

HIGHLIGHTS OF JAPAN

OSAKA > NARA > KYOTO > NAGOYA > HAKONE > Mt. FUJI > TOKYO



10 DAYS FROM

\$2,599

per person twin-share



This tour offers a great way to take in the cultural heritage of Japan. You'll start with three nights based in Osaka, exploring that city as well as Nara and Kyoto – cities famous for their well-preserved ancient temples and monuments. Travelling east to Nagoya, you'll learn about the modern transformation of Japan into a manufacturing powerhouse, at the Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology. Back to nature and culture, the tour then visits scenic Hakone and sacred Mt. Fuji, before two days in Tokyo for sightseeing, shopping, or your choice of a diverse range of optional activities.

Image: Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion)

Nexus Holidays

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1



2



3



Day 1: Depart for Osaka

Fly to Osaka via a connecting city. Note: some flights may depart the next day.

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)

Travel to Nara and visit **Todaiji Temple**, with its Great Buddha Hall housing the world's largest 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 Dotonbori, which exemplifies Osaka's vibrant food culture.

Day 4: Osaka (B)

Spend today free at your own leisure. You may spend the day visiting one of the most spectacular Japanese aquariums, Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan; or taking a day trip to Hyogo to visit Himeji Castle, a unique enormous Japanese castle decorated in white (at your own expense).

Day 5: Osaka Kyoto Nagoya (B)

This morning, travel to Kyoto by bullet train to visit **Heian Jingu Shinto Shrine**. Next, visit **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 styles of Shinden, Samurai, and Zen. Travel to Nagoya to visit **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 automotive technology, including robots.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the bustling capital **Tokyo** and experience traditional Japanese culture and heritage
- Explore the modern city **Osaka**, with its boisterous nightlife & hearty street food
- Pray for your fortunes at the beautiful **Heian Jingu Shrine**
- Feed the gentle sika deer at **Nara Park**
- Drink from clear springs at the foothills of **Mount Fuji**
- Enjoy planned activities and free time in **Tokyo**

Day 6: Nagoya Hakone Mt. Fuji (B, 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 locals. Afterwards, visit **Gotemba Peace Park** to capture a breathtaking view of Mount Fuji, and Hakone Shrine. Standing at the foot of **Mount Hakone** along the shores of **Lake Ashi**, the shrine buildings are hidden in dense forest.

Day 7: Mt. Fuji Tokyo (B)

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**. Your last stop today is **Tokyo Tower**, to enjoy a panoramic view of enormous Tokyo city.

Day 8: Tokyo (B)

Spend today free at your leisure. You may spend a day in **Tokyo Disneyland** or **DisneySea** (admission \$120) or you can join the **Nikko Day Tour** (\$250). Alternatively, you can join our wide range of optional programs (**tea ceremony**, **pottery-making experience**, **'golden joinery'**, **kimono photo shoot**, **cooking class**). All optional programs are not guided and transportation is self-arranged.

Day 9: Depart Tokyo (B)

Today, transfer to the airport for your homebound flight via a connecting city.

Day 10: Arrive Home

Images: 1. Mount Fuji, 2. Todaiji Temple, 3. Osaka Castle, 4. Tokyo Tower, 5. Changdeokgung Palace, 6. Gamcheon Culture Village, 7. Itsukushima Shrine, 8. Atomic Bomb Dome.

HIROSHIMA EXTENSION

from \$720; single supplement \$200; includes
 + Flights - economy class
 + 2 nights hotel accommodation (twin-share)
 + 2 breakfasts (B)
 + Coach transportation & transfers
 + Entrance fees to scenic attractions
 + English speaking tour guide (day 4 only)
 + Tipping
 Excludes peak season surcharge \$150

Day 1: Depart for Osaka

Board an overnight flight from Australia via a connecting city to Osaka. Note: some flights may depart the next day.

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 / Hiroshima (B)

This morning, proceed to Osaka Station for a bullet train/coach to Hiroshima and spend the afternoon free at your leisure. Note: travelling to and from Hiroshima may be on the bullet train or by coach depending on the group size.

Day 4: Hiroshima / Osaka (B)

Today you will be exploring **Itsukushima Shrine** in the morning. Travel to the Hiroshima **Atomic Bomb Dome**, one of the only remaining buildings after the explosion. Then visit the **Atomic Bomb Museum**, followed by the **Memorial Peace Park**. Travel back to Osaka to join your core tour.



