



DISCOVER JAPAN

From Tradition to the Contemporary

Included:

- 11 nights' accommodation per itinerary
- 1 Japanese guide for 10 days
- 10 days private transportation as needed
- Train from Odawara to Nagoya
- Train from Nagoya to Kyoto
- Group airport transfer on Day 1 and Day 12
- Meals listed in the itinerary:
 - 11 breakfasts [B]; 9 dinners [D]
- Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers
- Water on the bus throughout the tour
- Customary gratuity for all drivers
- US-based program design and customer service representatives

Not included:

- International airfare
- Travel insurance-Mandatory
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Gratuities for tour guides and hotel staff

Price: Price based on a minimum of 12 passengers



Itinerary

Thursday, May 15, 2025 - Welcome to Japan

Guide, Transfer

Arrive in Tokyo and transfer to your accommodations (one group transfer provided according to traveler flight plans; individual transfers can be arranged by request).

Overnight: Mitsui Garden Hotel Jingu-Gaien, Tokyo

Friday, May 16, 2025 - Classic Tokyo

Guide, Transportation [B, D]

Spend the day discovering Tokyo's highlights, historic neighborhoods, and ancient temples. Watch the wedding photoshoots beside the Meiji Shrine park, check out the subculture popular Yoyogi Park (also known as Harajuku), for the best of Japanese alternative fashion. Experience Pass Shibuya for the famous, busiest crossing in the world, along with an array of young adult cultures. See the Asakusa Kannon Temple (also known as Sensoji) and Nakamise Shopping Street, Tokyo's popular district where the atmosphere of past decades survives. Get a feel for the daily life of a Tokyoite in the past and present in the Yanaka Old Town and enjoy the renowned "Sumo Experience" in the afternoon. The group welcome dinner is hosted at a neighborhood restaurant.

Overnight: Mitsui Garden Hotel Jingu-Gaien, Tokyo.





Itinerary, continued

Saturday, May 17, 2025 - Tokyo Trends

Guide, Transportation [B, D]

Go to the heart of Tokyo's youth culture and the sites where Japan's unique pop cultures, fashions and subcultures flourish. Check out the Tsukiji old fish market, for a glimpse of Japanese food culture. Visit Fukagawa Fudo Do Temple, a unique opportunity to witness an ancient ceremony in the midst of the city. Pass by Nihonbashi, one of Tokyo's most vibrant areas, the perfect combination of old and new, and visit some local specialized shops and crafts woven into the story of the city. Visit Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens, a gorgeously serene Edo-era garden. Visit Akagi Shrine, a Shinto shrine redesigned to suit contemporary times in the heart of Tokyo. Continue to visit the popular Ghibli Museum. Dinner will be at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Mitsui Garden Hotel Jingu-Gaien.

Monday, May 19, 2025 - Hakone Experience

Guide, Transportation [B, D]

Explore Hakone, the scenic and nature-filled sister region to the bustling metropolis of Tokyo. Home to hot springs, museums and views of sacred Mt. Fuji, the experience here offers both perspective and calm. Visit the Hakone Open Air Museum, where nature and art meet, and ride the ropeway for a breathtaking view of Mt. Fuji (depends on the weather) and visit to the volcanically active Owakudani Valley. Cruise on Lake Ashi for more scenery and spend a relaxing evening back at your accommodation. Enjoy traditional "kaiseki" Japanese course meal dinner with the group.

Overnight: Hakone Kowakien Tenyu.

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 - Historic Road

Guide, Transportation [B, D]

Take a retrospective journey to the Edo period, making a visit to the Hakone Shrine, with a torii gate that appears to float on water. Take a stroll along Ancient Cedar Avenue and Old Tokaido Road Checkpoint, part of the historic road connecting to Tokyo, and stop at the Hakone Sekisho Museum. See reproductions of the Lake Ashi checkpoints that would serve as benchmarks for travelers between Tokyo and Kyoto at an earlier time. Consider the trends of growth and prosperity in an earlier epoch as well as within the last half century. Return to your accommodations for a relaxing evening. Enjoy traditional "kaiseki" Japanese course meal dinner with the group.

Overnight: Hakone Kowakien Tenyu.



Sunday, May 18, 2025 - Waterfronts and Fuji Views

Guide, Transportation [B, D]

Drive to Fuji Five Lakes area and visit the Kubota Itchiku Museum in Kawaguchiko, dedicated to a nearly lost art of kimono dyeing, and walk the nearly 400 steps to reach one of the most iconic Japanese vistas from the Arakura Fuji Sengen Shrine. Enjoy lunch at a local Udon restaurant designed by a Japanese Architect, Takeshi Hosaka. Experience the feel of a small village near the mountain with a view of Fuji mountain. Ride the ropeway car 3 Subject to availability. Experience will be exchanged for another one if this can't happen. 2 for a marvelous view of the mountain and its surrounding waters before continuing to Hakone for the evening. Check in to your Ryokan (traditional Japanese inn) complete with a private ensuite open air bath where you will be for three deeply restful nights. Enjoy traditional "kaiseki" Japanese course meal dinner with the group.

