

13 Days | Japan Highlights | Sumos, Shrines & Sake

Tokyo - Kamakura - Hakone - Shizuoka - Kusatsu - Nara - Himeji - Hiroshima
- Osaka - Kyoto

From **\$4,549** Typically \$5,599 pp twin share



Experience Japan's highlights in one amazing itinerary

12 nights accommodation, a range of meals and comfortable transport

Explore a range of historic sites, gardens, temples, shrines and cities

Visit Tokyo, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Osaka & much more

Description

Embark on an unforgettable journey through the captivating tapestry of Japan, where the juxtaposition of ancient traditions and modern marvels creates an unparalleled spectacle that beckons travelers from around the globe.

2025 and 2026 Departures

NOW AVAILABLE!

Prepare to immerse yourself in a whirlwind of sensory delights as you venture from the bustling streets of Tokyo to the tranquil beauty of Hakone, and beyond, on this extraordinary group tour.

Begin your adventure amidst the neon-lit streets of Tokyo, where towering skyscrapers cast long shadows over ancient temples, creating a mesmerizing blend of old-world charm and futuristic innovation. Delve into the vibrant energy of the city as you explore its myriad attractions, from bustling markets and lively entertainment districts to serene gardens and historic landmarks.

As you journey onwards to the picturesque town of Hakone, be prepared to be awe-struck by the breathtaking vistas of Mount Fuji, whose majestic silhouette looms large against the azure sky, offering a picture-perfect backdrop for your exploration. Traverse the tranquil waters of Lake Ashi aboard a traditional boat, soaking in the serenity of your surroundings as you marvel at the natural beauty that surrounds you.

Venture further into Japan's rich tapestry of history and culture as you explore the historic site of Hiroshima, a poignant reminder of the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. Pay homage to the victims of the atomic bomb at the Peace Memorial Park, and immerse yourself in the city's vibrant present as you stroll through its bustling streets and vibrant markets.

Read our latest Travel Blogs at ['Wake Up Here'](#)

No visit to Japan would be complete without a journey to the ancient town of Kyoto, where time seems to stand still amidst a backdrop of traditional tea houses, majestic temples, and serene gardens. Lose yourself in the timeless beauty of the city as you wander through its historic streets, pausing to admire the exquisite architecture of its iconic landmarks and immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of its cultural heritage.

But the highlights don't end there. Prepare to be enchanted by the sheer diversity of Japan's cultural landscape as you sip on sake in traditional izakayas, witness the awe-inspiring spectacle of sumo wrestlers in action, and put your ninja skills to the test in an exhilarating martial arts workshop. And no trip to Japan would be complete without an encounter with the enigmatic geishas, whose graceful presence and traditional colorful garments are sure to leave an indelible impression on your memory.

Throughout your journey, you'll forge new friendships, create unforgettable memories, and be pampered at every turn by our dedicated tour crew, who will ensure that every aspect of your trip is nothing short of extraordinary.

With comfortable accommodations, expertly planned excursions, and seamless transportation, this 11-day itinerary is meticulously crafted to provide you with a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will leave you longing to return to the Land of the Rising Sun again and again. So pack your bags, prepare to be dazzled, and embark on an adventure that promises to be the journey of a lifetime.



Itinerary

Day 1

Tokyo

Konnichiwa Japan! This jam-packed 13-day Japan group tour starts today in Tokyo. Arrive in Japan's vibrant capital city and check into the hotel from 3PM. You will get an Expat Explore information pack explaining today's activities.

This evening, look forward to an included welcome dinner at a local restaurant and get your first taste of Japanese cuisine! As one of the world's healthiest cuisines, Japanese food is known for its high-quality, fresh ingredients. At the restaurant, meet up with your tour leader and fellow travellers and get excited about the days to come!

Meals: Dinner

Day 2

Tokyo

Wake up in buzzing Tokyo and look forward to a full day in this iconic city. Set off on a sightseeing city tour after breakfast to discover some of Tokyo's top attractions. Discover ancient culture at the Meiji Shrine and the Senso-ji Temple. Enjoy free time for lunch at Tsukiji Fish Market (sushi, anyone?) and wander through the Ginza shopping neighbourhood which is known for its bright, neon lights. The evening is free to spend as you wish. The Tokyo+ optional excursion is highly recommended. Visit the Skytree Tower for panoramic views of Tokyo, grab dinner in Omoide Yokocho and enjoy a walking tour of Shinjuku City.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3

