



# oomi

JAPAN



[oomitravel.com](http://oomitravel.com)



This map is intended solely as a reference for our collection of tours. It is not to scale and does not encompass all places or islands in Japan visited by Oomi guests or others.





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Welcome to Oomi Travel, an Irish owned, global team of travel experts, formerly Unique Japan Tours and Japan Ireland Travel.

With more than two decades of established expertise in crafting personalised itineraries and intimate tailor-made and group tours in Japan and Ireland, Oomi Travel's legacy will be to inspire and attract travelers from all around the world, with a dedicated emphasis on Japan, Ireland, and India.

*"My first encounter with Japan was in 1998, as a University student. When the opportunity to spend one year at a Japanese University in Tokyo presented itself, I couldn't resist. A pivotal choice that ultimately shaped my future career. Japan's captivating essence forged strong connections from the outset. After returning to Ireland to complete my studies, it became evident that the bond with Japan would be everlasting."*

- Founder and CEO, Darina Slattery

Oomi's enthusiasm lies in creating enduring memories for generations, by imparting our profound passion and insights about distinctive, often less-explored destinations, to inquisitive minds.

The itineraries featured in this book result from over two decades of refining tried and tested routes. Our trips are designed with cultural and culinary sophistication, seasonal highlights, rural retreats, and local artisanship in mind. They are built on established relationships with local masters in their field.

Our holistic approach guarantees authenticity. We ensure sustainability throughout and thrive on supporting small local businesses and artisans, particularly in rural locations across the whole of Japan.

Each itinerary can be tailored to a variety of tastes and styles. If joining a small group is not for you, talk to us. We can arrange a bespoke private journey tailored to your needs.



**Darina Slattery**  
Founder & CEO  
Oomi Travel







# DISCOVER JAPAN



Japanese hospitality, known as **Omotenashi**, is unparalleled. From luxurious Ryokan accommodations to attentive service at every turn, the warmth and genuine care of the Japanese people will make you feel like an honoured guest. Whether you're interested in visiting a sumo wrestling match, dipping into a hot spring bath (onsen), attending a traditional kabuki performance or simply enjoying the ambiance of a local izakaya, Japanese hospitality will inspire you to fully immerse yourself in the rich culture and customs of Japan.

The sprawling capital city of Tokyo unfolds on Honshu's southern coast. An eclectic mix of districts results in a unique city that blends the skyscrapers of a futuristic metropolis with the temples, shrines, and Imperial Palaces of a traditional landscape.

Travel back in time in Kyoto, the ancient capital until the late 19th century. Discover the pretty pathways. Experience the elegance of traditional tea ceremonies and witness the timeless grace of Geisha as they perform in the historic Gion district. Marvel at the architectural splendour at one of the seventeen Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (UNESCO World Heritage).

Nature lovers will find solace in Japan's astonishing landscapes. Gaze at the iconic Mount Fuji, an enduring symbol of the nation's beauty and resilience. Venture off the beaten path in Japanese Alpine regions like Hakone and Takayama to enjoy otherworldly hot springs and hiking trails. Time your trip to coincide with Sakura season, and marvel at the bright pink petals of the Cherry Blossom trees taking over the landscapes.



# SEASONS

*Japan is an all-year-round destination, given its distinctive four seasons and unique archipelago, comprising of four main islands, and thousands of smaller ones. With such vast reach from subarctic to subtropical zones, Japan forms a magical, diverse island nation with varying cultures and climates throughout.. This island, spanning from subarctic to subtropical zones, results in a magical, diverse island nation with varying climates and cultures throughout.*



## Spring

March blooms come to life first in the Ryukyu, Kyushu, and Shikoku Islands, thanks to the warmer climates in southwestern Japan. The blossoms then gradually extend northwards, reaching mountainous regions, Tohoku, and Hokkaido later in spring, with their vibrant display continuing into May.

The most common variety, Somei-Yoshino, spreads plumes of pale pink blossoms, while the weeping cherry trees, Shidare-Zakura, drape elegantly along riverbanks. Enjoy Sakura viewing parties in parks, sites, and cities. Allow extra time to plan your trip for travel at this time.



## Summer

July, August, and September mark Japan's hottest months, characterised by high humidity and temperatures soaring to nearly 40°C in some regions. Fortunately, most places are equipped with air conditioning, so it's essential to be prepared for the cold indoors. The traditional rainy season typically occurs in late June or early July, though its predictability has become erratic in recent years. Planning your trip around this season may be challenging due to its unpredictable nature. Some of our best summer tours include Shikoku Secrets, Wonders of the West, Hokkaido Blooms, Hidden Treasures, and Ancient Trails.



## Autumn

Scorching summers subside into vibrant shades of orange in this poetic season. Foliage first begins to turn on the northern island of Hokkaido in mid-September. Leaves can change colour in Tokyo and Kyoto from mid-October through to early December, while the best viewing occurs around mid-November. The intense red maple leaves are named Momiji and foraging for them is a customary practice. Koyo describes the red and yellow coloured foliage. Visit during this wonderful time to stroll through blazing shades in city parks, on mountainous hiking trails, or view the passing spectacle from the train windows.



## Winter

Snow transforms the northern regions of Japan into a paradise for ski and snowboard enthusiasts. In the rest of Japan, winter is characterised by warm lights, crackling fires, cozy corners, and often clear blue skies. Don't let the cold deter you, as this season is considered one of the most delightful times to visit Japan. With fewer tourists, you can enjoy more space and a serene atmosphere in the often-overcrowded popular places.



Tokyo, Mt Fuji, (East)

Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe (Central Honshu)

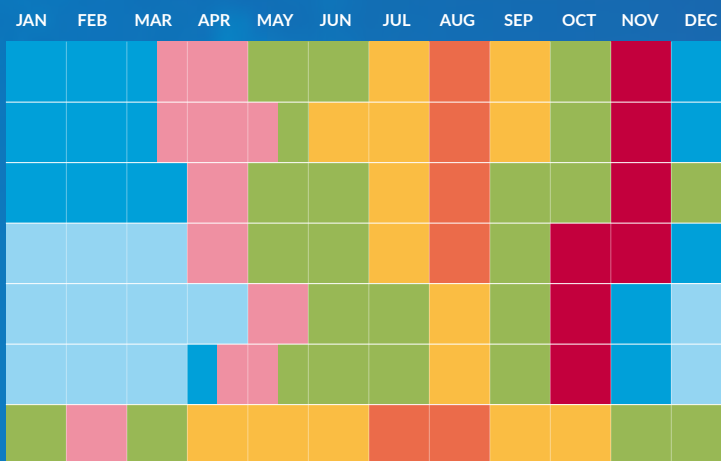
Shikoku, Kyushu, Hiroshima (West & SW)

Nagano, Takayama, Kanazawa (N. Central)

Hokkaido (Northern Island)

Niigata, Yamagata, Akita (N.East Honshu)

Okinawa, Ishigaki, Amami (Southern Islands)



### Seasonal Mood

### Low/High

Snowy Mountains

-10 - 05 °C

Sakura Springtime

05 - 15 °C

Very Pleasant

15 - 23 °C

Nicely Hot

23 - 33 °C

Hot & Humid

33 - 40 °C

Amazing Autumn 'Peak Season'

13 - 18 °C

Crisp Blue Skies

02 - 10 °C





# Sleep...

## Traditional Ryokans

Staying in a ryokan serves as the ideal introduction to Japanese hospitality, showcasing the subtle gestures that effortlessly make guests feel at ease. The decor exudes typical Japanese aesthetics, where you sleep on a futon atop rice straw mat flooring (tatami). Indulge in traditional cuisine (kaiseki), and, in many cases, access public or private onsen (hot spring baths). Private onsens can be arranged in some ryokans. Some ryokans offer western beds in a small number of rooms.

## Local Minshuku

Resembling a local guesthouse, a Minshuku is typically a family home or a smaller type of ryokan, often providing more basic meals and facilities. It offers a more economical choice compared to a ryokan, though it's important to note that the owners may not speak English. Minshukus are commonly utilised while exploring the more rural areas of Japan. Similar to ryokans, accommodations involve sleeping on a futon on tatami matted flooring, and traditional Japanese breakfast and dinner are served in the communal dining area.

## Boutique Hotels

Discover smaller, intimate, and uniquely designed hotels scattered across Japan. These establishments offer a perfect blend of traditional Japanese charm with a modern Western twist. Each one is a delightful surprise, exuding a calming creative atmosphere.

## Western Hotels

Hotels are generally of very high standard. Instead of Europe's star system, they are categorised as Super Deluxe (6\*) Deluxe (5\*), Superior (4\*) and Standard (3\*). Combining all types of accommodation standards into your trip offers a well-balanced diverse experience.







## Eat...

### Japan's culinary scene is a feast for the senses!

Enjoy delicate sushi and sashimi, as you watch masterful chefs at work behind the counter.

Slurp up big bowls of noodles, pork, and creamy tonkotsu broth at a local booth, or indulge in crisp tempura, fried to perfection, at a specialty restaurant.

While on the go, try yakitori skewers at a market, or finish a meal with a rice-based mochi dessert.

Sample a selection of sakes, Japanese whiskies, and teas as you eat your way around the country.



### Izakaya

Discover the essence of the Japanese social scene at an izakaya, a traditional pub offering the best in both Japanese flavours and fun.

These casual, lively spots are central to Japanese cities, serving up delicious small dishes like yakitori and shishito, complimented by sake and local beers.

More than just a social hub, izakayas are a cultural experience, representing the local love for fun and community. An evening in an izakaya is an essential part of any trip to Japan.





# Getting Around...

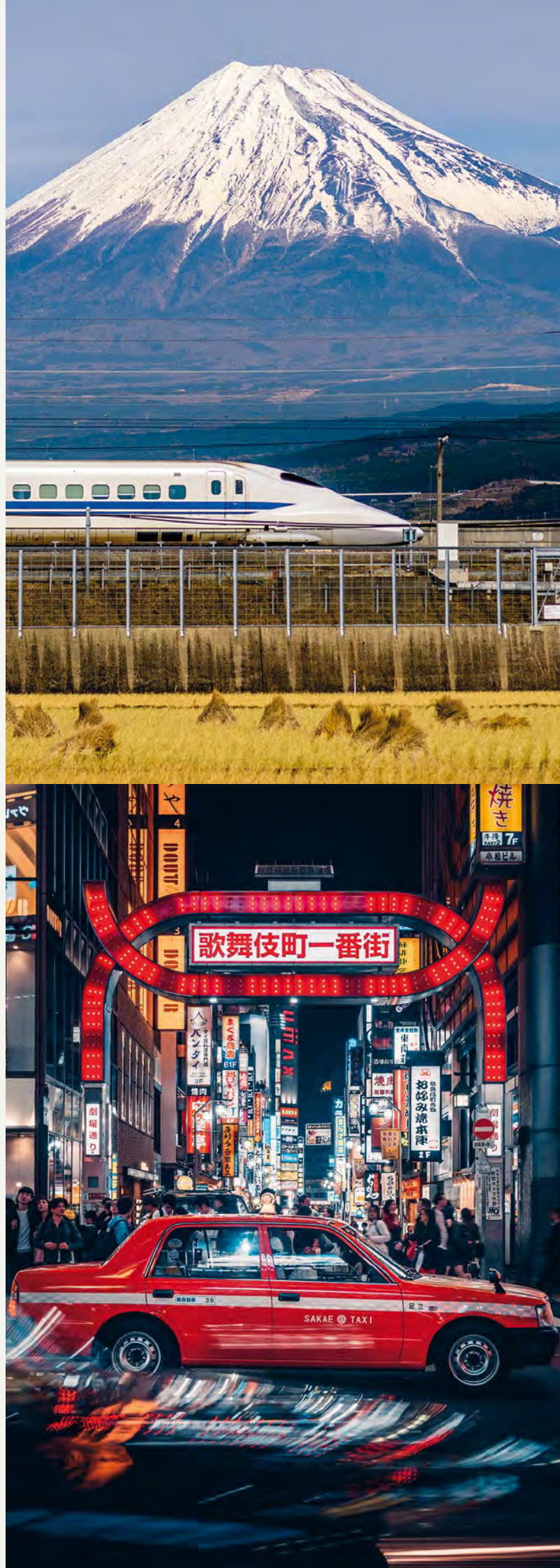
## Bullet Trains (Shinkansen)

Bullet trains, also known as Shinkansen in Japan, are a part of a high-speed rail network that has become an iconic symbol of Japan's technological prowess and efficiency in transportation. The Shinkansen represents not only a mode of transportation but a testament to Japan's ability to push technological boundaries, enhance connectivity, and shape the way people perceive and experience rail travel. Spanning from north to southwest Japan, the network of shinkansen lines covers over 3,000km.

Japan Rail offers a special pass called the **Japan Rail Pass**. The value of the pass will depend on the journeys you plan to take inside Japan. **7, 14, 21 day passes** are available to have before you leave your home country. However, it is advisable not to rush into buying the pass without a clear understanding of your travel plans.

## Chartered Vehicles

While Japan boasts excellent public transportation in cities and an exceptional taxi service, the luxury of being transferred from one location to another can undoubtedly save time. Once you venture beyond the cities, having a dedicated driver with you adds a touch of luxury and significantly simplifies your travel experience. As a nation with a proud auto industry, Japan ensures the highest quality of chartered vehicles for a seamless transportation experience.







## Using Local Transport

### Top Tips!

Despite the crowded nature of public transport in Japan, you will be surprised at how quiet the trains and buses will be.

Our recommended list of tips, when using public transport, including bullet trains, include:

- Buy a **Suica or Pasmo Card** to avoid having to pay for tickets each time. Buses, trains, and most transportations will accept this, including taxi's. Make sure it's kept topped up.
- Be prepared to walk a lot. Always wear comfortable shoes.
- Be respectful and quiet when using public transport.
- Join queues to board trains in a mannerly way. Never skip the queue.
- Do not talk on the phone on trains or buses. You can text and browse on your phone.
- Taxi doors are automatic so you don't need to open or close them.
- Assume your taxi driver won't speak English so have your destination address ready.
- Walk in the direction of the crowd, not against it. Pedestrian lanes are usually formed during busy times.
- If you bump into someone, say 'sumimasen' (excuse me) with a smile.
- Avoid eye contact. Most Japanese people are on their phone or reading a book.
- Avoid **rush hour** on busy commuter trains or subways (**8-10am, 5-7pm**) but if you can't, be prepared for a tight squeeze.
- Avoid eating food on trains or buses, especially if it has a strong smell.
- Eating on shinkansen's and long-distance express trains is allowed. In fact, you can buy snacks on board.
- Bring your trash with you or place inside the rubbish bins at train exit area. Don't leave on your seats.

*In summary, when traveling throughout Japan, be respectful, courteous, and considerate of other people. This reflects a fundamental ethos in Japanese society.*









An aerial photograph of a Japanese city, likely Tokyo, with a dense urban landscape of skyscrapers and residential buildings. In the background, the snow-capped peak of Mount Fuji is visible under a clear blue sky. A large, light blue curved graphic element overlays the right side of the image.

# SMALL GROUP TOURS

Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime exploration of Japan with our exciting small group tours, designed for a maximum of 12 guests to ensure a personalised experience.

Our expertly curated journeys take you through bustling cities and serene landscapes, highlighting the essence of Japanese culture. Experience traditional soba noodle making, visit ancient samurai castles, and stroll through tranquil gardens. Local guides in each city will reveal hidden treasures and historical insights, while a dedicated tour leader ensures a seamless experience. Our tours blend adventure, culture, and luxury, offering both iconic landmarks and hidden gems. Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime holiday where Japanese tradition and sophistication meet.







# JAPAN DISCOVERED

*Glittering cities, rural towns and villages, and a taste of real local foods. Discover authenticity in Japan's hidden gems, UNESCO World Heritage Sites and unforgettable experiences.*



## JAPAN DISCOVERED

# 13 Nights / 14 Days

Our bestselling Japan tour, full of iconic highlights.  
The perfect choice to fulfil and exceed your dreams of Japan.



**1 Tokyo (2 Nights)**  
An illuminated neon cityscape, izakaya vibrancy, modern marvels, historic charms.

**2 Nagano (1 Night)**  
Close encounter with Snow Monkeys, an authentic inn with hot springs, kaiseki dining.

**3 Takayama via Matsumoto (2 Nights)**  
Samurai castle exploration, time-capsule town with sensational festivals in April and October.

**4 Kanazawa via Gokayama (1 Night)**  
Soba noodle and washi paper making, 300-year-old thatched farmhouses, Kenrokuen Japanese Garden, Authentic Tea Ceremony

**5 Kyoto (3 Nights)**  
UNESCO World Heritage temple trails, tea with maiko, and free time.

**6 Miyajima Island & Hiroshima (1 Night)**  
Iconic gates to a sacred island, Hiroshima Peace Park and A-Bomb Dome.

**7 Mt. Fuji / Hakone (1 Night)**  
Stunning views of the majestic Mt. Fuji (weather permitting), cable car ride, lake cruise.

**8 Tokyo (2 Nights)**  
Free time, Grand Sumo Tournament (May and September), farewell Japan feast.

## What's Included?

- ✓ **Accommodation**  
11 Nights in Boutique and Superior Western Hotels  
2 Nights in Authentic Luxurious Ryokans with hot springs and kaiseki dinners
- ✓ **Meals**  
Breakfast Daily, 3 Lunches, and 4 Evening Meals
- ✓ **English Speaking Tour Leaders and Guides**  
throughout your journey
- ✓ **Airport Transfers Arrival and Departure:**  
to/from either Haneda or Narita Airport, direct to and from your hotel
- ✓ **Transport**  
using chartered vehicles, shinkansen (bullet trains), express trains, ferries and local trains or buses
- ✓ **Entrance Fees and Cultural Experiences**  
Included as per itinerary
- ✓ **Luggage Transfer Service**  
included when travelling on long distance trains
- ✓ **Oomi Travel App**
- ✓ **Oomi Travel Pack**





Kinkakuji (Golden Pavillion), Kyoto

## Tokyo

Get into the Tokyo groove in the awesome epicentre of mega-city magic. In Shibuya, join people crisscrossing wide streets lined with illuminated towers of glass playing catchy rhymes, and displaying colourful images. Sample the life of locals in food halls, department stores and dining in a neighbourhood izakaya, raise a glass to say 'Kampai!' at your welcome dinner.



## Nagano

Hop aboard the Hokuriku Shinkansen for a two-hour ride to Nagano. Elevate to the Yudanaka mountains filled with volcanic springs. After a 1.6km stroll through effervescent trees, watch playful monkeys pounce and cuddle their young when not dipping or sipping in the springs. Be warned, September and October months are mating season so the monkeys may be busy!

A warm *omotenashi* welcome awaits at a traditional inn in a nearby village. Kaiseki dinner and onsen spring-fed baths are a highlight to savour. Local wines (sake) are a great pairing with this delicate meal. Dress in traditional Yukata to relax in rooms with comfortable tatami flooring.



## Matsumoto and Takayama

The mighty Matsumoto Castle rises above a sprawling city trimmed with mountain peaks. In the evening arrive at Takayama. The next day, join a vivacious guide to explore the seasonal treats offered along the river at a morning market worth getting up for. Stop into an Edo-era merchant house to sample a collection of local goods and snacks. Look out for giant Torii gates and bright red bridges. The delicate texture and taste of Hida beef is a must-try at restaurants set in old distilleries. These warehouse settings are filled with grill smoke, sweet sake and smiling faces.





Miyajima Island

## JAPAN DISCOVERED

### Gokayama and Kanazawa

Connect with the past at a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for its rare and rustic Gassho Zukuri 300-year-old thatched roof farmhouses. At this remote village of Gokayama, learn how to make soba (buckwheat) noodles and washi paper craft. In Kanazawa, visit Kenrokuen Garden; one of Japan's three Great Gardens. Visit the Higashi Chaya district for a traditional tea ceremony.