4



5



6

ENCHANTING SOUTH KOREA EXTENSION

from \$1,499; single supplement \$550; includes + Flights - economy class + 6 nights hotel accommodation (twin-share) + 6 breakfasts (B), 5 lunches (L) & 2 dinners (D) + Coach transportation & transfers + English speaking tour guide Excludes prepaid tipping: \$70

Day 1: Depart for Seoul

Fly to Seoul via a connecting city. Note: some flights may depart the next day.

Day 2: Arrive in Seoul

On arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel.

Day 3: Seoul Andong Daegu (B, L)

Visit the traditional village, which features **traditional houses of the Joseon Dynasty period** (1392-1897). In Daegu, take a stroll in **Dongseongno Shopping District**, a major fashion retail district. The streets are packed with hundreds of stores full of personality that reflect the city's fast-paced fashion trends. Enjoy magnificent views by taking a **cable car to Palgongsan Natural Park**.

Day 4: Daegu Gyeongju (B, L)

Today we explore the many archaeological sites and temples, royal tombs, and monuments of Gyeongju, the capital of the ancient Silla Kingdom (57 BC - 935 AD). Visit **Cheomseongdae Astronomical Observatory, Royal Tumuli Park, Gyeongju National Museum, Bulguksa Temple, and Seokguram Grotto Temple**.

Day 5: Gyeongju Busan (B, L, D)

In Busan, we visit **Haedong Yonggungsa Temple**, situated on the coast of the north-eastern portion of Busan and overlooking the ocean. Afterwards, you will have an opportunity to view the waves through the transparent floor of the 15 metre high **Oryukdo Skywalk**, which is set over a 35 meter-high coastal cliff. Travel to **Gamcheon Culture Village** situated on the foothills of a coastal mountain and nicknamed 'Machu Picchu of Busan'. You will be thrilled by the many alleys cutting through this village, vibrantly decorated with murals and sculptures created by the local residents. Stop at one of Korea's largest markets, **Nampo Dong Gukje Market** for a wide variety of goods at affordable prices. Then visit **Nurimaru APEC House**, a memorial hall and prestigious international conference hall located near Haeundae Beach, offering visitors spectacular views of the nearby natural landscape.



7



8

Day 6: Busan Seoul (B, L)

This morning, visit **Changdeokgung Palace**, one of the 'Five Grand Palaces' built by the Kings of the Joseon Dynasty, and Insadong, a street full of traditional Korean antique and art shops, restaurants and tea houses. Continue to **Cheonggyecheon Stream** and admire this urban oasis before visiting **Myeongdong**, one of Seoul's main commercial districts.

Day 7: Seoul DMZ Seoul (B, L, D)

Visit **North Korea's 3rd Infiltration Tunnel**, located within the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), a 44 km drive northwest of Seoul. In the event of an invasion from the North, an entire infantry division could have moved through the tunnel in an hour. View North Korean territory, including the **Propaganda Village, People's School, and Gaeseong City** - the old capital city of the Goryeo Kingdom - from the **Dora Observation Platform**. Also visit **Freedom Park**, dedicated to the 5 million people who left their families and homes in North Korea. **North Hall** contains displays of North Korean lifestyle, and the **Exhibition Hall** houses old tanks and planes from the Korean War. Later, try on a hanbok, the traditional attire of the Korean people at **Namsan Hanbok Culture Experience Centre** before experiencing the Seoul's best night view at **Namsan Tower**.

Day 8: Seoul Osaka (B)


After breakfast, board a direct flight operated by a local carrier to Osaka. Your friendly tour guide will be waiting at the airport to transfer you to an airport hotel. **Note: Baggage allowance for this sector is 1 piece max weight 15kg per person.**

2018 DEPARTURES

17 Jul^ 17 Sep  06 Nov*^
19 Aug 09 Oct*^

^South Korea OR Hiroshima Extensions are available

*Peak season surcharge: \$300

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

DEPARTURE OPTIONS

- SYD/MEL: Airfare included
- Other cities: fr \$300

INCLUSIONS

- + Full service Chinese carrier afares & taxes
- + 7 nights hotel accommodation (twin-share)
- + 7 breakfasts (B) & 1 dinner (D)
- + Bullet train from Osaka to Kyoto
- + Coach transportation & transfers
- + Entrance fees to scenic attractions
- + English speaking tour guide(s)

EXCLUSIONS

- Prepaid tipping: \$140
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Single supplement: \$700

AIR UPGRADES (long haul int'l sectors)

