

Highlights of Japan

Tokyo, Hakone, Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto



Japan, an archipelago of 6800 volcanic islands, is a world apart from any other country. It is a wonderful contrast of tradition and modernity - glitzy skyscrapers co-exist with Geisha girls, flashy neon lights do not overshadow quaint little tea shops, cutting edge modern technology works in tandem with ancient craftsmanship. Besides sheer curiosity, savouring the delights of Japanese cuisine is a large reason to visit this country. The people are charming and courteous, the rail network is fantastic. However, its best kept secret is the stunning natural beauty of Japan and it should be a large reason for visiting this island country.

Highlights

Japan is nothing less than magical in spring time when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom. These beautiful pink flowers form a natural blanket over the country in soft, colourful splendour. It is the perfect time to visit Japan.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Experience Sakura or cherry blossoms to create beautiful visions of pink and white
- ❖ Visit the sights and sounds of glamorous Tokyo from the ancient Askakusa temple to the bustling Shibuya crossing
- ❖ An opportunity to see the magnificent Mt Fuji and its surrounds
- ❖ Enjoy a local tea ceremony, a dip in an Onsen and wonderful local food
- ❖ Visit the stunning natural landscape and beautiful temples of the ancient city of Kyoto
- ❖ Visit the tear-jerking Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima

Itinerary

Day 1 – 28th March 2019 - Arrival in Tokyo

On arrival in Tokyo, you will be booked to for a stay of 3 nights.

On arrival, the transfer to the airport will be arranged for you. (Early check in is on request)

(The transfer will be arranged for flights arriving at around 0800 hours. For any other arrivals, a separate transfer fee will be applicable)

You will be booked at the **Hotel Grand Prince Shintakanawa Tokyo or similar** in Tokyo.

Dinner tonight is included.

Overnight in Tokyo.

Day 2 – 29th March 2019 - Tokyo sightseeing

City tour of Tokyo: Today's tour will include the following (the order may change depending on traffic)

We will visit **Chidorigafuchi park** where hundreds of cherry trees decorate the moats of Edo Castle around Kitanomaru Park, creating one of Tokyo's most outstanding cherry blossom sights.

Asakusa - visit the lively Sensoji Temple district, which is home to Tokyo's first temple and scores of interesting souvenir and craft stalls. You will visit Nakamise Dori, one of the oldest shopping streets in Japan.

Panoramic view of **Tokyo Skytree** (from outside)

Imperial Palace visit from the outside

Cruise down the **Sumeda River** from Asakusa to Hinode Pier

Post lunch, we will drive by **Tokyo's Rainbow bridge**. The Rainbow Bridge is a stretched and beautiful shaped bridge, like a rainbow over Tokyo Bay as its name suggests. It is a 798-meter suspension bridge spanning from Shibaura Pier and the **Odaiba waterfront** development in Minato Ward.

We will also visit **Tokyo Tower**, which provides a panoramic views of Japan's capital from the main observatory. Climb to the 476-foot-high (145-meter) viewing platform in Japan's second tallest structure, and be sure to stand over the glass-floor 'lookout window.' (150 metres entrance included)

Dinner tonight is included.

Overnight in Tokyo.

Day 3 – 30th March 2019 - Tokyo – Tea Ceremony ; Akihabara & Shibuya. Afternoon at leisure

This morning, post breakfast, we will head to Shinjuku Gyoen Tea House. You will take part in a **traditional tea ceremony**.

From the ancient to the modern. From the Tea house, we head to **Akihabara** a unique electronic town in central Tokyo. We will spend an hour or so walking the streets of Akihabara, where you will see hundreds of electronics shops, ranging from tiny one-man stalls to large electronics retailers all along the main Chuo Dori street. They offer everything from the newest computers, cameras, televisions, mobile phones, electronics parts and home appliances to second-hand goods and electronic junk.

We will then head to **Shibuya** and the busiest intersection in the world, the Shibuya Crossing. Hundreds of people at peak hour, sometimes over a 1000, cross at a time coming from all directions. This is also our lunch stop so you can head to one of the restaurants here to have lunch and do some people-watching.

