

Highlights of Japan

Tokyo, Hakone, Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto



Japan, an archipelago of 6800 volcanic islands, is a world apart from any other country. It is a wonderful contrast of tradition and modernity - glitzy skyscrapers co-exist with Geisha girls, flashy neon lights do not overshadow quaint little tea shops, cutting edge modern technology works in tandem with ancient craftsmanship. Besides sheer curiosity, savouring the delights of Japanese cuisine is a large reason to visit this country. The people are charming and courteous, the rail network is fantastic. However, its best kept secret is the stunning natural beauty of Japan and it should be a large reason for visiting this island country.

Highlights

Japan is nothing less than magical in spring time when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom. These beautiful pink flowers form a natural blanket over the country in soft, colourful splendour. It is the perfect time to visit Japan.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Experience Sakura or cherry blossoms to create beautiful visions of pink and white
- ❖ Visit the sights and sounds of glamorous Tokyo
- ❖ See an Early Morning Practice at a Sumo Stable – one of the best experiences in Japan
- ❖ An opportunity to see the magnificent Mt Fuji and its surrounds
- ❖ Visit the stunning Arashiyama Bamboo Grove
- ❖ Visit the stunning natural landscape and beautiful temples of the ancient city of Kyoto
- ❖ Visit the tear-jerking Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima

Itinerary

Day 1 – 31st March 2020 - Arrival in Tokyo

On arrival in Tokyo, you will be booked to for a stay of 2 nights.

On arrival, the transfer to the airport will be arranged for you. (Early check in is on request)

(The transfer will be arranged for flights arriving at around 1600 hours. For any other arrivals, a separate transfer fee will be applicable)

You will be booked at the **Hotel Grand Prince Shintakanawa Tokyo or similar** in Tokyo.

Dinner tonight is included.

Overnight in Tokyo.

Day 2 – 1st April 2020 - Tokyo sightseeing



City tour of Tokyo: Today's tour will include the following (the order may change depending on traffic)

You will drive past the Japanese House of Parliament as you continue on to the Imperial Palace East Garden. This idyllic outdoor space, home to a traditional Japanese garden, tea pavilion, stone walls, and a moat, is situated within the complex of an Edo-era castle.

From here, we will head to Visit **TeamLab Borderless**, a Digital art Museum. A magical mix of colour, light and sound, TeamLab Borderless in Tokyo is the world's first Digital Art Museum. A. From a mesmerising crystal world to gushing digital waterfalls and an extraordinary lantern filled room, a visit to TeamLab Borderless is a Tokyo highlight.

We will then head to **Shibuya crossing**. Famous for being the busiest crossing in the world, the Shibuya Scramble is top of most people's must-see list in Tokyo . The sprawling scramble intersection has hundreds of people, sometimes as many as 3000 at peak cross at a time, coming from all directions at once.

After lunch, you will be driven to Ginza for shopping. You can spend some time enjoying walking around Ginza
Dinner tonight is included.

Overnight in Tokyo.

Day 3 – 2nd April - Tokyo – Sumo Stable ; Digital Art Museum. Afternoon to Mt Fuji



This morning (very early), you will enjoy a morning **Practice at a Sumo Stable** (with packed Breakfast from hotel). Seeing sumo in action is one of the best cultural experiences you can have in Japan. One of the best ways to experience this centuries' old sport up close and personal is by visiting a sumo stable and watching the morning training session, known as *asageiko*.

Continue on to **Nakamise Shopping Street**, a brightly-colored thoroughfare of food vendors and souvenir stores that leads to **Asakusa Kannon Temple** (Senso-ji), one of Japan's most important Buddhist sites. Stay with your guide as you check out, architecture, and shrines that surround the site.

From here, we will head to **Akihabara** to enjoy some electronics shopping. In more recent years, Akihabara has gained recognition as the center of Japan's otaku (diehard fan) culture, and many shops and establishments devoted to anime and manga are now dispersed among the electronic stores in the district

After lunch, transfer to Mount Fuji.

Stay 2 nights at the **Hotel Hakone Highland** or similar

Dinner tonight is included.

Overnight in Mishima

Day 4 – 3rd April 2020 - Mount Fuji



This morning you will be taken on a sightseeing trip starting with the **Mishima Skywalk**. It is the longest suspension bridge in Japan that is 400 meters in length. It gives pedestrians a chance to view the magnificence of Mt. Fuji and the beauty of Suruga Bay from the bridge.

You will also have a chance to see the pristine **Lake Ashi**, with a view of Mount Fuji that is worthy of postcards

The end of your tour will be a visit to the Suntory Hakushu Distillery bar (subject to permission) which hosts a Whisky Museum, a factory shop and a restaurant. (If the Whiskey Distillery is not possible, we will take you to Gotemba premium Outlets for some shopping time or Hakone Ropeway depending on availability.)

