

GARDENS &
GALLERIES
OF JAPAN
SMALL GROUP TOUR



Gardens & Galleries of Japan

"A deluxe tour steeped in horticultural richness, spiritual Zen and culture preserved at various UNESCO World Heritage Sites & Museums, with visits to award winning galleries"

Small Group Tour

Gardens & Galleries of Japan is once in a lifetime tour taking you to the finest Japanese Gardens. Our tour is created in such a way that you will experience not only the incredible beauty of these gardens but also the stunning natural landscapes that inform their design. Our Japanese Garden Expert will accompany you throughout explaining the concepts and execution of the different styles of Japanese Gardens. You will visit gardens in Tokyo, Kamakura, Kanazawa, Kyoto and Shimane that best exemplify the three main types of Japanese gardens: tea gardens, sand & stone gardens, and promenade gardens. These include Kenrokuen, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan, and the Adachi Art Museum Garden which has been crowned the best Japanese landscape garden for twelve years running by the Journal of Japanese Gardens.



GROUP SIZE: MIN 1/ MAX 16 **DURATION:** 11 Nights / 12 days

Tour Fare:

Twin Sharing:	GBP3,850	USD5,400	AUD7,080
EUR4,550			

Single Room:	GBP4,300	USD5,990	AUD7,850
EUR5,150			

**If you are willing to share a room with someone of the same gender on this tour, we will do our best to match you with a travel partner. However, if we are unable to find a suitable room mate, single room price will apply.*

ACCOMMODATION CATEGORY:

- 9 Nights Superior & Deluxe Western
- 2 nights Japanese Style Ryokan

LOCAL GUIDES:

Less than 6 People: Local guides & assistants at each location

More than 6 People: English speaking Tour Leader throughout + local guides in places

Tour Dates:

2019:

MaR 31 – Apr 11
May 12 – May 23`
Sept 24 – Oct 5
Nov 12 – 23

2020:

March 27 - April 7
May 10 – 21
Sept 23 – Oct 04
Nov 12 – 23

Flowers in Season:

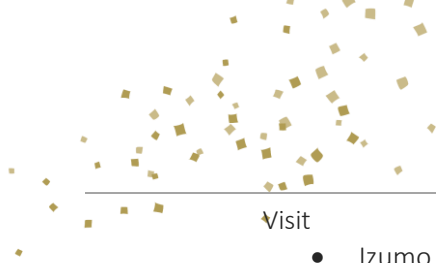
Cherry Blossoms
Peony & Water Iris
Red Spider Lily
Autumn Colours



Itinerary

Itinerary in Brief		Accommodation
DAY 1	<p>Arrive in Tokyo Airport</p> <p>Transfer to your hotel in Tokyo</p> <p>Meet your group in the hotel lobby at 6pm</p> <p>Welcome dinner at local restaurant (pay locally)</p>	
	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Enjoy a full-day private guided tour of Tokyo City</p> <p>Meet our local Tokyo guide who will take you on a full-day guided tour</p> <p>Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamarikyu Garden • Tsukiji outer fish market • Sushi Lunch (Pay locally) • Asakusa Kannon Temple and Nakamise Shopping Arcade • Meiji Shrine & Yoyogi Park • Shibuya Scramble Crossing 	
DAY 2	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Day trip to Kamakura</p> <p>Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engakuji • Great Buddha • Hasedera Temple <p>Evening free time in Tokyo</p>	<p>Chinzanso Hotel (or similar 5*)</p> <p><i>Breakfast daily & Welcome Dinner</i></p>
DAY 3	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Travel to Kanazawa by bullet train</p> <p>Meet our local Kanazawa guide who will take you on a tour</p> <p>Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenrokuen Garden • Higashi Chaya District • Free time or optional visit to 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art (local payment required) 	<p>Kanazawa Hotel Nikko (or similar 4*)</p> <p><i>Breakfast included</i></p>
DAY 4	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Transfer to Kyoto by train</p> <p>Afternoon highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saihoji Temple Moss Garden (subject to availability) 	<p>Kyoto Hotel Granvia (or similar 5*)</p> <p><i>Breakfast Daily</i></p>
DAY 5		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arashiyama Bamboo Forest Grove Torokko Train Ride to Ryoanji Rock Garden <p>Evening highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nanzenji Temple illumination (Optional. Please pay locally.) 	
<i>DAY 6</i>	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Meet our local Kyoto guide who will take you on full-day guided tour</p> <p>Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nijo Castle Ginkakuji (Silver Pavillion) Gion District (Geisha district) Walk 	
<i>DAY 7</i>	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Free day in Kyoto</p> <p>Optional Tours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ikebana Workshop (Flower Arrangement) Nara Todaiji Temple, Deer Park, & Kasuga Shrine Hiroshima and Miyajima island (UNESCO World Heritage Sites) <p>Both tours can be done as a self-guided tour, not adding any cost to your overall tour. Private tour guide can be booked as optional. Ikebana workshop will cost extra. Enquire with your tour consultant for up to date prices.</p>	
<i>DAY 8</i>	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Transfer to Matsue by bullet train</p> <p>Matsue afternoon highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horikawa Boat Sightseeing Tour Yuushien Garden Illumination <p>Dinner & hot springs at your Japanese style hotel</p>	<p>Hotel Ichibata (or similar Japanese Style Ryokan)</p>
<i>DAY 9</i>	<p>Breakfast at your ryokan</p> <p>Today's highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adachi Musuem and Tea Ceremony Matsue Castle <p>Dinner & hot springs at your Japanese style hotel</p>	<p><i>Breakfast & Kaiseki Dinner Daily</i></p>
<i>DAY 10</i>	<p>Breakfast at your ryokan</p>	<p>Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa (or similar 4*)</p>