Tokyo 🚗 Kamakura 🚗 Hakone 🚗 Shizuoka

Wave farewell to Tokyo for now as the tour travels towards Shizuoka with some insightful sightseeing along the way. Discover Kamakura, a stunning seaside city which is known for its Great Buddha and the Tsurugaoka Hachimangū Shinto shrine. Then, enjoy free time for lunch and more sightseeing in Hakone, a picturesque town on the shores of Lake Ashi which boasts spectacular Mount Fuji views! The last stop of the day is Shizuoka Prefecture. Check into the hotel and look forward to a free evening.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4

Shizuoka Nihondaira [Bu] Iga

Delight in a day full of one-of-a-kind Japanese experiences today! Awe-inspiring Mount Fuji views await at our first stop in Nihondaira where the group will also get to visit a green tea farm and learn more about how Japan's most popular tea is produced. After some free time for lunch, enjoy a tour of a miso factory. Finally, arrive in the city of Iga and check into the hotel for the night. The rest of the evening is free. Ask your tour leader for suggestions on things to do and places to see near the accommodation.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 5

Iga Sumo Museum Osaka

The adventures start right away today! After breakfast, head to the Iga Ninja Museum and learn all about these mysterious martial artists with a Ninja skill and weaponry demonstration. Leaving Iga behind, travel to the Kehaya Sumo Museum which will provide great insight into the history of this unique style of wrestling. Then, travel onwards to Osaka and enjoy some free time for lunch in the famous Dotonbori area before embarking on a guided city tour. Discover some of the city's most beloved sights and learn all about this buzzing city which is an important trade centre as well as a top nightlife destination. Enjoy a free evening to experience this nightlife for yourself!

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6

Osaka Himeji Hiroshima

Wave goodbye to Osaka this morning as the tour travels to another intriguing Japanese city - Hiroshima! En route, pay a visit to Himeji Castle. This castle's construction dates back to the 14th Century and is one of the best examples of Japanese architecture. Take in the incredible views (featuring cherry blossom trees in bloom between March and May) from this hilltop castle and explore its well-preserved interior. Arrive in Hiroshima later this afternoon where the group will stay for the next two nights. After checking into the hotel, enjoy an included Okonomiyaki dinner. This savoury pancake is one of Japan's most popular dishes!

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 7

Hiroshima

Today offers a full day to uncover Hiroshima's modern highlights and ancient history. On a guided city tour, learn all about the impact of the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima during WW2 and how this has shaped the city today. During the walking and driving tour, walk across the historic Kintaikyo Bridge and visit the Itsukushima Shrine, known for its "floating" torii (gate), on Miyajima Island. Explore the Peace Memorial Park and Museum and pay your respects to the victims of the 1945 bombing. The evening is free to explore Hiroshima on your own. For a taste of the Hiroshima nightlife, visit the Nagarekawa district.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 8

Hiroshima Kurashiki Kyoto

Depart Hiroshima after breakfast this morning and head to Kurashiki, a charming city which is home to gorgeous canals and historic rice storehouses. Here, enjoy some free time to explore one of Kurashiki's many museums located in its historic centre or admire the city's sights from the water on a punting boat. In the early afternoon, travel onwards to Kyoto for a true highlight of Japan tours! This ancient city and former capital of Japan is beloved by visitors from all over the world. Enjoy some sightseeing before checking into the hotel for the night. The rest of the evening is free.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 9

Kyoto

Ohayō Kyoto! Enjoy a full day to experience this enigmatic city which is home to over 1,600 Buddhist temples and 400 Shinto shrines. Start the day at the otherworldly Arashiyama Bamboo Forest and walk through the breathtaking bamboo towers. After soaking up this stunning scenery, discover one of Japan's most impressive temples. The Kiyomizu Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with over 1,200 years of history. It's also one of the best places to see sakura during cherry blossom season in Japan (March-May). Then, head towards the famous Gion district, strolling along Ninenzaka with its many shops along the way. Enjoy free time for lunch, shopping or more sightseeing before heading back to the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 10

Kyoto 🚗 Hikone 🚗 Takayama

More fascinating Japanese sights await as we leave Kyoto this morning. First up on the agenda today is a visit to Hikone, a quaint city on the shores of Lake Biwa (Japan's largest lake). The Edo-period Hikone Castle, which is considered a national treasure, is best viewed from the luscious, 17th-Century Genkyuen Garden. In the afternoon, travel to Takayama where the tour will spend the evening. Located in the mountainous Gifu Prefecture, Takayama offers plenty of charm, history and natural beauty. Explore the historic Sanmachi district this afternoon and learn about the artisans, merchants and farmers who lived here during the Edo period.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 11

