

# TOUR DOSSIER

JAPAN  
DISCOVERED  
SMALL GROUP TOUR



# Japan Discovered

## 13 Nights / 14 Days

*"A contrast of traditional and modern Japan, unforgettable experiences and visits to some of Japan's must-see UNESCO World Heritage Sites and hidden gems".*

If your dream is to see Japan's highlights while experiencing some of its culture and popular destinations, then Japan Discovered two-week tour is the perfect choice for you. Glittering cities, rural towns & villages, history & heritage, gardens & wildlife, local festivals, cultural experiences, and a taste of real local foods; just some of the best bits on this trip!



## TOUR DATES:

### 2020:

- March 25 – April 07 (Cherry Blossom)
- April 10 – 23 (Cherry Blossom & Takayama Festival)
- May 10 – 23 (Sumo Special)
- September 06 – 19 (Sumo Special)
- October 05 – 18 (Takayama Festival)
- November 25 – December 07 (Autumn Leaves)
- December 27 – January 09 (Christmas/New Year)

### 2021:

- March 24 – April 06 (Cherry Blossom)
- April 06 – 19\* (Takayama Festival (*itinerary reversed*))
- May 09 – 22 (Sumo Special)
- September 05 – 18 (Sumo Special)
- October 05 – 18 (Takayama Festival)
- October 30 – November 12 (Autumn Leaves)
- December 27 – January 09 (Christmas/New Year)

## TOUR PRICES:

Twin/Double Sharing:	€4,650		£3,950		US\$5,100		AU\$7,650
Single Room Throughout:	€5,750		£4,900		US\$6,300		AU\$9,400

Prices are per person. All prices are subject to change at any time. Please check our website [www.uniquejapantours.com](http://www.uniquejapantours.com) for up-to-date pricing and additional seasonal supplements.

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# Tour Itinerary

Itinerary in Brief		Accommodation
DAY 1	<p>Arrive in Tokyo Narita or Haneda Airport</p> <p>Met on arrival by your driver / Transfer to Tokyo hotel</p> <p>Tokyo Meet your group in hotel lobby at 6pm</p> <p>Welcome dinner at local restaurant</p> <p>Breakfast at your hotel</p>	Shibuya Tokyu Excel Hotel (2 nights)
	<p><b>★ TOKYO CITY SIGHTSEEING ★</b> <i>WITH LOCAL GUIDE 09.00 – 17:00</i></p> <p>Our popular Tokyo day tour includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tsukiji Outer Fish Market</li> <li>• Hamrikyu Garden</li> <li>• Tokyo River Cruise to Asakusa area</li> <li>• Asakusa Kannon Temple &amp; Shopping Street</li> <li>• Edo Museum or Skytree (if museum is closed)</li> </ul> <p>Evening free time / Your tour leader will give you guidance on where to go after dark!</p>	
DAY 2	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Check out and get ready to leave Tokyo!</p> <p>Depending on the group size, we will take a coach or bullet train to Nagano (Journey time approx. 3 hours)</p>	Senjugaku Ryokan (1 night / Japanese Style)
DAY 3	<p>Tokyo ↓↓ Yudanaka Onsen</p> <p><b>★ Jigokudani Snow Monkeys ★</b></p> <p>We will visit Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park where you can watch the wild monkeys bath in the natural hot spring bath out in the open. You will be required to walk 1km on a mountain path way. So wear comfortable and appropriate shoes!</p> <p><b>Highlight:</b> Dinner &amp; Hot Springs (onsen) at your ryokan</p> <p>*Tonight you will sleep on a futon mattress on tatami flooring. If you have any issues or prefer to request a bed, be sure to tell us as early as possible! Most ryokans have only a few rooms with western style beds in them (if any at all)</p>	

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**DAY 4**

Yudanaka  
↓↓  
Matsumoto  
↓↓  
Takayama

Breakfast at your hotel

Check out of your ryokan  
Move to Matsumoto.

Visit:

- **Highlight:** Matsumoto Castle (stunning original samurai castle)

Transfer to Takayama through scenic route through the mountains and river (Stunning Scenic Drive)

Check into your hotel / Free time

Breakfast at your hotel

★ **TAKAYAMA WALKING TOUR** ★  
WITH LOCAL GUIDE 09.00 – 13:00

Guided tour of Takayama including:

**DAY 5**

Takayama

- Takayama Morning Market
- Kusakabe Folk Park
- Takayama Yatai Kaikan (Festival Float Hall)
- Takayama Jinya (preserved Government town hall)

**Highlight:** Our April & October tours will have the added bonus of the lively **TAKAYAMA FESTIVAL**. Changes to above flow/itinerary are inevitable. We will alter according to our local guides recommendation.

