

FAR EAST ASIA DISCOVERY

SEOUL - ANDONG - DAEGU - GYEONGJU - BUSAN - OSAKA - KYOTO - NARA - NAGOYA - MT. FUJI - TOKYO - TAIPEI - SUN MOON LAKE - KAOHSIUNG - KENTING - TAITUNG - HUALIEN - TAROKO



22 DAYS FROM

\$4,999

per person twin-share



Immerse yourself in an incredible journey covering three fascinating countries, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. Explore Korea's thrilling capital, Seoul & visit archaeological sites, temples, and beautiful landscapes. In Japan, take a journey through cherry blossoms, iconic mountains, bustling cities, and history. Discover the many sides of Taiwan, from picturesque towns and villages in the stunning countryside to modernist skyscrapers in the vibrant metropolis Taipei.

Left: Namsan Tower - Seoul, middle: Mt. Fuji, right: Taipei 101 tower

Nexus Holidays



Nexus Holidays Australia



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**
- Explore **Busan**, and discover **Haedong Yonggungsa Temple**
- Discover Osaka, with a day free at selection of optional activities
- Feed the gentle sika deer of **Nara Park**
- Visit **Nagoya's Inuyama Castle**, and explore **Osu Shopping Street's 1200 shops**
- Drink from clear springs at the foothills of **Mount Fuji**
- Enjoy optional activities or free time in **Tokyo**
- Visit **Taipei 101**, the world's sixth tallest building
- Stroll through the famous bustling **Night Markets** of Taiwan
- Cruise across **Sun Moon Lake** and experience its tranquil beauty
- Immerse yourself in the natural splendour of **Taroko National Park**

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

Day 3: Seoul Andong Daegu (B, L)

Visit 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. 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 the city 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.

Day 6: Busan Seoul (B, L)

This morning, 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 (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.**

Day 9: 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 to Osaka.

Day 10: Osaka (B)

Spend today free at your own leisure. You can join our wide range of optional programs. Please see optional programs for more information.

Day 11: 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 in the **Osu Kannon Shopping Quarter**. Transfer to your hotel in the evening.

Day 12: Nagoya Mt. 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 **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 13: Tokyo (B)

Spend today free at leisure. You may wish to visit **Tokyo Disneyland or DisneySea** (admission \$120). Alternatively, you can join our wide range of optional programs. Please see optional programs for more information.





Images: 1. Gamcheon Culture Village, 2. Changdeokgung Palace, 3. Fushimi-Inari Shrine, 4. Nara Park, 5. Taroko National Park, 6. Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial, 7. Kaohsiung Night Market, 8. Sun Moon Lake

Day 14: Tokyo ✈ Taipei (B)

Spend today free at leisure before transferring to the airport for your flight to Taipei. On arrival at Taipei Taoyuan International Airport, you will be greeted warmly at the airport by your local tour guide and transferred to your hotel. Standard hotel check-in time is 3pm.

Day 15: Taipei (B, D)

Today's highlight is a visit to the **Presidential Building** (outside) and **Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall**. This afternoon, visit Tamsui – a laidback waterfront town on the northern part of Taipei city. Enjoy lunch today at **Tamsui Old Street**, where you can feast on many famous 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, where many Taiwanese migrated from, and the paving stones in the courtyard were once ballast in merchant ships. In the evening, explore the bustling night life of Taipei. Have a traditional Taiwanese dinner of Xiao Long Bao, then proceed to colourful **Huashi Night Market**.

Day 16: Taipei 🚗 Sun Moon Lake (B, D)

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

Day 17: 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, gifted by Tibetan Lama Kunga Dorje Rinpoche, since the beginning of contraction 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 dinner (Taiwanese Shabu Shabu hotpot), explore one of **Kaohsiung's bustling night markets**.

Day 18: Kaohsiung 🚗 Kenting 🚗 Taitung (B, D)

The highlight today is a 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' as its lighthouse is one of the most powerful along the Taiwan coast. This afternoon, head to **Kenting Main Street** in the heart of Kenting, an area bustling with locals, tourists and vendors. Spend lunch time discovering the numerous stalls and restaurants offering a variety of local snacks and cuisines. **Travel up the scenic Southern Link Highway** to Taitung Country, ending the day with dinner at the hotel.