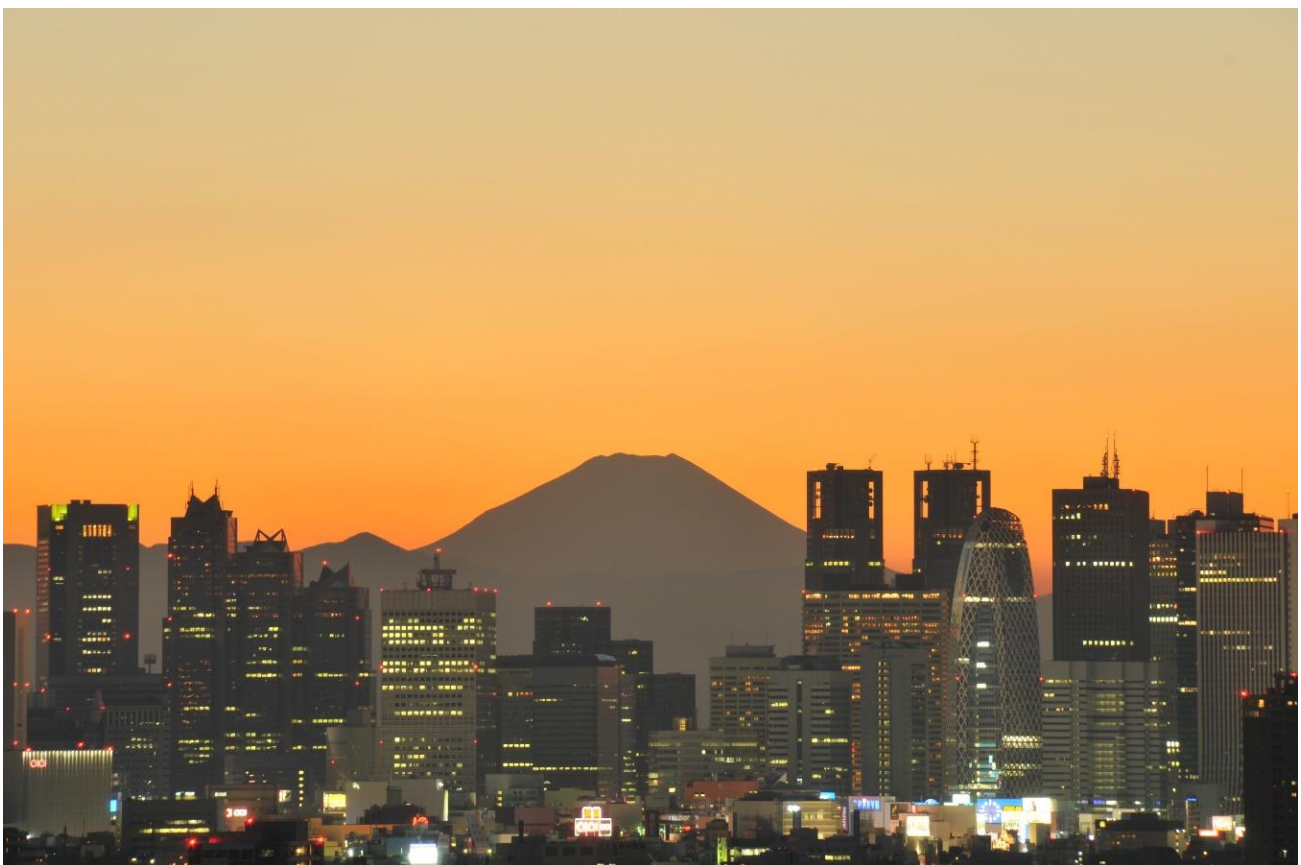


	Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none">Izumo Taisha Shrine Internal flight to Tokyo from Izumo Airport Transfer to Tokyo hotel	Breakfast Daily
DAY 11	Breakfast at your hotel Free day in Tokyo	
	Breakfast at your hotel	
DAY 12	Transfer to Narita or Haneda Airport by limousine bus	
	Tour ends	

Destination Highlight

Tokyo

One quarter of all Japanese live in Tokyo or the near vicinity and with a population of over 12 million inhabitants, Tokyo is one of the largest cities in the world. With its huge skyscrapers, underpasses, overpasses and crowds of pedestrians, Tokyo may not seem the most attractive city on the surface, but the city has a vibrant charm all of its own. The street level detail is what makes Tokyo such an incredibly interesting place to explore and at every turn you will be met with an array of sights, sounds and smells to enliven the senses. The city has many major sights to visit such as Senso-ji Temple in the old downtown area of Asakusa or the fashion hub of Shibuya from where all new trends are said to emanate. All in all a stay in Tokyo is to experience one of the world's most vibrant and interesting cities; a capital hurtling headlong into the future whilst maintaining its links with the traditions of ancient Japan.



Kamakura

Kamakura is located one hour from Tokyo Station on the JR Yokosuka Line. This charming coastal town was capital of Japan between 1185 and 1333, a turbulent and bloody time in Japan's history. Today Kamakura is a haven of tranquillity and is home to many secluded temples and shrines which once you leave the main tourist trail you will often have to yourself. Engakuji is one of the leading Zen temples in Japan and the second most important of Kamakura's five great Zen temples. Built into the slopes of Kita-Kamakura's forested hills and surrounded by maple trees, Engakuji is set in stunning surrounds. There is a lovely walk through the hills from North Kamakura to the famous Big Buddha at Kotokuin Temple. Along the way you can visit the money washing shrine, Zeniarai-benten, where money washed in the sacred waters is said to double its value! You will also visit Hasedera Temple home to an 11-headed wooden statue of Kannon, hand-carved by the monks of the temple. Enjoy stunning views out over Kamakura Bay and be sure to explore the amazing underground cave-temple. In the evening will return to Tokyo and enjoy some free time in the capital.



