

Japan

Land of the rising sun



Japan consists of four main islands, surrounded by more than 4,000 smaller islands. With everything from coral reefs to snow-capped mountains, few countries enjoy such a wealth of different climates and ecosystems. From the perfect cone of Mount Fuji to the lovely beaches of the Inland Sea, from quiet villages surrounded by rice fields to the hectic bustle

of thriving modern cities, Japan offers an extraordinarily wide range of sightseeing, shopping, activities and entertainment for all ages. Ideal for family holidays, Japan is one of the world's safest countries, where cleanliness and high standards of service are the norm.

Japan maintains its traditions in the midst of the modern world. It's an interesting blend of old and new. There are temples, shrines and beautiful gardens; thriving traditional arts, including 'noh', a minimalist dance-drama, 'kabuki', using intricate scenery, costumes and make-up and 'bunraku' puppet theatre; kendo, samurai sword fighting; and the astonishing sumo wrestling. Spectacular festivals take place throughout the year.

In Japan's thriving metropolises it may be the modern that is most obviously on display – neon lights, quirky fashion, high-tech gadgets, manga comics, animation and avant-garde architecture – yet even in the

cities you will stumble upon ancient temples, palaces, quaint traditional restaurants and historic inns. Once out in the countryside it is the time-honoured and relaxing side of Japan that dominates – Onsen natural spas, Buddhist retreats and Ryokan inns.

Tasting the local cuisine is one of the highlights of any visit to Japan. Sushi and Sashimi are two of the best-known kinds of Japanese food, but that does not mean raw fish is the only thing on the menu! In fact, you will probably be surprised by the wonderful variety of dishes there are to try, including yakitori (barbecued chicken kebabs), tendon (rice topped with deep-fried prawns), ramen, udon and soba (Japanese noodles) and shabu shabu (beef and vegetable slices cooked in a light broth) and Kobe beef

(where the cow's are fed special meals and massaged). Bento box with its delicate, colourful food preparations are not to be missed. Pick-up your lunch with hot coffee in a can from a vending machine in the land where technology rules.

Dining in Japan's major cities can be a truly multi-cultural





experience – in lively downtown areas you will find Japanese restaurants alongside those serving cuisine from around the globe.

There are four distinct seasons – spring, the cherry blossom season (an event not to be missed), can be cool and rainy; summer is warm and often humid on the coast; autumn has warm sunny days and cool nights; and winter is cold and fairly dry.

Sightseeing

Temples, shrines and palaces; historic cities – Kyoto and Nara; Mount Fuji – Hakone National Park; futuristic cities of Tokyo and Osaka for shopping, nightlife, dining, art galleries and museums; hot springs, landscapes, skiing and snowboarding and cultural attractions.



Heian Jingu Shrine

Family activities

Theme and amusement parks, zoos, botanical gardens, high-tech showrooms for companies such as Toyota and Sony (the kids will love the Nintendo and robot displays), aquariums, winter sports, beaches and national parks.



Courtesy JNTO

Shopping

What you can buy – Pearls, electrical goods, cameras, optical goods, watches, Nintendo, Wii and Playstations, arts and crafts, bamboo ware, dolls, kimonos, pottery and silk.

Where you can buy – Department stores such as Mitsukoshi, Matsuzakaya, Matsu-ya. Shopping stores such as Muji and UNIGLO, markets, boutiques and speciality stores.




Entertainment

Sumo wrestling (seasonal), traditional theatre (kabuki dramas, noh plays and bunraku puppetry), concerts, ballet and opera; varied nightlife – karaoke, clubs and bars; excellent restaurants serving Japanese and international cuisine.

Events

Formula One Grand Prix, Suzuka (October); Tokyo International Motor Show (October – November); Peace Ceremony, Hiroshima (6th August); Fireworks Festivals (summer) throughout Japan on the weekends.



Average climate in Japan													
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	MAX °C	9	12	15	22	26	27	32	33	30	25	18	14
	MIN °C	3	4	7	14	18	20	25	27	23	18	10	7
	HRS	8	9	12	15	17	16	17	17	13	11	8	7
	MM	46	60	102	134	140	207	157	95	172	108	65	34
Daily maximum and minimum averages are guides only and may vary.													

Highlights of Japan

7 days/6 nights • Coach and bullet train tour

Mount Fuji

Tokyo • Hakone • Kyoto • Osaka

- Tokyo – the capital city
- Mount Fuji – Japan's highest mountain
- Hakone National Park
- Kyoto – the old imperial capital and the country's cultural centre
- Osaka – gateway to the Kansai region

This seven-day tour takes you through the highlights of the country – beginning with Tokyo, the modern high-tech capital city, to the natural beauty of Mount Fuji and Hakone National Park, to Kyoto and Nara, the cultural heart of Japan and onto Osaka, the gateway to the Kansai region, one of the most cultural regions in Japan.

Day 1: Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo. Overnight in Tokyo.

Day 2: Tokyo

In the morning, you drive past the fashionable Ginza area, the Imperial Palace Plaza and visit the 7th century Asakusa Kannon Temple on a city tour. Afternoon free at leisure. Overnight in Tokyo.

