

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

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 ambiance. 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.





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 58 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 95 for our selection of hotels, sightseeing and rail journeys.

Escorted Touring

There is no better way to experience the sights and sounds of this amazing 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 our partners Wendy Wu Tours and APT Small Group Journeys. 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 goal of giving you a deeper understanding and appreciation of this unique land.





Whether you have 1 week or 3 weeks, we have the perfect choice of Escorted Tours. Learn from expert guides, as you explore with a small group of like-minded travellers.

Yumiko, Destination Specialist

Why Choose an Escorted Tour

Local Expertise

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

Unique Experiences

You will be immersed in Japan's culture and history through unique experiences, perhaps by meeting local families, learning ancient traditions or watching cultural shows.

Comfort & Convenience

Accommodation on all tours has been carefully chosen 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, and for lunch or 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 sample a delicious range of Japan's best food.

Extend your Stay

All tours exclude international flights to give you the freedom and flexibility to choose your preferred airline or extend your stay in Japan. We will happily talk through the options with you.

Our Tailor-Made Service

If you prefer to travel independently, we can certainly help there too. A selection of independent, non-escorted 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.

A Week in Japan

7 days

Take a week to explore the top highlights of this futuristic and eccentric country. Start in Tokyo, then travel to Hakone and the iconic Mount Fuji. Explore Kyoto's traditional streets and temples before finishing in vibrant Osaka. If you're hungry to see Japan but don't have much time, this tour is perfect for you. You will discover Tokyo's temples and vibrant city streets, admire the breathtaking Mount Fuji, experience the speedy bullet train, explore Japan's history in Kyoto and meet Nara's friendly deer, all in one week.

Highlights

Tokyo - Mount Fuji - Kyoto - Nara - Osaka

Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- All meals – 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 6 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, September to November

Day 1: Tokyo

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

Day 2: Tokyo

Explore the many sights of the city. Visit Tokyo Skytree, the tallest structure in Japan, for panoramic views, before taking a wander through the old district of Asakusa. You will also drive by the Imperial Palace Plaza and take a stroll through Hamarikyū Gardens. This evening, cruise the waters of Tokyo Bay and enjoy dinner.

Day 3: Mount Fuji

Travel to the iconic Mount Fuji, where you will ascend to the 5th Station (weather permitting) for magnificent views of both Fuji's cone and the surrounding landscapes. Transfer to the spa region of Hakone. Embark on a cruise on the spectacular Lake Ashi, before flying high above the lake on the Komagatake Ropeway to the summit of Mount Komagatake for views of Mount Fuji. Overnight is in Mishima.

Day 4: Kyoto

Today you will board a bullet train to Kyoto. This afternoon, visit the magnificent Fushimi Inari Shrine.

Follow the pathway through thousands of vermilion torii gates that leads through a complex of shrines spread over a peaceful, forested hillside.

Day 5: Kyoto

Begin the day with a visit to Ryoanji Temple, locally referred to as the 'temple of the peaceful dragon'. Next, continue to one of Japan's most photographed temples, Kinkakuji, also known as the 'Golden Pavilion'. After lunch, experience the elegant ritual of a tea ceremony with a Tea Master and learn the traditional art of calligraphy.

Day 6: Nara and Osaka

This morning, depart for Nara. Spend the morning discovering Todaiji Temple which houses the magnificent Daibutsu, a 15-metre-tall bronze statue of Buddha. Continue to Osaka, where you will have lunch and explore the well-renowned Dotonbori district. End the day at the magnificent Osaka Castle, where you will have time to learn about its turbulent history.

Day 7: Osaka Departure

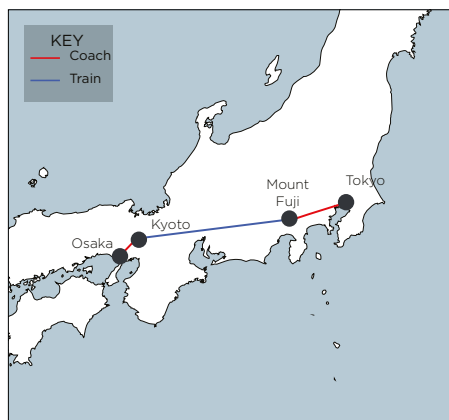
This morning is free at leisure before your hotel check out and transfer to Osaka airport for your return flight home.



Mount Fuji



Kinkakuji



Tokyo

Experience Japan

10 days

This tour not only visits the famous sights of Osaka, Nara, Kyoto, Mount Fuji and Tokyo, but includes experiences that allow you to immerse yourself in the local culture, from traditional tea ceremonies to origami, fan painting, miso tasting and sake tasting. You will discover delightful Nara, visit Matsumoto and Osaka castles, explore Arashiyama bamboo forest, search for snow monkeys, see Kamakura's Grand Buddha and visit the impressive Mount Fuji.

Highlights

Osaka – Nara – Kyoto – Nagano
Matsumoto – Mount Fuji – Tokyo

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, July to November

Day 1: Arrive Osaka

Arrive in Osaka, be met by an English-speaking representative and transferred to your hotel.

Day 2: Osaka and Nara

Visit Osaka Castle before cruising along the Yodogawa River. After lunch, continue to Nara and enjoy a leisurely walk through Nara Park to Todaiji Temple and admire the traditional Isuien Gardens before returning to Osaka.

Day 3: Kyoto

Travel to Kyoto, visit Togetsukyo Bridge, Ryoanji Temple, home to Japan's most famous Zen garden and the famous 'Golden Pavilion', Kinkakuji Temple.

Day 4: Kyoto

Visit one of Kyoto's most famous sites, Fushimi Inari Shrine. Enjoy a tea ceremony with a Tea Master and try your hand at origami. After lunch, your immersive experience continues with a fan painting class.

Day 5: Matsumoto

This morning travel by train deeper into the Japanese Alps to Nagano. On arrival head to Yudanaka in search of the snow monkeys. In Nagano, stop to visit the 7th-century Zenkoji Temple, before continuing by road to Matsumoto.

Day 6: Matsumoto

Enjoy a visit to the magnificent 16th-century Matsumoto Castle, visit a miso house to learn about the process of making this famous Japanese seasoning. After lunch, visit a sake brewery.

Day 7: Mount Fuji and Mishima

Travel to the Fuji Five Lakes area. Head up to Fuji's 5th Station for spectacular mountain views. Continue to Lake Ashi and take a cruise across the lake before taking the Komagatake cable car for unparalleled views of Mount Fuji and the lake below.

Day 8: Tokyo

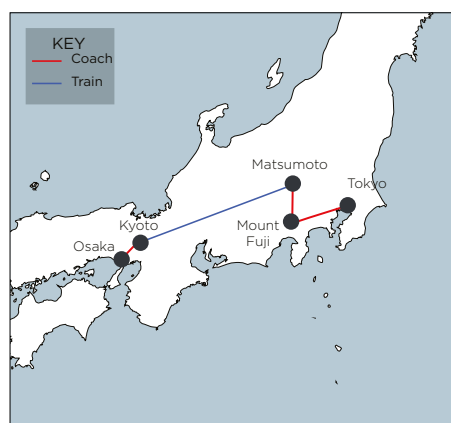
Journey to Kamakura, a popular coastal city. Visit Kotokuin Temple which houses Japan's second tallest bronze buddha and Tsurugaoka Hachimangu, Kamakura's most important shrine. After lunch, continue to Tokyo.

Day 9: Tokyo

Explore Tokyo, highlights include Tokyo Skytree, the old district of Asakusa, Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest and most famous temple. Tonight enjoy a leisurely 1 hour dinner cruise on Tokyo Bay for some excellent city vistas.

Day 10: Depart Tokyo

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



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 Hamarikyū 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.



Fushimi Inari Shrine

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

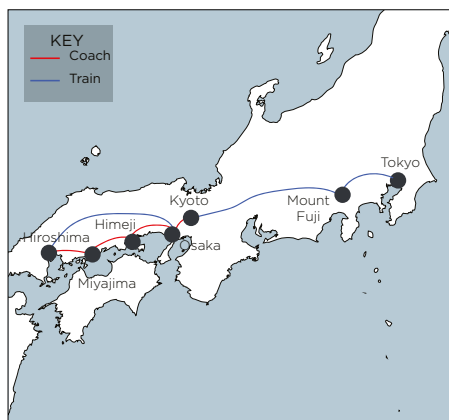
Spend 4 nights exploring the capital and largest city on the northern island of Hokkaido.



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.



Osaka

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 Ryoanji, 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 vermilion 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.



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 Koko-en, 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.



Kyoto

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.

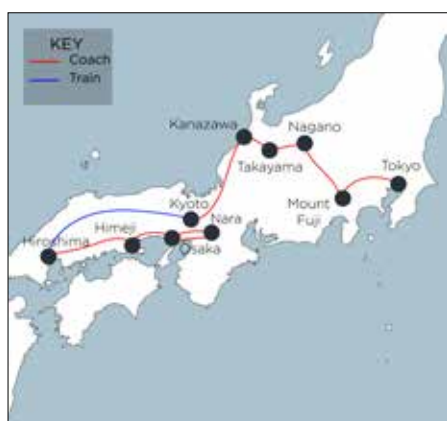
Please note: the Isui-en Garden in Nara, visited on day 3, is closed for maintenance weekly on Tuesdays. Departures coinciding with this will visit the Kasuga Taisha Shrine as an alternative.



Snow Monkeys



Kinkakuji Temple



Tokyo

Japan by Rail

20 days

For those where time is no limit, this is the ultimate tour of Japan, covering three islands in one trip, Kyushu, Honshu and Hokkaido. From rural villages to bustling cities, from ancient traditions to new-world charm. Reflect in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, admire Kyoto's temples, search for snow monkeys in the Japanese Alps, explore bustling Tokyo, discover Sendai and Hakodate and spend time in Sapporo.

Highlights

Fukuoka – Nagasaki – Hiroshima – Osaka
Nara – Kyoto – Kanazawa – Takayama
Matsumoto – Mount Fuji – Tokyo – Sendai
Hakodate – Sapporo

Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- All meals – 19 breakfasts, 18 lunches & 19 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 June, September to November

Day 1: Arrive Fukuoka

Arrive in the charming city of Fukuoka, the gateway to the island of Kyushu. After checking in at your hotel, the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

Day 2: Nagasaki

Begin the day by travelling on the limited express train to Nagasaki. Upon arrival, enjoy a stroll through the Glover Garden, an open air museum that exhibits mansions attributed to the Scottish merchant who contributed to the modernisation of Japan. Also, visit the Oura Catholic Church and Atomic Bomb Museum before returning to Fukuoka.

Day 3: Miyajima Island

Board the bullet train to Hiroshima. Upon arrival in Hiroshima, take the ferry across the Seto Inland Sea to the holy island of Miyajima. Here, visit the Itsukushima Shrine and enjoy a Momiji manju cooking experience. Later, return to Hiroshima.

Day 4: Hiroshima

Spend the day in Hiroshima starting with a visit to the Peace Memorial Park and Museum where you will have the opportunity to pay homage to the victims of the 1945 atomic bomb. Enjoy lunch before ascending Orizuru Tower to view the city from above, followed by a stroll through the historical Shukkeien Garden.

Day 5: Himeji Castle and Osaka

Depart Hiroshima by bullet train, stopping at Himeji to visit the magnificent Himeji Castle, followed by a walk through traditional Kokoen garden. Continue by limited express to Osaka.

Day 6: Osaka and Nara

Begin the day with a visit to the Umeda Sky Building followed by a lunch at the famous Dotonbori district. Later, head to Nara and explore Todaiji Temple which houses the impressive Daibutsu, a 15-metre-tall bronze statue of Buddha. Enjoy an ink making and calligraphy class before returning to Osaka.

Day 7: Kyoto

Journey by road to Kyoto. This enchanting city is the epitome of traditional Japan. Stroll through the Arashiyama bamboo forest and admire the towering thickets, visit Ryoanji Temple, home to Japan's best known Zen garden and see the famous 'Golden Pavilion' Kinkakuji Temple.

Day 8: Kyoto

The day begins with a visit to Kiyomizudera temple in Kyoto. Next, immerse yourself in the culture and enjoy the age-old rituals of a sacred tea ceremony, Zen mediation, and try your hand at fan painting. Also explore Gion, Kyoto's famous geisha district.



Bullet Train

Day 9: Kanazawa

Take the limited express train to Kanazawa, on arrival meander your way through Kenrokuen, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan. Also visit the Nomura Samurai House and Kutani Pottery Factory.

Day 10: Takayama

Travel by road to Takayama stopping en route at Inami for a sake wooden cup making experience and sake tasting. Next, continue to the UNESCO World Heritage Listed village of Shirakawago to get a glimpse of rural Japan. Continue to Takayama.

Day 11: Takayama

Discover Takayama Spend the morning at the Miyagawa market. Also visit the Takayama Floats Museum and Takayama Jinya. Enjoy the onsen facilities at your overnight hotel.

Day 12: Snow Monkeys

Travel to Matsumoto, visit Yudanaka and then Jigokudani Yaen-Koen. Walk through a picturesque forested valley to the hot pools where you may see the famous Japanese macaques (snow monkeys) bathe and play before returning to Matsumoto.

Day 13: Matsumoto Castle and Suwa

Begin the day with a visit to the magnificent 16th century Matsumoto Castle. Next, visit a miso house and learn about the process of making this famous Japanese seasoning and visit the former post town of Naraijuku. Continue to Suwa and enjoy the onsen facilities at your hotel.

Day 14: Mount Fuji and Tokyo

Travel to Hakone and ascend 2,400 metres to the 5th Station (weather permitting). Also, enjoy a peaceful cruise on Lake Ashi before taking to the skies on the Komagatake Ropeway. Next, continue to Tokyo by road.

Day 15: Tokyo

Begin the day with a stroll through Hamarikyū Gardens. Take part in a sushi making class, and enjoy your own creations for lunch. Later, soak up the atmosphere at Sensoji temple, browse the stalls on Nakamise shopping street and drive by the Imperial Palace Plaza.

Day 16: Tokyo

Begin the day at the Tokyo Metropolitan Building and ascend to the observation deck for breathtaking views. Soak up the atmosphere at the peaceful Meiji Jingu Shrine and drive by the world-famous Shibuya crossing.

End the day with a relaxing cruise on the waters of Tokyo Bay, and enjoy dinner on board a yakatabune boat from where you will have the perfect vantage point to admire the lights of the city.

Day 17: Sendai

As the tour journeys to northern Honshu, board the bullet train to Sendai, the largest city in Tohoku. Transfer to Matsushima and enjoy a relaxing cruise on Matsushima Bay. Also, visit Zuiganji Temple and the famous Nikka Whisky factory in Sendai.

Day 18: Hakodate

Say goodbye to Honshu Island as you board the bullet train to Hakodate located on Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island. Visit the Goryokaku Tower, a star shaped fortress, followed by some time at leisure. This evening, journey on the Mount Hakodate Ropeway and enjoy the fabulous views of the city below. Enjoy the onsen facilities at your hotel.

Day 19: Sapporo

Board the bullet train for the very last time to Sapporo. Head to the Clock Tower and Odori Park and in the evening, stop by the Sapporo Beer Museum and enjoy a tasting or two, followed by a farewell dinner.

Day 20: Depart Sapporo

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



Christmas in Japan

10 days

Many choose the festive season to see the world, and we can think of no better place than Japan. As well as seeing the classic sights such as the bustling city of Tokyo and iconic Mount Fuji, Christmas Day will be spent exploring Kyoto's temples before taking the bullet train to Hiroshima for a special dinner cruise on Hiroshima Harbour. The tour also includes additional special dinners and experiences during this festive time.

Highlights

Tokyo – Mount Fuji – Christmas Day in 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 Date

18 December

Day 1: Tokyo

On arrival in Tokyo, 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 yours to start soaking up the local culture.

Day 2: Tokyo

Tokyo is a city of contrasts, famous for its neon-lit signs, towering skyscrapers and peaceful shrines. Begin today with a stroll through the Imperial Palace East Garden and then take time to explore the Tokyo National Museum to learn about the city's historical heritage. After lunch, seek out the tranquillity at Sensoji Temple in Asakusa district, followed by a visit to the observation deck of the 634-metre Skytree for panoramic views over the sprawling city below.