Kanazawa

Kanazawa is a lovely small city close to the Sea of Japan coast. Until the turn of the century it was the 4th biggest city in Japan. However, its wealth was built on rice production and traditional crafts such as weaving and gold leaf and with the full scale industrialisation of the country Kanazawa was somewhat left behind. Today the city is flourishing again and still maintains a lot of its old charms. There are several small geisha districts and one where you can go inside an old tea house and see where the clients were entertained and even take tea yourself (sadly no longer served by geisha!). There are also samurai houses, a ninja temple and the city's most famous sight, the beautiful Kenrokuen garden rated as one of the three best promenade gardens in the whole of Japan.





Kenrokuen Garden - Profile

Kanazawa's Kenrokuen is one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan. The name Kenroku-en means "garden combining six characteristics" and is rooted in the idea that it serves the six aspects considered most important in creating the ideal garden. These aspects are: spaciousness, serenity, venerability, scenic views, subtle design and coolness. Kenrokuen is designed as a walking garden which should be enjoyed by strolling through its grounds. Different sections of the garden use gardening techniques from different periods and incorporate various features to create a unique "flow" throughout the garden. These features (ponds, hills, streams) have special symbolic resonance based cultural aesthetics derived from classical literature and art. The Kotoji-toro stone lantern is one such example, designed to resemble the bridge on a koto, a stringed musical instrument that is the national instrument of Japan. With roughly 8,750 trees, and 183 species of plants in total, Kenrokuen is every garden enthusiast's dream.

