

TIMELESS JAPAN

TOKYO > YOKOHAMA > KAWAGUCHIKO > MOUNT FUJI > MATSUMOTO > JIGOKUDANI > KAMIKOCHI >
TAKAYAMA > SHIRAKAWAGO > KANAZAWA > KYOTO > NARA > OSAKA



16 DAYS FROM

\$3,699

per person twin-share



We have taken the beloved Golden Route of Japan and polished it until it shines even brighter! Now with more destinations, and more attractions, this tour is the best way to experience the depth of Japan's history and culture, and to appreciate the achievements of Japan's technical and urban development.

Image : Kanazawa

Nexus Holidays

  Nexus Holidays Australia



HIGHLIGHTS

- Scale the second-tallest structure in the world, the **Tokyo Sky Tree**
- **Cruise on Lake Ashi**, famed throughout the centuries for its views of Mount Fuji
- Explore the unique cafes and old saké breweries of **Takayama's Old Town**, a wonderful slice of Old Japan
- Experience **Jigokudani** - the famous Snow Monkey Park where, in winter, Japanese Macaques bathe in volcanic hot springs
- Visit **Matsumoto Castle**, a National Treasure known as 'Crow Castle' due to its dramatic black exterior
- Visit **Nara's Great Eastern Temple**, with its Great Buddha Hall, the world's largest wooden building, housing a 15 meter tall Bronze Buddha
- Feed the gentle sika deer at **Nara Park**, established around 700 years ago
- Explore **Himeji Castle**, the largest surviving Japanese castle, known as 'Shirasagi-jō' - White Heron Castle
- View Osaka from 40 stories (173m) at the **Umeda Sky Building Floating Observatory**
- Explore at your own pace with **free days at your leisure in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka**

Day 1: Depart for Tokyo

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

Day 2: Arrive in Tokyo

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

Day 3: Tokyo (B)

Today we will take a full-day coach tour of Tokyo, starting with **Meiji Shrine**. The shrine is located within a 170 acre forest in the centre of Tokyo. Constructed of cypress wood and copper, the shrine commemorates Emperor Meiji, Japan's 122nd emperor, who presided over Japan's industrial revolution and emergence onto the world stage. Next we visit **Asakusa district**, and visit **Senso-ji Temple**. This is Tokyo's oldest temple, and is dedicated to Kannon, the Buddhist goddess of mercy. On the approach to Senso-ji is **Nakamise Shopping Street**, a centuries-old promenade of shops selling traditional snacks and souvenirs like kimonos and bottles of saké. We will then visit **Tokyo Sky Tree**. At 634m, this is the 2nd-tallest structure in the world! We round off the day with a trip to **Odaiba**, a large artificial island in **Tokyo Bay**. Built as an island fortress in the 19th century, Odaiba will be a venue location for the 2020 Olympic Games, and is already a popular leisure and sightseeing area.

Day 4: Tokyo (B)

Enjoy today free at leisure in Tokyo.

Day 5: Tokyo Yokohama Hakone Kawaguchiko (B, D)

Tour by Chartered Coach to Hakone. En route, we explore the **Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse**. These buildings were erected a century ago as customs buildings for Yokohama Port. Requisitioned by the US military after World War 2. Next, we visit the incredible **Daibutsu (Great Buddha) at Kotoku-in Temple**. Constructed in 1252 and once covered in gold, the bronze Great Buddha is an impressive sight. This is followed by a boat cruise on Lake Ashi. The lake sits within **Mount Hakone**, and is famed for its views of Mount Fuji. Boats inspired by western warships cruise the scenic lake, and the picturesque forested region has been popular for hikers and sightseers for centuries. Transfer to **Kawaguchiko**, where you will enjoy dinner before spending the night in your traditional hot-spring onsen guesthouse.

Day 6: Kawaguchiko Mount Fuji Matsumoto Nagano (B)

Today we visit **Mount Fuji's 5th Station**. Above the clouds, we will view the sacred mountain's enormous summit if weather permits. We then transfer to Matsumoto (approx. 2.5h), where we visit **Matsumoto Castle**, also known as 'Crow Castle' due to its dramatic black exterior. The keep, completed in 1593, is listed as a National Treasure of Japan. Transfer to Nagano and to your hotel.

Day 7: Matsumoto Jigokudani Kamikochi Takayama (B)

Travel to Takayama. Along the way, we will visit **Jigokudani** - the famous Monkey Park where, in winter, Japanese Macaques bathe in volcanic hot springs. We'll also visit picturesque **Taisho Pond (Taishoike) in Kamikochi**. This is a beautiful scenic destination, with Mt. Hotakadake and Mt. Yakedake visible in the distance, and the scenery around the lake changes dramatically with the passing seasons. Next, visit **Kappa Bashi** (Kappa Bridge) - where you'll find a suspension bridge over the river, affording spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. Transfer to Takayama. Note: There is no guarantee there will be Japanese Macaques at Monkey Park.

Day 8: Takayama Shirakawago Kanazawa (B)

Today we travel by coach to **Shirakawago Village**, a World Heritage site where 114 Gassho-style houses with steeply-pitched roofs in the shape of a triangle. Built many hundreds of years ago, these historic houses stand together in a beautiful natural setting. On the way, we stop at **Takayama's Old Town**, a wonderfully well-preserved slice of old Japan, with houses and shops dating back to the Edo period (1600-1868). As well as the charming architecture, there are unique cafes and a number of old saké breweries. Enjoy some free time to explore the sights, and then it's on to Shirakawago, where from the site's observation deck you can enjoy a spectacular panoramic view of this UNESCO-listed village of thatched-roof houses among the gorgeous mountainous scenery. Transfer to Kanazawa.

