

TRADITIONAL
&
TROPICAL
Small Group Tour



TOUR DOSSIER



TOUR DOSSIER

Traditional & Tropical

14 Night Small Group Tour/ Self Guided Tour



"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:

Traditional & Tropical

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



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1. Tour Route & Departure Dates

Duration:
14 Nights / 15 Days

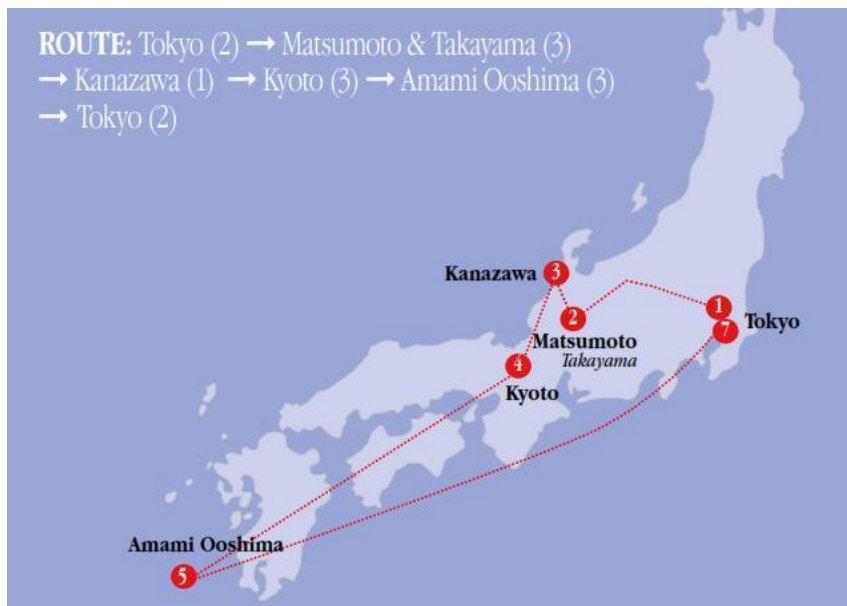
"Sub-tropical Pacific Island, Amami Ooshima, is one of Japan's best kept secrets. This is the perfect way to finish an exhilarating journey through Honshu Japan."

Traditional & Tropical is one of our all-time favourite tours. Expect once-in-a-life-time experiences. Visit Japan's most impressive awe-inspiring sites with our local guides who provide

informative & fun excursions. Savour the mouth-watering feasts. Explore Kyoto & Tokyo on your free days. Travel around on first class bullet trains & quirky transport modes. Unwind on a picture-perfect paradise island with crystal clear waters at your feet!

Denise & ★★★★★

"Unique Japan Tours made our time in Japan so special, especially when we landed on Amami Ooshima...a sub tropical paradise island in the Pacific. They couldn't do enough for us and really know how to put together a well thought out itinerary and route. Professional at all times with clear inside knowledge of Japan - giving us experiences we know we would not have got on our own. At first we thought it was pricey, but when we got there, we knew we paid for what we got! Highly recommend Traditional & Tropical Japan. A whirlwind adventure through the mainland before a sit-back and unwind on a tropical paradise Amami Ooshima. Thank you so much to Hokuto and all at Unique Japan Tours."



TOUR DATES:

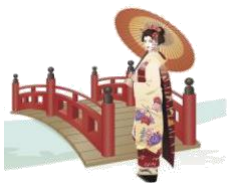
2022:

- April 10 – 24* (Cherry Blossom & Takayama Festival)
- May 08 – 22 (Sumo Special)
- May 29 – June 12 (**Solo Only**)
- September 05 – 19
- October 05 – 19* (Takayama Festival)

***April & October Departure Dates** (Takayama Festival) are the busiest for this tour. We highly recommend you book as early as possible.