### Kyoto

The dimly lit evening streets of entertainment areas bring life to the quiet corners of this city. Beloved Kyoto, once the imperial heart of Japan, subtly reveals its treasures, offering unexpected delights at every turn.

Ready for a brief encounter with a special class of cultural treasure. The Maiko or trainee Geisha has committed to diligent training in music, dance, entertaining games and conversation whilst adhering to a precise dress code and elaborate white make-up. Consider what questions you will ask her when you join her for tea.

Visit some amazing locations nearby on your free day such as Nara; the first capital of Japan, Kobe; one of the first ports to open to foreign trade, or Osaka; the culinary capital of Japan famous for its sensational street food.

### Hiroshima and Miyajima Island

Journey west in comfort on a two-hour Shinkansen ride to Hiroshima. Guided through the city, know more about the tragic history and humble resilience. Be captivated by the famous red Torii gates floating on the coast. Enter the stunning island to explore the curious Itsukushima shrine's various sites around this magical place and spiritual island.

### Mt. Fuji and Hakone

The bullet train eastwards offers a first look at Mt. Fuji; Japan's most sacred peak that sits north of the country retreat Hakone, nestled amidst the Fuji Hakone National Park; a UNESCO Natural Heritage site. Relax once again in traditional style at a ryokan with onsen bathing and kaiseki dinner. Admire Mt Fuji from many angles before completing your shopping and sightseeing bucket list back in Tokyo.





# Accommodation

## JAPAN DISCOVERED

**13 Nights / 14 Days**

*Superior and Boutique Western and  
Traditional Ryokans*

### **Tokyo (2 Nights)**

Shibuya Tokyu Excel Hotel / Keio Plaza  
Hotel Tokyo  
(*Superior Western Style*)

### **Nagano (1 Night)**

Kambayashi Hotel Senjukaku  
/ Kokuya Ryokan  
(*Superior Ryokan, Japanese Style*)

### **Takayama (2 Nights)**

Hotel Wood Takayama / Hotel Associa  
Takayama Resort  
(*Boutique or Superior Western Style*)

### **Kanazawa (1 Night)**

The Square Hotel Kanazawa  
/ Hyatt Centric Kanazawa  
(*Superior Western Style*)

### **Kyoto (3 Nights)**

Kyoto Okura Hotel  
/ The Kyoto Higashiyama Tokyu  
/ Kyoto Tokyu Hotel  
(*Boutique or Deluxe Western Style*)

### **Hiroshima (1 Night)**

Sheraton Grand Hiroshima Hotel  
/ Hiroshima Granvia Hotel  
(*Superior Western Style*)

### **Hakone (1 Night)**

Setsugetsuka / Ryuguden  
(*Traditional Ryokan, Japanese Style*)

### **Tokyo (2 Nights)**

Park Hotel Tokyo  
/ Hotel Allamanda Aoyama  
(*Boutique or Superior Western Style*)

*If the listed accommodations are unavailable,  
an alternative stay of a similar category will be  
selected, at our discretion.*







# Experiences

## JAPAN DISCOVERED

- Vibrant Tokyo Izakaya Nights
- Fresh Finds at Tsukiji's Outer Fish Market
- Snow Monkey Encounter\*
- Serene Japanese Garden Strolls
- Traditional Kanazawa Tea Ceremony
- Kyoto Afternoon Tea with Geisha or Maiko
- Authentic Ryokan Stays
- Relaxing Onsen Hot Spring Baths
- Artistic Kaiseki Dining
- Matsumoto Samurai Castle
- Gokayama Thatched Roof Farmhouses (UNESCO Site)
- Artisanal Washi Paper Craft Workshop
- Hands-On Soba Noodle Making
- Spiritual Buddhist Temple Visits
- Sacred Shinto Shrine Rituals
- UNESCO Hiroshima A-Bomb Dome and Peace Park
- UNESCO Miyajima Island (Itsukushima Shrine and Torii Gate)
- Mt Fuji Hakone National Park Visit\*\*
- Tokyo Sightseeing and Shopping Chance

\*Sep/Oct is mating season so the snow monkeys' presence cannot be guaranteed.

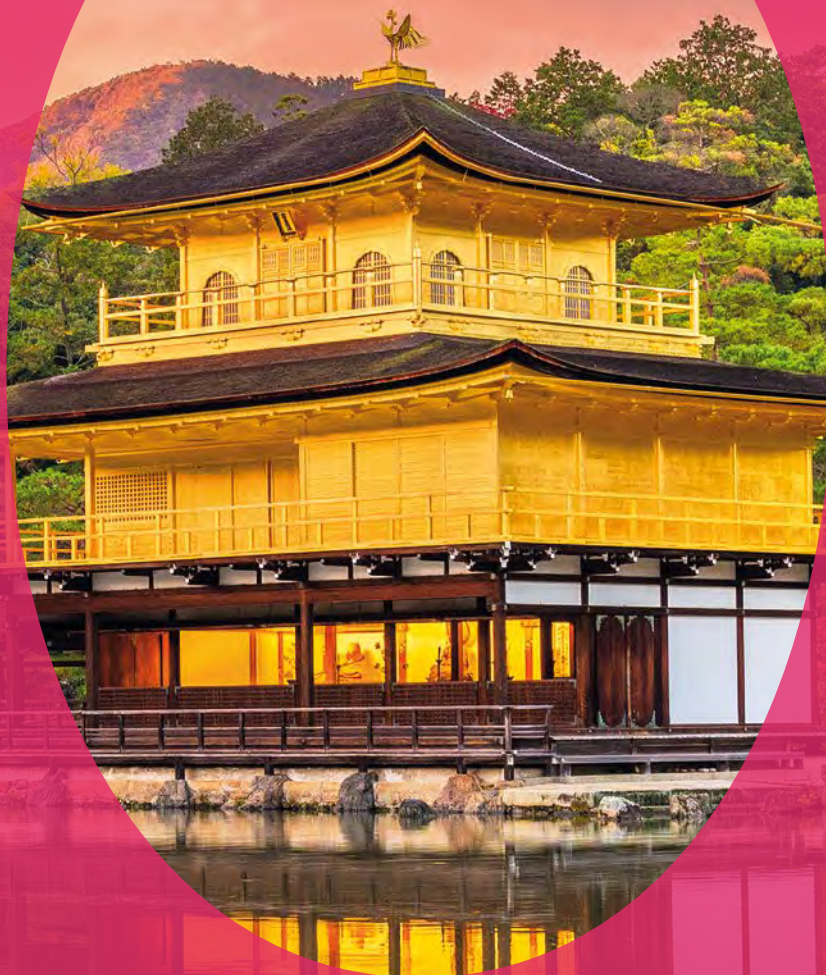
\*\*Views of Mt Fuji are weather permitting.

## SEASONAL EVENTS

- Takayama Festival Pageantry (April & October)
- Exciting Grand Sumo Tournament (May, July, September)
- Historic Gion Festival Kyoto (July)
- Autumn Foliage (November)
- Christmas Illumination / New Year Celebrations (December)

\*\*\*Cherry Blossom blooming dates are subject to change year on year therefore cannot be guaranteed.





# TRADITIONAL & TROPICAL

*Discover Honshu's wonders and a hidden Pacific paradise on this 17-day odyssey. Delve into traditional Japan and unwind on tropical shores, an exclusive escapade to the road less travelled.*

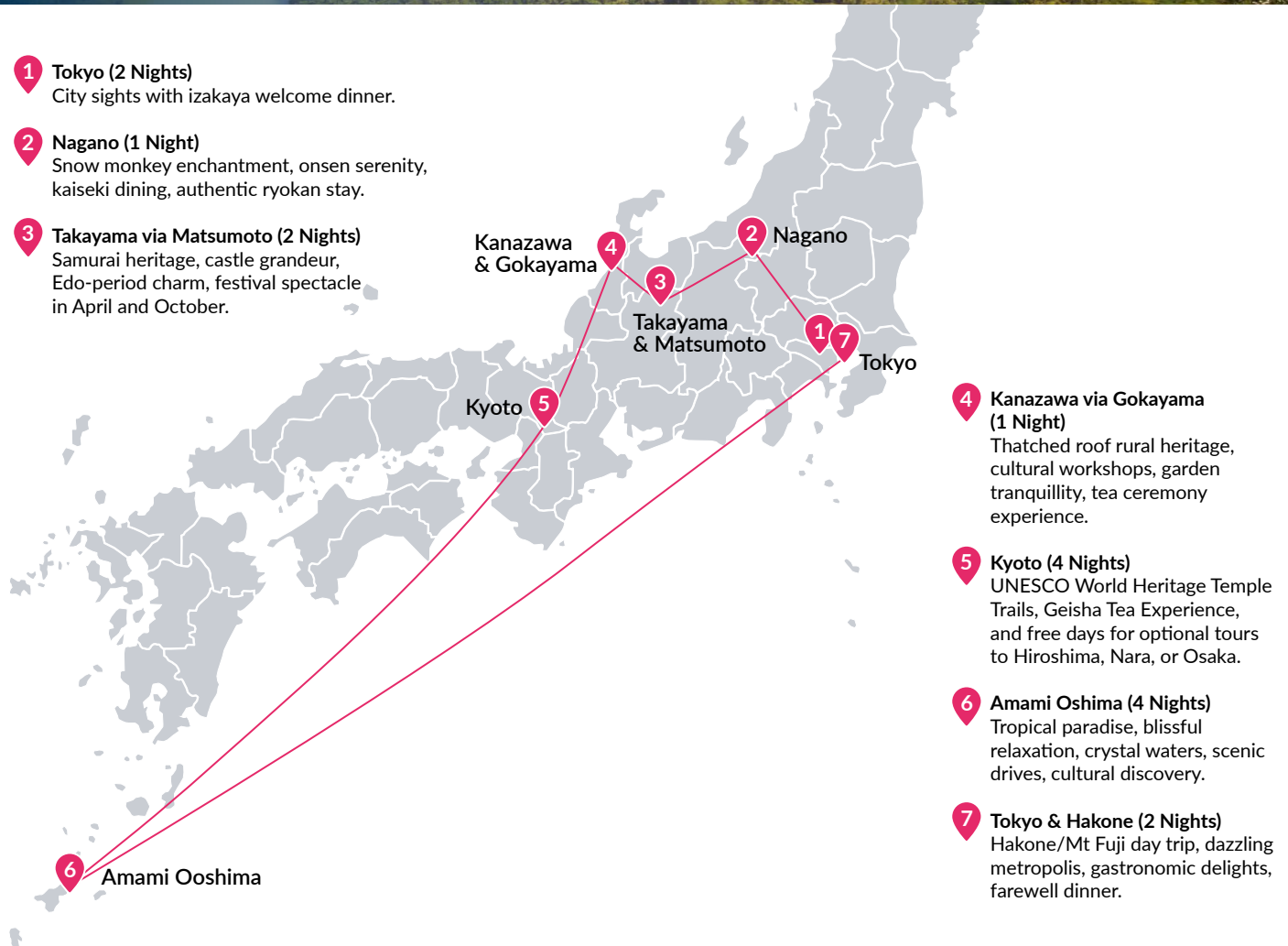




## TRADITIONAL & TROPICAL

# 16 Nights / 17 Days

From the cultural depths of Kyoto and Tokyo to the rural town retreats (as featured in Japan Discovered), to the tranquil shores of a secluded Pacific gem, this tour blends iconic Japanese experiences with an idyllic island escape.



## What's Included?

- ✓ **Accommodation**  
11 Nights in Superior and Deluxe Western Style Hotels  
1 Night in Traditional Japanese Style Ryokan  
4 Nights in Seafont Hotel
- ✓ **Meals**  
Breakfast Daily, 4 Lunches and 5 Evening Meals
- ✓ **English Speaking Tour Leaders and Guides**  
throughout your journey
- ✓ **Airport Transfers Arrival and Departure:**  
arrival and departure transfers in Tokyo, to and from the airport to the hotel
- ✓ **Transport**  
using chartered vehicles, shinkansen (bullet trains), express trains, local trains or buses, internal flight to and from Amami Ooshima
- ✓ **Entrance Fees and Cultural Experiences**  
Included as per itinerary
- ✓ **Luggage Transfer Service**  
included when traveling on long distance trains
- ✓ **Oomi Travel App**
- ✓ **Oomi Travel Pack**





Kenrokuen Garden, Kanazawa

## Tokyo

Settle in with sakè and delicious bites in the old village of Edo. Join the night revellers on the streets of Shibuya or Shinjuku after a lively welcome dinner at a local Izakaya. Shop in centuries old Asakusa arcade which leads to a popular Buddhist temple. Tokyo Skytree peers down as Hamarikyū garden nestles in under skyscraper filled skies. At Tsukiji outer market, shop for kitchenware and sample fresh sushi.



## Nagano & Matsumoto

Fresh cider filled air surrounds the Yudanaka Onsen area. Stop by to see snow monkeys who frolic and relax in the natural hot springs. Immerse in the Japanese Alps with a stop at the vibrant Matsumoto, with a majestic samurai castle central to city pride.

## Takayama

Takayama's preserved buildings and streets are an idyllic setting for an inviting morning market filled with the freshest of local goods and plenty of tasty bites and exquisite delights. Visit Takayama Jinya, the merchant home and local town hall since Tokugawa times. 16th-century festival floats can be viewed at the Takayama Yatai Kaikan (Festival Float Hall), the impressive festival in April and October.



## Gokayama & Kanazawa

Tread into the heart of Japan's pastoral heritage at Gokayama, a World Heritage site where the Gassho-zukuri farmhouses rise like hands in prayer to the heavens. In this secluded hamlet, time-honoured practices are not just preserved but are a way of life. Engage in the art of soba noodle making, feel the texture of washi paper, and share moments of warmth around the hearth with local farmers, their stories will remain cherished moments of your journey.

Kenrokuen Garden in Kanazawa is a canvas of natural artistry, one of Japan's three Great Gardens, where each season paints a new masterpiece. The city, reverently dubbed "Little Kyoto," captivates with its Higashi Chaya district; a quarter where the pastel hues of geisha houses sit in delicate contrast to the tea ceremony's lush backdrop. Known for its fresh sushi given its coastal location, the city also boasts several world-class art museums.





Bashayama Beach, Amami Ooshima

## TRADITIONAL & TROPICAL

### Kyoto

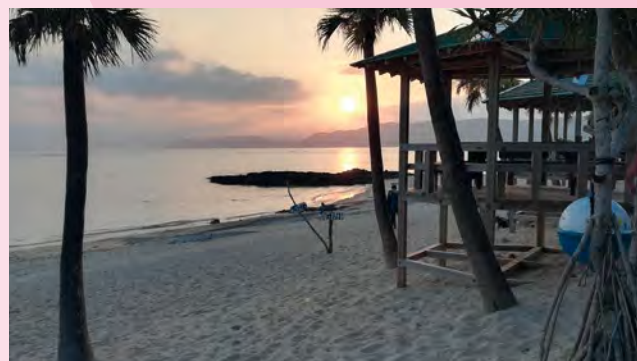
Kyoto is a living museum, a repository of Japan's heart and history. Its streets, a labyrinth of the past. Here, the Maiko, in their kaleidoscopic kimonos, are not just a sight to behold but a tradition pulsing with life. Their performances are an intricate ballet of culture and artistry, revealing the layers of a city that once ruled as the emperor's seat. On your free day, you might continue touring Kyoto city at your own pace or perhaps delve deeper into Japan's soul by visiting Nara's ancient splendours, or opt for a jaunt on the bullet train to Hiroshima and Miyajima Island.

### Amami Ooshima

Discover the enchanting Amami Oshima, an idyllic isle where tropical dreams are painted in strokes of golden sunsets and azure waters. A jewel in the Pacific, this hidden paradise boasts pristine beaches and lush rainforests. The island's essence is captured not just in the hammock-swaying ease of resort life but also in the vibrant tapestry of its marine life, seen through the lens of a glass-bottom boat or the tranquil glide of a canoe through mangroves. Immerse yourself in the island's rich and unique Ryukyu heritage. As twilight falls, dine al fresco with the symphony of gentle waves and a breeze that whispers tales of seafaring lore. After a wonderful journey through the highlights of Japan's main island Honshu, Amami Oshima provides the perfect retreat from the beaten path to contemplate the travel experience of a lifetime you have just enjoyed.

### Tokyo & Hakone

As the journey culminates, Tokyo presents itself as a symphony of contrasts. Choose to spend your final day visiting the majestic Mt Fuji National Park on your final farewell to a voyage of discovery.





# Accommodation

## TRADITIONAL & TROPICAL

16 Nights / 17 Days

*Superior & Deluxe*

### Tokyo (2 Nights)

Shibuya Tokyu Excel Hotel / Keio Plaza

Hotel Tokyo

*(Superior Western Style)*

### Nagano (1 Night)

Kambayashi Hotel Senjukaku

/ Kokuya Ryokan

*(Superior Ryokan, Japanese Style)*

### Takayama (2 Nights)

Hotel Wood Takayama

/ Hotel Associa Takayama Resort

*(Boutique or Superior Western Style)*

### Kanazawa (1 Night)

The Square Hotel Kanazawa

/ Hyatt Centric Kanazawa

*(Superior Western Style)*

### Kyoto (4 Nights)

Kyoto Okura Hotel / The Kyoto

Higashiyama Tokyu / Kyoto Tokyu Hotel

*(Boutique or Deluxe Western Style)*

### Amami (4 Nights)

Amami Bashayama Mura Resort

/ Thida Moon Resort

*(Seafront Boutique)*

### Tokyo (2 Nights)

The Okura Tokyo / Allamanda

Aoyama Tokyo

*(Deluxe Western Style)*

*If the listed accommodations are unavailable,  
an alternative stay of a similar category will be  
selected, at our discretion.*







# Experiences

## TRADITIONAL & TROPICAL

- Vibrant Tokyo Izakaya Nights
- Fresh Finds At Tsukiji's Outer Fish Market
- Snow Monkey Encounter\*
- Serene Japanese Garden Strolls
- Traditional Kanazawa Tea Ceremony
- Kyoto Afternoon Tea with Geisha or Maiko
- Authentic Ryokan Stays
- Relaxing Onsen Hot Spring Baths
- Artistic Kaiseki Dining
- Matsumoto Samurai Castle
- Gokayama Thatched Roof Farmhouses (UNESCO Site)
- Artisanal Washi Paper Craft Workshop
- Hands-On Soba Noodle Making
- Spiritual Buddhist Temple Visits
- Sacred Shinto Shrine Rituals
- Tropical Fish Discovery via Glass Bottom Boat
- Mangrove Lake Canoe Adventure
- Starlit AI Fresco Beach Dining
- Idyllic Tropical Island Beach Relaxation
- Panoramic Scenic Drives
- Mt Fuji Hakone National Park Visit\*\*

\*Sep/Oct is mating season so the snow monkeys' presence cannot be guaranteed.

\*\*Views of Mt Fuji are weather permitting.

## SEASONAL EVENTS

- Takayama Festival Pageantry (October)
- Exciting Grand Sumo Tournament (May, July, September)
- Historic Gion Festival Kyoto (July)





# WONDERS OF THE WEST

*Embark on a grand three-week odyssey through Japan's western heartlands, unveil a mosaic of rich cultural traditions and natural scenic beauty. From the hushed reverence of Kyoto's temples to the mysterious ancient forest paths on Yakushima Island, your Japan discovery awaits!*



# WONDERS OF THE WEST

## 20 Nights / 21 Days

Witness the ancient and modern harmoniously coexist, as you traverse through cities of historical resonance. Experience unique Japanese arts and crafts in places less visited. Meet the masters of ancient Japanese crafts; kimono weavers, Japanese sword makers, among others. Relax in soothing onsens and savour local delicacies at carefully chosen rural ryokans.