Breakfast at your hotel

Check out and move to Gokayama rural region by minivan/coach

★ **GOKAYAMA CULTURE DAY** ★  
WITH LOCAL GUIDE 09.00 – 17:00

**DAY 6**

Takayama  
↓↓  
Gokayama  
↓↓  
Kanazawa

Cultural activities include:

- **Washi (rice) paper making** (take home your work of art)
- **Highlight:** **Cookery Class:** Soba noodle making followed by lunch
- **Lunch** at Soba Noodle restaurant
- Gassho Zukkuri 400 year old **Farmhouse villages**
- Enjoy a hot **cup of roasted tea** by the original **open fire** & meet **the local farmers & workers!**

Transfer from Gokayama to Kanazawa by coach/minivan

Check into your hotel Free time this evening ~ explore Kanazawa at night – you'll be pleasantly surprised!

**Takayama Green Hotel**  
(2 nights)

**Kanazawa Nikko Hotel**  
(1 night)

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Breakfast at your hotel

Check out and leave bags in storage

**DAY 7**

★ **KANAZAWA Morning Tour** ★  
*WITH LOCAL GUIDE 09.00 – 13:00*

Kanazawa  
↓↓  
Kyoto

**Visit:**

- Kenrokuen Garden (considered one of the top 3 gardens in Japan)
- Higashi Chaya District (Old Samurai/Geisha District)
- **Highlight:** Authentic Tea Ceremony

Transfer to Kyoto by express train

Free time Kyoto

Breakfast at your hotel

**DAY 8**

★ **KYOTO City Sightseeing** ★  
*WITH LOCAL GUIDE 09.00 – 17:00*

Kyoto

**Visit:**

- Nijo Castle
- Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)
- Lunch at local restaurant
- Arashiyama Bamboo Forest
- Fushimi Inari Shrine (10,000 Tori Gates)

**Kyoto Hotel Okura**  
*(3 nights)*

Breakfast at your hotel

Free day in Kyoto

**DAY 9**

Kyoto

**OPTIONAL TOURS**  
*(Pre-Booking Recommended)*

- Ancient **Nara** & Modern **Osaka**
- Spiritual Temples of **Koyasan**
- **GOLF** in Kobe (incl. lunch, green fees, rental, & transfers)
- Kyoto **Cultural Experience**, e.g. Kimono Workshop, Ikebana Workshop, Cookery Class, etc.

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<b>DAY 10</b>  Kyoto ↓↓ Hiroshima ↓↓ Miyajima Island	Breakfast at your hotel Transfer to Hiroshima by bullet train  <div style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">           ★ <b>HIROSHIMA &amp; MIYAJIMA Tour</b> ★  <i>WITH LOCAL GUIDE 10.00 – 17:00</i> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atomic Bomb Dome</li> <li>Peace Memorial Park &amp; Museum</li> <li>Itsukushima Shrine</li> </ul> Check into your ryokan.  <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;"> <b>Highlight:</b> Dinner &amp; Onsen at your ryokan         </div>	<b>Arimoto Miyajima</b> <i>(1 night Japanese Style)</i>
<b>DAY 11</b>  Miyajima Island ↓↓ Hakone	Breakfast at your ryokan  Check out and move back to Hiroshima to catch the bullet train  Transfer by Bullet Train to Hakone (approx. journey time will be 5 hours)  <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;"> <b>Highlight:</b> Dinner &amp; Onsen at your ryokan         </div>	<b>Setsugetsuka Ryokan</b> <i>(1 night Japanese Style)</i>
<b>DAY 12</b>  Hakone ↓↓ Tokyo	Breakfast at your ryokan  Explore Hakone by a scenic cable car ride and a refreshing cruise on Lake Ashi which will hopefully allow the perfect view of Mt Fuji  Transfer to Tokyo / Arrive by late afternoon  Free time	<b>Shibuya Tokyu Excel Hotel</b> <i>(2 nights)</i>
<b>DAY 13</b>	Breakfast at your hotel  Free time in Tokyo  Join our Farewell dinner (included)	
<b>DAY 14</b>	Breakfast at your hotel  Transfer to Haneda or Narita Airport by our local transfer company	<b>Tour Ends🎉</b>  Post-Tour nights available on request!

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# Destination Highlights

## 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.



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## Matsumoto

Matsumoto is an alpine city surrounded on all sides by the towering peaks of the Japan Alps and has an almost European feel to it. The city is most famous for its original castle which is only a short distance from the station. This is one of the only original castles in Japan and really gives you a sense of ancient Japan and how the samurai used to live and fight. The city also boasts a number of sake breweries, hidden in the backstreets amongst the traditional buildings, a good museum of Ukiyoe woodblock prints, and is the home of soba noodles, the local speciality which is particularly delicious. The city has a relaxed atmosphere and a cosmopolitan feel befitting of a city renowned for its musicians and authors. The famous violin teacher, Suzuki (of the Suzuki method) originated from Matsumoto and you will find a commemorative statue on the street opposite the station.



## Nagano

After the hustle and bustle of Tokyo, you will move onto a rural village less than one hour by train and bus from Nagano city to a tiny place called Kanbayashi or Yudanaka Onsen in Nagano prefecture. This is home to the famous 'Snow Monkeys' – the wild monkeys that live up in the mountains but come down in the cold to get warm (and get fed!) at a natural open-air hot spring bath. Here you will stay in a beautiful local ryokan.