Day 3: Meiji Shrine

Start the day with a relaxing stroll around the classical landscapes of the Hamarikyu Gardens. Continue to the Meiji Shrine, a Shinto shrine dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken, before driving past the famous Shibuya Crossing. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure, before rejoining the group for dinner.

Day 4: Mount Fuji

Journey through the foothills of the iconic Mount Fuji to its base and the Fuji Five Lakes. The region is spectacularly dotted by the calm waters of five lakes, formed by past volcanic eruptions, reflecting Mount Fuji's picture-perfect cone. Upon arrival, ascend 2,000 metres up to Mount Fuji's 5th Station (weather permitting) and take in the breathtaking views over the landscapes below. Next, continue to Itchiku Kubota Art Museum to view the artist's elaborate dyed silk creations and spend some time strolling around the beautiful garden. Also explore Iyashi no Sato Historical Village, a former farming village on the shores of Lake Saiko. Destroyed by a landslide in 1966, the remaining thatch-roofed houses of this old village have been transformed into an open-air museum and craft village. Stay overnight in Mishima and enjoy the public onsen facilities.

Day 5: Kyoto

Start the day with a visit to Oshino Hakkai before learning how to make your very own traditional Japanese soba noodles which you will then tuck into for lunch. Later, transfer to Mishima station and journey on the bullet train to Kyoto. An enchanting city, Kyoto was capital for 1,000 years; today it is the legacy of ancient Japan, full of tranquil temples, silk-clad geisha and sublime gardens.



Snow-capped Mount Fuji

Day 6: Christmas Eve in Kyoto

Enjoy a full day tour of Kyoto starting with a visit to one of the city's delightful temples, the 17th century Buddhist Kiyomizu. Immerse yourself in the culture by experiencing the sacred rituals of a tea ceremony with a Tea Master and try your hand at origami. Later, explore the impressive Fushimi Inari Shrine with its remarkable 10,000 red torii gates. Tonight, dine on a special Christmas feast in a local restaurant, while enjoying the street decorations, Christmas markets and many amazing illuminations.

Day 7: Christmas Day in Kyoto

Begin the day with a visit to Ryoanji Temple, home to Japan's most famous Zen garden and the famous Kinkakuji Temple, known as the 'Golden Pavilion'. Continue to Osaka, arriving in time for lunch in the vibrant Dotonbori district. Later, travel by bullet train to Hiroshima, a city that needs no introduction. End the day with a special Christmas dinner cruise on Hiroshima Bay.

Day 8: Hiroshima and Miyajima

Hop on the ferry to the holy island of Miyajima and visit the Itsukushima Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Japan's most recognisable, located on the edge of the waters of the Seto Island Sea. Enjoy some free time and take an optional ride on the cable car up Mount Misen to enjoy the panoramic views. Return to Hiroshima and take a moment to reflect at the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, which pays homage to the victims of the 1945 atomic bomb and also visit the Orizuru Tower.

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. Appreciate its turbulent past before strolling around Kokoan, the Edo-style gardens just across the castle moat. Later, transfer to Osaka for an overnight stay and end your holiday in Japan with a special pre New Year's dinner.

Day 10: Depart Osaka

This morning is free at leisure before you transfer to Osaka airport for your return or onwards 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

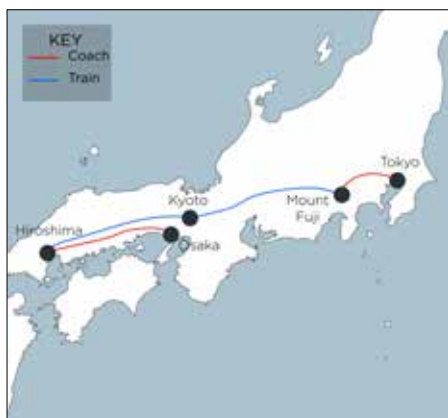
Spend 4 nights exploring the capital and largest city on the northern island of Hokkaido.



Kyoto



Mount Hiei, Kyoto



Tokyo

Reveal the Traditions of Japan

13 days

Embark on an intimate journey through Japan's timeless traditions. Experience Tokyo's dynamic pulse, master sushi making, partake in a traditional tea ceremony, and explore Mount Fuji's grandeur. Encounter snow monkeys, visit Obuse, admire the Golden Pavilion, and learn Shodo calligraphy. Engage in Bizen ware pottery, taste Osaka's cuisine, and ride the bullet train.

Highlights

Tokyo – Kawaguchiko – Matsumoto
Kyoto – Nara – Okayama – Osaka
Optional Hiroshima

Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- 17 meals – 12 breakfasts, 2 lunches & 3 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guides
- Small group size – maximum 16 guests

Tour is operated by APT Small Group Journeys. Please see Page 96 for additional and important information.

Departure Dates

Selected Dates
February to December

Day 1: Tokyo

Upon arrival in Tokyo, you will be met and transferred to the hotel. After checking in, take the opportunity to explore vibrant Tokyo or unwind before joining your fellow travellers for a welcome dinner.

Day 2: Tokyo

A variety of experiences today. Immerse yourself in the rich tradition of Japanese tea ceremonies with a visit to a family home. Step into the oldest remaining Japanese residence in the area where you are warmly welcomed by your host. Savour the tranquillity of this special place as you partake in the tea ceremony, a time-honoured ritual steeped in history and elegance. Afterwards, explore Tokyo, including the SkyTree tower for unparalleled views of the cityscape. Continue your exploration at Asakusa, Tokyo's historic district, where you'll be transported back in time. Discover the charm of Sensoji, the city's oldest temple, and stroll along Namikase Street to soak in the traditional atmosphere. Conclude the day with leisurely pursuits, embracing the essence of both ancient and modern Tokyo.

Day 3: Kawaguchiko

Today, venture to Kamakura with a knowledgeable local guide. You will visit Kotokuin Temple, renowned for its iconic Daibutsu, a giant bronze Buddha,

Hasedera Temple and Kawaguchiko, for its breathtaking vistas of Mount Fuji and the majestic reflection of the mountain mirrored in the tranquil waters of the lake.

Day 4: Matsumoto

Journey to the Kubota Itchiku Museum to discover the mesmerizing silk kimonos and intricate artworks. Afterwards, ascend Mount Tenjo via the Kachi Kachi Ropeway for breathtaking vistas of Lake Kawaguchi and, weather permitting, the majestic Mount Fuji. Conclude your day with a scenic drive to Matsumoto.

Day 5: Matsumoto

Visit Jigokudani Yaen Park to encounter Japanese Macaques, snow monkeys. Marvel at their playful interactions as they soak in the warm waters, seemingly unfazed by their human observers. In the afternoon, visit Obuse, a quaint town boasting traditional houses, shops, and winding streets.

Day 6: Kyoto

Visit Matsumoto Castle, one of Japan's most exquisite original castles, renowned for its complete preservation and striking black wainscoting. After exploring the castle, continue to Matsumoto Station. Board the Limited Express Train for Nagoya and then a bullet train bound for Kyoto.



Chadou Tea Ceremony

Day 7: Kyoto

Begin your day at the iconic Kinkakuji Temple, Kyoto's Golden Pavilion, renowned for its serene beauty. Then, venture to Ryoanji Zen Temple to contemplate Japan's famous rock garden. In the afternoon, explore the scenic Arashiyama district, known for its bamboo groves and historical sites. Visit Nonomiya Shrine, steeped in ancient tradition, before concluding your journey at Tenryuji, Kyoto's largest Zen temple.

Day 8: Kyoto

Enjoy a culinary adventure with a sushi making and food presentation class at a charming restaurant. Experience Japan's seasonal wonders infused into every dish as you learn the art of sushi rolling and presentation. Enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure.

Day 9: Nara

Today delve into the intricate art of Japanese calligraphy. Discover the precise techniques of kanji writing, where each stroke carries significance, from its beginning to its end. Then embark on a journey to Nara, visit Horyuji Temple, boasting the world's oldest surviving wooden structures and designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993.

Day 10: Okayama

Today journey to Okayama by bullet train. Arrive into Okayama and be transferred to Korakuen Garden, a circuit-style garden revered as one of Japan's three main gardens. Visit Okayama Castle, where you'll admire the majestic black castle tower. Conclude your day with a hands-on experience in Bizen ware making, under the guidance of an expert potter, create your own pottery masterpiece, with the experience fee included.

Day 11: Okayama

Admire the nostalgic scenery of white-walled storehouses together with narrow stone-paved streets crowded by carts in olden days. You will also visit Ohashi House, the house is typical of the machiya (town house) of Kurashiki's wealthy merchants. Lastly you will visit Morita Sake Brewery. You will learn how to make Sake and taste a few different types of Sake at the brewery.

Day 12: Osaka

In Osaka, Kuromon market is renowned as the kitchen of the city, a visit here will allow you to explore the origins of the different types of Japanese food, see the ingredients used to make miso soup, wasabi, bonito flakes, and Konnyaku 'jelly-potato' in their original form. You will also enjoy a walking tour of the Dotonbori, a popular shopping and entertainment district.

Day 13: Osaka Departure

Following breakfast, unwind during your transfer back to the airport for your next adventure. An optional extension package to Hiroshima is available.

Hiroshima Extension**Day 13: Osaka - Hiroshima**

Meet for a short walk to Osaka Station, where a bullet train will take you to Hiroshima. Upon arrival, a visit to the solemn grounds of the Hiroshima Peace Park & Museum. Explore the park's poignant memorials before venturing into Shukkeien Garden, a serene oasis of miniature landscapes and traditional Japanese aesthetics.

Day 14: Hiroshima and Miyajima Island

Today take a short ferry to Miyajima Island. See the renowned Itsukushima Shrine, with its iconic Floating Torii Gate. Step back in time as you explore the hallowed grounds. In the afternoon, you're free to explore your own pace, before tantalising your tastebuds at a local restaurant.

Day 15: Hiroshima - Departure

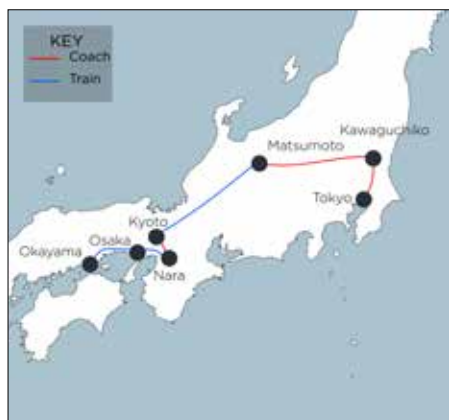
Today your Japanese journey comes to an end and its Sayonara to your fellow travellers.



Snow Monkeys



Kyoto



Miyajima Island

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.





I love the freedom that comes with these packages but, I also enjoy meeting the friendly guides on the sightseeing tours and learning about a place through a locals perspective.

Michelle, Destination Specialist

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

Classic Japan – 10 days

Luxury Japan – 11 days

Golden Route – 12 days

Japan Essentials – 14 days

Plums & Cherry Blossoms – 14 days

Story of Japan – 14 days

Cultures of Japan – 15 days

Rural Japan – 15 days

Family Adventures in Japan – 16 days

Trains & Traditions of Japan – 17 days

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

Departs: Daily
January to December

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

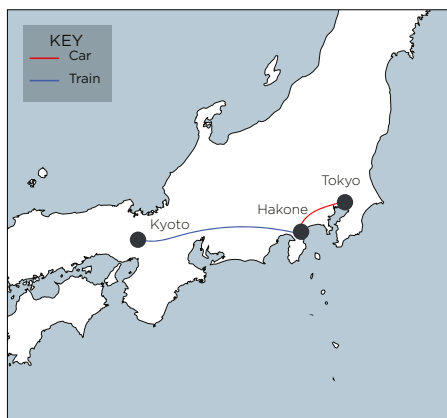
Explore with a knowledgeable local guide, utilising Kyoto's comprehensive bus system. Start your day with a visit to Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), Nijo Castle, an ornamental castle, famous for its architecture, then, head to Heian Shrine, built on the occasion of the 1100th anniversary of the capital's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



Luxury Japan

11 days

Experience the best of Japan on this 11-day tour. Immerse yourself in feudal-era Japan at the faithfully recreated Little Edo in the small town of Kawagoe west of Tokyo. Relax and unwind in a traditional Japanese 'ryokan' in Hakone after a day catching views of Mount Fuji and enjoy the World Heritage sites, gardens and tea ceremony in Kyoto.

Highlights

Tokyo - Hakone - Kyoto

Tour Includes

- 10 nights accommodation including 2-nights in a traditional Ryokan
- Bullet train journeys as shown
- Private transfers between airport and hotel in Tokyo
- Sightseeing as described

Departure Dates

Departs: Daily
January to December

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

Day 2: Tokyo

The morning is free for you to explore. Later this afternoon meet your guide and enjoy a tour to experience Tokyo's famous food scene. You will visit 3 very different but authentic izakaya (Japanese-style gastro pubs) and sample a variety of food and drink.

Day 3: Tokyo

Your tour guide for today will meet you at your hotel for your Little Edo (the former name of Tokyo) private day tour. Highlights include Kawagoe, Kitain Temple, Honmaru Goten, Kawagoe Hikawa Shrine and Kashiya Yokocho.

Day 4: Hakone

Board a bullet train to Hakone National Park. After checking in for your 2 night stay at your traditional ryokan inn, spend the day exploring with your included Hakone Transport Pass. Perhaps board a pirate ship across Lake Ashi or catch a glimpse of Mount Fuji as you ride the ropeway above the boiling valley of Owakudani.

Day 5: Hakone

You are free to explore independently today using your Hakone Transport Pass.

Day 6: Kyoto

Board your next bullet train for the 2-hour journey to Kyoto. On arrival, check in for your 4-night stay and the remainder of your day is free for you to explore.

Day 7-9: Kyoto

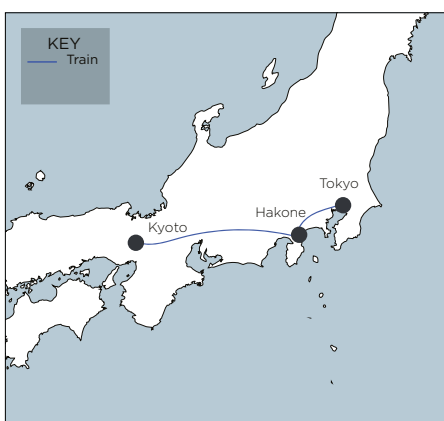
Enjoy 3 days exploring Kyoto and the region. Included in your time here is a full day tour of Kyoto visiting Ginkakuji and Kiyomizudera, Nishiki Marke and Kodaiji Temple. You'll also experience a Japanese tea ceremony in the decorated rooms of a traditional house. Also included is a half day tour of the Gion district of Kyoto in the most local way you can, in a traditional Kimono. Choose from a beautiful selection of over 200 Kimonos and Yukatas and be styled and fitted by the experts.

Day 10: Tokyo

Board your final bullet train and return to Tokyo for your final night stay.

Day 11: Departure

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



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

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 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

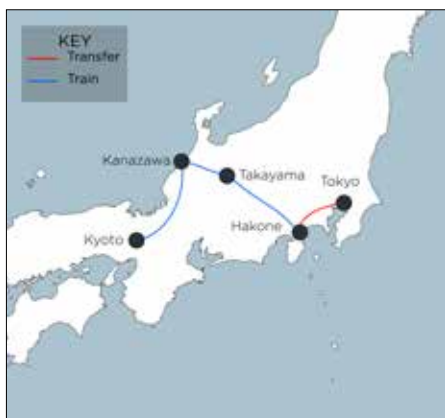
Your package ends with the check out from your hotel and an included transfer to Osaka airport. We can assist with your onwards journey either within Japan or beyond.



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
- 14-day standard class Japan Rail Pass to cover all your intercity journeys for the period as specified in this itinerary
- 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.

Day 4 and 5: Hakone

This morning, make your own way to Odawara station and travel to Hakone. Check in for your 2 night stay. On your second morning, 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.

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.

Day 9 and 10: Hiroshima

Catch a bullet train to Hiroshima today. On arrival, check in to your hotel for a 2-night stay. Discover the ancient and recent history of Hiroshima on a unique day tour. Visit Memorial Peace Park and Peace Memorial Museum. Enjoy some free time before taking a ferry to Miyajima Island, an ancient holy site.