Takayama 🚗 Shirakawa 🚗 Kanazawa

Today offers a unique opportunity to discover Gassho-zukuri architecture. After breakfast, look forward to visiting the Hida no Sato Open Air Museum and exploring the numerous old farmhouses which represent the architectural styles of Japan's mountainous regions. Characteristic of the Gassho-zukuri style, many of the houses are made of wood and feature thatched gable roofs. Then, explore the traditional village of Shirakawa-go. This UNESCO World Heritage Site feels like stepping into a fairytale with its traditional houses and serene scenery among the Japanese Alps. In the afternoon, the tour will make its way to Kanazawa where the group will spend the night. Here, visit the picture-perfect Kenrokuen Garden which blooms with cherry blossoms in spring and colourful leaves in autumn!

Meals: Breakfast

Day 12

Kanazawa 🚗 Tokyo

The tour may be ending tomorrow but the adventures aren't over yet! Enjoy free time this morning to explore Kanazawa, the capital of Ishikawa Prefecture. Rich in history and cultural heritage, Kanazawa shares many similarities with Kyoto yet is much less crowded. This hidden gem of a city is probably best known for the Nagamachi Samurai District. Here, wander its cobblestone streets lined with shops and restaurants and admire the former samurai homes. In the afternoon, the tour heads to the train station and hops aboard the Shinkansen towards Tokyo. Known for its exceptional speed, this bullet train can travel up to 320kph (200mph)! Check into the hotel upon arrival in Tokyo. This evening, enjoy a farewell group dinner.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 13

Tokyo

After an unforgettable 13 days of exploring Japan's highlights and hidden gems, the tour comes to an end this morning after breakfast. Expat Explore wishes you a safe journey onward and hopes to see you on tour with us again soon. Sayōnara!

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions

- 12 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private en-suite facilities
- 12 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- Modern air-conditioned coach with reclining seats
- Services of your Expat Explore tour leader, who will be on hand with advice and tips to ensure that you get the most from your trip

Plus 31 amazing included experiences:

- Enjoy a welcome dinner at an Izakaya
- Stroll through Tokyo's vibrant neighbourhoods on a city tour
- Visit the Meiji Shrine and Senso-ji Temple
- Explore the Tsukiji Fish Market
- Visit the Great Buddha in Kamakura
- See the Tsurugaoka Hachimangū Shinto shrine
- Visit Hakone Shrine on the shores of Lake Ashi
- Snap pictures of Mount Fuji during a photo stop
- Take in the views from Nihondaira
- Visit a green tea plantation
- Tour a miso factory
- See a Ninja demonstration at the Iga Ninja Museum
- Experience the world of Sumo at the Kehaya Sumo Museum
- Embark on a city tour of Osaka
- Visit the beautiful Himeji Castle
- Enjoy an Okonomiyaki dinner
- Walk along Hiroshima's Kintaikyo Bridge
- Visit the Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima Island
- Pay your respects at the Peace Memorial Park and Museum
- Explore the historic canals and rice storehouses of Kurashiki
- Experience the enchanting city of Kyoto
- Wander through the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest
- Explore the Kiyomizu Temple
- Visit Hikone, known for its impressive Castle
- Experience Edo-period Japan in Takayama
- Visit the Hida no Sato Open Air Museum
- Travel back in time in Shirakawa-go
- Wander through Kenrokuen Garden
- Explore Kanazawa, home of the Samurai
- Take the Shinkansen bullet train to Tokyo
- Enjoy a farewell dinner in Tokyo

Exclusions

- International flights
- Travel insurance

- Any personal expenses or shopping, ie souvenirs
- Meals not included in itinerary
- Laundry costs
- Any necessary visas or passport fees
- Tipping or gratuities

Important Info and Terms & Conditions

Child Policy: No children under 10 years of age are allowed on this tour. Contact us if you are after a family-friendly trip!

Single supplement: Travelling solo? The single supplement is \$1400 and is available at check-out.

Fitness levels: These tours require a moderate level of fitness and are not ideal for people travelling with wheelchairs or severe mobility issues.

Travel Insurance: We recommend Covermore travel insurance. To quote and book, please click [HERE](#).

Want to stay longer, add on another tour or need help with flights? Get in touch with us today!

Travelling on your own? Why not join the [Traveldream Solo Travellers Facebook group](#) where you can interact with other travellers.