

GARDENS &  
GALLERIES  
OF JAPAN  
SMALL GROUP TOUR



TOUR DOSSIER



## TOUR DOSSIER

# Gardens & Galleries



*"Welcome to the start of your Unique Japan Journey!"*



*Our team are really looking forward to planning your trip to Japan.  
If you have any questions, at any time, feel free to get in touch".*

**Please quote the following reference when contacting us:**

## **GARDENS & GALLERIES OF JAPAN**

**We can be reached on any of these numbers:**



**IRL:** +353 (0)1 6787008 (9am – 5.30pm)

**UK:** +44 (0)20-3239-2519 (9am – 5.30pm)

**USA:** +1 347-688-3952 (8am – 3pm)

**Email:** [info@uniquejapantours.com](mailto:info@uniquejapantours.com)

As a result of the **Covid-19 Pandemic**, changes in accordance with WHO guidelines and advice will be implemented on all of our tours. Full updates will be sent to you in advance and can be viewed online: [uniquejapantours.com](http://uniquejapantours.com)

### **Unique Japan Tours**

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# TOUR DOSSIER

## Gardens & Galleries



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# TOUR DOSSIER

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### 1. Why Choose Unique Japan Tours?

#### 1. FULLY BONDED – FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Unique Japan Tours is a member of Total Payment Protection who fully guarantee and protect financial transactions between you and Unique Japan Tours. 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. Small Groups with NO MINIMUM NUMBER POLICY

Our groups have always been intimate in size. We prefer quality over quantity. For that reason, our average group size averages at 8-12 people (maximum 16 guaranteed). Since our tours started in 2007, and unlike many other operators out there, we have never cancelled a tour because of insufficient numbers. If we get less than the minimum number to run a tour (currently set at 6 people), don't worry. We have years of experience designing a semi-escorted version of the same tour. The only difference to you will be instead of having a full-time tour leader throughout, you will be met on arrival at each destination by local guides and assistants - almost like your own private tour!! [See Inclusions on Page 14]

#### 3. Local Team with 24/7 Emergency Helpline

Our local company UJT Services G.K. [also owned by Unique Japan Tours], will oversee all operations of your trip from start to finish. Our team in Tokyo are busy working behind the scenes ensuring each tour runs smoothly, in real time! So, rest assured, no matter what your problem may be, we will be with you all the way. While on our small group tours, your tour leader &/or local guides will be your key contacts for any emergencies.



#### 4. 22 Years Experience in Japan

Our founder, Darina Slattery, first visited Japan in 1998, where she studied at Tokyo's Meiji Gakuin University. Today, she leads a team of Japan travel experts, working with hundreds of local suppliers in Japan directly, and selling tours to Japan globally. This **invaluable knowledge and vast network of connections** has resulted us being able to create the most amazing itineraries for people. All our tours are tried and tested ensuring our clients gain time, memories, & savings while on your trip.



#### 5. OUR CREW – JAPAN TRAVEL EXPERTS

Our work ethic is **family & customer focused**. We are a team of 15 Japan travel experts located in Tokyo, London & Dublin. Our clients come from all over the world so you can expect diversity in the group which always adds a bit of colour!

Let's Zoom/Skype/Chat our way to finding you the best tour that suits you and your travel partners. We find speaking to you in person will save everyone time while ensuring you get the best tour suitable for you.







## 2. Tour Route & Departure Dates

### Duration: 11 Nights / 12 Days

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

**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.



### TOUR DATES:

#### 2021

- March 29 – April 9 (Cherry Blossom)
- May 9 – 20 (Poeny & Water Iris)
- Sep 24 – Oct 05 (Red Spider Lily)
- Nov 06 - 17 (Amazing Autumn Colours and & 'Welcome of the Gods' Festival in Izumo)

#### 2022:

- April 2 - 13 (Cherry Blossom)
- May 9 – 20 (Poeny & Water Iris)
- Sep 26 – Oct 07 (Red Spider Lily)
- Nov TBA (Dates announced in line with Izumo Welcome of the Gods Festival (Amazing Autumn Colours and & 'Welcome of the Gods' Festival)



