

TOUR DOSSIER

HIDDEN TREASURES OF JAPAN



Hidden Treasures of Japan

12 Nights / 13 Days

"A tour created to capture the essence of Japan's soul, beauty and heritage"

On **Hidden Treasure of Japan**, immerse yourself in Japan's ancient past and contrasting present. Visit some of its oldest and most magnificent temples and shrines. Enjoy the contrasting Naoshima Island, home to some of Japan's most innovative and artistic architecture and design. Experience its religious roots first hand as you become acquainted with the monks of Koyasan. Glide through the stunning Iya Valley and Ritsurin Garden. The perfect tour for those in search of a richer travel experience.



TOUR DATES:

2020:

- March 29 – April 10
- May 24 – June 05
- July 11 – July 23 (*)
- August 30 – September 11
- November 16 – 28

2021:

- February 8 – 20
- March 30 – April 11 (*)
- May 23 – June 4
- July 9 – 21
- October 23 – November 4

(*) Supplement applies – see website for exact prices

TOUR PRICES:

Twin/Double Sharing:	€4,550		£3,800		US\$4,900		AU\$7,300
Single Room Throughout:	€5,750		£4,900		US\$6,400		AU\$9,400

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

Unique Japan Tours

Email: info@uniquejapantours.com | URL: uniquejapantours.com

IRELAND: 01 6787008 | UK: 020-3239-2519 | USA: 347-688-3952



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Tour Itinerary

Itinerary in Brief

Accommodation

DAY 1

Arrive in Tokyo Narita or Haneda Airport

Met on arrival by your driver / Transfer to Tokyo hotel

Meet your group in hotel lobby at 6pm

Welcome dinner at local restaurant

Breakfast at your hotel

★ TOKYO CITY SIGHTSEEING ★
WITH LOCAL GUIDE 09:00 – 17:00

Our popular Tokyo day tour includes:

DAY 2

- Tsukiji Outer Fish Market
- Hamrikyu Garden
- Tokyo River Cruise to Asakusa area
- Asakusa Kannon Temple & Shopping Street
- Edo Museum or Skytree (if museum is closed)

Evening free time / Your tour leader will give you guidance on where to go after dark!

DAY 3

Breakfast at your hotel

Today will be a free day in Tokyo and rest-assured, there is something for everyone in this city! Today will give you the opportunity to explore and find 'Your Tokyo'. (suggested itinerary and options will be available in your travel pack)

DAY 4

Breakfast at your hotel

Check out and get ready to leave Tokyo!

Transfer to Nagoya by Bullet Train

We will take a Toyota Plant tour when available, speak to your travel consultant about whether or not this will be available on your dates

Transfer to your hotel in Ise where you can relax and enjoy dinner

Shinjuku Granbell Hotel
(or similar 4*)

Toba Hotel International
(or similar 4*)

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<p>DAY 5</p> <p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Private guided tour of Ise shrine & Mikimoto Pearl Island. Our tour day typically includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outer shrine of Ise Jingu Shrine • Oharamachi • Mikimoto Island • Pearl farming museum <p>Dinner at your hotel and evening at leisure</p>	
<p>DAY 6</p> <p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Transfer to Nara</p> <p>Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Todaji Temple & Kasuga Shrine • Nara Park • Horyuji Temple <p>Transfer to Koyasan</p> <p>Enjoy vegan friendly Shojin Ryori for dinner at your temple lodge</p>	<p>Koyasan Temple Lodge (Japanese Style)</p>
<p>DAY 7</p> <p>Morning chanting by the monks can be observed (optional)</p> <p>Breakfast at your temple lodge</p> <p>Private guided tour of Koyasan Itinerary typically includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk along the Okunoin • Garan Temple Complex • Lunch • Kongobuji <p>Transfer to Wakayama port where will take the ferry to Tokushima. Move to Iya Valley.</p> <p>Highlight: Enjoy onsen (hot spring) & kaiseki dinner at your ryokan (Japanese style hotel)</p>	<p>Hotel Kazurabashi (Superior Japanese Ryokan)</p>
<p>DAY 8</p> <p>Breakfast at your ryokan</p> <p>Private guided tour of Iya Valley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kazurabashi (vine bridge) • Iya Gorge • River Cruise 	

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Enjoy onsen (hot spring) & kaiseko dinner at your ryokan

DAY 9

Breakfast at your ryokan

Transfer to Kotohira

Highlights include:

- Kompirasan (shrine)
- Kanamazura Theatre (kabuki theatre)

Transfer to Takamatsu hotel

Highlights include:

