



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

Heritage Japan: Tokyo, Kanazawa, Kyoto

10-Day, 9-Night Journey

Tokyo, Kanazawa, Kyoto

Experience the ultimate 10-day journey through Japan's most captivating destinations. Begin with **Tokyo's** historic shrines and **Hakone's** iconic Mount Fuji vistas before arriving at the crown jewel of your itinerary: **Kanazawa**. Immerse yourself in preserved **samurai estates**, the historic **Higashi Chaya geisha district**, and the legendary **Kenroku-en Garden**. Continue to **Kyoto** for timeless bamboo groves, golden pavilions, and **Uji's** matcha heritage, concluding with **Osaka's** vibrant street markets and majestic castle—all seamlessly curated in absolute comfort.



Hakone shrine with sightseeing cruise and Mt. Fuji at lake Ashi



Asakusa Kannon Temple
(Sensō-ji Temple)



The Iconic Hōkoku-ji Temple
Towering Over Historic
Cobblestone Streets



Osaka Castle



Nijo Castle served as Tokugawa shogun's residence, Kyoto



Byōdōin Temple: UNESCO
Heritage at the Birthplace of
Matcha

Highlights

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ The Birthplace of Matcha: A Journey to Uji with Traditional Tea Ceremony▸ Tokyo City Tour - From Deep-Rooted History to Wild Pop Culture▸ Mount Fuji, Hakone Ropeway, Owakudani and Lake Ashi Tour▸ Kanazawa Tour: Samurai Trails & Geisha Culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ Historic Kyoto Evening Walk▸ Living Heritage Kyoto City Tour with Bamboo Forest▸ Osaka Excursion – Samurai Heritage to Modern Energy |
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Inclusions

- 7 Excursions
- Hand-Picked City Center Hotels
- Daily Breakfast & 1 Lunch
- English-speaking Tour Guide
- Private Airport Transfers
- Bullet Trains Tokyo – Kanazawa - Kyoto

Exclusions

- International Air Fare
- Government Tourism Fee
- Travel Insurance
- Medical Expenses
- Visa Fee (if applicable)
- Gratuities
- Personal Expenses

Nearby Airport

Tokyo – Narita International Airport (NRT)
Osaka - Kansai International Airport (KIX)

Itinerary

3 NIGHTS IN TOKYO

DAY 1: TOKYO

Arrive at Tokyo Narita Airport and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is free.

[Meals: None]



DAY 2: TOKYO CITY TOUR - FROM DEEP-ROOTED HISTORY TO WILD POP CULTURE

This morning you join the **Tokyo City tour** (group tour, 10 hours in the morning).

- ▶ **Meiji Shrine:** A serene forested oasis in the heart of the city, where you can walk beneath towering wooden *torii* gates and experience Japan's spiritual heritage.
- ▶ **Harajuku:** A sophisticated blend of architectural design and upscale shopping along tree-lined Omotesando Avenue, hiding quiet upscale cafes just steps from the bustle.
- ▶ **Tokyo Imperial Palace:** The elegant stone-walled home of Japan's royal family, offering gorgeous photo ops of historic bridges framed by immaculately manicured gardens.
- ▶ **Asakusa:** Tokyo's oldest entertainment district, where you can step back in time and walk through the iconic red lantern of Senso-ji Temple and snack on traditional street food.
- ▶ **Tokyo Skytree:** The world's tallest freestanding broadcast tower, serving up jaw-dropping 360-degree panoramic views of the entire neon metropolis — and even Mount Fuji, 60 miles away, on a clear day.
- ▶ **Odaiba:** A futuristic man-made island in Tokyo Bay featuring massive shopping malls, an iconic giant robot statue, indoor theme parks, and its own miniature Statue of Liberty.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

DAY 3: MOUNT FUJI, HAKONE ROPEWAY, OWAKUDANI AND LAKE ASHI TOUR

Today we experience the unforgettable Mount Fuji views and timeless tradition (group tour, 10 hours in the morning).

- ▶ **Heiwa no Torii:** This iconic "floating" red gate stands serenely in Lake Ashi, offering a postcard-perfect photo steeped in Japanese tradition.
- ▶ **Hakone Shrine:** Nestled within an ancient forest, this sacred Shinto site offers a restorative walk through the towering cedar trees.
- ▶ **Hakone Sightseeing Cruise:** A relaxing scenic voyage across Lake Ashi offering majestic mountain vistas and views of Mount Fuji.
- ▶ **Hakone Ropeway:** An effortless aerial cable car ride providing unforgettable panoramic views of Japan's dramatic volcanic landscapes.
- ▶ **Owakudani:** A striking volcanic valley where you can view active steam vents.

