

JAPAN ULTIMATE TOUR



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

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Japan Ultimate Escorted Tour with Flights

BONUS: Home pick-up service & free comprehensive insurance*

Duration: 15 days

Departs: February to April 2024

Stay: 13 nights hotels, mountain monastery & Japanese-style ryokans

Travel style: Escorted tour with flights from Australia

Booking code: JPULTF15M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

15 Days Japan Tour in Cherry Blossom Season

About the holiday

Discover more than just chaotic cities and mountainous landscapes on this ultimate two-week adventure through Japan. Travel during the prettiest time of the year, when the weather is starting to warm up and cherry blossoms are normally in season.

Explore the cultural hubs of Kyoto and Osaka as you learn about Geishas, visit enchanting castles and discover the beautifully quaint backstreets. Spend an evening sleeping at a Buddhist monastery in Mount Koya. Embrace Tokyo's blend of new and old as we visit local fish markets and explore neon-lit neighbourhoods. Follow your guide through the historic heartlands of Takayama and Hiroshima. Travel in style with bullet trains, gondola rides, and boat trips to ensure you get the most out of your adventure!

Why we love this trip...

- This 14-day adventure is perfect for travellers who want to go beyond the tourist hotspots in Japan to discover unique, local and cultural experiences.
- Shape your adventure with optional activities including Kyoto lanes & lanterns, cooking classes, day trips, and more!
- Stay in carefully selected accommodation with traditional onsens and spas.
- Meditate with Buddhist monks and enjoy an evening of zen as you sleep in a traditional Monastery at Mount Koya.
- Discover ancient cities and traditions with extended stays in Kyoto and Osaka.
- Take a day trip to the romantic Miyajima Island to explore the floating Torii Gate, Shrines, and breath-taking 360-degree views of the inland sea.
- Follow your local guide through historic cities like Hiroshima and explore iconic landscapes like Mt Fuji in Hakone.

Travel dates with bonus home pick-up & travel insurance!

2024 - 24 February; 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 March; 6 April

**Departures are subject to confirmation. Price may vary depending on your travel date. Contact us for current prices of your preferred date. See below for bonus conditions.*



Tour Package includes:

Flights - Return economy airfare to Tokyo & from Osaka

Fly from Melbourne with luggage included (ask us for other cities)

Accommodation - 13 nights in a range of accommodation

4- & 3-star hotels, Japanese-style ryokans, mountain monastery

Complimentary hotel Wi-Fi access (where available)

Meals - 13 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner

Transportation - travel by train, cable car, local bus, luggage transfers

Trains include Express/bullet train, local & mountain train

Tour Guiding - Services of experienced local Tour Leader

Sightseeing - highlights as listed below and in the itinerary

Tokaido Checkpoint

Hakone Shrine

Morning Market

Merchant House

Takayama Jinya Building

Peace Museum, Peace Park & A Bomb Dome

Miyajima Island

Itsukushima-jinja Shrine

Himeji Castle

Mt Misen

Kiyomizu-dera

Imperial Palace

Nanzenji Temple

Shosei Strolling Garden

Nishiki-Koji Market

Gion Corner cultural centre

Ryoanji Zen Garden

Tenryuji Temple & National Museum

Mount Koya Monastery

Garan Sacred Area

Okunoin Cemetery and Kobo Daish

Kongobuji & Kuromon Market

Osaka Castle

***Bonus inclusions: Home Pick-Up & Comprehensive Travel Insurance**

Home pick-up service is available free-of-charge from residences that are up to 50kms from the central business district of Australian capital cities (Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Hobart, Adelaide, Perth, Darwin).

Comprehensive travel insurance is included for travellers up to 79 years of age. Pre-existing conditions may not be covered and conditions apply. Please contact us to confirm your eligibility prior to booking.

Package excludes:

Japanese visa fees

COVID-19 PCR test, if required for international travel

Meals, other than those specified in the inclusions

Entrance fees to the sights & museums - see the itinerary for an estimation of costs

Optional sightseeing tours & activities

Gratuities for guides & drivers

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc.

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

Subject to confirmation by airlines, tour company, hotels & local operators.

Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.

For the latest deals please call My Travel Experience on 1300 168 910

or email hello@mytravelxp.com

Tour Itinerary:

Day 1 : Fly to Japan

Day 2 : Tokyo

Kon'nichiwa and welcome to the capital of Japan - Tokyo! Meet your group and tour leader for an informal welcome meeting in the hotel lobby at 6.30pm, before going out for an optional group dinner. With a population of above 10 million people, Tokyo offers endless choices when it comes to shopping, green spaces, entertainment, historical sites, culture, and dining!

- **Accommodation**

Sunroute Asakusa Hotel - 3 Star

- **Included Activities**

Group Welcome Meeting

Day 3 : Tokyo

Rise and shine in the city of Tokyo! After a full breakfast, follow your tour leader to learn about the diverse history and colourful culture of Japan as we visit the Hama Rikyu Garden and Meiji Jingu (Shrine), before making the famous Shibuya/Harajuku walk in the city. Enjoy free time in the afternoon to shape your adventure to your likes. Your tour leader will be happy to recommend the best places and activities to your taste.

You can catch some fresh air at the public Ueno Park and visit the Tokyo National Museum within. Or explore one of the many fascinating museums across the city including Edo-Tokyo Museum, Hokusai Museum, or Odaiba Team Labo - home to immersive, futuristic art installations.

Late in the afternoon, you can join the optional 'Tokyo Flavours and Dishes' tour of Ginza/Yurakucho. Enjoy happy hour Japanese-style, stroll alleyways filled with bars and snacks, and an authentic night out in Tokyo!

- **Accommodation**
Sunroute Asakusa Hotel - 3 Star
- **Meals**
Breakfast
- **Included Activities**
Hama Rikyu Garden Sightseeing
Meiji Jingu Sightseeing
Shibuya & Harajuku Walk
- **Optional Activities**
Tokyo Flavours and Dishes - 8,000 JPY
- **Entrance Fees**
Hama Rikyu Garden - 300 JPY

Day 4 : Tokyo, Hakone

Make the best of this morning in Tokyo on your own terms, or you can join an optional 'Kitchen Tour' to the world-famous Tsukiji fish market to sample some of Japan's iconic and tasty seafood and sashimi. This tour will follow a local guide through Tsukiji's outer markets, brimming with food stalls and retail shops. With over 2,500 tons and 450 types of fish coming through the wholesale market each day, your guide will provide plenty of information about the operations and importance of this world-famous fish market and the legendary tuna auctions. Next up, visit a nearby sake shop to sample Japan's beloved beverage of choice!

We will farewell Tokyo for the breath-taking Hakone region at noon. Grab a seat for the two-hour train journey as we head towards the mountainous town known for its hot springs (onsen) resorts and views of Mount Fuji. On arrival in Hakone, follow your guide on a walking tour and take a scenic boat tour along Lake Ashinoko while you snap some picture-perfect shots of Mount Fuji.

Explore the Hakone Shrine along the shore of Lake Ashinoko and visit the Tokaido Checkpoint to learn about its significance. Alternatively, you have the option to view the unique installations at Hakone Open Air Museum. Finish up the day with an included 30-minute gondola ride on the Owakudani Cable Car for views of the active sulfuric hot springs, Lake Ashinoko and Mount Fuji from above!

- **Accommodation**
Ichinoyu Shinkan - Ryokan
- **Meals**
Breakfast
- **Included Activities**
Hakone Sightseeing
Boat ride on Lake Ashinoko
Owakudani Cable Car
- **Optional Activities**
Tokyo's Kitchen Tour - 8,000 JPY
- **Entrance Fees**
Tokaido Checkpoint - 500 JPY
Hakone Shrine - Free

Day 5 : Hakone, Takayama

Kick-start the day with a scenic mountain train ride and hop on an express/bullet train that reaches speeds of 270 kilometres per hour as we make our way to Takayama! The journey will take approximately 5 hours and includes travel by local train and Shinkansen Bullet Train. Takayama is a charming city hidden in the mountainous region of Hida and made famous for its authentic Japanese touch and preserved old towns. This afternoon hop on a local bus for the Hida Folk Village and tag along your expert local guide to get a glimpse of a beautifully preserved sample of the Japanese culture, strolling along traditional thatched-roof homes built during the Edo Period of 1603-1967! Learn about the traditional Japanese way of life, crafts, and culture of these olden times. Tonight, put your feet up at the 4-star Wat Hotel and make the most of the beautiful onsen and spas.

