

**Jaltour**

# Japan

**Tours to Japan 2018**

**Tailor-Made Specialists**

Semi-Escorted • Independent • Private



# What We Offer

## SEMI-ESCORTED TOURS (page 12-13)

Our semi-escorted tours let travellers have an in-depth introduction to their locations with the local knowledge of a guide, while also allowing you free time to enjoy destinations on your own. On our semi-escorted tours you will join a number of guided group tours varying in length from a morning to several days. A mix of public and chartered transportation is used for these tours. In between, you are free to explore with the aid of extensive information provided by Jaltour.

## INDEPENDENT TOURS

These tours enable independent travellers to explore by themselves. Transportation usually involves the use of a Japan Rail Pass or paying locally. Jaltour will provide a travel pack with a range of maps, tourist information and a detailed itinerary to ensure a trouble-free adventure.

## TAILOR-MADE TOURS

We welcome requests for tailor-made itineraries. Whether you want to alter or extend one of our suggested itineraries, have the land arrangements organised for a full tour or a short stopover, or produce an itinerary entirely of your own design for any area in Japan, Jaltour is able to assist you in creating your perfect holiday. Please contact us to discuss your exact requirements.

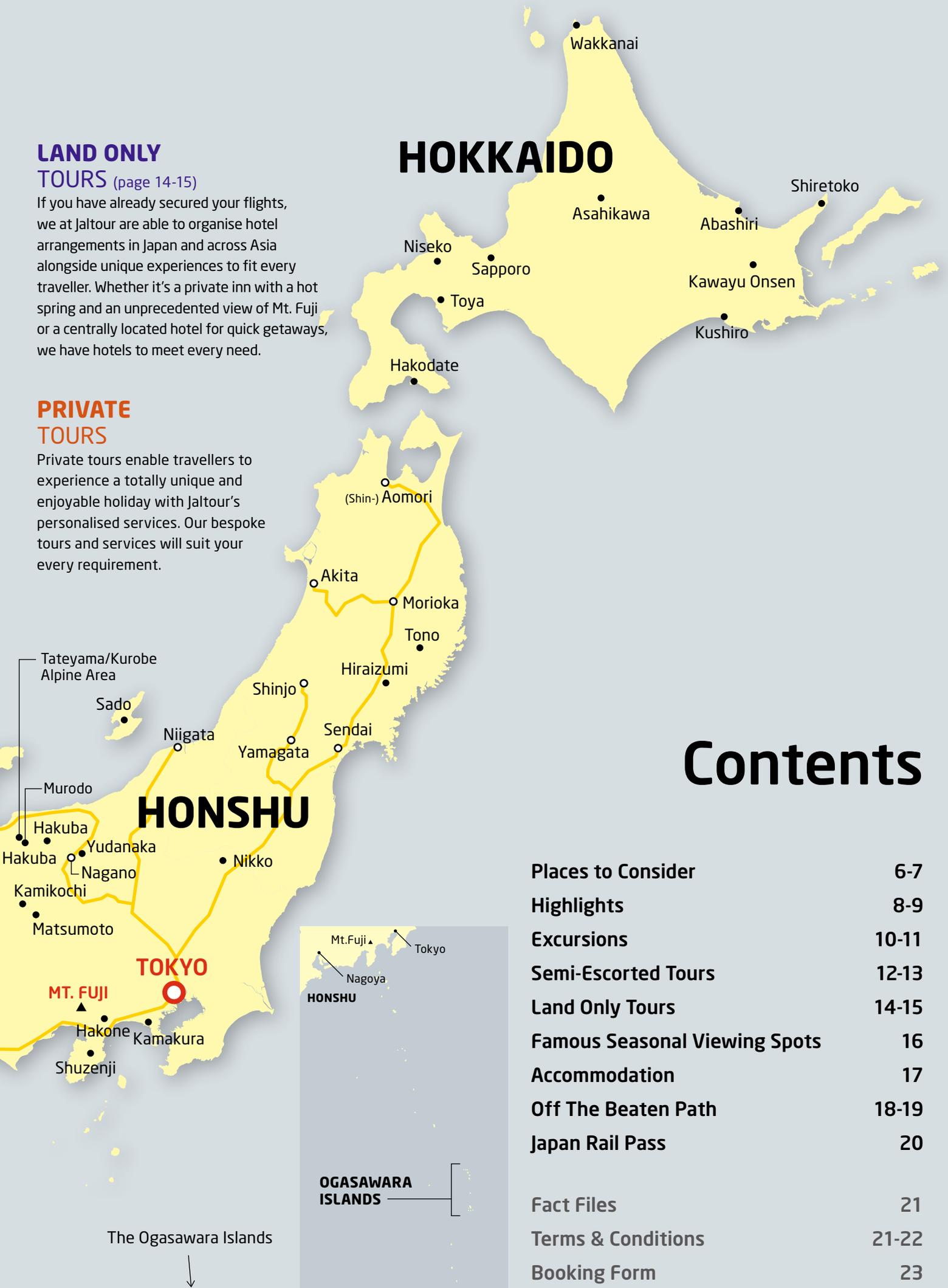


## LAND ONLY TOURS (page 14-15)

If you have already secured your flights, we at Jaltour are able to organise hotel arrangements in Japan and across Asia alongside unique experiences to fit every traveller. Whether it's a private inn with a hot spring and an unprecedented view of Mt. Fuji or a centrally located hotel for quick getaways, we have hotels to meet every need.

## PRIVATE TOURS

Private tours enable travellers to experience a totally unique and enjoyable holiday with Jaltour's personalised services. Our bespoke tours and services will suit your every requirement.



# HOKKAIDO

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LUXURY. UNPARALLELED.

**Jaltour**

Formed in 1980 as a Japanese travel agency, we know Japan inside-out. No other tour operator knows Japan like we do. We are the best place for all your unique travel requirements.

Japan is renowned for its world-class hospitality and popular tourist attractions but for those looking for that extra-level in service, comfort and exclusivity, our luxury service is what you are looking for.

We arrange anything from top-grade hotels to traditional ryokans with private hot spring baths, unparalleled levels of comfort and service, and private-guided sightseeing tours, in addition to a wide variety of airlines and cabins.

As a discerning traveller, you will demand and expect nothing less than the best service. We are on hand to turn your travel ideas into an individual, exclusive, tailor-made reality; taking care of every minor detail along the way.

Send your enquiry to [jaltour@ectuk.com](mailto:jaltour@ectuk.com)

# Places to Consider

## Hokkaido

Hokkaido is renowned for its wildlife, spectacular scenery, hot-springs and delicious seafood, and where open roads make for comfortable driving or cycling. Enjoy outdoor activities such as skiing, hiking or bird watching in one of the many national parks. Sapporo is host to the internationally acclaimed Snow Festival in early February.

### NISEKO

Being in the coldest region of Japan, Niseko has some of the best snow powder in the world. Already increasingly popular with foreign tourists, the promise of some of the best tracks in the world continues to lure those in search of winter fun.

### SHIRETOKO

'The end of the Earth' or 'sir etok' in the language of the native people of Hokkaido, the Ainu. As the most remote region in all of Japan and arguably the most scenic, Shiretoko was designated a World Heritage site in 2005. Numerous hikes, lakes and mountains, not to mention the abundant wildlife and nature will be sure to please those in search of the outdoors - a hiker's paradise.

## Honshu

### TOHOKU

Comprising of six prefectures; Akita, Aomori, Fukushima, Iwate, Miyagi and Yamagata, Tohoku is certainly off the beaten path and home to some of the best scenery in the country, away from the crowds. A very rural part of the country where the pace of life is slow and laid-back, combined with a variety of delicious food, friendly locals and spectacular scenery, Tohoku will definitely reward those who venture here with their own unique Japan experience, often not possible in the usual tourist areas.

### TOKYO

Also formerly known as 'Edo', Tokyo is an incredibly vibrant and bustling city. Exuding futurism, but also not forgetting its past, there is something for everyone in the city that never sleeps. Aside from its world-famous image, Tokyo also covers some remote islands in the Pacific Ocean known as the Ogasawara islands. Only accessible by a 26-hour boat ride, this is about as far away from mainland Japan as you can get. The Ogasawara are an ideal destination for those wanting the ultimate in seclusion, peace and quietness.

### HAKONE & MOUNT FUJI

With views of Mount Fuji and some of Japan's finest scenery, Hakone National Park can be explored on a day trip from Tokyo, whilst an overnight stay provides an opportunity to experience the famous onsen and stay in a traditional ryokan. Mount Fuji is synonymous with Japan, and was recently awarded UNESCO World Heritage status as a cultural heritage. Travelling to Hakone to view this majestic mountain is a must for first time travellers to Japan.

### KANAZAWA

Kanazawa is the capital of Ishikawa Prefecture. It's known for its beautifully preserved historical districts, immersive art museums and unique regional handicrafts. Kenrokuen Garden, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan is in Kanazawa city.

### THE ALPS

If you should venture to Matsumoto, you will not fail to notice the dramatic backdrop to the castle - the Japanese Alps. The main attraction of the area is the Tateyama-Kurobe Alpine Route. The up-to-20-meter-high snow corridor is a highlight during spring, while summer and autumn attract hikers with alpine flows and autumn colours.

### TSUMAGO, KISO VALLEY

Tsumago is an original post town on the Nakasendo, Japan's first highway between Tokyo and Kyoto. This fascinating village has a protected status to preserve the traditional culture, with TV aerials and electricity poles hidden. Hiking some of the Nakasendo will be like you've walked back in history hundreds of years.

### MATSUMOTO

As the gateway to the Japan Alps, Matsumoto has a wonderful atmosphere with a strong Samurai and merchant history. Matsumoto Castle dates back to 1595, and is one of four castles designated a National Treasure. The narrow streets of Nakamachi, a former merchant district, are now filled with galleries, craft shops and cafes.

### TAKAYAMA & SHIRAKAWAGO

Also known as "Little Kyoto", Takayama retains much of the atmosphere of old Japan with its rows of temples, traditional shops and wooden houses. Shirakawago and Gokayama, both listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites, are famous for their hands-in-prayer-style architecture - gassho-zukuri.