- Economy class: Cathay Pacific/Singapore Airlines /All Nippon Airways/Japan Airlines fr \$500
- Premium economy: Cathay Pacific fr \$2200
- Business class: China Eastern/Southern fr \$3000, Singapore Airlines fr \$4300, Cathay Pacific fr \$5300

EXTEND YOUR STAY

- Break fee: fr \$250
- Hotel w/breakfast: fr \$175 twin-share, \$350 single

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (local rating)

Osaka	Kansai Airport Washington Hotel	4★
Osaka	Osaka Dai-ichi Hotel	4★
Nagoya	Tokyu Rei or similar	4★
Mt. Fuji	Yamanokako Sun Plaza Hotel	4★
Tokyo	Tokyo Dome Hotel	4★

OPTIONAL PROGRAMS

Kobe & Sake Brewery Walking Day Tour	\$230
Nikko Day Tour with Japanese-style Lunch	\$250
Tokyo Disneyland Day Ticket	\$120
Tokyo DisneySea Day Ticket	\$120
Sumo Wrestling	\$65
Robot Restaurant	\$100
Tea Ceremony (30 minutes)	\$75
Pottery Making Experience (60 minutes)	\$99
Golden Joinery (60 minutes)	\$109
Kimono Photo Shoot (60 minutes)	\$120
Cooking Class (120-180 minutes) HOT!	\$129
Himeji Castle & Akashi Kaikyo Bridge Walking Day Tour	\$250

All prices are per person twin-share in AUD unless otherwise stated and subject to revision without notice. Itineraries, airlines, hotels & ships are subject to availability and change. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar quality and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure smooth operations. Late March to early April is historically the best time to view cherry blossoms and early November to see crimson leaves, but is not guaranteed as they are highly seasonal and subject to climatic conditions. Passengers must remain with the group at all times. Fees may apply for deviations from the set itinerary. Total length of trip includes time spent in flight and is subject to flight schedule. Final itineraries and flight info may not be available until 2 weeks before departure. Booking conditions apply, refer to website for latest information. ver23MAY2018

Nikko Day Tour with Japanese-style Lunch \$250

Please contact us for the available dates.

Nikko is a major centre for Buddhism and the Shinto religion. 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 carvings and gold leaf decorations on the buildings. You will also visit Kegon Waterfall (around 100m high) which is the main natural attraction in Nikko. This is the best spot to view maple leaves during autumn.

Tokyo Disneyland Day Ticket \$120

Tokyo Disneyland is a 115-acre (47 ha) theme park, near Tokyo. Its main gate is directly adjacent to both Maihama Station and Tokyo Disneyland Station. 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. In 2002 Tokyo DisneySea won a Thea Award from the Themed Entertainment Association for the concept, design, and construction of the theme park. Tokyo DisneySea also won the 2012-2015 Theme Park Insider Awards "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 additional nautically-themed ports: American Waterfront, Lost River Delta, Port Discovery, Mermaid Lagoon, Arabian Coast, and Mysterious Island.

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. Please choose from the times below: 17:55, 19:50 or 21:45~ \$100 for show tickets & be there at least 30 minutes before. Please enquire if you wish to add a meal package.

Sumo Wrestling \$65

Please contact us for the available dates. 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 form of entertainment for Shinto deities.

Tea Ceremony (30 minutes) \$75

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. Traditional Japanese confectionary is often 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)
- > Discover the customs, culture and hospitality of the Japanese people

Physical considerations: The 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: Wear traditional Japanese garment (kimono) and experience a tea ceremony

Pottery Making Experience (60 minutes) \$99

Pottery is the oldest art form in Japan, 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 a 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.

Himeji Castle and Akashi Kaikyo Bridge Walking Day Tour \$250

Please contact us for the available dates.

Himeji Castle is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site and is well-known for its elegant white decorations and magnificent appearance. Unlike many other Japanese castles, this early 17th century castle is an original; never damaged by war, earthquakes or fires. Its complex structure was designed as an advanced defence mechanism and continues to draw in many visitors today. After lunch, walk on the world's longest suspension bridge – Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, which is almost 4 kilometres long. Walk along the Maiko Marine Promenade underneath the bridge, which is 50m above the water. *Lunch and return train tickets between Osaka Station and Sannomiya Station are included (your guide will meet you and send you off at Himeji Station, you will need to make your own way to/from Osaka station).



Kimono Photo Shoot (60 minutes) \$120

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 and 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 the photos from the professional photographers.

Cooking Class (120-180 minutes) HOT! \$129

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 food, 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.

Images: 9. Toyko DisneySea, 10. Himeji Castle, 11. Kimono Photo Shoot