Day 3: Tokyo – Mount Fuji – Hakone

Depart Tokyo and drive through the countryside and halfway up to Mount Fuji. After lunch continue to Hakone National Park, noted for its beautiful mountain scenery and natural hot springs. Enjoy a cable car ride in the Owakundani Valley and a boat cruise on the picturesque Lake Ashi. Overnight in Hakone.

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Day 4: Hakone – Kyoto – Nara – Kyoto

Today, you take the Shinkansen to

Kyoto. An afternoon excursion to the ancient city of Nara, takes you to the Todaiji Temple and the Kasuga Shrine, considered to be one of the 'Three Great Shinto Shrines' of Japan. Overnight in Kyoto.

Day 5: Kyoto

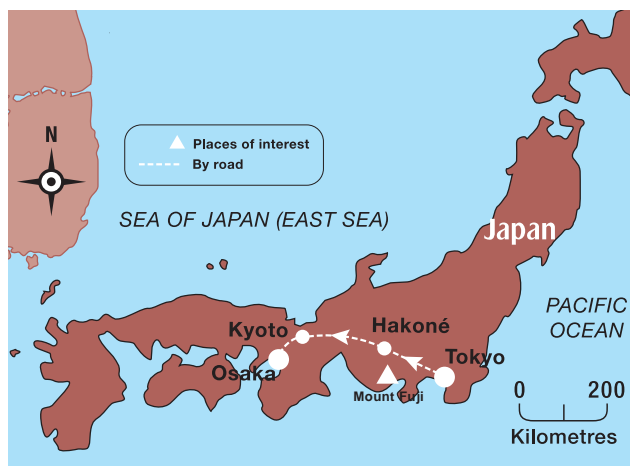
A full-day to discover the fascinating sites of this city, the imperial capital of Japan for over a thousand years. Visit the Nijo Castle, the Golden Pavilion, the Heian Shrine and the Kiyomizu Temple amongst other important sites. Overnight in Kyoto.

Day 6: Kyoto – Osaka

In the morning, you proceed to Osaka, after which you visit the Osaka Castle. Take a walking tour of the city and a boat ride on the Yodobashi River. Overnight in Osaka.

Day 7: Osaka

The whole day is free, perhaps to catch up with some last-minute shopping or to spend an entertaining day at the Universal Studios Japan™ Theme Park before you are transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



Tour available as:

- Coach Tour – Includes deluxe coach, English-speaking escort, bullet train, flights and pre-booked accommodation.



Mount Fuji

Golden Route and World Heritage Nikko and Shirakawa-go

9 days/8 nights • Coach and bullet train tour

Tokyo • Nikko • Hakone • Takayama • Kanazawa • Kyoto

- Tokyo – the capital city
- Nikko – third largest city in Japan
- Hakone – famous for hot springs
- Takayama – the town that time forgot
- Kanazawa – castle town of Japan
- Kyoto – the old imperial capital and the country's cultural centre

This nine-day tour takes you through the Golden Route of Japan – beginning with Tokyo, the modern high-tech capital city, to Nikko's Lake Chuzenji and Kegonnotaki Waterfall, the natural beauty of Mount Fuji and Hakone's Owakudani Valley, to Takayama and Kanazawa, onto Kyoto – the cultural heart of Japan.

Day 1: Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo. Overnight in Tokyo.

Day 2: Tokyo

In the morning, you will visit the Tokyo Tower Observatory, the Imperial Palace Plaza, the 7th century Asakusa Kannon Temple and Nakamise Shopping Arcade. Afternoon free at leisure. Overnight in Tokyo.

Day 3: Tokyo – Nikko – Tokyo

Today, you will visit the Nikko Toshogu Shrine and drive through Irohazaka to Lake Chuzenji and Kegonnotaki Waterfall. At the end of the day's tour, you will drive past the fashionable Shinjuku or Ginza area. Overnight in Tokyo.

Day 4: Tokyo – Mount Fuji – Hakone

Depart Tokyo and drive through the countryside and halfway up to Mount Fuji. Continue onto Hakone Ropeway to Owakudani Valley, the area around a crater created during the last eruption of Mount Hakone more than 3,000 years ago. Enjoy a boat cruise on picturesque Lake Ashi. Overnight in Hakone.

Day 5: Hakone – Takayama

Enjoy the Kodama bullet train to Nagoya then onto Hida train to Takayama, known as 'Little Kyoto'. A visit to Yatai Kaikan Hall, where colourfully decorated traditional festival floats are displayed. Then to Kusakabe Folk Museum followed by a stroll through Kami Sannomachi Street where traditional Japanese wooden houses have been preserved. Overnight in Takayama.

Day 6: Takayama – Shirakawa-go – Kanazawa

Start the day by visiting the morning market of Takayama and a scenic drive through Lake Miboro to visit the Former Toyama Family Residence and the Gassho-zukuri farmhouses. You will also experience the making of Japanese paper in Gokayama, a World Heritage village. Overnight in Kanazawa.

