

Japan Golden Route 11 Days

~~¥3,499.00~~ **\$3,299.00**

Medium Pace

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

We would love for our customers to experience Japanese culture and history along with its modern sights, smells, and sounds. We will spend one night on the tour in a traditional Japanese hotel, sleeping on rice straw mats 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!

Highlights:

- Pray for your fortune at the beautiful **Heian Jingu Shrine**
- Feed the gentle sika deer at **Nara Park**, established around 700 years ago
- Race to Mount Fuji on a high speed **Shinkansen bullet train**
- Drink from clear springs at the foothills of **Mount Fuji**, Japan's highest mountain
- Loosen your muscles overnight at a **traditional hot spring hotel (onsen)**
- Explore the bustling capital **Tokyo**, with its boisterous night life & hearty street food

From the end of March through early April, when the cherry blossoms (*sakura*) are in full bloom, people gather in parks to welcome spring in a Japanese tradition known as *hanami* (flower viewing).

From the end of October through early November is the best season of the year for viewing vibrant crimson maple leaves in Japan. You can feel the fragile beauty of the changing seasons from observing nature. The fiery red is a true spectacle.

NOTE: Cherry blossoms and crimson autumn leaves are highly seasonal and subject to climatic conditions. These are historically the best times to view the blooms, but we can't guarantee they will flower on these dates.

Testimonial:

We are just back from our 11 Day Golden Tour of Japan. From the time we landed at Kansai International Airport, Osaka, until our departure from Narita airport, Tokyo, it was a very well organised tour. We had an excellent tour guide in Ms Yumi Obanata. As she took us through the mainland of Japan from Osaka, through Kyoto, Nara, Mount Fuji, Hakone, Shizuoka, Kamakura, to Tokyo, she vividly suffused us with Japan's history, and the pride Japanese society has in its religious fervour, language, and culture. She was a fantastic lady, very knowledgeable and caring looking after the tour group needs.

The route was very scenic with rural, mountainous, and city landscapes. Mount Fuji, the heart and soul of Japan, we saw stood out in full glory with a shrine dedicated to Goddess Mt. Fuji for her blessings. The hotels were excellent. We enjoyed a Japanese traditional onsen, which is a Japanese hot spring bathing facility, and a traditional Japanese dining experience in one of these hotels. The ambience was both warm and unique.

Overall, we had a wonderful time and thank you for the excellent organization of this tour. We would recommend Nexus to all our friends and we are very grateful for the experience of visiting Japan in May. The weather was fine throughout and we did not miss seeing the beautiful cherry blossoms. We look forward to our next Nexus trip.

(Dr G. Gnanasampanthan. June 19, 2017)

In stock

Categories: Asia, Japan Tags: Disney Collection, Japan

Guaranteed Departure Dates

2018			Price Per Person	Single Supplement
13 Mar*	03 Apr**	08 May	From \$3,299	\$800
27 Mar**	17 Apr*	22 May		
			if you book by	
			31 December 2017	

Package Inclusions:

- Economy class international airfares, taxes and fuel surcharges departing Sydney or Melbourne flying China Southern Airlines or China Eastern Airlines (subject to availability)
- 8 nights hotel accommodation (twin/double occupancy). NOTE: If you are joining the Authentic Japan tour, this will be 7 nights.
- Daily meals as indicated (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Coach transportation
- Round trip airport and hotel transfers
- Admissions to scenic attractions
- English speaking tour guide(s) service

Package Exclusions:

- Tipping and gratuities prepaid in Australia: \$140
- Bullet train fee from Kyoto to Mount Fuji (including coach luggage transfer service from hotel to hotel) prepaid in Australia: \$180
- Optional recommended programs
- Optional tour extensions
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything not stated

Price Guide:

