

Authentic Japan 11 Days

~~\$4,499.00~~ **\$4,399.00**

NOTE: Medium to difficult walking may be required at Jigokudani Valley and on the Kurobe Alpine Route, including ascending and descending stairs.

The 11 day Authentic Japan tour strikes a delicious balance between immersing travellers in the natural, modern, and ancient cultural aspects of this fascinating country. You'll enjoy rural architecture, stunning waterfalls and alpine lakes, and a relaxing traditional hot spring resort. Rural towns built in Japanese and European architectural styles will surprise and delight. Grab your camera and see wild monkeys enjoying hot volcanic baths, and fill the next day with culture at the Hokusai Museum, making traditional soba noodles, and relaxing after a temple visit with a sampling of local rice wine varieties. Take in the seasonal colours, traditional tea houses, elegant gardens, and local craft and food markets. Learn about the history of Japanese industrial production in Nagoya, then take in the cultural heritage of Osaka city, and see its cityscape from 170m at the Umeda Skygarden.

Highlights

- Uncover the majestic seasonal colours along the **Kurobe Alpine Route**
- Spot wild snow monkeys bathing in hot springs in **Jigoku Valley**
- Explore ancient architecture in UNESCO World Heritage sites **Nikko** and **Shirakawa-go**
- Walk through thousands of red torii gates at **Fushimi Inari Shinto Shrine**
- Loosen your muscles overnight at a **traditional hot spring** and experience **traditional tatami beds** – mattresses made of rice straw

In May, 'snow walls' can reach 20m high alongside the road on the Kurobe Alpine Route. If the weather permits, we will drive between the snow walls and you will have the opportunity to walk between them.

From June to August, it is the best time to view fresh spring greens and enjoy the warm climate.

The end of Oct through early Nov is the best time to see crimson leaves in Autumn.



In stock

Categories: Asia, Japan Tags: Fushimi Inari, Japan, Jigoku Valley, Kurobe Alpine Route, Nikko, Onsen, Shirakawago

Guaranteed Departure Dates

2018		Package Price Per Person	Single Supplement
15 May	07 Aug *	\$4,499	\$1,350
26 Jun	30 Oct *		
		Save \$100 per person if you book by 31 January	

Package Inclusions:

- Economy class international airfares, taxes and fuel surcharges departing Sydney or Melbourne, flying China Southern Airlines, China Eastern Airlines or Air China
- 8 nights 4 star hotel accommodation
- All meals as indicated
- Coach transportation & transfers
- Admissions to scenic attractions
- English speaking tour guide(s)

Package Exclusions:

- Tipping and gratuities prepaid in Australia: \$140
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything not stated

Price Guide:

- ***Peak Season Surcharge:** \$300
- **Interstate Surcharge:** Brisbane/Adelaide \$300, Perth \$600
- **Early Arrival/Stay Behind/Stopover Surcharge:** From \$250 (subject to availability and applicable fare difference)

- **Post/Pre-Tour Accommodation:** From \$350/room/night (twin-share)
- **Triple Share:** Subject to availability
- **Visa:** Australian passport holders are exempt for a stay of up to 90 days
- **Cathay Pacific Upgrade:** From \$500 (Tip: upgrade to avoid paying the interstate surcharge & stay behind surcharge)
- **Japan Airlines Upgrade:** From \$500 (Sydney departures only)
- **Please Note:** Flight itineraries are not available until approximately 2 weeks before departure and involve transits

All prices, itineraries, airlines, hotels and cruise ships are subject to availability and change without prior notice. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar standard and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure the smooth running of the tour. Passengers must remain with the tour group at all times and must not deviate from the set itinerary. The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land. Please check all information before booking. By booking, you accept all **Booking Conditions**.

Optional Pre-Tour Extension

Japan Golden Route 7 Nights

From \$2,799 pp. twin share

Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, Mount Fuji, Hakone, Kamakura, Yokohama, Tokyo

Nexus Holidays has partnered with the Japan Tourism Board to provide travellers an immersive experience in Japanese culture and lifestyle to go with the sights on your unforgettable trip to Japan. We would love for our customers to experience Japanese culture and history. We will spend few nights of the tour in a traditional Japanese hotel sleeping on rice straw mattresses called *tatami*. You will also visit restaurants on this tour where it is customary to remove your shoes and sit at low tables called *kotatsu*. It's all part of the Japanese experience!

Tour Highlights:

- Pray for your fortune at the beautiful Heian Jingu Shinto Shrine
- Feed the gentle sika deer at Nara Park
- Race to Mount Fuji on a high speed Shinkansen bullet train
- Drink from clear springs at the foothills of Mount Fuji
- Loosen your muscles overnight at a traditional hot spring hotel (onsen)
- Explore the bustling capital Tokyo, with boisterous night life & hearty street food

For details, please click [here](#).

Hotel Accommodation

Narita	Marroad International Hotel Narita	★★★★★ or similar
Kinugawa Onsen	Kinugawa Onsen Hotel (tatami bedding)	★★★★★ or similar
Nagano	Matsushiro Royal Hotel	★★★★★ or similar
O-machi Onsen	Hotel Karamatsu-so (Tatami bedding)	★★★★★ or similar
Tonami	Tonami Royal Hotel (Tatami bedding)	★★★★★ or similar
Takayama	Route Inn Grantia Hida Takayama Hotel	★★★★★ or similar
Nagoya	Nagoya Strings Hotel	★★★★★ or similar
Osaka	Kansai Washington Hotel	★★★★★ or similar

Day 1 Australia ✈ Tokyo

Board your international flight from Australia to Tokyo via an intermediate city.