2023:

- April 10 – 24* (Cherry Blossom & Takayama Festival)
- May 10 – 24 (Sumo Special)
- May 31 – June 14 (**Solo Only**)
- September 06 – 20
- October 05 – 19* (Takayama Festival)



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2. Tour Itinerary

Itinerary in Brief		Accommodation
DAY 1 Tokyo	<p>Arrive in Tokyo Narita or Haneda Airport</p> <p>Met on arrival by your driver / Transfer to Tokyo hotel</p> <p>Meet your group in hotel lobby at 6pm</p> <p>Welcome dinner at local restaurant (included)</p>	<p>Shibuya Tokyu Excel Hotel</p> <p><i>(or similar (4*) for 2 nights)</i></p> <p><i>Breakfast daily</i></p>
DAY 2 Tokyo	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>★ TOKYO CITY SIGHTSEEING ★ WITH LOCAL GUIDE 09.00 – 17:00</p> <p>Our popular Tokyo day tour includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tsukiji Outer Market • Hamarikyu Garden • Tokyo River Cruise to Asakusa area • Asakusa Sensoji Temple & Shopping Street • Edo Museum or Skytree (if museum is closed) <p>Evening free time / Your tour leader will give you guidance on where to go after dark!</p>	
DAY 3 Tokyo ↓↓ Yudanaka Onsen	<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> <p>★ Jigokudani Snow Monkeys ★</p> <p>We will visit Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park to watch wild monkey's bath in the natural hot spring bath at the foot of the mountain. You will be required to walk 1km on a mountain pathway. So, wear comfortable and appropriate shoes!</p> <p>♥ Dinner & 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>	<p>Senjukaku Ryokan</p> <p><i>(or similar for 1 night / Japanese Style)</i></p> <p><i>Breakfast & Dinner</i></p>

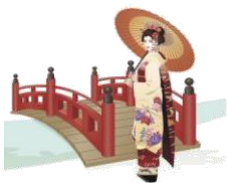


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<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Yudanaka ↓↓ Matsumoto ↓↓ Takayama</p>	<p>After breakfast, check out of your ryokan and continue your journey to Matsumoto.</p> <p>Visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matsumoto Castle (stunning original samurai castle) <p>After lunch, we will take a scenic bus ride (2.5 hours) through beautiful mountain and river valleys, to Takayama.</p> <p>Check into your hotel / Free time</p>	
<p>DAY 5</p> <p>Takayama</p>	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <div data-bbox="304 719 1187 797" style="background-color: #2c4e64; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> ★ TAKAYAMA WALKING TOUR ★ WITH LOCAL GUIDE 09.00 – 13:00 </div> <p>Guided tour of Takayama including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takayama Morning Market • Kusakabe Folk Park • Takayama Yatai Kaikan (Festival Float Hall) • Takayama Jinya (preserved Government town hall) <p>♥ April & October tours will experience TAKAYAMA FESTIVAL ♥</p> <p>Changes to above flow/itinerary are inevitable. We will alter according to our local guides recommendation.</p>	<p>Takayama Wat Hotel (or similar for 2 nights)</p> <p>Breakfast daily</p>
<p>DAY 6</p> <p>Takayama ↓↓ Gokayama ↓↓ Kanazawa</p>	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Check out and move to Gokayama rural region by minivan/coach</p> <div data-bbox="304 1308 1187 1386" style="background-color: #2c4e64; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> ★ GOKAYAMA CULTURE DAY ★ WITH LOCAL GUIDE 09.00 – 17:00 </div> <p>♥ Cultural Activities ♥</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washi paper making (take home your work of art) • Cookery Class making Soba noodles 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! <p>Transfer from Gokayama to Kanazawa by coach/minivan</p> <p>Check into your hotel Free time this evening ~ explore Kanazawa at night – you'll be pleasantly surprised!</p>	<p>Kanazawa Nikko Hotel (or similar for 1 night)</p> <p>Breakfast & Lunch</p>