The map illustrates a travel itinerary across Japan, starting in the west and moving eastward. The route is marked with green numbered pins (1-10) and connecting lines. The itinerary includes stops in Kyoto, Kobe, Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Unzen Onsen, Kumamoto, Yakushima Island, and Tokyo. Each stop is accompanied by a brief description of the experiences offered.

- 1 Kyoto (3 Nights)**  
Ancient Temples, Geisha Arts, Tranquil Zen Gardens.
- 2 Kyoto by the Sea (2 Nights)**  
Ine boat town, kimono silk weavers, rice vinegar distillery, Japanese sword making, luxurious ryokan, coastal drives.
- 3 Kobe (2 Nights)**  
Herb garden visit, sake-tasting, renowned Kobe beef dinner by the harbour, ceramics master potter and artist home visit.
- 4 Hiroshima (1 Night)**  
UNESCO Hiroshima Peace Memorials and Miyajima Island.
- 5 Fukuoka (1 Night)**  
Wisteria Garden, Retro Port Town, Bustling Markets.
- 6 Nagasaki (2 Nights)**  
Historic Nightscapes, Atomic Reflections, Culturally Rich Dejima.
- 7 Unzen Onsen (1 Night)**  
Unzen-Amakusa National Park, Volcanic Springs Ryokan Retreat.
- 8 Kumamoto (2 Nights)**  
Majestic Castle, Volcanic Mt Aso, Ibusuki Onsen Sand Baths.
- 9 Yakushima Island (3 Nights)**  
UNESCO Ancient Forests Trails, Natural Wonders, Seaview Stays.
- 10 Tokyo (3 Nights)**  
City guided tour, free time for shopping and exploring.

## What's Included?

- ✓ **Accommodation**  
14 Nights in Standard and Superior Western Style  
6 Nights in Japanese Ryokans with hot springs and dinner
- ✓ **Meals**  
Breakfast Daily, 5 Lunches, 8 Evening Meals
- ✓ **English Speaking Tour Leader and Guides**  
throughout your journey
- ✓ **Airport Transfers Arrival and Departure:**
  - Arrival transfer from Kansai International Airport to Kyoto Hotel
  - Departure transfer from Tokyo hotel to Haneda or Narita Airport
- ✓ **Transport**  
using chartered vehicles, shinkansen (bullet trains), express trains, boats, domestic flight, and local transport
- ✓ **Entrance Fees and Cultural Experiences**  
Included as per itinerary
- ✓ **Luggage Transfer Service**  
included when traveling on long-distance train journeys
- ✓ **Oomi Travel App**
- ✓ **Oomi Travel Pack**





Ine Boathouses, Kyoto by the Sea



## Kyoto by the Sea

Begin your adventures in the culture capital Kyoto, where UNESCO Temples whisper samurai secrets and geisha girls giggle ancient tales. Nestled on the northern coast, Kyoto by the Sea offers a tranquil and culturally rich alternative to the more well-known attractions in Kyoto city. Japan's first Ancient Kingdom, inhabited over 30,000 years ago, Kyoto by the Sea is a sanctuary for many of Japan's iconic heritage crafts, including silk weaving, sword-making, and vinegar distillery.



## Kobe

In Kobe, this cosmopolitan port city marries the taste of famed Kobe beef with sake rice wine. Urban elegance meets culinary excellence. A guided city tour leads to the Nada district's sake breweries and the sizzling Kobe Beef dining experience. Garden lovers revel in the Nunobiki Herb Gardens and Ropeway.

## Hiroshima / Miyajima

The peace messages of Hiroshima's A-bomb Museum and the serene Miyajima Island juxtapose the region's sorrowful history with its scenic beauty. August's Lantern Floating ceremony and November's Fire-Walking at Daishōin Temple are profound experiences of contemplation and tradition.



## Fukuoka

Fukuoka combines urban energy with coastal serenity. Enjoy a morning stroll on Momochihama Beach, then ascend Fukuoka Tower for sweeping views before indulging in the animated spirit of the Yatai food stalls by night. The city's cultural life pulses at Hakata Dontaku and the Gion Yamakasa festivals.

KitaKyushu's Moji Port offers a nostalgic waterfront and markets that buzz with local life. This gateway to the past also delights with blooming Wisteria Gardens, beckoning a slower pace to take in the city's charm.





Yakushima Native Forest

## WONDERS OF THE WEST

### Nagasaki

Nagasaki's storied past is illuminated at night from Mt. Inasayama and through the day at Peace Park, the Atomic Bomb Museum, and the historic Dejima. Dejima served as a Dutch trading post from 1641 to 1843, standing as the sole official point of trade between Japan and the outside world during the nation's 200-year isolation period. Today, it holds the distinction of being a designated Japanese national historic site, preserving its historical significance and contributing to Japan's rich cultural heritage.

### Unzen Onsen

Retreat to Unzen Onsen, a geothermally heated volcanic hot spring resort, said to be good for beautifying skin. Overnight at a traditional ryokan with Kaiseki dining and a dip in volcanic hot springs melds rejuvenation with culinary artistry.

### Kumamoto

Kumamoto's resplendent castle and historical residences, including those of Hosokawa and Lafcadio Hearn, frame a narrative of samurai honour and literary legacy. Excursions to Mt. Aso and Takachiho Gorge, alongside spiritual visits to Amano Iwato, enrich the journey with natural splendour.

### Yakushima Island

On Yakushima, giant cedar forests await exploration, revealing ancient thousand-year-old cedars and lush landscapes. Jomonsugi, the largest of the cedar trees on the island, is estimated to be 2000-7200 years old. Beautiful beaches, hikes, and turtle watching above or below water is observed between May and August.

### Tokyo

Conclude in Tokyo, a city of endless discovery, where traditional shrines sit amidst skyscrapers. The dynamic capital offers a final chapter of exhilaration, epitomizing the eclectic spirit of Japan.





# Accommodation

## WONDERS OF THE WEST

20 Nights / 21 Days

*Combined Japanese Style with  
Superior/Deluxe Western*

### Kyoto (3 Nights)

Kyoto Okura Hotel, JR Blossom Hotel,  
The Kyoto Higashiyama Tokyu Hotel  
(Deluxe Western Style)

### Kiyotango (2 Nights)

Kyoto Okura Hotel, JR Blossom Hotel,  
The Kyoto Higashiyama Tokyu Hotel  
(Deluxe Western Style)

### Kobe (2 Nights)

Kobe Meriken Park Oriental Hotel  
(Deluxe Western Style)

### Hiroshima (1 Night)

Sheraton Grand Hiroshima or Granvia  
Hiroshima  
(Superior Western Style)

### Fukuoka (1 Night)

Miyako Hotel Hakata  
or Grand Hyatt Fukuoka  
(Superior Western Style)

### Nagasaki (2 Nights)

Hotel Nagasaki, Hotel Okura,  
Huis Ten Bosch Hotel  
(Superior Western Style)

### Unzen Onsen (1 Night)

Unzen Kyushu Hotel  
(Superior Ryokan, Japanese Style)

### Kumamoto (2 Nights)

The Blossom Kumamoto,  
Hotel Nikko Kumamoto  
(Superior Ryokan, Japanese Style)

### Yakushima Island (3 Nights)

The Hotel Yakushima  
(Superior Ryokan, Japanese Style)

### Tokyo (3 Nights)

Shiba Park Hotel, Park Hotel Tokyo  
(Superior Western)

*If the listed accommodations are unavailable,  
an alternative stay of a similar category will be  
selected, at our discretion.*







# Experiences

## WONDERS OF THE WEST

- Kyoto City Guided Tour
- Guided Tour of Kobe City
- Kobe's Nada Sake District for Sake Tasting
- Kobe Beef Teppan-Yaki Dinner
- UNESCO Hiroshima A-Bomb Dome and Peace Memorial Museum
- UNESCO Miyajima Island
- Fukuoka Street Food
- Tanga Market in Kitakyushu
- Canal City Hakata & Night Yatai in Fukuoka
- Mt Inasayama Ropeway for Nagasaki Nightviews
- Nagasaki Peace Park & Atomic Bomb Museum
- Glover Garden Nagasaki
- Dejima - Former district reserved for earliest Dutch traders
- Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture
- Unzen Onsen Visitor Centre
- Authentic Luxurious Ryokan Stay with Kaiseki Dining
- Kumamoto Castle
- Former Residence of Hosokawa (High-Ranked Samurai)
- Former Residence of Lafcadio Hearn (celebrated early foreign author)
- Trip to Volcano Mt Aso and its Visitor Centre
- Takachiho Gorge River Cruise
- Ibusuki Onsen Sand Baths
- Hike on Yakushima Forested Island (UNESCO Natural Heritage Site)
- Tokyo City Urban Exploration

## SEASONAL EVENTS

- Cherry Blossom Viewing (Mar)
- Osaka March Sumo Wrestling Tournament (Mar)
- Kawachi Fujien Wisteria Garden (April)
- Fukuoka Hakata Gion Yamakasa Spectacular Festival (July)
- Stunning Autumn Foliage Colours (Nov)
- Fukuoka November Grand Sumo Tournament (Nov)
- Nagasaki Glover Garden Illumination (Dec)





# SHIKOKU SECRETS

*Transverse Shikoku's enchanting and spirited landscapes from coast to countryside via Islands in the inland sea. Beginning with Kyoto's serene dawn and ending with Tokyo's dynamic dusk; this 2-week tour is paved with cultural treasures, exciting adventures and architectural marvels.*



## SHIKOKU SECRETS

# 13 Nights / 14 Days

For the culturally curious and active traveller, this tour offers a blend of adventure and tranquillity, connecting Japan's ancient heritage with its natural beauty. Revel in luxurious stays in traditional ryokans and coastal glamping, and immersive cultural escapades, including cycling, rafting, papermaking workshops, zen meditation, and hiking samurai trails.

### 1 Kyoto (3 Nights)

Dawn Bike Exploration, UNESCO Cultural & Historical Wonders, Arashiyama River Adventure, Bamboo Grove Walk.

### 2 Onomichi & Omishima (2 Nights)

Cycling or E-bike adventures on the Shimanami Kaido, luxury seaside glamping, and beachfront gourmet BBQs.

### 3 Dogo Onsen (1 Night)

Soak in Dogo's ancient hot springs, downtime in atmospheric old town.



### 4 Ozu (1 Night)

Edo-Era architectural charm, Garyu Sanso tranquillity, artisan pottery, light mountain hike, Nipponia elegant stay.

### 5 Yusuhara (2 Nights)

Samurai trail hikes, Kengo Kuma's modern architectural masterpieces.

### 6 Kochi (2 Nights)

Vibrant markets, castle splendour, coastal calm, zen meditation, Tosayama's rural charm.

### 7 Tokyo (2 Nights)

Urban energy amongst vibrant cityscape, shopping, memorable farewell feast.

## What's Included?

### ✓ Accommodation

2 Nights Glamping by the Sea  
7 Nights Boutique and 4★ Western Hotels  
4 Nights Japanese Ryokans and Inns

### ✓ Meals

Breakfast Daily, 3 Lunches, and 7 Evening Meals

### ✓ English Speaking Tour Leaders and Guides

throughout your journey

### ✓ Airport Transfers Arrival and Departure:

- Arrival transfer from Kansai (Osaka) or Chubu Centrair Int'l (Nagoya) Airports to Kyoto hotel
- Departure transfer from Tokyo hotel to Narita or Haneda airports

### ✓ Other Transfers

all necessary transport including chartered vehicles, bikes or e-bikes, high-speed bullet trains, regular trains, and internal domestic flight

### ✓ Entrance Fees and Cultural Experiences

Included as per itinerary

### ✓ Oomi Travel App

### ✓ Oomi Travel Pack





The Shimanami Kaido



## Kyoto

Immerse yourself in the majesty of Kyoto; the jewel in Japan's crown of history and heritage. As dawn unfurls its gentle light, meander through the city's ancient alleys by bike, where the echoes of emperors still linger in the soft chimes of temple bells and the rhythmic clack of geishas' wooden geta footwear on cobblestone back alleys.

Just a brief journey away by local train, Nara Park awaits with its venerable treasures and gardens, where majestic deer roam with an air of nobility, embodying the spirit of this former capital.



## Onomichi to Omishima

Cycle the scenic Shimanami Kaido, feeling the freedom of the open trail and Island serenity. Here, the path unfolds island by island, connected by magnificent bridges arching over the azure Inland Sea. The cycle from Onomichi to Omishima spans a manageable 40km. Rest assured, your e-bike will handle most of the exertion, making this a truly enjoyable leisurely experience. For those who prefer not to cycle, the option to travel by car will also be available. Continue the adventure when you arrive to Omishima's Wakka glamping resort.

Delight in the unique experience of luxury glamping; where the comfort of a well-appointed dome canvas is met with unparalleled views of nature's grandeur. As dusk falls, gather by the sea to savour a beachside BBQ, where the day's freshest bounty is grilled under a canopy of stars.



## Dogo Onsen

Dip into history at Japan's oldest hot spring town where weary travellers have been comforted for centuries. Bask in the restorative warmth of Dogo's steamy hot spring waters to rejuvenate the body and settle the soul.

Revel in the nostalgic atmosphere of Matsuyama, a quaint city boasting an impressive castle. Culinary explorations are a gateway to the past, where local dishes reflect a legacy of refined tastes.





Watatsumi Shrine overlooking Katsurahama Beach, Kochi

## SHIKOKU SECRETS

### Ozu

Ozu invites you into its historical tapestry with a glimpse into Japan's Edo period. Ancient merchant houses line the tiny streets, taking you back to a Japan that once was. Visit the serene Garyu Sanso villa; a testament to the architectural elegance of its time.

Take a transformative journey up mountain paths to the sacred Iwayajiri Temple, a significant waypoint on the Shikoku 88 temple pilgrimage. Rest at the Nipponia Hotel, where the allure of old-world Japan is seamlessly blended with contemporary luxury. Engage with the region's artisanal heritage during a hands-on experience in washi papermaking and a glimpse inside the Tobe pottery workshop.

### Yusuhara

A town cradled in the clouds, Yusuhara is a canvas for world famous architect, Kengo Kuma's nature-inspired masterpieces, a harmonious blend of modern design and traditional craftsmanship set against a backdrop of ancient cedar forests. Traverse the samurai trail of Ryoma; where the fresh mountain air is rich with the whispers of legendary tales where warriors once crossed.

### Kochi

Kochi, perched by the sea, is a coastal gem where history and nature intertwine. Stroll through vibrant local markets brimming with finely crafted items such as Japanese knives, and the freshly harvested bounties of land and sea. Kochi Castle stands as a proud reminder of the city's martial past, while the tranquil grounds of the idyllic Chikurinji Buddhist Temple provide a space for peaceful contemplation. Time will be given to join a private zen meditation session.

### Tokyo

As your journey culminates, Tokyo's dazzling neon lights offer a final, unforgettable impression. Dive into the city's pulsing heart, exploring beyond the temples and shrines to uncover a metropolis constantly reinventing itself. From the latest technological marvels to hidden pockets of tranquillity, Tokyo is a city of contrasts, promising that your final days in Japan will be filled with discovery and excitement, a vibrant finale to a journey of profound depth and beauty.





# Accommodation

## SHIKOKU SECRETS

**13 Nights / 14 Days**

*Coastal Glamping to Luxury  
Ryokans – The perfect blend  
of Japanese hospitality*

### **Kyoto (3 Nights)**

Ace Hotel / The Kyoto  
Higashiyama Tokyu / Kyoto Okura  
(Boutique or Deluxe Western Style)

### **Omishima (2 Nights)**

Wakka (Sea-view Glamping)

### **Dogo Onsen (1 Night)**

(Traditional Ryokan, Japanese Style)

### **Ozu (1 Night)**

Nipponia Hotel  
(Deluxe Japanese-Western Villas)

### **Yusuhara (2 Nights)**

Machi no Eki - Yusuhara Marché  
(Boutique Western Style)

### **Kochi (2 Nights)**

Auberge Tosayama  
(Rural Ryokan, Japanese Style)

### **Tokyo (2 Nights)**

Park Hotel Tokyo /  
Hotel Allamanda Aoyama  
(Superior Western Style)

*If the listed accommodations are unavailable,  
an alternative stay of a similar category will be  
selected, at our discretion.*







# Experiences

## SHIKOKU SECRETS

- Kyoto Sightseeing by Bike at Dawn
- Kyoto River-Rafting (or Alternative Outdoor Activity)
- Unesco Historic Monuments of Kyoto and Nara
- High-Speed Bullet Train Journeys
- Shimanami Kaido Island Hopping E-Bike Cycle (40km) or Chartered Transfer
- Glamping by the Sea
- Beachside Gourmet BBQ Under the Stars
- Soak in Heritage at Dogo's Ancient Hot Springs
- Admire Garyu Sanso's Edo-Era Elegant Villa
- Hike to Spiritual Heights on Temple Pilgrimage
- Stay at Traditional Ryokans and Inns
- Savour Sensational Kaiseki Meals
- Explore Yusu-hara's Architectural Wonders by Kengo Kuma
- Kochi Vibrant Market Excursion
- Savour Local Delicacies at Lively Izakaya
- Learn some Samurai Tales in Kochi Castle
- Artisanal Crafts of Delicate Washi-Paper-Making
- Zazen Meditation at Chikurinji Temple
- Guided Tour in Tokyo

## SEASONAL EVENTS

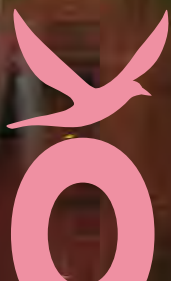
- Cherry Blossom Season (March)
- Dogo Onsen Festival (March)
- Yasakoi Kochi Festival (August)
- Sumo Grand Tournament (Aichi, July)
- Aoi Matsuri (Festival) Kyoto (May)
- Gion Festival Kyoto (July)
- Autumn Colours (November)





## GARDENS & GALLERIES

*Explore Japan's artistic soul and gardening mastery on an extraordinary 14-day tour designed for discerning travellers. A journey of horticultural richness, Zen tranquillity, luxury accommodations, and rich artisan heritage.*





## GARDENS & GALLERIES

# 13 Nights / 14 Days

A journey that weaves through Japan's top gardens and illustrious galleries, with exceptional art collections on Naoshima Island.



## What's Included?

- ✓ **Accommodation**  
11 Nights in Boutique and Superior/Deluxe Western hotels  
2 Nights in a luxurious Japanese-style ryokan with hot springs and kaiseki meals
- ✓ **Meals**  
Breakfast Daily, 2 Lunches, 5 Evening Meals
- ✓ **English Speaking Tour Leaders and Guides**  
throughout your journey
- ✓ **Airport Transfers Arrival and Departure:**
  - Arrival transfer from Tokyo Haneda or Narita Airport to Tokyo hotel
  - Departure transfer from Tokyo hotel to Tokyo Haneda or Narita Airport
- ✓ **All Transport**  
using chartered vehicles, shinkansen (bullet trains), express trains, boats, domestic flight, and local transport
- ✓ **Entrance Fees and Cultural Experiences**  
Included as per itinerary
- ✓ **Luggage Transfer Service**  
included when traveling on long-distance train journeys
- ✓ **Oomi Travel App**
- ✓ **Oomi Travel Pack**





Naoshima Island



## Tokyo

In Tokyo, the electrifying pulse of modernity converges with timeless tradition. Here, amidst the towering skyscrapers and bustling streets, the serene beauty of Hamarikyu Gardens offers a stark contrast. You'll stroll past shimmering ponds and under the whispering pines of this former imperial garden, now an oasis of calm in the city's heart. Asakusa beckons with its ancient temple, Sensō-ji, providing a window into the past amidst the modern metropolis. The day concludes with the glitzy glamour of Ginza, where flagship stores and gourmet delights tantalise the senses.