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### 3. Tour Itinerary




Itinerary in Brief	Accommodation & Meals
<div data-bbox="225 555 293 627"></div> <p>Arrive into Tokyo Airport</p> <p>Transfer to your hotel in Tokyo (we will make arrangements depending on your arrival time). Transfers are door-to-door services.</p> <p>Meet your group in the hotel lobby at 18:30</p> <p>Welcome BBQ Dinner at the 400-year-old garden restaurant at New Otani Hotel</p> <p><b>DAY 1</b></p>	
<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <div data-bbox="469 974 1051 1008">★Tokyo City Sightseeing with Private Guide★</div> <p>Visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Imperial Palace East Garden</li> <li>Asakusa Sensouji Temple &amp; Area</li> <li>Sumida Hokusai Museum</li> <li>Lunch at local restaurant</li> <li>Edo Museum</li> <li>Ginza Department Store (food floor)</li> <li>Mori Art Museum &amp; Tokyo City View</li> </ul> <p>Tour ends in Roppongi Hills which is a multi-story office/shopping block. You will have the option to continue shopping etc. in Roppongi area).</p> <p><b>DAY 2</b></p> <div data-bbox="210 1167 300 1252"></div>	<p>3 Nights at</p> <p><b>New Otani Hotel – Executive Zen</b></p> <p>Breakfast Daily &amp; Welcome Garden BBQ Dinner</p>
<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <div data-bbox="400 1606 1121 1639">★Kamakura Gardens &amp; Sightseeing with Private Guide★</div> <p>Visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engakuji Temple</li> <li>Great Buddha at Kotokuin Temple</li> <li>Hasedera Temple</li> </ul> <p>Your guide may make changes to today's schedule depending on weather, seasons, and what's on!</p> <p>Return to your hotel in the evening - Free time in Tokyo</p> <p><b>DAY 3</b></p> <div data-bbox="210 1760 300 1845"></div>	



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<p><b>DAY 4</b></p> 	<p>Breakfast at your hotel. Check out. Be ready to depart at 8.30am.</p> <p>Experience riding the high speed bullet train today from Tokyo Station.</p> <p><b>Depart Tokyo:</b> 09.20am <b>Arrive Kanazawa:</b> 11.54am</p> <p>Check into your hotel. Drop bags. Lunch at local restaurant.</p> <p>Explore Kanazawa with your guide.</p> <div style="background-color: #4a86e8; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">             ★ Kanazawa Sightseeing ★         </div>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kenrokuen Garden</li> <li>• Suzuki Taisetsu Museum OR 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art (Guide will discuss on day)</li> <li>• Higashi Chaya District (old Samurai/geisha district)</li> </ul>	<p><i>1 night at</i></p> <p><b>Kanazawa Chaya</b> <i>(or similar ryokan)</i></p> <p><i>Breakfast included</i></p>
<p><b>DAY 5</b></p>  <p><i>(Free Afternoon)</i></p>	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Transfer to Kyoto by train</p> <p>Free time Kyoto. Selection of self-guided tours will be provided.</p> <p><b>Suggested Highlights:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fushimi Inari Shrine</li> <li>• Kinkakuji or Kiyomizu Temple</li> <li>• Gion District (Geisha district) Walk</li> </ul>	<p><i>3 Nights at</i></p> <p><b>Kyoto Hotel Kanra</b> <i>(or similar boutique hotel)</i></p> <p><i>Breakfast daily</i></p>



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<p><b>DAY 6</b></p> 	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>★ Special Kyoto Garden Tour ★</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toufukuji Rock Garden (Hidden Gem)</li> <li>Arashiyama Bamboo Forest Grove &amp; Guide's Secret Bamboo forest</li> <li>Lunch at a local restaurant</li> <li>Saihoji Temple Moss Garden (subject to availability)</li> </ul> <p>Your guide will decide any other places depending on the season, weather, and crowds.</p>	
<p><b>DAY 7</b></p> <p>(Free Day)</p>	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Free day in Kyoto</p> <p>Optional Activities and Tours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ikebana Workshop (Flower Arrangement)</li> <li>Kyoto Cookery Class</li> <li>Nara Tour: Todaiji Temple, Deer Park, &amp; Kasuga Shrine</li> <li>Hiroshima and Miyajima Island (UNESCO World Heritage Sites) Tour</li> </ul> <p>Enquire with your travel consultant for up to date prices.</p>	
<p><b>DAY 8</b></p>  	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Transfer to Matsue by trains</p> <p>Matsue afternoon <b>HIGHLIGHTS</b> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adachi Musuem</li> </ul> <p>Dinner &amp; hot springs at your Japanese style hotel</p>	<p>2 Nights at <b>Minami Ryokan</b></p> <p>(or similar Luxury Ryokan)</p> <p>Breakfast daily</p>
<p><b>DAY 9</b></p> 	<p>Breakfast at your ryokan</p> <p>Today's <b>HIGHLIGHTS</b> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yuushien Garden</li> <li>Matsue Castle</li> <li>Tea Ceremony</li> <li>Horikawa Boat Sightseeing Tour</li> </ul> <p>Dinner &amp; hot springs at your Japanese style hotel</p>	