- Ritsurin Garden

**ANA Clement Hotel
Takamatsu**
(or similar 4*)

DAY 10

Breakfast at your hotel

Ferry to Naoshima

Highlights include:

- Benesse house Museum
- Lee Ufan Museum
- Chichu Art Museum
- Art House Project

Ferry to Okayama

Transfer to Kyoto

Kyoto Century Hotel
(or similar 4*)

DAY 11

Breakfast at your hotel

Private guided tour of Kyoto

Highlights include:

- Nijo Castle
- Kinkakuji
- Heian shrine
- Gion area

DAY 12

Breakfast at your hotel

Free day in Kyoto (Suggested itinerary will be provided in your travel pack)

DAY 13

Breakfast at your hotel

Transfer to Kansai International Airport or continue on post-tour back to Tokyo or beyond. Ask our team and we will make necessary arrangements.

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Destination Highlights

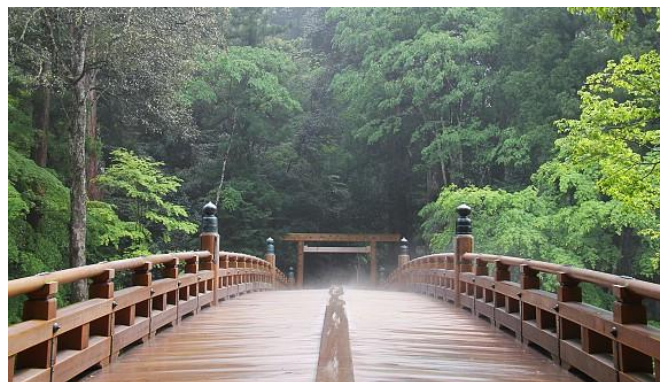
Tokyo

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.



Toba & Ise

Toba, located at the north-eastern end of Shima-hanto Peninsula in Mie, flourished as the castle town of the Kuki family who ruled this region from the 17th century. It was also a landing spot for visitors on the sea route to Ise-jingu Shrine and belongs to Ise-Shima National Park. Ise Shrine is Japan's most sacred shrine dating back to the 3rd century. It is considered to be the spiritual home of the Japanese and its national religion Shinto. There is the Outer Shrine Geku and the Inner Shrine Naiku. The inner shrine is dedicated to the worship of the sun goddess with the outer shrine dedicated to the goddess of agriculture and industry. The Naiku and Geku are rebuilt every 20 years as a part of the Shinto belief of the death and renewal of nature and as a way of passing building techniques from one generation to the next. The best time to see the rocks is at dawn during the summer, when the sun appears to rise between them. Mikimoto Shinju-to Island, Iruka-to Island and many other islands are in Ise Bay. Pearl Bridge connects the town and Mikimoto Shinju-to Island, the place where Kokichi Mikimoto succeeded in culturing pearls for the first time in the world in 1893. There is a model factory and a Pearl Museum on the island and visitors can watch the processing of pearls and an ama, or a woman diver, diving.



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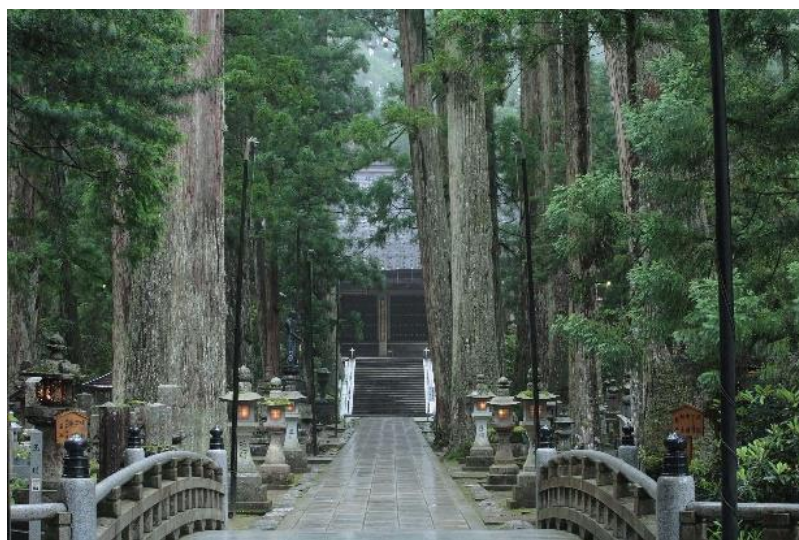
Nara

Nara 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!