- *** Peak Season Surcharge:** \$300
- **** Cherry Blossom Season Surcharge:** \$500 – Please note: Cherry Blossoms are highly seasonal and subject to climate conditions. These are historically the best times to view the blooms, but we can't guarantee they will flower on these dates
- **Interstate Surcharge:** Brisbane/Adelaide \$300, Perth \$600 (interstate flights may be via Sydney or Melbourne)
- **Early Arrival/Stay Behind/Stopover Surcharge:** From \$250 (subject to availability and applicable fare difference)
- **If staying behind, upgrade final night group accommodation to hotel in Tokyo CBD:** From \$250/twin room (subject to availability), transfer to airport is not included
- **Pre/Post-Tour Accommodation:** From \$350/twin room/night (subject to availability)
- **Triple Share:** Not available
- **Child Price:** Same as adult
- **Visa:** Australian passport holders are exempt for a stay of up to 90 days
- **Airline Upgrade (economy class)-:** Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines, or Japan Airlines (Sydney departure only) from \$500 (subject to availability and applicable fare difference. Tip: upgrade to avoid paying the interstate & early arrival/stay behind surcharge)
- **Premium Economy Upgrade-:** Cathay Pacific from \$2200 (subject to availability)
- **Business Class Upgrade-:** China Southern Airlines from \$3000, Singapore Airlines from \$4300, Cathay Pacific from \$5300 (subject to availability)
- **Please Note:** Flight itineraries are not available until approximately 2 weeks before departure and involve transits

(-) International long haul sectors only.

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

Enchanting South Korea 6 Nights

From \$1,499 pp. twin share

Seoul, Mount Seorak, Andong, Gyeongju

Immerse yourself in an incredible journey covering two fascinating countries, Japan and South Korea. Discover South Korea's capital city, Seoul. Seoul is Korea's financial, political, commercial and cultural centre with over 600 years of history. Travellers can explore the many archaeological sites and temples before enjoying the beautiful natural landscapes this country has to offer.

Tour Highlights:

- Stroll through the Changdeokgung Palace grounds
- Gaze into North Korean territory at the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ)
- Immerse yourself in the bustling crowds of Myeongdong
- Explore the ancient capital of the Silla Kingdom, Gyeongju
- Experience the serenity of Seokguram Grotto

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

Optional Pre-Tour Extension

Hiroshima Pre-tour Extension 3 Days 2 Nights (Self-guided/Group Tour)

From \$720 pp. twin share

Hiroshima is a popular city with visitors to Japan, famous for the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Sites – Itsukushima Shrine and the Atomic Bomb Dome.

Tour Highlights:

- Take a cruise to Itsukushima Shrine best known for its “floating torii” on the sea, the gate to Itsukushima. The beautiful torii gate stands in the water when it is high tide. When it is low tide, you may walk through torii gate.
- Visit the Atomic Bomb Dome and Museum to learn the history of Hiroshima.

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

Optional Post-Tour Extension

Discover Taiwan 7 Nights

From \$1,199 pp. twin share

Taipei, Nantou, Taichung, Kaohsiung, Kenting, Taitung, Hualien, Taroko

A country of stunning beauty and jaw-dropping natural landscapes, Taiwan was the chosen location for the filming of the 2013 Oscar winning blockbuster, 'Life of Pi', directed by Ang Lee. As one of the most diverse destinations in Asia, Taiwan has increasingly been attracting travellers from all over the world, showcasing not only its spectacular scenic landscapes, but also a thriving folk culture, museums bursting with treasures – including the best of imperial China, its bustling night markets – famous for their delicious *xiaochi* (literally 'small eats'), and the latest in high-tech gadgets.

Tour Highlights:

- Visit Taipei 101, the world's sixth tallest building, reminiscent in design of a traditional Chinese pagoda
- Stroll through the famous bustling night markets of Taiwan
- Cruise along Sun Moon Lake and experience its tranquil beauty
- Explore the largest Buddhist monastery in Taiwan, Foguangshan Monastery
- Immerse yourself in the natural splendour of Taroko National Park

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

Optional Post-Tour Extension

Authentic Japan 7 Nights

From \$3,999 pp. twin share

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 Shirawaka-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

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

Tokyo Optional Programs

Nikko Day Tour with Japanese-style Lunch

\$250

Nikko is a major centre for Buddhism and the Shinto religion. It is located in a valley and surrounded by beautiful deciduous forests and majestic waterfalls. This optional tour will take you to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Nikko Toshogu. This area is well known for its distinctive architecture made up of a large number of wood carving and gold leaf decorated buildings. This design is unique and not seen elsewhere in Japan. You will also visit Kegon Waterfall (around 100m tall) which is the main natural attraction in Nikko. This is the best spot to view maple leaves during autumn.