Dinner tonight is included.

Overnight in Mishima

Day 5 – 4th April 2020 – Mt Fuji to Hiroshima



After breakfast, the transfer to the Station will be arranged for you. *(Pack one small bag for 1 night while the big bag goes on straight to Kyoto)*

You will be booked on a bullet train to Hiroshima.

On arrival, transfer to a local Indian Restaurant for lunch (cost not included)

After lunch, you will continue on a sightseeing tour of **Miyajima Island** and the beautiful Itsukushima Shrine. The name Itsukushima literally means 'island of worship' and from ancient times the island itself was worshipped as a god. The mystical Itsukushima Shrine built on the water was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1996.

Later, the transfer to the hotel will be arranged for you.

You will be booked for a stay of 1 night in Hiroshima at **Hotel Rihga Royal or similar**.

Dinner tonight is included.

Overnight in Hiroshima.

Day 6 --5th April 2020 - Hiroshima to Kyoto including Miyajima and Kurashiki



After Breakfast, we will visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park was built to commemorate the dropping of the atomic bomb over Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and to promote a peaceful world. It is located in the area around the atomic explosion's epicenter, and houses the Peace Memorial Museum and many other related monuments.

The **Peace Memorial Museum** graphically displays the atomic bomb's effects on the city and its inhabitants. In

the museum's east building, Hiroshima's militarist past and the process leading to the dropping of the bomb are documented. Audio guides are available in more than a dozen languages.

The **Atomic Bomb Dome** is one of the few buildings around the explosion's epicenter that partially survived the blast, and the city's only remaining bomb damaged building. Between the museum and the Atomic Bomb Dome stands the Memorial Cenotaph for Atomic Bomb Victims. It contains a list of all the people who were killed by the explosion or died due to the bombing's long-term effects such as cancer caused by radiation.

From here, we will proceed to Kyoto by Coach.

Enroute, you will visit **Kurashiki Canal Town**. This is a beautifully preserved historical district known as Bikan Historical Quarter. Visiting Kurashiki is a great way to get an idea of what old Japan was like.

Lunch will be at a restaurant enroute or in Kurashiki itself (cost not included)

Continue to Kyoto.

On arrival in Kyoto – spend the about an hour in Gion district. Gion is a traditional entertainment district, also popularly called the Geisha district of Kyoto. It is packed with bars, restaurants and traditional tea houses. You may get lucky and see Geisha walk across from you.

Dinner tonight is included. (After dinner, those who want can go to Ponto Cho on their own)

You will be booked at the **Hotel Grand Prince Hotel Kyoto or similar** for a stay of 2 nights. *(The bags you sent ahead will be waiting for you at the hotel)*

Day 7 --6th April - Arashiyama and Sagano & Kyoto Sightseeing



You will start this morning with a visit to **Arashiyama and Sagano** near Kyoto. wander among peaceful bamboo groves and elegant mountain temples of rural Japan as you explore the fascinating areas of Arashiyama and Sagano. Enjoy a ride on the Sagano Scenic Railway (Torokko Saga and Torokko Kameoka Stations). Meander among the bamboo groves of Sagano before checking out the ancient 14th century Tenryu-Ji Temple and the secluded Jojakko-Ji Temple, hidden among the forest. Finish with a trip across the iconic Togetsukyō Bridge.

From here, we will head to lunch at a typical **Shojin Ryori Restaurant** (own cost) at the Shigetsu at Tenryu-ji Temple. *Shojin ryori is the traditional dining style of Buddhist monks in Japan, and grew widespread in popularity with the spread of Zen Buddhism in the 13th century. As the cuisine is made without meat, fish or other animal products, it can be enjoyed by vegans, vegetarians and meat-eaters alike.*

Head next to Kinkaku-ji, the city's most popular religious site and what is considered by many to be one of the world's most elaborate Japanese gardens, for 45 minutes. Check out the temple's **Golden Pavillion**, a three-story building sheathed in gold leaf and situated beside a picturesque pond, where you can take some great photos.

Next is a Photo stop at Nijo Castle, which was the home of the Tokugawa Shogun until the mid-1800s. From here, we will head to the UNESCO world heritage **Kiyomizudera Temple**. It is one of the most famous and celebrated temples in Kyoto. The temple's wooden stage is undoubtedly what the temple is most famous for, offering an outstanding panoramic view of Kyoto rising out of a sea of maples.

Your final stop today will be the **Philosophers Path** for an hour at leisure. This is a pleasant stone path through the northern part of Kyoto's Higashiyama district. The path follows a canal which is lined by hundreds of cherry trees. Usually in early April these trees explode with color, making this one of the city's most popular hanami (cherry blossom viewing) spots. Hopefully, you will get to see clouds of beautiful cherry blossoms bloom in this lovely city.