Koyasan

Mount Koya (known as Koya-san in Japanese) is one of the holiest mountains in all of Japan and the plateau at the top is home to more than 100 temples and monasteries. Koya-san is the headquarters of the Shingon sect, an esoteric school of Buddhism which has over ten million members and 4,000 temples in Japan. There has been a religious community here since 816 when it was founded by a monk named Kukai after he returned from studying for two years in China. Koya is a very peaceful and beautiful wooded area and some great walking is also available. The atmosphere is truly magical and I am sure you will find this a lovely place to unwind.



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Iya Valley

The Iya Valley is considered one of Japan's three 'hidden regions' and when you see the terrain you will appreciate why! Set deep in the heart of Shikoku the area is made up of narrow river gorges and steep mountain peaks, covered in thick vegetation. The isolated location of the Iya Valley and its inhospitable terrain made it a favourite hideaway for defeated clans and exiled political dissidents in days gone by. Today modern engineering has opened up the area to cars and trains, but even so you will still get a very good idea of the true nature of the valley as the narrow roads wind their way around the edge of hillsides and tunnels bore straight through previously impassable mountains. Although now more accessible the Iya Valley remains very rural and very traditional making it a fantastic place to appreciate a side of Japan very different to the bright lights in the big cities. Activities in Iya include boat trips along the river, crossing the vine bridges (for the daring!) that once served as quick escape routes for fleeing armies, as well as simply taking in the wonderful scenery all around you.



Kotohira

Kotohira is a relatively unheard of little pilgrim town in Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's four main islands. It is home to Shikoku's most popular shrine and pilgrim destination, Kōmyōji whose main hall stands at the top of almost 800 steps, making for a challenging but rewarding ascent! Kotohira also houses the Kanamaruza which is Japan's oldest surviving, complete kabuki playhouse, built in 1835 which is still infrequently staging kabuki performances. Although a popular destination for Japanese visitors, Kotohira is very much off-the-beaten track for overseas tourists, and the town retains a very sleepy, rural, laid-back feel to it, especially in the evenings when the day-trippers have headed home, and the streets are empty.



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Takamatsu

Takamatsu is the largest city in Kagawa Prefecture in the northeast corner of Shikoku island. Takamatsu faces the Inland Sea and has a long history as a port, acting as something of a link between Shikoku and the main island of Honshu. The city's top attraction is Ritsurin Koen, one of Japan's finest examples of a landscape garden, considered by many to be on a par with the famous 'Big Three' gardens of Mito, Okayama and Kanazawa. Also of interest are Yashima, a flat-topped mountain and nearby Shikoku-Mura, a collection of traditional houses and other buildings brought from all over Shikoku to display local architecture and construction techniques.



Naoshima

Naoshima could easily be another pretty but forgotten island in the Seto Inland Sea scraping a living from fishing. However a unique art project has given Naoshima its deserved global reputation. Naoshima is home to a large collection of contemporary art galleries, exhibits and installations which offer a tour de force of architectural expression integrating art and the natural environment. Two of the main galleries, the Chichu Art Museum and Benesse House, were designed by the world famous architect Tadao Ando and feature works by Claude Monet, Walter de Maria, James Turrell, Andy Warhol, Richard Long and Bruce Nauman among others.



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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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Tour Inclusions

Date	Service
12 Nights Accommodation	9 nights 4 star Western hotel, 1 night in a temple lodge, 2 nights in Japanese style hotel *We will do our best to accommodate special sleeping requests but please note that this tour has typically 3 nights in traditional Japanese style sleeping arrangements. You will be sleeping on futon in tatami matted rooms – a uniquely authentic Japanese experience.
English Speaking Tour Leader	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).
Airport Transfers	Arrival & departure airport transfers included to & from Tokyo hotel
Private Tour Guides	Private Guides in Tokyo, Ise, Koyasan, Iya Valley & Kyoto
Entrance fees	Included into all sights listed on itinerary
Cultural Activities / Experiences	Tokyo sights, the Great Ise Shrine, Toyota Car Factory tour (if available), Mikimoto Pearl Island & Ama Diver demonstration, overnight in traditional Japanese style accommodation with kaiseki dinner, Temple stay, optional calligraphy and/or meditation, Iya Valley boat ride, Japanese garden, Naoshima art island, Kyoto World Heritage temples and shrines.
Meals	Breakfast daily, 5 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. 20+ 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.





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 **Hidden Treasures of Japan** Tour we require a (non-refundable) booking deposit of €250 / USD300 / GBP200 / AUD350 per person.


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


Tour Reference: Booking Deposit

Tour Name: Hidden Treasures of Japan

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