Day 19: Taitung 🚗 Hualien 🚗 Taroko 🚗 Hualien (B, D)

The highlight today is a visit to the **East Coast National Scenic Area**, known as 'Taiwan's last unspoiled land', and stretching 170 kilometres down the east coast of Taiwan. Weathering and erosion have produced a wide range of breathtaking landforms here which can only be appreciated first-hand. Stop at **Siao-ye-liou** ('little wild willow' geological formations), **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 20: Hualien 🚗 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, and provide a nice glimpse of Taiwan's beautiful natural scenery. Later, visit **Taipei 101** (admission fee at your own expense, payable to the guide). Experience soaring heights and impressive views at the tallest building in Taiwan, and the 6th highest in the world. Taipei 101 was the first building to exceed 500m in height and has a unique design that mimics the shape of bamboo. Dinner will be at Takao Restaurant hotpot (or similar, depending on availability).

Day 21: Depart Taipei (B)

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

Day 22: Arrive home

2019 DEPARTURES

14 Mar* 14 Apr** 30 May 01 Aug 31 Oct*
21 Mar** 18 Apr* 13 Jun 15 Aug 07 Nov
28 Mar** 02 May 04 Jul** 22 Aug
04 Apr** 16 May 18 Jul* 29 Aug**

*Shoulder season surcharge: \$500

**Peak Season Surcharge: \$900

Single supplement: \$1800

✈ DEPARTURE OPTIONS

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

⊕ INCLUSIONS

- + Full service Chinese carrier airfares & taxes
- + 19 nights 3-4 star (local rating) hotel accomm.
- + 19 breakfasts (B), 5 lunches (L) & 8 dinners (D)
- + Internal flights (operated by local carriers)
- + Coach transportation & transfers
- + Entrance fees to scenic attractions (unless otherwise indicated)
- + English-speaking tour guide(s)

⊗ EXCLUSIONS

- Prepaid tipping: \$290
- China visa
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

✈ AIR UPGRADES (long haul int'l sectors)

- Economy class: Cathay Pacific fr \$700
- Premium economy: Cathay Pacific fr \$2400
- Business class: Southern fr \$3000, Cathay Pacific fr \$4100

🕒 EXTEND YOUR STAY

- Break fee: fr \$300
- Hotel w/breakfast : fr \$350/twin-share/night

🚗 HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (or similar)

Seoul	The Palace Hotel Seoul
Daegu	Daegu Grand Hotel
Gyeongju	Gyeongju Commodore Hotel
Busan	Crown Harbour
Osaka	Bellevue Garden Kansai Airport
Osaka	Hotel Alexander Namba
Nagoya	Loisir hotel Toyohashi or similar
Tokyo	Hotel Rose Garden Shinjuku
Taipei	Taipei Grace Hotel
Taipei	Tamshui Park City
Nantou	Nantou Hotel Formosa
Kaohsiung	Kaohsiung City Suite Hotel
Taitung	Chihpen Century Hotel Hot Spring
Hualien	Hualien Park City Hotel Hualien

🎈 OPTIONAL PROGRAMS

Japan programs please refer to next page Taipei 101

\$25



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 within 2 weeks before departure. Several shopping stops are included as cultural learning experiences with no obligation to purchase local specialty products. Booking conditions apply, refer to website for latest information. ver31DEC2018



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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.

World Heritage Nikko Guided Day Tour \$290

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 Shrine. 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. This design is unique and not seen elsewhere in Japan. 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. Note: This tour is subject to minimum numbers. Tour guide will meet you at the hotel and transportation will be by public transport.

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 \$120

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



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Images: 9. Toyko DisneySea, 10. Tea Ceremony, 11. Himeji Castle, 12. 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.

Sushi Experience & Tsukiji Half Day Guided Walking Tour \$250

Take a closer look at the fascinating world of sushi, extending from the ocean to your plate. On this tour you will take part in a sushi-making class and visit the world-famous Tsukiji fish market. Tour the world's largest seafood market as you discover the vast selections of fresh seafood they have to offer. Then turn your attention to sushi-making, learning to prepare nigiri sushi with the help of a sushi master. Finish your experience by enjoying your creations for lunch. Note: This tour is subject to minimum numbers. Tour guide will meet you at the hotel and transportation will be by public transport.

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



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 YOUR TRAVEL AGENT