## OSAKA

Osaka is Western Japan's largest city, it boasts the highest population density second only to the capital Tokyo. Mountains surround three sides of the prefecture and the west faces the arc-shaped Osaka Bay. Since it is close to the former capitals Kyoto and Nara, it prospered as an important point for land and water transportation as well as a commercial city.

## KYOTO

As the ancient capital for over 1,000 years, Kyoto needs no introduction. The city harks back to an era of days gone by. Temples, tea ceremonies and geisha are just a few of the things that cement Kyoto's place at the heart of Japanese culture and history. The city is known for its pursuit of culture in the forms of art, craft, theatre and architecture.

## NARA

Dating back as early as the 8th century, Japan's first real capital has several UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Todaiji Temple and its hall of the Great Buddha. The protected deer in Nara Park enliven this historic destination, which is only a short train ride from Kyoto.

## MOUNT KOYA

The first temple was founded on Mount Koya over 1,000 years ago. Staying at one of the temple lodgings offers a unique opportunity for tourists to experience Japanese religious life. The journey from Osaka by train and cable car also offers spectacular mountain views.

## HIROSHIMA & MIYAJIMA

As the first city in the world to be hit by the atomic-bomb, Hiroshima has redeveloped itself as a thriving city. Visit the world-famous Atomic Bomb Dome and Peace Memorial Park and museum. A short train ride away is Miyajima Island's Itsukushima Shrine, famous for its 'floating' torii (gate); one of the most picturesque sites in Japan.

## Shikoku

Although connected to Honshu by the Seto Bridge, mountainous Shikoku remains a mysterious travel destination for those seeking a holiday away from the crowds. Shikoku is home to samurai, emperors, religion, legends and stories of old. There is plenty of hidden yet beautiful scenery to be discovered on this island,

including the scenic Iya Valley and its Kazura Bridge; dating back to the 12th century. Samurai residences and farmhouses, mountains and onsen, including one of Japan's oldest; Dogo, said to be around 3,000 years old, and the first-century Konpira Shrine will give a sense of awe and wonder, and will reward travellers who venture here.

## Kyushu

Historically, Kyushu was an important entry-point for foreign influence through Nagasaki; the second site of the atomic-bomb strike in World War II. Nearby Fukuoka has grown to become the island's biggest city. Kyushu's dramatic volcanic landscapes provide many fabulous onsen. Onsen towns such as Yufuin, Kurokawa and Beppu offer various types of onsen, including mud baths and sand spas alongside incredible scenery. Central Kyushu will bring you to Kumamoto with its castle and close proximity to the stunning Mount Aso - one of the world's oldest and largest active caldera. Kagoshima is home to one of the most active volcanoes in Japan and the Kirishima mountain range which is great for outdoor adventurers.

## The Okinawa Islands

Okinawa consists of a string of islands to the southwest of Japan; 2½-hours by plane from Tokyo or Osaka. Historically famous for its involvement in World War II, Okinawa also offers a unique cultural and outdoor experience in stark contrast to mainland Japan. The tropical weather, clear oceans and blue lagoons are perfect for diving and snorkelling; whether on the main island or one of the outer-lying islands such as Miyako or Ishigaki. Iriomote Island is covered in rainforests, making it great for exploring the mangroves, rivers and beaches. Simply put, visitors who travel here will be able to explore the furthest reaches of Japan in secluded, tropical surroundings.



# Highlights

This list is by no means exhaustive, so if there is an area, a subject or theme, of particular interest to you, please let us know and allow us to create your ideal tour.



## ONSEN - HOT SPRING

Onsen (hot springs) are a quintessential part of Japanese culture and have been for a millennia. After a long day of walking, hiking, skiing or snowboarding, indulge in hot spring therapy at Japan's numerous geothermal hot springs. It is an experience that is not to be missed.

## RYOKAN - JAPANESE INN

A ryokan is traditional Japanese-style accommodation. Originating in the early 17th century in order to serve weary travellers along Japan's ancient highways, these historical inns are still very much a part of the accommodation industry today, offering high levels of ryotei (service). Guests sleep on futons on tatami floors, and can taste some exquisite kaiseki (Japanese cuisine). Depending on the grade of ryokan, it is possible to stay in rooms with an open air private onsen.



## CASTLES

Commonly known as the military nobility of historical Japan, the way of the samurai (*bushido*), and the number of historical buildings and monuments remain an integral part of Japanese culture today. Amongst the many castles of great importance during the samurai era, notable ones can be found in Matsumoto, Himeji, Hirosaki, Matsue, Hikone, Matsuyama, Kochi and Inuyama; with a structure dating back to 1537. Reconstructions of other famous castles appear in Nagoya, Osaka and Kumamoto, whilst ruins can be found throughout many towns and cities.

## MATSURI - FESTIVAL

Celebrating myths and legends, deities, customs and superstitions, a Japanese festival is a must-see. These festivals can go on for days at a time. Parades of colourful floats, portable shrines, dances, and some incredibly good stall food mean that festivals are definitely at the heart of many towns and cities throughout Japan, and indeed, Japanese culture itself.



## TEA CEREMONY

A tradition originating in China, *chado* (the way of tea) is a tradition with its roots in Buddhism. The serenity, stillness, and tranquillity of a tea ceremony will transport you back to an era of times gone by. Tea ceremony is an art form requiring meticulous skill and years of training. Partaking in a tea ceremony will reveal to you a more spiritual side to the Japanese way of life.



## MAIKO - APPRENTICE GEISHA

Synonymous with 'Japan', Maiko (apprentice Geisha) symbolise a Japanese tradition that is distinctly unique. Playing musical instruments, singing, dancing, playing games or pouring drinks, Geisha and Maiko are firmly embedded in the authentic Japan and acquire their status through years of training. It is still possible to catch a glimpse of, and even spend an evening in the company of these elegant entertainers in the historical and cultural heart of Japan, Kyoto.

## SHINKANSEN - BULLET TRAIN

Japanese transport is one of the most efficient transport systems in the world. The entire country is connected through a vast network of high-speed bullet trains. Clean, efficient and fast; travelling by shinkansen is by far the most convenient way to travel around Japan. For further information, see page 20.



## SUMO

The traditional and most famous Japanese sport of Japan with its origins in ancient times as a performance to entertain the Shinto deities. Its traditions and rituals with a religious background, such as the symbolic purification of the ring with salt, are continued to this day. Visiting a sumo stable to see the wrestlers practice or watching one of the six annual sumo tournaments can be an unforgettable experience.

# Excursions

Jaltour is able to arrange a variety of optional tours. This list gives an idea of the types of tours available, but is by no means exhaustive. Please note that these tours may be subject to exceptions, alterations, and changes. Information correct at the time of going to print. Contact us for further information.

## In and around Tokyo

### Tokyo Sumo Tournament

Enjoy a bout of sumo with reserved seats in the ultimate spectator sport and a traditional Chanko Dinner plan too.



### Kabuki Performance & Kabukiza Gallery Tour

Immerse yourself in Japanese culture with a kabuki play at Tokyo's Kabukiza Gallery.



### Ikebana - Japanese Flower Arranging

Flower arranging in Japan is as much an art as it is a discipline. This is a unique opportunity to try your hand at an art that even samurai would study for years to master.



### Tea Ceremony

Learn the ancient art of tea ceremony, a beautiful and elaborate ritual that has been refined over many centuries. This is an opportunity to learn about the preparation and presentation of green tea.



### VR Zone Shinjuku

Join your favourite pop culture characters at Bandai Namco's first virtual reality arcade in downtown Tokyo at VR Zone Shinjuku.



### Tsukiji Outer Fish Market Tour and Sushi Workshop

Tour the world's largest marine market in this visit to the historic Tsukiji before attending a sushi-making workshop to lunch on your sushi experience.



### Sumida River Cruise

Take a cruise boat down Tokyo's famous Sumida River and journey past cherry blossom in the spring or see the changing leaves in autumn.



### Tokyo Cycling

Tokyo is the most bicycle dense capital city in the world and coasting down Tokyo's street by bicycle is a unique way to experience and tour the city.



### Walking Tokyo With Street Food

Enjoy walking through Japan's unique streets with an experienced guide on a tour that takes visitors to some of Japan's most famous streets.



### Kawagoe Walking Tour

Step back in time with a visit to Kawagoe, affectionately known as 'Little Edo' because of its beautifully preserved 19th century buildings.



### Mt. Fuji World Heritage Walk

Explore the world heritage sites of Mt. Fuji with visits to Kawaguchi Asama Shrine and Kawaguchiko, the most beautiful of the famous Fuji Five Lakes.



### Mount Fuji & Hakone (Full-Day)

Visit Japan's most famous landmark, Mount Fuji, on a tour that takes you to Mount Fuji 5th Station, Mount Komagatake Ropeway, and Lake Ashi.



## In and around Kyoto

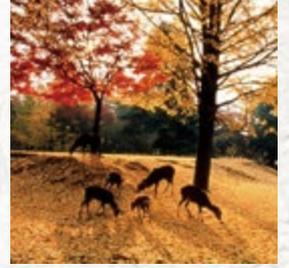
### 1-Day Kyoto Tour

This course stretches across Kyoto city, visiting world heritage sites and famous landmarks like Heian Jingu, Kiyomizu Temple, Sanjuusangendo, Nijo Castle and The Golden Pavillion.



### Uji & Nara 1-Day Tour

Explore the famous town and tea capital Uji before taking part in a traditional tea ceremony. Then bask in the historicity of the ancient capital Nara.



### Bamboo Grove & Arashiyama Tour (Morning)

Walk through the Sagano Bamboo Grove, visit Jojakkoji Temple and Tenryuji Temple before walking across the Togetsukyo Bridge and enjoying lunch aboard a boat.



### Kyoto Maiko Dinner

A maiko performance (dancing, games, and the chance to take photos) with Japanese-style dinner at the Kyoto Handicraft Center.



### Osaka Walking Tour

In this visit to Japan's western centre, you will visit Osaka's landmarks like the Aerial Garden Observatory and the fashionably cool Umeda district before taking a river cruise.