After lunch, you will be driven to **Ginza** for shopping. You can spend some time enjoying walking around Ginza.

Dinner tonight is included.

Overnight in Tokyo.

Day 4 – 31st March 2019 - Tokyo to Hakone (Mount Fuji)

Check out of your hotel in Tokyo this morning.

We recommend you prepare a small handbag for 2 nights as your main luggage will be sent straight to Kyoto. This is optional but highly recommended and will be of great help to you as the Shinkansen trains do not have a lot of space for big bags. Cost per bag is JPY 2000. Your bag will be waiting for you when you arrive in Kyoto.

Escape the big-city bustle to explore Mt Fuji and stay in scenic Hakone. Relax during the 2-hour coach trip to Mt Fuji, Japan's highest mountain, which provides a breathtaking backdrop as its iconic peak looms closer.

On arrival, you will be taken to the Fuji visitor center for approx. 20 minutes to learn about current weather conditions as well as the history, formation and ecology of beloved 'Fujisan' through exhibits and films. The second-floor observatory deck provides spectacular close-up views.

Prepare to be wowed as your coach heads uphill to **Mt Fuji 5th Station**, climbing 7,546 feet (2,300 meters) above sea level. On a clear day, look up the mountain slopes and take in its surrounding lakes; you'll feel almost close enough to reach out and touch the summit. Torii gates, shrines and souvenir shops decorate this station, known as the border between the heavens and the earth.

You will continue on to **Lake Kawaguchiko** for a photo stop. Kawaguchiko has some of the best views of Mt Fuji.

Post lunch, we will ride the **Kachi Kachi Ropeway** which ascends 400m from Lake Kawaguchiko to the to an observation deck near Mt Tenjo peak. At 1000m above sea level the views are spectacular. (Operation of the ropeway is subject to weather conditions)

From here, we head to **Oshino Hakkai** in the Fuji Five Lakes region. Oshino Hakkai is a site of 8 ponds or springs born from the underground water of Mount Fuji. The 8 springs, revered as a place of worship of Mount Fuji, have been recognized as properties that are a part of the World Heritage site of Mount Fuji.

From here, we head to your hotel for the night

You will be booked at the Hotel **Odakyu Hotel de Yama or similar** for a stay of 1 night.

Dinner tonight is included.

Overnight in Hakone.

Day 5 – 1st April 2019 - Hakone to Hiroshima

After breakfast, the transfer to Odawara Station will be arranged for you.

You will be booked on a bullet train to Hiroshima.

On arrival, transfer to a local Indian Restaurant for lunch (cost not included)

After lunch, you will continue on a sightseeing tour of Hiroshima

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park was built to commemorate the dropping of the atomic bomb over Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and to promote a peaceful world. It is located in the area around the atomic explosion's epicenter, and houses the Peace Memorial Museum and many other related monuments.

The Peace Memorial Museum graphically displays the atomic bomb's horrible effects on the city and its inhabitants. A visit is naturally depressing. In the museum's east building, Hiroshima's militarist past and the process leading to the dropping of the bomb are documented. Audio guides are available in more than a dozen languages.

The Atomic Bomb Dome is one of the few buildings around the explosion's epicenter that partially survived the blast, and the city's only remaining bomb damaged building. Between the museum and the Atomic Bomb Dome stands the Memorial Cenotaph for Atomic Bomb Victims. It contains a list of all the people who were killed by the explosion or died due to the bombing's long-term effects such as cancer caused by radiation. The Statue of the A-Bomb Children and the Cenotaph for Korean Victims are some of many more monuments found in the park.

Later, the transfer to the hotel will be arranged for you.

You will be booked for a stay of 1 night in Hiroshima at **Hotel Rihga Royal or similar**.

Dinner tonight is included.

Overnight in Hiroshima.