Day 7: Kanazawa – Kyoto

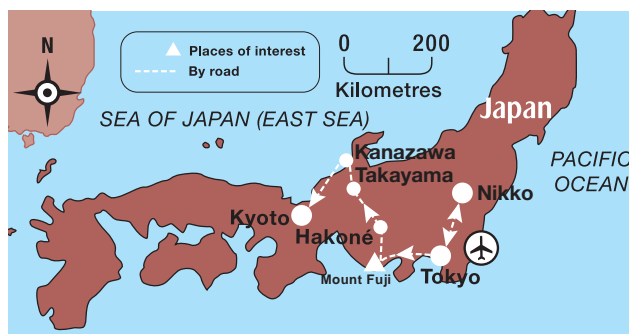
Today, you will visit one of the most beautiful landscaped Japanese gardens located next to Kanazawa Castle, Kenrokuen Garden, followed by Kutaniyaki Pottery Kiln, where stylish Japanese porcelain was produced. Continue on to the Higashi-chaya Street, an atmospheric street featuring the echoes of Shamisen playing in the background and the former guest house 'Shima'. Overnight in Kyoto.

Day 8: Kyoto

Start the day by visiting the Nijo Castle, a national treasure built by Kyoto's residence for the first Shogun of the Edo era, with splendid architecture and rich interior decorations. Next, visit the Kinkajiki Temple at the foot of Kinugasa Hill, followed by the Kyoto Imperial Palace. You will also be visiting Heian Jingu Shrine and Sanjusangendo, a national treasure with over 1,000 life-sized Buddhist statues. Overnight in Kyoto.

Day 9: Kyoto

The whole day is free perhaps to catch up with some last-minute shopping before you are transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



Tour available as:

- Coach Tour – Includes coach, English-speaking guide, bullet train and pre-booked accommodation.

Tokyo

Japan's exciting capital

Tokyo is one of the world's largest and most populous cities. As Japan's capital city, it is a dynamic metropolis where tradition and cutting-edge modernity coexist comfortably in a mix of old neighbourhoods like Asakusa and Yanaka, which are a world apart from trendy areas like Harajuku or the high-rises of Shinjuku. Catch a performance of kabuki, the traditional Japanese theatre or listen to jazz at venues that are among the world's best. Watch giant sumo wrestlers in action during the season, stroll through a serene landscaped garden, get a Shiatsu massage or soak at a hot spring spa.

In a city boasting more than 100,000 eating places, dining out is truly an adventure. Sample a 'robatayaki', where seafood and vegetables are cooked over an open grill or indulge in an expensive 'kaiseki' meal, offering dish after dish of artfully displayed delicacies. Shopping is another unforgettable experience in Tokyo, where 'depato' or department stores stock everything.

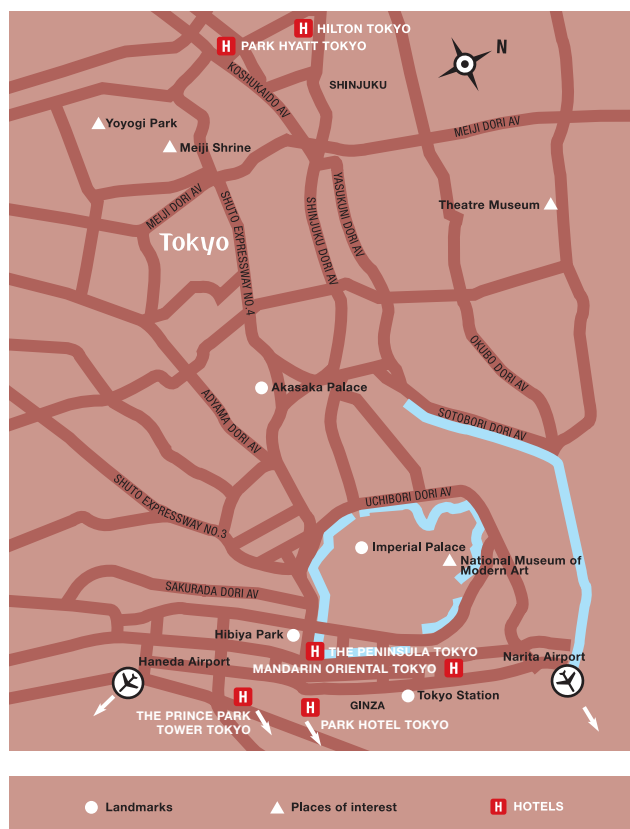
Places of interest: Imperial Palace; Senso-ji Temple; Tokyo Tower observation platform; Sony Building; National Museum of Modern Art; Meiji Shrine; Fuji Television Building; Roppongi Hills entertainment; dining and arts complex; Edo-Tokyo Museum of Japanese History; just an hour from Tokyo is **Mount Fuji** (3,776 metres) and the hot springs of **Hakone National Park**.

For the family: Ueno Zoo; Tokyo Disneyland® and Tokyo DisneySea®; Decks Tokyo Beach; Tokyo Joypolis, with the latest game machines; river cruises on the futuristic Himiko water buses and Aqua City Odaiba.

Best buys: Shopping areas include **Ginza** for luxury items; **Akihabara** for electronics;

Shinjuku, for goods ranging from the pricey to the discounted; Shibuya for casual clothes and footwear; Aoyama for antiques and Asakusa for souvenirs.