### Himeji Castle & Akashi Kaikyo Bridge Walking Tour

Tour one of Japan's best preserved palaces, Himeji Castle has been home to Japan's most famous samurai. Afterwards, visit the world's longest suspension bridge.



### Kobe Sightseeing Tour

Visit beautiful Kobe City, a beautiful city by the sea, which is home to Japan's famous sake breweries.



### Koyasan 2 Day Tour 'Temple Stay'

Absorb the spiritual atmosphere of Koyasan Temple, a sacred world heritage site, on this 2 day tour which lets you stay overnight, experience a religious service, and eat traditional Buddhist meals.



## In and around Hiroshima

### 1-Day Hiroshima & Miyajima Tour

Explore the storied locations of Hiroshima & Miyajima on a tour that takes you to Itsukushima Shrine, the Atomic Bomb Dome and more.



### Hiroshima & Kurashiki 2 Day Tour

Tour Itsukushima Shrine, the Atomic Bomb Dome, Kurashiki Historical Quarter, Ohara Museum of Art and Korakuen Garden.



## Other Destinations – In and around Asia

As well as Japan, we can arrange for tours to the neighbourhood countries to combine with Japan or on their own. Please contact us for further information.



South Korea



Taiwan



Hong Kong

# Semi-Escorted Tours



Sensoji, Asakusa

## ESSENTIAL JAPAN

This semi-escorted tour will start with a morning tour of Tokyo. The tour takes you to one of Tokyo's oldest and most famous Buddhist temples; Sensoji Temple. Travel on to Mount Fuji and Hakone National Park where you can see active sulphur vents. Stay in a hot-spring hotel and relax in an onsen. Kyoto and Nara will enable first-time travellers to feel and experience the 'old' Japan.

From **£2,220**



Golden Pavillion, Kyoto



National Diet Building



Kyoto Imperial Palace

<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>London.</b> Depart London on a non-stop flight to Tokyo.
<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Upon arrival at Tokyo you will be met by an English speaking assistant who will help you board a reserved taxi to your hotel. Stay for 2 nights.
<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Morning sightseeing tour of Tokyo by coach, including National Diet Building, Imperial Palace, Tsukiji Outer Market, Kabukiza, Skytree Town, and Sensoji Temple. Afternoon free.
<b>DAY 4</b>	<b>Mount Fuji &amp; Hakone (L).</b> Depart Tokyo on a coach with a guide for Hakone, visiting the 5th station of Mount Fuji. Enjoy sightseeing in the Hakone National Park, including a cruise on Lake Ashi, Hakone Ropeway, and Mount Komagatake. Stay overnight.
<b>DAY 5</b>	<b>Kyoto – Nara – Kyoto (L).</b> Transfer with an assistant by bus to Odawara and travel on to Kyoto by bullet train. After lunch, take an afternoon tour to Nara by coach, including Nara Park, Todaiji Temple; famous for its Great Buddha, and Kasuga Shrine. Return to Kyoto and stay for 4 nights.
<b>DAY 6</b>	<b>Kyoto (L).</b> Full-day sightseeing tour of Kyoto by coach, including Golden Pavilion, Nijo Castle, Kyoto Imperial Palace/Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, Sanjusangendo Hall, Heian Jingu Shrine, and Kiyomizu Temple.
<b>DAY 7-8</b>	<b>Kyoto.</b> Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 9</b>	<b>London.</b> Transfer to Osaka Airport and take a domestic flight to Tokyo for your connecting flight to London.

## WORLD HERITAGE

Japan's traditions continue to be passed from one generation to the next. Architecture, religion and art are just some of the cultural artefacts. These tours encompass a variety of different traditions that will enable you to see Japan in a different light. Visit Takayama, the home of Japanese craftsmanship, and Shirakawa-go, a traditional Japanese village. Head to Kanazawa to see one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan and the local samurai quarter before travelling to Kyoto, the cultural heart of Japan. In Kyoto you can visit Arashiyama, a district of scenic beauty and enjoy lunch on a Yakatabune (boat) tour.

From **£2,920**



Sagano Bamboo Grove, Kyoto



Toshogu Shrine, Nikko



Kenrokuen Garden, Kanazawa



Todaiji Temple, Nara

<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>London.</b> Depart London on a non-stop flight to Tokyo.
<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Upon arrival at Tokyo you will be met by an English speaking assistant who will help you board a reserved taxi to your hotel. Stay for 4 nights.
<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Morning sightseeing tour of Tokyo by coach, including Meiji Shrine, National Diet Building (drive by), East Gardens of the Imperial Palace, Senso-ji Temple and Nakamise Shopping Street.
<b>DAY 4</b>	<b>Tokyo – Nikko – Tokyo (L).</b> Full-day guided sightseeing tour to Nikko, visiting the spectacular Lake Chuzenji and Kegon Waterfall.
<b>DAY 5</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Free to explore Tokyo or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 6</b>	<b>Mount Fuji &amp; Hakone (L).</b> Depart Tokyo on a coach with a guide for Hakone, visiting the 5th station of Mount Fuji. Enjoy sightseeing in the Hakone National Park, including a cruise on Lake Ashi, Hakone Ropeway, and Mount Komagatake. Stay overnight.
<b>DAY 7</b>	<b>Takayama.</b> Transfer by bus with an assistant to Odawara Station. Travel by bullet train and express train to Takayama. In the afternoon, visit Yatai Kaikan Hall and Kusakabe Folkcraft Museum. Stay overnight.
<b>DAY 8</b>	<b>Takayama – Shirakawa-go – Kanazawa (L).</b> Guided sightseeing tour of Shirakawago and Gokayama before continuing to Kanazawa by local bus. Stay overnight.
<b>DAY 9</b>	<b>Kyoto.</b> Guided sightseeing tour of Kanazawa including Higashichaya street, Tentokuin Temple, a former samurai residence and Kenrokuen Garden; one of Japan's most beautiful traditional gardens. Transfer by express train to Kyoto. Stay for 4 nights.
<b>DAY 10</b>	<b>Kyoto – Nara – Kyoto (L).</b> Full-day guided sightseeing tour of Kyoto and Nara, including Golden Pavilion, Nijo Castle, and the Kyoto Imperial Palace / Kitano Tenmangu Shrine. After lunch, travel by coach to Nara, visiting Todaiji Temple; famous for its Great Buddha, and Kasuga Shrine.
<b>DAY 11</b>	<b>Kyoto.</b> Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 12</b>	<b>Kyoto: Sagano Bamboo Grove and Arashiyama (L).</b> Walking tour through scenic Arashiyama and Sagano Bamboo Grove. Inquire about enjoying lunch on a traditional Japanese river boat.
<b>DAY 13</b>	<b>London.</b> Transfer to Osaka Airport and take a domestic flight to Tokyo for your connecting flight to London.

## CULTURAL JAPAN

To this day, culture remains an integral part of Japan. This culture-orientated tour will give you an insight into how and where the culture originated and continues to re-invent itself.

From **£3,080**



Start in the metropolis of Tokyo where you can experience the latest cultural trends in this futuristic city. Travel via the iconic Mount Fuji & Hakone on to Kyoto; the well-spring of Japanese culture. Enjoy a Tea Ceremony, see the world-famous Geisha and Maiko, visit some of the well-known temples, and learn Zen meditation whilst staring into the mesmerising rock gardens. Following your Kyoto stay, you will journey onwards to the spiritual home of Japanese Buddhism; Mount Koya. Stay in a traditional temple lodging (shukubo) and immerse yourself in the fascinating history, and deeply-spiritual transcendence of Mount Koya.

Onsen culture in Japan is an important part of everyday life. After the unique cultural experiences from Tokyo to Mount Koya, you will head to Arima; one of the oldest spa areas in Japan. Relax in the hot springs, full of natural ingredients which are known to cure skin ailments. Finally, make a stop in Osaka; 2nd most populous prefecture after Tokyo which has been an economic and cultural centre of the nation since ancient times. Immerse yourself in this bustling city.



Arima Onsen



Kiyomizu Temple, Kyoto

<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>London.</b> Depart London on a non-stop flight to Tokyo.
	<b>Tokyo.</b> Upon arrival at Tokyo you will be met by an English speaking assistant who will help you board a reserved taxi to your hotel. Stay for 3 nights.
<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Morning sightseeing tour of Tokyo by coach, including Meiji Shrine, National Diet Building (drive by), East Gardens of the Imperial Palace, Senso-ji Temple and Nakamise Shopping Street.
<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Free to explore Tokyo or you may join a Kimono-wearing tour and visit Roppongi (please ask for the supplement rate).
<b>DAY 4</b>	<b>Mount Fuji &amp; Hakone (L).</b> Depart Tokyo on a coach with a guide for Hakone. Visit the 5th station of Mount Fuji and enjoy sightseeing in the Hakone National Park, including a cruise on Lake Ashi, Hakone Ropeway, and Mount Komagatake. Travel onwards to Kyoto for 4 nights.
<b>DAY 5</b>	<b>Kyoto (L).</b> Full-day guided sightseeing tour of Kyoto, including the Golden Pavilion, Nijo Castle, and the Kyoto Imperial Palace / Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, Sanjusangendo Hall, Heian Jingu Shrine and Kiyomizu Temple.
<b>DAY 6</b>	<b>Kyoto (D).</b> Free to explore Kyoto in the morning. Join a Kyoto night tour and visit Gion Corner to see some of the traditional performances, walk along Gion Geisha district and take part in a traditional tea ceremony followed by Zen dining (vegetarian).
<b>DAY 7</b>	<b>Kyoto.</b> Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 8</b>	<b>Mount Koya (L, D).</b> Travel independently to Osaka and join a guided Mount Koya tour. Travel with a guide by train and ropeway to Mount Koya. After enjoying a Japanese-style lunch, visit Okuno-in Temple then travel by coach to one of Mount Koya's two most sacred sites; Danjo Garan. Walk to your temple lodging and stay overnight.
<b>DAY 9</b>	<b>Arima Onsen (B,D).</b> Return to Osaka by train before travelling independently to Arima onsen. Stay for 2 nights in a Japanese-style ryokan.
<b>DAY 10</b>	<b>Arima Onsen (B, D).</b> Free to enjoy/relax in the hot-springs and explore the town.
<b>DAY 11</b>	<b>Osaka (B).</b> Travel independently to Osaka and stay for 2 nights.
<b>DAY 12</b>	<b>Osaka.</b> Morning walking tour of Osaka; Sumiyoshi Grand Shrine, tram ride, Osaka's soul food kushikatsu at Shinsekai. Afternoon free.
<b>DAY 13</b>	<b>London.</b> Transfer to Osaka Airport and take a domestic flight to Tokyo for your connecting flight to London.
<b>DAY 14</b>	

## LANDSCAPES JAPAN

Japan's bombastic urbanity is paralleled by its beautiful scenery. Begin your adventure in the neon metropolis of Tokyo and take a trip to the coastal area of Kamakura. Visit the scenic area of Hakone before travelling into the heart of Japan's rugged Gifu prefecture; famed for Hida Takayama and the traditional village Shirakawa-go. Then onwards to Kanazawa, famed for its popular spots including one of Japan's most famous garden, Kenrokuen Garden.