Day 6 --2nd April 2019 - Hiroshima to Kyoto

After Breakfast, proceed to Kyoto by Coach. (approx 3 ½ - 4 hours)

Enroute, you will visit Kurashiki Canal Town. This is a beautifully preserved historical district known as Bikan Historical Quarter. Visiting Kurashiki is a great way to get an idea of what old Japan was like.

Lunch will be at a restaurant enroute or in Kurashiki itself (cost not included)

Continue to Kyoto. On arrival in Kyoto – spend the entire afternoon in Gion district. Gion is a traditional entertainment district, also popularly called the Geisha district of Kyoto. It is packed with bars, restaurants and

traditional tea houses. You may get lucky and see Geisha walk across from you. It's worth spending time here to explore the temples, shrines and enjoy the overall atmosphere of this picturesque district.

Dinner tonight is included. (After dinner, those who want can go to Ponto Cho on their own)

You will be booked at the **Hotel Rihga Royal or similar** for a stay of 2 nights. (*The bags you sent ahead will be waiting for you at the hotel*)

Day 7 --3rd April - Kyoto & Nara Sightseeing

See the main sights of both Kyoto and Nara in one day!

Stop by two of Kyoto's most important highlights with your guide, starting with 50 minutes at Nijo Castle, which was the home of the Tokugawa Shogun until the mid-1800s. This World Heritage-listed site, constructed in 1603, is renowned for the contrasts between its intricate interior and solemn exterior façade.

Head next to Kinkaku-ji, the city's most popular religious site and what is considered by many to be one of the world's most elaborate Japanese gardens, for 45 minutes. Check out the temple's Golden Pavillion, a three-story building sheathed in gold leaf and situated beside a picturesque pond, where you can take some great photos.

Pause your tour for lunch, then re-board your bus for a 1-hour drive south to Nara, where you'll stop by two of the temples and shrines that form the city's own UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit Todai-ji, a religious complex known for housing one of the world's largest statues of the Buddha (Great Buddha Hall) before continuing to the adjacent Nara Park.

Finish your excursion at Nara's Deer Park, a famous section of Nara Park with free-roaming groups of deer. Feel free to hand-feed these tame creatures with the special food for sale on site.

Hopefully, you will get to see clouds of beautiful cherry blossoms bloom in this lovely city.

Return to Kyoto for Dinner and Overnight in Kyoto.

Day 8 - 4th April - Kyoto to Osaka

After breakfast, you will be taken on a tour of **Fushimi Inari**, one of Japan's best known Shinto shrines and a World Heritage Site. It features thousands of magical orange torii gates that wind over the hills of Mt Inari beyond the entrance to the shrine. (A fair amount of walking will be required)

From here, we travel to **Osaka**. On arrival, enjoy a panoramic tour of Osaka. You will see the Umeda Sky Building and Floating Garden observatory, one of the landmarks of Osaka. At its core is the Umeda Sky Building, a "pair of skyscrapers connected in midair" - built in an unusual architectural form not often encountered anywhere in the world.

You will then be dropped **Shinshaibashi** area for lunch and an afternoon of shopping.

Dinner tonight is included.

You will be booked at the **Hotel Rihga Royal or similar** for a stay of 1 night.

Overnight in Osaka.

Day 9 - 5th April 2019 - Departure from Osaka

After your hotel check out, your tour comes to an end. The transfer to the airport will be arranged for you.

(*The transfer will be arranged at 0530 hours. For any other departures, a separate transfer fee will be applicable*)

*** Return home with wonderful memories of your holiday ***

Price per person on a twin-sharing basis: INR 2,28,900

Single supplement: INR 69,500

Price Includes:

- Accommodation as per the itinerary in 4 star hotels for 8 nights
- Daily Breakfast
- Daily Dinner
- Airport transfers in Tokyo and Osaka (as per the timings specified)
- “Shinkansen” bullet train from Hakone to Hiroshima
- Transportation services in an air-conditioned vehicle as per itinerary with qualified English speaking guide.
- Tours & Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Service of an Odyssey Tour Escort from Tokyo to Osaka