Dinner and Overnight in Kyoto.

Day 8 – 7th April – - Kyoto – Nara – Osaka



Post breakfast this morning, enjoy a 1-hour drive south to Nara, where you'll stop by two of the temples and shrines that form the city's own UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit Todai-ji, a religious complex known for housing one of the world's largest statues of the Buddha (Great Buddha Hall) before continuing to the adjacent Nara Park.

Finish your excursion at Nara's Deer Park, a famous section of Nara Park with free-roaming groups of deer. Feel free to hand-feed these tame creatures with the special food for sale on site.

From here, we travel to **Osaka**. On arrival, enjoy a panoramic tour of Osaka. You will see the Umeda Sky Building and Floating Garden observatory, one of the landmarks of Osaka. At its core is the Umeda Sky Building, a "pair of skyscrapers connected in midair" - built in an unusual architectural form not often encountered anywhere in the world.

You will then be dropped **Shinsaibashi** area for an evening at leisure and some last minute shopping.

Dinner tonight is included.

You will be booked at the **Hotel Art Osaka Bay Tower or similar** for a stay of 1 night.

Overnight in Osaka.

Day 9 – 8th April 2020 - Departure from Osaka

After your hotel check out, your tour comes to an end. The transfer to the airport will be arranged for you.

(The transfer will be arranged at 1145 hours. For any other departures, a separate transfer fee will be applicable)

*** Return home with wonderful memories of your holiday ***

Price per person on a twin-sharing basis: INR 2,49,800

Single supplement: INR 61,000

Price Includes:

- Accommodation as per the itinerary in 4 star hotels for 8 nights
- Daily Breakfast
- Daily Dinner
- Airport transfers in Tokyo and Osaka (as per the timings specified)
- Special Luggage Delivery service from Mount Fuji to Kyoto
- “Shinkansen” bullet train from Hakone to Hiroshima
- Transportation services in an air-conditioned vehicle as per itinerary with qualified English speaking guide.
- Tours & Entrance fees as per the itinerary
 - ❖ Sumo Wrestling visit
 - ❖ Digital Art Museum
 - ❖ Mishima Skywalk and more
- Service of an Odyssey Tour Escort from Tokyo to Osaka

Price excludes

- Air ticket to Tokyo and from Osaka
- Airport Taxes
- Meals and Sightseeing not mentioned in the itinerary
- Porterage
- Gratuities (Recommended at US\$ 8 pp per day)
- Visa & Overseas Medical Insurance policy
- Items of a personal nature, such as laundry, telephone expenses, room service, alcoholic beverages, etc.
- Any other services not specified in the itinerary
- **5% GST**

Notes:

- Standard check in at hotels is at 14h00 onwards. Where necessary we will request an early check-in however, this is not guaranteed. The same applies to check out, which is at 12h00.
 - Rates subject to change without prior notice due to circumstances beyond our control e.g. fuel increases, rate of exchange fluctuations.
 - Please note that your passport should be valid for more than 6 months beyond the date of travel and that you must have at least 2 blank pages on your passport.
 - Please contact us if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation in Tokyo or post tour accommodation in Osaka.
 - **ROE calculated at 1 JPY = Rs. 0.66. Any fluctuations at the time of payment will alter the cost**
 - **Price based on a minimum of 14 people travelling together**
 - The Cherry Blossom flowers bloom from late March to mid April so we have organised our tour accordingly. It is however a natural phenomenon and the timing and duration of this cannot be controlled.
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Terms & Conditions

BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

1. A deposit of Rs 30,000 per person will be payable before 10th December 2019. If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Odyssey Tours & Travels.
2. At the time of making the booking, please send a copy of the first page of your passport
3. Balance payment is to be made by 10th January 2020.
4. All rates are subject to a revision if there is a fluctuation in the currency rates.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

- 1. Payment of the booking deposit constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions.**
2. Should you be forced to amend / cancel the booking you must fill and sign the amendment / cancellation advice, which will entail cancelling your particular reservation, thereby the cancellation charges will apply. Should you wish to cancel any part of a confirmed booking / reservation all such cancellations must be advised in writing. Given below is the cancellation policy.
3. Cancellation of a reservation due to any visa being rejected will amount to cancellation charges being levied as per the scale mentioned below and Odyssey Tours & Travels will not be responsible for any visa rejection by the respective consulates.
4. Cancellation of any reservations are subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Cancellation effected between 10th December 2019 and 10th January 2020 will attract a cancellation fee of Rs 30000 pp
 - b. Cancellation effected between 10th January and 30th January 2020 and will attract a cancellation charge of 50% of the tour cost.
 - c. Cancellation effected after 10th February 2020 will attract a cancellation charge of 100% of the tour cost.
 - d. No refund will be due after commencement of travel.
5. Refunds due can take upto 5 weeks to process.