

## Discover the Best of Japan

### *Sample Itinerary\**

This breathtaking journey of Japan has it all – modern and bustling Tokyo, hot springs in Hakone, delectable dishes in Osaka, incredible temples in Kyoto, and much more. You'll be immersed in the best of modern Japan as you start in Tokyo and continue to a traditional ryokan in Hakone, feed the revered deer in Nara, and visit sacred temples across in Kyoto. You'll experience museums, art exhibitions, food markets, sample delicious traditional foods at every stop, learn from local experts and guides, and get behind-the-scenes access to the best of this fascinating nation.

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**Tour Duration**  
9 days
- 
**Areas of Focus**  
History, Culture, Art & Cuisine
- 
**Destinations**  
Tokyo, Hakone, Nara, Osaka, Kyoto

**\*This is a *sample itinerary*; all journeys are unique and tailor-made to meet your interests.**





# Discover the Best of Japan *Itinerary at a Glance\**

DAY 1

## **TOKYO: ARRIVE & TRANSFER TO HOTEL**

Your guide will meet you and accompany you to your hotel for check-in.

DAY 2

## **TOKYO: TSUKIJI FISH MARKET & EDO-TOKYO MUSEUM**

Start the day at the world-famous fish market. Enjoy a traditional sushi lunch and visit the Edo-Tokyo museum.

DAY 3

## **TOKYO: TOKYO TOUR & BOAT CRUISE**

Visit key sights, including the Hamarikyu Garden, Asakusa district by boat cruise, Sensoji Temple, and Nakamise Dori street. Dinner in Ginza District.

DAY 4

## **HAKONE: HOT SPRINGS & A TRADITIONAL RYOKAN**

Travel to Hakone. Visit Hakone's Open Air Museum, enjoy a traditional Japanese dinner at your authentic *ryokan* accommodation.

DAY 5

## **NARA: NARA PARK & BUDDHA STATUE**

Travel to Nara, Japan's first capital. Visit temples, bronze Buddha, Nara Park, Kasuga Taisha Shrine for a Shinto ceremony.

DAY 6

## **OSAKA: EVENING FOODIE TOUR**

Travel to Osaka and settle in at your *ryokan*. Explore Osaka in the afternoon and have an evening food tour in Dotonbori district.

DAY 7

## **KYOTO: CULTURAL TOUR**

Visit the Golden Pavilion, Nijo Castle, and Ryoan-Ji Temple.

DAY 8

## **KYOTO: EXCURSION TO THE FUSHIMI INARI SHRINE**

Visit the Fushimi Inari Shrine with its spectacular red gates.

DAY 9

## **DEPART KYOTO**

Morning departure to the airport for your return flight to the U.S.

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# Discover the Best of Japan

## Sample Detailed Itinerary\*



DAY 1

### TOKYO: ARRIVE & TRANSFER TO HOTEL

Upon arrival you'll be met by your guide who will accompany you to your hotel. You'll settle in and have dinner at nearby restaurant.



DAY 2

### TOKYO: TSUKIJI FISH MARKET & EDO-TOKYO MUSEUM

This morning we'll visit the bustling Tsukiji Fish Market, one of the largest wholesale fish markets in the world, importing seafood from 60 countries on six continents. You'll explore the inside of the market and then sample fresh sushi at a local restaurant for lunch. Next, you'll learn about Tokyo's history at the Edo-Tokyo Museum. This museum is dedicated to preserving the heritage of the city's last 400 years. You'll conclude the afternoon with a Japanese tea ceremony.



DAY 3

### TOKYO: TOKYO TOUR & RIVER BOAT CRUISE

Today you'll embark on a private city tour with a local expert guide. You'll visit key sights, including the tranquil and peaceful Hamarikyu Garden in the center of the city. You'll take a river boat cruise under many of the city's famous bridges to the Asakusa district, one of Tokyo's best-preserved districts. Next you'll stroll along Nakamise Dori street and visit Sensoji Temple, marked by its huge red lantern. This evening, you'll stroll through the Ginza District and have dinner.

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DAY 4

### HAKONE: HOT SPRINGS & A TRADITIONAL RYOKAN

Travel to Hakone, one of Japan's most visited hot-springs destinations, also known for its lakes, green forested slopes and beautiful coastline. You'll view contemporary art and sculpture in the Open Air Museum before setting in at your traditional and authentic accommodation, a *ryokan*, complete with hot springs pools. You'll enjoy a full traditional Japanese dinner at the *ryokan* in the evening.