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## Takayama

Mountains in Japan were once believed to be the sacred dwelling places of divine spirits and the Hida, Kiso and Akaishi ranges of Mountains, known collectively as the Japan Alps rise majestically in northern Honshu. Takayama, in the heart of the Hida Mountains is a delightful town, established in the 16th century as the castle town of the Kanamori family and now famous throughout Japan for its old town area of narrow streets containing many well-preserved inns, tea houses, shops and merchants houses with the latticed windows and overhanging roofs characteristic of the Edo period. The town was also renowned throughout the Edo era (1603-1868) for the very high quality of its craftsmen



and many of the temples in Kyoto were built by workers from Takayama. The town has many shrines and temples of its own giving rise to the title of 'Little Kyoto'. Just on the outskirts of the town is the fascinating Hida folk village where old farm houses from across the Hida region have been brought together and rebuilt (beam by beam) on a hillside overlooking the town. Takayama's morning market on the bank of the Miyagawa River is famous and well worth a visit to see the stands selling local farm produce, flowers and crafts. There are also some great micro sake breweries affording the chance to sample the wares of Takayama's most famous product! A stay in Takayama is a chance to get a feel for a way of life that really has all but disappeared from modern Japan.

**Gokayama** Nestled along the deep gorge of Sho River, 33 Gassho-zukuri houses have been preserved in the historic villages of Gokayama including Taira and Ainokura. Your day to Gokayama will enable you to experience a variety of deep cultural activities such as washi paper making and soba noodle making.



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## Kanazawa

Kanazawa is a lovely small city close to the Japan sea 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 house and the city's most famous sight, the beautiful Kenrokuen garden rated as one of the three best stroll gardens in the whole of Japan.



## Kyoto

Brimming 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. While on first glance visitors may find themselves struck more by the ubiquitous grid-like structure of modern metropolitan Japan, a great part of the magic of Kyoto is in picking out its treasures: sacred shrines tucked in among shopping arcades, time-honoured teahouses nestling among modern businesses and the geisha of legend sweeping 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.



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## 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 its 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. 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. 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!



## Hakone / Mt Fuji

The resort town of Hakone is a popular place to seek refuge from the hustle and bustle of life in the world's most populous city. Renowned for its luxurious accommodation, stunning scenery, and well-renowned thermal waters, you will be rubbing shoulders with Tokyo's elite as they enjoy their retreat from the capital city!



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## Tour Inclusions:

Service	Description
13 Nights Accommodation*	10 nights in 4 & 5* western hotels and 3 nights in Superior Japanese style ryokans
English speaking locals/assistants along the way	When 6 or more are on 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).
Private Tour Guides	Private Guides in Tokyo, Takayama, Gokayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima & Miyajima
Airport Transfers	Arrival and Departure Airport/Hotel transfers included
Entrance Fees	Included into all sights listed on itinerary
Cultural Experiences	Tokyo Sights by Day & Night, Meet & Greet with Kyoto Geisha, World Heritage Temples and Shrines in Kyoto, bullet train journeys, Japanese Gardens, Washi Paper Making, Soba noodle making in Gokayama, Takayama Festival (April & October tours only), Snow Monkey Park, Samurai Castle in Matsumoto, Hiroshima & Miyajima day trips (optional), old Samurai postal hiking route from Tsumago to Magome (wondering through preserved villages from samurai era)
Meals	Breakfast daily, Welcome Dinner & 3 Japanese 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.

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# Top 5 Reasons to choose Unique Japan Tours

## 1. Full Financial Protection

Unique Japan Tours is a member of Total Payment Protection, 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.



AQL Number - 47571

## 2. 22 YEARS in Japan (1998 ~ )

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



## 3. Local Company in Japan – UJT Services G.K.

Our team in Japan are ready to meet & greet you on arrival offering peace of mind throughout every stage of your journey. Our team are a mix of Japanese and International staff, all of whom have lived and worked in Japan for some time.



## 4. 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 **very personal service** from start to finish. We also welcome face-to-face meetings in our Dublin city centre office (54 Dawson Street, Dublin 2).

## 5. FULLY FLEXIBLE & TAILOR-MADE

Your trip can be tailored exactly the way you want it. If you fancy adding in Sumo tickets, or an evening with a Kyoto Geisha, just ask! The crazier the request, the happier we are in making sure you get the very best out of your time in Japan.

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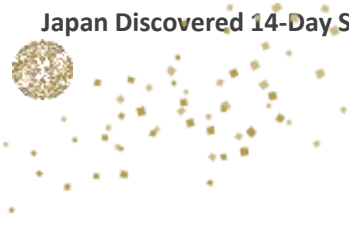


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## Useful Information

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
- ✓ Send us your flight details as soon as you have them in order to book the correct transfer for you on arrival and departure. E-Tickets are preferred to avoid any errors.
- ✓ **Final Payment** is due 8 weeks prior. Payments can be made online or by bank transfer.
- ✓ 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 **Japan Discovered** 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:** Japan Discovered

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