Out and about: Shinjuku is one of the most popular nightlife areas. Roppongi area is where the expats go for entertainment.



Ginza



Mount Fuji

Mount Fuji and Hakone tour

Full-day coach and bullet train excursion with lunch

Just 100 kilometres west of Tokyo, in Honshu's central mountain region, rises 3,776 metres high **Mount Fuji** – called by the Japanese, Fuji-san (papa Fuji) – a dormant conical volcano. Generally considered to be the most beautiful in the world and particularly lovely when the peak is snow-covered between October and May, it last erupted over 200 years ago.



Komitake Shrine, Hakone National Park

You first pause at the **Fuji Visitor Centre**, where you learn about the sacred mountain's history and place in Japanese life. Then drive part way up the slopes before continuing to **Lake Ashi (Ashinoko Yuransen)**, a typical crater lake abounding with black bass and rainbow trout that lies along the south-west wall of the caldera of Mount Hakone. The tour includes a relaxing cruise on the lake, which gives magnificent views of Mount Fuji.

From Lake Ashi you take a 1.8 kilometre ride on the **Hakone Komagatake Ropeway**, climbing 590 metres to the summit of **Mount Komagatake**, the journey providing spectacular views of **Hakone** and its surroundings. You then continue to **Odawara** to board the **Shinkansen** (bullet train) to Tokyo.

The tour operates daily, lasts for 11 hours, includes lunch and the services of an English-speaking guide (except onboard the train).

Nikko and Ninja - Edo Wonderland tour

Full-day coach excursion

Nikko is a small town nestled in the mountains of Tochigi Prefecture about 125 kilometres north of Tokyo. Set amidst a forest of cedar trees and surrounded by some of the country's most spectacular scenery, Nikko has been a sacred place since the 8th century, when a Buddhist hermitage was established here. Today, several shrines and temples are clustered around the town, the most outstanding being **Toshogu**, a **Shinto** shrine dedicated to the kami (spirit) of Leyasu, who founded the Tokugawa Shogunate, a military dynasty that ruled Japan from 1603 to 1867.

Unlike most Shinto shrines, Toshogu is a riot of colour, gold leaf and intricate carvings, depicting birds, flowers, dancing maidens and sages. The **Sacred Stable**, where a white imperial horse is kept, contains the original carving depicting the three wise monkeys, 'Hear no evil, Speak no evil, See no evil.'

Edo Wonderland, by **Nikko National Park**, is a vast theme park featuring a wide range of attractions enabling you to experience the customs, culture and society of the Edo period. D deservedly popular are the **Ninja** performances, which showcases a wide variety of combative techniques and displays of the use of tools developed by the Ninjas and the parade of the **oiran** (predecessors of the geishas).

The tour operates on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, departing from Hamamatsucho Bus Terminal and returning to Tabo Asakusa Station, lasts for 12 hours and includes the services of an English-speaking guide. Meals are not included.



Nikko

Courtesy JNTO

Park Hyatt Tokyo



Location: Shinjuku-ku.

Conveniently located in the heart of Shinjuku, this hotel offers spectacular views of Tokyo's unique skyline from above the 41st floor of Shinjuku Park Tower. The hotel is an elegant oasis of space and calm, overlooking Tokyo and the Kanto Plain all the way to Mount Fuji, close to Shinjuku Park and Nishi Shinjuku. Narita International Airport is 40 kilometres away.

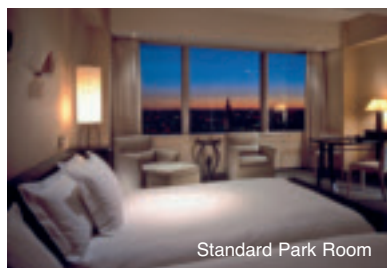
Facilities: 178 rooms and suites. Three restaurants, three bars, 24-hour room service, beauty salon, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms.

Standard Park Rooms: Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, CD/DVD player, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee and safe.

Sports and leisure: Indoor pool, fitness centre, spa, sauna, jacuzzi, steam bath and massage.

Check-in: 1500 hours.

Check-out: 1200 hours.



Standard Park Room



Mandarin Oriental Tokyo



Location: Chuo-ku.

This hotel is located in the historical and culture-rich Nihonbashi district within central Tokyo, just five minutes walk from the high fashion shops in Ginza. The hotel sits atop the impressive Nihonbashi's Mitsui Tower. All guest rooms are designed for luxury and inspired by Japanese aesthetics, offering contemporary serenity above a booming metropolis with unobstructed panoramic views of Tokyo skyline. Narita International Airport is 40 kilometres away.

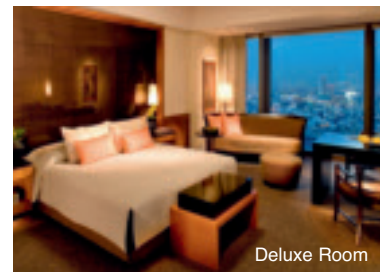
Facilities: 179 rooms and suites. Five restaurants, three bars, 24-hour room service, beauty salon, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting and smoking rooms.

