

IMPRESSIONS OF JAPAN

OSAKA > KYOTO > NARA > NAGOYA > MOUNT FUJI > TOKYO



9 DAYS FROM

\$2,399

per person twin-share



Starting your tour of Japan in Osaka, you'll visit Kyoto and Nara – famous for their well-preserved ancient castles, temples, and monuments. In Nagoya, visit Inuyama Castle, and explore the 1200 shops and restaurants of Osu Shopping Street. Japan's stunning natural endowments are on the itinerary too, in the form of sacred Mount Fuji and the surrounding region. Your trip wraps up with time free in Tokyo, for sightseeing, shopping, or your choice of a diverse range of optional activities.

Image : Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto

Nexus Holidays

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover **Osaka**, with a day free at leisure and a selection of optional activities
- In **Nara**, visit the **Great Eastern Temple with its Great Buddha Hall** – the world's largest wooden building
- Feed the gentle sika deer at **Nara Park**
- Visit Nagoya's Inuyama Castle, and explore **Osu Shopping Street's 1200 shops and restaurants**
- Drink from clear springs at the foothills of **Mount Fuji**
- Enjoy optional activities or free time in **Tokyo**

Day 1: Depart for Osaka

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

Day 2: Arrive in Osaka

On arrival, you will be warmly greeted at the airport by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel.

Day 3: Osaka Kyoto Nara Osaka (B)

This morning, travel to Kyoto and visit **Fushimi Inari Shrine** and **Nijo Castle** before heading to Nara. 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 back to Osaka.

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**, an enormous and unique castle decorated in white. An optional day tour is available for some departure dates. Please see optional programs for more information.

Day 5: Osaka Nagoya (B)

This morning, head to Nagoya and visit **Inuyama Castle**. Then, head to **Atsuta Shinto Shrine** (covering 200,000 square meters and established almost 2000 years ago) before enjoying some time for shopping at the **Osu Kannon Shopping Quarter**. Transfer to your hotel in the evening.

Day 6: Nagoya Mount Fuji Tokyo (B)

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 Shinto Shrine**. Standing at the foot of Mount Hakone along the shores of Lake Ashi, the shrine buildings are hidden in dense forest. Finally, visit **Owakudani** – 'Great Boiling Valley' is a valley formed by the explosion of Hakone volcano more than 300 years ago, and contains hot springs and steaming sulphur vents – visitors usually eat eggs cooked in the boiling, sulphurous waters. At the end of the day we head to Tokyo.

Day 7: Tokyo (B)

Spend today free at leisure. You may wish to visit **Tokyo Disneyland or DisneySea** (admission \$120) **the Tokyo Day Tour** or **the Nikko Day Tour** (\$250). Alternatively, you can join our wide range of optional programs: **kimono photo shoot, tea ceremony, cooking class**. NOTE: All activities are not guided and transportation is self-arranged.

Day 8: Depart Tokyo (B)

After breakfast transfer to the airport.

Day 9: Arrive Home

HIROSHIMA EXTENSION

from \$720; single supplement \$200; includes
 + Economy class flights
 + 2 nights hotel accommodation (twin-share)
 + Breakfast as indicated
 + Round trip airport & transfers
 + English speaking tour guide for the Hiroshima Day tour only & tipping
 + Admissions to scenic attractions

Day 1: Depart for Osaka

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

Day 2: Arrive in Osaka

Arrive in Osaka. Take a shuttle bus to your hotel.

Day 3: Depart Osaka / Hiroshima (B)

This morning, proceed to Osaka Station for a bullet train/coach to Hiroshima and spend the afternoon free at your leisure.

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.

Note: This extension will be either self-guided or a group tour depending on the size of group.



SOUTH KOREA EXTENSION

from \$1499; single supplement \$550; includes
 + Economy class flights
 + 6 nights hotel accommodation (twin-share)
 + 6 breakfasts (B), 5 lunches (L) & 2 dinners (D)
 + Round trip airport & transfers
 + Entrance fees to scenic attractions
 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

You will be greeted warmly at the airport by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel.

Day 3: Seoul Andong Daegu (B, L)

Visit the traditional village, Andong, 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. 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** and overlooking the ocean. Next, you will have an opportunity to view the waves while looking down 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. Stop at one of Korea's largest markets, **Nampo Dong Gukje Market**. Then visit **Nurimaru APEC House**, a memorial hall and prestigious international conference hall located near Haeundae Beach.