## Kamakura

From the vibrant energy of Tokyo, you'll travel 70km to the coastal serenity of Kamakura. This historic enclave by the sea is a sanctuary of Zen, with temples like Engaku-ji offering moments of reflection. The Great Buddha of Kōtoku-in, a monumental outdoor stone statue, inspires awe with its towering presence and serene gaze. Peonies and Cherry Blossom backdrops beautifully in the spring and deep orange hues in the Autumn.

Stay in the Beverly Hills of Tokyo at nearby Zushi, by the Marina, at a luxurious waterfront hotel overlooking the picturesque Enoshima Island.

## Kyoto

The journey continues to Kyoto, the cultural heart of Japan. Here, ancient streets lined with Machiya houses and hidden temples tell tales of a storied past. A private meeting with a geisha in the Gion district offers an authentic glimpse into the enigmatic world of Japanese hospitality.

With our local guide, the treasures of Kyoto come to life. Whether basking in the pink glow of cherry blossoms at Toji and Haradani gardens in April or marvelling at the fiery hues of autumn leaves in November, each garden visit promises a sensory feast.

On your free day, Kyoto's riches are yours to discover. Alternatively, a day trip to the nearby cultural treasures of Nara or the dynamic streets of Osaka offers further immersion into Kansai region's diverse experiences.





# GARDENS & GALLERIES

Adachi Museum of Art

## Himeji & Okayama

Stop by this dream destination when cherry blossoms bloom. Pristine Himeji Castle is also known as the white heron castle before a visit to one of the Great Three Gardens of Japan at Korakuen in Okayama.

## Naoshima

Naoshima Island offers a unique fusion of contemporary art and architecture set against the tranquil Seto Inland Sea. A living gallery, the island invites introspection and inspiration.

Contemporary art installations set against the island's rugged beauty create a dialogue between man-made and natural. Your stay at Benesse House integrates the experience of living within art itself, with rooms that are extensions of the museum's galleries, offering views of the Seto Inland Sea.

## Hiroshima & Miyajima

Hiroshima's narrative is one of poignant remembrance and enduring hope, with the Peace Memorial Park standing as a silent tribute to its sombre history and the sublime Shukkeien Garden symbolising rebirth.

Nearby, the sacred Miyajima Island whispers tales of the divine, with the ethereal Itsukushima Shrine and its famed floating torii gate offering a serene retreat that bridges the temporal and the timeless.

## Matsue

Matsue, the "water city," is a tapestry of feudal history and Shinto spirituality. Here, the Adachi Art Museum and Gardens are a living masterpiece, blurring the lines between painting and landscaping. Known as the birthplace of Japan, and the home of the Gods. Mingle with the supreme origins of Shinto at Taisha Shrine in Izumo.

A ryokan stay in Matsue, with its traditional kaiseki cuisine and soothing Onsen baths, offers a quintessentially Japanese experience, enveloping you in a world where the art of hospitality has been refined over centuries.

## Tokyo

As the tour concludes, you return to Tokyo for a final sojourn. Our chosen Ginza based hotel provides a fitting end to this journey of discovery.





# Accommodation

## GARDENS & GALLERIES

13 Nights / 14 Days

*Deluxe*

### Tokyo (4 Nights)

The Okura Tokyo, Chinzanso,  
New Otani Executive Garden,  
Park Hotel Tokyo, Allamanda Tokyo  
(*Boutique or Deluxe Western*)

### Kamakura / Zushi (1 Night)

Riviera Zushi Marina  
(*Deluxe Seafront Western*)

### Kyoto (3 Nights)

Kyoto Okura Hotel, Kanra,  
Higashiyama Tokyu  
(*Boutique or Deluxe Western*)

### Naoshima (1 Night)

Benesse Art-Site Naoshima  
(*Boutique Beach Front*)

### Hiroshima (2 Nights)

Hiroshima Grand Sheraton Hotel  
or Granvia  
(*Superior Western Style*)

### Matsue (2 Nights)

Kasien Minami Matsue  
(*Deluxe Japanese Style*)

*If the listed accommodations are unavailable,  
an alternative stay of a similar category will be  
selected, at our discretion.*







# Experiences

## GARDENS & GALLERIES

- Tokyo's Urban Wonders & Serene Garden Oasis
- Tranquil Guided Tour of Kamakura's Zen Gardens
- Great Buddha & Shrines of Kamakura
- Shojin (Buddhist Monk) Style Lunch
- High-Speed Bullet-Train Journeys
- World Heritage Temples in Kyoto
- Multiple Award-Winning Japanese Garden Visits
- Kyoto Moss Garden (Exclusive Entry) & Rock Garden (Ryoanji)
- Exclusive Kyoto Geisha Experience for Afternoon Tea
- Authentic Japanese Tea Ceremony
- Arashiyama Bamboo Grove & Rickshaw Ride
- Great Three Gardens of Japan - Korakuen Garden
- Tour Of Japan's Premier Samurai Castle at Himeji
- Artistic Immersion on Naoshima Island
- Hiroshima A-Bomb Museum & Peace Park
- Miyajima Island Floating Torii
- Sandankyo Gorge River Boat Ride
- Shinto's Most Important Shrine at Izumo Taisha
- Matsue's Feudal Elegance at Samurai Castle
- Ryokan Stay with Onsen Retreat
- Gourmet Kaiseki Feasts
- Adachi Museum of Art & Award-Winning Gardens

## SEASONAL EVENTS

- Cherry Blossom Viewing Festivals (March/April)
- Peony & Water Iris (May)
- Tokyo Sumo Wrestling Tournament (May/September)
- Autumn Foliage Colours & Red Spider Lily (November)





# ANCIENT TRAILS

*Step into the footsteps of history on Japan's revered Kumano Kodo trails, ascending the summit of Mount Fuji and meandering through timeless samurai villages from Tsumago to Magome, punctuated by therapeutic hot springs and gourmet regional delights.*



## ANCIENT TRAILS

# 13 Nights / 14 Days

Walk your way through history, beauty and serenity in Japan's natural landscapes. The perfect choice for an adventurer seeking an active holiday in the mountains, with stunning scenery and deep cultural immersion to look forward to.

### 1 Tokyo (2 Nights)

Izakaya Welcome Dinner followed by a full day of fun with our guide in Tokyo. Enjoy Sumo in July and September.

### 2 Mt. Fuji – Lake Kawaguchi or Hakone (1 Night)

Mt. Fuji Panoramas (optional Mt Fuji climb in July), Onsen Rejuvenation, Kaiseki Dining Indulgence,

### 3 Kyoto (3 Nights)

Guided City Tour, Cultural Immersion, Geisha Encounter, Temple Serenity. Optional Day Trip to Hiroshima and Miyajima Island.

### 4 Kumano Kodo (4 Nights)

Walks of up to 10km, Swim or Soak at Kawayu Hot Spring River, and visits to all three Significant Shrines of Kumano including Nachi Waterfalls.

### 5 Nagoya (2 Nights)

Downtime in the city, Sumo tournament in July, 8km trekking in Tsumago and Magome, old postal samurai villages.

### 6 Tokyo (1 Night)

Nature and neon in the modern metropolis.

## What's Included?

#### ✓ Accommodation

8 Nights in Standard, Superior and Boutique Western Hotels  
5 Nights in Japanese Inns (Minshuku's), Ryokans with hot springs and kaiseki dinners

#### ✓ Meals

Breakfast Daily, 5 Lunches, and 7 Evening Meals

#### ✓ English Speaking Tour Leaders and Guides

throughout your journey

#### ✓ Airport Transfers Arrival and Departure:

to/from either Haneda or Narita Airport, direct to and from your hotel

#### ✓ Transport Throughout

using chartered vehicles, shinkansen (bullet trains), express trains, buses, and local transport

#### ✓ Entrance Fees and Cultural Experiences

Included as per itinerary

#### ✓ Luggage Transfer Service

included when using bullet trains and in Kumano Kodo

#### ✓ Oomi Travel App

#### ✓ Oomi Travel Pack





Kiyomizu Dera Temple in Kyoto



## Tokyo

Begin your journey in the electrifying capital of Tokyo, the pulsating heart of Japan, where tradition and innovation dazzle the streets. As evening falls, the warm glow of an izakaya welcomes you with delicious fare for a welcome dinner. Navigate through the bustling streets, on a guided tour, taking in the best seasonal places recommended by the locals.

## Kawaguchiko

Nestled in the embrace of the Fuji Five Lakes, Kawaguchiko is a tranquil retreat that boasts postcard-perfect views of Mount Fuji. As the gateway to Japan's most sacred mountain, it provides a harmonious blend of nature and culture. Your ryokan, Kasuitei Oya, offers traditional hospitality with sumptuous kaiseki meals and onsen baths, ensuring a restful retreat after a day of exploration.

If you are traveling in the summer months (June/July/August), choose to summit Mt Fuji (3,888m). In lieu of staying at a Japanese ryokan, rest time will be given on a mountain hut, helpful for adjusting to higher altitude.



## Kyoto

Kyoto, once the imperial capital, is now the custodian of Japan's soul. A city where geishas glide along the cobbled streets of Gion, and Zen gardens and bamboo groves stand in silent testimony to a bygone era. Kyoto city is a UNESCO World Heritage showcase with an astonishing 18 unique sites listed in the city.

Kyoto, Japan's heart of tradition, offers a mesmerizing journey through ancient streets lined with wooden Machiya (town houses). Hear first-hand from a trainee Geisha (Maiko) about 'life-as-a-maiko' over afternoon tea in her Gion Machiya. Ramble along with a friendly local guide to the finest temples, gardens, shrines and intricacies that make Kyoto so unique. Explore the quintessential alleys to shop for silk, lacquerware, knives or kimonos.

Explore on your own during your free day or follow us to Nishiki Market to see how the local's shop. Optional Day Trip: Take a two-hour bullet train to Hiroshima soaking in some history and magical views on Miyajima Island.







Mt. Fuji

## ANCIENT TRAILS

### Kumano Kodo on Kii Peninsula

Embrace the ancient Nakahechi Route of Kumano Kodo, through the UNESCO World Heritage Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range. Mountains, uniting the ancient spirituality of three Grand Shrines with natural splendour. This path, trod by emperors, reveals Japan's deep-rooted pilgrimage traditions amidst a cathedral of towering cedars. Along the way, local inns and ryokans steeped in tradition provide tranquil respite, with steaming onsens and a bounty of local gastronomy. The trek embarked on covers some of the trails of up to 10km in any one day of walking. Comfortable shoes will be your friend.

Starting in Kii Tanabe, the route takes you through small villages along mountain paths and cobblestones through Hongu, Shingu, and finishing at Kii Katsuura. Over the four days, walk from place to place, some days requiring more exertion than others. Overall, expect to walk up to five or six hours per day.

Evenings are spent soaking in a hot spring bath with tasty local dinners served by your inn owners. An experience that can only be compared to St James Camino De Santiago in Spain. Both Pilgrimages share a dual certification system, if stamp collecting is your hobby. A wonderful way to embrace Japan's natural beauty and local communities.

### Nagoya & Tsumago/Magome

In Nagoya, immerse yourself in a dynamic blend of history and modernity. Ascend Midland Square for panoramic city views, delve into the culinary scene at JR Central Towers, and savour local specialties like Miso-Katsu. Come July, the energy is palpable as sumo titans clash in the Grand Tournament, with Nagoya Castle providing a historic backdrop.

A short journey brings you to the storied Nakasendo Trail in the Kiso Valley, where the Edo era's heart beats in Tsumago and Magome. Wander these ancient postal towns, where time pauses and hospitality is etched into every corner. The trail, a living museum lined with traditional soba houses and the rhythmic clack of water wheels, offers a tranquil 8km walk bridging the past and present in a seamless narrative of cultural splendour.

### Returning to Tokyo

Your adventure circles back to the electric buzz of Tokyo. The city's endless layers offer new discoveries even on a second visit. It's a chance to explore unseen corners, indulge in culinary delights, or simply reflect on the journey at a rooftop bar overlooking the sprawling cityscape, a fitting end to your voyage through Japan's diverse landscapes.





# Accommodation

## ANCIENT TRAILS

### 13 Nights / 14 Days

*Enjoy the best of both worlds, in traditional mountain lodges, rural ryokans, relaxing in city centre hotels.*

#### Tokyo (3 Nights)

Shibuya Tokyu Excel Hotel, remm plus  
Ginza, Mitsui Garden Premier Ginza  
(Superior Western Style)

#### Kawaguchiko (1 Night)

Kasuitei Oya  
(Traditional Ryokan, Japanese Style)  
OR  
Mt. Fuji 6th Station  
(Mountain Hut, Japanese Futon)

#### Kyoto (3 Nights)

Kyoto Okura Hotel, JR Blossom Hotel,  
The Kyoto Higashiyama Tokyu Hotel  
(Deluxe Western Style)

#### Kawayu Onsen (2 Nights)

Kawayu Onsen Fujiya  
(Rural Ryokan, Japanese Style)  
OR  
Midori Minshuku  
(Minshuku Inn, Japanese Style)

#### Kii-Katsuura (2 Nights)

Katsuura Gyoen Hotel Urashiyama  
(Traditional Japanese-Western Style)

#### Nagoya (2 Nights)

Nagoya Tokyu, Nagoya Associa,  
The Royal Park Canvas Nagoya  
(Superior Western Style)

*If the listed accommodations are unavailable,  
an alternative stay of a similar category will be  
selected, at our discretion.*







# Experiences

## ANCIENT TRAILS

- Explore Electrifying Tokyo by Day & Night
- Authentic Izakaya Welcome Dinner
- Markets & Museums in Tokyo
- Fresh Sushi Delights at Tsukiji Outer Fish Market
- Asakusa Temple Exploration
- Traditional Ryokan Hospitality by Mt Fuji's Lakes
- Majestic Vistas of Mount Fuji
- Volcanic Hot Spring Onsen Indulgence
- Exquisite Kaiseki Dining Experience
- High-Speed Bullet Train (Shinkansen) Journeys
- Kyoto's UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Spiritual Visits to Kyoto's Temples & Shrines
- Nijo Castle's Historical Grandeur & Gardens
- Afternoon Tea with Authentic Kyoto Geisha
- Scenic Mountain Drives through Rural Landscapes
- Kumano Kodo's UNESCO 4-Day Pilgrimage Walks
- Walk 7 – 13km daily on the Nakahechi Route
- 5-6 full days of mountain walks (incline and decline necessary)
- Culinary Adventure in Nagoya City
- Hike 8km Ancient Samurai Route on Nakasendo Trail
- Free Time for Tokyo Shopping
- Farewell Dinner Tokyo City

## SEASONAL EVENTS

- Cherry Blossoms (March/April)\*
- Mt Fuji Sunrise Summit Climb (July/August: Optional)
- Sumo Grand Tournament (July & September)
- Autumn Foliage (November)





# HIDDEN TREASURES

*Hidden Treasures promises intimate encounters with Japan's artistic heart, its spiritual soul, its vibrant modernity, and its timeless heritage. Immerse in cultural riches from the avant-garde allure of Naoshima Island where art and architecture merge with nature, to morning meditation with Buddhist monks after a temple stay on Mt Koya.*



# HIDDEN TREASURES

## 15 Nights / 16 Days

Feel Japan's pulse from Kobe's cosmopolitan street and appreciate the elegance of Kyoto's Geisha. Relish the serenity of the remote Iya Valley. Marvel at Ise's spiritual grandeur, culminating in Tokyo's electrifying embrace.

### 1 Kobe (2 Nights)

Tour of Picturesque Port City, Kobe Beef Indulgence, Sake Tasting, Herb Garden via Ropeway.

### 2 Tokushima (1 Night)

Naruto Whirlpool Wonders, Workshop in Ancient Indigo Dyeing Craft.

### 3 Iya Valley (1 Night)

Iya Valley Rural Adventures, Kotohira Kabuki Traditions, Ritsurin Garden Elegance.

### 4 Naoshima (2 Nights)

Artistic immersion and relaxation on Naoshima Island, Himeji Castle's Feudal Majesty.



### 5 Kyoto (3 Nights)

Naoshima Art Island and Himeji Castle.

### 6 Mt. Koya & Nara (1 Night)

Spiritual Walking Tour of Koyasan with overnight in a Buddhist Temple Lodge or in the ancient capital Nara. Todaiji Temple at Nara.

### 7 Ise & Mikimoto Island (2 Nights)

Shinto Grand Shrine of Ise, Ama Pearl Divers Heritage, Mikimoto Pearl Island.

### 8 Tokyo (3 Nights)

Guided City Tour of the World's Largest City, Farewell Meal Amidst Neon Lights.

## What's Included?

### ✓ Accommodation

11 Nights in Boutique and Superior Western Hotels (deluxe upgrades available in Kyoto, Osaka and Ise)

3 Nights Superior Japanese Style

1 Night Temple Lodge

### ✓ Meals Included

Breakfast Daily, 2 Lunches and 7 Dinners

### ✓ English Speaking Tour Leaders and Guides

throughout your journey

### ✓ Airport Transfers Arrival and Departure:

- Transfer from Kansai International Airport to Kobe hotel.
- Transfer from your Tokyo hotel to Haneda or Narita Airport.

### ✓ All Transfers

throughout using shinkansen (bullet train), chartered vehicles, ferries, and regular trains.

### ✓ Entrance Fees and Cultural Experiences

Included as per itinerary

### ✓ Luggage Transfer Service

included on necessary days

### ✓ Oomi Travel App

### ✓ Oomi Travel Pack





Mt. Koya

## Kobe

Embrace the chic vibrance of Kobe, a city made famous for the sumptuous, marbled Kobe Beef and Sake Distilleries. Join a private viewing of a renowned distillery with a chance to sample and buy the best of Japan's sake produce. An inviting port city with an international heartbeat, Kobe blends cosmopolitan elegance with its vibrant streets and the maritime charm of its scenic harbour. Visit the colourful Nunobiki Herb Gardens reached by ropeway on Mt Rokka. As twilight descends, the illuminated Kobe Port Tower and Harborland's vibrant nightlife beckon. Kobe Beef dinner is a must!

## Tokushima

Tokushima presents the enthralling Naruto whirlpools, where the forces of nature create a spectacular aquatic ballet. Dive into traditional craftsmanship with an Aizome indigo dyeing session, taking a piece of Japan's artisanal culture home. Should your visit coincide with the Awa Odori Festival, held in August each year, prepare for a captivating spectacle of dance and revelry that epitomizes Tokushima's lively cultural scene.

## Iya Valley

The challenging mountainous terrain and steep valleys mean the Iya Valley remains one of the most isolated and least densely populated areas of Japan. Known for its stunning beauty, the area has remained largely unchanged over time. Excite the soul crossing a footbridge made from vines and on a river raft through the scenic gorge. The next morning, take the scenic drive to Kotohira. Engage with Japan's dramatic performing arts history at the Kotohira Kabuki Theatre, a cultural treasure nestled in a picturesque village also famed for Sanuki Udon. In Takamatsu, the tranquil beauty of Ritsurin Garden invites contemplation amidst its sculpted landscapes, reflecting a connection between nature and artistry.

## Naoshima

Art and architecture converge on Naoshima Island, an enclave of creativity where contemporary public art displays stand in dialogue with the landscape. Galleries with exquisite art collections and public art installations resonate with the island's scenic natural backdrop. Traverse the island's unique art spaces, including the iconic Benesse House. Explore visionary spaces like the Chichu Art Museum, and contemplate modernity at Yayoi Kusama's iconic pumpkins.

## Himeji

En-route to Kyoto, stop by the historic jewel at Himeji, where Japan's largest original samurai castle sits proudly watching over the city. A UNESCO World Heritage Site representing the epitome of feudal strength.







# HIDDEN TREASURES

## Kyoto

Kyoto, Japan's sanctuary of culture, is where the past is ever-present. Experience Kintsugi, a traditional Japanese art form, that transforms broken pottery into stunning works of art. Meet with Maiko, over tea, at a traditional tea house in Gion. Immerse yourself in the serene Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, and appreciate the tranquillity of Zen gardens, and the spirituality of ancient shrines. The city's UNESCO-listed sites, such as the Silver Pavilion, reveal layers of Kyoto's imperial legacy, inviting you to lose yourself in a cultural labyrinth that has charmed travellers for centuries.

