



Tours / Cruises since 1978



Japan: *Land of the Rising Sun*

October 10-23, 2024

\$10,950 (double) \$13,140 (single) + Airfare



Embark on an unforgettable journey through the vibrant areas of Tokyo, Kyoto, and the Japanese Alps. Immerse yourself in rich traditions that span centuries, all while exploring the contrasting facets of this mesmerizing country.

Begin your expedition in Tokyo, where the bustling streets reveal a captivating blend of ancient shrines and futuristic skyscrapers. Savor authentic Japanese cuisine, and witness the harmony between tradition and modernity.

Explore Kyoto as you visit serene temples nestled among enchanting gardens. Delve into the city's history as you stroll through its well-preserved historic districts. Kyoto's captivating duality manifests itself in the eloquent transition from bustling markets to peaceful temples.

Venture into the Japanese Alps, where nature's splendor takes center stage. Breathe in the crisp mountain air as you explore picturesque landscapes and charming villages.

This curated experience, blending exploration, cultural immersion, fine Japanese cuisine and relaxation will be the vacation experience of a lifetime.

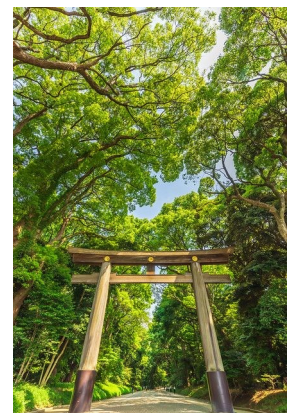
Tour Includes:

- All hotel stays in Tokyo, Kyoto, and the Japanese Alps
- All meals, attractions, and guides included.
- Fully escorted tour with Globe Treks tour manager.
- Home pickup and return service.
- Taxes, gratuities and luggage handling.

(Prices and itinerary subject to change.)

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Japan: *Land of the Rising Sun*

Thursday October 10– Flight Departures

Early morning departures from WNC will have you arriving the following day in the afternoon.

Friday, October 11– Arrivals

Arrivals, check in to your hotel.

Lodging: *The Gate* or similar Oct 11-15, centrally located in trendy and posh Ginza, with metro access at the base of the hotel.

Saturday, October 12- Shinjuku

This morning we will head to Yoyogi Park, an oasis of nature right in the center of Tokyo's hustle and bustle. After stopping for some tasty treats and witnessing dazzling (and polite) street performers, we will visit Meiji Jingu.

It was established in 1920, to commemorate the virtue of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken who took the initiative to make a foundation of modernized Japan. We will also visit Ometesando, Harajuku, and the famous Shibuya Crossing. This evening, we'll enjoy an *izakaya* food tour.



Sunday, October 13- Ginza

Join a morning tour of Tokyo's iconic fish market: Tsukiji. After 83 years of history, the inner market has moved to a different area (Toyosu). However, the outer market, where the bulk of the best restaurants are located, has remained in Tsukiji. The area is still as lively as it ever was and still offers an excellent fish market experience. On this tour, you'll try a range of some of the freshest fish in Japan, including the local delicacy egg omelette amongst other dishes. We will also visit Sensoji Temple, and the Shitaya Shrine— the oldest Inari shrine with about 1,300 years of history. **Optional:** View a sumo training session.

Monday, October 14- Roppongi



Today we'll visit Teamlab Borderless, the world's first digital art museum. The immersive institution features multiple 3-dimensional spaces that revolve around the theme of 'borderless', removing the boundaries between art and visitors. The Japanese collective of 'ultra-technologists' have titled the extensive exhibition 'TeamLab Borderless' to describe the free-flowing nature of the boundary-free installations that transcend the various rooms, communicating with other artworks and even blending in with them. We'll enjoy our sunset at the Tokyo Tower. At 332.9 meters (1,092 ft), it is the second-tallest structure in Japan.

Tuesday, October 15– Rail Journey

Today, we escape the hustle and bustle of Tokyo, and will take a train to Takayama in the Japanese Alps. Tonight we settle into our first ryokan. Enjoy a *kaiseki* banquet with fresh and local delicacies, and a private open air *onsen*— a hot spring bath right in your accommodation. Japanese *ryokan* are traditional inns that will forever change your understanding of hospitality.

Lodging: *Hidatei Hanaougi* or similar October 15-17.

Wednesday, October 16- Takayama

A large part of Takayama's unique heritage is its food. While walking through the town and its market, stop at some of the most popular local shops to sample regional delicacies. Sample items such as *miso*, a Japanese paste made from soybeans used in soups for example, salt and rice, Takayama rice dumplings and homemade sweets. Learn how these items are made from locally-grown ingredients and using old family recipes. There is also a chance to taste sake produced in one of the town's breweries.

Thurs October 17– Train to Kyoto

Saying goodbye to Takayama, we venture on another high speed train to Japan's former capital, Kyoto.

Lodging at *Dhawa Yura Kyoto* or Similar October 17-20.

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Fri October 18- Kyoto

Today we'll visit Arashiyama Bamboo Forest—a winding pathway of bamboo with sunlight filtering through the trees.

An additional section of the grove extends to nearby Nonomiya Shrine, where daughters from the Imperial family used to purify themselves before becoming shrine maidens at Ise Jingu, regarded as the most important shrine in Japan. Nonomiya Shrine may be quite busy with yukata-clad young women who come here to pray for a love match, while thick-calved rickshaw drivers pause to explain a bit of history to their riders.

Other highlights include: Geisha viewing in Gion and a tea ceremony.



Sat October 19- Kyoto

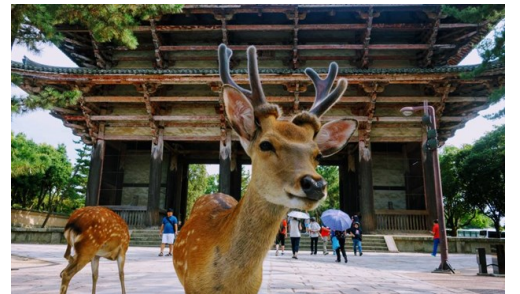
Today we will visit Fushimi Inari, the most important of several thousands of shrines dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice. Fushimi Inari Shrine has ancient origins, predating the capital's move to Kyoto in 794. We'll also visit Kinkaku-ji Temple and the Kyoto Imperial Palace — the Imperial Family's residence until 1868 when the capital was moved from Kyoto to Tokyo.

Optional: Zen Meditation at Shorinji Temple

Sun., October 20: Nara

There is a legend that in AD768, the first of the four gods of Kasugataisha Shrine traveled all the way from Ibaraki Prefecture North of Tokyo, to Mt. Mikasa in Nara, on a white deer. Thereafter, deer were considered sacred, and killing one was punishable by death. Today, they are protected as Natural Monuments, and revered as holy animals in Nara.

Overnight Hilton Hiroshima or similar



Monday, October 21- Hiroshima

Today we'll take a 1.5 hour train to Hiroshima, where we'll learn about the tragic history of Hiroshima and marvel at the way the city has recovered to become one of Japan's most appealing and vibrant urban centers.

Then we'll stop at the Floating torii at Itsukushima-jinja.

Overnight Hilton Hiroshima or similar

Tuesday, October 22

Today we'll head back to Tokyo for our final day before our flights on the 23rd. We'll enjoy our final dinner as we bid farewell to our new friends, and this fantastic country.

October 23

Depart back to United States. Either Delta or Korean Air

A note on Physical Requirements

Japan is mostly accessible by rail and walking, and there will be a good deal of walking on this tour. Let our office know if you have any accessibility concerns.