Day 6: Busan Seoul (B, L)

Visit **Changdeokgung Palace**, one of the 'Five Grand Palaces' built by the Kings of the Jeonson 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. 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 city's best night view at **Namsan Tower**.

Day 8: Seoul Osaka (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Incheon Airport. Note: Baggage allowance for this sector is 1 piece max weight 15 kg per person.



TAIWAN EXTENSION

from \$1499; single supplement \$450; includes
 + Economy class flights
 + 7 nights hotel accommodation (twin-share)
 + 7 breakfasts (B) & 6 dinners (D)
 + Round trip airport & transfers
 + Entrance fees to scenic attractions
 Excludes prepaid tipping: \$80, and optional Taipei
 101 Observatory Fee: fr \$25

Day 8: Tokyo ✈ Taipei (B)

Fly to Taipei. Upon arrival, you will be greeted warmly at the airport by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel (check in time: 3pm).

Day 9: Taipei (B, D)

Today's highlight is a visit to the **Presidential Building** (outside) and **Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall**. Next, we visit **Tamsui**, a laid back waterfront town on the northern part of Taipei city. Enjoy lunch today at **Tamsui Old Street**, where you can feast on many **Taiwanese snacks**. Visit **Lin An Tai Historical House and Museum**. This elegant building is built in the style of prosperous houses in China's Fujian province. In the evening, explore the bustling night life of Taipei. Have a traditional **Taiwanese dinner of Xiao Long Bao**, then proceed to colourful **Huahsi Night Market**.

Day 10: Taipei 🚗 Sun Moon Lake (B, D)

Travel to **Sun Moon Lake**, situated 762 meters above sea level in the lofty mountains of central Taiwan for a view of **Xuanguang Temple & Lulu Island** as you relax on the lake's tranquil waters. Then, take Sun Moon Lake Ropeway to the **Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village** and observe Taiwanese traditional indigenous lifestyles and traditions. After a dinner of Taiwanese-style Roasted Chicken, check in to the hotel.

Day 11: Sun Moon Lake 🚗 Fo Guang Shan 🚗 Kaohsiung (B, D)

After breakfast, we will head to an Oolong Tea Farm before continuing south towards **Kaohsiung** and **Fo Guang Shan Buddha Memorial Centre** (BMC). Completed in 2011, BMC has enshrined a relic of the Buddha given by Tibetan Lama Kunga Dorje Rinpoche, since the beginning of construction in 2001. We will be spending most of our day at this place to enjoy the serene atmosphere and explore the entire area at our leisure. Then, learn how to make **Pineapple Tarts at the popular Vigor Pineapple Factory**. Later we will be entering Kaohsiung City and explore **Pier 2 Art Central**, where 25 former warehouses have been converted into a thriving arts precinct. After

Images: 1. Nijo Castle, 2. Itsukushima Shrine, 3. Gamcheon Culture Village, 4. Changdeokgung Palace, 5. Kenting National Park, 6. San-sien-tai, 7. Sun Moon Lake.

dinner (Taiwanese Shabu Shabu hotpot), explore one of **Kaohsiung's bustling night markets**.

Day 12: Kaohsiung 🚗 Kenting 🚗 Taitung (B, D)

Visit to **Kenting National Park**, Taiwan's first nationally recognised park and undoubtedly one of the most spectacular landscapes you will see. Be awestruck by the vastness of the natural reserve and stand on the southernmost tip of the island at **Maopitou** and **Longpan Park**, also known as 'The Light of East Asia'. This afternoon, head to **Kenting Main Street** in the heart of Kenting, an area bustling with locals, tourists and vendors. Spend lunchtime discovering the numerous stalls and restaurants offering a variety of local snacks and cuisines. Travel up the scenic **Southern Link Highway** to Taitung County.

Day 13: Taitung 🚗 Hualien (B, D)

The highlight today is a visit to the **East Coast National Scenic Area**, known as Taiwan's 'last unspoiled land'. Weathering and erosion have produced a wide range of breathtaking landscapes here which can only be appreciated first-hand. Stop at **Siao-ye-liou**, **San-sien-tai** (Three Immortals Island), **Shi-ti-ping** (Stone Steps) and take in the spectacular views. Proceed to Hualien, to **Taroko National Park**. Encompassing Taroko Gorge, Swallow Grotto, and Shakadong Trail, the park covers over 120,000 hectares and rises from sea level in the east to heights of over 3700m further west. The aquamarine Liwu River cuts through the centre, forging deep slit valleys before joining the sea.