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<p><b>DAY 10</b></p>	<p>Breakfast at your ryokan</p> <p>Visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>              Izumo Taisha Shrine, one of Japan's oldest and most important Shinto Shrines with <b>UNESCO World Heritage</b> Status.         </li> </ul> <p>              Internal flight Izumo → Tokyo Haneda Airport         </p> <p>Transfer to Tokyo hotel</p>	<p><i>2 Nights</i> at <b>Park Hotel Artist Room</b> (or similar boutique hotel)</p> <p><i>Breakfast daily</i></p>
<p><b>DAY 11</b></p> <p>(Free Day)</p>	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Free day in Tokyo</p>	
<p><b>DAY 12</b></p>	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Transfer to Narita or Haneda Airport by suitable transfer (we will decide the best option for your transfer when informed of your flights. Airport transfers are included from your hotel direct to airport.</p> <p>              Tour ends         </p>	



## 4. Destination Highlights

### Tokyo

One quarter of all Japanese live in Tokyo or the near vicinity and with a population of over 14 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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### 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.





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### Kenrokuen Garden

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 & Moss Garden (subject to availability), Arashiyama scenic sightseeing, Torokko Train Ride, and Nanzenji Evening Light-Up.







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### Saihouji Temple & Moss Garden

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.

## 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.

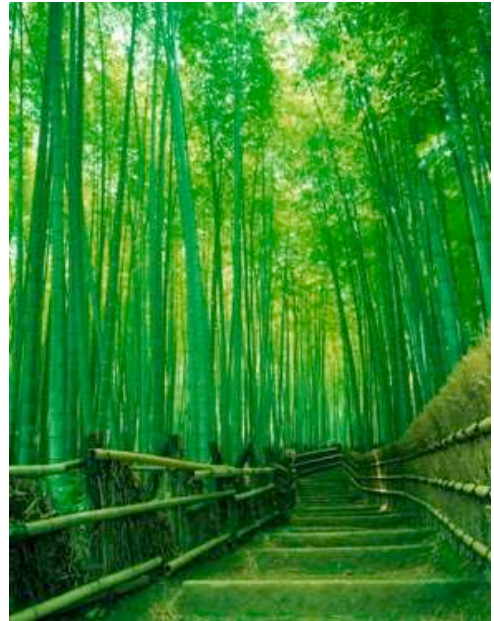




## Gardens & Galleries

### Arashiyama & Nanzenji Light-up

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.



### Hiroshima & Miyajima Island

*(Optional – visited on free day in Kyoto)*

**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. 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.





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**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. Gardens & Galleries tour will stay two nights in Matsue in a luxurious traditional ryokan, including delicious traditional kaiseki dinner and relaxing onsen baths.







## Yuushien Garden

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

The Adachi Museum of Art's Japanese Garden has been ranked as the number one garden in Japan for 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, Tea House, 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

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.







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### 5. Tour Prices & Inclusions

#### Prices:

<b>Twin/Double Sharing:</b>	€4,700		£4,250		US\$5,600		AU\$7,600
<b>Single Room Throughout:</b>	€6,250		£5,600		US\$7,450		AU\$10,150

Prices are per person. All prices are subject to change in line with exchange rate fluctuations. Check website [www.uniquejapantours.com](http://www.uniquejapantours.com) for up-to-date guaranteed prices.

Once deposit is paid, your tour price is fixed. [Book Now.](#)

#### Inclusions:

<b>Hotels &amp; Ryokans (11 nights)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9 Nights in carefully chosen Boutique &amp; 5* Properties</li> <li>- 2 Nights luxury ryokan in Matsue with hot springs &amp; dinner</li> </ul> <p>(If you prefer a western bed on two nights in the ryokan, please advise us as early as possible. All requests are subject to availability at the ryokan)</p>
<b>Fully Escorted (6 – 16):</b>	You will be escorted by our friendly English- speaking tour leaders who will travel with you from Day 1 to 12.
<b>Semi Escorted (1 - 5):</b>	You will be met in each area by our local assistants and guides on days you don't have private guides.
<b>Meals:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Welcome Dinner Garden BBQ at 5 star hotel</li> <li>✓ Breakfast daily</li> <li>✓ 2 evening meals at your ryokan (taste the seasonal local produce from Matsue)</li> </ul>
<b>Private Tour Guides:</b>	Private Guides in Tokyo, Kanazawa, Kyoto & Matsue
<b>Getting Around:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Reserved Seats on all long-distance trains</li> <li>✓ 1 Luggage transfer (Tokyo to Kyoto) (one bag per person)</li> <li>✓ Chartered vehicles, local taxis/minivans/coaches on private city tours</li> <li>✓ Internal Flight from Matsue to Tokyo</li> <li>✓ Arrival &amp; Departure Airport transfers to &amp; from hotel</li> </ul>
<b>Entrance Fees:</b>	Included into all sights listed on itinerary