- **Accommodation**
WAT Hotel - 4 Star
- **Meals Included**
Breakfast
- **Included Activities**
Hida Folk Village Tour

Day 6 : Takayama

After an included breakfast at the hotel, explore Takayama's morning market with your tour leader as we embark on our walking tour. This traditional market was established over 600 years ago and is a great way to interact with locals and tourists alike as you browse the crafts, flowers, and fresh produce for sale.

Continue strolling the town with visits to the Merchant House and Takayama Jinja Building. The rest of the day is free for you to explore the quaint town of Takayama, go on a nature walk, or hop on the optional day trip to Shirakawago with your guide at noon. If you enjoy sake, make sure to have a taste of Takayama's prized signature drop at a local store.

- **Accommodation**
WAT Hotel - 4 Star
- **Meals Included**
Breakfast
- **Included Activities**
Takayama Sightseeing
- **Optional Activities**
Shirakawago Day trip - 9,000 JPY
- **Entrance Fees**
Morning Market - Free
Merchant House - 700 JPY
Takayama Jinya Building - 430 JPY

Day 7 : Takayama, Hiroshima

Travel by express train and Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima (approximately 5 hours). Hiroshima is well known for the 1945 atomic bomb attack which destroyed the entire city within a 2km radius. After the war, great efforts were taken to rebuild Hiroshima. The city was tastefully reconstructed in a way that still pays tribute to the suffering, with a large park built in the city centre - *Peace Memorial Park*. Following your guide through the park, you will visit the Peace Memorial Museum to learn of the historical war events that took place here. Then, visit the A-Bomb Dome, one of few buildings that remained standing following the attack. Explore the sombre UNESCO World Heritage Site and listen carefully as your guide shares stories of Hiroshima's unique past. This evening, you can explore Hiroshima on your own, or join an optional Cooking Class & Dinner and learn to make a signature Japanese dish, the Okonomiyaki or savoury pancake!

- **Accommodation**
ARK Hotel Hiroshimaeki Minami - 3 Star
- **Meals Included**
Breakfast
- **Included Activities**
Peace Museum visit
Peace Park & A Bomb Dome
- **Optional Activities**
Okonomiyaki (Savoury Pancake) Cooking Class & Dinner - 5,000 JPY
- **Entrance Fees**
Peace Museum - 200 JPY

Day 8 : Hiroshima, Miyajima Island

Known as the 'romantic shrine Island' just 1 hour outside of Hiroshima, Miyajima Island makes for the perfect day trip and is home to some of Japan's best views. Visit the island with your local guide and explore the famous floating Torii Gate and Itsukushima-jinja Shrine.

Then, hop on the nearby cable car to the top of Mt Misen and embrace the 360-degree views of the inland sea. Enjoy some photo opportunities on the mountain top before returning to Hiroshima with free time in the late afternoon to enjoy the sites of the city. Your guide will be more than happy to offer tips and suggestions on what to see and do during your final night in Hiroshima.

- **Accommodation**
ARK Hotel Hiroshimaeki Minami - 3 Star
- **Meals Included**
Breakfast
- **Included Activities**
Miyajima Island Ferry & Sightseeing
- **Entrance Fees**
Itsukushima-jinja Shrine - 300 JPY
Cable Car to Mt. Misen - 1,000 JPY (one way)

Day 9 : Hiroshima, Himeji Castle, Kyoto

Travel by Shinkansen bullet train for approximately 1 hour before arriving at the spectacular Himeji Castle. This UNESCO World Heritage-listed castle is 400-year-old national treasure and has never been destroyed by war, earthquake, or fire. Explore the enchanting white castle with your guide before continuing to Kyoto via Shinkansen Bullet Train (approximately 1 hour). Considered the cultural and historic heart of the country, Kyoto is brimming with temples, shrines, peaceful gardens, geisha, restaurants, and shops. This traditional city is the perfect place to get lost in! After checking into the hotel, enjoy free time to explore Kyoto at your own pace. If you are feeling adventurous in the evening, join the group for an optional Kyoto Lanes & Lanterns walking tour to wander the backstreets of Gion, visit local spots off the beaten track, sample tasty Japanese snacks and explore the wooden walls and lanterns of Yasaka Shrine.