Day 14: Hualien 🚗 Taroko 🚗 Taipei (B, D)

Today, visit a **Marble Factory** on the return trip to Taipei. Depending on the size of the group, **visit local scenic towns Yilan or Shifen**. These towns are both rich in culture and local history. Later, visit **Taipei 101** (admission fr \$25, payable to the guide), experience soaring heights and impressive views at the tallest building in Taiwan. Dinner will be at Takao Restaurant hotpot (or similar, depending on availability).

Day 15: Depart Taipei (B)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home via a connecting city.

Day 16: Arrive home

DEPARTURES

2018 12 Sep 17 Oct* 🌸 07 Nov*

2019 🌸 20 Mar** 08 May 10 Jul 28 Aug
 🌸 27 Mar** 22 May 24 Jul 04 Sep
 🌸 03 Apr** 05 Jun 07 Aug 🌸 06 Nov*
 17 Apr* 19 Jul 21 Aug* 🌸 13 Nov*

Single supplement: \$900

*Peak season surcharge: \$300

🌸 **Cherry blossom surcharge: \$500

🌸 Crimson Leaf season

✈ DEPARTURE OPTIONS

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

⊕ INCLUSIONS

- + Full service Chinese carrier airfares & taxes
- + 6 nights hotel accommodation (twin-share)
- + 6 breakfasts (B)
- + Coach transportation & transfers
- + Entrance fees to scenic attractions (unless otherwise indicated)
- + English-speaking tour guide(s)

⊗ EXCLUSIONS

- Prepaid tipping: \$80
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

✈ AIR UPGRADES (long haul int'l sectors)

- Economy class: Cathay Pacific, Qantas fr \$500
- Premium economy: Cathay Pacific fr \$2200
- Business class: China 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, fr \$350 single

🚗 HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (local rating)

Osaka Airport	Bellevue Garden Kansai Airport	3★
Osaka	Hotel Alexander Namba	3★
Nagoya	Loisir hotel Toyohashi	3★
Tokyo	Hotel Rose Garden Shinjuku	3★

🎈 OPTIONAL PROGRAMS

Osaka Day Tour	\$250
Toyko Day Tour	\$250
Nikko Day Tour with Japanese-style Lunch	\$250
Himeji Castle & Akashi Kaikyō Bridge Walking Day Tour	\$250
Cooking Class (120-180 minutes) HOT!	\$160
Tokyo Disneyland Day Ticket	\$120
Tokyo DisneySea Day Ticket	\$120
Kimono Photo Shoot (60 minutes)	\$120
Robot Restaurant	\$100
Tea Ceremony (30 minutes)	\$75
Sumo Wrestling	fr \$65



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



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Tokyo Day Tour \$250

Japan's capital, Tokyo, is packed with so much to see and do. First stop on this tour is Asakusa Kannon Temple, one of Tokyo's most colourful and popular temples. Afterwards visit Meiji Shrine, dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken. Proceed to the fashion district Harajuku and Shibuya, an affluent and trendy shopping hotspot. Then proceed to Tokyo Tower, where you will observe the amazing city of Tokyo from up above. Then, relax on a Tokyo bay cruise en route to the beautiful and serene landscaped Hamarikyu Garden beside Tokyo Bay.

Osaka Day Tour \$250

This tour will take you to Osaka Castle which was built in 1583 as the intended capital of Japan, before the capital was moved to Edo (now known as Tokyo). Walk through the majestic castle while learning from the exhibit detailing life in old Osaka. From there, walk to the nearby river boat dock to board the Osaka River Cruise for a cruise around Nakanoshima. Explore Shinsaibashi and Dotonbori, the vast restaurant districts, with eateries offering a variety of Japan's most famous street foods. Then travel down to Umeda Skybuilding, where you will get a sweeping view of Osaka. Tour finishes in Osaka.

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.

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).

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.

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 fr. \$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



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Images: 8. Toyko DisneySea, 9. Himeji Castle, 10. Kimono Photo Shoot

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! \$160

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.