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### Cultural Experiences:

- ✓ Tokyo Sightseeing & visit to some outstanding Galleries & Museums
- ✓ Kamakura Secret Spots
- ✓ Award Winning Japanese gardens
- ✓ Calligraphy/Meditation (optional) at Saihouji Moss Temple
- ✓ World Heritage Temples & Shrines in Kyoto
- ✓ Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement (optional))
- ✓ Bullet trains
- ✓ Local Cuisine & People
- ✓ Unesco World Heritage Izumo Taisha
- ✓ Traditional Tea Ceremony in Matsue
- ✓ Traditional Boat Ride in Matsue
- ✓ Samurai Castle in Matsue

## 6. What about our luggage?

When using express trains on our small group tours, we will send your large suitcases on to the next hotel (usually skipping one night). Your itinerary will clearly highlight when this will be required. On these days, you will need a small overnight bag to bring with you (similar to a carry-on bag for flights). Although this service is reliable & efficient, Unique Japan Tours cannot take any responsibility for guests' baggage. Each passenger will be required to carry your own bags at all times. Tour leaders will not be responsible for bags. Some hotels will have porter service but not all.



## 7. Complimentary Services

### UJT's Additional **Services:**

- ✓ Unique Japan Tours Travel Consultant
- ✓ Comprehensive tailor-made travel pack
- ✓ Local Emergency Contact
- ✓ All taxes and service charges
- ✓ Financial Protection

### **Not Included:**

- Meals & Beverages (not listed on itinerary)
- International Flights (request quote)
- Tour Guide / Driver Gratuity (optional)

*"At UJT, our aim is to be open and honest with all of our travellers. We hate hidden costs so will tell you where and when you will need cash while on the go!"*

*Darina Slattery, UJT Owner/Manger*

### 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 including hotel names (in both English and Japanese – good to have for taxi drivers) and daily suggested itineraries with clear details on how to make this happen!
- ✓ Customised access maps with bi-lingual train times and full instructions for every journey you will be making in Japan.
- ✓ Destination guides giving you up to date information on each place you visit.
- ✓ Local Area Maps, Vouchers, and Emergency contact details.

Any other information you have specifically requested from us.

## 8. Ready to BOOK!

To secure your place on **Gardens & Galleries** Tour we require a booking deposit of

€400 / USD500 / GBP350 / AUD600 per person.

Pay Deposit Online: <https://www.uniquejapantours.com/book-a-tour/>

**Tour Reference:** Booking Deposit

**Tour Name:** Gardens & Galleries of Japan



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### 9. Small Group Tours Checklist

When?	What to do:	Tick when complete:
Before paying deposit:	Read and agree our full <a href="#">Terms &amp; Conditions</a>	<input type="radio"/>
When ready to book:	Pay <b>Booking Deposit</b> ( <a href="#">Payment Link</a> )	<input type="radio"/>
After paying deposit up to 7 days:	Receive pro-forma invoice outlining schedule of payments. Check it. Complete <b>Booking Form</b> and send (with copy of passport) to your travel consultant	<input type="radio"/>
After paying deposit :	Take out personal/medical <b>Travel Insurance</b> . Send your policy name and details to your travel consultant	<input type="radio"/>
After paying deposit (up to 8 weeks prior):	Book your flights as soon as you have your tour secured with us (or before if you find a good deal)  <b>Send E-Ticket</b> to your UJT Travel Consultant	<input type="radio"/>
8 weeks prior	<b>Tour Balance</b> is due 8 weeks prior to the tour starting date. Pay online or by bank transfer. Details will be on your Pro-forma invoice.	<input type="radio"/>
2-3 weeks prior	Wait for your <b>Travel Pack</b> including full pre-departure details.  We will send to the postal address you provide us with. Your travel consultant will be in touch before this time to confirm address.	<input type="radio"/>
Pre-Departure	Final check you've sent all <b>Essential Documents</b> to your travel consultant:  Flight E-Tickets, Dietary Requirements (if any), Insurance Policy Name/Number, Passport Copy, Emergency Contact Name/Number	<input type="radio"/>