Not available on the following Japan departure dates:

2016: 23 Oct

2017: 17 Oct

Tokyo Disneyland Day Ticket

\$120

Tokyo Disneyland is a 115-acre (47 ha) theme park at the Tokyo Disney Resort in Urayasu, Chiba, Japan, near Tokyo. Its main gate is directly adjacent to both Maihama Station and Tokyo Disneyland Station. It was the first Disney park to be built outside the United States, and it opened on 15 April 1983. The park has seven themed areas: the World Bazaar; the four classic Disneylands: Adventureland, Westernland, Fantasyland and Tomorrowland; and two mini-lands: Critter Country and Mickey's Toontown. Many of the games and rides in these areas mirror those in the original Disneyland as they are based on American Disney films and fantasies. Fantasyland includes Peter Pan's Flight, Snow White's Scary Adventures, Dumbo the Flying Elephant and more based on classic Disney films and characters.

Tokyo DisneySea Day Ticket

\$120

Tokyo DisneySea is a 176-acre (71.22 ha) theme park at the Tokyo Disney Resort located in Urayasu, Chiba, Japan, just outside Tokyo. It opened on September 4, 2001. Tokyo DisneySea attracted an estimated 14 million visitors in 2013, making it the fourth-most-visited theme park in the world. In 2002 Tokyo DisneySea won a Thea Award from the Themed Entertainment Association for the concept, design, and construction of the theme park. The award was presented at El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, CA. Tokyo DisneySea was also the winner of the 2012-2015 Theme Park Insider award for best theme park. There are seven uniquely themed areas or 'ports of call'. The entrance to the park is Mediterranean Harbour, which opens up to six more nautically themed ports: American Waterfront, Lost River Delta, Port Discovery, Mermaid Lagoon, Arabian Coast, and Mysterious Island.

Sumo Wrestling

\$65*

Sumo is a traditional Japanese style of wrestling and Japan's national sport. The rules of the game are simple. Two wrestlers compete to force one another outside of the circular ring or to touch the floor with any part of the body other than the soles of the feet. The art of sumo wrestling dates back to ancient times as a form of entertainment for Shinto deities. Ceremonial rituals in accordance with Shinto beliefs are still practiced today before a match, such as purifying the ring with salt and extravagant stomps made by the sumo wrestlers to drive away evil spirits. There is no weight classification in sumo wrestling and the sheer size of many of the wrestlers is a sight to behold.

***Only available on 9 May and 12 Sep. Please contact us for detailed information.**

Robot Restaurant**\$100**

Not just any restaurant and bar, Tokyo's Robot Restaurant is most famous for its late night robot-themed dancing and battle shows. Behold an outrageous and electrifying live spectacle featuring Japanese taiko drum performances as well as mock battles between bikini-clad dancing girls, giant robotic dinosaurs, cyborgs, ninjas and a host of other bizarre characters, staged in a theatrical LED-fitted room bursting with kaleidoscopic neon-lit laser beams, virtual fireworks, explosions and energetic techno music. This sensory overload is Japanese pop culture at its wackiest and is exclusive to Japan.

Please choose from the times below:
17:55, 19:50 or
21:45~ \$100/person for show tickets.

Please enquire if you wish to add a meal package. (* **Please be there at least 30 minutes before the show**)

Tea Ceremony (30 minutes)

\$55

The Japanese tea ceremony is a traditional ritual influenced by the principles of Zen Buddhism in which powdered green tea, or matcha, is prepared and served to a small group in a quiet setting. Often traditional Japanese confectionary is served to balance out the bitter taste of the green tea. Highlights: Learn the process of the Japanese tea ceremony from a qualified tea instructor. Learn which utensils to use to prepare green tea in a traditional Japanese room (tatami flooring). Discover the customs, culture, and hospitality of the Japanese people.

Physical considerations: Tea ceremony is performed in a kneeling position (seiza) on the floor. This puts pressure on your knees and ankles. Please be cautious of joining this optional program if you have a condition that prevents you from kneeling on the floor for a short period of time.

Optional: \$130 – Wear traditional Japanese garments (kimono) and experience a tea ceremony

Pottery Making Experience (60 minutes)**\$99**

Pottery is one of the oldest art forms, and earthenware traditions in Japan are believed to have started around 12,000 years ago. Today, there are thousands of potters who make a living out of producing pottery-wares across the country. The pottery produced in each region varies in design because of the type of clay found there.

