entertained by a Maiko in Kyoto. Take the opportunity to gain inside knowledge about the fascinating life of an apprentice Geisha.



Day 1: Tokyo

Upon arrival at Narita or Haneda Airport, a join-in transfer takes you to your hotel. Your welcome briefing will be on the morning of Day 2.

Stay the next two nights at Shinjuku Washington Hotel Tokyu 3* (or similar)



Day 2: Tokyo

Explore Tokyo on foot and the underground rail network. Visit serene Meiji Jingu, Tokyo's most famous Shinto shrine with a 12-metre high torii gate at the entrance. Continue to the Imperial Palace to see Nijubashi, a metal bridge built in 1888. Travel by train to Asakusa, one of Tokyo's liveliest districts, and home to some of the city's best street food, and old izakaya and yakitori restaurants. Learn about the world of sumo as you enjoy a 'chanko' sumo lunch with some sumo wrestlers. After lunch, try on a sumo suit and test your skills against a professional. Spend time exploring Asakusa before returning to your hotel. (B-L)

Day 3: Tokyo to Hakone

Take the train from Tokyo to Hakone, best known for its views of the mountains, natural beauty, and hot springs. Travel on the ropeway for beautiful views of Lake Ashi and on a clear day, see iconic Mt Fuji. Sail across the waters of Lake Ashi on a pirate ship before returning to your accommodation. Stay in a ryokan, a traditional Japanese Hotel. Enjoy a sumptuous Japanese dinner, soak in the onsite onsen and sleep in an atmospheric tatami-floored room, on a futon mattress. (B-D)

Overnight at Susukinohara Ichinoyu 3* (or similar)

Day 4: Hakone to Takayama

From Hakone, travel by train to ancient Takayama, famous for its well-preserved old town district and traditional atmosphere. On the way, enjoy a bento box for lunch. Visit Takayama Jinya, a former government building which offers insights into Japan's history. Stroll along Kami Sannomachi Street to see the immaculately- preserved traditional wooden houses. View the elaborate festival floats at the Takayama Matsuri Yatai Kaikan and enjoy free time before walking back to the hotel. (B-L)

Stay the next two nights at Takayama Ouan 3* (or similar)

Day 5 Takayama

Spend the day at leisure exploring Takayama and its surrounds at your own pace. You may choose to visit Shirakawago, a World Heritage Listed protected village famous for its stunning natural beauty and steeply pitched thatched roofs designed to withstand the heavy winter snowfall. Discover the shrines and temples of the Teramachi district or travel a short distance to Hida-Furukawa to admire the preserved buildings. (B)

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Day 6: Takayama to Kyoto

Travel by train to Kyoto, Japan's cultural capital, a hub for Geisha and the home of royal cuisine. On arrival, enjoy some free time. Late afternoon, join a walking tour along Ponto-cho and Hanami-koji Lane in the Gion district where you may see a Geisha walking between appointments. (B)

Stay the next four nights at Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo 4* (or similar)

Day 7: Kyoto

Spend the day walking and travelling by public transport to discover Kyoto's highlights. Take the train to Arashiyama Bamboo Forest and marvel at the towering stalks of bamboo before continuing to Tenryuji Temple. See Katsura River from Togetsukyo Bridge and take the iconic purple Randen Train to Ryoanji Temple, the site of the most famous rock garden in Japan.

Visit the Golden Pavilion (Kinkaku-ji), an elegant, gilded 14th century building which is one of Japan's most cherished sites. (B)

Day 8: Kyoto

Free day to discover Kyoto and its surrounds independently. Take the train to the historic city of Hiroshima, venture to Osaka to see Osaka Castle, meet Nara's deer population or visit Himeji Castle – the choice is yours. (B)

Day 9: Kyoto

Spend a free day exploring Kyoto at your own pace. This evening, enjoy a special kaiseki farewell dinner while being entertained by a Maiko (an apprentice Geisha). (B-D)

Day 10: Kyoto

It's time to say goodbye. Walk to Kyoto Train Station and take your own way to the airport. (B)



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The Package Includes:

- Arrival transfer from Narita or Haneda airport (join in basis) to your hotel.
- 7 Day Rail Pass in ordinary class to use for all the trains journeys required on the tour
- 8 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night Ryokan accommodation
- Small group touring (minimum 4, maximum 18 passengers) with an English speaking local guide
- Entrance fees
- Luggage transport
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

The package does not include:

- Any flights
- Meals not included, beverages
- Optional excursions
- Personal expenses
- Transfers not mentioned

This is a join-in tour departure. Departure is guaranteed if minimum 4 passengers are booked on the tour. It is locally guided in each city. Travel is mostly done by train using a Japan Rail Pass.

Land package 10 days / 9 nights, price per person (Guaranteed with minimum 4 passengers)

| Departure Dates 2024-2025 | Double occupancy | Single occupancy |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| June 2, 16, 30, 2024 | \$ 5,799 | \$ 6,799 |
| August 25, 2024 | \$ 5,799 | \$ 6,799 |
| September 15, 2024 | \$ 6,299 | \$ 7,299 |
| October 13, 2024 | \$ 6,299 | \$ 7,299 |
| November 3, 2024 | \$ 6,299 | \$ 7,299 |
| February 2, 2025 | \$ 6,299 | \$ 7,299 |
| March 9, 2025 | \$ 6,299 | \$ 7,299 |
| March 23, 2025 | \$ 6,549 | \$ 7,549 |
| April 13, 2025 | \$ 6,549 | \$ 7,549 |

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