## Mt. Koya and Nara

Venture to the revered peaks of Mount Koya for a soulful retreat into spiritual solace, with its temple lodgings and monastic rituals set amidst forested serenity. Engage in monastic practices with zazen meditation and/or calligraphy. In Nara, history breathes through the grandeur of Todai-ji and the gentle deer of Nara Park, ambassadors of a time when the city was the ancient capital.

## Ise and Mikimoto Pearl Island

In Ise, the sacred shrines of Ise stand as bastions of spiritual heritage, enveloped by ancient forests and traditions. The Grand Shrine is considered a symbol of Shinto purity and Japan's spiritual foundation. On Mikimoto Pearl Island, discover the fascinating history of pearl cultivation and meet the remarkable Ama divers, whose age-old tradition captures the essence of Japan's connection with the sea. A fascinating insight into Mikimoto pearl history.

## Tokyo

Conclude your odyssey in Tokyo, where the pulse of modern Japan beats the loudest. Dive into the city's eclectic neighbourhoods, from the fashion-forward streets of Harajuku and Shibuya to the tech mecca of Akihabara. Experience the contrast between the serene calm of the Imperial Palace Gardens or Hamarikyu Gardens and the electric neon buzz of Shinjuku or Ginza after dark. Tokyo, with its dynamic rhythm and boundless energy, offers a memorable finale to a journey that has traversed the breadth of Japan's timeless allure and hidden treasures.





# Accommodation

## HIDDEN TREASURES

15 Nights / 16 Days

*Standard & Superior (Combined)*

### Kobe (2 Nights)

Kobe Meriken Park Oriental Hotel  
*(Superior Western Style)*

### Tokushima (1 Night)

Tokushima Clement Hotel  
*(Standard Western Style)*

### Iya Valley (1 Night)

Hotel Iyaonsen  
*(Superior Ryokan, Japanese Style)*

### Naoshima (2 Nights)

Benesse Art-Site Naoshima  
*(Boutique Western Style)*

### Kyoto (3 Nights)

The Chapter Hotel / Kanra Hotel  
*(Boutique Western Style)*

### Koyasan (1 Night)

Mt. Koya Temple Stay  
*(Temple Stay, Japanese Style)*

### Ise (2 Nights)

Toba International Hotel  
*(Superior Japanese-Western Style)*

OR

Upgrade to Ise Amanemu  
*(Super-Deluxe Western Style)*

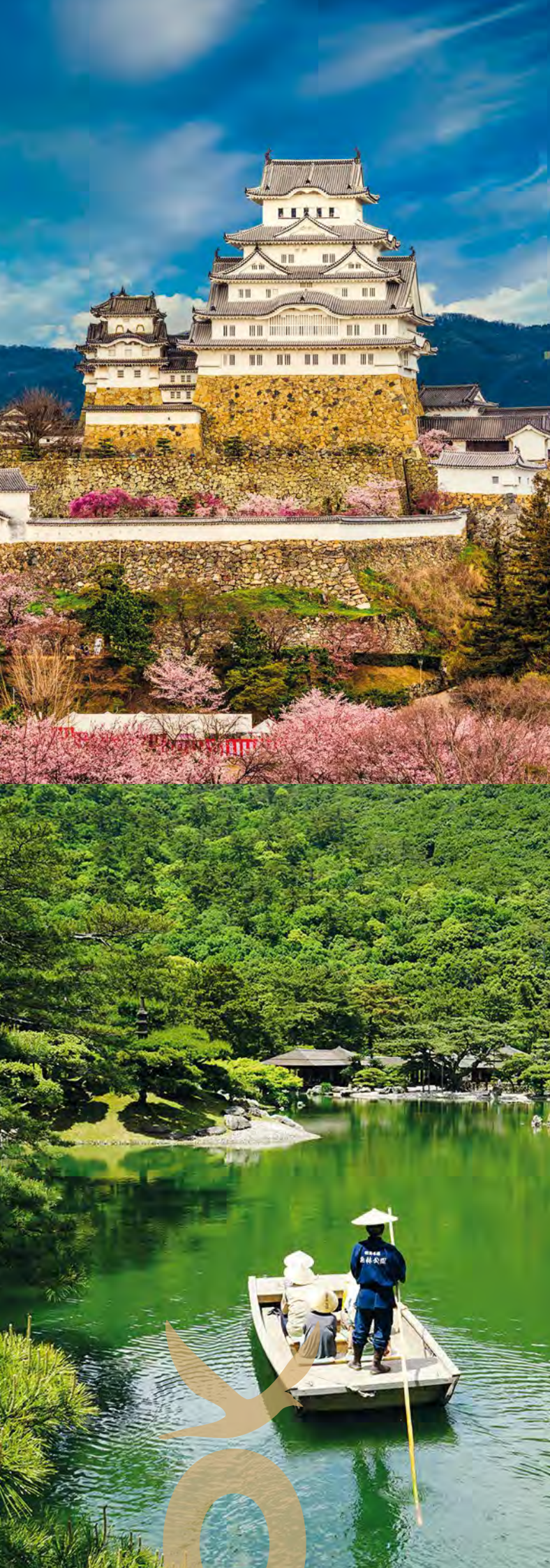
### Tokyo (3 Nights)

Hotel Allamanda Aoyama  
*(Boutique Deluxe Western Style)*

*If the listed accommodations are unavailable,  
an alternative stay of a similar category will be  
selected, at our discretion.*







# Experiences

## HIDDEN TREASURES

- Kobe Beef Welcome Dinner
- Kobe Sightseeing (Herb Rose Garden & Sake Distillery)
- Indigo Dying Workshop Participation
- View Naruto Whirlpools Natural Phenomena
- Iya Valley Boat Ride
- Ritsurin Japanese Garden visit
- Naoshima Art Island Museums
- Stay in Benesse Art-Site Naoshima
- Himeiji Castle Visit
- Kyoto World Heritage Temples & Shrines on Guided Tour
- Afternoon Tea with Kyoto Maiko
- Kintsugi Master Workshop Kyoto
- Koyasan Temple Stay, Calligraphy and/or Meditation with Monks
- Mikimoto Pearl Island Visit & Ama Divers Demonstration
- Grand Ise Shrine
- Overnight Stays in a Luxurious Traditional Ryokan with Kaiseki Dinner and Onsen
- Tokyo Sightseeing (by day and night)

## SEASONAL EVENTS

- Cherry Blossom (March)
- Koyasan Festival (June)
- Awa Odori Dance Festival (August)\*
- Koyasan Candle Festival (August)
- Sumo Tournament (September)
- Autumn Leaf Colours (November)

\*Subject to route/itinerary changes during festival.





# TOHOKU TRAILS

*Venture beyond the familiar into Tohoku's untouched landscapes and cultural enclaves, where authentic festivals, samurai heritage, and natural sanctuaries reveal Japan's uncharted splendour.*



## TOHOKU TRAILS

# 12 Nights / 13 Days

Embark on a 13-day journey into the heart of Japan's lush natural landscape, exploring heritage, rural homes, tranquil hot springs, and vast landscapes. A wise choice for those willing to dive deep into a quieter, less travelled, Japan.



- 1 **Tokyo (1 Night)**  
Izakaya Welcome, Urban Exploration
- 2 **Aomori (2 Nights)**  
Grandclass Bullet Train Journey, Forest Hike (May-Oct)
- 3 **Kakunodate (1 Night)**  
Samurai Village Immersion, Rustic Onsen Bliss, Farm Visit
- 4 **Tono (1 Night)**  
Farmstay with Japanese Family, Rural Lifestyle, Folklore
- 5 **Sendai City (2 Nights)**  
City Lights, Coastal Beauty, Mountain Temple Hike

Aomori 2  
Kakunodate 3  
Tono 4

Sendai City 5

Aizuwakamatsu 6

Nikko 7

Tokyo 8

- 6 **Aizuwakamatsu (2 Nights)**  
Samurai Castle Town (Ouchijuku) by Scenic Lakes
- 7 **Nikko (1 Night)**  
Scenic Train Ride, Waterfalls, Lakes and UNESCO Temples
- 8 **Tokyo (2 Nights)**  
Self-Exploration, Neon Nights, Farewell Dinner

## What's Included?

- ✓ **Accommodation**  
6 nights in Superior and Deluxe Western Style  
7 Nights in Boutique and Japanese Style Ryokans, Minshuku's/Farmhouses with hot springs and kaiseki dinner
- ✓ **Meals**  
Breakfast Daily, 1 Lunch, 7 Evening Meals
- ✓ **English Speaking Tour Leaders and Guides**  
throughout your journey
- ✓ **Airport Transfers Arrival and Departure:**
  - Arrival transfer from Tokyo Haneda or Narita Airport to your hotel
  - Departure transfer from your Tokyo hotel to Haneda or Narita Airport
- ✓ **All Transport**  
using chartered vehicles, Grand Class Shinkansen, express trains, and local transport
- ✓ **Entrance Fees and Cultural Experiences**  
Included as per itinerary
- ✓ **Luggage Transfer Service**  
included when traveling on long-distance train journeys
- ✓ **Oomi Travel App**
- ✓ **Oomi Travel Pack**





Sendai Festival

## Tokyo

Tokyo, a city where ancient traditions and futuristic innovation coexist, thrills with its dynamic contrast. Wander through serene Shinto shrines overshadowed by towering skyscrapers, and immerse yourself in the vibrant energy of districts like Shibuya and Shinjuku. Delight in a lively Izakaya meal and the panoramic skyline from a chic, urban hotel, capturing the essence of this pulsating city.



## Aomori

Experience the serene splendour of Aomori, where you will connect with nature on a hike in the stunning 12,000-year-old virgin beech forests of Shirakami Sanchi, a UNESCO Natural Heritage site. Relax in a luxurious ryokan, indulge in Kaiseki cuisine, and immerse yourself in the region's deep cultural roots at festivals like the vivid Nebuta Matsuri. Hirosaki Castle Park, stunning in cherry blossom season, offers a glimpse into Japan's rich, feudal past.

## Kakunodate

Northern Tohoku is one of Japan's most mountainous areas and an area rich with volcanic hot springs. Nyuto Onsen is an area known for Tsurunoyu is the oldest and most famous inn. A visit here will reassure you that traditional ways are very much alive and well in Japan.

Kakunodate, the 'Little Kyoto of Tohoku', is renowned for its impeccably preserved samurai district. Stroll through historic streets lined with Edo-period residences and cherry trees. Here, the art of Kabazaiku, traditional cherry bark crafting, provides a tactile connection to the region's heritage, while the Sakura Festival, depending on bloom timings, adds a layer of ephemeral beauty.



## Tono

Tono epitomises Japan's pastoral charm with its legends and vibrant rural life. Known for folktales and 'Kappa' sprites, it offers a mosaic of idyllic landscapes and warm hospitality. Stay in traditional farmhouses, engage with hands-on agricultural activities, and relish home-cooked meals, crafting a genuine tapestry of Japanese country living.





Nyuto Onsen

## TOHOKU TRAILS

### Sendai

Sendai fuses modern urbanity with verdant tranquillity, earning its title as the 'City of Trees'. Its wide tree-lined boulevards are contrasted by the narrow neon-lit back alleys of its lively entertainment district Kokubuncho. Explore Matsushima Bay, known for pine-clad islets and sunset cruises, and ascend the steps to Yamadera Temple for breathtaking vistas. Sendai's festivals, from Tanabata's fireworks to the lively Yosakoi dance, highlight its rich cultural tapestry.

### Aizuwakamatsu

Aizuwakamatsu, steeped in samurai lore, boasts the majestic Tsuruga Castle and the architectural marvel of Aizu Sazaedo with its double-helix structure. Amidst scenic mountains, engage in archery and Akabeko painting at the former Samurai School, and delve into Japan's feudal history while savouring the city's serene beauty with a short hiking trip to the stunning five lakes (each a different hue) at Goshikunuma.

### Ouchijuku

Step back in time when experiencing Ouchijuku's Edo-era ambience. The village's thatched-roofed buildings and culinary heritage blend seamlessly to transport you to a bygone time. Beyond its postal-town aesthetics, Ouchijuku is celebrated for its Negi soba, offering flavours as authentic as its preserved streets. Climb to Takakura Shrine for panoramic vistas, or savour tochimochi amidst the town's tranquil charm, a serene escape preserving the essence of yesteryears.

### Nikko

Nikko, a World Heritage treasure, boasts the opulent Toshogu Shrine, Tokugawa Ieyasu's grand mausoleum, showcasing Japan's intricate artistry. Discover Kegon Falls, plunging 97 meters amid lush scenery, and Chuzenji Lake's volcanic beauty. Here, history is alive, echoing Shogunate legacies and bygone diplomat sojourns, offering a tapestry of spiritual and natural splendour.





# Accommodation

## TOHOKU TRAILS

### 12 Nights / 13 Days

*Experience rural Japanese hospitality at its best from local inns to one-of-kind ryokans.*

#### Tokyo (3 Nights)

Tokyo Marunouchi Hotel,  
Shiba Park Hotel  
(Superior Western Hotel)

#### Aomori (2 Nights)

Hoshino Resorts Kai Tsugaru  
(Superior Japanese Style Ryokan)

#### Kakunodate (1 Night)

Tamachi Bukeyakishi  
(Superior Japanese Style Ryokan)

#### Tono (1 Night)

Farmhouse Stay  
(Japanese Style, subject to availability)

#### Sendai (2 Nights)

Richmond Hotel Premier Sendai Ekimae  
(Superior Western Hotel)

#### Aizuwakamatsu (2 Nights)

Aizu Higashiyama Onsen Mukaitaki  
(Superior Japanese Style Ryokan)

#### Nikko (1 Night)

Ritz Carlton Nikko  
(Super Deluxe Japanese Western Style)

*If the listed accommodations are unavailable, an alternative stay of a similar category will be selected, at our discretion.*







# Experiences

## TOKOKU TRAILS

- Premier Granclass Shinkansen Travel
- Authentic Luxurious Ryokan Stay with Kaiseki Dining
- UNESCO Shirakami Sanchi Forest Hike (weather permitting)
- Relaxing Outdoor Hot Springs
- Historic Samurai Villages
- Rustic Farm Homestay / Visit (subject to availability)
- Peaceful Gorge River Cruises
- UNESCO Golden Chuson-Ji Temple
- Vibrant Sendai Shopping & Entertainment District
- Sacred Yamadera Mountain Temple Pilgrimage
- Feudal Samurai Castle Exploration
- Sake Brewery Tasting Session
- Spiralling Iimoriyama (Sazaedo Temple) Visit
- Traditional Archery and Akabeko Painting at Nisshinkan
- Panoramic Aizu Mount Express Train Journey
- UNESCO Nikko National Park

## SEASONAL EVENTS

- Springtime Hirosaki Cherry Blossom Festival\*
- Floral Kakunodate Cherry Blossom Festival\*
- Majestic Tsuruga Castle Cherry Blossom Festival\*
- Vibrant Nebuta Summer Festival (August)
- Colourful Sendai Tanabata Festival (August)
- Energetic Michinoku Yosakoi Festival (October)

\*All festivals are seasonally timed and may vary annually.



A large blue and white ferry boat named 'Aurora' is sailing on a body of water. The boat has a red hull and a white upper section with blue accents. It has multiple decks with windows and railings. In the background, a city is visible on a hillside under a blue sky. The water is a deep blue, and the overall scene is framed by a large blue circular graphic.

# JOURNEY TO THE EAST

Explore Eastern Hokkaido's enigmatic beauty amidst the tranquillity of winter's embrace. Delight in the animated creativity of the Sapporo Snow Festival, soak in the majestic mating dance of the endangered Red-Crowned Cranes and discover the cultural intrigue and aesthetic beauty of the indigenous Ainu people and their traditions. Witness part of Japan's natural beauty that few people ever have the privilege of visiting.



# JOURNEY TO THE EAST

## 7 Nights / 8 Days

Embark on an extraordinary journey beyond the familiar into a winter wonderland to unveil the secluded splendour of Eastern Hokkaido. Find your peace in serene national parks where endangered wildlife roams free amidst snow-clad calderas, where volcanic hot springs melt holes in frozen-over lakes, and where ancient Ainu cultural heritage endures.

- 1 Sapporo (2 Nights)**  
Sensational Snow Sculptures, Festive Atmosphere, Beer Museum & Chocolate Factory, Bright Lights of Susukino.
- 2 Kushiro (1 Night)**  
Elegant Mating Dance of Endangered Red-Crowned Cranes, Dawn Chorus of Majestic Birdlife.
- 3 Lake Akan (2 Nights)**  
Indigenous Ainu Spirit, Luxurious Hot Spring Onsens, Firework Displays over Caldera Lakes in Serene Akan-Mashu National Park.



- 4 Shiretoko Peninsula (1 Night)**  
Rugged Wilderness on Spectacular Coastline, Wildlife Abundance in Ecological Wonderland, UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- 5 Abashiri (1 Night)**  
Icy Seascape Adventures on Ice-breaker Ship, Poignant Historical Echoes at Prison Museum.

## What's Included?

- ✓ **Accommodation**  
3 Nights in Superior Western Style  
4 Nights in Traditional Ryokans, Japanese Style
- ✓ **Meals**  
Breakfast Daily and 5 Evening Meals
- ✓ **English Speaking Tour Leaders and Guides**  
throughout your journey
- ✓ **Airport Transfers Arrival and Departure:**
  - Arrival transfer from Sapporo Chitose International Airport to your hotel in Sapporo
  - Departure transfer from your ryokan in Abashiri to Memanbetsu Domesic Airport
- ✓ **All Transport**  
using chartered vehicles, express train, boats, and local transport
- ✓ **Entrance Fees and Cultural Experiences**  
Included as per itinerary
- ✓ **Luggage Transfer Service**  
included when traveling on long-distance train journeys
- ✓ **Oomi Travel App**
- ✓ **Oomi Travel Pack**





Red-Crowned Cranes



## Sapporo

Step into Sapporo's magical winter canvas, where the renowned Snow Festival transforms the cityscape into an open-air gallery of monumental sculptures and crystalline ice art. As Hokkaido's capital city shimmers under a blanket of snow, it becomes a playground for the senses, offering a rich tapestry of culinary excellence and cultural vibrancy. Delight in a mosaic of flavours, from the speciality of buttery miso ramen to the exquisite freshness of sea urchin and crab washed down by its namesake locally brewed Sapporo beer. Hokkaido's largest city is a fusion of modernity and heritage, definitely Japanese and yet distinctly different from cities in Honshu. Feel the pulsating energy on snow sculpture-lined streets as the city captivates your spirit.



## Kushiro

In the serene marshlands of Kushiro, witness the poetic grace of the Red-Crowned Cranes, an emblem of nature's elegance and Japan's commitment to preserving its natural heritage. This region, where mist rises off the marshes like a soft veil, offers a sanctuary not only for these iconic birds but also for the soul seeking tranquillity. Beyond its ecological allure, Kushiro acts as a portal to the wild, inviting explorers to its misty lakes and vast reserves, where whispers of the earth's ancient past can be heard in silence.



## Akan Mashu National Park

Akan Mashu National Park, a sanctuary of hot springs and primal wilderness, invites you to immerse in its geothermal splendour. The surrounding calderas, sculpted by geological force, cradle waters that mirror the sky. Here, the Ainu people's rich heritage is brought to life through evocative performances and meticulous craftwork in Ainu Kotan village. These timeless practices offer a rare glimpse into an indigenous culture that has harmoniously coexisted with nature's rhythms for centuries. Engage with the stories of the Ainu, whose heritage is interwoven with the very fabric of this landscape, offering a profound connection to a land that is both ancient and ever-renewing.