- **Accommodation**
Heianbo Ryokan
- **Meals Included**
Breakfast
- **Included Activities**
Himeji Castle Visit
- **Optional Activities**
Kyoto Lanes & Lanterns - 8,000 JPY
- **Entrance Fees**
Himeji Castle - 1,000 JPY

Day 10 : Kyoto

Enjoy a full day to explore the cultural hub of Japan as we roam the city by public bus. Your tour guide will lead you to three or four of the best locations to visit depending on the season (shrines, temples, local markets or museums), so listen carefully as they explain the significance and history of these fascinating sites. Learn about the best spots to visit around town and enjoy the afternoon freely to continue your discovery of charming Kyoto with your bus pass valid for the day.

- **Accommodation**
Heianbo Ryokan
- **Meals Included**
Breakfast
- **Included Activities**
Kyoto Sightseeing (1-day public bus pass)
- **Entrance Fees**
Kiyomizu-dera - 400 JPY
Imperial Palace - Free
Nanzenji Temple - Free
Shosei Strolling Garden - 500 JPY
Nishiki-Koji Market - Free
Gion Corner cultural centre - 3,150 JPY
Ryoanji Zen Garden - 500 JPY
Tenryuji Temple - 600 JPY
National Museum - 500 JPY

Day 11 : Kyoto

Today is yours to explore Kyoto and the surrounding towns! If exploring Buddhist temples and hanging out with friendly deer sounds tempting to you, join an optional half-day tour to the neighbouring city of Nara. Join a local guide as you meet the holy deer of Nara, learn about the surrounding temples, and stroll the beautiful backstreets of the old town. Feeling active in the afternoon? Join the group for a unique shopping tour with a local! This optional tour will take you to one of the most romantic and iconic regions of the city - Miyagawa-cho. Then, learn how to make two of the country's favourite treats - Sake and Wagashi Sweets. This optional tour also visits to a 300-year-old tearoom to try an abundance of different Japanese green teas. Don't forget to ask your guide what unique souvenirs you can purchase along the way. Alternatively, ask your local guide for tips and recommendations on what to do for a day exploring Kyoto independently.

- **Accommodation**
Heianbo Ryokan
- **Meals Included**
Breakfast
- **Optional Activities**
Essence of Nara Day Tour - 8,000 JPY
Made in Kyoto Shopping Tour - 8,000 JPY

Day 12 : Kyoto, Mount Koya

Today we will leave Kyoto and travel by train, cable car, and local bus (approximately 3 hours) before arriving at Mount Koya. Home to a small mountaintop Buddhist community, Mount Koya (Koyasan) is one of Japan's most magical destinations. Tonight, we will experience a stay like no other at a traditional *Shukubo*, a Buddhist Temple lodging. Mount Koya is home to more than 100 temples and monasteries, some of which you will visit with your local guide. The most famous and sacred landmark here is the otherworldly Okunoin Cemetery. Follow your guide as they share stories of the cemetery and explore the location of Kobo Daishi's (the founder of Shingon Buddhism) mausoleum. Visit the headquarters of Shingon at Kongobuji Temple and marvel at the beautiful Japanese rock gardens while you are here. After a day exploring Mount Koya, we will enjoy an included Shojin Ryori dinner, Buddhist vegetarian cuisine!