Day 11 and 12: Osaka

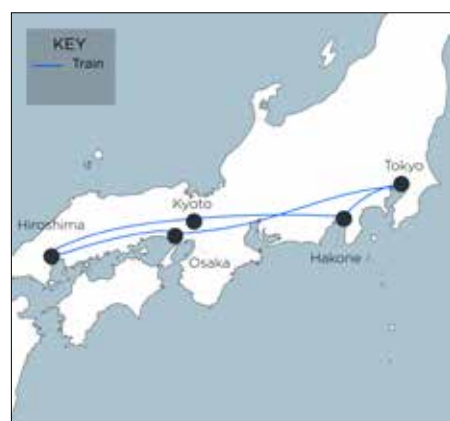
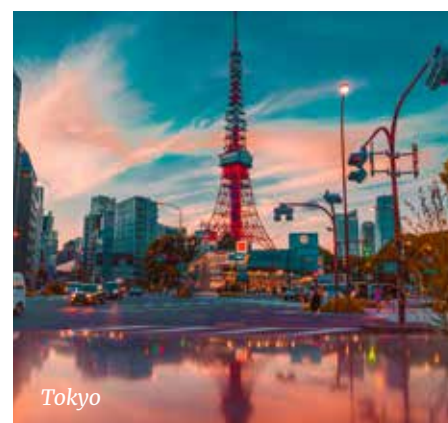
Board your next bullet train to Shin-Osaka Station. Upon arrival, make your way to your hotel and check in for your 2-night stay. Included is a half day tour with a local guide using via public transportation. Osaka with its incredible variety of food is known as the "Nation's Kitchen", with two of its most famous being Okonomiyaki (Japanese pancake) and Takoyaki (Octopus Balls). Today you will be able to enjoy the delicious local foods on this walk around the main attractions of this vibrant city.

Day 13: Tokyo

Please use the Rail Pass to catch a bullet train to Tokyo today, you are free to explore on your own after check in.

Day 14: 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.



Plum Trees & Cherry Blossoms

14 days

Japan's cherry blossoms, known as 'sakura', are a remarkable sight to behold. A short, yet colourful season, it is a great time to visit Japan and this tour is perfect to take you to several locations where the blooms are most concentrated. 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 "flower shrine", in late winter it bursts with pink plum trees and in spring it is famous for the 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, see Shinjuku nightlife at Omoide Yokocho, home to rustic food stalls and bars from 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 (evening tour is for adults 20+ years).

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, thus allowing the month long viewing visitors can partake in. Flowering time: Late January to February.



Day 6: Atami and Kawazu

Meet your guide as you 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. Your guide will meet you at the station, and then catch the short local train to Shin-Matsuda. Here it's a short walk to Nishiharabatake Park to see cherry blossoms and 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 Shogun do the same. Continue hiking to Lake Ashi and stop for lunch at by the lake. Afterwards walk out to Hakone Shrine with its famous red torii gates in the lake.

Catch the local bus to Genbegawa World Water Heritage area in Mishima, 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

Today, you will visit Arimatsu District, the only dyeing and textile town in Japan to be selected as a National Important Preservation District for Groups of Historic Buildings. Visit the Tie-Dyeing Museum, then, after a demonstration, it is time for you to make your own handkerchief using the shibori technique. Next is Osu shopping district, a huge and popular shopping area containing over 1,200 shops and restaurants. Nearby, is Osu Kannon, a popular Buddhist temple. This is where your tour ends.

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 the check out from your hotel and a shared transfer to the airport.



Nagoya



Kyoto



Kyoto

Story of Japan

14 days

Explore the story and history of Japan on this fascinating 2-week tour. Explore the sights, sounds and tastes of Tokyo and the history and culture of Kyoto. Tour to Nara, Japan's first capital and Nagasaki, and many more historic sites that date back centuries. A stay in a traditional ryokan is sure to be a highlight, a unique opportunity to experience the traditional Japanese lifestyle and hospitality.

Highlights

Tokyo – Kyoto – Nagasaki – Kurokawa 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 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 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, a centuries old pastime and Japan's favourite after work activity. At your first stop at Monzen Nakacho station, 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, particularly yakitori, grilled chicken skewers that pair perfectly with a cold glass of sake or beer. At the end of the tour, your guide can either return you to your hotel or you can explore some other great izakaya joints at the suggestion of your guide.

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 by the founder of the Edo Shogunate surrounded by stunning gardens, famous for its architecture, decorated sliding doors and 'chirping' nightingale floors; Heian Shrine, and Kiyomizu Temple (Pure Water Temple) where you can enjoy the panoramic views of Kyoto from the 13 metre high veranda jutting out from the Main Hall.



Kyoto

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 and home to some of the most impressive and ancient historical landmarks in the country. 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, one of the oldest parks in Japan, 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: Nagasaki

Transfer to the station today and take the bullet train to Nagasaki (change of train may be required enroute). On arrival, check in for your 2-night stay.

Day 8: Nagasaki

Join your guide for a full day tour to explore the highlights of Nagasaki. Your day begins with a visit to Nagasaki Peace Park which commemorates the atomic bombing of Nagasaki in August 1945, the park is home to the massive Peace Statue as well as various other memorials.

Next head to Dejima, which was a man-made island in the port of Nagasaki, constructed in 1636, no longer an island as the surrounding area has been reclaimed however, a number of Dejima's historical structures remain. After Dejima, take the tram to visit Glover Garden, an open air museum, exhibiting mansions of former Western residents of Nagasaki. Last on your itinerary today is Chinatown and a view of the Meganebashi ("Spectacles Bridge"). Shinchi Chinatown, is Japan's oldest Chinatown, established as early as the 17th century, due to the fact that Nagasaki's port remained the country's only major port opened to Chinese trade during the era of isolation. You are free to end your tour here or if you would like to stay and explore on your own and maybe enjoy dinner or your guide can return you to your hotel.

Day 9: Kurokawa Onsen

Board your bullet train to Shin-Tosu, on arrival a transfer will take you to your hotel. Enjoy 2 nights at the unique Hozantei ryokan, located upstream on the river running through Kurokawa Onsen.

Day 10: Kurokawa Onsen

A free day to relax at your traditional ryokan. Whatever season you can enjoy the beautiful scenery from your room and experience utmost relaxation.

Hozantei is a calming spa resort where you can be fully relaxed with nature. Your stay here is on a half board basis.

Day 11: Fukuoka

You will be met at your hotel before your private transfer to Fukuoka. Check in for your 2-night stay at the remainder of the day is free.

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 Shofukuji, 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.

Day 13: Tokyo

Your final rail journey today returns you to Tokyo for one final night.

Day 14: Departure

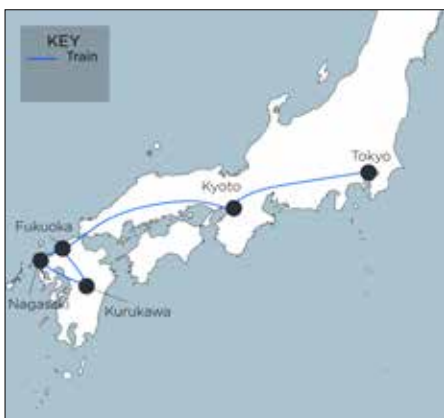
Your package ends with the check out from your hotel and a private transfer to the airport.



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

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 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.



Takayama

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: Naoshima

Your next bullet train journey brings you to Okayama. On arrival a transfer will bring you to your hotel for your 2-night stay.

Day 11: Okayama and Naoshima

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

A private transfer will take to the station for your next bullet train 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

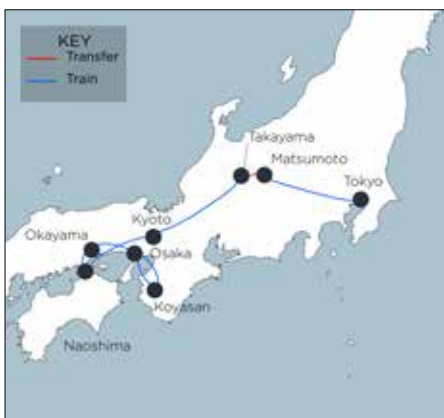
Travel by rail today to Koya-san (via Gokurakubashi). On arrival check into your unique accommodation at Eko-in, This is an unforgettable stay experience in a Buddhist temple. Koya-san Eko-in offers Japanese-style accommodation with a beautiful garden and voluminous Syojin cuisine in your room. Have 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.



Rural Japan

15 days

Explore some of the rural and lesser visited areas on this tour. From the cities of Kyoto and Hiroshima, you'll also travel to Takamatsu, Iya Valley and Himeji which are often overlooked by other tours. There is time to relax, enjoy the culture, peaceful surroundings and hot springs. This tour is perhaps best suited to returning visitors to Japan.

Highlights

Kyoto – Hiroshima – Matsuyama
Takamatsu – Iya Valley – Himeji
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

Departs: Daily
January to December

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: Kyoto

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

Day 2: Kyoto

Enjoy a full day with a local guide using local transport passes for a more immersive tour. First stop is the Arashiyama area, located at the base of the Western mountains and one of Kyoto's most popular sightseeing districts. Begin by visiting Tenryu-ji Temple Garden, ranked first of the Five Great Zen Temples of Kyoto. Enjoy the garden's fine blend of aristocratic tradition and Zen culture, displaying the beauty of the four seasons in its design. Next, head to Daikoku-ji Temple, once the site of an Imperial villa but converted into a temple in 876. Then, to Kinkaku-ji and Ginkaku-ji, arguably the most popular temple in Kyoto. Kinkaku-ji, also known as the famed "Golden Pavilion," is an iconic symbol of Kyoto, rising above its reflecting pond like an apparition. Ginkaku-ji Temple has magnificent halls and gardens, with a tremendous viewpoint over the entire temple compound.

Day 3: Kyoto

A half day private tour today introduces the secrets of Zen meditation and the ancient traditions of Japanese Buddhism. A Zen monk will guide you through the process of quieting your mind and relaxing your body to achieve a state of meditation known as Zazen. Afterwards, enjoy a soothing cup of traditional matcha green tea and seasonal Japanese confectionery before heading out on a short walk to the Tofukuji Temple. Visit the head priests former living quarters, known as the hojo, and visit the Tsutenkyo Bridge and Kaisando Hall. Finally, make your way to the Fushimi Inari Shrine, famed for its torii gates. The Fushimi Inari shrine was used in the movie *Memoirs of a Geisha* and is the perfect place for taking iconic Japanese photographs.

Day 4: Hiroshima

Board your first bullet train today to Hiroshima for a 2-night stay. On arrival, meet your guide who will take you to The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, located at the centre of Hiroshima City. The A-Bomb Dome, also known as the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a tangible link to Hiroshima's unique past. Get a bird's eye view of the Peace Park from the new Orizuru Tower.



Day 5: Hiroshima and Miyajima

Meet your guide for your full day tour to explore mystical Miyajima Island, with the UNESCO World Heritage Itsukushima 'floating' shrine and giant torii gate in the water. Take the cable car up to 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.

Day 6: Matsuyama

A transfer today takes you to Hiroshima Harbour Pier, where you board the ferry to Matsuyama. Enjoy the sights as you sail on the 2 1/2 hour journey (ferry cost not included, only payable at the ferry terminal). On arrival in Matsuyama, check in for a 1-night stay.

Day 7: Takamatsu

Your next train journey brings you to Takamatsu, famous for gardens, castles, udon, islands, port, history, art, festivals, mountains and culture. Check in for a 2-night stay.

Day 8: Naoshima and Takamatsu

Enjoy a full day to with a local guide and 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 main draw for the island is it's installations and sculptures, giving it the title of Art Island. Included in your visit are the Chichu Art Museum and Benesse House Museum.

Day 9: Iya Valley

A private transfer today will take you to Iya Valley for a special stay at Iya Onsen Hotel. Enjoy 2 nights in this secluded region, in a steep-sided valley, surrounded by layered mountains extending in the distance. The perfect location for soaking up the beauty of Iya's natural surroundings.

Day 10: Iya Valley

A free day to relax.

Day 11: Himeji

A private transfer takes you to Okayama Station to join your bullet train to Himeji, known first and foremost for its castle. A UNESCO World Heritage site that is widely considered to be one of Japan's most beautiful and well-preserved castles.

Day 12: Koya-San

Travel by rail today to Koya-san (via Gokurakubashi). On arrival check into your unique accommodation at Eko-in, This an unforgettable stay experience in a Buddhist temple.

Koya-san Eko-in offers Japanese-style accommodation with a beautiful garden and 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 13: Osaka

After an unforgettable stay, return to Osaka by rail and check in for a 2-night stay.

Day 14: Osaka

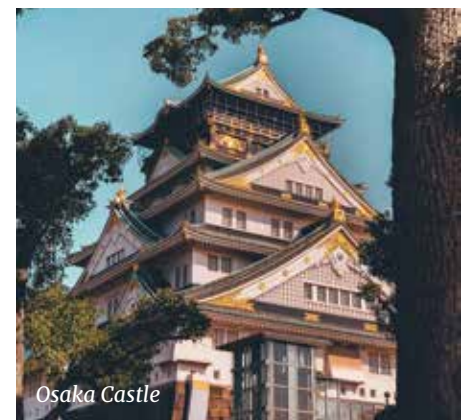
Enjoy a half day tour with a local guide using public transport and an included 1-day pass. Begin with a visit to Osaka castle, built in 1583 as the intended capital of Japan before the capital was moved to Edo (now known as Tokyo). Next is Umeda Sky Building and the observatory for breathtaking sights. Here, not only can you see all of Osaka but also as far away as Awaji Island. The basement of the building houses the Takimi-Koji gourmet street with images of Osaka from the 1920s. You may wish to stroll around before finishing your day.

Day 15: Departure

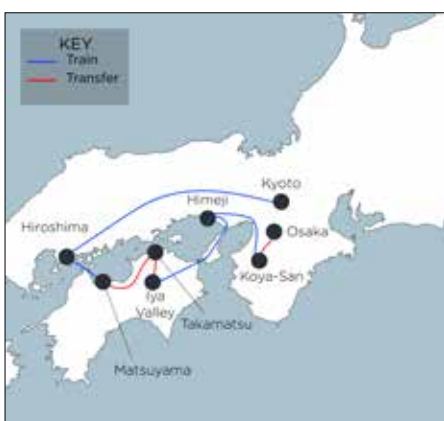
Your package ends with the check out from your hotel and a private transfer to the airport.



Hiroshima



Osaka Castle



Osaka

Family Adventures in Japan

16 days

Japan is a great place for families, and this tour has an emphasis on inclusions for children of all ages. 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 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 Tokyo's local eateries. Your first stop at Monzen Nakacho station, where you'll find Tatsumi Shindo, a street that's a slice of Tokyo in the olden days. Next 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 further with the recommendations of your guide.

Day 4: Tokyo

Today you will enjoy a magical day at Disneyland Tokyo, 1 day admission tickets are included.

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, 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.



Nara

Hida-Furukawa is 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, a great destination to witness their 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 a 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 1/2 day private your 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, tiled 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

Your next train journey brings you to Kyoto for a 3-night stay. Included today is admission to the Kyoto International Manga Museum. Materials preserved in the museum's collection consist of approximately 300,000 manga items.

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

Day 15: 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 16: Departure

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



Disneyland



Tokyo



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

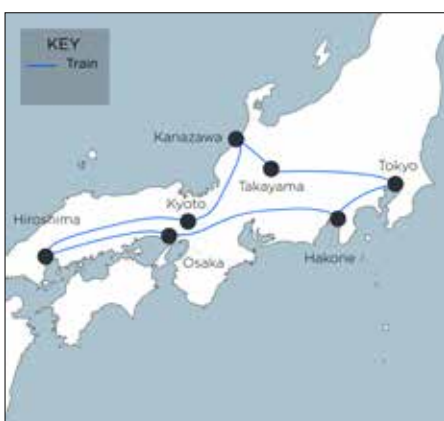
Your package ends with the check out from your hotel and an included transfer to the airport. We can assist with your onwards journey either within Japan or beyond.



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.





Even if you only have a few days in your schedule you can still explore and enjoy much of Japan's culture and attractions. Try, if you can, to spend at least a week here so you can explore beyond Tokyo.