Shiretoko Drift Ice Walk

## JOURNEY TO THE EAST

### Shiretoko National Park

Embrace the wilderness of the Shiretoko Peninsula, a bastion of biodiversity and natural majesty, declared a UNESCO World Heritage site for its ecological value. A testament to the untouched majesty of Hokkaido's eastern frontier. It is a place of introspection and adventure, where the silence of the dense woodlands is a canvas for the orchestral performance of nature's most authentic sounds.

Venture into this untamed landscape to discover a world where the only sound is of a fresh alpine breeze whistling through native trees and the crunching sound of powdery snow compressing beneath your snow shoes. This peninsula, jutting defiantly into the sea, provides not just a sanctuary for creatures great and small, from the elusive brown bear to the stoic white-tailed eagle, but also a place of solace for those seeking to reconnect with the raw essence of nature.



### Abashiri

In Abashiri, the confluence of nature's artistry and historical narrative comes to life. The town, once known for its seclusion and the infamous prison now invites visitors to witness the marvel of drifting ice as the sea transforms into a moving tableau of ice, creating an ephemeral spectacle best witnessed up close from the bows of an ice-breaker boat.

Onshore, delve into the sombre history of the Abashiri Prison Museum, where tales of endurance and the resilience of the human spirit are etched into the weathered walls of well-preserved buildings, offering a reflective journey through time amid Hokkaido's stark winter beauty.





# Accommodation

## JOURNEY TO THE EAST

7 Nights / 8 Days  
*Superior and Deluxe*

### Sapporo (2 Nights)

ANA Crowne Plaza Sapporo  
*(Superior Western Style)*

### Kushiro (1 Night)

ANA Crowne Plaza Kushiro  
*(Superior Western Style)*

### Lake Akan (2 Nights)

Akan-ko Tsuruga Wings  
*(Superior Japanese Ryokan with  
hot springs and dinner)*

### Shiretoko Peninsula (1 Night)

Shiretoko Daiichi Hotel  
*(Superior Western-Japanese Style  
with hot springs and dinner)*

### Abashiri (1 Night)

Hokuten No Oka Lake Abashiri  
Tsuruga Resort  
*(Superior Japanese Ryokan with  
hot springs and dinner)*

*If the listed accommodations are unavailable,  
an alternative stay of a similar category will be  
selected, at our discretion.*







# Experiences

## JOURNEY TO THE EAST

- Sapporo Sightseeing and Snow Festival
- Endangered, Red-Crowned Crane Sanctuary
- Overnight Stays in Traditional Ryokans
- Open-air Hot Spring Baths
- Photograph Opportunities at Lake Akan / Lake Kussharo / Lake Mashu
- Ainu Cultural Performance
- Abashiri Drift-Ice Cruise (subject to conditions)
- Abashiri Prison Museum
- Shiretoko Snowshoe Experience
- Amazing Scenic Drives, and more.

## SEASONAL EVENTS

- Sapporo Snow Festival (February)
- Winter Sports on Powder Snow (January – April)





# HOKKAIDO BLOOMS

*Embark on a relaxing journey witnessing the colourful transformation of Hokkaido's blooming landscape after a long white winter. Experience lively seasonal festivals, meet with indigenous Ainu people, stay in opulent ryokans, and witness breathtaking National Parks worthy of UNESCO World Heritage status.*



## HOKKAIDO BLOOMS

# 10 Nights / 11 Days

This immersive tour spans Sapporo's dynamic festivals to Shiretoko's rugged coastline, offering a tapestry of cultural and natural wonders. Relish the fusion of modernity with tradition, and rejuvenate amidst the serenity of Japan's celebrated hot springs and hospitality.

### 1 Sapporo City (2 Nights)

Discover Sapporo's blend of urban buzz and natural tranquillity; from seasonal cultural festivals, to local beer and seafood delights, to historical sites and panoramic views.

### 2 Furano & Biei (2 Nights)

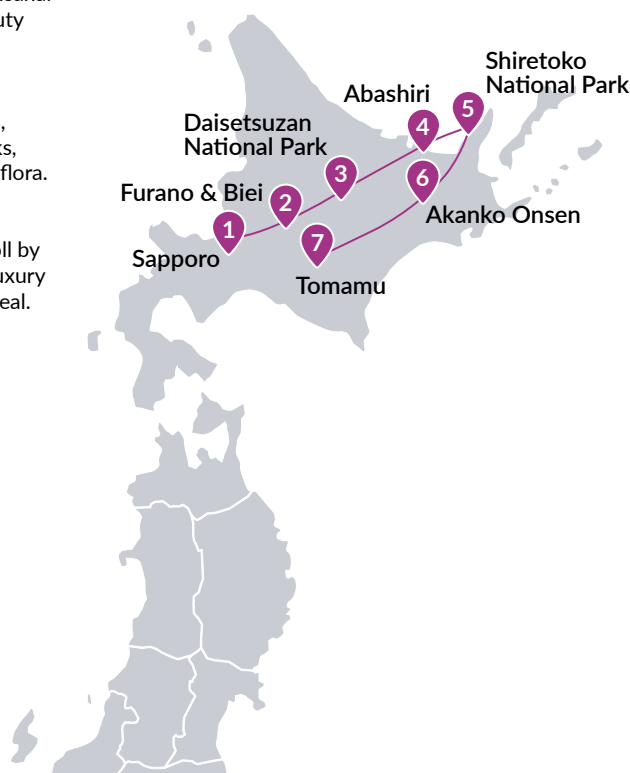
Experience enchanting landscapes, artisanal crafts, culinary delights, and floral beauty framed by the Tokachi Mountains.

### 3 Daisetsuzan National Park (1 Night)

Unwind in Soukyo Onsen's hot springs, explore Daisetsuzan's forests and peaks, and marvel at sunset views and alpine flora.

### 4 Abashiri (1 Night)

Explore Abashiri's prison museum, stroll by Cape Notoro lighthouse, and enjoy a luxury ryokan stay with onsen and evening meal.



### 5 Shiretoko National Park (1 Night)

Experience UNESCO wild beauty, volcanic scenery, rare wildlife, and therapeutic hot springs on a captivating Aurora boat journey into nature.

### 6 Akanko Onsen (2 Nights)

Overnight by the lake, interact with the indigenous Ainu people after an enjoyable evening performance by the Ainu Community. Learn about the mystical marimo algae.

### 7 Tomamu (1 Night)

Enjoy views from your 'sea of clouds' terrace plus a wide range of outdoor activities to choose from.

## What's Included?

### ✓ Accommodation

5 nights in Superior and Deluxe Western hotels  
5 nights in traditional Ryokans, Japanese style

### ✓ Meals

Breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 7 Evening Meals

### ✓ English Speaking Tour Leaders and Guides throughout your journey

### ✓ Airport Transfers Arrival and Departure:

from Chitose International Airport direct to/from hotels

### ✓ All Transfers

throughout using chartered vehicles and regular trains and taxi's

### ✓ Entrance Fees and Cultural Experiences

Included as per itinerary

### ✓ Oomi Travel App

### ✓ Oomi Travel Pack





Sapporo Yosakoi Summer Festival

## Sapporo City

Explore vibrant Sapporo, the urban heart of Hokkaido, where modern sophistication and the serenity of nature converge. Savour the city's famed beer and fresh seafood as you stroll through verdant urban parks; often filled with the fantastical sights and sounds of seasonal cultural festivals. Marvel at the whimsy of chocolate creation in Shiroi Koibito Park. Ascend Mt. Moiwa via the Ropeway Cable Car, where the city's panorama sprawls beneath you, transforming at sunset into a tapestry of twinkling lights. The Historical Village of Hokkaido whispers tales of yesteryear, inviting you to step back in time.

## Furano & Biei

The enchanting towns of Furano and Biei charm with storybook vistas of vibrant lavender and a mosaic of wildflowers that bloom in symphonies of seasonal colour. Wander through Ningle Terrace's tranquil woods to browse for artisanal crafts. Be captivated by the sapphire sparkle of the Shirogane Blue Pond and the cascading elegance of Shirahige Falls. Sample the region's bounty at local vineyards, the Furano Cheese Factory, and local craft confectionery stores.

Furano and Biei offer a pastoral retreat where the rolling hills are a tapestry of vibrant lavender and wildflowers in Summer. Enjoy luxurious farm-to-table dining experiences, floral panoramas, and an artistic ambience set against the backdrop of the majestic Tokachi Mountains.

## Soukyu Onsen in Daisetsuzan National Park

Retreat to Soukyu Onsen, a serene enclave within Daisetsuzan's pristine wilderness. Immerse in natural hot springs amidst ancient forests and rugged peaks. The Daisetsuzan Soukyu Ropeway ascends to awe-inspiring sunset views, while Daisetsu Mori-no Garden reveals a tapestry of native flora. Explore tranquil waterfalls and rocky gorges, completing a sensory journey through this untouched alpine sanctuary.







Shiretoko National Park

# HOKKAIDO BLOOMS

## Abashiri

Abashiri, on Hokkaido's northeastern shore, offers a rich blend of history and natural spectacle. Explore the storied history of Abashiri Prison Museum, known as “the Alcatraz of Japan”. Soak in the coastal panoramas on Cape Notoro's cliffsides walks. Luxuriate in a traditional ryokan, embodying Japan's famed omotenashi hospitality.

## Shiretoko National Park

Get connected with Japan's wilderness in the UNESCO Natural Heritage Site at Shiretoko National Park. The park's volcanoes, forestry and dramatic coastline shelter a variety of rare and endangered species. Aboard the Aurora sightseeing boat, navigate the pristine waters of the peninsula witnessing dramatic cliffs descending into the sea. Spot brown bears roaming the coastline or sea mammals in the crystal clear waters below whilst looking out for the abundance of birds of prey above. The region's natural hot springs provide a healing touch after a day of exploration in the wilds of this remote natural paradise.

## Akanko Onsen

The jewel within the Akan-Mashu National Park, Lake Akan encapsulates a blend of Japanese luxury and ancient indigenous culture. Luxuriate in elegant lakeside ryokans with fabulous onsen before engaging with the UNESCO-protected heritage of Hokkaido's indigenous Ainu people. Learn about this unique culture in the Ainu Kotan Village, and through a stirring theatre performance. The Lumina Night Walk reveals the forest in a kaleidoscope of light, enhancing the Ainu storytelling experience. Take a boat trip across the lake's clear waters to explore the mysterious marimo algae. Seasonal outdoor activities allow for intimate interactions with this pristine environment.

## Tomamu

Tomamu is a year-round sanctuary where luxury meets wilderness. Ride a covered gondola up to the Unkai Terrace and witness the phenomenon of the 'sea of clouds'. Tomamu's huge range of outdoor activities are paired with the opulent accommodations, and world-class dining experiences set against a backdrop of awe-inspiring mountains. A scenic one and a half hours drive will get you to New Chitose Airport in Sapporo where your journey comes to an end.





# Accommodation

## HOKKAIDO BLOOMS

**10 Nights / 11 Days**

*Luxury Ryokans to Lakeside Resorts*

*– Authentic Japan at its finest*

### **Sapporo City (2 Nights)**

JR Tower Hotel Nikko Sapporo

(Superior Western Style)

### **Furano (2 Nights)**

Nozo Hotel

(Superior Western Style)

### **Daisetsuzan National Park (1 Night)**

Choyo Tei

(Superior Western-Japanese Style)

### **Abashiri (1 Night)**

Abashiriko Tsuruga Resort

(Superior Ryokan, Japanese Style)

### **Shiretoko National Park (1 Night)**

Shiretoko Daiichi

(Superior Japanese-Western Style)

### **Akanko Onsen (2 Nights)**

Lake Akan Tsuruga Wings

(Superior Ryokan, Japanese Style)

### **Tomamu (1 Night)**

Hoshino Resorts Tamamu

(Boutique Western Style)

*If the listed accommodations are unavailable,  
an alternative stay of a similar category will be  
selected, at our discretion.*







# Experiences

## HOKKAIDO BLOOMS

- Sapporo City with our local guide
- Arts and Crafts shopping in Furano
- Furano Winery and Sweets Shop
- Furano Cheese Factory (May~Sep)
- Farm Visit
- Tomita Lavender Fields (June/July)
- Shirogane Blue Pond & Shirahige Falls
- Scenic Drives throughout
- Soukyo Gorge Waterfalls & Rock Formations
- Seasonal Blooms at Daisetsu Mori-no Garden
- Luxurious Ryokan Stays with Onsen and Evening Meals
- Gondola Ride up Daisetsuzan
- Yamabiko Falls Visit
- Abashiri Prison Museum
- Cape Notoro Lighthouse
- Shiretoko UNESCO Coastline Boat Tour
- Sightseeing Stops at Lake Mashu and Lake Kussharo
- Marimo Algae Exploration on Lake Akan
- Ainu Community Interaction and Performance
- Gondola to the Sea of Clouds

## SEASONAL EVENTS\*

- Cherry Blossom Season (May)
- Furano Cherry Blossom Festival (May)
- Hokkaido-Jingu Shrine Cultural Festival (June)
- Sapporo Summer Cultural Festival (July)
- Furano "Belly Button" Cultural Festival (July)
- Sapporo Bon Odori Festival (August)
- Sapporo Autumn Festival (August)

\*Some events may be weather dependent.







# EXPERIENCES

Our curated collection of experiences represents just a glimpse of what awaits you while exploring this beautiful country...





# Experiences

## Seasonal Spectacles...

### Sapporo Snow Festival & White Illuminations

Slip into a fascinating world of snow and ice stretching across approximately 1.5 km, with over 400 snow sculptures and giant slides. Visit multiple sites with a unique atmosphere at this major winter event. At the nearby Susukino entertainment district, ice sculptures and night-time illuminations are the main attractions. Explore the lengthy list of winter wonders: various-sized snow sculptures with projection mapping, warm up with hot drinks at Ice Bars and take lots of sparkling photos on Illumination Street.

#### Featured Tours

Journey to the East (February)

### Takayama Festival

Twice a year an impressive parade winds through the preserved streets of Takayama, featuring elaborate 16th-century floats, which are UNESCO treasures. Mikoshi portable shrines are rolled out of a huge purpose-built warehouse, Takayama Yatai Kaikan (Festival Float Hall). They are ornate, embellished with gems, draped cloth, gold bars, and symbolic designs. The top is crowned with figures of the phoenix and demons. One shrine features a tortoise character, and another a marionette with 36 strings. The Karako moves like an acrobat, before landing on the god of good fortune, Hotei-sama, who then sprays confetti over the surprised crowd below.

#### Featured Tours

Japan Discovered, Traditional and Tropical (April and October)







## Furano Bellybutton Festival

Amidst the pastoral charm of Furano, the Hokkai Heso Matsuri, or Bellybutton Festival, adds a whimsical touch to Hokkaido's summer. Celebrated in July, this quirky festival sees the townsfolk take to the streets with elaborate, comical paintings on their bellies, transforming navels into the noses of playful characters. Laughter ripples through the air as the dancers shimmy and shake in the 'bellybutton dance', a lighthearted parade that embodies the jovial spirit of the region. As drums beat and crowds cheer, the Bellybutton Festival stands as a testament to Furano's creative heartbeat. It's a unique cultural escapade that promises mirth and memories - a delightful detour from the ordinary, beckoning travelers to indulge in the lighter side of tradition.

### Featured Tours

Hokkaido Blooms

## Hakone Pirate Cruise and Ropeway

Hakone is a well-loved post town where tired travellers have gone to reinvigorate in hot springs since Edo times. Make it up the mountainside to a sulphur-sprouting volcano, Owakudani. Eat black eggs that promise to elongate life by seven years. Step into a cable car to be carried over a valley in a Ropeway that swings close to the elusive Mount Fuji. Walk a jetty to a pirate ship and sail away over Lake Ashi to the town. Look back at spectacular scenes, Fuji peaks over a blue lake and nostalgic ship, like a scene from a storybook.

### Featured Tours

Japan Discovered and Traditional & Tropical and any day trip to Hakone from Tokyo



## Sumo Grand Tournament

A sumo tournament takes spectators back to medieval Japan. Once a form of ritual, dedicated to the Gods with prayers for a bountiful harvest. There are three Grand Tournaments in Tokyo, each lasting for fifteen days. An intense experience and insight into Japan's national sport. These lively events make for a great spectator experience that mixes ancient ceremonies and a heady atmosphere. Intense bouts bring large wrestlers into rings of rice, straw, and clay for a swift spectacle of determination and skill.

### Featured Tours

Japan Discovered, Traditional and Tropical (May, July (Nagoya) and September), Wonders of the West (November), Shikoku Secrets (July)



# Experiences

## Seasonal Spectacles...

### Awa Odori Dance Festival

Experience remarkable tradition in remote Tokushima, formerly Awa Province, the biggest host for Obon in Japan, which occurs during August as the spirits of ancestors return for a short visit. Awa Odori is a humorous and fun competition between teams that began over 430 years ago. Each team has its own design of a summer kimono, a Yukata, and an iconic Ami Gasa straw hat. As they perform, male dancers move their arms around, while ladies keep their arms high and within shoulder width. Join in the traditional 'Fools Dance'.

#### Featured Tours

Hidden Treasures (August)

### Yosakoi Kochi Festival

Each year the city of Kochi becomes a hub of energy and color during the Yosakoi Festival, a celebration of the vibrant yosakoi dance tradition. This dynamic dance style features groups adorned in eye-catching costumes, moving rhythmically to a folk melody known as yosakoi-bushi. The festival is a major cultural event, drawing approximately 20,000 dancers from over 200 teams worldwide, showcasing the global appeal of yosakoi. Each team has diverse costumes and choreography, often accompanied by jikatasha, elaborately decorated music trucks. The city's transformation into a lively, open-air stage with dance and music offers an unforgettable spectacle and energy.

#### Featured Tours

Shikoku Secrets (August)







## Cormorant Fishing with Dinner

Near Gifu Castle and Nagarabashi Bridge discover the wonder of Ukai fishing, a summer tradition upheld for over 1,300 years. Clever wild Cormorants are skillfully trained by the Usho, the master fishermen, who send a dozen birds out from long wooden boats. Cormorants learn to catch Ayu sweetfish by diving underwater, collecting and retrieving the fish. The beak marks on the catch are a sign of high quality. Sample this prized delicacy on a dinner cruise along the river.

### Featured Tours

Ancient Trails (Summer only)

## Tohoku Festivals

Tohoku's festivals are a vivid showcase of Japanese culture. The Hirosaki Cherry Blossom Festival illuminates Hirosaki Park with thousands of blossoming trees, while the Floral Kakunodate and Tsuruga Castle festivals similarly celebrate sakura in historical settings. Summer in Tohoku is marked by the vibrant Nebuta Festival's illuminated floats and the colorful Sendai Tanabata Festival, which is known for its elaborate star-themed decorations celebrating a traditional star festival. The Michinoku Yosakoi Festival adds energetic dance rhythms to the mix, making Tohoku a region rich in diverse and captivating celebrations.

### Featured Tours

Tohoku Trails (July/August, October)



## Sakura Festivals

In Japan, the ancient tradition of cherry blossom festivals, known as hanami, symbolizes the ephemeral beauty of life and the joyful arrival of spring. Dating back over a millennium, these festivals originally celebrated plum blossoms among aristocrats but have since evolved to honor the iconic sakura, attracting admirers worldwide. Across Japan, people engage in festive gatherings, picnics, and sake toasts under the blossoming sakura trees, reveling in the transient beauty of the delicate pink petals. The concept of 'mono no aware,' the poignant awareness of life's transience, is deeply intertwined with the brief blooming period of the cherry blossoms. This cultural significance is echoed in various aspects of Japanese life, from art and folklore to religious beliefs in Shinto and Buddhism, where sakura are revered as symbols of life's fleeting nature and spiritual renewal.

