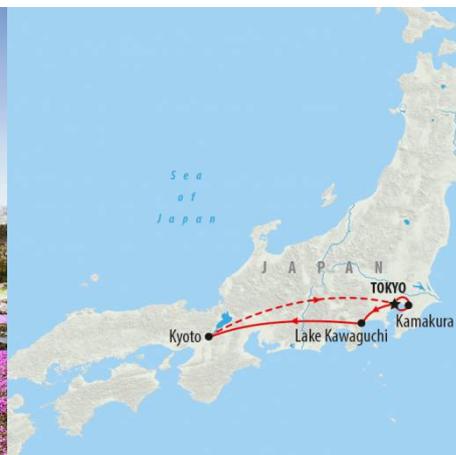


# Best of Japan

8 days | Tokyo to Kyoto or Tokyo



*Discover the best of Japan in 8 captivating days. Travelling from the modern metropolis of Tokyo to enchanting Kyoto, with its age-old temples, shrines and colourful Geisha District. See the bronze Buddha and picturesque bamboo forest at Kamakura, the breathtaking beauty of Mt Fuji at Hakone Izu National Park en route.*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Tokyo - Sensoji Temple district and temple, Harajuku, Takeshita Street, Meiji Shrine and Shibuya Crossing
- Kamakura - Big Buddha Statue, Hokokuji Zen Temple and the Bamboo Forest with a delightful village atmosphere. Opt to take part in a traditional tea ceremony
- Lake Kawaguchi located within Fuji Hakone Izu National Park - Spectacular mountain scenery and views of Mt Fuji
- Staying in a ryokan - Sampling Japanese hospitality, bathing in natural hot springs, wearing a Samue (casual Kimono) and sleeping on a futon
- Kyoto - UNESCO Listed Nijo Castle, Sanjusagen-do Temple with its 1000 life-

like statues and Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Temple)

- Kyoto - Walking tour of the famed Geisha District (Gion), with its ancient cobbled streets, streams, bridges and quaint teahouses and the opportunity to see Geisha and Maiko en route to their next engagement

### What's Included

- 3 breakfasts and 1 Japanese dinner at the Lake Kawaguchi
- 7 nights 3 star (inclusive of 1 night in a traditional Japanese Inn)
- Guided sightseeing and walking tours in Tokyo, Kamakura, Lake Kawaguchi and Kyoto
- Lake Kawaguchi and Mt Fuji - Kachikachiyama Ropeway and observatory. For tours staying at Lake Kawaguchi between 14 Apr – 28 May each year we'll visit to the Fuji Shibazakura (Moss Phlox) Festival with Mt Fuji as the backdrop
- Escorted by a licensed English speaking Japanese tour guide
- All transportation and transfers - buses, trains and rail passes (including Suica Swipe Card)
- Baggage forwarding service from Tokyo to Kyoto (one bag per person)
- Airport arrival transfer to tour hotel (by train) from Narita or Haneda International Airport on day 1

- Maximum Group size: 16 persons

### What's Not Included

- Entrance Fees: USD\$25-35pp, paid locally in local currency
- Airport departure transfer
- International flights and visa
- If you are opting to pay the single supplement, allowing you the privacy of your own room on this tour, a single room will be provided for all nights with the exception of day 5 (at Lake Kawaguchi), where single rooms are not available. For this night you will be matched up with a fellow tour member of the same gender
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$3-5 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

## COVID SAFE GUIDE

## ITINERARY

## Best of Japan - 8 days

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# Best of Japan

## Day 1 : Tokyo



Saturday. Upon arrival to Tokyo you will be met at either Narita or Haneda International Airport by your guide. Travel by train into the heart of the city and check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free to spend at your leisure.

**Overnight - Tokyo**

## Day 2 : Toyko sightseeing - Sensoji Temple district, Harajuki & Shibuya



Today we explore the capital. Taking the subway to Asakusa we visit the lively Sensoji Temple District, which is home to Tokyo's first temple and scores of interesting souvenir and craft stalls. In the afternoon we'll head to Harajuku, which is a magnet for young and fashionable Tokyoites with its hip shops and cafes. Here, we'll visit the impressive Meiji Shrine where the emperor Meiji and his wife are enshrined. Yoyogi Park, beside the shrine is a popular hangout for locals and there is always a lot going on, especially on Sundays with bands playing, drum circles, dancers and busking.