From **£3,490**



Next up are Kyoto, Hiroshima and Miyajima, take a sombre trip to the Atomic Bomb Dome and visit the famous 'floating' shrine before heading northwards to the canal city Kurashiki, home to Korakuen Garden which is one of three great gardens of Japan.



Higashi Chaya Street, Kanazawa



Mt. Fuji



Kurashiki



Hiroshima

<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>London.</b> Depart London on a non-stop flight to Tokyo.
	<b>Tokyo.</b> Upon arrival at Tokyo you will be met by an English speaking assistant who will help you board a reserved taxi to your hotel. Stay for 3 nights.
<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Morning sightseeing tour of Tokyo by coach, including Meiji Shrine, National Diet Building (drive by), East Gardens of the Imperial Palace, Senso-ji Temple and Nakamise Shopping Street.
<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>Kamakura &amp; Enoshima (L).</b> Depart Tokyo on a coach with a guide for Kamakura. Visit the Great Buddha statue at Kotoku-in Temple, Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine and Enoshima, and enjoy a tea tasting experience at Jomyoji Temple.
<b>DAY 4</b>	<b>Mount Fuji &amp; Hakone (L).</b> Depart Tokyo on a coach with a guide for Hakone, visiting the 5th station of Mount Fuji. Enjoy sightseeing in the Hakone National Park, including a cruise on Lake Ashi, Hakone Ropeway, and Mount Komagatake. Stay overnight.
<b>DAY 5</b>	<b>Takayama.</b> Transfer by bus with an assistant to Odawara station. Travel by bullet train and express train to Takayama. In the afternoon, visit Yatai Kaikan Hall and Kusakabe Folkcraft Museum. Stay overnight.
<b>DAY 6</b>	<b>Takayama – Shirakawa-go – Kanazawa (L).</b> Guided sightseeing tour of Shirakawago and Gokayama before continuing to Kanazawa by local bus. Stay overnight.
<b>DAY 7</b>	<b>Kyoto.</b> Guided sightseeing tour of Kanazawa, including Higashi-chaya street, Tentokuin Temple, a former samurai residence, and Kenrokuen Garden; one of Japan's most beautiful traditional gardens. Transfer by express train to Kyoto. Stay for 3 nights.
<b>DAY 8</b>	<b>Kyoto.</b> Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 9-10</b>	<b>Hiroshima &amp; Miyajima.</b> Travel by bullet train to Hiroshima, visiting the popular world heritage sites Itsukushima Shrine and the Atomic Bomb Dome. Stay overnight.
<b>DAY 11</b>	<b>Kurashiki – Osaka (L).</b> Travel by train to Kurashiki, visiting Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter, Ohara Museum of Art and Korakuen Garden, one of the three great gardens of Japan. Transfer by bullet train to Shin Osaka. Stay for 2 nights.
<b>DAY 12</b>	<b>Osaka.</b> Free to explore Osaka or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 13</b>	<b>London.</b> Transfer to Osaka Airport and take a domestic flight to Tokyo for your connecting flight to London.
<b>DAY 14</b>	

# Land Only Tours

(Independent Tours)

## SPIRITUAL JAPAN

Begin your tour in the bustling metropolis of Tokyo, then head to Hakone by train using the Hakone Free Pass and your 14-Day Japan Rail Pass provided, where you can get a glimpse of Mount Fuji. After an overnight stay there, travel to Takayama, a historic town nestled in the Japanese Alps. From here, you can visit Kanazawa and Shirakawa-go, a World Heritage site where you can see a traditional Japanese village with roofs that resemble hands joined in prayer.

Your next stop will be Kyoto which was Japan's capital for over 1,000 years. Explore the countless shrines, temples and other spiritual sites before visiting the spiritual home of Japanese Buddhism; Mount Koya. Experience a stay in a traditional temple lodging (Shukubo) and enjoy the same meals as a Buddhist monk whilst being fully immersed in the fascinating history of Mount Koya. The tour ends in the city of Osaka where you can enjoy some last-minute shopping and Japanese gourmet food.

From  
£1,510



<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Arrive in Tokyo. Stay for 3 nights.
<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Free to explore Tokyo or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Free to explore Tokyo or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 4</b>	<b>Hakone.</b> Travel by train to Hakone. Free to explore the Hakone National Park. Stay overnight.
<b>DAY 5</b>	<b>Takayama.</b> Travel by bullet train and express train to Takayama. Stay for 3 nights.
<b>DAY 6</b>	<b>Takayama – Kanazawa – Takayama.</b> Free to explore the garden city Kanazawa and experience its famous gold leaf crafts.
<b>DAY 7</b>	<b>Takayama – Shirakawa-go – Takayama.</b> Free to visit the World Heritage-listed villages of Shirakawa-go, Ainokura and Gokayama.
<b>DAY 8</b>	<b>Kyoto.</b> Travel by express train and bullet train to Kyoto. Stay for 3 nights.
<b>DAY 9</b>	<b>Kyoto.</b> Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 10</b>	<b>Kyoto.</b> Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 11</b>	<b>Mount Koya (D).</b> Travel by train and cable car to Mt. Koya. Stay overnight in temple lodging.
<b>DAY 12</b>	<b>Osaka (B).</b> Travel to Osaka and stay overnight.



Shirakawago



Takayama



Mount Koya



Tokyo

## THE FAMOUS FOUR

Japan. The land of old and new! For first time travellers to Japan, the cities of Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Miyajima are a must-see.

From  
£1,320



Your three night stay in Tokyo will give you ample time to explore this city. Also, a Hakone Free Pass is included to travel to Hakone hot-spring area where you can see active sulphur vents. The world-famous Mount Fuji can be seen from this area during clear weather. Relax in the hot springs and enjoy walks around the National Park.

Kyoto and Nara will follow, enabling first-time travellers to feel and enjoy the 'old' Japan before heading on to the famous sites of Hiroshima and Miyajima Island. A traditional ryokan stay is also included on Miyajima Island so that you can experience typical Japanese culture and customs.

<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Arrive in Tokyo. Stay for 3 nights.
<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Free to explore Tokyo or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>Tokyo.</b> Free to explore Tokyo or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 4</b>	<b>Hakone.</b> Travel by express train to Hakone using your Hakone Free Pass. Free to explore the Hakone National Park. Stay overnight.
<b>DAY 5</b>	<b>Kyoto (B).</b> Transfer to Odawara using your Hakone Free Pass. Travel by bullet train to Kyoto. Stay for 3 nights.
<b>DAY 6</b>	<b>Kyoto.</b> Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 7</b>	<b>Kyoto.</b> Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour.
<b>DAY 8</b>	<b>Miyajima (D).</b> Travel by bullet train to Hiroshima and onto Miyajima Island by ferry. Stay for 2 nights at a ryokan.
<b>DAY 9</b>	<b>Miyajima/Hiroshima (B, D).</b> Free to explore Miyajima or visit Hiroshima.
<b>DAY 10</b>	<b>Tokyo (B).</b> Transfer to Hiroshima, and continue by bullet train to Tokyo. Stay overnight.



Itsukushima, Miyajima



Arashiyama, Kyoto



Hakone



Ninenzaka, Kyoto



Jigokudani, Yudanaka

## SNOW MONKEYS (November to March)

Japan's modern skylines are matched by its natural mountain ranges which is home to the Japanese Macaque a monkey native to northern Japan. Your journey begins in Tokyo where you can explore both its rich history with a visit to Edo Kagurazaka and its dizzying modernity. Journey onwards to the precipitous cliffs of Nagano to watch the Macaque up close as they soak in the geothermal hot springs. Next is Matsumoto, Japan's mountain city evocative of an olden period with its merchant houses. You can walk the ancient highway used in the Edo period by samurai travelling between Kyoto and Tokyo. The tour ends in Kyoto where you can visit the famous shrines and temples before heading home.

From  
£1,250



- DAY 1**  **Tokyo.** Arrive in Tokyo. Stay for 3 nights.
- DAY 2**  **Tokyo.** Free to explore Tokyo or you may take an optional tour.
- DAY 3**  **Tokyo.** Free to explore Tokyo or you may take an optional tour.
- DAY 4**  **Yudanaka.** Travel by train to Yudanaka. Visit Jigokudani and watch snow monkeys frolic and bath in the natural hot springs. It is picture perfect. Stay overnight.
- DAY 5**  **Matsumoto.** Travel by train to Matsumoto. Free to explore castle town Matsumoto. Stay overnight.
- DAY 6**  **Tsumago.** Travel by train to the Kiso Valley. Upon arrival, free to explore Magome or Tsumago. You may wish to hike some of the Nakasendo Trail, the original highway from Edo (Tokyo) to Kyoto. Stay overnight in Tsumago at a minshuku.
- DAY 7**  **Kyoto.** Travel by train to Kyoto. Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour. Stay for 3 nights.
- DAY 8**  **Kyoto.** Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour. We suggest you explore Kyoto's famous sites such as The Golden Pavilion, and its neighbouring cities Nara, Kobe, Himeji and Osaka.
- DAY 9**  **Kyoto.** Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour.
- DAY 10**  **Kyoto.** Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour.