Deluxe Rooms: Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, data ports, wireless connectivity, minibar, tea and coffee and safe.

Sports and leisure: Fitness centre and spa.

Check-in: 1500 hours

Check-out: 1200 hours.



Deluxe Room

The Peninsula Tokyo



Location: Chiyoda-ku.

This hotel is located just a three-minute walk away from the shopping capital of Ginza, opposite the Imperial Palace and Hibiya Park. Inspired by Japanese heritage and contemporary elements, The Peninsula Tokyo offers commanding city views, luxurious comfort, sophisticated facilities, extraordinary dining options and the legendary Peninsula service. Narita International Airport is 30 kilometres away.

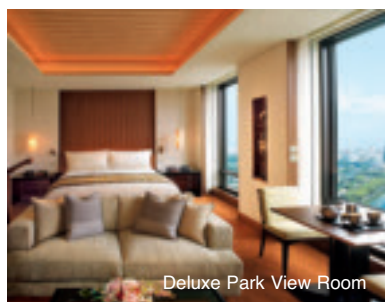
Facilities: 361 rooms and suites. Five restaurants, two bars, 24-hour room service, hair salon, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting and non-smoking rooms.

Deluxe Park View Rooms: Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, data ports, wireless connectivity, minibar, tea and coffee, iron and safe.

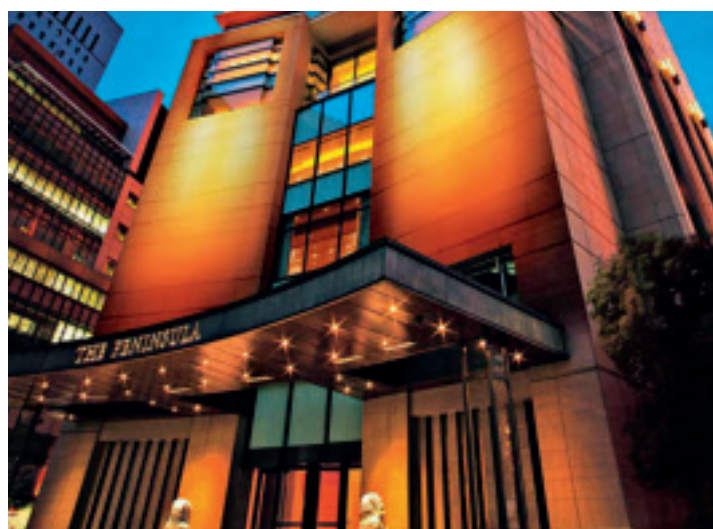
Sports and leisure: Indoor pool, fitness centre and The Peninsula Spa by ESPA.

Check-in: 1500 hours

Check-out: 1200 hours.



Deluxe Park View Room



The Prince Park Tower Tokyo ✓✓✓✓



Location: Minato-ku.

Located in the heart of Tokyo and next to one of the city's iconic landmark, The Prince Park Tower Tokyo stands amidst a green pasture of the Shiba Park, with the feel of great outdoors and a luxurious panoramic view of Tokyo. The hotel is within close proximity to many main attractions in Tokyo including Shinjuku, Roppongi - home to one of the best entertainment districts, Shinbashi, Asakusa and Otemachi. Narita International Airport is 75 kilometres away.

Facilities: 673 rooms and suites. Seven restaurants, four bars, shopping arcade, safety deposit boxes, business centre and interconnecting rooms.

Standard Rooms: Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee.

Sports and leisure: Indoor pool, fitness centre, spa, sauna, steam bath and bowling lanes.

Check-in: 1400 hours

Check-out: 1200 hours.



Standard Room



Hilton Tokyo ✓✓✓✓

Location: Shinjuku-ku.

This hotel is centrally located in the Shinjuku area, the shopping, entertainment and business centre of Tokyo. The Hilton Tokyo offers well-appointed contemporary accommodation and is easily accessible to some of the main attractions such as the Imperial Palace and Ginza. Narita International Airport is 35 kilometres away.

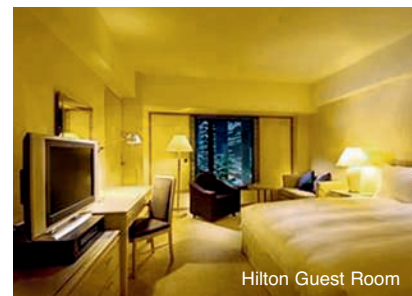
Facilities: 815 rooms and suites. Five restaurants, two bars, 24-hour room service, shopping arcade, beauty salon, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms.

Hilton Guest Rooms: Air-conditioning, hairdryer, TV, data ports, wireless connectivity, minibar, tea and coffee, iron and safe.

Sports and leisure: Indoor pool, fitness centre, sauna, jacuzzi, massage and two tennis courts.

Check-in: 1400 hours

Check-out: 1200 hours.



Hilton Guest Room

Park Hotel Tokyo ✓✓✓

Location: Minato-ku.

