






# Highlights of Japan

## Tour Overview

 <b>Start Point</b> Tokyo	 <b>End Point</b> Tokyo	 <b>Meals</b> 12 Breakfasts   3 Dinners	 <b>Transport</b> Air-conditioned coach	 <b>Tour Type</b> Fully- guided tour
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## Itinerary

### Day 1: Start of tour in Tokyo

 Dinner  Hotel Kazusaya

Konnichiwa Japan! Arrive in Tokyo, Japan's vibrant capital, check into the hotel from 3 PM and receive your info pack. Enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant and meet your tour leader and group. Get your first taste of delicious Japanese cuisine, which is world-renowned for its high-quality, fresh ingredients.

#### Included:

JE - Enjoy a traditional welcome dinner in Tokyo

### Day 2: Tokyo

 Breakfast  Hotel Kazusaya

Discover top attractions like the Meiji Shrine and the Senso-ji Temple on a Tokyo city tour. Enjoy free time for lunch at Tsukiji Fish Market (sushi, anyone?) and wander through the bizarre yet stylish, youthful and buzzing Takeshita Street. Join the Tokyo+ optional evening tour to see Skytree Tower views, dine in Omoide Yokocho, and stroll through lively Shinjuku City!

#### Included:

JE - See Tokyo on a sightseeing tour

#### Optionals:

Tokyo+

### Day 3: Kamakura - Hakone - Shizuoka

 Breakfast  Hotel Associa Shizuoka

Wave farewell to Tokyo for now as the tour travels towards Shizuoka. Along the way, discover Kamakura, a stunning seaside city known for its Great Buddha. Enjoy free time for lunch and sightseeing in Hakone, a picturesque town which boasts spectacular Mount Fuji views! Last stop is Shizuoka. Check into the hotel and look forward to a free evening.

#### Included:

JE - Embark on sightseeing tours of Kamakura and Hakone

JE - Snap pictures of Mount Fuji

### Day 4: Makinohara Tea Farm - Miso Factory - Toyota Museum - Iga

 Breakfast  Route-Inn Grantia Wakuranoyado Igauenojomae

Delight in a day full of one-of-a-kind Japanese experiences! Visit a traditional green tea farm in Makinohara and learn about tea production. After free time for lunch, tour a miso factory and discover the secrets behind this beloved Japanese staple. Then, explore the Toyota Museum and its impressive collection of automobiles! Finally, arrive in Iga and check into tonight's hotel.


#### Included:


JE - Visit a green tea plantation

JE - Tour a miso factory

JE - Explore the Toyota Museum

## Day 5: Iga Ninja Museum - Sumo Museum - Osaka

 Breakfast

 Noku Osaka

After breakfast, head to the Iga Ninja Museum for a Ninja skill and weaponry demonstration. Then, visit the Kehaya Sumo Museum for insight into this unique wrestling style. Finally, travel to buzzing Osaka, embark on an orientation tour, and enjoy free time in the famous Dotonbori area! Why not indulge in a feast of Wagyu beef with tonight's optional excursion? Please Note: The Sumo Museum is subject to availability. When closed, we visit ancient Nara with its historic temples and free-roaming deer.

### Included:

JE - See a Ninja demonstration

JE - Experience the world of Sumo

JE - Explore Osaka and its famous Dotonbori district

### Optionals:

Wagyu Beef Feast in Osaka

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## Day 6: Osaka - Himeji - Hiroshima

 Breakfast, Dinner

 Mystays Hiroshima Peace Park

En route to Hiroshima, visit Himeji Castle. Take in incredible views from this 14th-century hilltop castle and explore its well-preserved interior. Arrive in Hiroshima this afternoon and check into the hotel for the next two nights. After, enjoy an included Okonomiyaki dinner. This savoury pancake is one of Japan's most popular dishes!


### Included:

JE - Visit the beautiful Himeji Castle

JE - Enjoy an Okonomiyaki dinner

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## Day 7: Hiroshima

 Breakfast

 Mystays Hiroshima Peace Park

Explore Hiroshima's highlights, starting with the impressive 17th-century Kintaikyo Bridge. Take a ferry to the serene Miyajima Island, home to "floating" torii gates at the Itsukushima Shrine, and enjoy free time for lunch. For a sweet treat, try momiji manju - a maple-leaf-shaped dough filled with red bean jam! Later, visit Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park and Museum before a free evening.