### Featured Tours

Japan Discovered (March), Ancient Trails (March), Hidden Treasures (March), Gardens and Galleries (April), Tohoku Trails (April), Hokkaido Blooms (May)



# Experiences

## Thrills...

### Shinkansen High-Speed Bullet Trains

Glide seamlessly along smooth tracks at speeds of up to 320 km per hour. Landscapes whizz by in this special travel experience, heightened by comfort and amenities in spacious cars with forward-facing seats. Trains are on time, safe, reliable and an essential experience. Hop aboard this efficient way to cross the country. Ordinary seats are comfortable with generous footroom. Make advance seat reservations for carriages with reserved seats or Shiteiseiki. Green cars have larger seats, more foot space and are less crowded. The Gran Class ticket on some lines offers even more space and comfort for a luxurious journey.

#### Featured Tours

All (except Hokkaido only tours)

### Climb Mt. Fuji

Get familiar with Mt. Fuji to unite with Japan. Climbers stay in a mountain hut before the ascent of 3,880m starts at 3:30am, to arrive in time for sunrise at the summit. Admire views as you wander around the crater of this volcanic mountain. Restore energy with a packed breakfast picnic on the top of the mountain and descend in your own time. The perfect remedy for tired muscles is a soak in hot spring-fed Onsen baths located lower down the mountainside.

#### Featured Tours

Ancient Trails (Summer only and optional)







## Cruise through Iya Valley

The mighty Yoshino River carves across central Shikoku and Iya valley. Oboke is a rocky gorge believed to have formed over 100 million years ago that centres along 10 km of the Iya River, a tributary of the Yoshino. Take in the spectacular view on a tranquil boat ride within crystal clear waters. Cut off from the rest of the country until early in the 20th century, it is no surprise that Oboke is named to warn of the historical difficulty traversing this steep and narrow chasm. Look out for the legendary Yokai monsters in this stunning landscape.

### Featured Tours

Hidden Treasures

## Rickshaw Ride by Arashiyama Bamboo Grove

Stop at impressive sites and shrines with a knowledgeable local guide and an authentic rickshaw driver. Kyoto's Arashiyama district to the west of the ancient city has been a popular destination with nobles since the Heian Period (794-1185). Climb onboard for a memorable ride through a verdant bamboo grove to see the tall trees sway. Dizzy with tree-top gazing stroll the path of strong sticks, as you wade and bathe in the forest light. Then stop at Tenryuji Temple or glide over Togetsukyo Bridge. The challenge is to choose which way to go, the rest is a breeze.

### Featured Tours

Gardens and Galleries



## Sandankyo Gorge River Boat Ride

At Sandankyo, immerse in the grandeur of nature along 16 km of gorgeous gorges and the Shibaki River, designated as a Special Place of Scenic Beauty. From Kurobuchi Pool and Sarutobi Rock, observe colossal cliffs and a primitive forest. The scenes are worthy of landscape paintings, as sun-dappled trees flicker and are reflected on water. Surrender to nature and feel at one with the trees. Forest bathing in ancient evergreens surrounded by a variety of moss. Search for secrets and uncover a mysterious black stone that tells the history of Hiroshima.

### Featured Tours

Gardens and Galleries



# Experiences

## Thrills...

### Abashiri Drift-Ice Cruise

*(subject to conditions)*

The most southern region of the northern hemisphere is located in the Sea of Okhotsk, from Wakkanai to the Shiretoko Peninsula in Hokkaido. Ice is more likely to be thicker in the areas close to Abashiri. From Abashiri Port take an hour-long cruise out into the Sea of Okhotsk. Bob along, mesmerized, as the boat carves a passage through thick ice, emerging like glaciers. Vessels crunch and slice through the frozen seas as ice floats and drifts away. This is an invigorating way to experience the phenomenal ice drift. Warm up on shore after being amazed at this natural wonder.

#### Featured Tours

Journey to the East (February)



### Canoe through a Virgin Mangrove Forest in Amami Oshima

Glide under an arch of line-leaved branches in this natural ecosystem vibrant with life. Transverse the labyrinth of channels, paddle in the unique biodiversity of Amami to observe endemic animals from the water. Subtropical estuaries and coastal tidal flats grow a variety of plants, forming the second-largest mangrove forest in Japan. Flooded by tides, this is the only place in the world to find Ryukyu Ayu fish, who hide out in the basketed roots at the base of the mangroves. Low tide is a paradise for crabs and in Mangrove Park glimpse white- coloured Black Herons camouflaged by white sand.

#### Featured Tours

Traditional and Tropical







## Spin around Omishima Island on Electric Bikes

Northwest of Shikoku, adventure in nature on a 70 km route stretching from Ehime to Hiroshima. Shimanami Kaido is surrounded by sea, mountains, and blue skies in a sun-drenched prefecture. Start at the foot of the Kurushima Kaikyo Bridge to cycle along three successive suspension bridges over the Kurushima Strait, and feel the breeze 65 meters above the sea. Follow blue lines along the road that mark the route. Cycle hybrid or e-bikes to reach Omishima Island, then choose to turn back or continue to Onomichi. Refresh with local citrus fruits or a visit to the historic Dogo hot springs.

**Featured Tours**  
Shikoku Secrets

## River Rafting in Kyoto

Enjoy seasonal views from the Hozu River, surrounded by mountains as it flows for about 10 miles, or 16 km, from Kameoka to the famous Arashiyama area in Kyoto. The river gorge features a perfect environment for gentle rafting in splendid scenery on a rafting tour. Laugh and play down the torrent for a fun way to experience nature and the outdoors. Enjoy flowing through deep pools, and rapids, with all the thrills of an ever-changing mountain river. Each season brings a delightful view with spring blossoms, fresh summer foliage, or colourful autumn leaves.

**Featured Tours**  
Shikoku Secrets or optional on all Kyoto visits



## Winter Sports in Powder Snow

Nestled amid awe-inspiring landscapes, Hokkaido beckons to skiers as a winter haven with consistent falls of deep powder snow, establishing itself as an unparalleled destination for winter sports enthusiasts. The realm of Hokkaido unfolds with world-renowned ski resorts like Niseko, Rusutsu, and Furano, presenting a fusion of superb mountain facilities, top class accommodations and après-ski dining and entertainment. Immerse yourself in the island's distinctive culture, relishing local delicacies and unwinding in natural hot springs after a day of invigorating downhill adventures. Hokkaido's reliable snowfall and world class resorts position it as an essential pilgrimage for those in search of a singular, unforgettable winter escape.

*Pre-Tour or Post-Tour Extension (Late Dec ~ late Feb, peak powder period)*

**Featured Tours**  
Optional on all Japan visits between January and April.



# Experiences

## Skills...

### Cooking Class - Teishoku Home Cooking (or Sushi)

Begin early at Kyoto market to source the freshest ingredients, then discover how to make Japanese food in an authentic way for an elevated palate. Learn essential processes and integral dishes for a tasty and satisfying Japanese meal. Learn about the secret of good dashi (soup stock) for miso soup, and the technique to create dashi maki omelettes, along with the staple sides of ohitashi (vegetables steeped in dashi), pickles, and perfect fluffy white rice with fresh fish grilled, steamed, or marinated.

#### Featured Tours

Optional on all Kyoto and Tokyo visits

### Ikebana Workshop

Ikebana traditions and principles can show you how to display flowers in a new way. Along with ideal techniques, individuality is encouraged. Make your own flower arrangement and change the way you think about floral displays. With origins budding from the 16th century, Ikebana is meant to express life's perpetual change and renewal in a natural landscape. Using Rikka, Shoka, and freestyles as you consider the essence of the flowers and present them simply and beautifully. Use your inventiveness with the materials provided to convey or effect a mood, dramatic or subdued, the possibilities are endless.

#### Featured Tours

Optional on all Kyoto visits







## Kimono Dress Up

Learn the elegant tradition of the Kimono, a T-shaped garment created by one bolt of fabric. The ornate designs are beautiful yet the real skill is in the way it is fitted, folded, and trimmed with distinction. Colours and charms come in and out of fashion, but the tradition remains. Belts, cords, and delicate sashes are tucked and tied to enhance colour combinations appearing in the intricate embroidered designs, contrasting light and dark and reflecting hair ornaments and accessories.

### Featured Tours

Optional on all Kyoto visits

## Authentic Tea Ceremony

A thousand years of history connect Zen and Sado to produce the "Way of Tea". A ceremony conducted in a traditional tearoom with a tatami floor by masters dressed in modest Kimono. Escape the burdens of life by as guest, who moves with purpose and precision, carefully selecting specifically placed items; whisk (chasen), container (natsume), scoop (chashaku) to prepare the tea. Look out for a nod when it is the right moment to consume Wagashi sweet treats, before washing them down with sips of strong Matcha.

### Featured Tours

Japan Discovered, Traditional and Tropical, Gardens and Galleries



## Kintsugi

Kintsugi, a traditional Japanese art form, is a captivating practice that transforms broken pottery into stunning works of art. The term itself, meaning "golden joinery," reflects the technique of repairing shattered ceramics by filling the cracks with lacquer mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. Rather than concealing the fractures, Kintsugi embraces imperfections, celebrating the history and resilience of the object. While the full process takes months to complete, you can experience the final and most vital step in repairing your very own ware in a small private 2-hour long workshop.

### Featured Tours

Optional on all Kyoto visits



# Experiences

## Skills...

### Calligraphy at Koyasan

Shodo, the way of the pen, is mindfulness in black ink and white paper. Through calligraphy, the ink and brush strokes create a focus on the direction, flow, and how it appears on paper. Move your way through the complexity of this spiritual activity for some insight into how words become images and a representation of our energy and control. Having learned the concepts try to identify the styles and Kanji characters that appear in your surroundings, temple scrolls, restaurant menus, street signs and book covers. Calligraphy makes writing more than a written word, but an expression of emotion.

**Featured Tours**  
Hidden Treasures



### Indigo Dyeing Workshop

Aizome, or indigo dyeing, is a traditional craft to dye cloth with leaves from the Japanese indigo plant trade, one of the oldest plant dyes which arrived in Japan 1400 years ago. This technique is admired and adapted by many with an interest in textiles and making cloth unique and distinctive. Indigo dye is used extensively for batik and shibori. Samurai wore indigo to prevent wound infections. It is also insect-repelling; odour-preventing and has an antibacterial agent. Take home a self-designed hand-dyed handkerchief as a memento.

**Featured Tours**  
Hidden Treasures







## Make Washi Paper

Experts take mush and magically make it transform into paper. From the pulp of Kozo mulberry trees, a transparent liquid solidifies in layers to reveal a template for design. Strengthened from the tree fibres the paper is more durable and substantial. Winter is traditionally a time to make washi with frozen water free from impurities. Add fallen leaves or seasonal flowers to enliven the plain sheet of Washi. As it dries it becomes a real piece of thick paper, ready to be stamped and painted with words of wisdom, then displayed on walls in lands near and far.

### Featured Tours

Japan Discovered, Traditional and Tropical, Shikoku Secrets

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## Make Soba Noodles & Enjoy Them for Lunch

Develop Japanese culinary skills, try to make your own healthy buckwheat noodles, then sample them for lunch with a delicious dipping sauce. Soba is a cherished snack for Zen Buddhist monks, to eat before meditating. Typically, Soba is served warm, in Dashi broth, or cold, with a dipping sauce. Eating a bowl of soba on New Year's Eve is said to bring good luck, so get slurping, it is a compliment to the chef!

### Featured Tours

Japan Discovered, Traditional and Tropical

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## Japanese Sword Making

In Kyoto by the Sea, a rare collaboration of three skilled swordsmiths is reshaping the art of traditional Japanese sword making. This venture marks a departure from the solitary nature of swordsmiths, aiming to demystify and make the intricate forging process accessible. Their forge offers unique experiences for visitors, including observing their work, the opportunity to try hammering, and touring the forge with informative displays. The highlight is their gallery, where visitors can handle some of the swords they've crafted. This trio passionately shares the history and storytelling embedded in each piece, making the legacy of Japanese swords captivating and accessible to all.

### Featured Tours

Wonders of the West, Optional on all Kyoto visits





# Experiences

## Indulge...

### Ryokan Stay

Your stay in a Ryokan is delivered with Omotenashi, the revered Japanese hospitality, paying close attention to detail in all aspects and with a warm and polite welcome. An overnight stay in a traditional Japanese inn is a must during all trips to Japan. Elegant interiors in traditional rooms provide a futon on the tatami mat flooring. A Ryokan is much more than accommodation: enjoy elements of soothing Onsen bathing in volcanic hot spring baths, appealing and delicious Kaiseki dining, supreme quality, and seasonality with multiple highly artistic dishes. This is a complete experience of traditional luxury.

#### Featured Tours

All

### Kaiseki Dinner

*(Japanese Traditional Meal of Multiple Courses)*

Compliments to the chef and freshest seasonal ingredients, Itadakimasu! Enjoy a set menu that aims to balance the taste, texture, appearance, and colours of food. Kaiseki principles exist in nouvelle cuisine, with a collection of skills and techniques applied to prepare fresh seasonal ingredients and enhance their flavour. In some cases, a complex broth or sauce accompanies the main ingredients without overpowering them. Then the dishes are beautifully arranged and garnished, often with real leaves and flowers. Meticulously presented on earthenware and China. There are several courses to indulge in and discover Umami. *Gochisosama!*

#### Featured Tours

All







## Private Meeting & Afternoon Tea with Maiko or Geisha

Maiko are Geisha in-training and are revered for their exquisite communication, music, and dance. Admire their exquisite cloth and precise make-up and decoration each Maiko wears with pride. It takes many more years of training to become a Geisha. Appreciate this rare opportunity to share in the company of a Maiko at a traditional teahouse. Sip matcha and notice how they move, tilt their head, and use their skills to transfix the audience of those in their company.

### Featured Tours

Ancient Trails, Wonders of the West, Japan Discovered, Traditional and Tropical, Gardens and Galleries, Hidden Treasures

## Kobe Beef Dinner

Kobe is best known for Kobe Beef, a prime, marbled beef with a soft buttery texture. The Kobe Beef brand is granted to Tajima beef raised in Hyogo Prefecture that meets strict quality standards, and each year only about 3,000 cows are produced. Taste it at a restaurant in Kobe City, where the marbled steak is grilled to perfection on a hot plate inches away and served at its freshest. This is a world-famous succulent and flavour-packed sensation. Alongside the melt-in-the-mouth beef find a homemade ponzu sauce made from Japanese citrus and soy sauce to extract the distinct taste.

### Featured Tours

Wonders of the West, Hidden Treasures, Optional on all tours



## Grانclass Luxury on the Shinkansen Bullet Train

The Hayabusa E5 Series train carriage features a fully active suspension. Tohoku colours are painted on the exterior and visible from windows. Step onboard and relax in the comfortable carriages. Attendants will pass with free gourmet refreshments. Granclass exceeds JR "Green", or first-class. Nested in the armrest is a control panel to recline plush chairs and put your feet up. Choose a western-style lunch or locally sourced bento, accompanied by fresh Aomori apple juice. Relax with the slippers and eye masks provided. Step onto Aomori primed into the wonders of the region.

### Featured Tours

Tohoku Trails



# Experiences

## Indulge...

### Benesse Art-Site Naoshima

Art and nature converge at Benesse House. Nowhere else in the world can rival this famous contemporary art island, with noted pieces by artists such as Imi Knoebel or Sol LeWitt on display in each guest room. Start the day with a tranquil seascape and end in the setting sun. Heal at Benesse House SPA, admire the beautiful architecture and dine on fresh Setouchi seafood and seasonal ingredients at Issen. Shop Kagawa souvenirs or find the perfect coffee table books related to the Benesse Art Site.

#### Featured Tours

Gardens and Galleries, Hidden Treasures

### Ama Pearl Divers Demonstration on Mikimoto Pearl Island

The mysterious freediving women of Ama have captivated imaginations for thousands of years. Depicted in art and films from Hokusai to James Bond, this community of women have earned their livelihood as skilled retrievers of shellfish for generations. Wearing loincloths or completely wrapped in white, society has marvelled at their abilities. They intrigue with a whistle from the surface of the seas. Witness a demonstration of this profession now in decline on Toba Island. Ama divers became a natural solution to aid the cultivation of perfect pearls. Visit the Mikimoto Museum for displays of their hard-won treasures.

#### Featured Tours

Hidden Treasures







## Michelin Star Dining

In Tokyo find Japan's culinary capital. In addition to 12 three Michelin stars worthy of a detour, there are 41 excellent locations, with two stars, 150 restaurants worth a stop, with one star, and 30 new listings vying for multiple stars. Notable establishments are judged by five specific criteria: quality, mastery, chef personality, dining experience, value, and consistency. Discover a devotion to food prepared with reverence and respect for a curated encounter with seasonality, seafood, and artistic presentation. Chefs combine the best of produce for a heightened essence of evolution and diversity of dining options.

### Featured Tours

Optional on all Japan visits

## Shojin (Buddhist Monk) Dining

Shojin-ryori was developed by Monks who aimed to strengthen the mind while making full use of seasonal materials. Meals are without meat or fish, and feature pungent flavours of garlic and onion. Applying five rules for cooking to guide the dishes to greatness in flavour and looks, using a selected range of ingredients, such as tofu, wild mountain plants and seasonal vegetables. The meals need to sustain them through long periods of meditation and have optimum appeal. Tofu made from soy and sesame is common, and find Koya-dofu, a frozen-dried tofu accidentally invented when left outdoors in winter at Mount Koya.

### Featured Tours

Gardens and Galleries, Hidden Treasures, and optional on all Kyoto visits



## Kyoto by the Sea

Kyoto by the Sea is a unique retreat, immersing visitors in Japan's rich heritage. It offers miso making workshops revealing secrets of longevity, sake tastings at renowned local breweries, and insightful organic farm tours emphasising sustainable practices. Explore the historic Oni Trail, rich in folklore and ancient routes. Experience traditional Japanese elegance through Kimono and Mother-of-Pearl Weaving demonstrations and find tranquility in Zazen Meditation sessions. Each activity at Kyoto by the Sea is a gateway to understanding Japan's cultural depth and enduring legacy.

### Featured Tours

Wonders of the West, Optional day trip on all Kyoto visits



# Experiences

## Inspire...

### Naoshima - Tadao Ando

Innovative aesthetics meld into a beautiful backdrop of natural ecology creating a wonderland. Explore the best of contemporary architecture designed by the iconic Tadao Ando. The Chichu Art Museum is built on a hillside and called the centre of the earth. Natural light illuminates the space making for an immersive environment. Claude Monet's Water Lilies attract scores of art-lovers. Modern art and design are celebrated in outdoor sculptures by Yayoi Kusama, installations by James Turrell and works by Walter De Maria. Look out for fascinating pieces by Kan Yasuda, Teresita Fernandez, and Lee Ufan sprinkled around, and in the Benesse Museum and Hotel.

#### Featured Tours

Gardens and Galleries, Hidden Treasures

### Yusuhara - Kengo Kuma

Rising above the clouds is the mountain town of Yusuhara. It is here that renowned architect Kengo Kuma has created six architectural wonders to complement the lush cedar forest and traditions of thatch and traditional carpentry. Kengo Kuma wrote "Wood - Materiality of Architecture" and uses local components with deference to the landscape. His Yusuhara Community Library was awarded the Japan Library Association Architecture Award in 2021. His most recent works include the Nezu Museum and Asakusa Culture Center in Tokyo. He has called for greater humility, and for architecture to strike a balance between form and material to improve surroundings.

*"Sushi is a good metaphor for my architecture. The importance of sushi is to choose the best material from the place, in season."* Kengo Kuma

#### Featured Tours

Shikoku Secrets







## Picasso Hakone Open Air Museum

After exploring the stunning scenery of Hakone, admire the works of this world-famous artist. Lush verdant hills are a base for Picasso's innovative art. In every direction a fascinating installation and intriguing exhibits. The Gallery is home to a range of artworks guaranteed to inspire, while the setting of the Open-Air Museum allows for relaxation. Outdoor sculptures and installation pieces pierce the landscape, allowing for a unique cultural experience.