Lily, Destination Specialist

Our short stay packages are featured over the next 8 pages

Experience Tokyo – 6 Days

Tokyo & Hakone – 7 Days

Tokyo & Kyoto – 6 Days

Osaka, Kyoto & Hiroshima – 7 Days

Osaka, Cherry Blossoms & Monkeys – 7 Days

Local Tokyo & Snow Monkeys – 6 Days

Sapporo – Explore the North – 5 Days

Okinawa & Islands – 7 Days

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

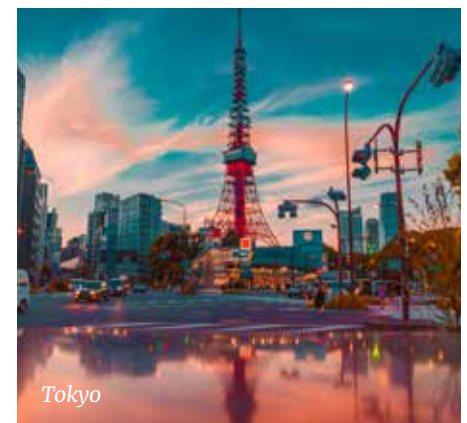
A full day tour takes you to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mount Fuji, around 2-hours from Tokyo. Your tour begins from the Tokyo Bus Terminal at 8am, your first stop will be for stunning views of Lake Kawaguchi and Mount Fuji at Oishi Park. Visit the Arakurayama Sengen Shrine, enjoy the best view 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 & Hakone

7 days

Enjoy 3 nights exploring 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, history, and cultural depth. Known for its hot springs, the iconic Lake Ashi, and views of Mount Fuji, Hakone offers an immersive escape from the hustle of city life.

Highlights

Tokyo - Bullet Train - Hakone

Tour 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

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

Enjoy a half day tour of Tokyo with a local and experienced multilingual guide. Tokyo is where you can experience both modern and traditional, and your experienced guide will help you enjoy a half day in the dynamic Japanese capital. This is a 4-hour tour that can be tailored to the sights that you'd like to see.

Day 3: Tokyo

A free day for you to explore Tokyo.

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. Comfortable guestrooms ensure a good night's sleep and recreational facilities such as hot spring baths, spa, massage, gardens, karaoke. Ryokan Senkei will make you feel instantly at home.

Day 5: Hakone

A day to explore. 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.



Hakone



Ryokan



Bullet Train



Hakone Sightseeing Cruise

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.



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

Day 1: Osaka

Arrive in Osaka and check in at your hotel.

Day 2: Osaka

A full day walking tour introduces you to some of Osaka's must visit locations. Overlook the city from Osaka Castle and enjoy the atmosphere of a lively market. Enjoy views from the observatory of Tsutenkaku. Your walking tour is with an experienced English guide with tasty Ramen for lunch. Total duration is approx. 7½ hours, a moderate level of fitness is required.

Day 3: Kyoto

Board a bullet train for the short journey to Kyoto. On arrival, transfer to your hotel. For over a thousand years Kyoto was the capital of Japan and it is probably the best preserved of all its cities.

Day 4: Kyoto and Nara

Explore the ancient capitals of Japan, Kyoto and Nara on a full day tour. Begin your adventure at the Golden Pavilion "Kinkakuji". Also named Rokuonji, it is the symbol of Kyoto and one of the most famous UNESCO sites in the entire country.

Then travel to Nara, where you will have time to explore its park, watch the worldwide famous deer and enter the biggest wooden building of the planet, Todai-ji Temple, another UNESCO world heritage site. You will also see Fushimi Inari Shrine and the 'Senbon Torii'.

Day 5: Hiroshima

Board a bullet train to Hiroshima. This afternoon meet your tour guide who will escort you on a walking tour to famous sites such as Miyajima Island, Itsukushima Shrine, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Shukkeien Japanese garden, and Hiroshima Castle. Your guide will customise your tour according to your interests. *A private vehicle is not included, public transportation or local taxis may be required, costs not included.*

Day 6: Hiroshima

A free day to explore.

Day 7: Osaka / Tour ends

A final bullet train journey is included to Osaka, on arrival your journey comes to an end. We can arrange onward connections if you wish to explore more of Japan.



Kyoto



Hiroshima



Kyoto



Osaka

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

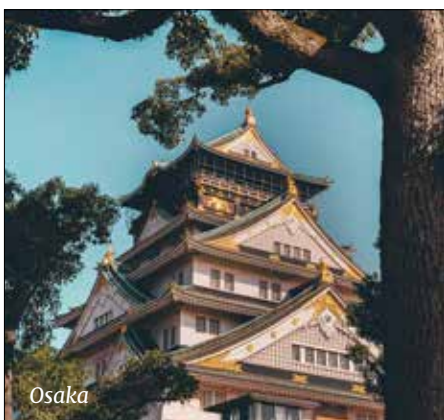
Board your bullet train today to Nagano located in the centre of Japan. Check in at your hotel and explore at your leisure.

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.



Local Tokyo & Snow Monkeys

6 days

Travel is about the people you meet not just the places you see. 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, from here you are 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

Tour Includes

- 3 nights in Tokyo
- 3 hour Tokyo walking tour
- 3 hour traditional tea ceremony
- 2 nights in Nagano
- Bullet train tickets Tokyo – Nagano – Tokyo
- Station to hotel transfers in Nagano
- 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: Arrive Tokyo

Arrive Tokyo and check in at your hotel. Please see our selection of preferred Tokyo hotels on pages 72 and 73 or ask us for your preferred property.

Day 2: Tokyo

This morning you will get to know the city through the eyes of a passionate local. There is no set itinerary, allowing you to customise the tour or leave it up to the local for an insightful introduction to the city. Your guide will provide a general overview of the city with practical information from a locals perspective, rather than detailed historical facts (attraction admissions and transport costs are not included). After saying goodbye to your guide, this afternoon you will join a tea making ceremony with an expert Tea Master and host. The friendly staff will demonstrate the tea ceremony process while explaining the significance behind it, the steps and the tools. You will learn about tea ceremony history, and tea ceremony etiquette. A fascinating day that will leave you with a greater understanding of the local culture and customs.

Day 3: Nagano

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

Day 4: 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 5: Tokyo

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

Day 6: Departure

Your package ends with the check out from your hotel.



Tokyo



Tokyo



Nagano



Nagano

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 Ishigaki Island
- 2 nights on Ishigaki Island
- Flight from Ishigaki 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 Shuri Castle, Kokusaidori, Himeyuri Peace Museum, Peace Memorial Park and Shikinaen Garden. *Please note: This is 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.





Cruising is special for many reasons, and nothing could be more unique than sailing around the coastline of Japan, seeing the sights from a distinctly different perspective.

Kate, Destination Specialist

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:

Holland America Line – pages 60-61

Cunard – page 62

Coral Expeditions – page 63

Ponant – page 64

Princess Cruises – page 65

Regent Seven Seas Cruises – 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.

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 - 14 or 15 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.

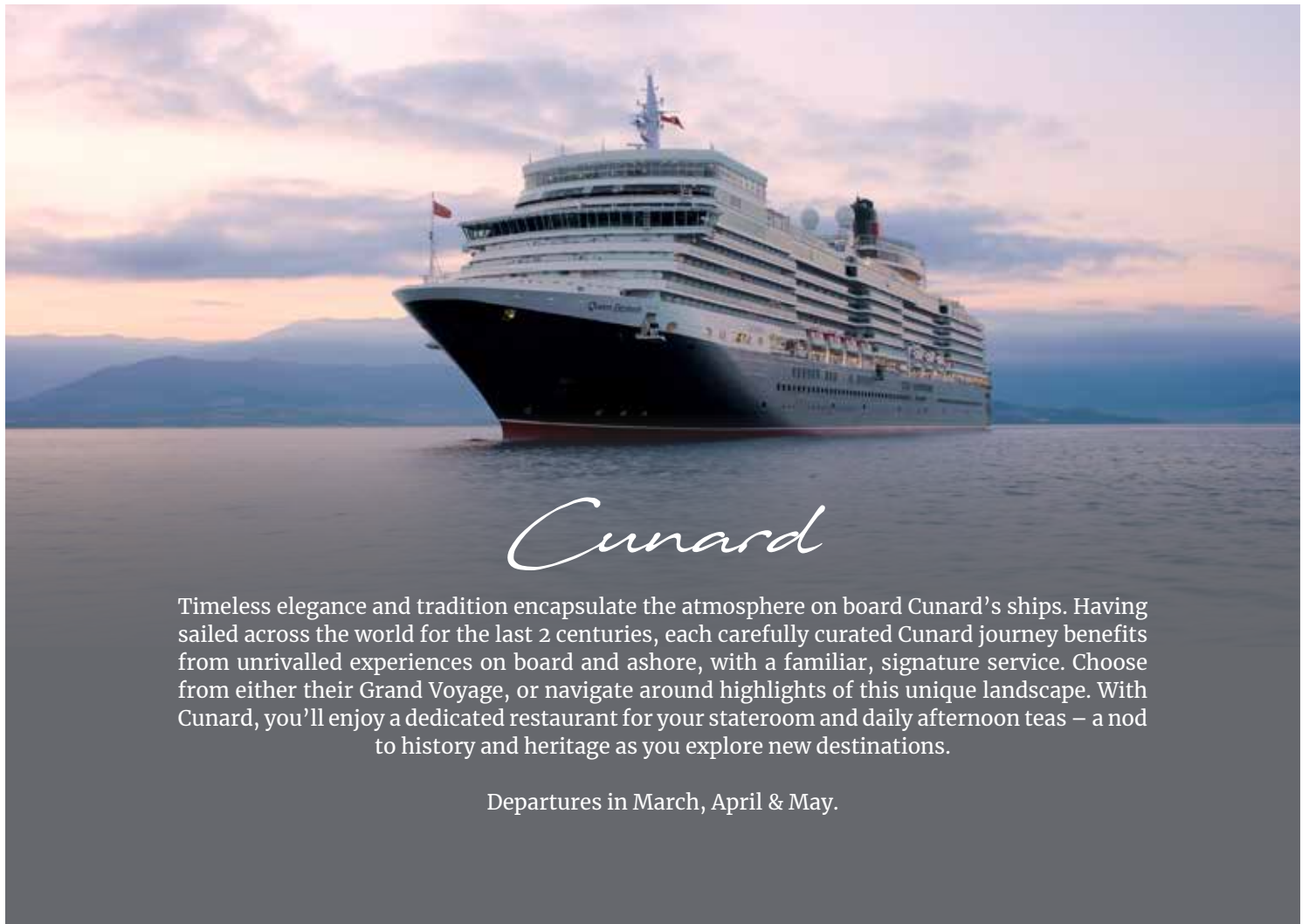
Ports of Call may include: Yokohama (Tokyo), Kochi, Kagoshima, Sasebo, Busan (South Korea), Kanazawa, Akita, Otaru, Aomori, Hakodate, Shimizu, Kobe, Kochi, Hiroshima, Sokcho (South Korea), Tsuruga, Toyama, Akita, Miyako.



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.



Cunard

Timeless elegance and tradition encapsulate the atmosphere on board Cunard's ships. Having sailed across the world for the last 2 centuries, each carefully curated Cunard journey benefits from unrivalled experiences on board and ashore, with a familiar, signature service. Choose from either their Grand Voyage, or navigate around highlights of this unique landscape. With Cunard, you'll enjoy a dedicated restaurant for your stateroom and daily afternoon teas – a nod to history and heritage as you explore new destinations.

Departures in March, April & May.



Southern Japan - 10 or 11 Days

Explore Japan's captivating southern cities on this sailing. This cruise offers a chance to experience hot springs in Beppu, historic trading ports in South Korea and Nagasaki, along with the rugged mountains and palm-tree lined streets of Kagoshima. A return trip from Tokyo, this voyage is the perfect addition to one of our tailor-made journeys through Japan.

Ports of Call may include: Yokohama (Tokyo), Beppu, Nagasaki, Busan (South Korea), Kagoshima and Kochi.



Japan Grand Voyage - 19 or 20 Days

Spend 18 or 19 nights (dependent on dates) on board Cunard's Queen Elizabeth to explore the wealth of differences along Japan's coastline. From serene temples, traditional cities and a host of natural beauty, this in-depth cruise will ensure you leave having explored every corner of this fascinating country.

Ports of Call may include: Yokohama (Tokyo), Aomori, Sakaiminato, Busan (South Korea), Nagasaki, Shimizu, Beppu, Nagasaki, Kagoshima, Osaka, Hakodate, Kochi.



Cunard's Queen Elizabeth

As soon as you step aboard the Queen Elizabeth, you'll be immersed in art deco elegance ahead of a remarkable voyage. Spacious decks are the perfect place to savour the on board experience, with luxurious staterooms and multiple entertainment options. Enjoy a game of croquet on the Games Deck, indulge in Traditional Afternoon Tea in the Queens Room or be entertained by West End calibre productions in the Royal Court Theatre – you will never be short of options when choosing to sail with Cunard.



Coral Expeditions

Coral Expeditions is an Australian Cruise company with over 40 years of experience in unique expedition-style cruising. Since their launch, they have explored remote areas of the world and now offer sailings taking in Japan's vibrant cities and coastal island villages. Purpose-built ships and warm hospitality all whilst being in the company of like-minded adventurers and crew with unrivalled local expertise make Coral Expeditions the ideal choice for any traveller wanting to make a deep connection with their destination.

Departures from September to November.



Through the Heart of Japan - 15 Days

This 14-night cruise showcases Japan's dynamic landscapes from cities to islands, where you'll experience everything from remote shrines, bustling streets and lush mountainous landscapes. Historic castles and modern cityscapes reveal the traditions of Japan to its new modern age as you travel around it's heart, and enjoy an intimate, adventure-style cruise on board the Coral Geographer with a maximum of 120 guests.

Ports of Call may include: Tokyo, Shimizu, Shingu, Kobe, Osaka, Kyoto, Tokushima, Shodoshima, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Matsuyama, Karatsu, Tsushima, Jeju (South Korea), Sasebo, Aokata and Nakadori Islands, Fukue Island, Fukuoka.



Coral Expeditions cruise inclusions:

The Coral Geographer is the newest addition to the fleet, holding 120 guests in majority balcony staterooms. Able to navigate into shallow bays and to small islands, the Coral Geographer makes use of technical advances to ensure full exploration of each destination.

- All excursions with the Expedition Team
- Use of Xplorer and Zodiacs
- All meals
- Captain's welcome and open bridge access
- Selected beverages – wines, beers, house spirits, soft drinks, tea and coffee
- All entrance fees
- Tips and gratuities
- Wi-Fi Access – standard speed connectivity
- Expedition diary with photos and videos documenting the highlights of your voyage



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).



Secular Treasures in the Land of the Rising Sun - 8 Days

Japan's cuisine is as captivating as the country in contrasts and beauty. On board Ponant's gastronomic cruises around Japan, you will be carried away on a culinary exploration of this fascinating country. Experiencing the quintessential tea ceremony to the history of the samurais, this voyage serves as the ultimate discovery for any discerning traveller.