Matsumoto Castle



Tsumago



Nijo Castle, Kyoto

## SIGNATURE JAPAN

Japan's unique constellation of features, from its brightly lit mega-cities to its cascading alpine trail, make it a wellspring of never ending discovery and surprises for even the most seasoned traveller. Our Signature Tour is crafted to allow you to explore both the depth and width of Japan in a journey that covers over 2,000 kilometres. Japan is versatile; buzzing super cities are framed by mountainous landscapes. Those who wish to explore Japan's neon lights and beyond should start with this tour.

From  
£2,440



You begin in Tokyo, Japan's modern capital and explore its most iconic sites such as Meiji Shrine, Sensoji Temple and the palace East Garden before moving northward to Yudanaka to see the internationally renowned snow monkeys frolic in geothermal hot springs. Next is a visit to the picturesque castle town Kanazawa in which a visit to its famous garden Kenroku-en is a must.

You will then arrive at Kyoto, Japan's cultural and artistic centre, in which you can explore this storied city and enjoy the company of an apprentice geisha. Your Kyoto stay is followed by a contemplative stay at Japan's Mount Koya where you can immerse yourself in Japan's spirituality with an overnight stay at a temple lodging. Further south you will go to Hiroshima and Miyajima to visit the popular world heritage sites.

Finally, you will visit Japan's largest southern island Kyushu in a visit to the beautiful port-city Nagasaki and the relaxing Fukuoka. At Nagasaki you can learn about the history of European visitors before going back to Tokyo.



Ryoanji Temple, Kyoto



Nagasaki

- DAY 1**  **Tokyo.** Arrive in Tokyo. Stay for 3 nights.
- DAY 2**  **Tokyo.** Free to explore Tokyo's iconic locations such as its old temples, famous shrines, and royal sites, or you may take an optional tour.
- DAY 3**  **Tokyo.** Free to explore Tokyo or you may take an optional tour.
- DAY 4**  **Hakone.** Travel by train to Hakone. Free to explore Hakone or you may take an optional tour. Stay for 2 nights.
- DAY 5**  **Hakone.** Free to explore Hakone or you may take an optional tour.
- DAY 6**  **Yudanaka.** Travel by train to Yudanaka. Free to explore Yudanaka and its famous snow monkeys at the Jigokudani hot springs. Stay for 2 nights.
- DAY 7**  **Yudanaka.** Free to explore Yudanaka or you may take an optional tour.
- DAY 8**  **Kanazawa.** Travel to Kanazawa. Free to explore the castle town of Kanazawa or you may take an optional tour. Stay for 3 nights.
- DAY 9**  **Kanazawa.** Free to explore the castle town of Kanazawa or you may take an optional tour.
- DAY 10**  **Kanazawa.** Free to explore the castle town of Kanazawa or you may take an optional tour.
- DAY 11**  **Kyoto.** Travel by bullet train to Kyoto. Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour. Stay for 4 nights.
- DAY 12-14**  **Kyoto.** Free to explore Kyoto or you may take an optional tour. We suggest you explore Kyoto's famous sites such as The Golden Pavilion, and its neighbouring cities Nara, Kobe, Himeji and Osaka.
- DAY 15**  **Mount Koya, Temple Lodging (D).** Travel to Mt. Koya. Stay overnight in a temple lodging.
- DAY 16**  **Hiroshima (B).** Travel by train to Hiroshima. Free to explore Hiroshima or you may take an optional tour. Stay for 2 nights.
- DAY 17**  **Hiroshima.** Free to explore Hiroshima & Miyajima island or you may take an optional tour.
- DAY 18**  **Nagasaki.** Travel by train to Nagasaki. Free to explore Nagasaki. We suggest exploring Gunkanjima 'Battle Island' and Mount Inasa. Stay for 2 nights.
- DAY 19**  **Nagasaki.** Free to explore Nagasaki or you may take an optional tour. We suggest exploring Dejima Island and Nagasaki's historic churches.
- DAY 20**  **Tokyo.** Travel by train to Tokyo. Free to explore Tokyo. Stay for 2 nights.
- DAY 21**  **Tokyo.** Free to explore Tokyo.



# Japan Accommodation

## HOTEL

Accommodation in Japan is generally graded according to international norms i.e. standard 2-3★, superior 4★, and deluxe 5★+. But whatever grade you choose to stay at, you will be sure to experience wonderful customer service and hospitality. The world-renowned international brands are represented alongside various domestic groups but there are many other options available. For more choice and availability, please contact Jaltour.

## RYOKAN ACCOMMODATION

For a traditional alternative, we highly recommend staying at a Japanese inn (ryokan) during your tour. This experience is one far-removed from Western-style hotels. In a ryokan you will be looked after from the moment you are greeted at the entrance, you will receive the highest levels of service and dine on the best local food available.

## TEMPLE LODGING

A Shukubo accommodation facility is part of a Japanese temple. Begin and end your stay in a Shukubo which lets you feel the spirituality of Japan. Dine on healthy vegetarian dishes (Shojin) eaten by monks whilst immersing in the tranquil atmosphere.

## Hotels

City (alphabetical)	Rating	Hotel
Fukuoka	★★★★	Hakata Excel Tokyu
	★★★★	Hotel Nikko
	★★★★	Grand Hyatt
	★★★★★	Okura Fukuoka
Hakone	★★★	Palace Hotel
	★★★★★	Hyatt Regency Resort & Spa
Hiroshima	★★★★	New Hiroden
	★★★★	Hotel Granvia
	★★★★	Tokyu REI Hotel
	★★★★	ANA Crowne Plaza
	★★★★	Mitsui Garden Hotel
	★★★★★	Sheraton
Kagoshima	★★★	Tokyu REI Hotel
	★★★★	Rembrandt Hotel
Kanazawa	★★★	Holiday Inn ANA Kanazawa Sky
	★★★★	ANA Crowne Plaza
	★★★★	Hotel MyStays
	★★★★	Hotel Nikko
	★★★★	Kanazawa Tokyu
Kurashiki	★★★★	Hotel Nikko
Kyoto	★★★	Karasuma Kyoto
	★★★	New Miyako
	★★★	ANA Crowne Plaza, Kyoto
	★★★	Hotel New Hankyu Kyoto
	★★★	Kyoto Tower Hotel
	★★★	Hotel Keihan Kyoto Grande
	★★★★	Mitsui Garden Hotel Kyoto Shijo
	★★★★	Royal Park Hotel, The Kyoto
	★★★★	Kyoto Tokyu Hotel
	★★★★★	The Hyatt Regency
★★★★★	Hotel Okura	
Matsue	★★★	Excel Hotel Tokyu
	★★★	Dormy Inn Express
	★★★★	Hotel Hakucho
Matsumoto	★★★	Richmond Hotel Matsumoto
	★★★★	Hotel Buena Vista
Nagasaki	★★★	Hotel Dormy Inn Nagasaki
	★★★★	Richmond Hotel, Shianbashi
	★★★★	Best Western Premier
Nagoya	★★★★★	Nagoya Marriott Associa Hotel
Okayama	★★★★	ANA Hotel
	★★★★	Hotel Granvia
	★★★★	Koraku Hotel
Okinawa	★★★	Resort Loisir Hotel Naha
	★★★★	Renaissance
	★★★★	ANA Laguna Garden Hotel
	★★★★	ANA Intercontinental, Ishigaki Island
	★★★★	DoubleTree by Hilton, Naha
	★★★★	Tokyu Resort, Miyako
	★★★★★	Ritz Carlton
	★★★★★	Hoshinoya, Taketomi Island
	★★★★★	Hilton, Chatan
	★★★★★	Shigira Bayside Suite Allamanda, Miyako
Osaka	★★★	Hotel New Hankyu
	★★★★	Hotel Nikko Kansai Airport
	★★★★	Cross Hotel
	★★★★	Granvia Hotel Osaka
	★★★★★	Ritz Carlton
	★★★★★	Westin
	★★★★★	Intercontinental
	★★★★★	Swissôtel
	★★★★★	Hyatt Regency
	Sapporo	★★★
★★★★		Keio Plaza Sapporo
Takayama	★★★	Hida Plaza
	★★★★	Best Western
Tokyo	★★★	Washington Hotel Shinjuku
	★★★	Shiba Park
	★★★★	Park Hotel
	★★★★	Tokyo Station Hotel
	★★★★	Odakyu Century Southern Tower
	★★★★★	Andaz (A Concept by Hyatt)
	★★★★★	Conrad
	★★★★★	Four Seasons at Marunouchi
	★★★★★	Grand Hyatt, Roppongi
	★★★★★	Mandarin Oriental
	★★★★★	Sakura Prince
	★★★★★	Marriott, Shinagawa
	★★★★★	Palace Hotel
	★★★★★	Park Hyatt
★★★★★	The Peninsula	
★★★★★	Ritz-Carlton	
★★★★★	Shangri-La	

## Ryokans

City (alphabetical)	Rating	Ryokan
Arima	★★★	Choraku
	★★★★	Kinokuniya
Hakone	★★★★	Tenseien
	★★★★★	Gora Hana-Ougi Sounkaku
	★★★★★	Aura Tachibana
	★★★★★	Yama No Chaya
	★★★★★	Gora Kadan
	★★★★★	Gora Hana-Ougi
Ibusuki	★★★★	Hakusuihan
Kinosaki	★★★★★	Nishimuraya Honkan
Kurashiki	★★★★	Misono
Kyoto	★★★	Watazen
	★★★	Yoshi-ima
	★★★★★	Hiiiragiya
Miyajima	★★★	Miyajima Seaside Hotel
	★★★★★	Hotel Makoto
Iwaso	★★★★★	Iwaso
Tsumago	★★★★	Fujioto
Takayama	★★★	Seiryu
	★★★	Hodakaso Yamanoiori
	★★★★	Hoshokaku
Yudanaka	★★★★	Biyu No Yado
Yufuin	★★★	Nobiru Sanso
	★★★★★	Yufu No Oyado Hotaru
	★★★★★	Sansuikan
	★★★★★	Oyado Ichizen

## Temples (Shukubo) / B&B (Minshuku)

City (alphabetical)	Rating	Type	Name
Mount Koya	★★	Shukubo	Fudo-In
	★★	Shukubo	Sekisho-in
	★★★	Shukubo	Henjoko-in
	★★★	Shukubo	Jimyo-in
Tsumago	★★	Minshuku	Hanaya

# Off The Beaten Path

## Hokkaido

The coldest region of Japan, Hokkaido is a popular tourist destination for many Japanese people with its mild summers unveiling scenic park lands and its winters transforming mountainous peaks into ski slopes. Hokkaido's size is matched by its diversity.