Highlights:

- Try your hand at making your own cup or bowl by using the spinning wheel and clay.
- Receive a pre-made sake cup made by the instructors as a souvenir.

Golden Joinery (60 minutes)**\$109**

Learn the art of golden joinery (kintsugi or kintsukuroi), a technique of repairing broken cups, bowls, or plates using lacquer resin laced with gold powder. As a philosophy the mended flaws become part of the object's design. The result is that the object looks more beautiful than the original after being broken and repaired.

Highlights:

- Mend broken cups, bowls or plates using powdered gold.
 - Take home the object you repaired as a unique souvenir.
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Kimono Photo Shoot (60 minutes)

\$120 per person

The kimono is the traditional dress of Japan and is representative of its culture and heritage. The dress consists of a long robe with wide sleeves that is usually made of various materials and patterns. Today the kimono is only worn sparingly, on formal occasions such as weddings, funerals, tea ceremonies or other special events. Take part in a memorable photo shoot at a studio where you can dress up in a kimono of your choice. You can take photos with your own camera or you may choose to purchase a photo package plan from the photographers.

Highlights:

- Dress up in a kimono of your choice for the photo shoot.
 - Have your photos taken for free with your own camera or purchase photos from professional photographers.
-

Cooking Class (120-180 minutes)

\$129 Popular!

Japanese cuisine (washoku) is well known for its refined taste and elegant presentation. Take part in a Japanese cooking experience and learn from one of Tokyo's most popular cooking instructors whose book has been published in English. Bring home with you a set of new cooking skills and culinary techniques that will leave your friends and family impressed.

Highlights:

- Learn to cook different types of Japanese foods, such as sushi, soup and various side dishes.
- Learn the ingredients, culinary techniques and methods used in creating home made Japanese dishes.
- Enjoy your own cooked dish for lunch.

Note:

- Transportation is not included. However, optional program venues are located in the easily accessible Tokyo CBD.
- You may join up to 2 programs per day (exception: Nikko Day Tour).
- Optional programs are subject to availability and must be booked more than 1 month before departure.

Hotel Accommodation

Osaka	Kansai Airport Washington Hotel	★★★★★ local rating or similar
Osaka	Osaka Daiichi Hotel	★★★★★ local rating or similar
Kyoto	Kyoto Shin Hankyu Hotel (off peak only)	★★★★★ local rating or similar
Mount Fuji	Yamanakako Sun Plaza Hotel	★★★★★ local rating or similar
Atami	Atami New Fujiya Hotel (tatami bedding)	★★★★★ local rating or similar
Tokyo	Tokyo Dome Hotel	★★★★★ local rating or similar

Tokyo

Marroad International Hotel Narita

★★★★ local rating or similar

Day 1: Australia ✈ Osaka

Take an international flight from Australia to Osaka via a connecting city. (Note: Some flights may depart one day after)

Day 2: Osaka

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

Day 3: Osaka 🚆 Nara 🚆 Osaka (B, L, D)

This morning, travel to Nara and visit **Todaiji** (Great Eastern Temple), with its Great Buddha Hall – the world’s largest wooden building. This impressive building houses the world’s largest (15m) bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana. Wander through **Nara Park**, where over 1,200 wild sika deer roam free, before travelling to Osaka. Visit **Osaka Castle**, which played a major role in the unification of Japan during the the Azuchi-Momoyama period in the sixteenth century, before being dropped off at **Dōtonbori**, which exemplifies Osaka’s vibrant food culture.

Day 4: Osaka 🚆 Kyoto (B, L, D)

Nijo Castle, the Kyoto residence of the Tokugawa Shogunate and **Kinkakuji: Golden Pavilion**, a Zen temple and World Heritage site with two floors covered entirely in thin layers of pure gold and detailed architecture incorporating three distinct architectural styles of Shinden, Samurai, and Zen. Cap off your day at **Heian Jingu Shrine**, and enjoy the magnificent traditional gardens and huge torii gate.

