



9 Days/8 Nights

Departs Daily from Tokyo



Japan Essentials: Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto, & Osaka

Encompassing Japan's "Golden Route", this itinerary features the bright lights and futuristic sites of Tokyo, the beautiful nature of iconic Mt. Fuji in Hakone National Park, Kyoto, Japan's spiritual and cultural capital with 2,000 temples, shrines, and 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and Osaka, the culinary capital of Japan.

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 3 Nights Tokyo
- 1 Night Hakone

- 3 Nights Kyoto

- 1 Night Osaka

INCLUSIONS

- Private Arrival & Departure Transfers per City
- Private Tokyo Highlights Tour
- Private Hakone Mt Fuji National Park Day Tour via Public Transportation — 9 hours

- Private Kyoto Highlights Tour
- Private Osaka Highlights Tour
- Green-Class Rail between Cities plus Seat Reservation

- Daily Breakfast



ARRIVE TOKYO:

On arrival at Narita Airport, you will be met in the arrival hall by your driver who will assist you with the included shared transfer to your hotel (60 - 90 minutes).

Tokyo

One of the World's most cutting-edge capitals, Tokyo is a city of contrasts. Famous for its cutting edge modernity, neon-lit landscape and towering skyscrapers, it is also home to sprawling parkland, peaceful shrines and temples and lovingly tended gardens. Despite its love affair with manga pop culture, fashion, high-tech trends and conspicuous consumption, below the surface is a city that has its roots in an ancient heritage. Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples stand close to skyscrapers as a reminder of a more contemplative time and at the heart of the hyperactive centre lies the serene Imperial Palace, the home of the ruling emperor that provides a tangible link to the city's historical past. Behind the shopping, entertainment and commercial emporia can be found quaint wooden houses, private gardens with meticulously clipped bonsai trees and the Zen-like calm of the Hamarikyu Gardens. The city's reputation as a mega-expensive metropolis is ill conceived and visitors can take advantage of inexpensive izakaya bars and neighborhood cafes that serve delicious noodles and rice dishes.

The remainder of your day is at leisure.

(Accommodations, Tokyo)

DAY
2

TOKYO:

Tokyo Highlights Tour

Take a half day tour of this fascinating city with a local guide, making use of Tokyo's comprehensive and user friendly public transport system. The day begins with a visit to the outside of the Imperial Palace, home of Japan's Imperial Family. Next is Asakusa, Tokyo's old town where you can soak in the atmosphere of the Tokyo of old. Visit Sensoji, Tokyo's oldest temple and wander down Nakamise, a shopping street that has been providing temple visitors with a variety of traditional, local



snacks and tourist souvenirs for centuries. Take the subway across town to Meiji Shrine, a shrine dedicated to the deified spirit of Emperor Meiji and a popular place for traditional Japanese weddings. If time permits, you can take a walk down Omotesando shopping street, a broad tree lined avenue home to the flagship stores of the world's top fashion brands.

(Breakfast, Accommodations, Tokyo)



TOKYO:

After breakfast, your day is free to explore vibrant Tokyo and all that it has to offer.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Accommodations, Tokyo)



TOKYO TO HAKONE:

Today leave Tokyo behind as you make the 90 minute journey to Hakone, the gateway to Mt Fuji and surrounding national park. Your local guide for the day will accompany you on the Romance Car, express train from Tokyo's Shinjuku station. To explore the National Park, you can take advantage of the numerous forms of transport on offer. Ride the world's second longest cable car up Mt Owakudani, passing over sulfurous fumes, hot springs and hot rivers in this volcanic area, where you can eat an egg hard boiled in the sulfuric hot springs which make Hakone famous. If you do, it will add seven years to your life! A majestic replica pirate ship will sweep you across the Lake Ashinoko, a lake formed by a volcanic eruption 3000 years ago, and the Hakone Tozan switchback train zig-zags through the mountains, giving amazing views of the surrounding valleys. Throughout the day you will have the chance to get a glimpse of Mt Fuji, however please keep in mind that she is a notoriously shy mountain and it needs to be a clear day.