**DAY 1-2**

In Hakodate enjoy fresh seafood while walking through the historic Motomachi district before taking a boat ride in the Onuma Quasi National Park. After sunset go to the top of Mount Hakodate to witness one of the best night views in Japan.



**DAY 3-6**

Travel by rail to Sapporo; Hokkaido's capital, Japan's 5th largest city and the nation's youngest. Sapporo is a foodie capital which boasts of ramen, beer and mutton barbeque. For visitors with children, try making and eating local confectionaries at Shiroyo Koibito Park.

**DAY 7-8**

Soak and rest in Hokkaido's most famous onsen resort Noboribetsu which is home to the volcanic hot springs Jigokudani.

**DAY 9-10**

In Shiretoko, explore the mixed ecosystem of its unspoiled national park which boasts of waterfalls, lakes, falls and hot-springs. This peninsula is home to Hokkaido's famous bears, foxes and deers.



## Tohoku

Tohoku is mainland Japan's northernmost region. Its mountainous terrain is a hiker's heaven in springtime and a skier's favourite in winter. Tohoku is home to a truly spectacular landscape that has inspired many of Japan's mythical folktales which are still told to this day. If you are looking for inspiration for your visit to Japan then look to Tohoku.



**DAY 1**

Depart Tokyo by shinkansen and visit Fukushima City's restored samurai residence Aizu Bukeyashiki and postal village Ouchi-juku.

**DAY 2-3**

Go northwards to Miyagi, visit the Akiu Great Falls and Japan's most celebrated scenic sight Matsushima Bay.

**DAY 4-5**

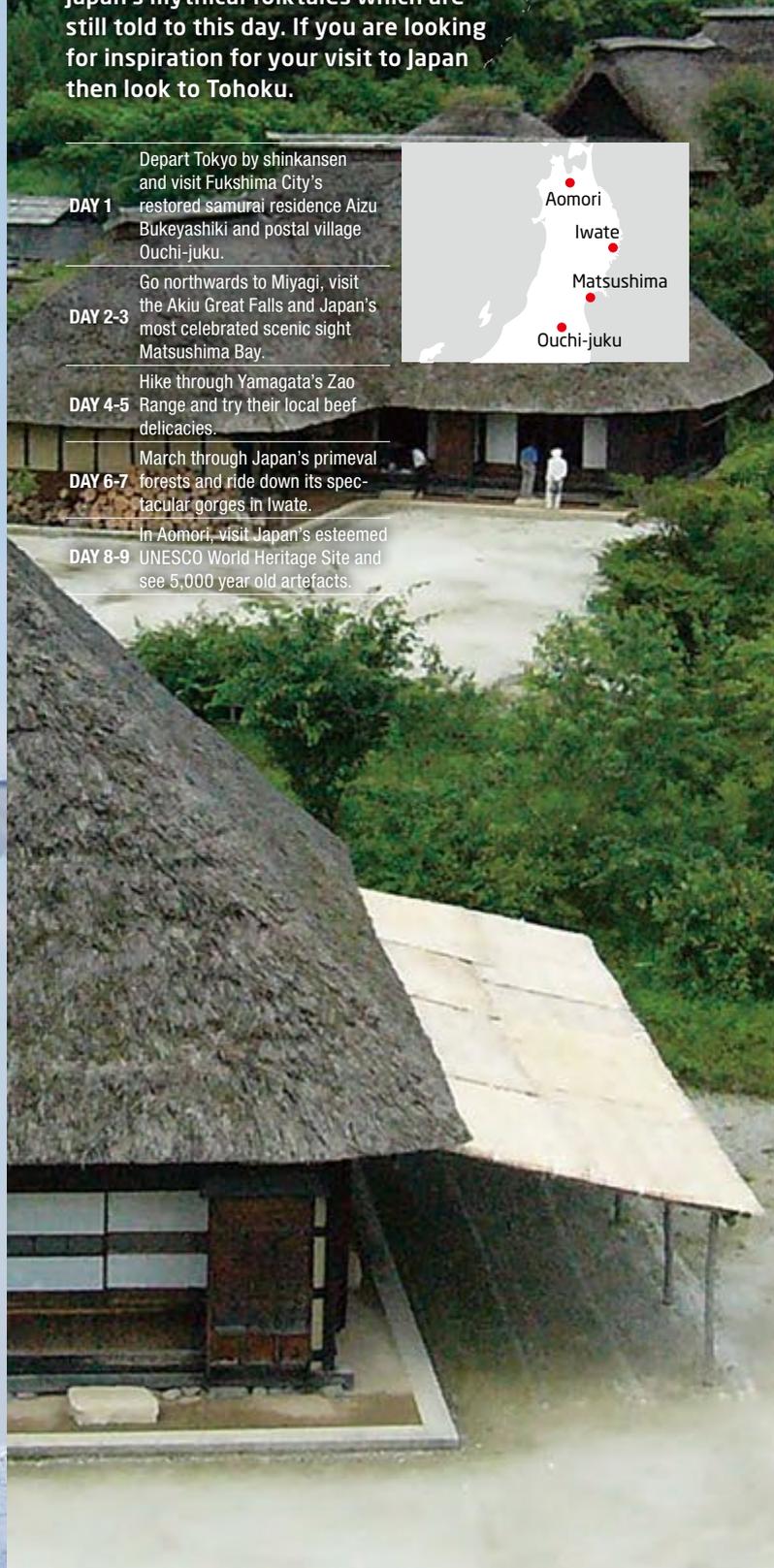
Hike through Yamagata's Zao Range and try their local beef delicacies.

**DAY 6-7**

March through Japan's primeval forests and ride down its spectacular gorges in Iwate.

**DAY 8-9**

In Aomori, visit Japan's esteemed UNESCO World Heritage Site and see 5,000 year old artefacts.



# Kyushu

Japan's third biggest island has it all - sands, volcanoes, hot springs, and more. Its rich history of samurai warriors, monks, foreign traders and ninjas is framed by a scenic landscape that is rich in incredible foods and historical sites. Kyushu is an island of incredible variety that is favourite among those who wish to go off Japan's beaten path.



## DAY 1-2

Start off in Fukuoka, the central hub of Kyushu, a cradle of modern urbanity in southern Japan. Its ancient history can be experienced in the Dazaifu Tenman-gu Shrine and its modern present is in the winding walkways of the Hakata Canal City.



## DAY 3-4

Venture northwest to Nagasaki, a city of incredible history that is woven into its architecture, food and crafts. Stroll down one of Japan's three great Chinatowns and sample the sara udon noodles that are a staple dish of Nagasaki.

## DAY 5-6

As Japan's "Undiscovered Pearl", Kumamoto has it all! For history buffs there is Kumamoto Castle, one of the 3 great castles in Japan. If you prefer natural sites then the Aso caldera is one of the largest in the world. For those who like the sound of both, travel between the two on one of Kumamoto's leisure trains and enjoy Kumamoto ramen.

## DAY 7-8

Sandbaths, sweet potatoes, and simple ramen, are the many things that can be enjoyed in Kagoshima. Kagoshima offers visitors tranquility at its high-grade hot spring resorts in Ibusuki and an insight in to the foundation of modern Japan with its local figures like General Saigo Takamori. While walking, eat desserts that resemble the volcano Sakurajima and seasonal foods made from Kagoshima's locally-grown potatoes.

# Okinawa

Japan's southernmost prefecture Okinawa has a stunning blend of unique heritage and modern Japanese culture set amongst beautiful beaches with a sub-tropical climate. Most of the islands can be easily accessed from mainland Japan.

## DAY 1-3

Depart mainland Japan by air to Okinawa's capital Naha, explore Cape Manza and Naha's World Heritage Nakijin Castle Remains.

## DAY 4-6

Fly to Miyako-jima and explore the numerous islands of Miyako-jima, you'll never be short of sun, sea and sand.

## DAY 7-9

Go to Ishigaki-jima by plane and immerse yourself in the traditional Okinawan culture of old.



Okinawa Islands



# Japan Rail Pass

The Japan Rail Pass allows unlimited use of the Japan Rail network for the duration of the pass. The Japan Rail Pass is for tourists visiting for sightseeing purposes.

Passes provide visitors with excellent value for money and are available for travel in first class (Green Class) or standard class (Ordinary Class). The pass is valid on all JR trains, whether they are local, express or the world-famous bullet trains (shinkansen) with a few exceptions. Please contact us for further details.

Listed below are prices in Japanese Yen for an Adult Pass\*

Rail Pass		7-Days	14-Days	21-Days
GREEN	ADULT	38,880	62,950	81,870
ORDINARY	ADULT	29,110	46,390	59,350

\*Passes for children aged 6 to 11 are 50% of the Adult price.

## Is the Japan Rail Pass good value for money?

If you are making a return journey from Tokyo to Kyoto within a seven-day period, you will easily get your money's worth with a 7-Day Ordinary Pass:

Narita Airport → Tokyo - 'Narita Express' return ticket	= JPY	6,040
Tokyo → Kyoto - ('Hikari') return bullet train ticket	= JPY	27,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>= JPY</b>	<b>33,240</b>
<b>Japan Rail Pass - 7-Day (Ordinary Class)</b>	<b>= JPY</b>	<b>29,110</b>

**Save 4,130 yen, and all other subsequent journeys on JR lines are 'free'.**

You can also use the pass on Tokyo's JR lines to go sightseeing around the city.