Day 5: Kyoto 🚆 Mount Fuji (B, L, D)

Today, visit **Togetsu Bridge**, the landmark of Western Kyoto’s Arashiyama District for over four hundred years. Explore **Sagano Bamboo Forest** on the outskirts of Kyoto, where towering green stalks of the famously versatile plant sway in the wind, creaking eerily as they collide and twist, leaves rustling. After lunch, travel onwards to Mount Fuji by **bullet train** (Max. speed 320km/h).

Day 6: Mount Fuji 🚆 Hakone 🚆 Shizuoka (B, L, D)

Today, visit **Oshino Hakkai**. Known as the Springs of Mount Fuji, the eight ponds are fed by melting snow filtering down from the slopes of nearby Mount Fuji through porous layers of lava, resulting in very clear spring water that is revered by the locals. Later visit **Mount Fuji’s 5th Station**, which is above the clouds, to view its enormous summit if weather permits. (Alternatively visit **Gotemba Peace Park** to capture a breathtaking view of Mount Fuji, and **Hakone Checkpoint**, which used to be an important checkpoint on the highway connecting Kyoto to Tokyo in the Edo period. Take a **cruise on Lake Ashi**, and savour the numerous delights of nature. Today’s last stop is **Owakudani Valley**, an active volcanic zone with hot springs and hot spring rivers.

Day 7: Shizuoka 🚆 Kamakura 🚆 Tokyo (B, L, D)

Today, visit a **Japanese Beer Factory** to taste one of most popular Japanese beers. Also travel to Kamakura and visit **Daibutsu**, the ‘great Buddha’ which is the second tallest bronze Buddha statue in Japan, surpassed only by the statue in Nara’s Todaiji Temple. After, explore **Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine** which was established by fist Shogun (general) in the Kamakura period which stands alone due to its vivid colouration.

Day 8: Tokyo (B)

Spend today free at your own leisure. You may spend a day in Tokyo **Disneyland** or **DisneySea** (admission \$120), or you can join the **Nikko Day Tour**. Or alternatively, you can join our wide range of optional programs (**tea ceremony**, **pottery-making experience**, **golden joinery**, **kimono photo shoot**, **cooking class**, **Robot Restaurant**). Activities are not guided and transportation is self-arranged.

Day 9: Tokyo (B, L, D)

Visit **Meiji Shrine** in the morning, dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken. Later, stroll through the **Asakusa Kannon Temple**, one of Tokyo's most colourful and popular temples and browse for souvenirs at **Nakamise Shopping Street**. Relax on a **Sumida River Cruise**. Your last stop today is **Tokyo Tower**, before heading to a hotel near Narita Airport. The next morning after breakfast, if you are flying Cathay Pacific, you will be transferred to Narita Airport (approx 10 min). If you are flying China Southern Airlines, you will be transferred to Haneda Airport (approx 70 min).

Day 10: Tokyo ✈ Australia (B)

Today transfer to the airport to board your flight via a connecting city to Australia.

NOTE: If you are joining the Authentic Japan Tour Extension, you will travel to Nikko today (this is equivalent to day 3 of the Authentic Japan tour).

Day 11: Australia

Arrive home this morning.

Optional Pre-Tour Extension

Enchanting South Korea 6 Nights

From \$1,499 pp. twin share

Seoul, Mount Seorak, Andong, Gyeongju

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Tour Highlights:

- Stroll through the Changdeokgung Palace grounds
- Gaze into North Korean territory at the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ)
- Immerse yourself in the bustling crowds of Myeongdong
- Explore the ancient capital of the Silla Kingdom, Gyeongju
- Experience the serenity of Seokguram Grotto

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

Optional Pre-Tour Extension

Hiroshima 2 Nights

From \$720 pp. twin share

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Tour Highlights:

- Take a cruise to Itsukushima Shrine best known for its “floating torii” on the sea, the gate to Itsukushima. The beautiful torii gate stands in the water when it is high tide. When it is low tide, you may walk through the torii gate.
- Visit the Atomic Bomb Dome and Museum to learn about the history of Hiroshima.

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Optional Post-Tour Extension

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Tour Highlights:

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- Stroll through the famous bustling Night Markets of Taiwan
- Cruise along Sun Moon Lake and experience its tranquil beauty
- Explore the largest Buddhist monastery in Taiwan, Foguangshan Monastery
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