### Included:


JE - Walk along the Kintaikyo Bridge

JE - Visit the Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima Island

JE - Explore the Peace Memorial Park and Museum

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## Day 8: Hiroshima - Kurashiki - Kyoto

 Breakfast

 Oriental Hotel Kyoto Rokujo

Depart Hiroshima after breakfast and head to Kurashiki, a dreamy town home to gorgeous canals and historic rice storehouses. In the early afternoon, travel to Kyoto for a true highlight of Japan tours! Visit the otherworldly Arashiyama Bamboo Forest. Admire the awe-inspiring scenery as you walk through the breathtaking bamboo towers! The rest of the evening is free.

### Included:

JE - Explore Kurashiki

JE - Experience Kyoto

JE - Wander through the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest

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## Day 9: Kyoto

 Breakfast

 Oriental Hotel Kyoto Rokujo

Spend the day exploring Kyoto! Marvel at Fushimi Inari Shrine's 10,000 red torii gates, visit the 1,200+ year-old Kiyomizu Temple, and the stunning "golden" Kinkakuji Pavilion. Join the optional "An Evening in Kyoto" to experience traditional arts in Gion, including a maiko (apprentice Geisha) performance. Enjoy a mesmerising evening showcasing Japan's cultural and culinary artistry.

### Included:

JE - Visit Fushimi Inari Taisha

JE - Explore the Kiyomizu Temple

JE - Discover Kinkakuji

## Optionals:

An Evening in Kyoto

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### Day 10: **Kyoto - Hikone - Gujo Hachiman - Takayama**

 Breakfast

 Grand Chisun

This morning, visit Hikone on Lake Biwa, Japan's largest lake, and explore the luscious Genkyuen Garden. Next, visit the quaint town of Gujo, known for its waterways. Later, travel to Takayama in the mountainous Gifu Prefecture. Discover the Edo-era Sanmachi district and learn about its artisan history. Finally, taste Japan's national drink at a unique store with Sake vending machines!

#### Included:

JE - Visit Genkyuen Garden in Hikone

JE - Admire the tranquil waterways of Gujo Hachiman

JE - Experience Edo-period Japan in Takayama

JE - Taste authentic Japanese Sake

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### Day 11: **Takayama - Shirakawa-go - Kanazawa**

 Breakfast

 Mystays Premier Kanazawa

After breakfast, visit Takayama Jin'ya, a former Edo-era government building. Afterwards, explore the traditional wooden farmhouses of the Gassho-Zukuri Minka-en Open Air Museum. Then, visit the fairytale village of Shirakawa-go, set against the Japanese Alps. Later, head to Kanazawa. Here, wander the picture-perfect Kenrokuen Garden. Tonight, join the optional excursion and try your hand at making your own temarizushi.

#### Included:

JE - Explore Takayama Jin-ya

JE - Visit the Gassho-Zukuri Minka-en Open Air Museum

JE - Travel back in time in Shirakawa-go

JE - Explore Kanazawa's Kenrokuen Garden

#### Optionals:

Flavours of Kanazawa

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### Day 12: **Kanazawa - Tokyo**

 Breakfast, Dinner

 Hotel Kazusaya

Explore Kanazawa, a hidden gem city best known for its Nagamachi Samurai District. Visit a former samurai home to learn more about these ancient Japanese warriors! In the afternoon, hop aboard the Shinkansen towards Tokyo. Known for its exceptional speed, this bullet train travels up to 320kph (200mph)! Check into the hotel upon arrival and enjoy a farewell dinner tonight.

#### Included:

JE - Visit a Samurai home in Kanazawa

JE - Take the Shinkansen to Tokyo

JE - Enjoy a farewell dinner in Tokyo

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### Day 13: **End of tour in Tokyo**

 Breakfast

After an unforgettable 13 days of exploring Japan's highlights and hidden gems, the tour comes to an end this morning after breakfast. Expat Explore wishes you a safe journey onward and hopes to see you on tour with us again soon. Sayōnara!

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