Price excludes

- Air ticket to Tokyo and from Osaka
- Airport Taxes
- Meals and Sightseeing not mentioned in the itinerary
- Porterage
- Luggage Delivery service from Mount Fuji to Kyoto (Approx JPY 2000 per bag)
- Gratuities (Recommended at US\$ 8 pp per day)
- Visa for Japan
- Overseas Medical Insurance policy
- Items of a personal nature, such as laundry, telephone expenses, room service, alcoholic beverages, etc.
- Any other services not specified in the itinerary

Notes:

- Standard check in at hotels is at 14h00 onwards. Where necessary we will request an early check-in however, this is not guaranteed. The same applies to check out, which is at 12h00.
- Rates subject to change without prior notice due to circumstances beyond our control e.g. fuel increases, rate of exchange fluctuations.
- Please note that your passport should be valid for more than 6 months beyond the date of travel and that you must have at least 2 blank pages on your passport.
- Please contact us if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation in Tokyo or post tour accommodation in Osaka.
- ROE calculated at 1 JPY = Rs. 0.66. Any fluctuations at the time of payment will alter the cost
- **Price based on a minimum of 16 people travelling together**
- The Cherry Blossom flowers bloom from late March to mid April so we have organised our tour accordingly. It is however a natural phenomenon and the timing and duration of this cannot be controlled.

Recommended air schedule

Carrier	Flight	Dep.Date	Day	From	To	Dep	Arr	Arr.Date
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All Nippon Airways	830	27MAR	Wed	Mumbai - India	Tokyo - Japan	2000	0725	28MAR
All Nippon Airways	2176	05APR	Fri	Osaka - Japan	Tokyo - Japan	0745	0905	05APR
All Nippon Airways	829	05APR	Fri	Tokyo - Japan	Mumbai - India	1120	1745	05APR

Approx fare pp in economy class: Rs 53600

A few small tips on Japan

- ✓ Room sizes in Japan, especially Tokyo, tend to be quite small.
- ✓ A porter service is only offered in 5 star hotels in Japan.
- ✓ There is a Tourist Tax levied in Tokyo Hotels per tourist. JPY 200 per-day for Four-star hotels or above / JPY 100 per-day for Three-star hotels or below. The tax is to be collected from tourist directly by the hotel.
- ✓ Vehicle and Guide service is meant for maximum 10-hrs a day and according to Itinerary. No Route deviation is allowed once confirmed.
- ✓ The usual dinner time in Japan starts from 1700 HRS and to maintain the Law for Transport & Guide, dinner starts between 1830~1900 and finishes by 1900~1930.
- ✓ Generally, the check-in time for hotels in Japan is from 1500 hrs & check-out until 1000 hrs

Map of Japan



Terms & Conditions

BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

1. A deposit of Rs 10,000 per person will be payable before 31st January 2019. If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Odyssey Tours & Travels.
2. At the time of making the booking, please send a copy of the first page of your passport
3. Balance payment is to be made by 15th February 2019.
4. All rates are subject to a revision if there is a fluctuation in the currency rates.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

1. Should you be forced to amend / cancel the booking you must fill and sign the amendment / cancellation advice, which will entail cancelling your particular reservation, thereby the cancellation charges will apply. Should you wish to cancel any part of a confirmed booking / reservation all such cancellations must be advised in writing. Given below is the cancellation policy.
2. Payment of the booking deposit constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions.
3. Cancellation of a reservation due to any visa being rejected will amount to cancellation charges being levied as per the scale mentioned below and Odyssey Tours & Travels will not be responsible for any visa rejection by the respective consulates.
4. Cancellation of any reservations are subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Cancellation effected before 15th February 2015 will attract a service fee of Rs 5000 p
 - b. Cancellation effected between 45 to 30 days prior to departure will attract a cancellation charge of 30% of the tour cost.
 - c. Cancellation effected 29 – 15 days prior to departure will attract a cancellation charge of 50% of the tour cost
 - d. Cancellation effected 14 days prior to departure will attract a cancellation charge of 100% of the tour cost.
 - e. No refund will be due after commencement of travel.
5. Refunds due can take upto 5 weeks to process.