Kyoto

Oozing with tradition, Kyoto is the ultimate destination for anybody who wants to soak up time-honoured Japanese culture. Home to 17 UNESCO World Heritage sites, over 1,600 Buddhist temples and 400 Shinto shrines, this ancient city showcases the heart and soul of traditional Japan. Kyoto boasts an array of world-class gardens, majestic festivals and delicate cuisine, all of which make much of the rhythms of nature and the changing of the seasons. On first glance however, visitors will see that like any large Japanese city, grid-like Kyoto has its fair share of neon and concrete. But the discerning eye will soon pick out Kyoto's treasures: sacred shrines tucked in among shopping arcades, time-honoured teahouses nestling among modern businesses and mysterious geisha scuttling down backstreets among the tourists and souvenirs. Kyoto's charm lies in these details and whether you're here for three days or three years, the closer you look, the more you'll discover. Your tour leader will guide through your introduction to Kyoto which includes: Saihouji Temple & Garden (subject to availability), Arashiyama scenic sightseeing, Torokko Train Ride, and Nanzenji Evening Light-Up.





Saihouji Temple & Moss Garden - Profile

Saihō-ji is a Zen Buddhist temple famed for its moss garden. Indeed Saiho-ji is acclaimed by many as Kyoto's most beautiful garden and is a registered UNESCO World Heritage Site as part of the "Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto". The moss garden takes the form of a circular promenade based around a central pond. The pond is shaped like the Chinese character for 'heart' and contains three small islands. Over 100 varieties of moss

cover the area surrounding the pond. The gardens of Saihō-ji are collectively considered to be both a historical landmark and a "special place of scenic beauty" in Japan. Our Japanese Garden Expert will take you through Saiho-ji explaining the significance of the garden's features and how it exemplifies the zen-style of Japanese garden.

Arashiyama & Nanzenji Light-up - Profile

To the west, Arashiyama is famous for its mountain views especially with autumn leaves and is a fantastic opportunity to see this foliage in a natural landscape. These landscapes heavily influence the design of Japanese gardens and visiting Arashiyama and riding the Torokko Sightseeing Train through such beautiful natural scenery can only help deepen your appreciation of the gardens that we visit. In the

evening you have the option of visiting Nanzenji Temple which holds spectacular evening light-up events for a limited time in autumn to allow visitors view the stunningly illuminated autumn foliage.



Nara

Nara lies just 40 minutes by local train from Kyoto and is renowned for the wealth of its Buddhist and Shinto heritage. Nara was formerly the end of the Silk Road and was for this reason the area which first saw Buddhist teaching making the transition across the ocean from China. The daibutsu or big Buddha is hugely impressive as is the huge wooden structure which houses it, to this day the world's largest wooden building despite the current structure being a third smaller than the original. The myriad of shrines and temples are all set against the backdrop of the low lying mountains and in the midst of Nara Park, which is famously home to a vast population of pesky deer. Given half a chance they'll happily munch on your guide books, umbrellas, scarves, and about anything else they can get their noses into! You can also buy official deer cookies to feed them with but do so at your own peril.

Hiroshima

Hiroshima is a city that needs little introduction. It is of course infamous for being the site of one of two atomic bombs dropped on Japan at the end of the Second World War. Despite it's tragic past, Hiroshima is now a bustling and vibrant city which has risen phoenix-like from the ashes. The Peace Park and Museum are a poignant reminder of the reason for Hiroshima's fame and everyone should spend an afternoon in this part of town. Other attractions in Hiroshima include Hiroshima Castle and the baseball stadium. The Shukkei-en garden is well worth an afternoon stroll with a number of tea houses dotted about the grounds. The Hiroshima Prefectural Museum of Art contains some wonderful paintings by both Japanese and Western artists. There is also the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art which has many pieces inspired by the 1945 bombing. There are also some great views of the city from here. The local food is okonomiyaki, a kind of Japanese savoury pancake. You choose the ingredients and then cook the pancake yourself at your table.