Overnight: Hakone Kowakien Tenyu, Hakone





Itinerary, continued

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 - Pottery Town

Guide, Transportation [B]

Transfer to Odawara then take the train to Nagoya, one of Japan's most historic pottery towns that has evolved in recent generations to attract emerging contemporary artists and youth. The older part of town is lined with opportunities to explore traditional pottery and learn about the old kilns along the hillside. Meet a local creator at one of the many galleries and studios and later walk the beautifully preserved street of Arimatsu, known for its dyeing techniques. Visit the Inax Live Museum and World Tile Museum to learn the history of traditional tile making, ceramic piping and even primitive toilets.

*Due to luggage regulations on bullet trains, we are forwarding your large luggage (larger than carry-on size) from Odawara to Kyoto. Your one large piece of luggage will not be with you for the one night in Nagoya.

Overnight: Nikko Style, Nagoya



Thursday, May 22, 2025 - Kyoto Intro

Guide, Transportation [B, D]

Arrive by train from Nagoya and begin your time in Kyoto, gaining perspective on the intersections between Japanese aesthetics, architecture and horticulture. Stop at the Nishiki Market, the historic city food market, to try both traditional and contemporary flavors. See the Kinkakuji Temple "the Golden Pavilion", Kyoto's iconic site. Visit the Ryoanji Temple, famous for its unique Zen garden. Stop briefly in the famed geisha district of Gion to learn about and hear different perspectives on a tradition preserved here in Kyoto. Enjoy Ramen dinner at Kyoto's Ramen Street with restaurants from all over Japan.

Overnight: Mitsui Garden Hotel Kyoto Sanjo Premier

Friday, May 23, 2025 - East Side

Guide, Transportation [B, D]

Head to the Eastern Mountain District to walk picturesque streets lined with temples and tea shops. Enjoy private visitation and conversation with a local Zen Monk to learn about the tradition, philosophy and day-to-day practice within their way of life. Consider this "path of enlightenment" and take an insider's temple tour, followed by a brief meditation and traditional tea ceremony. See the Sanjusangendo, the hall of a thousand depictions of Kannon, the Kiyomizu Temple, and walk the stone-paved boulevard Ninenzaka and Sannenzaka for a look at traditional wooden construction. For dinner, learn how to make your own sushi from an expert.

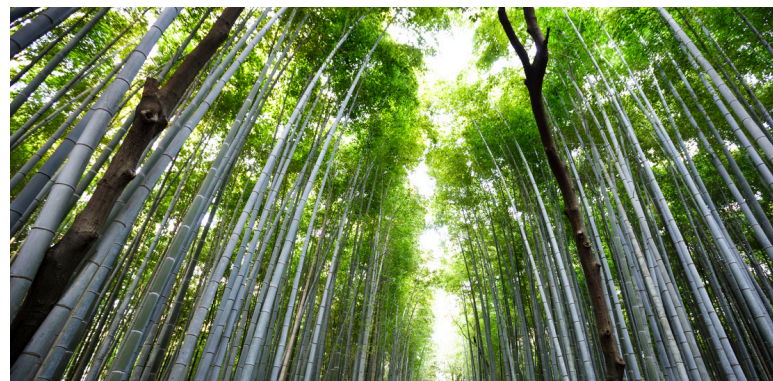
Overnight: Mitsui Garden Hotel Kyoto Sanjo Premier

Saturday, May 24, 2025 - Arashiyama

Guide, Transportation [B, D]

See the storied wooden bridge of Arashiyama, walking beside temples surrounded by stunning gardens and scenic bamboo groves. Visit Nijo Castle, the Shogun's Castle, for a window into the culture and history of Kyoto and walk the Sagano grove. Visit Masugata Market, a smaller Local food market in Kyoto with traditional, typical and modern flavors to try. Compare a high-end supermarket with a local supermarket and learn about the famous Kyo-yasai, vegetables grown and eaten in Kyoto only. Drive to Arashiyama and visit the Sagano Bamboo Grove, the famed path lined with bamboo on both sides. Meeting with a local family - take a stroll to visit the local shrine while surrounded by the beautiful views. Along the way, you will have the chance to feel the spirit of a vibrant, welcoming family or villagers and learn more about their daily life. (Subject to availability. Day and location may change.) Visit Tenryuji Temple and Togetsukyo Bridge. Have dinner as a group.

Overnight: Mitsui Garden Hotel Kyoto Sanjo Premier





Itinerary, continued

Sunday, May 25, 2025 - Miho Museum and scenic Uji

Guide, Transportation [B, D]

Visit the Miho Museum, famed for its architecture set in a timeless scape. Continue to Uji and visit Tsuen Chaya Tea House, the oldest teahouse in Uji and over 850 years old. Visit Ujigami Shrine, the oldest shrine building in Japan. Check Byodo-in Temple, originally built as a retreat for a politician but turned into a temple whose iconic Phoenix Hall can be found on the 10 yen coin today. In the afternoon, enjoy a Taiko Drumming Workshop. "We believe playing Taiko is good for both your body and the mind, so it is our wish that everyone in the world, from children to seniors experience the joy and energy of Taiko drumming." This Workshop introduces Taiko and shows the guests its development, its long history and its incorporation to Noh, Kyo-gen, Nagauta and Kabuki. Enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Mitsui Garden Hotel Kyoto Sanjo Premier



Monday, May 26, 2025- Departure or Extension

Transfer Only [B]

A group transfer to the airport is provided. World Exposures is happy to assist travelers who wish to continue on for an optional extension.