The last stop of the day is Shibuya Crossing - regarded as one of the busiest intersections in the world. The famed junction has no less than 7 pedestrian crossings and when the traffic lights turn red a wave of pedestrians, up to a 1000, converge onto the intersection from every direction. Known as 'the scramble',

it's a well-practised art to duck and weave with sportsman like agility to avoid collision, which we'll watch from the second floor of Starbucks, located directly opposite the crossing. This evening offers free time, though if travelling in January, May and September you might like spend the evening watching a Sumo tournament (must be booked in advance). See our Trip Notes for more information.

**Overnight - Tokyo**

## Day 3 : Kamakura & the Bronze Buddha



Tokyo - Kamakura - Tokyo. This morning we board a train for our day trip to Kamakura, Japan's first feudal capital, which is just an hour from Tokyo. Kamakura is a popular seaside location with a quaint village life feel and some stunning Zen temples. Here we'll visit the iconic bronze Big Buddha and the Zen Temple of Hokokuji with its beautiful bamboo garden. Here, you can drink tea and learn about the tea ceremony before walking the cobbled shopping district - adorned with lovely locally made items before returning to Japan's bustling capital for the night. Tonight, we'll organise a Shabu Shabu (a traditional Japanese hot pot meal) if the majority of the group are interested. **Overnight - Tokyo**

## Day 4 : Tokyo Edo Museum & free time

Today offers a guided tour of the Tokyo Edo Museum which focuses on the lifestyle and culture experienced of Tokyoites over the city's 400-year history. The museum houses some of the city's best original artefacts and replicas of Edo-era buildings and landmarks, along with several large-scale models. The remainder of the day offers free time to independently explore.

**Overnight - Tokyo**

## Day 5 : Mt Fuji & Lake Kawaguchi

Tokyo - Lake Kawaguchi. This morning we travel by highway bus (with luggage forwarding) to Lake Kawaguchi, located at the foot of Mt Fuji in the Fuji Hakone Izu National Park. The scenery is stunning with panoramic views of a snow-capped Fuji most of the year. Upon arrival we'll travel along the Mount Fuji Panoramic Ropeway and visit the observatory. For tours staying at Lake Kawaguchi between 15 Apr – 28 May each year we'll visit the Springtime Fuji Shibazakura (Phlox Moss) Festival held at Motosu Lake, where the landscape is covered in a vibrant, hot pink moss with Fuji as the backdrop. No trip to Japan would be complete without sampling authentic Japanese hospitality at a traditional ryokan (a Japanese inn), which is where we'll bed down tonight. At the ryokan, sample tasty local cuisine and take a relaxing dip in the natural hot spring baths. **Overnight - Lake Kawaguchi (D)**

## Day 6 : Kyoto - 1000 statues of Kannon & the Geisha District



Lake Kawaguchi – Kyoto. The area has some great hiking trails and early this morning you might like to opt for a hike along the foreshores of the lake. We then travel by bus to Mishima, then bullet train to Kyoto - Japan's ancient and cultural capital.

As one of the most culturally rich cities in Asia, Kyoto is home to an abundance of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines. Here we enjoy a guided tour of Sanjusagen-do Temple, famous for its statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy. The one

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## Best of Japan

thousand life-size statues of Kannon are made of Japanese cypress clad in gold leaf. They stand in 10 rows of 50, each hand crafted and slightly different from the next. Late this afternoon we head to Gion, for a walking tour of this famous Geisha District. After, you may wish to watch a cultural performance at Gion Corner Theatre where you'll have the opportunity to see a Maiko (apprentice Geisha) performing.

**Overnight - Kyoto (B)**

### Day 7 : Kyoto - Nijo Castle, Golden Pavilion & free time



This morning, we enjoy a guided tour of Nijo Castle, one of the city's most impressive UNESCO sites. Built by the first Tokugawa shogun in 1603, the exquisite Nijo Castle is a wonderful example of Momoyama architecture. After, we visit Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion) a stunning Zen Buddhist temple and part of the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto World Heritage Site. The top two floors of the monument are completely covered in gold leaf. Set upon a small lake with landscaped gardens, the large completely gilt structure is impressive, as it is a beautiful Temple. Kinkakuji Temple continues to be one of Japan's most visited temples.

This afternoon offers free time for you to relax or to further discover the many sights of Kyoto your own way. Consider visiting Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its winding path lined by thousands of bright red torii gates. Just a short train ride away from the main Kyoto Station, this must-see sight is free to visit and is open 24 hours a day. You might also wish to hire a Kimono and walk the streets as many Japanese do or take part in a cooking lesson.