Miyajima Island

Miyajima Island, located just off the coast of Hiroshima, is one of Japan's most loved places with a charming rural atmosphere to match the beautiful surroundings. The island is perhaps best known for the red torii gate of Itsukushima Shrine which appears to be floating in the sea. In the evening this gate and the shrine behind it (as well as other traditional buildings in the area) are floodlit and the atmosphere is magical. A cable car takes you to fantastic views across the Inland Sea from Mount Misen, the highest point of the island. There are many pleasant walks on Miyajima among the temples and along the bustling shopping street in the island's small village. You may also see some of the island's native fauna; the sacred deer are easy to spot as they roam freely, but you'll have to work a little harder to spot any of the resident monkey population; keep your eyes peeled! Miyajima is a wonderful place to slow down, unwind and relax, so take your time and let the magic of this island enchant you!



Matsue

Matsue, located in rural Shimane, is Japan's best kept secret. Such a well-kept secret that the popular cartoon character Yoshida-kun frequently quips that no one in Japan can find Shimane on a map even though the area is known as the birthplace of Japan and the home of the gods. The Horikawa Sightseeing Boat offers visitors a fascinating and unique perspective of Matsue Castle and the old-town area as they explore its moat and canal network. You can get a real sense of the atmosphere of this old castle town by walking along Shiomi Nawate Street which runs parallel to the moat and be sure to visit the finely preserved buke yashiki or samurai residence. Other highlights include a delicious traditional kaiseki dinner at your ryokan and Lake Shinji's fabulous sunsets.



Yuushien Garden - Profile

East of Matsue, on Daikonshima Island, is the beautiful Yuushien garden. Yuushien is a traditional walk-through garden with carp-filled ponds, streams, and waterfalls and is most famous for its 250 types of peony flower. In spring, early-flowering peonies are painstakingly transplanted by hand into the large central pond transforming the heart of the garden into one gigantic garland of cascading colours. In autumn, Yuushien holds magical evening illuminations that turn the streams and ponds into reflecting pools that capture and magnify the vibrant colours of Japan's spectacular autumn foliage. On this evening you will be one of the lucky few who visit these amazing illuminations.



Adachi Museum of Art Japanese Gardens - Profile

The Adachi Museum of Art's Japanese Garden has been ranked as the number one garden in Japan for twelve consecutive years by the Journal for Japanese Gardening. The museum and its garden are located in the small town of Yasugi in beautiful rural Shimane. Adachi is actually host to six different types of Japanese garden which surround the Museum building. The six gardens comprise of a Dry Landscape Garden, Moss Garden, Garden of Juryu-an, White Gravel & Pine Garden, Pond Garden, and Kikaku Waterfall Garden. One of the keys to the beauty of these gardens is how well they sit within and compliment the stunning natural scenery that surrounds them. The museum exhibits are also of exceptional quality lending to the sense of the Adachi Art Museum & Garden as an aesthetic paradise.

Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine - Profile

Japan's oldest shrine is located outside the picturesque village of Taisha-machi. Pass under the massive torii gate that marks the entrance to the grounds of the shrine and follow on either side of the central pathway lined with pine trees until you reach the Main Hall, the tallest shrine building in Japan. Continue on to the Worship Hall where you will be greeted by the sight of Japan's largest shimenawa – a huge sacred straw rope 13.5 meters in length and weighing over 5 tons – that hangs under the front ceiling of the Worship Hall..





Tour Inclusions:

Date	Service
11 Nights Accommodation	9 Nights Western Superior & Deluxe Hotel, 2 Nights Superior Ryokan with hot springs & Kaiseki dinner *We will do our best to accommodate special sleeping requests but please note that this tour has 6 nights in traditional guest houses and/or ryokans with no option for a western bed. You will be sleeping on futon in tatami matted rooms – a uniquely authentic Japanese experience)
English Speaking Tour Leader	When 6 or more are in the group you will be escorted by our English speaking tour leader. If your group is less than 6 people, you will be doing the tour on a semi-escorted basis (Met in each area by our local assistants and guides).
Airport Transfers	Arrival & departure airport/hotel transfers included
Private/Local Tour Guides	Private Guides in Tokyo, Kanazawa, Kyoto & Matsue
Entrance fees	Included into all sights listed on itinerary
Cultural Activities / Experiences	Tea Ceremony (Matsue), Calligraphy/Meditation (optional) at Saihouji, World Heritage Temples & Shrines in Kyoto, Bullet train journeys, Japanese gardens, Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement (optional)), Samurai Castle in Matsue, Tokyo sights
Meals	Breakfast daily, 3 evening meals