DAY 5

### NARA: NARA PARK & BUDDHA STATUE

Travel to the city of Nara, Japan's first capital. Visit the Todai-ji temple complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with the largest bronze Buddha statue in Japan. You'll then visit the renowned Kasuga Taisha Shrine and observe a Shinto ceremony in person. You'll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Following lunch, you'll visit Nara Park, where you can feed the hundreds of deer, considered divine spirits, that live in the park.



DAY 6

### OSAKA: EVENING FOODIE TOUR

Travel to Osaka, widely acknowledged as Japan's culinary capital. You'll explore the city during the day and have an evening food tour in the evening. You'll immerse yourself in bright and bustling Dotonbori, the city's nightlife hub, where you'll sample specialties such as sushi and sake. Plus, learn to prepare your own *takoyaki* (octopus balls) under the guidance of a chef. This tour will inspire you to prepare these iconic dishes at home.

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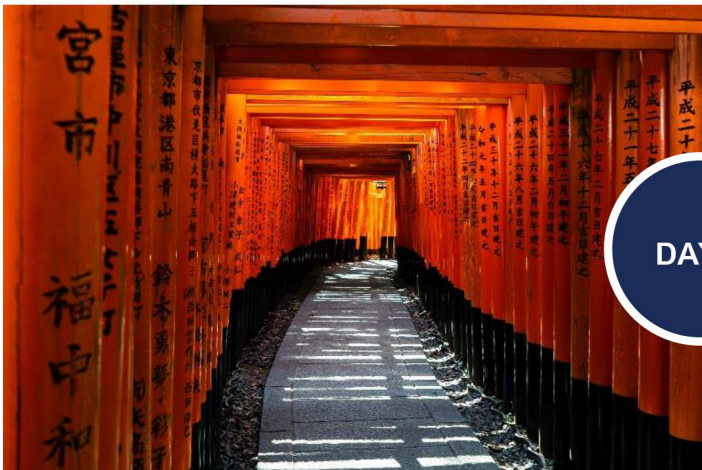
## Sample Detailed Itinerary\*



DAY 7

### KYOTO: CULTURAL TOUR

Travel to Kyoto. Today your guide will bring you to Nijo Castle. Built around 1679 for the warrior Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first shogun of the Edo period, it is known for its "nightingale floors" which squeak when walked upon as to warn residents on intruders. Next visit Kinkaku-Ji, known as the Golden Pavillion. It was built by the third Ashikaya shogun in 1397 as his retirement villa. Finally visit Ryoan-Ji Temple, prominent for its zen garden's simplicity.



DAY 8

### KYOTO: EXCURSION TO THE FUSHIMI INARI SHRINE

Today we visit one of Kyoto's most sacred temples and among the oldest Shinto shrines in Japan, the Fushimi Inari Shrine is dedicated to Inari, the God of rice. The shrine's five magnificent temples lie at the foot of the Inari mountain, and thousands of red torii gates (the Senbon torii) mark the forested trails to the top. The picturesque gates provide a surreal and unforgettable experience on the mountain. You'll have the afternoon to explore Kyoto independently before your final dinner.



DAY 9

### DEPART KYOTO

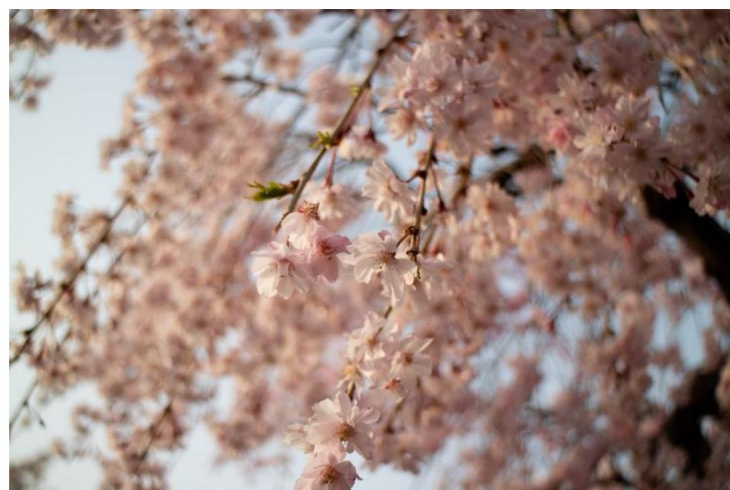
Today you'll transfer to Kyoto Airport for your departure flight to the U.S.

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Contact us, and our travel specialist would be happy to assist on your upcoming journey.



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