- **Lake Yamanaka:** A peaceful lakeside escape offering stunning front-row views of Mount Fuji reflected across tranquil waters.

- **Oshino Hakkai:** A picturesque village featuring eight crystal clear Fuji-fed springs surrounded by traditional thatched-roof buildings.

[Meals: Breakfast]

2 NIGHTS IN KANAZAWA

DAY 4: TOKYO – KANAZAWA

Board the high-speed bullet train to Kanazawa. Upon arrival at Kanazawa Station, take a short taxi ride or a **20-minute walk** to your hotel in the city center.

Kanazawa offers an authentic glimpse into traditional Japan, featuring preserved samurai and geisha districts, historic crafts, and far fewer crowds than Kyoto. Visitors can explore the world-renowned Kenrokuen Garden, try hands-on gold-leaf workshops, and sample fresh local seafood at the vibrant Omicho Market.

This evening, stroll through the town at your own pace to absorb Kanazawa's rich cultural heritage and savor its fresh-off-the-boat Sea of Japan seafood and local culinary specialties.

[Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 5: KANAZAWA: SAMURAI TRAILS & GEISHA CULTURE

Today, step back in time into feudal Japan on a guided journey through Kanazawa's historic castle grounds, samurai estates, and then a short-taxi transfer to geisha quarters. Exploring centuries of Edo-period craftsmanship and living tradition. (group, 4 hours).

Highlights:

- **Kenroku-en Garden:** Wander one of Japan's "Three Great Gardens," famous for its timeless landscape design.

- **Kanazawa Castle Park:** Explore the restored seat of the Maeda Clan, featuring impressive wooden architecture.

- **Nagamachi Samurai District:** Stroll historic cobblestone lanes lined with authentic mud-brick samurai walls.

- **Nomura-ke Samurai Residence:** Step inside a restored samurai villa with an award-winning courtyard garden.

- **Higashi Chaya District:** Discover Kanazawa's preserved geisha quarter, home to historic lattice tea houses.

[Meals: Breakfast]

4 NIGHTS IN KYOTO

DAY 6: KANAZAWA – KYOTO | HISTORIC KYOTO EVENING WALK

Take the bullet train to **Kyoto**. After arriving at Kyoto station take a short walk to your hotel.

Kyoto serves as Japan's cultural heart, captivating visitors with over 1,000 historic Zen temples, iconic torii shrine gates, and beautifully preserved geisha districts. Let us curate a deeply immersive journey that brings these timeless traditions and historical treasures to life for you.

This evening, **join your expert guide for a stroll through old-world Kyoto**, showcasing preserved historic streets, iconic temples, and the timeless charm of the Gion district (group, 2 hours):

- ▶ **Shirakawa Canal:** A peaceful willow-lined stone path along a flowing canal, framed by historic teahouses and traditional architecture.
- ▶ **Tatsumi-jinja Shrine:** A charming neighborhood shrine tucked away in Gion, celebrated as a serene focal point of local geisha culture.
- ▶ **Yasaka Shrine:** A majestic brilliantly painted sanctuary at the edge of Gion that glows beautifully with dozens of evening lanterns.
- ▶ **Ninenzaka:** A beautifully preserved historic stone street lined with classic wooden buildings, perfect for a leisurely stroll into old-world Japan.
- ▶ **Hōkan-ji Temple:** Home to the iconic Yasaka Pagoda, offering one of Kyoto's most timeless and memorable architectural silhouettes.
- ▶ **Yasui Kompira-Gu Shrine:** A unique spiritual site famous for its stone monument, where visitors perform a fascinating ritual to welcome good fortune.
- ▶ **Hanamikoji-dori:** Gion's premier historic boulevard, offers an elegant evening walk past exclusive teahouses and upscale restaurants.

[Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 7: LIVING HERITAGE KYOTO TOUR WITH BAMBOO FOREST

Today, a guided tour through Kyoto's grandest palaces, glittering pavilions, and legendary bamboo forests. (group, 10 hours with transfer)