UJT's Additional Services:

Standard on all of our trips to Japan are the following services:

- ✓ Comprehensive tailor-made travel pack
- ✓ Local Emergency Contact
- ✓ All taxes and service charges
- ✓ Financial Protection
- ✓ Installment Payment Plan (optional)

Not Included:

- Meals other than those detailed above
- International Flights
- Baggage Handling (Don't worry, we will advise on how and when to send)
- Tour Guide / Driver Gratuity (optional)
- Pre or Post Nights (available on all small group tours)

UJT's Essential Travel Pack

At Unique Japan Tours we aim to make your adventures in Japan run as smoothly as possible. To facilitate this we will provide a detailed Travel Pack, tailor-made for your specific trip including:

- ✓ Tips, hints and information covering subjects as diverse as transport, food, language and bathing etiquette!
- ✓ Detailed step-by-step itinerary
- ✓ Destination guides giving you up to date information on each place you visit.
- ✓ Local Area Maps, Vouchers, and Emergency contact details.

Why Choose Unique Japan Tours?

1. FULLY BONDED – FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Unique Japan Tours is a member of the The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited, so rest assured, your tour is fully protected no matter what country you are paying from. Full details of this will be clearly explained in our terms and conditions.



2. 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE WITH JAPAN

UJT's Founder, Darina Slattery MBS, BA (hons), began her research over 20 years ago at Meiji Gakuin University in Tokyo. Today, she leads a team of Japan travel experts, working with hundreds of local suppliers in Japan directly, selling tours to Japan globally. This **invaluable knowledge & expert advice** will ensure you make the most out of your time and money spent in Japan.



3. A PERSONAL SERVICE & FAMILY FRIENDLY

Our work ethic is **family & customer focused**. Darina grew up in the hotel industry (family-run) where hospitality and service were key to its success. UJT prides itself on offering a professional **personal service** from start to finish. We also welcome face-to-face meetings in our city centre Dublin office (54 Dawson Street, Dublin 2).

4. FULLY FLEXIBLE & TAILOR-MADE

If this trip does not suit your needs, then why not ask for a Tailor Made Trip or have a look at any of our other small group tours. Our range of tours vary and cover the length and breath of Japan. And remember, our team of Japan Travel Experts are capable of just about anything when it comes to traveling in Japan.

5. JAPAN BASED

Our Japan based operation, **UJT Services G.K.** based in Tokyo is ready to help/assist you on the ground offering peace of mind throughout every step of your journey. You will be provided with an emergency and local phone number to contact at any time, if the need arises. Our team in Japan are a mix of Japanese and International staff, all of whom will know your tour inside out!





Useful Information

Below you will find the process on how Unique Japan Tours booking process works. If, for any reason, we have to make any changes, we will inform you in advance.

- ✓ Read and agree our **Full [Terms & Conditions](#)**
- ✓ Pay your **non-refundable booking deposit** to secure your place
- ✓ Once secured, you are not required to do anything else until closer to the date. We will be in touch with you as necessary with updates on hotels and any other services
- ✓ Fill out your details on your own Unique Japan Tours **[Travel Portal](#)** (your travel consultant will send you this once deposit is received)
- ✓ Final Payment is due 8 weeks prior. Payments can be made online or by bank transfer. Stage payments may be requested depending on your tour. Payment dates will be clearly stated on your final invoice.
- ✓ Your **Travel Pack** is sent to your postal address **2 weeks prior** to your start date (if you need it sooner we can be flexible but advance notice is needed)



How to Book

To secure your place on **Gardens & Galleries of Japan** Tour we require a (non-refundable) booking deposit of €250 / USD300 / GBP200 / AUD350 per person.

Pay Deposit Online: <https://www.uniquejapantours.com/online-payment/>

Tour Reference: Booking Deposit **Tour Name:** Gardens & Galleries of Japan