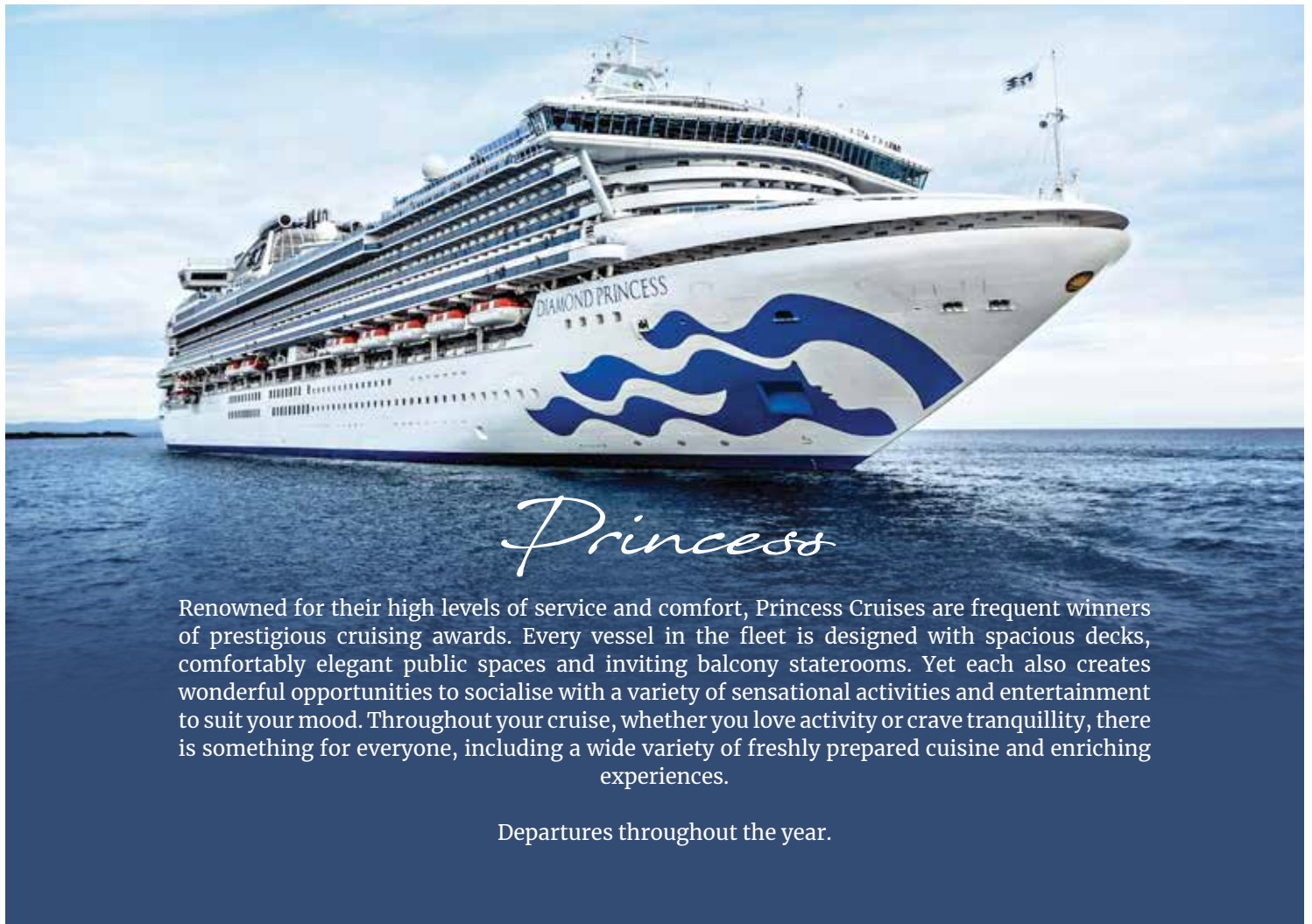
Ports of Call may include: Osaka, Uno, Hiroshima, Miyajima Island, Hagi, Busan (South Korea), Uwajima, Kochi, Kobe.



The Best of Japan - 9 Days

During your cruise aboard Le Soléal, one of Ponant's four exclusive sisterships, you'll be treated to a brand-new gastronomic cruise including a gala dinner and culinary demonstrations, all while marvelling at the shrine on Miyajima Island or the castles of Shikoku to name just a few highlights. On board, the food and service are as intricate and impressive as the scenery, and you will be treated to a sensory exploration of cherry blossoms, tea plantations and dramatic cultural heritage.

Ports of Call may include: Osaka, Uno, Hiroshima, Hagi, Busan (South Korea), Uwajima, Kochi, Kobe, Maizuru.



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.



Circle Japan - 8 Days

Embark on a voyage from Tokyo to take in a country steeped in tradition and the harmony of ancient sites and natural wonders. Beginning in Tokyo, take in the sites of the Imperial Palace, Tokyo Tower and Great Buddha of Kamakura, before you venture around the four main islands that make up Japan. From the bustling city you'll continue to Nagasaki, enjoying a slower pace and time for reflection in the Peace Memorial Park, before you see the small fishing port of Sakaiminato and the apple orchards and cherry blossoms of Aomori in the north. Returning to Tokyo, your circumnavigation of Japan comes to an end having explored highlights of each region.

Ports of Call may include: Tokyo (Yokohama), Nagasaki, Busan (South Korea), Sakaiminato, Aomori.



On board the Diamond Princess

Princess Cruise's 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 activity 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.



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, May and October.



Japanese Traditions - 12 Day

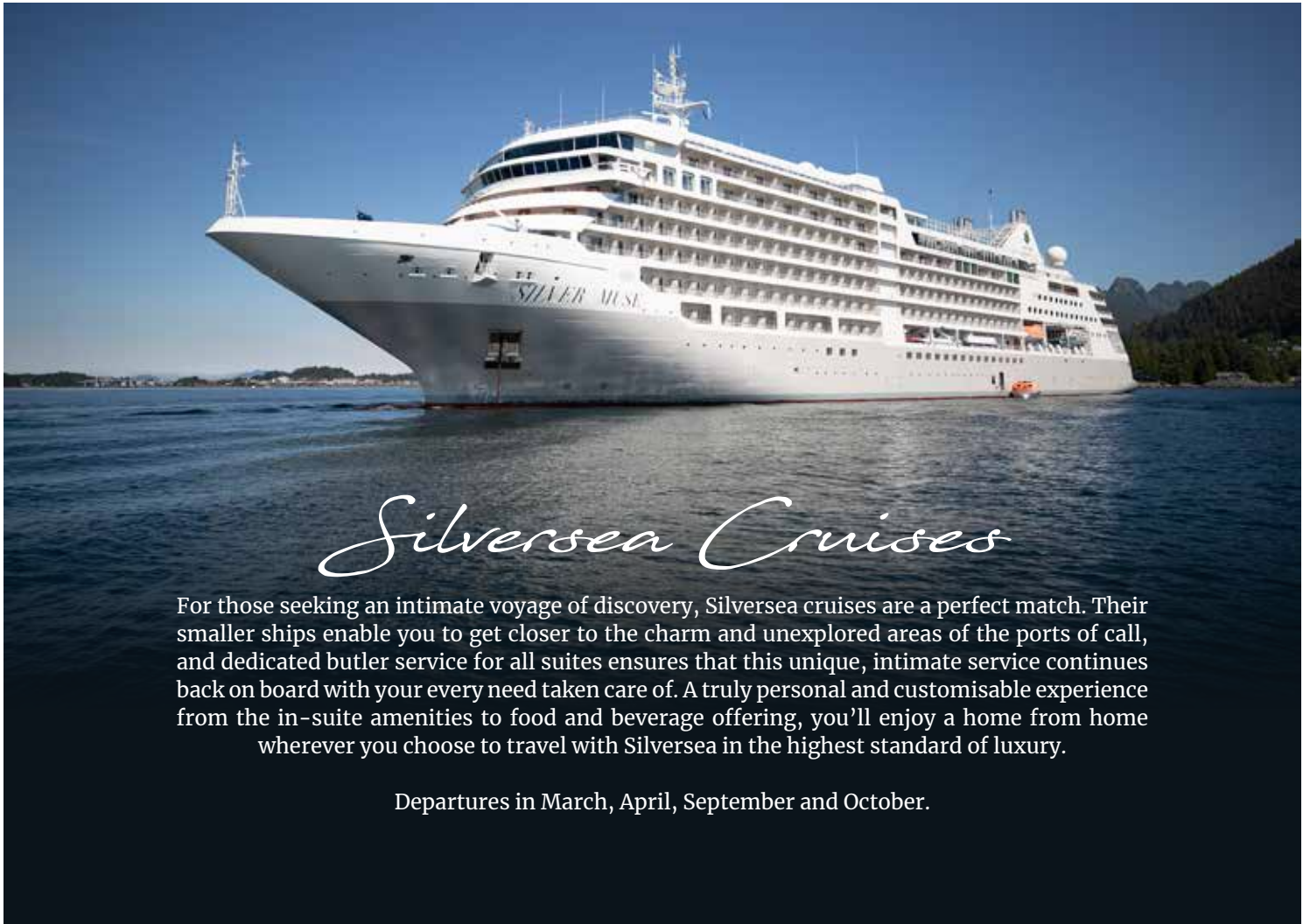
Whilst cherry blossoms in springtime are a huge attraction, Japan is equally as impressive in autumn which is when this voyage departs. Vibrant colours of the season across Japan's national parks and towering temples are showcased on this sailing, as well as highlights including Beppu's bubbling hot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

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



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.



Japan Cruise - 10 Days

A round-trip from Tokyo, Silversea's 10-day Japan cruise offers a balance of days at sea and days of discovering all that this fascinating country has to offer. From the futuristic, iconic sights of the vast metropolis of Tokyo, to the Geisha districts of Kanazawa and soaring temples of Aomori, check the main sights off your list before relaxing in the spa, pool deck or several dining options that you will have on board the Silver Muse.

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



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)

Call us for more information on sailing dates

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.



We love to create the perfect tailor-made itineraries based on your requirements, making sure we tick all of the boxes for your personalised holiday.

Yumiko, Destination Specialist

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

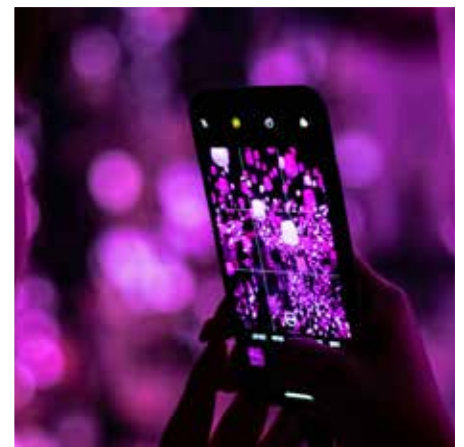
Travel by train is an essential, convenient mode of transport in Tokyo. The network of JR East and Tokyo Subway covers all areas well, so you can easily navigate your way around the city.

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

Panoramic Tokyo Full Day Bus Tour

Being the largest urban area in the world means there is a lot to explore during your stay. Discover the highlights that this metropolis has to offer on a full-day tour by bus. In the morning, you'll step back in time with traditional sites such as the Meiji Shrine, Imperial Palace and Sensoji Temple in Asakusa. In stark contrast, the afternoon sees you marvel at skyscrapers and the wonders of modern Tokyo – the Tokyo Sky Tree (admission included) and a bay cruise will afford you panoramic views. Lunch is also included.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 9½ – 10 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 Hakkai 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 tastebuds. You'll be treated to some tastings, before also visiting an observatory to fully appreciate your surroundings.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 3 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, chose to visit shopping outlets, or perhaps visit the hot springs (entrance at additional cost).

Departs: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
Duration: 8 hours

Kamakura & Yokohama Tour

Nestled between the mountains and the sea, Kamakura has long been a charming choice for a seaside getaway from the city. Travelling by train to the former political centre of medieval Japan, expect to be greeted by ancient temples, bamboo gardens, historical gems and a 13 metre high bronze Buddha statue. Continue on your tour to Yokohama, with a historic Chinatown and traditional Japanese gardens complete with tea houses and pagodas, for those all important photographs.

Departs: Daily
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 enforce the story-book feel of this charming area.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 8 hours



Tokyo Accommodation

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 Shibuya 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: ★★★★★





The Gate Hotel Tokyo by HULIC

First impressions count, and the Gate Hotel certainly hits the mark with the lobby come champagne bar being your first experience as you arrive here. Some of the city's best dining, shopping and attractions can be found just outside within the neighbourhood of Ginza, as well as being in the shadow of Tokyo's Imperial Palace and Gardens. Rooms are decorated with colourful accents and stylish tones, and are fully equipped to provide an oasis of calm. Look no further than the hotel's rooftop bar and terrace at the end of the day, where you'll be treated to a familiar, relaxing atmosphere – the Gate Hotel is certainly designed for the connoisseur of finer things.

Location: Yurakucho/Ginza

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 across 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, amongst the surrounding 'Hell Valley' with its erupting steam vents and hot springs.

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 Zenkoji 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



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

Day tour of Matsumoto, Kamikochi and Matsumoto Castle

Further exploration of the Central Region of Japan and its mountainous areas will enable you to discover the road less travelled in the country's heartland. See the Matsumoto Castle, one of the last few remaining original castles of Japan, before heading further into the Alps for views of the protected Alpine oasis of Kamikochi. A must in this region, you'll capture memories of two of the region's most iconic destinations on a full day tour.

Departs: Seasonally – April to November
Duration: 9 hours

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 complimented 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 surrounding Chubu have to offer.

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 provide 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: ★★★★★



Mizno Hotel

Stay in the mountains at the Mizno Hotel within a 5 minute drive of Lake Kawaguchi. Featuring rooms designed in a Japanese style, some including balconies and terraces to look over the surrounding natural beauty of the Fuji Region. A smaller hotel with historical roots just 1 kilometre from the city centre, the friendly service adds to the charm of this tranquil retreat. A stay at the Mizno Hotel has something to suit all tastes, from boating activities on the lake, to hiking trails and even an on-site library. There are also traditional Japanese onsens (hot springs) nearby, and after you are finished here, return to the hotel's bar and rooftop terrace with views of Mount Fuji.

Location: Fujikawaguchiko

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.

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 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

Kyoto Coast, Amanohashidate and Ine Bay

Depart from Osaka or Kyoto to the coast, Amanohashidate and Ine Bay on this full day tour. Described as one of the top sceneries in Japan, Amanohashidate 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 Amanohashidate from above. You'll continue to the Chionji Temple, where you can observe the omikujii (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 at Kyoto's heart, 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 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 8th floor reception and outside terrace and restaurant.

Location: Kyoto

Our rating: ★★★★★



Osaka Marriott Miyako Hotel

Occupying floors 38-57 of the landmark Abeno Harukas building in Osaka, the Marriott Miyako is truly a luxury experience in the clouds. Impeccably connected to Osaka's main attractions – Universal Studios, Osaka Castle and the Shitennoji Temple, there is no better place to explore Japan's third most-populous city. The hotel's luxury guest rooms feature unparalleled skyline views, and you will be expertly catered for with gastronomic delights in several eateries, one of which features a live cooking station. Return to your hotel at the gateway to all of Osaka's offerings to experience the Japanese 'omotenashi' that the hotel prides itself on - the concepts of hospitality and mindfulness.

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 resident's 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



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.

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



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

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

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: ★★★★★



Sheraton Grand Hiroshima

Located next to the JR station with direct access to the bullet train, Sheraton Grand Hiroshima is ideal for sightseeing visits exploring Hiroshima's history and architecture and for onward travel throughout the rest of Japan and the city itself. The hotel's modern décor blends both Western and Japanese elements, with guest rooms featuring contemporary furnishings and many also offering views over Hiroshima and the Inland Sea. Guests in Club Rooms have access to the Club Lounge, offering breakfast, soft drinks, and cocktails, and the hotel also offers a buffet, Japanese restaurant and café bar style restaurant on property. The Memorial Cathedral for World Peace, and Hiroshima Castle are just two main attractions close by.

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 off 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.

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



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

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



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 Naturo 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



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.

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



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

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

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.

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 Godaido – an iconic temple hall with panoramic views. The area even inspired Haiku poet Matsuo Basho with its breathtaking scenery.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 8 hours



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

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



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



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.

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



Sapporo Morning Tour

Take in the sights of Sapporo on this morning tour including Shiroi Koibito Park, Okuyayama 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 Okuyayama Ski Jump Stadium for a self-guided tour. You'll also see Shiroi 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

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)



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.

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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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

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



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.





Japan's famously fast and efficient rail network makes travelling by train the seamless experience we all wish for, making it easy to trust the schedules when planning any itinerary.

L'Chelle, Destination Specialist

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.



Japan Rail Network

Japan's railways offer punctuality, safety, and diversity, whether you're looking for bullet-fast transport between cities, inner-city transport, or a leisurely scenic and cultural journey through Japan. The network is vast and is one of the best ways to travel around the country.

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 itinerarassy involves several rail journeys within Japan, we may recommend a JR Rail Pass, these offer the best value they do come with some restrictions as detailed below.

- Hokkaido Shinkansen
- Tohoku Shinkansen
- Akita Shinkansen
- Yamagata Shinkansen
- Joetsu Shinkansen
- Tohoku Shinkansen
- Tokaido Shinkansen
- Sanyo Shinkansen
- Kyushu Shinkansen





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).
- 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.