- **Accommodation**
Mount Koya Shukubo Monastery
- **Meals Included**
Breakfast, Dinner
- **Included Activities**
Mount Koya Monastery Sightseeing
Garan Sacred Area
Okunoin Cemetery and Kobo Daish Mausoleum
Kongobuji Visit
- **Entrance Fees**
Kongobuji - 1,000 JPY

Day 13 : Mount Koya, Osaka

Wake up early to catch the morning prayer service at your *Shukubo* lodge. Here you will witness the sacred Goma Ritual where a priest will burn wooden sticks in a fire to destroy negative energies and thoughts while beating the taiko drums and chanting. The ceremony is said to create a trance-like state and have a profound effect on those who witness it - so keep an open mind! Then, hop on a local bus, cable car, and train (approximately 2 hours) as we make our way to the city of Osaka. Enjoy free time in the afternoon to explore Japan's second-largest metropolitan area. You have the option to join Kansai Soul tour to discover why Osaka is considered the soul of the Kansai region. Explore old backstreets, markets, and retail areas away from tourists; discover the New York-inspired neighbourhood of Shinsekai; wander through the flashy, glittering, famed district of Dotonbori; and sample famous Osaka treats like kushi-katsu and takoyaki octopus balls.

- **Accommodation**
Hotel WBF Namba Kuromon - 3 Star
- **Meals Included**
Breakfast

- **Included Activities**
Morning Prayer Ceremony
Goma Fire Ceremony
- **Optional Activities**
Kansai Soul Osaka Food Tour - 8,000 JPY

Day 14 : Osaka

Fill up on breakfast because a big day exploring Osaka awaits! This vibrant and eclectic city is the heart and soul of the Kansai region, so let us get straight into it. First up, follow your guide to the Kuromon food market and explore some 150 shops selling culinary delights including fresh seafood, yakitori, sushi, and traditional sweets. Next up, make your way to Osaka Castle and explore the surrounding citadels, gates, and impressive stone moats. Continue with a stroll through Osaka's unmissable Dotonbori district to check out the neon-lit canals and try some Japanese-style street food. Spend your afternoon freely to shape your experience to your taste, there is no shortage of things to do in Osaka. Join your tour leader and travel mates for an optional group dinner to bid a proper farewell on our last night.

- **Accommodation**
Hotel WBF Namba Kuromon - 3 Star
- **Meals Included**
Breakfast
- **Included Activities**
Kuromon Market visit
Osaka Castle visit
Dotonbori Street sightseeing
- **Optional Activities**
Group Farewell Dinner
- **Entrance Fees**
Osaka Castle - 600 JPY

Day 15 : Depart Osaka, Fly to Australia

Today we say our goodbyes! Enjoy a final breakfast together before hotel check-out at 10:00. Roam through the backstreets of Osaka one last time before farewelling your new travel mates - until next time!

- **Meals Included**
Breakfast

Please note: The day by day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road & rail conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the benefit of clients. It is essential that clients are understanding and flexible in this regard.

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Affordable Holidays - How do we do it?

With over 30 years' in the business, we know the travel industry better than anyone and have tracked down the best experiences around the world. We go directly to local suppliers to source the best price and holiday for you. Dealing directly with local operators is why our holidays are more affordable. We work with reputable travel professionals that offer exceptional service and safe travel policies. If you think you are paying too much for your travel arrangements, please give us a call, we will work hard to find the ideal holiday for you - that's My Travel Experience!

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The wellbeing and safety of our passengers and staff is always a priority, especially as we adjust to a new world for travellers. My Travel Experience is committed to ensuring your peace of mind with customer-friendly booking practices and enhanced health & safety standards on our trips. We work closely with tour operators that have received the Safe Travels stamp by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), which enables travellers to recognise companies around the world that have adopted health and hygiene global standardised protocols. We are also able to offer our clients as much flexibility as possible when making bookings, will let you know of all travel operator conditions and will help you if any unexpected situations arise.

**Call 1300 168 910 to speak to us about
planning your personal holiday.**



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

Our full set of terms and conditions can be [viewed and downloaded on our website](#), or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

This is a summary in brief for our customers:

1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. Around 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents via email.

My Travel Experience operates a Client Trust bank account. This means that we do not hold your money. We pay the ultimate travel providers (Suppliers) of your travel services the funds for your holiday. The Suppliers include airlines, tour operators, cruise lines, transport companies, hotels etc. We are required to pay the Suppliers deposits and final payments to secure your booking and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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