Located on the 25th floor of Shiodome Media Tower, overlooking the magnificent Tokyo Tower, the Park Hotel Tokyo is in the flourishing new centre of business and culture in Shimbashi, at the south-eastern end of Ginza near Hamarikyu Park. An oasis of peace and quiet, in the midst of central Tokyo's urban jungle, the hotel offers extraordinary coordinated interior designs, the colour concept of which reflects a warm homely feeling. Narita International Airport is 40 kilometres away.

Facilities: 273 rooms and suites. Three restaurants, two bars, 24-hour room service, shopping arcade and business centre.

Standard Rooms: Air-conditioning, hairdryer, TV, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee and safe.

Sports and leisure: Massage.

Check-in: 1400 hours

Check-out: 1200 hours.



Standard Room





Osaka

City of commerce and entertainment

Osaka, Japan's third largest city, second largest port and a major commercial and industrial centre, is steeped in history and culture, and offers excellent shopping, entertainment and family activities. From ancient Shinto shrines to trendy nightspots, from its 16th century castle to vast underground shopping malls, visitors will find a plethora of things to see and do.

Osaka is also a convenient centre for exploring the rest of the Kansai region, where the cities of Kyoto, Kobe and Nara, treasure houses of

historic buildings and traditional Japanese crafts are located. Tokyo, the capital, is just three hours away by Shinkansen, the famous bullet train.

Places of interest: **Osaka Castle;** Kyoto, with 2,000 historical buildings; **Shitenno-ji Temple** and Gion Corner.

For the family: Attractions include **Universal Studios Japan;** The Instant Ramen Museum, **Kaiyukan Aquarium;** Sakuya Konohana Kan; Osaka Science and Technology Museum; Osaka City Museum and Tenno-ji Dobutsuen Zoo.



Shitenno-ji Temple



● Landmarks

▲ Places of interest

H HOTELS



Courtesy JNTO

Kyoto

City of ancient culture and Geisha's

Kyoto, the former capital of Japan, became the seat of the government in 794. It flourished as the capital of Japan for over 1,100 years until the central government was transferred to Tokyo in 1869. There is no end to the list of charms of Kyoto, not only its historical cultural assets but art, craft, delicacies and nature as well. It was where the Shogun rule started and the Geisha culture has its roots. You may meet some 'maiko', young dancing entertainers, who walk in long hanging-sleeved kimono in the Gion district. Seventeen historic sites including, Kiyomizu-dera Temple and Nijo Castle, are inscribed as World Cultural Heritage sites.

Places of interest: **Kiyomizu-dera Temple**, one of the most famous temples in Kyoto and **Nijo Castle**, built by the Shogunate around 1600.

For the family: Attractions include **museum** and **gardens**. Kyoto Handicraft Centre and Toei Kyoto Studio Park.

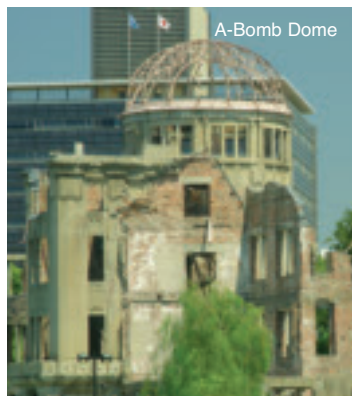


Ryokan



Hiroshima and Miyajima tour

Full-day bullet train, coach and boat excursion



A-Bomb Dome

Your excursion starts with a journey on **Japan Railways' Shinkansen** train from **Osaka** to **Hiroshima**, where we meet you and drive to **Miyajima** and the floating shrine of **Itsukushima Jinja**.

More commonly known as Miyajima, it is one of Japan's three great views (the others are the sand pit at **Amamohashidate** and the islands of **Matsushima**) and is probably the most photogenic. The Shrine, a listed UNESCO World Heritage site, dates back to the 6th century, but it was in 1168 that Taira no Kiyomori, a warlord

of the late Heian Period, funded the remodeling of the main building in the Shinden-Zukuri style. The columns of the famous 16-metre tall **Otorii Gate**, standing in the sea are built of camphor wood and the gate itself



Peace Memorial Park

has been reconstructed 17 times, most recently in 1875. There are few places in the world that can equal Itsukushima Jinja's breathtaking beauty and serene atmosphere.

From the tranquillity of Itsukushima Jinja we take you to Hiroshima, a busy, prosperous, attractive city that will forever be remembered for the awful instant when it became the target of the atomic bomb attack during World War II. The symbol of the destruction is the **A-Bomb Dome** – the ruins of the former Industrial Promotion Hall, floodlit at night, being left as a permanent reminder of the tragedy. You walk through the **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park**, dedicated to promoting peace around the world. Of particular note is the **Peace Memorial Museum**, narrating the events leading up to, during and after the explosion; the **Hiroshima National Peace Memorial**, a contemplative hall of remembrance; the **Cenotaph**; and the **Flame of Peace**, which will be extinguished only when the last nuclear weapon on earth has been destroyed.

This excursion operates on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and lasts for 12 hours.

Excursion starts and disbands in Osaka, includes the services of an English-speaking guide (except when onboard the bullet train) and excludes meals.