Preferred Airlines



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.



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 Wi-Fi 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 QSuites 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.

General & Important Information

ESCORTED TOURS – PAGES 14 TO 29

International Flights: All our tours exclude international flights to allow us to source the best airline and fare to suit your needs.

Airport Transfers: Arrival and departure airport transfers are included if you arrive and depart on the days shown in the itineraries. If you should add pre or post tour accommodation or packages, transfers are excluded, we can arrange these however additional costs will apply.

WENDY WU TOURS

Tours on pages 16 to 27 are operated by Wendy Wu Tours, below is some important information relevant to these tours.

Tour Style - Classic Tours: The tours we feature on pages 16 to 27 are classified as 'Classic Tours' by Wendy Wu Tours. These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Japan on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by dedicated and professional National Escorts or local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

Physical Fitness Ratings:

Wendy Wu Tours all have a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of the tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

The tours we feature are all classified as Physical Level 1 category. This indicates a level of fitness that allows you to comfortably remain on your feet with occasional rest. Expect to effortlessly navigate boarding and disembarking from various modes of transport, including coaches, trains, and boats. You will be walking around remarkable sites and ascending steps to capture those awe-inspiring views.

Please consider:

- Sightseeing may often involve walking for a reasonable duration, sometimes over multiple steps, or uneven surfaces. Fortresses and some temples involve climbing quite a number of steps, which can be large, not level and sometimes without handrails.
- Boarding and alighting from various boat sizes independently is part of the experience.

The National Escort is dedicated to providing a high level of service and support throughout your journey however, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour. They are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travelers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Tour Accommodation: Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all Western amenities. Please note that double bed requests can be made at the time of booking but cannot be guaranteed. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality will exist between your home country and Japan. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Hotels in Japan often do not have porters and you will be required to carry your luggage. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by their staff and partners to ensure that standards meet needs.

Luggage & Porterage: Luggage restrictions apply and will be provided with your documentation. Porterage whilst on tour is not included, you must be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

TRANSPORT

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Coaches and mini buses do not have on board toilet facilities; however, frequent bathroom stops are made for passengers comfort.

Bullet trains: Second class reserved seating are made for bullet train journeys; there will be toilet facilities on board. Due to the limited space on bullet trains, a separate luggage transfer service will be arranged for all suitcases (1 case per person). You will need to pack a separate overnight bag to carry on the train as your suitcase will not arrive until the following day after a bullet train journey. Your guide will indicate when you will need to prepare for this throughout your tour.

Group Size: Most of Wendy Wu tours consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at their discretion, they may operate departures with a smaller group size.

Solo Travellers: On certain tours, selected dates are exclusively for customers who prefer to travel with a group of like-minded solo travellers. You will have a room of your own with no single supplement to pay, while the expert guides take care of you throughout the tour. Ask for details of which tours and dates have Solo Departures.

Itinerary Changes: It is the intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances, the best possible arrangements will be made to maintain the integrity of your trip.

APT SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS

The tour shown on pages 28 & 29 is operated by APT Small Group Journeys.

Group size: This tour is from APT's Small Group Tour range, the group size is typically up to 16 guests

Accommodation: Accommodation is handpicked by APT, you will stay in some of the most charismatic and evocative properties that capture the essence of Japan.

Tour Itinerary: Inclusions and itinerary shown was correct at the time of printing but is subject to change. Your tour includes English speaking experienced local guides.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Flight tickets:

All airlines now issue e-tickets for your flights, which are electronic paperless tickets. An itinerary will be issued with your documents showing all your flight arrangements that you can present at check in.

Checking in:

You must check in for your international flights approximately 3 hours prior to departure time on your ticket or e-ticket. Please note that due to increased security measures, some airlines may request personal information on check in such as home address or address for your initial stay.

Special Requests:

Unfortunately, we have no control over the allocation of seats on a flight and cannot guarantee that you will be sitting with your travelling companion. If you require special seating for medical reasons, please let us know. Some airlines allow you to pre-book your seats for a fee, please ask us for more information.

Airlines/Aircraft:

Airlines reserve the right to substitute carriers, aircraft types, seat configuration and cabin classes on their flights. Some airlines may still consider an intermediary touchdown on a flight as a 'direct' flight.

Alcohol Policy:

All airlines operate a zero-tolerance policy for excess consumption of alcohol on board their flights. Some airlines may or may not serve alcohol on their flights, and some will charge for alcoholic and soft drinks.

Delays:

Liability for flight delays are as per the airline's own conditions of carriage. Please see our terms and conditions or call for more information.

Schedule Changes:

Flight schedules are arranged many months in advance, and although rare, some flight rescheduling does occur. A schedule change may range from five minutes to a day or more. If a schedule change does occur, and we are told about it before departure, we may offer a revised itinerary and holiday cost to reflect that change. Please note that the holiday price could be higher or lower, depending on the flight affected. Notwithstanding the above, the provisions of paragraph 10 of our Booking Terms & Conditions apply. Please note that schedule changes are made by the airline, not by First Class Holidays. We cannot accept liability for any extra charges incurred as a result of a rescheduled flight.

Meal Requests:

Most international flights include a meal service however flights within Japan may not include meals. Your Airline may provide any special meals that you may require, please request your special meal with your consultant at the time of booking.

Child Discounts:

These will vary dependent upon your airline but as a general rule Children 2-11 years pay 75% of the adult fare. Infants under 2 and not occupying a seat pay 10% of the adult fare if the return date is prior to their 2nd birthday.

Passports and Visas:

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure that they have a valid passport and visa if necessary. First Class Holidays cannot be held responsible if you are not in possession of the correct documentation.

Baggage Allowance:

Flights:

Each airline imposes its own baggage allowance, so please check the information for your flights. Airline allowances are strictly adhered to, and charges will be imposed for excess baggage. For the carriage of special items, like golf clubs, skis, wheelchairs etc, there may be an additional charge as this is extra to your normal baggage allowance. Some airlines will require to be told if you intend to take such items, so please check at the time of booking.

Coach & Rail Tours:

Due to space limitation on coaches and trains, only one piece of baggage is permitted on all coach and rail tours.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Time Difference:

Japan is 9 hours ahead of UK Greenwich Mean Time.

Flying Time:

The average flight time for a direct service from London to Tokyo is 11 hours.

Seasons & Weather:

Each season is unique and offers something for everyone. Temperatures can vary quite significantly from region to region, but generally there are four distinct seasons that roughly mirror our own.

Spring – Season for Cherry Blossom:

Spring is celebrated with the arrival of the cherry blossoms. Starting in the south and gradually moving north, the blossoms bloom between March and May depending on location. This is the perfect time for exploring before the heat of the summer begins. As spring comes to an end, the rainy season begins late May and can last until early July.

Summer:

From mid July to September, the summers can be hot and humid with temperatures reaching 30 degrees Celsius. This is also the main season for festivals which are fun and plentiful.

Autumn:

From late September to mid-December, the temperatures cool and the autumn colours are abundant. Similar to spring, the fall season is perfect for outdoor exploration

Winter:

From mid-December to early March, temperatures vary depending on your region. The ski season begins the weather varies from region to region. The cities of Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka may experience some snowfall but can also be dry, chilly yet sunny, whilst the northern areas are home to many of Japan's famous ski regions.

TRAVELLING AROUND JAPAN

Japan's vast and efficient transportation system makes travelling around Japan easy. There are many different forms of transportation from Bullet trains, to local rail and bus networks and subway systems. Public transport is usually the best way to travel, however car rental is also an option for some of the remoter locations. We would not recommend driving in the main cities as roads are congested and can be confusing to visitors, so if you prefer to drive we suggest taking a train away from the city and renting from a smaller, less congested region.

How to get to Tokyo from the airport?

There are 2 airports in Tokyo, Narita airport and Haneda airport. Travelling time from these is around 40 minutes to 2 hours, depending on where you go in Tokyo.

Shinjuku area is approximately 1 hour from Haneda airport or 1 hour 40 minutes to 2 hours from Narita airport.

Tokyo station area is approximately 40 minutes from Haneda airport and 1 hour+ from Narita airport.

Travelling around Tokyo

Trains are the main transport method. Station names and route guidance are written in Japanese and English. Japan Railways East, Tokyo Metro and the Toei subway cover the central Tokyo district well. Toei buses can be useful sometimes with a little local knowledge.

HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION

Japan offers a wide range of accommodations, both Western-style and Japanese. Rooms sizes can vary and may be smaller than you have experienced in other parts of the world.

Western-style hotels:

These can be found in all of Japan's major cities. These hotels should have the same amenities as other Western establishments, including TVs, air conditioning, heating and internet.

Business hotels:

Business hotels are an economical and no-frills accommodation option for all travellers. They can be found across Japan, usually located close to train stations, and offer clean and comfortable lodgings. Rooms are smaller and they offer fewer amenities compared to standard hotels.

Ryokan:

Ryokan are Japanese style accommodation found throughout the country, especially in onsen (hot spring) resorts. Ryokan can offer travellers a taste of traditional Japanese hospitality and charm. Rooms usually consist of a single, undivided tatami-mat space and guests sleep on futon bedding laid out on the floor by staff. Room rates are usually charged per person inclusive of two meals: dinner and breakfast. Most ryokan serve kaiseki (Japanese banquet) cuisine that feature local and seasonal specialities.

Hotel Ratings:

Please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality will exist between the UK and Japan. We have added gradings to our hotel selection, these gradings are based on location and are purely for guidance purposes, they are not official ratings.

Please note that in Japan, hotel rooms and bathrooms are renowned for being small. Standard single rooms are usually smaller than a standard double or twin room, contain one small double bed (or one single bed), and are designed for one person to use.

CULTURAL AWARENESS

Japan is a warm and welcoming country steeped in tradition and etiquette and it is recommended that you research these before your visit.

Footwear:

Footwear rules are an important part of Japanese culture and apply not only to homes, but also to many traditional ryokan, some restaurants and the indoor sections of many temples, castles and other historical buildings. Etiquette requires you to remove your shoes before entry, neatly leaving your shoes facing outwards or put them on a shelf if provided. Clean socks should always be worn, being bare foot is considered bad mannered. Slippers may be provided by your host. Separate toilet slippers are often provided for use only inside washrooms, regular slippers are left outside the door and worn once leaving the washroom.

Tipping:

It is not common to tip for services as you would elsewhere in the world. Some situations, for example a private guide or interpreter may accept a tip as a gesture of gratitude. Please note however that tipping is not expected and should be done discreetly, if you do decide to offer a gratuity, it is customary to put it in an envelope.

Restaurant Etiquette:

Tipping is not required or customary. In most cases, you will need to take your bill to the till to pay, not pay at your table.

Cash & Credit Cards:

Japan is very much a cash-based society and we recommend always carrying some cash with you.

Although most stores and restaurants will accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express cards, please consider that some may not. You can usually withdraw cash from one of the Post Office ATMs throughout Japan. Consider an IC card for using subways and local transport, see details on page 93.

Onsens:

Japan is renowned for having some of the best onsens (hot springs) in the world and it is considered a unique experience when visiting. However, there are many rules and traditions to abide by and we advise reading the rules before visiting. Please see the information on Japan National Tourist Office Website -

<https://www.japan.travel/en/ph/story/onsen-etiquette/>

For more information on culture and etiquette, please visit Japan National Tourist Office Website and search for 'Japanese Manners'.

Other Tips & Hints:

- English is widely spoken, but always use plain English and speak slowly.
- Talking on the phone on public transport is regarded as bad manners.
- It is polite to bow when greeting someone (customary in place of handshakes)
- Smoking while walking is considered rude and is illegal in some places.
- Blowing your nose in public is considered rude but sniffing is more acceptable
- When paying for an item in a shop and you see a tray on the counter, place your money here rather than handing it straight to the cashier
- On escalators, stand to the left, pass on the right.
- Avoid getting lost within buildings by
 - Ground Floor (UK) = First floor or 1F (Japan)
 - First floor (UK) = Second floor or 2F (Japan)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Passports & Visas: Please ensure that you are in possession of the correct documentation for both entry into Japan and for any other country or airport you visit, or transit through, on your journey. At the time of printing, the rules for entry into Japan were as below; these however are subject to change by authorities at any time and you should always check the rules both before you book and before you travel. At the time of printing:

Passport (British Citizens) - your passport must be valid for the length of your stay. No additional period of validity is required. You need a blank page for your visa stamp.

Visa (British Citizens) - you can get a visa on arrival in Japan for tourism for up to 90 days.

Please check for the most up to date rules at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/japan>

Visit Japan Web:

This is a web service that can be used for immigration procedures (immigration clearance, customs declaration). We recommend that you should pre-register all your customs and immigration documents prior to departure to speed up the Japan entry process. You will need to create your account on the website and register your details including passport information, arrival date, flight number, your accommodation, custom information, and quarantine. There is a link to a video on the website which explains the procedures. <https://services.digital.go.jp/en/visit-japan-web/>

Health & Vaccinations:

Please check these sites for the latest health and vaccination requirements <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/japan/health>
<https://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/asia-east/japan>

Foreign Office Advice:

The safety of our customers is our priority and as such we work in line with the advice provided by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. We recommend that you keep up to date with this advice, which can be accessed via the Foreign & Commonwealth office website at www.fco.gov.uk.

Building Works:

Where we are advised of building work taking place at your hotel, we will notify you of the work being undertaken, however we cannot take liability for building works outside your accommodation or elsewhere in your destination.

Hotel Check in & out times:

Check in time is generally after 3pm on the day of arrival; check out time varies between 10am and 12 noon. If you require a late check out, you should speak to the hotel directly, they may be able to arrange a day room for which you should pay the hotel directly (subject to availability).

Currency:

Japan is a cash-based society, so it is recommended that you do carry cash with you. ATMs often charge for withdrawals and not all ATMs are 24 hours so it's worth always being prepared. Yen (JPY) comes in bills of 1,000 yen, 2,000 yen, 5,000 yen and 10,000 yen, and coins of 1 yen, 5 yen, 10 yen, 50 yen, and 500 yen. Credit, debit and prepaid cards are widely accepted. You can use cards to pay for most Shinkansen (bullet) fares, however, you can't always use them for short distance train/subway fares.

Climate Chart

Average Temperature (Celsius)		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tokyo	Low	1	2	4	10	14	17	22	23	20	15	8	4
	High	10	10	14	20	23	25	29	31	27	22	16	13
Kyoto	Low	1	1	4	9	14	19	23	24	20	14	8	3
	High	9	10	14	20	25	28	32	34	29	24	16	12
Osaka	Low	4	4	5	11	16	20	24	25	21	15	10	5
	High	10	10	14	20	25	28	32	34	29	24	18	13
Nagano	Low	-4	-3	-1	5	11	16	20	21	20	8	3	-1
	High	4	5	9	15	24	25	29	31	25	19	13	7
Sapporo	Low	-7	-6	-3	4	9	14	17	19	15	7	1	-5
	High	0	0	5	11	17	21	25	26	23	16	9	2

Data Protection Statement:

Please be assured that we have measures in place to protect the personal booking information held by us. This information will be passed on to the principal and to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements. The information may also be provided to public authorities such as customs or immigration if required by them, or as required by law. Certain information may also be passed on to security or credit checking companies. If you travel outside the European Economic Area, controls on data protection may not be as strong as the legal requirements in this country. We will only pass your information on to persons responsible for your travel arrangements. This applies to any sensitive information that you give to us such as details of any disabilities, or dietary/religious requirements. (If we cannot pass this information to the relevant suppliers, whether in the EEA or not, we will be unable to provide your booking. In making this booking, you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons.) Full details of our data protection policy are available upon request.

Documentation:

Once your booking is confirmed, you will receive a confirmation invoice which will detail all the arrangements made on your behalf. On receipt, please check all details thoroughly, including the spelling of all names and advise your travel agent immediately if you have any concerns. Your final travel documents will be sent to your travel agent 2 to 3 weeks before departure and may include airline e-tickets, hotel and travel vouchers, maps, tourist information and a day by day personalised itinerary. For some packages, a more detailed documentation kit will be sent to your first hotel.

Excursions:

Any excursions or tours that you book independently and pay for whilst on holiday are not part of your package holiday provided by us. For anything that you do book in this way, your contract will be with the operator of the excursion or tour and not with us. We are not responsible for the provision of these excursions or tours or for anything that occurs during them.

