



ULTIMATE JAPAN

Get ready for 10 unforgettable days exploring Japan, from Tokyo's neon-lit streets to Kyoto's timeless temples. This small group adventure dives deep into a country where ancient traditions and futuristic cities exist side by side. From samurai culture and sacred shrines to anime districts, bullet trains, and world-class food, Japan delivers at every turn. Whether you're travelling solo, obsessed with Japanese culture, or simply chasing your next big adventure, this trip ticks every box. You'll master the art of sushi making, train in a traditional Kendo dojo with a samurai descendant, wander Kyoto's historic Gion District, and even spend a night staying in a working Buddhist temple. Voted the world's #1 small group tour, this is Japan done properly.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 9 nights Accommodation
- All transport Day 2 to 9 (excl. airport transfers, optional activities & free time)
- Welcome Dinner
- Japan Orientation
- Famous Tokyo Districts (Shinjuku, Harajuku, Akihabara)
- Sushi Making Class
- Shibuya Crossing
- Visit to Senso-ji Temple at night
- Mt Fuji viewing & exploring Hakone
- Sake Tasting
- Gion Walking Tour
- Kendo Class
- Fushimi-Inari Red Torii Gates
- Kiyomizu-Dera Temple
- Tea Ceremony
- Overnight Temple Stay
- The Golden Pavilion in Kyoto
- Climb Monkey Mountain (Iwatayama)
- The Arashiyama Bamboo Forest
- Food tour in Osaka
- Karaoke on the final night





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Day 1 – Welcome to Japan | Tokyo Nights

Arrive in Tokyo and settle into your Accommodation before meeting your group in the evening. Tonight kicks off with a welcome dinner, your first taste of Japanese cuisine, and a chance to get to know your fellow travellers. Once the city quiets down, we head out to explore the iconic Senso-ji Temple at night, when it's at its most atmospheric.

Accommodation: Twin bunks – Sakura Hotel Nippori (or similar)

Activities: Welcome dinner, Senso-ji Temple

Free Time Suggestions: Tokyo Skytree

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 – Tokyo Highlights | Harajuku, Yoyogi & Akihabara

This morning begins with a Japan orientation where you'll learn useful phrases, local customs, and tips for navigating the country. We then visit Yoyogi Park and the serene Meiji Shrine before switching gears in Harajuku, the heart of Japanese youth culture, packed with quirky fashion and colourful streets. Later, dive into Akihabara, Tokyo's electric district. Explore arcades, browse anime stores, visit maid cafés, or simply soak up the neon-lit chaos.

Accommodation: Twin bunks – Sakura Hotel Nippori (or similar)

Activities: Japan orientation, Tokyo district exploration

Free Time Suggestions: Maid café

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 – Sushi Making & Shibuya Crossing

After breakfast, enjoy a private sushi-making class where you'll learn to prepare miso soup, three styles of sushi, and the secrets behind teriyaki. Vegetarian options are available with advance notice. This evening we head to Shinjuku to take in the city skyline, explore Omoide Yokocho's lantern-lit alleyways, grab dinner, and finish the night at the world-famous Shibuya Crossing.

Accommodation: Twin bunks – Sakura Hotel Nippori (or similar)

Activities: Sushi-making class, Shibuya Crossing



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Free Time Suggestions: Toyosu Fish Market, Songokaji Temple

Meals: Breakfast & lunch

Day 4 – Hakone | Mount Fuji & Romance Car

Today we board the famous Romance Car train to Hakone, a stunning mountain town known for its scenery and food. After checking into our guesthouse, we explore the region using a mix of local transport while taking in spectacular views of Mount Fuji (weather permitting). The day wraps up with group games and a relaxed evening in the mountains.

(If you have asthma or a respiratory condition, the brief visit to Owakudani may not be suitable. Your guide can arrange an alternative.)

Accommodation: Twin/Triple tatami mats – Gora Gaku Guesthouse (or similar)

Activities: Romance Car train, Mount Fuji viewing – Impact Moment

Meals: Breakfast & dinner

Day 5 – Takayama | Bullet Train, Sake & Temple Stay

Experience Japan's legendary shinkansen bullet train today as we head into the Japanese Alps. Watch the trains streak past before boarding one of the fastest rail services in the world. Our destination is Takayama, a beautifully preserved historic town. This afternoon includes a local sake tasting, time to explore the old town, and the option to try the famous Hida beef. Tonight, you'll stay in a traditional Buddhist temple.

Accommodation: Multi-share rooms – Zenkoji Temple (or similar) – Impact Moment

Activities: Bullet train, sake tasting, Takayama old town tour

Free Time Suggestions: Onsen / public bath house

Meals: N/A

Day 6 – Morning Markets & Kyoto Arrival

Start the day wandering Takayama's morning markets along the Miyagawa River before boarding the bullet train to Kyoto. In the evening, a local guide leads a walking tour through Kyoto's historic Gion District, famous for its traditional teahouses and geisha culture. With a bit of luck, you may even spot one.



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Accommodation: Pod-style rooms – Ryokan Hostel Gion (or similar)

Activities: Morning market walk, Gion District tour

Meals: N/A

Day 7 – Kyoto Icons | Shrines, Temples & Tea Ceremony

We rise early to visit Fushimi Inari Shrine before the crowds arrive, walking through its endless tunnels of red torii gates. Next, explore Kiyomizu-dera, a spectacular wooden temple perched on the mountainside, before finishing with a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. Kimono hire is available for those wanting the full experience. The afternoon is yours to explore Kyoto at your own pace.

Accommodation: Pod-style rooms – Ryokan Hostel Gion (or similar)

Activities: Fushimi Inari, Kiyomizu-dera, tea ceremony

Optional Extras: Kimono hire

Free Time Suggestions: Nishiki Market, geisha performance

Day 8 – Golden Pavilion, Zen Gardens & Kendo

This morning we visit the Golden Pavilion, a breathtaking gold-covered temple set beside a tranquil lake. We then explore Daitoku-ji, a peaceful temple complex known for its Zen gardens. In the afternoon, take part in a traditional Kendo class led by a Bushido instructor descended from Japanese samurai, training in a historic dojo.

Please note: the Kendo class may run on Day 7 or Day 8 depending on the departure.

Accommodation: Pod-style rooms – Ryokan Hostel Gion (or similar)

Activities: Golden Pavilion, Zen gardens, Kendo class – Impact Moment

Free Time Suggestions: Heian Shrine

Day 9 – Arashiyama, Monkeys & Osaka Nights

Travel to Arashiyama to explore its famous bamboo forest, hike Monkey Mountain, and enjoy a scenic river boat ride. Later, we head to Osaka where the evening is spent in vibrant Dotonbori. Sample incredible street food, soak up the atmosphere of Japan's culinary capital, and end the night with karaoke.



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Accommodation: Twin share – Hotel WBF Namba Motomachi (or similar)

Activities: Bamboo forest, Monkey Mountain, river boat ride, Dotonbori food tour, karaoke

Optional Extras: Extended karaoke

Meals: Dinner

Day 10 – Departure

After breakfast, it's time to say goodbye to your group and the unforgettable memories you've made along the way. Depart at any time.

Meals: Breakfast