Itsukushima Shrine



Osaka wonders

Full-day walking, train and boat excursion with lunch

Osaka Castle



Umeda Sky Building

There is no better way to explore **Osaka**, Japan's third largest city, than on our full-day tour, which includes all the highlights of this fascinating metropolis.

We start with a visit to the **Umeda Sky Building**, a spectacular 40-storey skyscraper in the Kita district, at the base of which is a lovely urban garden with walking trails and water features. The 173 metres high main towers are connected by the **Floating Garden Observatory** on the 39th floor, which offers stupendous, unobstructed, 360 degree views across the city.

Our next visit is the **Osaka Castle**, originally constructed in 1586 by Shogun Hideyoshi. It played a vital role in the unification of Japan – Hideyoshi, from this fortress stronghold where



Osaka Business Park

Courtesy JNTO

30 metre high walls rise above the wide moats to the gold-encrusted ornamental roof tiles, succeeded in quelling the wars which had continued for more than a century. The top floor is an observation deck, from which there are splendid panoramic views of the spacious **Castle Park**, the city's modern high-rise buildings, the **Osaka Plain** and the distant mountains. The castle also houses a museum, whose extensive collection includes armour and weapons, folding screens illustrating wars and battles, gorgeous furnishings and exquisite makie style lacquerware.

Osaka has often been called the Venice of Asia because of its many rivers and waterways, bridges and islands. Our 60-minute river cruise covers Osaka's major sights, including **Osaka Castle**, **Nakanoshima** (the civic centre of the city located on a small island), **Osaka Business Park** (a handsome group of modern high-rise buildings that forms a focal point of news, culture and business) and **Osaka Amenity Park**, a 21st century shopping complex surrounded by greenery.

Operating on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, the excursion departs from Hotel Granvia Osaka and ends at Osaka Station and lasts for six hours. It includes lunch and the services of an English speaking guide.



Nakanoshima

Kyoto World Heritage

Full-day coach excursion with lunch

Kinkakunji Temple



Kiyomizu Temple

The centre of Japan's civilisation for more than 1,200 years, there is probably no other place on earth that can rival **Kyoto** as a living cultural centre. Our full-day tour introduces you to many of the city's treasures and reveals how Zen Buddhism has been an underlying influence on Japanese culture for centuries.

Your tour starts with a visit to **Nijo Castle**, built in 1603 as the Kyoto residence of the Tokugawa Shogun, with its discreet exterior in sharp contrast with the gorgeously decorated pavilions inside. You call at the **Muromachi-era Kinkakuji Temple** (Golden Pavilion) at the foot of

Kinugasa Hill, originally built over 800 years ago as a villa for a court



Kyoto Gosho Gardens

noble and later improved by Shogun Ashikaga, before exploring **Kyoto Gosho (Imperial Palace)**, dating from 1855. The palace contains several pavilions notably **Shishinden (Ceremonial Hall)**, **Seiryoden (Serene and Cool Chamber)** and **Kogosho (Minor Palace)**, as well as lovely gardens and streams, and served as the official seat of the Emperor until the capital was moved to Tokyo during the Meiji Restoration in 1867.

At the **Kyoto Handicraft Centre** you will discover a comprehensive range of Japanese handicrafts including pottery, dolls, swords, calligraphy, lacquerware, damascene, pearls, woodblock printing and cloisonné (an ancient technique for decorating metal objects using enamel, gems and glass) and it is also a great place to shop for antiques. You then visit Japan's largest wooden structure, **Sanjusangendo Temple**, built in 1266 and containing 1,001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy, before seeing the ancient **Kiyomizu Temple**, a place of worship of the Buddhist Hosso sect, that was brought from China more than 1,300 years ago.

Starting and finishing in Kyoto, the tour operates daily, lasts for 10 hours, includes lunch and the services of an English-speaking guide.



Imperial Hotel Osaka

Location: Kita-ku.

Situated in the Osaka Amenity Park overlooking Kema Sakuranomiya Park and the Okawa River, this hotel is entirely in keeping with the verdant and tranquil ambience of its surroundings. Feel at home with the Imperial hotel's century-old tradition of hospitality. Kansai International Airport is 50 kilometres away.

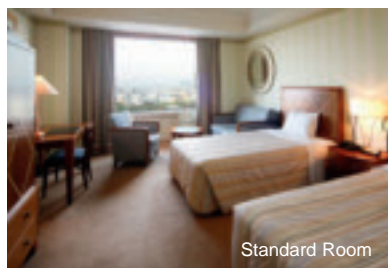
Facilities: 381 rooms and suites. Six restaurants, three bars, 24-hour room service, shopping arcade, hairdresser, beauty salon, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms.

Standard Rooms: Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, fax machine, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee and safe.

Sports and leisure: Indoor pool, fitness centre, sauna, jacuzzi, steam bath, massage, three tennis courts and squash court.

Check-in: 1400 hours

Check-out: 1200 hours.



Standard Room



Hilton Osaka

Location: Kita-ku.

This hotel is situated in the centre of Osaka's shopping, entertainment and business district. Excellent comfort, personalised service and an ideal location, opposite the JR Osaka train station, makes it a preferred choice for both business and pleasure. The hotel is a short distance away from the Universal Studios, Japan. Kansai International Airport is 60 kilometres away.