Hotels Additional charges:

Hotels may charge for items such as telephone, safe, parking, newspapers, movies, internet and other items. Please check with your hotel for a list of charges which are payable locally.

Hotel Guests:

As First Class Holidays do not own the properties featured in our brochure, we have no control over other guests or individual hotel policies. We are unable to accept liability for conferences or conventions being held at your hotel, or for any facilities or amenities, which may be restricted as a result.

Meal arrangements:

Most hotels featured in our brochure are booked on a room only basis. This means that no meals are included. If you are taking an escorted tour, independent tour or any other package that includes meals our descriptions will show the number of meals included, if none are stated, none are included. Alcoholic and soft drinks are not included.

Non-Brochure Hotels:

Please note that if your chosen hotel is not featured in our brochure, we may be able to contact the hotel to obtain rates and make a reservation on your behalf. Please note however that our suppliers and handlers may not have inspected some non-featured hotels and therefore we cannot accept liability for any lapse in standard or facilities.

Our Prices:

Hotel prices fluctuate based on demand and we are constantly in contact with our suppliers to ensure that we offer the very best prices available; for that reason prices are not shown so that we can search for and confirm the best available price at the time of booking.

Room Types:

It should be noted that a twin or double room is based on two people sharing either one or two beds (i.e. a double room may have one or two beds). Please note we cannot guarantee a double bed for honeymoon couples or twin beds for single sex occupants. When booking two or more rooms, we can request, but cannot guarantee, adjacent rooms. Please advise our staff at the time of booking if you would like to make this request.

Security deposit:

A credit card imprint may be requested on checking in at your accommodation, as a security deposit to cover any incidentals.

Travel Insurance:

A valid insurance policy is a condition of your booking. We do not sell insurance and advise that you research to find the most appropriate insurance policy to suit your health requirements and needs.

Smoking:

Smoking is not permitted on any sightseeing tour coach or rail journeys. Most hotels are smoke-free and charges will be incurred if smoking takes place in rooms. All flights are non-smoking.

Suitable Clothing:

For Spring, Summer and Fall touring, casual, lightweight clothing that can be worn in layers is suggested. In the mountains during the evenings, it can get quite chilly, so a warm jumper or jacket is recommended. Adverse weather conditions, such as severe rainfall and snow may affect the area in which you are travelling. Please ensure that you check before travelling.

Travelling in Vehicles:

When travelling in any motor vehicle, seatbelts (if provided) must be worn at all times.

Unused Services:

No refunds are allowed for unused services provided in your package. Should you cancel, amend or miss any part of your tour for any reason, we are not able to provide any refund.

Wildlife Viewing:

When booking a wildlife adventure (e.g., snow monkeys), it should be noted that as viewing the animals in their own natural environment, sightings cannot be guaranteed. The tour guides will do their utmost to ensure that sightings are made, however in the event that this is not possible, refunds will not be made.

Brochure Validity:

This brochure was printed in July 2024 and is valid until replaced by a newer edition.

Terms & Conditions

1st Class Holidays Limited Booking Conditions

The following Booking Conditions together with the Important Information, our Privacy Policy and any other written information we brought to your attention before we confirmed your booking form the basis of your contract with 1st Class Holidays Ltd, trading as First Class Holidays, company number 03445248 and registered address, Trafford House, Chester Road, Manchester M32 0RS (“we”, “us”, “our”).

Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. In these booking conditions, “you” and “your” means all persons named on the booking and all persons on whose behalf a booking is made or any other person to whom a booking is added or transferred. Except where otherwise stated, these booking conditions only apply to holiday arrangements which you book with us in the UK and which we agree to make, provide or perform (as applicable) as part of our contract with you. All references in these booking conditions to “the holiday”, “booking”, “contract”, “package”, “tour” or “arrangements” mean such holiday arrangements unless otherwise stated.

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking, the (“party leader”) agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

A) He/she has read these Booking Conditions and has the authority to and does agree to be bound by them;

B) He/she consents to our use of personal data in accordance with our Privacy Policy and is authorised on behalf of all persons named on the booking to disclose their personal details to us, including where applicable, special categories of data (such as information on health conditions or disabilities and dietary requirements)

C) He/she is over 18 years of age and resident in the United Kingdom and where placing an order for services with age restrictions declares that he/she and all members of the party are of the appropriate age to purchase those services

D) He/she accepts financial responsibility for payment of the booking on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking.

1. Making a booking

Subject to the availability of your chosen arrangements, we will confirm your holiday by issuing a confirmation invoice. This invoice will be sent to the party leader or your travel agent. A binding contract will come into existence between you and us as soon as we have issued you with a booking confirmation that will confirm the details of your booking and will be sent to you or your travel agent. If your confirmed arrangements include a flight, we (or if you booked via an authorised agent of ours, that agent) will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate. Upon receipt, if you believe that any details on the ATOL Certificate or booking confirmation or any other document are wrong, you must contact us immediately as it may not be possible to make changes later. We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracies (for which we are responsible) in any document within ten days of our sending it out (five days for tickets). We will do our best to rectify any mistake notified to us outside these time limits, but you must meet any costs involved in doing so.

2. Payment

In order to confirm your chosen holiday, a deposit of £400 per person (or full payment if booking within 89 days of departure) must be paid at the time of booking. The balance of the holiday cost must be received by us not less than 89 days prior to departure. This date will be shown on the confirmation invoice. Reminders are not sent. If we do not receive all payments due (including any surcharge where applicable) in full and on time, we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled by you, in which case the cancellation charges set out in clause 5 below, will become payable.

Except for flight inclusive bookings, all monies you pay to one of our authorised travel agents for your holiday with us will be held by the agent on your behalf until a contract between us comes into existence. After that point, your agent will hold the monies on our behalf until they are paid to us. For flight inclusive bookings, all monies paid to any authorised travel agent of ours for your holiday with us will be held on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust subject to the travel agent's obligation to pay such monies to us in accordance with our trading terms unless we fail. In the unlikely event of our financial failure, all monies then held by the travel agent or subsequently paid by you to the travel agent will be held by the agent on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust without any obligation on the agent to pay such monies to us.

3. Contract

A binding contract between us comes into existence when we issue our confirmation invoice to the party leader or your travel agent. We both agree that English Law (and no other) will apply to your contract and to any dispute, claim or other matter of any description which arises between us (“claim”) (except as set out below). We both also agree that any claim (and whether or not involving any personal injury) must be dealt with under the ABTA Alternative Dispute Resolution Process (if the process is available for the claim in question and you wish to use it – see clause 13) or by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of Court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the Courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and claim governed by the law of Scotland/Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).

4. Holiday Insurance

We consider adequate travel insurance to be essential. It is a condition of your contract with us that you should take out insurance to cover you in the event of illness, personal injury or death during the course of your holiday and for cancellation.

Please read your policy details carefully and take them with you on holiday. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance cover you purchase is suitable and adequate for your particular needs. We do not check alternative insurance policies.

5. If you change your booking & transfers of booking

If, after your confirmation has been issued you wish to make changes to your confirmed holiday, you must notify us in writing as soon as possible. This should be done by the first named person on the booking. Whilst we will endeavour to assist, we cannot guarantee we will be able to meet any such requests. Where we can, an amendment fee of £50.00 per person will be payable together with any costs incurred by ourselves and any costs or charges incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. A change of holiday dates will normally be treated as a cancellation of the original booking and rebooking in which case cancellation charges in accordance with clause 6 of these Booking Conditions, will apply. Changes may result in the recalculation of the holiday price where, for example, the basis on which the price of the original holiday was calculated has changed.

Transfer of Booking: If you or any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person(s) may transfer their place to someone else, subject to the following conditions:

- a. that person is introduced by you and satisfies all the conditions applicable to the holiday;
- b. we are notified not less than 7 days before departure;
- c. you pay any outstanding balance payment, an amendment fee of £50 per person transferring, as well as any additional fees, charges or other costs arising from the transfer; and
- d. the transferee agrees to these booking conditions and all other terms of the contract between us. You and the transferee remain jointly and severally liable for payment of all sums. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation charges as set out in clause 6 will apply in order to cover our estimated costs. Otherwise, no refunds will be given for passengers not travelling or for unused services.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements. Most airlines do not permit name changes and such changes are likely to be the full cost of the flight.

6. If you cancel your holiday before departure

You or any member of your party, may cancel your holiday at any time provided that the cancellation is made by the party leader and is received by us in writing. As we incur costs from the date we confirm your booking we will retain your deposit and in addition apply cancellation charges up to the maximum amount shown below. The amount of cancellation charge shown is a percentage of the total holiday price excluding insurance premiums and amendment charges which are non-refundable in any event. These charges are calculated from the date we receive your written notification at our offices.

Period before departure in which we receive your notification	Cancellation charge payable
More than 89 days	Deposit Only
Between 88 and 31 days	50%
Between 30 and 15 days	75%
14 days or less	100%

IMPORTANT NOTE: Certain arrangements on this website and in our brochure have different cancellation terms than those stated above. These are either noted on the website, the relevant brochure page or will be advised on your confirmation invoice.

NOTE: Depending on the reason for cancellation, you may be able to reclaim these charges if the reason for cancellation is covered under the terms of your holiday insurance policy. Where any cancellation reduces the number of full paying party members below the number on which the price, number of free places and/or any concessions agreed for your booking were based, we will recalculate these items and re-invoice you accordingly. See clause 5 “If you change your booking & transfers of booking” if any member(s) of your party are prevented from travelling.

Cancellation by You due to Unavoidable & Extraordinary Circumstances:

You may terminate the package travel contract at any time before the start of the package without paying a cancellation charge in the event of “unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances” occurring at the place of destination or its immediate vicinity which will significantly affect the performance of the package or carriage to your holiday destination. In these circumstances, we shall provide you with a full refund of the monies you have paid but we will not be liable to pay you any additional compensation. For the purposes of this clause, “unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances” may include warfare, other serious security problems such as terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination, or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination as agreed in the package travel contract. This clause 6 outlines the rights you have if you wish to cancel your booking. Please note that there is no automatic statutory right of cancellation under the Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013.

7. If you have a complaint

In the unlikely event that you have any reason to complain or experience any problems with your holiday whilst away, you must immediately inform our local representative or agent (if we have one) and the supplier of the service(s) in question. Any verbal notification must be put in writing and given to our representative / agent and the supplier as soon as possible. If we do not have or you cannot contact our local representative or agent and any complaint or problem is not resolved to your satisfaction by the supplier, you must contact us in the UK using the contact details we have provided you with during your holiday, giving us full details and a contact number. Until we know about a complaint or problem, we cannot begin to resolve it. If you remain dissatisfied, however,

you must notify us in writing within 28 days of the completion of your holiday and this must be to us at the address detailed in paragraph one of these Booking Conditions.

You must quote your booking reference number, holiday number and departure date. For all complaints and claims which do not involve death, personal injury or illness, we regret we cannot accept liability in respect of any complaint or claims which are not notified to us in accordance with this clause. If you fail to follow this simple complaint procedure, your right to claim any compensation you may otherwise have been entitled to may be affected or even lost as a result. Please note that we offer an Alternative Dispute Resolution Service through our ABTA membership. Please see clause 18 for further details.

8. Behaviour and damage

When you book with us, you accept responsibility for any damage or loss caused by you or any member of your party. Full payment for any such damage or loss (reasonably estimated if not precisely known) must be made direct to the accommodation owner or manager or other supplier or to us as soon as possible. If the actual cost of the loss or damage exceeds the amount paid where estimated, you must pay the difference once known. If the actual cost is less than the amount paid, the difference will be refunded. You will also be responsible for meeting any claims subsequently made against us and all costs incurred by us (including our own and the other party's full legal costs) as a result of your actions. You should ensure you have appropriate travel insurance to protect you if this situation arises.

All our customers are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of others. If in our reasonable opinion or in the reasonable opinion of some other person in authority, you or any member of your party behaves in such a way as to cause or be likely to cause damage, distress, danger or annoyance to other clients, employees, property or to any third party, or damage to property, we reserve the right to terminate the holiday of the person(s) concerned immediately. In the event of such termination our liability to you and/or your party will cease and you and/or your party will be required to leave the accommodation or other service immediately. We will have no further obligations toward such person(s) including any return travel arrangements. No refunds will be made, and we will not pay any expenses or costs incurred as a result of the termination.

9. Entry Passport, Visa and Immigration Requirements, Safety & Health Formalities

It is your responsibility to check and fulfil the entry, passport, visa, immigration requirements, safety and health formalities applicable to your itinerary. We can only provide general information about this. You must check requirements for your own specific circumstances with the relevant Embassies and/or Consulates, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (“FCDO”) and your own doctor as applicable. Requirements and the safety of the countries and areas in which you will be travelling to, do change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure in order to make your decisions accordingly.

Most countries now require passports to be valid for at least 6 months after your return date. If your passport is in its final year, you should check with the Embassy of the country you are visiting. For further information contact the Passport Office on 0870 5210410 or visit <https://www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship/passports>.

Special conditions apply for travel to the USA, and all passengers must have individual machine readable passports. Please check <https://uk.usembassy.gov>.

For European travel you should obtain a UK Global Health Insurance Card (UK GHIC) prior to departure unless you are able to rely upon an existing European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). For travel to Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, UK GHIC and EHIC can not be used for medical treatment. Passengers to these destinations should obtain comprehensive medical insurance prior to departure, including cover for emergency medical treatment and associated costs. Up to date travel advice can be obtained from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, visit <https://www.gov.uk/travelaware>.

Non British passport holders, including other EU nationals, should obtain up to date advice on entry, passport, visa, health and immigration requirements from the Embassy, High Commission or Consulate of your destination or country(ies) through which you are travelling.

We do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel, or incur any other loss because you have not complied with our entry, passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities. You agree to reimburse us in relation to any fines or other losses which we incur as a result of your failure to comply with any entry passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities.

Please note: The impacts of Brexit may change your visa, ticket and health requirements. Third country nationals may require an airport transit visa when passing through EU Member States. There is the potential for disruption at borders when travelling between the UK and EU Member States and you should allow sufficient time for this when planning any onward travel. You should check any impacts of Brexit on your travel, in advance of your departure, to ensure that you fulfil the requirements post-Brexit, including any passport validity requirements.

10. The price of your holiday

Please note, any prices shown are a guide only and subject to change at time of booking. Any prices shown in this brochure have been calculated using exchange rates of 15 October 2023 as shown in the Financial Times Guide to World Currencies.

We reserve the right to amend the price of unsold holidays at any time and correct errors in the prices of confirmed holidays. We also reserve the right to increase the price of confirmed holidays solely to allow for increase which are a direct consequence of changes in:

- (i) the price of the carriage of passengers resulting from the cost of fuel or other power sources;
- (ii) the level of taxes or fees applicable to the holiday imposed by third parties not directly involved in the performance of the holiday, including

tourist taxes, landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports; and (iii) the exchange rates relevant to the package. Such variations could, include but are not limited to airline cost changes which are part of our contracts with airlines (and their agents), cruise ship operators and any other service providers.

We will absorb and you will not be charged for any increase equivalent to 2% of the price of your travel arrangements which excludes insurance premiums and any amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements. You will be charged for the amount over and above that. However, if this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 8% of the price of your confirmed holiday (excluding any insurance premiums, amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements), you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (if this is of equivalent or higher quality you will not have to pay more but if it is of lower quality you will be refunded the difference in price), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid to us, except for any insurance premiums and any amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements. Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 7 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice. We will consider an appropriate refund of your insurance premiums paid if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy.

Should the price of your holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above then any refund due will be paid to you less an administrative fee of £10. However, please note that travel arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the price of your travel due to contractual and other protection in place.

There will be no change made to the price of your confirmed holiday within 20 days of your departure nor will refunds be paid during this period.

Please also note that our holiday prices include all coach travel, accommodation and meals as specified in the holiday description and VAT and a Goods and Service Tax (GST), where applicable. A GST is levied on hotel and other elements of your holiday package. Similar to British VAT a proportion of this tax is refundable to overseas visitors. Rather than impose on you the responsibility for reclaiming any rebate due we have already deducted this amount in calculating the holiday prices shown in this brochure.