- ▶ **Kiyomizu-dera:** Walk across a massive historic wooden veranda built entirely without nails, offering spectacular panoramic views out over the city of Kyoto.
 - ▶ **Sanjusangen-do:** Step inside Japan's longest wooden hall to stand before an awe-inspiring gold-leaf army of over one thousand uniquely carved Buddhist statues.
 - ▶ **Arashiyama:** A scenic slow-paced riverside district at the base of the mountains, famous for its historic bridge, quiet temples, and traditional boat rides.
- Sagano Bamboo Forest:** Stroll along flat well-maintained paths beneath a towering canopy of bamboo stalks that sway and rustle peacefully in the wind.
- ▶ **Tenryuji Temple:** This world-famous Zen temple features a pristine 14th-century landscape garden that seamlessly integrates the surrounding mountains into its design.
 - ▶ **Kinkaku-ji:** Marvel at the breathtaking sight of the iconic Golden Pavilion next to a mirroring pond. Its top two floors are completely covered in brilliant gold leaf.
 - ▶ **Nijo Castle:** Explore the elegant sprawling residence of the ancient Shoguns, famous for its grand audience halls and clever "nightingale" floors that chirp to reveal intruders.
 - ▶ **Fushimi Inari Taisha:** Walk through a gently sloping and winding meditative path up a peaceful forest hillside. The path is sheltered by thousands of vibrant vermilion torii gates.

[Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 8: THE BIRTHPLACE OF MATCHA: A JOURNEY TO UJI & TEA CEREMONY

Matcha has swept the globe as one of the world's hottest superfood beverages, and today offers a rare chance to visit its historic birthplace. Discover the centuries-old traditions and authentic tea rituals behind your daily cup while **exploring Uji's tranquil heritage**. (group, 8 hours with transfer).

Tour Highlights:

- ▶ **Byodoin Temple:** Admire the iconic 1,000-year-old Phoenix Hall featured on Japan's 10-yen coin.
- ▶ **Ujigami Shrine:** Step inside Japan's oldest standing Shinto shrine, a quiet UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ▶ **Uji Shrine:** Experience a peaceful sanctuary famous for its charming rabbit guardian folklore.
- ▶ **Uji River:** Stroll along serene emerald waters that have nourished Uji's tea culture for centuries.
- ▶ **Uji Bridge:** Cross one of Japan's oldest historic bridges, offering beautiful river vistas.
- ▶ **Traditional Tea Ceremony:** Step into a serene tea house to experience the time-honored art of the authentic Japanese tea ceremony. Watch as your host masterfully prepares premium matcha—where the rhythmic sound of the bamboo whisk soothes the mind—before savoring the delicate tea alongside exquisite seasonal sweets.

[Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 9: OSAKA EXCURSION – SAMURAI HERITAGE TO MODERN ENERGY

Experience the vibrant soul of Japan's culinary and cultural capital on a seamless **guided journey of Osaka** (group, 8 hours). Effortlessly bridge 16th-century samurai history with bustling modern districts, world-class street gastronomy, and iconic skyline.

Tour highlights:

- ▶ **Osaka Castle Park (Historic):** A tranquil, beautifully manicured oasis framed by massive stone moats, offering a serene luxury walk through centuries of samurai history.
- ▶ **Tenshukaku Castle Tower:** Step inside this iconic gold-leafed landmark to discover a world-class historical museum culminating in panoramic views over the city skyline.
- ▶ **Dotonbori Neon Entertainment District:** The undeniable heart of Osaka's vibrant street culture, famous for its glowing neon riversides, iconic signage, and infectious energy.
- ▶ **Shinsaibashi-suji Shopping Arcade:** Osaka's premier covered shopping avenue blends luxury high-end boutiques with centuries-old traditional Japanese craft shops in covered comfort.
- ▶ **Shinsekai Retro Neighborhood:** Transport yourself to mid-century Showa-era Japan in this charismatic district filled with vintage nostalgia and famous local skewers.
- ▶ **Tsutenkaku Tower:** Standing tall as a beloved symbol of Osaka's resilience, it offers a charming look into the city's nostalgic past and its fun-loving folklore.
- ▶ **Kuromon Ichiba Market:** Known as "Osaka's Kitchen," this lively covered market offers an unparalleled opportunity to sample fresh, luxury delicacies like A5 Wagyu beef and pristine sashimi directly from artisan vendors.

► **Umeda Sky Building Floating Garden Observatory:** Soar 560 feet above Osaka on an open-air dynamic deck offering breathtaking 360-degree panoramic views across the urban skyline.

[Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 10: END OF TOUR

Check-out after breakfast and transfer to **Osaka Kansai Airport (KIX)** for your flight home to the USA or Canada. Airport transfer is included.

[Meals: Breakfast]

- **Hotel to Train Station:** Your hotels are conveniently located a short walk from the Tokyo and Kyoto train stations. Upon arrival at Kanazawa Station, take a short taxi ride (about US \$8) or a **20-minute walk** to your hotel.
- **Group excursion meeting point:** Your hotels are conveniently located 5-10 minutes from the meeting points.
- **Hotel check-out time** is generally around 11 am. If your flight departs in the evening or past midnight, we suggest you consider adding a post-tour hotel night during booking, to be comfortable and well rested before your flight home.
- The duration and start time of excursions are subject to change without prior notice.