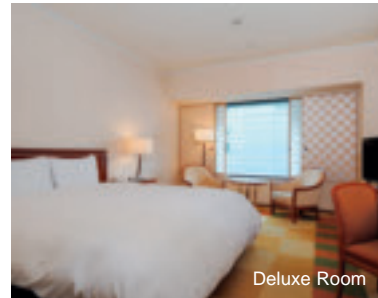
Facilities: 525 rooms and suites. Four restaurants, bar, 24-hour room service, shopping arcade, beauty salon, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms.

Deluxe Rooms: Air-conditioning, hairdryer, TV, fax machine, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee and safe.

Sports and leisure: Indoor pool, fitness room, sauna, jacuzzi and massage.

Check-in: 1400 hours

Check-out: 1200 hours.



Deluxe Room



Hotel Nikko Osaka

Location: Chuo-ku.

Soaring gracefully upwards, the hotel is located right above Shinsaibashi subway station and is accessible by escalator, with high end shopping just across the street, amidst blocks of shopping arcades along Midosuji Street and Shinsaibashi. This hotel provides business and leisure travellers with quality service and accommodation amidst distinguished surroundings. Kansai International Airport is 45 kilometres away.

Facilities: 643 rooms and suites.

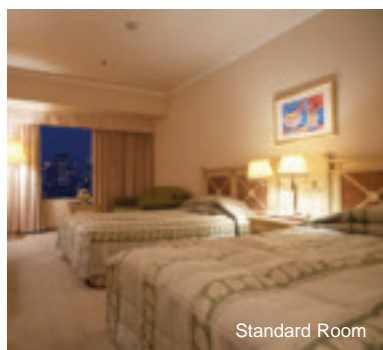
Six restaurants, four bars, hairdresser, beauty salon, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting and non-smoking rooms.

Standard Rooms: Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, radio, TV, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee.

Sports and leisure: Massage.

Check-in: 1500 hours

Check-out: 1200 hours.



Standard Room



Kyoto Hotel Okura

Location: Nakagyo-ku.

This hotel is situated in the heart of Kyoto close to the business district and Kyoto's central shopping district of Shijo-Kawaramachi. Designed in an intrinsic style with high levels of service, the hotel is within proximity to Kyoto Imperial Palace, Kyoto's oldest temple - Noji Temple, Nijo Castle and the Nishiki Food Market. Kansai International Airport is 100 kilometres away.



Standard Room

Facilities: 322 rooms and suites.

Seven restaurants, two bars, 24-hour room service, safety deposit boxes, business centre and non-smoking rooms.

Standard Rooms: Air-conditioning, hairdryer, TV, internet access, minibar, tea and coffee and safe.

Sports and leisure: Indoor pool, fitness centre, sauna and steam bath.

Check-in: 1300 hours

Check-out: 1100 hours.



Hyatt Regency Kyoto

Location: Higashiyama-ku.

Located within the traditional and cultural district of Higoshiyama Shichijo and in the heart of Kyoto, this luxury hotel incorporating creative artwork and top-notch amenities in a contemporary Japanese concept, is close to the city's landmarks such as Kyoto National Museum, the shopping and entertainment district of Gion, Shijo Street and Nishiki Market. Kansai International Airport is 100 kilometres away.

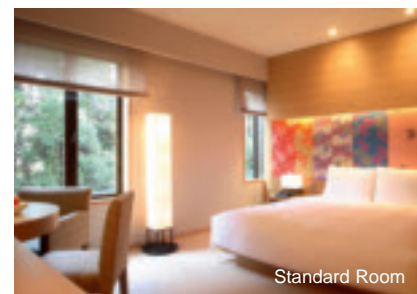
Facilities: 189 rooms and suites. Three restaurants, bar, 24-hour room service, safety deposit boxes, business centre and babysitting.

Standard Rooms: Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, DVD, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee, iron and safe.

Sports and leisure: Fitness centre, spa and massage.

Check-in: 1400 hours

Check-out: 1200 hours.



Standard Room

Rihga Royal Hotel

Location: Shimogyo-ku.

Just a short walk away from Kyoto station, this hotel provides convenient access to Kyoto's main attractions such as Kyoto Imperial Palace, Nishi-Honganji Temple, Nishiki Food Market, Gion and Shin-Kyogoku Shopping street. Kansai International Airport is 140 kilometres away.

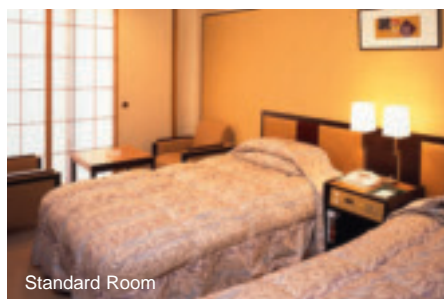
Facilities: 484 rooms and suites.

Standard Rooms: Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee and safe.

Sports and leisure: Indoor pool, fitness centre, sauna, jacuzzi, steam bath and massage.

Check-in: 1300 hours

Check-out: 1100 hours.



Standard Room