Hakone Jinja

Visit Hakone Jinja, a delightful mountain Shinto sanctuary close to the lake, which is known for granting harmony in relationships.

Throughout the day you will have the chance to get a glimpse of Mt Fuji, however please keep in mind that she is a notoriously shy mountain and it needs to be a

clear day.

(*Breakfast, Tokyo; Accommodations, Hakone*)



HAKONE TO KYOTO:

Today you will ride Japan's world famous bullet train to Kyoto. Capable of speeds of up to 185mph (360km/h), the Shinkansen takes 2 hours to reach Kyoto.

Kyoto

This is a must see destination in Japan. Kyoto is the nation's former capital and was the residence of the emperor from 794 until 1868. It is Japan's seventh largest metropolis with a population of around 1.4 million and a city of culture that offers a plethora of temples, shrines and other historically priceless structures that still survive today. With 2,000 religious buildings, including 1,600 Buddhist temples and 400 Shinto shrines, as well as palaces, gardens and associated architecture, it is one of the best preserved cities in Japan and has been awarded UNESCO World Heritage status. Kyoto represents the "Japan of old" and beyond the high rise skyscrapers built as a monument to progress, the real monument to Japan's historical and cultural past can be found in the city's narrow alleyways where tea houses abound and kimono-clad geisha hurry from elegant function to function. This is a place to go back in time to Japan's mysterious past where echoes of the court nobility resonate at the Imperial Palace and the search for contemplation can be found in Ryoanji's Zen rock gardens.

(*Breakfast, Hakone; Accommodations, Kyoto*)



KYOTO:

Private Kyoto Highlights Tour

Visit 2 of Kyoto's 17 UNESCO World Heritage sites and a local market on this half day tour. Start the day with a visit to Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), which was originally built as a retirement villa for the Shogun. After his death it became a Buddhist Temple at his request, and is now one of Kyoto's most famous temples. Next is Nijo Castle, an ornamental castle that was built by the founder of the Edo Shogunate as his Kyoto residence and is surrounded by stunning surrounding gardens. The main building was completed in 1603, and is famous for its architecture, decorated sliding doors and 'chirping' nightingale floors. Finish the day with a visit to Nishiki Market. Known as Kyoto's Kitchen , Nishiki is a narrow shopping street lined more than 100 shops, selling fresh seafood and vegetables, pickles, Japanese sweets and sushi.

(*Breakfast, Accommodations, Kyoto*)

KYOTO:



After breakfast, your day is free to explore fascinating Kyoto and all that it has to offer.

(Breakfast, Accommodations, Kyoto)



KYOTO TO OSAKA:

Today you'll travel from your hotel in Kyoto to your accommodations in Osaka via private transfer.

Private Osaka Highlight Tour

Your English-speaking guide will meet you at your hotel to take you on a tour of Osaka via public transportation.

Start your day by visiting the magnificent **Osaka Castle**. The castle is one of Japan's most famous, and played a major role in the unification of Japan during the sixteenth century. It has been completely rebuilt, faithful to the original appearance, after its destruction during World War II. The inside is modern and functional, and serves as a museum of Osaka history.

Next stop is the **Floating Garden Observatory**. Built on top of the highest building in Osaka, it's an open air observatory from which you can enjoy stunning views of the city and the bay.

Hop on the underground for today's last stop: the hustling district of **Dotonbori**, a former pleasure district turned restaurant mecca. You can sample the famous **takoyaki**, octopus dumpling, Osaka's most famous street food.

Note: After the half-day tour, you'll part ways with your guide and return to the hotel on your own.

(Breakfast, Kyoto; Accommodations, Osaka)

DAY
9

DEPART OSAKA:

Your day is free before you transfer to the airport to continue on to your next Avanti destination!

(Breakfast, Osaka)