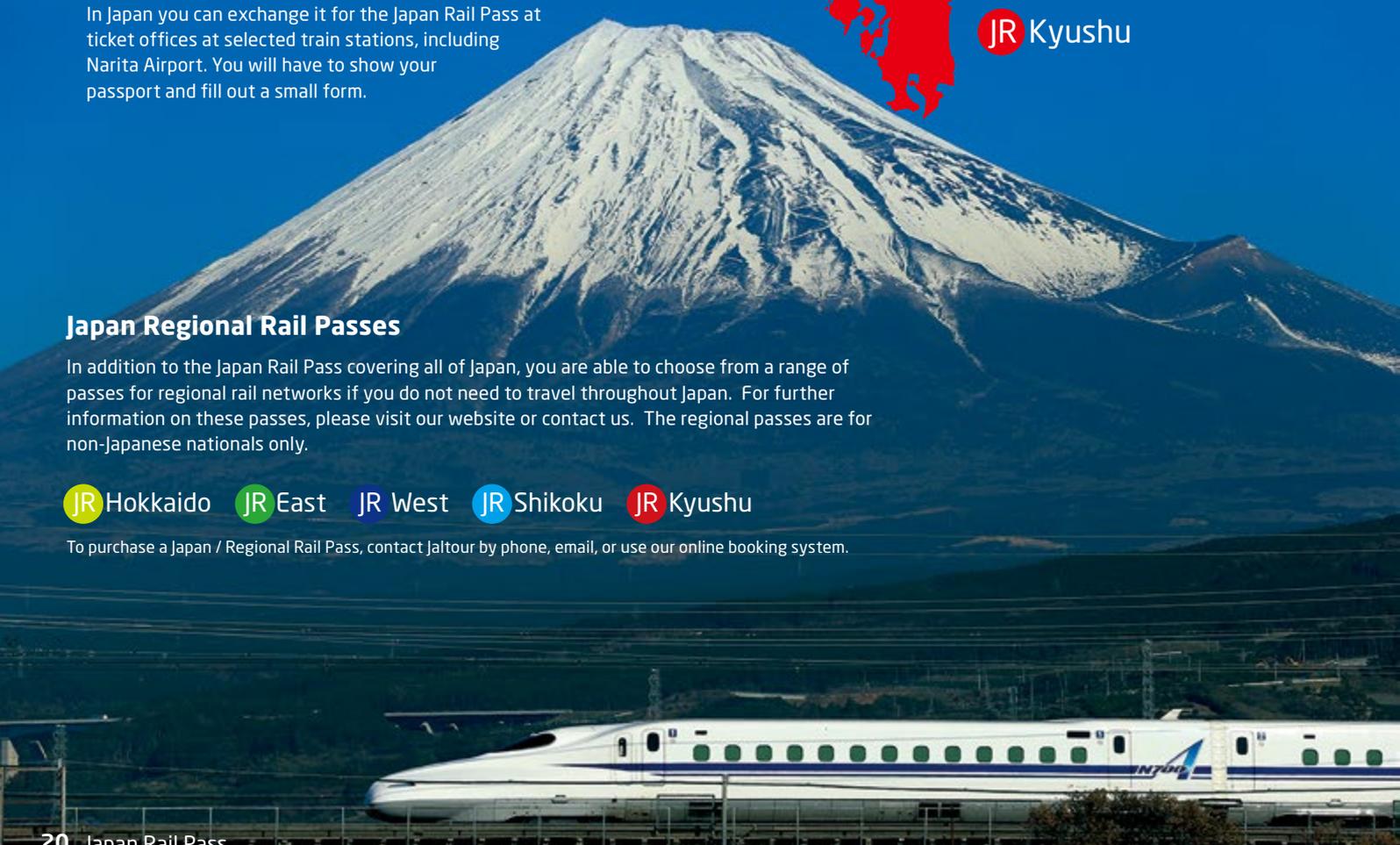
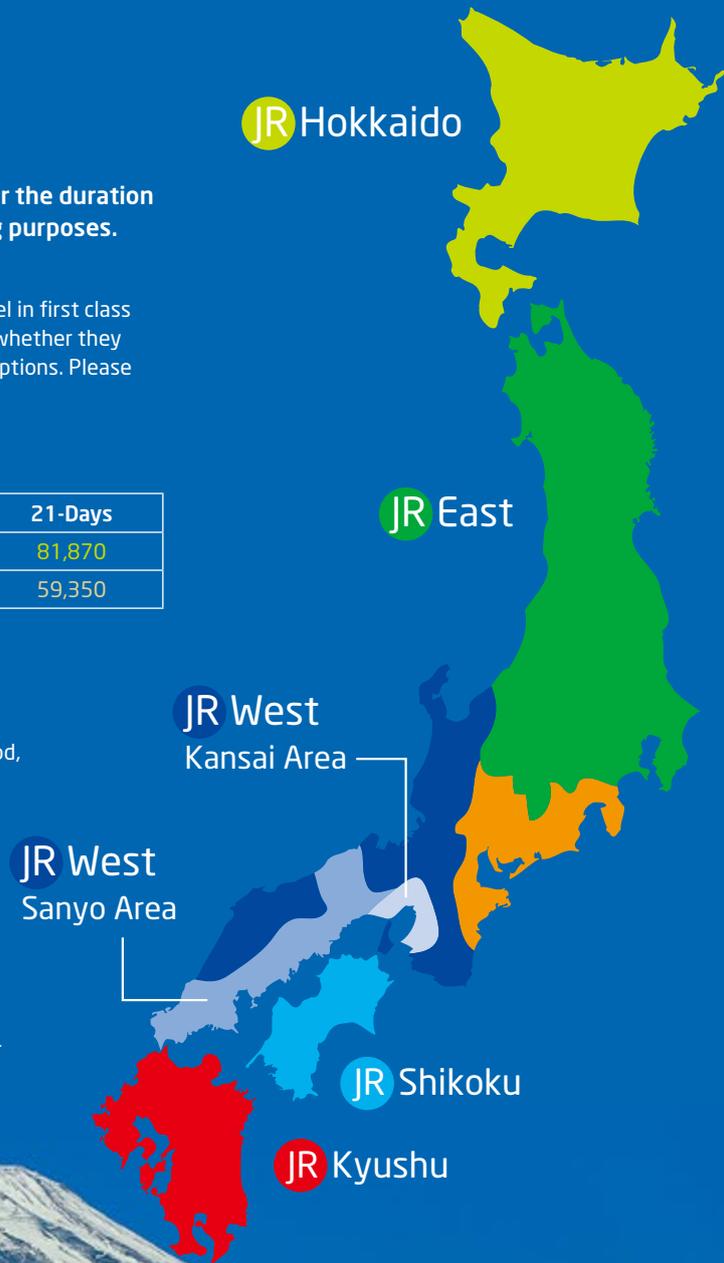
- The Japan Rail Pass will always be sold in GBP using the exchange rate Jaltour has set at the time of purchase.
- The exchange order is valid for 3 months from the date of issue. In Japan you can exchange it for the Japan Rail Pass at ticket offices at selected train stations, including Narita Airport. You will have to show your passport and fill out a small form.

## Japan Regional Rail Passes

In addition to the Japan Rail Pass covering all of Japan, you are able to choose from a range of passes for regional rail networks if you do not need to travel throughout Japan. For further information on these passes, please visit our website or contact us. The regional passes are for non-Japanese nationals only.

**JR Hokkaido** **JR East** **JR West** **JR Shikoku** **JR Kyushu**

To purchase a Japan / Regional Rail Pass, contact Jaltour by phone, email, or use our online booking system.



# Fact Files

<b>PASSPORT / VISA REQUIREMENTS</b>	UK and most EU passport holders do not require visas for the purpose of tourism for stays up to 90 days.
<b>HEALTH</b>	No vaccination or medication is required for British citizens travelling from the UK to Japan.
<b>JAPAN</b>	
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	English is taught as part of compulsory education from 12 years old, so visiting Japan is not as daunting as you may have imagined. Most train station signs are bilingual, with station announcements on bullet trains also in English.
<b>RESOURCES</b>	Japan National Tourism Organisation (JNTO) – <a href="http://www.seejapan.co.uk">www.seejapan.co.uk</a> Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs – <a href="http://www.mofa.go.jp">www.mofa.go.jp</a> Embassy of Japan – <a href="http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp">www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp</a>

Euro Creative Tours (UK) Ltd. cannot accept liability or consider refunds for clients who are unable to travel because of insufficient/incorrect documentation. We would recommend that you consult your doctor for up-to-date health information, particularly if you are pregnant, elderly or accompanied by young children. Further information can also be found at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office website - [www.fco.gov.uk/en](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en)

## Terms & Conditions

Please read the following conditions carefully before you make your booking. Jaltour is a trading name of Euro Creative Tours (UK) Ltd. (ECT), company registration no. 01523139. Airlines are not party to the contract for the provision the tours featured in this brochure.

### 1) Important Notice

It is inevitable that some of the details contained in this brochure or the price list may have changed since it was printed. You will be informed of changes to any of the relevant details when you book either with your travel agent or with us, as part of our commitment to quality customer service.

### 2) Consumer Protection

#### ABTA

ECT and its trading name 'Jaltour', is a Member of ABTA (numbers 7664X & W9398 respectively). ABTA and ABTA Members help holidaymakers to get the most from their travel and assist when things don't go according to plan. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct. For more information on ABTA, the Code of Conduct and the arbitration scheme available to you if you have a complaint, contact ABTA, 30 Park Street, London SE1 9EQ, tel. 020 3117 0581, [www.abta.com](http://www.abta.com).

#### ATOL

Tours that include flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's License granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is 3227. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for an advance booking. For further information, visit the ATOL website [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk). When you buy a package holiday that doesn't include a flight, protection is provided by way of a bond held by Euro Creative Tours with ABTA.

Many of the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme, but ATOL protection does not apply to all holiday and travel services listed in this brochure. Please ask us to confirm what protection may apply to your booking. If you do not receive an ATOL Certificate then the booking will not be ATOL-protected. If you do receive an ATOL Certificate but all the parts of your trip are not listed on it, those parts will not be ATOL-protected. Please see our booking conditions for information, or for more information about financial protection

and the ATOL Certificate go to [www.atol.org.uk/atolcertificate](http://www.atol.org.uk/atolcertificate)

### Your Financial Protection

When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable).