Day 9: Kanazawa Kyoto (B)

In Kanazawa, visit **Kenrokuen Garden** - one of Japan's top three landscape gardens. Developed over more than 200 years, starting in 1620, the garden contains almost 9000 trees and 200 plant

species. We also visit **Nomura House**, the historic residence of the Nomura Samurai clan. The house and grounds provide an insight into the lifestyle of the Samurai class during the 16-19th centuries, and feature beautiful architecture, gardens, and décor such as painted screen doors. Then transfer from Kanazawa to Kyoto and on to your hotel.

Day 10: Kyoto (B)

Enjoy today free at leisure in Kyoto.

Day 11: Kyoto Nara Kyoto (B)

This morning, we travel the short distance to Nara by bus, and visit **Kinkakuji: Golden Pavilion**. This is a Zen temple and World Heritage site with two floors covered entirely in thin layers of pure gold, set within a beautiful classical Zen garden. The detailed architecture incorporates three distinct architectural styles - Shinden, Samurai, and Zen. Next, we visit Heian Jingu (Heian Shinto Shrine), a replica of an ancient imperial palace, and a symbol of the rebirth of Kyoto after World War 2 - the enormous vermilion orange torii gate is unforgettable! Next, we visit **Todaiji (Great Eastern Temple)**, with its Great Buddha Hall - the world's largest wooden building. This impressive building houses a huge 15m tall bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana. Then, wander through Nara Park, where over 1,200 tame sika deer roam freely. Return to your hotel in Kyoto by coach.

Day 12: Kyoto Osaka (B, D)

This morning we travel by coach to Osaka to visit **Osaka Castle**, which played a major role in the unification of Japan during the Azuchi-Momoyama period in the sixteenth century. The castle is elaborately fortified, and decorated in an attractive white and green colour scheme. After exploring the extensive castle and grounds, we move on to something more modern - the **Umeda Sky Building Floating Observatory**, which provides an unparalleled elevated view of Osaka. The viewing platform is suspended between two 40-story towers, at 173 metres above the city streets. The Namba-Shimabashi area in the city's South encompasses the city's premier shopping districts, full of boutiques, designers outlets, restaurants and bars. We end the day with dinner at an Izakaya. These are Japanese-style bars which serve a variety of side dishes along with saké and beer - their grilled meat skewers are particularly good!

Images: 1. ShiraKawago Village
2. Hiroshima
3. Jigokudani
4. Asakusa district
5. Changdeokgung Palace



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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: Home 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. Afterwards, 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 and nicknamed 'Machu Picchu of Busan'. 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 Jeoson 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 Tokyo (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Incheon Airport.

DEPARTURES

2018	25 Jun 17 Jul	19 Aug 17 Sep*	09 Oct* *06 Nov
2019	 27 Mar**  03 Apr**	08 May 22 May	19 Aug 17 Sep* 09 Oct* *06 Nov
	10 Apr* 17 Apr	25 Jun 17 Jul	

Single supplement: \$1300

*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 fares & taxes
- + 13 nights hotel accommodation (twin-share)
- + 13 breakfasts (B) & 2 dinners
- + Coach transportation & transfers
- + Entrance fees to scenic attractions (unless otherwise indicated)
- + English-speaking tour guide(s)

EXCLUSIONS

- Prepaid tipping: \$160
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

AIR UPGRADES (long haul int'l sectors)

- Economy class: Cathay Pacific 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)

Tokyo	Shinagawa Prince Hotel	3★
Kawaguchiko	Motosu View Hotel	3★
Matsumoto	Hotel Buena Vista	4★
Takayama	Hida Hotel Plaza	4★
Kanazawa	Hotel Kanazawa	3★
Kyoto	New Miyako Hotel	4★
Osaka	Hotel Visicio Osaka by Granvia	4★

OPTIONAL PROGRAMS

Tokyo Disneyland OR DisneySea Day Ticket	\$120
Robot Restaurant	\$100
Tea Ceremony (30 minutes)	\$55
Pottery Making Experience (60 minutes)	\$99
Golden Joinery (60 minutes)	\$109
Kimono Photo Shoot (60 minutes)	\$120
Cooking Class (120-180 minutes) HOT!	\$129



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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. ver23APR2018

Day 13: Osaka Himeji Osaka (B)

Today we take a half-day tour by coach to **Himeji Castle**, which is the largest surviving example of a traditional Japanese castle. Comprising 83 buildings, the white roof of this UNESCO-registered complex is said to evoke the wings of a heron taking flight – hence the popular name '**Shirasagi-jō' – White Heron Castle**. In 1945 an American firebomb was dropped into the top floor of the keep, but didn't ignite, and the castle was renovated in 1956. Himeji Castle is the most visited in Japan, and the site offers some wonderful views of surrounding Himeji city. Arrive back at the hotel around lunchtime, and enjoy the afternoon free at leisure.

Day 14: Osaka (B)

Enjoy today free at leisure in Osaka.

Day 15: Depart Osaka (B)

After breakfast transfer to Osaka airport for your flight home.

Day 16: 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 (day 4 only)
+ Admissions to scenic attractions
+ Pre-paid tipping

Day 15: Depart Osaka / Hiroshima

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

Day 16: 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 and take a shuttle bus to your hotel.

Day 17: Depart Osaka (B)

After breakfast transfer to Osaka Airport for your flight home

Day 18: Arrive Home



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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.

Images: 6. Toyko DisneySea, 7. Tea Ceremony, 8. Robot Restaurant, 9. Pottery Making Experience, 10. Kimono Photo Shoot, 11. Cooking Class.

Note: Transportation is not included for optional programs & are subject to availability.

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.

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.



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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.

 YOUR TRAVEL AGENT



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