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<p>DAY 7</p> <p>Kanazawa ↓↓ Kyoto</p>	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <p>Check out and leave bags in storage</p> <div> <div>★ KANAZAWA Morning Tour ★</div> <div>WITH LOCAL GUIDE 09.00 – 13:00</div> </div> <p>Visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kenrokuen Garden (considered one of the top 3 gardens in Japan) - Higashi Chaya District (Old Samurai/Geisha District) - ♥ Authentic Tea Ceremony <p>Transfer to Kyoto by express train</p> <p>Free time Kyoto</p> <div> <div>OPTIONAL TOURS</div> <div>Dinner with Kyoto Geisha at local restaurant</div> </div>	
<p>DAY 8</p> <p>Kyoto</p>	<p>Breakfast at your hotel</p> <div> <div>★ KYOTO City Sightseeing ★</div> <div>WITH LOCAL GUIDE 09.00 – 17:00</div> </div> <p>Visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nijo Castle • Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) • Lunch at local restaurant • Arashiyama Bamboo Forest • Fushimi Inari Shrine (10,000 Torii Gates) <p>♥♥ Highlight: Afternoon Tea with Geisha (Maiko) ♥♥</p> <p>You will have the rare chance to sit and have tea with one of Kyoto's beautiful young Maiko in their mama-san's teahouse. 'Maiko' are better known as a young 'Geisha'. Training to become Geisha usually starts at a young age (some start at 13/14). Trained in various Japanese traditional arts such as Kimono wearing, flower arranging, traditional dance, shamisen (string instrument), and so on, they spend many years perfecting how to walk, talk, and breath like a Geisha. If successful in their progression, they then move to be a Geisha, usually by the age of twenty or so. Such an interesting experience that you will only find in Kyoto. This experience is not sold on the high street. This really is a special occasion on our tour that we have been proud to offer for many years. So be sure to bring your camera and be prepared to ask questions. Our Maiko are very open and love sharing and listening to your stories too.</p>	<p>Kyoto Hotel Okura (or similar for 3 nights)</p> <p>Breakfast daily</p>



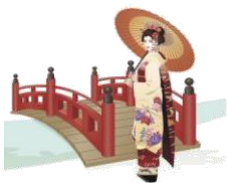
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DAY 9 Kyoto	Breakfast at your hotel Free day in Kyoto	
	OPTIONAL TOURS	
	1. Ancient Nara & Modern Osaka (Self-Guided / No booking needed)	
	2. Hiroshima & Miyajima Island Day Trip	
	3. GOLF* in Kobe (incl. lunch, green fees, rental, & transfers)	
	4. Kyoto Cultural Experiences* e.g. Kimono Workshop, Ikebana Workshop, Cookery Class, etc.	
	<i>*Pre-Booking Essential before departure</i>	
DAY 10 Kyoto ↓↓ Amami Ooshima	Breakfast at your hotel Transfer to Osaka Itami Airport Board Domestic flight to Amami Ooshima (2.5 hour flight) Arrive into Amami Ooshima Airport terminal Met on arrival by your local transfer company Check into your hotel & relax for the day by the pool / beach Dinner by the sea!	Bashayama Beach Resort (or similar 3-nights) Breakfast & Dinner daily + 1 Lunch
DAY 11 Amami Ooshima	After breakfast, meet your local driver/guide for a full day excursion around the island.	
	★ AMAMI OOSHIMA ISLAND DRIVE ★ <i>WITH LOCAL GUIDE 10:00 – 17:00</i>	
	Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kimono Production Outlet • Canoeing on a Mangrove Lake • Stunning scenic drive to the southern part of the island • Lunch at scenic spot near beach (included) • Glass Bottom Boat Ride • Back to your hotel <p style="text-align: center;">♥♥♥ Resort Treats ♥♥♥ Book a Massage at the Spa (extra).</p>	
	Dinner by the sea!	
DAY 12	Breakfast at your ryokan Full Day Rest & Relaxation Dinner by the sea!	



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Amami Ooshima		
DAY 13 Amami Ooshima ↓↓ Tokyo	Breakfast at your hotel Transfer to Amami Airport (40 min drive) Board Flight to Haneda Airport (2.5 hour flight) / Arrive Tokyo in the evening Check into your hotel in Tokyo for 2 nights	The Imperial Hotel <i>(or similar 5* for 2-nights)</i> Breakfast daily
DAY 14 Tokyo	Breakfast at your hotel Enjoy one last day of shopping in Tokyo's prime shopping district Ginza. Your hotel will be located here so plenty of options on your doorstep!	
DAY 15	Transfer to Haneda or Narita Airport by our local transfer company Depart Japan on your scheduled flight (arranged separately or add a few extra nights as a post tour (ask your Travel Consultant).	Tour Ends😊



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3. 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 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.