Day 2 Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo. Your friendly tour guide will be waiting at the airport to transfer you to the airport hotel.

Day 3 Tokyo 🚌 Nikko 🚌 Kinugawa Onsen (B,L,D)

Today's drive this morning takes you to Nikko, an ancient town surrounded by deciduous cedar trees and majestic waterfalls. Visit the fascinating **Nikko Toshogu**, a UNESCO World Heritage site well known for its distinctive architecture made up many extravagant wood carvings and gold leaf decorations. Continue on to **Kegon Waterfall** (about 100 meters tall) set against the stunning backdrop of the greater **Nikko National Park**. Make a stop at **Lake Chuzenji** and be astounded by the natural scenery before returning to the hotel this evening to relax and unwind in a hot spring at Kinugawa Onsen.

Day 4 Kinugawa Onsen 🚌 Karuizawa 🚌 Jigokudani 🚌 Nagano (B,D)

This morning, the drive towards **Karuizawa** will take you through the majestic highlands of **Nagano prefecture**. On arrival, visit the main shopping street in **Kyu-Karuizawa**, lined with stores selling a variety of local speciality products. Karuizawa was once the summer resort for a Canadian missionary who frequented the area in the late 1800s. Many of the town's buildings thereafter, such as the chapels and cottages, are distinctly European in style. After lunch, travel to the famous **Jigoku Valley Monkey Park**, where you can see wild snow monkeys bathe in hot springs all year round.

Day 5 Nagano 🚌 O-machi Onsen (B, L, D)

After breakfast, visit **Hokusai Museum** to discover the great Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), one of Japan's leading painters. Hokusai was most famous for his 'Thirty six views of Mt Fuji' painting and has gone on to influence many talented artists like Vincent van Gogh. Today's special highlight is a **soba noodle making** experience. Soba noodles are made from buckwheat flour. Learn how to create and roll dough, and then slice it into thin noodles using a special knife. Enjoy your own noodles for lunch. Continue on to **Zenkou Temple**, one of the largest Buddhist temples in Japan with an astounding history that spans over 1,400 years. Afterwards, partake in a **sake tasting** experience. Sake (rice wine) is a speciality in this region due to the abundant rice fields and clear waters nearby.

Day 6 O-machi Onsen 🚌 Kurobe Alpine Route 🚌 Tonami (B, L, D)

The drive along **Kurobe Alpine Route** is picturesque and the scenery varies depending on the season. In winter, you can witness massive snow walls that reach up to 20m in height. A visit in spring and summer will see the mountainside enveloped in lush, verdant alpine plants and flowers. In autumn, trees are ablaze with a stunning blend of orange, yellow and red leaves. On arrival, travel through the mountains using ropeways, cable cars and buses. A must-visit in this region is **Kurobe Dam**, one of the world's largest man-made structures, seamlessly blended in with the natural beauty of the Northern Alps. Afterwards, stop by **Mikuriga Ponds** and be fascinated by the mysterious pristine blue waters of the volcanic lake.

Day 7 Tonami 🚌 Kanazawa 🚌 Shirakawago 🚌 Takayama (B, L, D)

Travel onwards to **Kanazawa**, which was once a castle town established around 300 years ago. Visit **Buke Yashiki** (samurai house) and discover how higher-ranked samurai lived in the feudal society of the Edo period (1603-1867). Later, wander through the streets of **Higashi Chaya**, a district lined with quaint old buildings that were once teahouses frequented by geisha (traditional Japanese female entertainers) and their guests. Next, visit **Kenroku Garden**, regarded as one of the country's most elegant Japanese gardens, that combines the six traditional qualities of a perfect garden; spaciousness, seclusion, artifice, antiquity, water features, and panoramas. The last stop for today is **Shirakawago**, a World Heritage site where 114 Gassho-style houses (steeply-pitched roofs in the shape of a triangle), built many hundreds of years ago, stand together in a natural setting.



Day 8 Takayama 🚗 Nagoya (B, D)

Takayama is an atmospheric and historic town and many of its streets still retain a traditional feel dating back to the late 17th century. Enjoy breakfast before you set out on a light morning stroll through **Takayama's local foodmarket** lined with stands that sell local crafts, assorted snacks and fresh seasonal products direct from the farms. Afterwards, visit **Takayama Jinya** (historical government house) that was constructed by the powerful Tokugawa Shogunate. Beside the main building you will find a large rice storehouse. Have lunch at Sanmachi, before you bid farewell to Takayama. Drive to Nagoya and visit the **Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology**. Here you will learn about the history of Toyota as a textile machinery manufacturer and how it became a successful mass exporter and manufacturer of automobile and automotive technology including robots.

Day 9 Nagoya 🚗 Kyoto 🚗 Osaka (B, D)

Today's morning visit is to **Nagoya Castle**, which was constructed by order of the Tokugawa Shogunate in 1612. This castle is famous for the *shachihoko*, a pair of golden fish ornaments nested on top of the castle roof. Bid farewell to Nagoya and travel to Kyoto to see the visually arresting **Fushimi Inari Shrine**. This shrine is most famous for its thousands of bright vermilion torii gates surrounded by a dense wooded forest. The shrine is dedicated to the Shinto god of rice and sake and features dozens of statues of foxes; foxes were once believed to be special messengers. Your last stop for today is **Umeda Skygarden** where you can settle in and catch a beautiful evening/night view of **Osaka city**.

Day 10 Osaka ✈ Australia (B)

Travel to Kansai International Airport for your flight(s) to Australia.

Day 11 Australia

Arrive home this morning.