When making your booking, you waive your personal right to claim a GST rebate applicable to your holiday package and assign such entitlement to us as the tour operator. This will then enable us to reclaim the tax paid by us on your behalf and no further refunds will be due to you. Reservations can only be accepted on this express understanding. Unless specifically indicated in holiday itinerary or description contained in this brochure, entrance fees, guide fees, city sightseeing tours and optional excursions are not included in the holiday cost.

11. If we change or cancel your holiday

If arrangements for holidays are made many months in advance. Accordingly, we must reserve the right to make changes to brochure and holiday details both before and after your booking has been confirmed. Most of these changes will, however, be insignificant.

Changes: If we make an insignificant change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to notify you or your travel agent as soon as is reasonably possible before your departure, but we will have no liability to you. Examples of insignificant changes include alteration to your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, changes of carriers. Please note that operators such as airlines used in the brochure may be subject to change.

Occasionally we may have to make a significant change to your confirmed arrangements. Examples of significant changes include the following when made before departure:

- (a) a change of accommodation to that of a lower official classification or standard for the whole or a significant part of the time you are away;
- (b) a change of accommodation area for the whole or a significant part of the time you are away;
- (c) a change of outward departure time or overall length of your arrangements by more than 12 hours;
- (d) a change of UK departure airport except between:

- The London airports: Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Stansted, London City and Southend
- The South Coast airports: Southampton, Bournemouth and Exeter
- The South Western airports: Cardiff and Bristol
- The Midland airports: Birmingham, East Midlands and Doncaster Sheffield
- The Northern airports: Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds Bradford
- The North eastern airports: Newcastle and Teesside
- The Scottish airports: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Aberdeen

(e) A significant change to your itinerary, missing out one or more destination entirely

Cancellation: We will not cancel your travel arrangements less than 89 days before your departure date, except for reasons of force majeure or failure by you to pay the final balance. We may cancel your holiday before this date if e.g. the minimum number of clients required for a particular travel arrangement is not reached.

If we have to make a significant change or cancel, we will tell you as soon as possible and, if there is time to do so before departure, we will offer you the choice of:

- i. (for significant changes) accepting the changed arrangements; or
- ii. Having a refund of all monies paid; or
- iii. Accepting an offer of alternative travel arrangements of a comparable or higher standard from us, if available (at no extra cost); or
- iv. If available, accepting an offer of alternative arrangements of a lower standard, with a refund of the price difference between the original arrangements and the alternative arrangements.

You must notify us of your choice within 7 days of

our offer. If we do not hear from you within 7 days, we will contact you again to request notification of your choice. If you fail to respond again, we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements.

Compensation

In addition to a full refund of all monies paid by you, we will pay you compensation as detailed below, in the following circumstances:

- a) If, where we make a significant change, you do not accept the changed arrangements and cancel your booking;
- b) If we cancel your booking and no alternative arrangements are available

The compensation that we offer does not exclude you from claiming more if you are entitled to do so.

Period before departure in which we notify you	Compensation per person
Over 89 days	NIL
Between 29 and 88 days	£10
Between 15 and 28 days	£15
Between 8 and 14 days	£20
7 days or less	£25

*IMPORTANT NOTE: We will not pay you compensation in the following circumstances:
a) where we make an insignificant change

b) where we make a significant change or cancel your arrangements more than 89 days before departure

c) where we make a significant change and you accept those changed arrangements or you accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements;

d) where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your failure to make full payment on time;

e) where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;

f) where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to Force Majeure (see clause 12)

If we become unable to provide a significant proportion of the arrangements that you have booked with us after you have departed, we will, if possible, make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and where those alternative arrangements are of a lower standard, provide you with an appropriate price reduction.

12. Force Majeure

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these Booking Conditions, we regret we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation if our contractual obligations to you are affected by "Force Majeure". In these booking conditions, "force majeure" means any event beyond our or our supplier's control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures has been taken. Such events may include actual or threatened war or terrorism, riot, civil strife, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination or remain at the travel destination, the act of any government or other national or local authority including port or river authorities, industrial dispute, labour strikes, lock closure, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, chemical or biological disaster, unavoidable technical problems with transport and all similar events outside our or the supplier(s) concerned's control.

13. Our responsibility to you

(1) We will accept responsibility for the arrangements we agree to provide or arrange for you as an "organiser" under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018, as set out below and as such, we are responsible for the proper provision of the travel services specifically included in your package, as set out in your confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking. Please note that we shall not be responsible for any additional services provided to you, whether provided by the travel service providers or otherwise, which are not set out in your confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking.

(2) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any personal injury or death unless you are able to prove that it was caused by our negligence or the negligence of our suppliers.

(3) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:
(a) the acts and/or omissions of the person affected; or
(b) the acts and/or omissions of a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable; or
(c) Force Majeure (as defined in clause 12).

(4) We limit the amount of compensation we may have to pay you if we are found liable under this clause:

(a) loss of and/or damage to any luggage or personal possessions and money: the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is an amount equivalent to the excess on your insurance policy which applies to this type of loss per person in total because you are required to have adequate insurance in place to cover any losses of this kind.

(b) Claims not falling under (a) above and which don't involve injury, illness or death: the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is up to three times the price paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total. This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you or your party has not received any benefit at all from your booking.

(c) Claims in respect of international travel by air, sea and rail, or any stay in a hotel:

i) The extent of our liability will in all cases be limited as if we were carriers under the appropriate Conventions, which include The Warsaw/Montreal Convention (international travel by air); The Athens Convention (with respect to sea travel); The Berne/Cotif Convention (with respect to rail travel) and The Paris Convention (with respect to hotel arrangements). You can ask for copies of these Conventions from our offices. Please contact us.

In addition, you agree that the operating carrier or transport company's own 'Conditions of Carriage' will apply to you on that journey. When arranging transportation for you, we rely on the terms and conditions contained within these international conventions and those 'Conditions of Carriage'. You acknowledge that all of the terms and conditions contained in those 'Conditions of Carriage' form part of your contract with us, as well as with the transport company and that those 'Conditions of Carriage' shall be deemed to be included by reference into this contract.

ii) In any circumstances in which a carrier is liable to you by virtue of EC 261/2004 (denied boarding and flight disruption), any liability we may have to you under our contract with you, arising out of the same facts, is limited to the remedies provided under the Regulation as if (for this purpose only) we were a carrier.

iii) When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the transport operator or hotelier for the complaint or claim in question.

(5) Subject to these Booking Conditions, if we or our suppliers negligently perform or arrange those services set out in the confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking and we don't remedy or resolve your complaint within a reasonable period of time, and this has affected the enjoyment of your package holiday you may be entitled to an appropriate price reduction or compensation or both. You must inform us without undue delay of any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services included in this package. The level of any such price reduction or compensation in respect of any claim for damages or compensation whatsoever will be calculated taking into consideration all relevant factors such as but not limited to: following the complaints procedure as described in these Booking Conditions and the extent to which ours or our employees' or suppliers' negligence affected the overall enjoyment of your holiday. Please note that it is your responsibility to show that we or our supplier(s) have been negligent if you wish to make a claim against us

(6) It is a condition of our acceptance of liability under this clause that you notify any claim to us and our supplier(s) strictly in accordance with the complaints procedure set out in these conditions.

(7) Where any payment is made, the person(s) receiving it (and their parent or guardian if under 18 years) must also assign to us or our insurers any rights they may have to pursue any third party and must provide ourselves and our insurers with all assistance we may reasonably require.

(8) Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss or expense or other sum(s) of any description:

(a) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you;
(b) relate to any business;
(c) indirect or consequential loss of any kind.

(9) We will not accept responsibility for services or facilities which do not form part of our agreement or which they are not advertised in our brochure. For example any excursion you book whilst away, or any service or facility which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you.

(10) Where it is impossible for you to return to your departure point as per the agreed return date of your package, due to "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances", we shall provide you with any necessary accommodation (where possible, of a comparable standard) for a period not exceeding three nights per Please note that the 3 night cap does not apply to persons with reduced mobility, pregnant women or unaccompanied minors, nor to persons needing specific medical assistance, provided you have notified us of these particular needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday. For the purposes of this clause, "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" mean warfare, acts of terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely back to your departure point.

14. Arbitration

Disputes arising out of, or in connection with your booking which cannot be amicably settled may be referred to ABTA's approved Alternative Dispute Resolution process if you wish under a special scheme arranged by ABTA Ltd and administered independently. The scheme provides for a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration on documents alone with restricted liability on the customer in respect of costs. Full details will be provided on request or can be obtained from the ABTA website (www.abta.com). The scheme does not apply to claims for an amount greater than £5,000 per person. There is also a limit of £25,000 per booking. Neither does it apply to claims, which are solely in respect of physical injury or illness or their consequences. The scheme can however deal with compensation claims, which include an element of minor injury, or illness subject to a limit of £1,500 on the amount the arbitrator can award per person in respect of this element. Your application for arbitration and other required documents must be received by ABTA within 18 months of your return from the holiday. Outside this time limit arbitration under the scheme may still be available if we agree, although the ABTA Code does not require such agreement. For injury and illness claims, you can request the ABTA mediation procedure and we have the option to agree to this. Where we act as agent, please bear in mind that your contract is with the supplier of the arrangements concerned. Unless the supplier is also a member of ABTA, only disputes relating to our actions as agent can be dealt with by the arbitration scheme or mediation procedure and not complaints about the arrangements themselves or the acts / omissions of the supplier.

15. Conditions of suppliers

Many of the services, which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable international conventions (see clause 13). Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and

conditions and of the international conventions are available on request from ourselves or the supplier concerned.

16. Special requests and medical conditions / disabilities

If you have any special request, you must advise us at the time of booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet an special request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. Unless and until specifically confirmed, all special requests are subject to availability. For your own protection, you should obtain confirmation in writing that a special request will be complied (where it is possible to give this) where it is important to you.

We regret we cannot accept any conditional bookings, i.e. any booking which is specified to be conditional on the fulfillment of a particular request. All such bookings will be treated as "standard" bookings subject to the above provisions on special requests.

If you or any member of your party has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process), please tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any change in the condition or disability occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed. If we reasonably feel unable to properly accommodate the particular needs of the person concerned, we must reserve the right to decline their reservation or, if full details are not given at the time of booking or the condition / disability develops after booking, cancel when we become aware of these details and cancellation charges as set out in clause 6 may apply.

17. Excursions

We may provide you with information (before departure and/or when you are on holiday) about activities and excursions which are available in the area you are visiting. We have no involvement in any such activities or excursions which are neither run, supervised nor controlled in any way by us. They are provided by local operators or other third parties who are entirely independent of us. They do not form any part of your contract with us even where we suggest particular operators/other third parties and/or assist you in booking such activities or excursions in any way. We cannot accept any liability on any basis in relation to such activities or excursions and the acceptance of liability contained in clause 12(1) of our booking conditions will not apply to them. We do not however exclude liability for the negligence of ourselves or our employees resulting in your death or personal injury. We cannot guarantee accuracy at all times of information given in relation to such activities or excursions or about the area you are visiting generally or that any particular excursion or activity which does not form part of our contract will take place as these services are not under our control. If you feel that any of the activities or excursions referred to in our brochure, on our website and in our other advertising material which are not part of our contract are vital to the enjoyment of your holiday, write to us immediately and we will tell you the latest known situation. If we become aware of any material alterations to area information and/or such outside activities or excursions which can reasonably be expected to affect your decision to book a holiday with us, we will pass on this information at the time of booking.

18. Insolvency Protection and ABTA membership

We provide financial security for flight-inclusive packages by way of an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport, South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 1036350 or email claims@caa.co.uk (ATOL number 5421) When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us, you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. For further information, visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk. The price of our flight inclusive arrangements includes the amount of £250 per person as part of the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL scheme. ATOL protection extends primarily to customers who book and pay in the United Kingdom.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable). If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit, you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent or your credit card issuer where applicable. You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you

have claimed under the ATOL scheme. We provide full financial protection for our package holidays which don't include flights by way of a bond held by ABTA Ltd. We are a member of ABTA (ABTA number W3550) and ABTA will financially protect your holiday by ensuring you receive a refund or, if your arrangements include return travel to the UK (other than flights) you are returned to the UK in the event that your holiday cannot be provided as a result of our insolvency. Please go to <http://abta.com/go-travel> for a copy of the guide to ABTA's scheme of Financial Protection.

ABTA and ABTA members help holidaymakers to get the most from their travel and assist them when things do not go according to plan. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct.

For further information about ABTA, the Code of Conduct and the arbitration scheme available to you if you have a complaint (see clause 7) contact ABTA at 30 Park Street, London, SE1 9EQ or see www.abta.com

19. Delays, Missed Transport Arrangements and other Travel Information

If you or any member of your party misses your flight or other transport arrangement, it is cancelled or you are subject to a delay of over 3 hours for any reason, you must contact us and the airline or other transport supplier concerned immediately. Under UK Law, you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from the airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Full details of these rights will be published at UK airports and will also be available from airlines. If the airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the Civil Aviation Authority at www.caa.co.uk/passengers. Reimbursement in such cases is the responsibility of the airline and will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday price from us. If, for any reason, you do not claim against the airline and make a claim for compensation from us, you must, at the time of payment of any compensation to you, make a complete assignment to us of the rights you have against the airline in relation to the claim that gives rise to that compensation payment. A delay or cancellation to your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight. We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in clause 10 of these Booking Conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on any flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time).

The carrier(s), flight timings and types of aircraft shown in this brochure or on our website and detailed on your confirmation invoice are for guidance only and are subject to alteration and confirmation. We shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of it. The latest flight timings will be shown on your tickets which will be despatched to you approximately two weeks before departure. You should check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times. If flight times change after tickets have been despatched we will contact you as soon as we can to let you know. Please note the existence of a "UK Air Safety list" (available for inspection at <https://www.caa.co.uk/commercial-intl/airlines/licensing/reds/full-details-of-guidance/third-country-operator-certificates/>) detailing air carriers that are subject to an operating ban within the UK.

This website/brochure is our responsibility, as your tour operator. It is not issued on behalf of, and does not commit the airlines mentioned herein or any airline whose services are used in the course of your travel arrangements.

20. Prompt Assistance

If, whilst you are on holiday, you find yourself in difficulty for any reason, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is appropriate in the circumstances. In particular, we will provide you with appropriate information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance, and assistance with distance communications and finding alternative travel arrangements. Where you require assistance, which is not owing to any failure by us, our employees or sub-contractor, we will not be liable for the costs of any alternative travel arrangements or other such assistance you require. Any supplier, airline or other transport supplier may however pay for or provide refreshments and/or appropriate accommodation and you should make a claim directly to them. Subject to the other terms of these Booking Conditions, we will not be liable for any costs, fees or charges you incur in the above circumstances, if you fail to obtain our prior authorisation before making your own travel arrangements. Furthermore, we reserve the right to charge you a fee for our assistance in the event that the difficulty is caused intentionally by you or a member of your party, or otherwise through your or your party's negligence.

21. Brochure / website / advertising material accuracy

The information contained in our brochure, on our website and in our other advertising material is believed correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing or publication. However, errors may occasionally occur. Information may subsequently change. You must therefore ensure you check all details of your chosen holiday (including the price) with us or your travel agent at the time of booking.

22. Safety Standards

Please note, it is the requirements and standards of the country in which any services, which make up your holiday are provided which apply to those services and not those of the UK. As a general rule, these requirements and standards will not be the same as the UK and may often be lower.

23. Advance Passenger Information

A number of Governments are introducing new requirements for air carriers to provide personal information about all travellers on their aircraft to the Authorities before the aircraft leaves the UK. The data will be collected either at the airport when you check in or in some circumstances when, or after you make your booking. Accordingly, you are advised to allow extra time to check in for your flight. Where we collect this data, we will treat it in accordance with our privacy policy.

FIRST CLASS
HOLIDAYS



ENQUIRIES & RESERVATIONS

www.fcholidays.com

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Canada	0161 888 5606
America	0161 888 5607
Australia	0161 888 5608
New Zealand	0161 888 5609
South Africa	0161 888 5610
Islands	0161 888 5611
Administration	0161 888 5605
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ALL CALLS MAY BE RECORDED FOR QUALITY & TRAINING PURPOSES

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