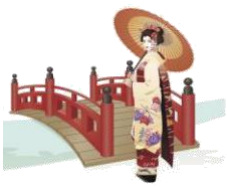
The city has many major sights to visit such as Senso-ji Temple in the old downtown area of Asakusa or the fashion hub of Shibuya from where all new trends are said to emanate. All in all, a stay in Tokyo is to experience one of the world's most vibrant and interesting cities; a capital hurtling headlong into the future whilst maintaining its links with the traditions of ancient Japan.



Matsumoto

Matsumoto is an alpine city surrounded 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 several 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.





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Nagano (*Yudanaka Onsen*)

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 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.



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 farmhouses 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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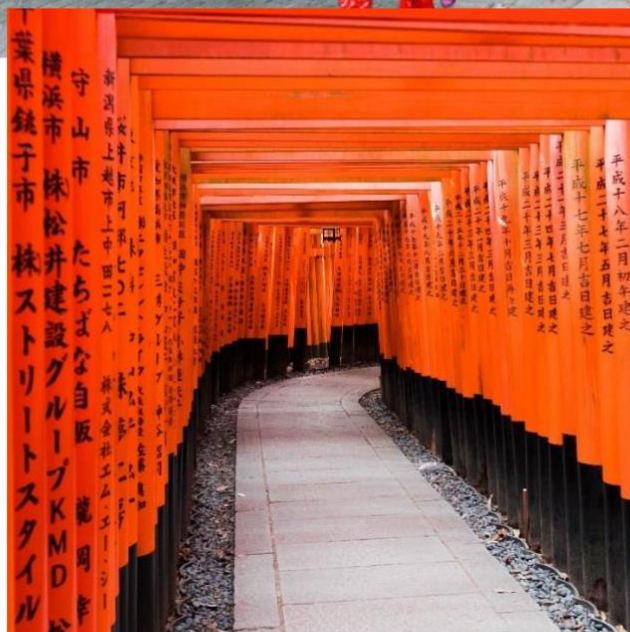
Kanazawa

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.



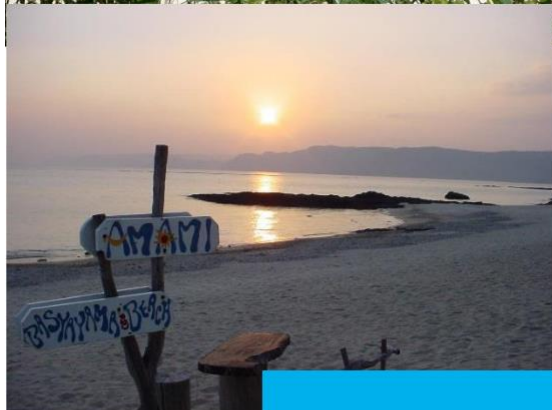


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Amami Ooshima

The Amami Islands are a string of eight sub-tropical islands located south of Kagoshima. Amami-Oshima is the main island, and ranks as the second largest remote island in Japan, after Sado-ga-shima in Niigata Prefecture. The sea around the islands, designated as Amami-gunto Quasi-National Park, is blessed with transparent waters, bright colored coral reefs and tropical fish, and is known as a fantastic diving spot. This untouched native island will give you a sample of how the 'islanders' of Japan live harmoniously with nature. Amami hills are covered in subtropical forests with rare and distinct plants and flowers; its coral reefs are listed in the World Wildlife Global 200 Eco Regions list; and is most famous in Japan for its Kimono-making made from pongee silk known as **Ooshimatsumugi**.





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4. Tour Prices & Inclusions

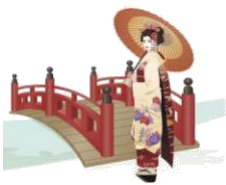
Prices:

Twin/Double Sharing:	€5,445		£4,950		US\$6,250		AU\$8,950
Single Room Throughout:	€6,500		£5,950		US\$7,500		AU\$10,600
Triple Room Sharing:	€5,165		£4,725		US\$5,900		AU\$8,500

Prices are per person. All prices are subject to change in line with exchange rate fluctuations. Check website www.uniquejapantours.com for up-to-date guaranteed prices. Once deposit is paid, your tour price is fixed. [Book Now.](#)

Inclusions:

Hotels & Ryokans (14 nights)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 11 nights in carefully chosen 4 & 5* [western style beds]✓ 1 night in Japanese style* ryokan [Japanese style / futon bed]✓ 3 nights in Seafront Hotel [western style beds] <p>* If you require a bed for health reasons, let us know early. We can put in a request but cannot guarantee it.</p>
Fully Escorted (6 – 16):	You will be escorted by our friendly English- speaking tour leader who will travel with you from Day 1 to 10. From day 10, your tour leader will say good- bye. You will be met on the island by a local islander!
Semi Escorted (1 - 5):	You will met in each area by our local assistants and guides on days you don't have private guides.
Meals:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Welcome Dinner at local izakaya on Day 1✓ Breakfast daily✓ 2 Lunches✓ 4 Evening Meals
Private Tour Guides:	Whether you're on a fully escorted or a semi escorted tour, you will be met on 6 days by our local guides in: Tokyo, Kanazawa, Gokayama, Takayama, Kyoto, & Amami Ooshima
Getting Around:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Reserved Seats on all long-distance trains including bullet train seats. <i>For smaller groups, a 7-day Japan Rail pass may be provided (allowing full access to JR trains on 7 consecutive days).</i>✓ Luggage transfer when using shinkansen (one bag per person / 2 times)✓ Chartered vehicles, local taxis/minivans/coaches on private city tours✓ Domestic Flights to and from Amami Ooshima Island✓ All Airport transfers (door to door service)
Entrance Fees:	Included into all sights listed on itinerary



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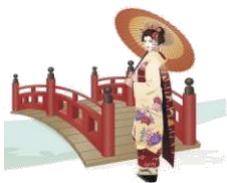
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Cultural Experiences:

- ✓ Tokyo Sights by Day & Night including **karaoke, izakaya** nights out, Sumida **River Cruise**, urban Japanese garden, Sumo Tournament (May & September dates), etc.
- ✓ World famous **Yudanaka Snow Monkey** Park in Nagano Prefecture & Samurai castle of Matsumoto
- ✓ Overnight in **rural ryokans** experiencing unique **Japanese hospitality and onsen** (hot spring baths) & incredible R&R time!
- ✓ Kanazawa Tea houses, geisha district, visit to one of the **top 3 gardens of Japan**, local food market
- ✓ Unesco World Heritage **Kyoto**: glorious sites, traditional back-streets, stunning shrines, manicured gardens, **gorgeous geisha**, and authentic tea ceremony just some of the highlights!
- ✓ High speed **bullet train** journeys throughout
- ✓ **Scenic mountain drives** taking in the magical landscape that makes up c.75% of Japan's terrain
- ✓ **Cultural Activities in Gokayama** including: Washi Paper Making, Soba noodle making, 400-year-old farmhouse visit, tea with locals, farmers dance
- ✓ **Takayama morning market** and old worldly village feel
- ✓ April/October: **Takayama Festival** (very popular)
- ✓ Authentic **Tropical Island** in the Pacific Ocean experiencing a new ethnicity of island living, tasting different flavours only found on the island, meeting friendly easy-going islanders!

5. What about our luggage?

When using bullet 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.



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6. 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.

7. Ready to BOOK!

To secure your place on **Traditional & Tropical Japan** 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: Traditional & Tropical Japan

*Deposits will be refunded if your tour cannot operate due to Covid-19. T&C's apply.



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8. Small Group/Self Guided Tours Checklist

When?	What to do:	Tick when complete:
Before paying deposit:	Read and agree our full Terms & Conditions	<input type="radio"/>
When ready to book:	Pay Booking Deposit (Payment Link)	<input type="radio"/>
After paying deposit up to 7 days:	Receive pro-forma invoice outlining schedule of payments. Check it. Complete Booking Form and send (with copy of passport) to your travel consultant	<input type="radio"/>
After paying deposit (up to 8 weeks prior to start date):	Book your flights as soon as you have your tour secured with us (or before if you find a good deal) Send E-Ticket to your UJT Travel Consultant	<input type="radio"/>
After paying deposit (up to 8 weeks prior):	Take out personal/medical Travel Insurance . Send your policy name and details to your travel consultant	<input type="radio"/>
8 weeks prior	Tour Balance 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 Travel Pack 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 Essential Documents to your travel consultant: Flight E-Tickets, Dietary Requirements (if any), Insurance Policy Name/Number, Passport Copy, Emergency Contact Name/Number	<input type="radio"/>