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

### 3) Booking and deposit

To make a booking you must complete and sign the booking form and pay a deposit according to the cost of your tour (per person):

Tour Price (per person)	Min deposit required
Up to £3,499	£300
£3,500 – £4,999	£450
£5,000 +	£700

\*... Please Note -In certain situations where Jaltour is required to book a flight on behalf of the customer and the ticketing deadline is before the final payment of the tour, we may in some cases request a payment above the minimum to cover the cancellation conditions of the flight.

Full payment is required if you are booking within eight weeks of departure.

Bookings may be made direct to our office or through your local travel agent. If you book through a travel agent, upon receipt of your money your travel agent will provide you with an ATOL receipt, which gives the relevant details of your booking. Within 7 days of notification of the booking to us by the travel agent we will send them an ATOL Confirmation Invoice, which they will immediately pass on to you. When you buy an ATOL-protected flight-inclusive holiday from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This will detail where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. No contract for the provision of the holiday exists between you and us until we have sent out our confirmation invoice so that if, for reasons such as unavailability, we are unable to accept your booking, our liability to you will be limited to refunding to you the full amount of any money you have paid.

All flights booked will be in Economy class and all accommodation booked will be in the standard rooms of the respective property, unless specifically otherwise stated on the confirmation and invoice.

### 4) Payment

- The deposit is part payment of the holiday. The deposit required will be shown on the quotation page of your itinerary. In addition to the deposit, full or part payment of certain elements of your holiday (such as flights) may be required at the time of booking or at some point between booking and balance due date.
- You must pay the balance of the price of your holiday at least 56 days (8(eight)weeks) before departure; otherwise we shall be entitled to cancel your booking, in which case we will retain the deposit.

## 5) Changes by you

If, after our confirmation invoice has been issued, you wish to change your travel arrangements in any way, for example your chosen departure date or accommodation, we will do our utmost to make these changes but it may not always be possible. Any request for changes to be made must be in writing from the person who made the booking or your travel agent and reach us at least 56 days prior to departure. You will be asked to pay an administration charge of £40, and any further cost we incur in making this alteration. We may have to treat any alterations requested less than 56 days before departure as cancellations and new bookings, so that the cancellation charges referred to below will then apply.

## 6) If You Cancel Your Holiday

If you wish to cancel your booking, you must notify us in writing. The following charges will apply; effective from the date we receive your notification:

Number of days before departure	Charge percentage of tour price
56 days or more	Deposit
42-55	50%
33-41	60%
15-32	90%
0-14	100%

## 7)

### a) If we change or cancel your holiday

This brochure is prepared in advance of the holiday season; therefore some changes to the holiday arrangements may occur. If changes occur prior to your bookings we will inform you of these prior to issuing our confirmation. In some cases changes occur even after bookings have been confirmed and we therefore reserve the right to make changes at any time. If the change is minor, we will inform you or your travel agent as soon as possible but we will have no other liability towards you. Occasionally we may have to make a significant change to your holiday after confirmation and we therefore reserve the right to do so. A significant change will include a change of UK departure point, a change of flight time more than 12 hours, a change of accommodation to a lower price or classification as detailed in this brochure. If we have to make a significant change we will notify you as quickly as possible and you may then either: a) accept the change in which case the contract will be varied to incorporate the change; b) take another available holiday from the brochure at its advertised price; or c) cancel the holiday completely in which case we will refund all monies paid to us. Please see the below box stating the compensation payable to you, should we have to advise you of changes within 56 days of your departure date.

Period before departure within which, change is notified to you or to your Travel Agent	Compensation per adult	per child (up to and including 11 years old)
More than 56 days	Nil	Nil
55-43 days	£10	£5
42-29 days	£20	£10
28-15 days	£30	£15
14-0 days	£40	£20

Some of the excursions included in the holiday packages require a minimum number of participants. Please enquire at the time of booking. If the required minimum number of participants is not met, we will notify you no less than 14 days before the day of departure, and refund any monies paid to us for the corresponding portion of your trip. Since these are optional excursions, any cancellation would not constitute a 'significant change'.

### b) Force Majeure

We may have to cancel or change your holiday in exceptional circumstances like war, civil unrest, terrorist activity and its consequences, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, or adverse weather conditions. In these circumstances we will not pay you any compensation as these are beyond our control.

## 8) Complaints

If you have a problem during your stay, please inform the accommodation provider immediately, who will endeavour to put things right. You should also try to find a solution whilst you're there. If your complaint is not resolved locally, please follow this up within 28 days of your return home by writing to us at our office address, giving your booking reference and all other relevant information. Please keep your letter concise and to the point. This will assist us to identify your concerns quickly and speed up our response to you. If you fail to follow this simple procedure we will have been deprived of the opportunity to investigate and rectify your complaint whilst you were on holiday, and this may affect your rights under this contract. Please bear in mind that we are only liable to compensate you in line with these booking conditions. Any dispute or claim arising out of this contract that can't be settled between us can be referred by you to ABTA arbitration or court (see clause 12).

## 9) Prices

Whilst we reserve the right to increase or decrease prices of any of our tour holidays, once you have made your booking and we have issued our confirmation invoice, we guarantee that the price of your holiday will not be subject to any surcharges. We will always inform you, before accepting your booking, of any changes to the tour price. You should, however, note that if you amend any details of your booking after it has been confirmed you may be subject to an amendment fee as detailed under "If you cancel your holiday" or "Changes by you".

## 10) Our liability to you

We accept full liability for the proper performance of our obligations under any agreement entered into with you for the provision of a holiday featured in this brochure. Included in this are liability for the acts or omissions of our employees, agents, sub-contractors and other suppliers, unless proper performance is not achievable due to:

- Matters which are the fault of you and/or other members of your party;
- Unforeseeable or unavoidable circumstances which are the fault of persons who are not connected with the provision of these services

to be performed;

- Any unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control, the consequences of which we could not have avoided by exercising all due care;
- An event which either we, or the relevant supplier, even with all due care could not have foreseen or forestalled.

Our liability as set out above is limited to the lesser of: (i) (except in the case of personal injury) twice the price of the relevant holiday; or (ii) the amount laid down in the relevant international Conventions such as the Montreal Convention or the Warsaw Convention. In the case of claims for personal injury (including illness or death) subject as above, we only accept responsibility for the negligent acts and/or omissions of ECT's employees or agents and also of our suppliers and sub-contractors whilst acting within the scope of, or in the course of their employment. Our liability is limited in accordance with conditions of carriage of the relevant air and sea carriers. Copies of these conditions of carriage are available from our offices on request.

If the contract we have with you is not performed or is improperly performed as a result of failures attributable to a third party unconnected with the provision of the services, or as a result of failures due to unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all due care had been exercised, or an event which we or our suppliers, even with all due care, could not foresee or forestall, and you suffer an injury or other material loss, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is reasonable in the circumstances.

## 11) Data Protection

To make your booking we will need to use information you have supplied to us, such as full name, address and dietary requirements. Please be assured that we have measures in place to protect the personal booking information held by us. This information will be passed on to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements. The information may also be provided to public authorities such as customs or immigration if required by them, or as required by law. Certain information may also be passed on to security or credit checking companies.

## 12) Jurisdiction

The contract arising from any confirmed holiday booking is to be interpreted under, and is subject to the laws of England (and Wales). Our Terms of Business are also governed by English Law and the jurisdiction of the English Courts. We both agree to submit any dispute or claim under it or connected with the holiday to the English Courts or other legal system within the United Kingdom. However, if you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you can bring proceedings in your local court under Scottish or Northern Irish law, as applicable.

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### Direct Customer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
 How did you hear about Jaltour? (eg. travel agent, specific magazine article):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Agent Booking

## Agency Stamp

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ABTA No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 VAT No: \_\_\_\_\_

### Passenger Details (as per passport)

	Passenger 1	Passenger 2	Passenger 3	Passenger 4
Title				
First Name				
Middle Name(s)				
Surname				
Date of Birth				
Nationality				
Passport Number				
Expiry Date				

### Emergency Contact / Next of Kin

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

### Tour Details

UK Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ UK Return Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Jaltour Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please specify tour name and accommodation level. Alternatively, please provide quotation date and number.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Requests

(We will do our best, but cannot guarantee to meet all requests.)

Room Type: Single  Twin\*  Double  Triple  Other (Please specify)  \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Twin rooms are the norm in Japan

Non-smoking rooms:  Smoking rooms:

Other (e.g. Wheelchair, Vegetarian, Allergies etc.). Please indicate names of passengers.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Insurance** - Please ensure you have travel insurance before booking.

### Payment

Please fill in the amount you wish to pay now:  
 Deposit £ \_\_\_\_\_ per person:  (Please see terms and conditions for deposit requirement)  
 Full Payment:  (Required 8 weeks before departure)

### Payment Method

Credit / Debit Card  Please call Monday - Friday 09:00 - 17:30.  
 BACS  The HSBC Bank Plc, Sort Code 40-03-21, account no. 31753118.  
 Please note if you pay by bank transfer/BACS any charges incurred are payable by yourselves.  
 Cheque  Please make cheques payable to Euro Creative Tours (U.K.) Ltd

### Declaration - Note to agents: This must be signed by the customer themselves.

I certify that I am authorised to make this booking on behalf of the persons named above and that I am responsible for ensuring due payment of all monies payable in respect of this booking. I have read and agree to accept the Jaltour Terms & Conditions. I understand the deposit is now non-refundable in the event of my cancellation.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# JAPAN IS UNIQUE AND YOUR HOLIDAY SHOULD BE TOO.

We pride ourselves on being one of the UK's most established and experienced Japan-bound travel specialists. Our dedicated team offers advice based on first-hand experience and a genuine enthusiasm for Japan as we have all lived and travelled extensively within the country.

We will assist you in creating your perfect holiday with land arrangements for a full tour, a short stopover or an itinerary entirely of your own design for any area in Japan. We can also alter or extend any of our itineraries.

Please visit our website for the latest special offers & news, up-to-date tour information and Japan Rail Pass prices.



## Jaltour

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