### Featured Tours

Japan Discovered, Traditional and Tropical, and any day trip to Hakone from Tokyo

## Adachi Art Museum & Garden

*The Finest Garden in all of Japan*

Find blissful beauty in the stylish aesthetic of the number one garden in Japan for 12 consecutive years by the Journal for Japanese Gardening. Complimenting the stunning natural scenery of rural Yasugi town in beautiful Shimane, discover six different types of Japanese gardens around the museum building. Exhibits of modern and contemporary art create an aesthetic paradise alongside the Dry Landscape Garden, Moss Garden, Tea House, White Gravel and Pine Garden, Pond Garden, and Kikaku Waterfall Garden. Adachi Art Museum houses exquisite collections by Japanese artists, with notable works on display created by Hayashi Yoshio and Kitaoji Rosanjin.

### Featured Tours

Gardens and Galleries



## Futuristic Japan

Japan is at the forefront of blending futuristic innovation with unique attractions. TeamLab's Borderless Digital Art Museum, stands out as a mesmerizing example, immersing visitors in a digital art world where interactive light installations and virtual environments create a surreal experience. Another highlight is the much-anticipated Ghibli Park which promises to bring the fantastical realms of Studio Ghibli's films to life through imaginative and innovative design. Additionally, Japan offers the Miraikan, Tokyo's National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, where interactive exhibits showcase advancements in robotics and space exploration. These attractions, among others, represent Japan's unique ability to harmonize cutting-edge technology with creative expression, offering visitors a glimpse into a world where the future is now.

### Featured Tours

Optional on all visits to Tokyo



# Experiences

## Inspire...

### 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

A stimulating and refreshing approach to displaying art, this museum is fresh, clean, and full of surprises. Programmes reflect and connect the past with the future, nourishing regional traditional arts and reflecting the innovation of new generations. Large-scale works on permanent display are Leandro Ehrlich's Swimming Pool and Color Activity House by Olafur Eliasson. Collections include Anne Wilson, Suda Yoshihiro, Matthew Barney, James Turrell, Atsuko Tanaka and many more.

#### Featured Tours

Japan Discovered, Traditional and Tropical



### Samurai Castles

Samurai Castles make for a picture-perfect scene when flowers are in bloom, ideal to pose in costumes. National Treasures, there are only twelve authentic castles remaining. Matsumoto Castle is known as the 'Crow Castle', due to the black exterior built in the late 16th century. The fortress consists of a series of moats, a complex system of walls, and gatehouses. Pristine Himeji Castle was established in 1346, now known as the White Heron, the keep rises from the peak of Mount Hime at 32 metres high. Climb the original steps of Kochi Castle to the top for views of Seto Inland Sea.

#### Featured Tours

Wonders of the West, Shikoku Secrets, Gardens and Galleries, Hidden Treasures, Ancient Trails, Japan Discovered, Traditional and Tropical, Tohoku Trails







## Ainu Cultural Show in Hokkaido

The Ainu Kotan, or settlement at Lake Akan is inhabited by about 120 people. See an authentic performance featuring traditional dress, language, and sacred epic dances. Meet the local Ainu people and observe master crafts of intricate wood carvings of bears and birds, produced, and sold on site. The Ainu dances, renowned 'yukar' oral sagas, are Hokkaido's only designated important intangible Cultural Heritage of Japan. Ainu finds that by using Inau, a ritual wooden tool that represents the Kamuy Gods, they can express truth in song, dance and prayers, and go beyond barriers that hamper people from conveying their true feelings.

### Featured Tours

Journey to the East, Hokkaido Blooms

## Kimono Production Outlet for Tsumugi Textiles in Amami Oshima

Observe the many steps to weave and dye Oshima Tsumugi, a textile of sombre colours, perfectly suited to the local climate. The detailed process of hand-spun silk can take three months to make, and the raw materials used for dyeing are extracted from a plant called *tecchigi* native to the Amami area. It is counted among the world's three most famous silk textiles. The elegant and distinctive appearance has made it one of the best Kimono textiles in Japan. The fabric is lightweight yet warm, not easily wrinkled or worn and endures even after generations inherit the Kimono.

### Featured Tours

Traditional and Tropical



## Koyasan Temple Stay - Meditation with Monks

Meditate at Koyasan, rise early to navigate through wooden beams, red carpet, and lanterns to reach an inner circle of bell chimes and synchronized voices, transformed into a constant hum of scripture and rhyme. Pray for peace in our one world and become a part of this spiritual community as you chant with the monks. Take time for inner reflection and quest for universal wisdom through meditation in the perfect setting. Meditate in front of a scroll showing the letter "ア" (pronounced as the "a" in "apple") the origin of all things, to know the world is one.

### Featured Tours

Hidden Treasures



# Experiences

## Nature...

### Endangered Red-Crowned Crane Sanctuary

A magical sun rises over Hokkaido, as hundreds of red-crowned cranes gather by Setsuri River. Usually found painted on scrolls and ceramics, these iconic birds are protected in Kushiro Shitsugen, a sanctuary constructed to encourage the repopulation of this rare breed. They breed in marshy meadows and wetlands and spend the winter in fields, marshes, and other open areas. The enclosed nature in this sanctuary provides a perfect chance to photograph the birds up close and seize the moment to take in a northern sunrise in the company of the majestic Tancho Cranes.

#### Featured Tours

Journey to the East

### Sub-Tropical Japan Yakushima and Amami Ooshima

Find the best of nature both on land and underwater, in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of Yakushima, with lush green forests for hiking and diving areas along the north coast. Amami Ooshima, a more recent addition to UNESCO (2021), is also a sub tropical paradise with wonderfully clear waters and an abundance of coral reefs and semi-tropical aquatic life. Coral canyons and arches make for a colourful seascape with year-round warm weather to both islands. Find marine life of all shapes, sizes and colours, as well as the curious, slow-moving sea turtles that hatch on beaches from May to the end of July in Yakushima.

#### Featured Tours

Wonders of the West, Traditional and Tropical







## Nakasendo Walking Trail - Tsumago to Magome

Roam the rural route of Edo travellers from retro samurai postal towns Magome to Tsumago along the Nakasendo trail in southwestern Nagano. Historic paths pave through the beautiful Kiso Valley. From Tokyo to Kyoto there were 69 post towns with rest stations spread out every 10km. Glimpse Japan as it was yet with a prevailing hospitality. Take a few hours to walk the leisurely 8km from Magome in Gifu, where Edo life is visible with a functioning water wheel and at traditional soba restaurants. Travel through the peaceful countryside to reach Tsumago for traditional Ryokan Inns.

### Featured Tours

Ancient Trails

## Gardens of Japan

Seeking to replicate a perfect world of feng shui and religious stories inspired structure and symbolism, with islands, turtles and cranes. Ise Shrine was built to honour the rugged landscapes in Japan. Lakes encouraged water features alongside flora and species of trees rich in seasonal variety. Shinto brings a reverence for nature and purity in white. Niwa means cleansed to welcome the gods. Emperor pleasure gardens rejoice at carp in a pond, perfect places for poetry festivals. Heian courts connect lakes by bridges. A large empty area of sand and Zen brings the simple, spontaneous and modern to unique Japanese Gardens.

### Featured Tours

All



## Japanese Macaque (Snow) Monkeys

In Nagano, enjoy a short hike up the mountainside to discover the natural habitat of a community of interesting snow. A protected species also known as the snow monkeys are known for their expressive facial features and playful expressions. In adulthood, their faces and bottoms become red. Get to know their personalities, cheeky and obedient, as you observe how they interact with each other in the warm natural springs of Yudanaka onsen in Joshinetsu National Park. Snow monkeys are wild animals free to roam, thus, their presence cannot be guaranteed.

### Featured Tours

Japan Discovered, Traditional and Tropical



# Experiences

## Nature...

### Lakes and National Parks of Hokkaido

The volcanic activity of the Chishima Volcanic Zone created Akan-Mashu National Park. Composed of three caldera landforms the Akan Caldera, Kussharo Caldera, and Mashu Caldera. Covered in a coniferous forest of Yezo spruce, Sakhalin fir and Erman's birch. With several volcano-lakes, the Akan area includes Mt. Me-akan and Mt. O-akan overlooking Lake Akan and Lake Onneto. In the Mashu (Kawayu) area, see one of the most transparent lakes in the world Lake Mashu, as well as Lake Kussharo. Look out for the unusual plants called Moss Balls that grow in Lake Akan, now designated as a National Special Natural Monument.

#### Featured Tours

Journey to the East, Hokkaido Blooms

### Active Volcano at Unzen and Mt Aso

This beautiful National Park has been a summer retreat for foreign visitors since 1889, protected nature flourishes in all seasons in the eight mountains collectively called Mount Unzen. Japan's First National Park since 1934 has been protected since ancient times. Discover wild birds and highland plants, seasonal sweeps of colour and the natural therapeutic properties of acidic springs at an early Meiji-era resort. Mount Aso, situated in Kyushu, is Japan's largest active volcano and a key attraction in the prefecture. A prime destination for hiking and sightseeing, it is part of the Aso Kuju National Park. With its peak towering at 1,592 meters above sea level, Mount Aso offers a breathtaking mountainside view from Aso city.

#### Featured Tours

Wonders of the West







## Kumano Kodo

The Kumano Kodo, ancient pilgrimage routes leading to the three Grand Shrines of Kumano (Kumano Hayatama Taisha Grand Shrine, Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine, and Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine), have held UNESCO World Heritage status since 2004. Gain enlightenment of the ages along the 10km Nakahechi section. Remote and mystical, wind through the peaceful countryside on a one-day hike. Follow a mountain trail from Takijiri-oji shrine by Tonda River to pause in the village of Takahara, a small ridge-top settlement. Capture the mountain range wrapped in mist, like a sea of clouds in the valley below. Then pass Oji shrines to descend into Chikatsuyu village. Reach Tsugizakura-oji having absorbed the rich historical and spiritual atmosphere. Complete the full five-day Kumano Kodo route to reach Kumano Sanzan, the three Grand Shrines.

### Featured Tours

Ancient Trails

## Rural Farmlands

Visit a family farm in Tono where old-time country life endures in idyllic landscapes. Learn about rural lifestyles on a real Japanese farm. Discover traditions in fieldwork and farm tasks and how life changes depending on the season. Sample produce fresh from the fields and savour the hearty home cooking. Appreciate the sacrifices and hard work required to maintain traditional methods in this warm community. Commune and chat with farmers to learn more about family life in wonderful nature and the benefits of rustic living in Japan.

### Featured Tours

Tohoku Trails, Japan Discovered, Traditional and Tropical, Shikoku Secrets, Ancient Trails



## Hokkaido Lavender Fields

In the heart of Hokkaido's summer, the air becomes fragrant with the sweet scent of lavender. Fields upon fields in Furano bloom into vibrant hues of purple, a spectacular canvas that stretches as far as the eye can see. From late June to August, this northern haven transforms into a floral masterpiece, inviting visitors to bask in its beauty and tranquility. It's not just a feast for the eyes; local festivals celebrate the season with lavender-infused treats, beckoning travelers to immerse themselves in the essence of summer in Japan.

### Featured Tours

Hokkaido Blooms





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q: How much free time can we expect?

A: During our visits to major cities, we like to give you a day to explore independently. In more rural areas, venturing out on your own can be an adventure (if you're up for it!). Just coordinate with your tour leader or guide for a meetup spot. Remember to carry your hotel's business card and, when in doubt, catch a taxi.

### Q: Is Japan all fish, no meat?

A: In Japan, fish, rice, and miso soup are staples, but meat dishes are found everywhere. On our small group tours, you'll get a taste of many different types of dishes, so don't worry if you're not a fish fan – we'll make sure you won't go hungry!

### Q: What about vegetarian, coeliac, or other food allergies?

A: It is vital we know if you have a food allergy or specific dietary requirement at time of booking. Restaurants do not take last-minute requests kindly. So, the more notice we can give them, the happier everyone will be on the tour. All dietary requirements will be considered once we are informed at time of booking.

### Q: Do I have to sleep on a futon?

A: When staying in ryokans or minshuku's, the best way to embrace this culture is to sleep inside the tatami matted rooms which yes, are on a futon. However, if you prefer to have a bed, we will make this request. While we cannot guarantee it, we will do our best! Be sure to highlight this at time of booking.

### Q: How much is the booking deposit?

Type 1. €400 | £350 | US\$500 | AU\$700 | CA\$600 per person\*  
Type 2. €800 | £700 | US\$1,000 | AU\$1,400 | CA\$1,200 per person\*\*

\*All Deposits are based on Euro value. Currency Exchange fluctuations may differ at time of booking.

\*\*Type 2 deposit is requested on tours that include an internal flight.

All deposits are non-refundable.

### Q: When do I pay final balance?

A: 90 days prior to your departure date.

### Q: When should I book my flight?

A: As soon as you book the tour (if available to book - most airlines accept bookings up to 330 days prior).

### Q: When do we get our travel document

A: You will have access to your OOMI Travel App within 2 months of your travel dates. Your final itinerary will be uploaded 2 weeks prior your start date. If you would like your Travel Pack posted, be sure to send us the best address at that time.

### Q: Is my trip protected?

A: Yes, we are fully bonded, no matter what country you book from. To receive a copy of this policy, request with your travel consultant.

### Q: What happens if I need to cancel my trip?

A: Deposits are non-refundable. Cancellation charges will apply from 90-days. See terms and conditions for details.

### Q: What happens if OOMI Travel cancels a trip?

A: You will be given 2 options:  
1. Change to a different tour  
2. Receive a full refund (including deposit)

### Q: Should we expect to tip guides or tour leaders?

A: Although Japan is not a tipping culture, we suggest offering some sort of monetary gift to our guides. Details of this will be outlined in your Pre-Departure Letter which you will receive in your travel pack.

### Q: Can we arrive earlier or leave later than the tour dates?

A: Yes, we can arrange your pre / post tour in Japan. In fact, we usually recommend you arrive one day earlier to the tour start date to acclimatize to the new time zone (JST).

### Q: Will you still meet us at the airport if we arrive earlier? Or leave later?

A: Yes, as long as Oomi Travel has booked your pre or post-tour hotel nights.



# USEFUL INFORMATION

## TOUR PRICES & DATES

A full list of dates and prices can be seen on our website: [www.oomittravel.com](http://www.oomittravel.com). Or, we can email you upon request: [hello@oomittravel.com](mailto:hello@oomittravel.com).

Alternatively call our office: **+353 1 678 7008**

## WHEN TO BOOK

Our Small Group Tours have a maximum number of 12 guests per group so to avoid disappointment we recommend you book your place as early as possible (12 months in advance preferred).

## HOW TO BOOK

To secure your place, a non-refundable booking deposit of €400 / €800 (or equivalent in your own currency) is required per guest. We accept all major credit cards. No credit card fees apply. The final balance of your tour is due 90 days prior. Deposits can be paid online or over the phone:

DUBLIN +353 (0)1-6787008  
LONDON +44 (0)20 3239 2519  
NEW YORK +1 (347) 688 3952

## FINANCIAL PROTECTION

In the unlikely event of financial failure, your trip is fully covered. A copy of the policy is available on request. Full details can be viewed inside our terms & conditions online or by contacting us.

## PAYMENT DEADLINES

Payment for all tours is required 3 months prior to your starting date. In the event a booking is made less than 3 months prior, full payment must be made within 7 days of booking date.

## CANCELATION TERMS

If you need to cancel your place for any reason, after you pay your deposit, a written notification is required. Deposits remain non-refundable. Cancellation charges will depend on when you give us notice of your cancellation. Charges apply from 90 days prior to your tour date. Full details can be viewed inside our terms & conditions.

If we, the company, need to cancel your place due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, you will be given the option to change your date, move to an alternative tour, or receive a full refund. If we cannot find a suitable alternative, you will be offered a full refund.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Upon booking, you will be sent an invoice detailing your payment schedule and travel dates. Your final itinerary will be uploaded to your **OOMI Travel App**. If you prefer to receive a full printed travel pack, we can post it to your address.

## PRICE INCLUSIONS

Inclusions listed on this brochure may be subject to change. A list of inclusions will be kept up-to-date on our website.

**All small group tours include the following as standard:**

- Airport Transfers on first and last day
- Accommodation throughout
- All transfers including bullet train rides
- Luggage transfers (when riding bullet trains)
- Private Guides in most places of interest
- Tour Leader throughout\*
- Breakfast daily, some lunches and evening meals
- Welcome Dinner on first evening
- Farewell Dinner on final night
- Entrance fees & Cultural Experiences
- Oomi Travel App & Pack

\*If any trip has less than 6 guests, we will replace the tour leader with local assistants and additional guides in each place along the way.

**Our tours do not include:**

- International Flights
- Guide & Driver Tips
- Transport not included in itinerary (e.g. in your free time)
- Drinks at meals
- Meals not included in your itinerary
- Additional hotel charges, e.g. room service, minibar, laundry, etc

## SMALL GROUP TOURS SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS

For all tours, a single occupancy supplement will apply. We do not pair people with other guests in the same room. Single Occupancy will be highlighted in your invoice and/or on our website [www.oomittravel.com](http://www.oomittravel.com)

## SMALL GROUP TOUR HOTEL LISTS

The final hotel choice is confirmed before your final payment is made. Any hotel listed on website or literature is subject to change. In the event we cannot secure the hotels listed, we will provide a similar category hotel in each location. After your final payment is made, there may be exceptional or operational circumstances that require a further hotel change. You will be notified of this at the time.

## FLIGHTS

You are required to send us your E-ticket as soon as you have your flights booked. Transfers cannot be arranged without a copy of your E-ticket.

## GROUP SIZE

Our Small Group tours have a maximum number of 12 guests. All published prices are based on a minimum number of 6 guests in any group. In the event the final number of guests is less than 6, don't worry, we will not cancel your trip. Instead, we operate them on a semi-escorted basis. Minor adjustments will be made such as; instead of having a full-time tour leader throughout, you will be met by local guides and assistants along the way.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that each tour member obtains their own up to date travel insurance to cover medical, cancellation or accidental costs. If you are a resident in Ireland, we can include Travel Insurance in your booking.

## SPENDING MONEY & CASH

Japan's currency is the Japanese Yen (¥). We recommend you have a minimum of ¥60,000 (€400) per person in cash at the start of your tour. While most services will accept credit cards as payment, there may be some smaller vendors who won't. So cash is important to carry. More information will be emailed to guests prior to departure in your travel pack and app.

## LUGGAGE

When taking a bullet train on any of our small group tours, we will arrange to send your large suitcase from one hotel to the next. One suitcase per person is included. If you wish to send extra luggage in this way, you will be asked to pay locally. Depending on where we are sending your luggage to/from, you may need to pack an overnight bag. So, it is essential you have a smaller bag to pack a one or two night stay while your large case is en-route. A small backpack or in-flight suitcase will work (up to 10kg).

## CLOTHES

Check the climate and temperature before you leave and bring clothes to suit the season. Japanese weather is very predictable so it should not be a problem planning your wardrobe. Wear layers if going into mountainous regions as the temperatures can drop when leaving the city.

## VISAS, AIRPORT SECURITY & DOCUMENTATION

For more information on visas in Japan visit: [www.mofa.go.jp](http://www.mofa.go.jp)

## PASSPORTS

Ensure you have at least 6 months left on your expiry date for your passport, from the date you are due to depart Japan.

Full Terms and Conditions are on our website: [www.oomittravel.com](http://www.oomittravel.com)





NOTES

Handwriting practice lines on a lined background. The page contains 20 horizontal blue lines for writing. A large, faint, stylized graphic of a bird or wing is visible in the background, spanning across the middle of the page.













Your journey begins...





[oomitravel.com](http://oomitravel.com)