**Overnight - Kyoto (B)**

### Day 8 : Kyoto

Saturday. On day 8 our tour comes to an end after hotel check out.

For information about visas, top travel tips and much more, take a look through our travel guide.(B)

#### HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

#### Yaesu Terminal Hotel

Enjoying an enviable location on a cherry-blossom lined street in the centre of Tokyo, Yaesu Terminal Hotel is just a short jaunt away from the city's main railroad station giving travellers easy access to locations across the city. A comfortable 3-star hotel with a natural theme, a permanent art exhibit in the hotel lobby and an in-house restaurant serving freshly prepared local cuisine; it is a soothing place to relax after a busy day of sightseeing. Hotel guests can make use of the free Wi-Fi, benefit from complimentary bathrobes and slippers and enjoy entertainment on a flat-screen TV.



#### Yamagishi Ryokan

With stunning views over Lake Kawaguchi, which is located just one minute away, the Yamagishi Ryokan is a gorgeous accommodation and an excellent base for exploring the area around the lake. Rooms are designed according to traditional Japanese styles with low furniture and lots of natural light. Breakfast and dinner are both included with the room and are served in the hotel's dining room. After dinner, guests

can take a dip in one of the hotel's baths or relax with a coffee in the lounge. The hotel is located just an 8 minute walk from Kawaguchiko Station.



#### Hotel Mifujien

This Japanese-style hotel boasts stunning views over Lake Kawaguchi and Mount Fuji from each of its guestrooms. Offering traditional low furniture and modern amenities, each room is also equipped with air conditioning and a TV. The views can be enjoyed from the hotel's lobby, tea lounge and the Japanese restaurant, which uses local ingredients and offers a feast of traditional dishes. On the 7th floor you'll find both indoor and outdoor hot spring baths, perfect for unwinding at the end of the day.



#### Hotel Elcient Kyoto

Boasting a fantastic location in the heart of Kyoto, Hotel Elcient Kyoto is within walking distance of top attractions such as Kyoto Tower and the picturesque Shosei-en Garden. Guestrooms are compact and simply furnished, complete with modern amenities such as air conditioning and ensuite bathrooms. Enjoy more than 30 different dishes at the Western and Japanese buffet-style restaurant, with light lunches and dinner also available. On the second floor you'll find a large public bath and sauna, offering the perfect spot to relax after some sightseeing.

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### Dormy Inn Premium Kyoto

Located just a short walk from Kyoto Station and the lofty Kyoto Tower, you really cannot get more central than this! Combining convenience with comfort, this contemporary hotel boasts modern guest rooms with flat screen televisions, complimentary WiFi, refrigerators and a private toilet – though washing facilities are shared. Buffet breakfast is available, with a choice of local and western dishes on offer. The hotel is surrounded by a wide choice of shops and restaurants, and there are plenty of cultural landmarks just a short stroll away. After a day of sightseeing guests can relax with a soak in the hotel's natural hot spring baths or opt for a sauna and massage.



### PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' is compulsory for solo travellers or if your booking party cannot reach the minimum of 2 persons in a room and the amount needs to be added to the per person price. The single supplement offers the comfort of your own room and is also available to any other person wanting their own room.

### PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
27 Mar	USD 3,325	USD 4,020
17 Apr	USD 3,325	USD 4,020
22 May	USD 3,215	USD 3,910
05 Jun	USD 3,065	USD 3,760
04 Sep	USD 3,215	USD 3,910
25 Sep	USD 3,215	USD 3,910
16 Oct	USD 3,325	USD 4,020
30 Oct	USD 3,325	USD 4,020
13 Nov	USD 3,325	USD 4,020

### PRICES / DATES 2022

Date	Twin Share	Single
12 Mar	USD 3,325	USD 4,020
26 Mar	USD 3,325	USD 4,020
02 Apr	USD 3,325	USD 4,020
16 Apr	USD 3,325	USD 4,020
07 May	USD 3,215	USD 3,910
28 May	USD 3,215	USD 3,910
11 Jun	USD 3,065	USD 3,760
30 Jul	USD 3,065	USD 3,760
27 Aug	USD 3,215	USD 3,910
03 Sep	USD 3,215	USD 3,910
24 Sep	USD 3,215	USD 3,910
15 Oct	USD 3,325	USD 4,020
29 Oct	USD 3,325	USD 4,020
12 Nov	USD 3,325	USD 4,020

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