Japan’s Cultural Treasures
Small Group Adventure
Japan: Tokyo, Hakone, Kanazawa, Kyoto

Maximize Your Discoveries & Value

Optional extensions:
Tokyo: Ancient & Modern Traditions
3 nights pre-trip $1095
Travel from only $365 per night

Itinerary Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAYS</th>
<th>DESTINATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fly to Tokyo, Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Tokyo</td>
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<td>5-6</td>
<td>Hakone</td>
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<td>7-9</td>
<td>Kanazawa</td>
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<td>10-14</td>
<td>Kyoto</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Return to U.S.</td>
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</tbody>
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It’s Included

- Explore in a small group of 8–16 travelers (average group size of 13)
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- All land transportation, including 3 rail transfers on bullet and local trains
- Accommodations for 13 nights
- 27 meals—13 breakfasts, 9 lunches, and 5 dinners
- 13 small group activities
- Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next adventure

DEPARTURE DATE: March 27, 2023

Reservations & Information 1-800-955-1925

www.oattravel.com/jpn2023
**Itinerary**

**DAY 1 • Depart U.S.**
Depart the U.S. today on your overnight flight to Tokyo, Japan.

**DAY 2 • Arrive Tokyo, Japan**
Arrive at the Tokyo airport today. An O.A.T. representative will meet you and assist with the transfer to our hotel in Tokyo. There, we’ll meet our Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers, including those who took the optional Tokyo: Ancient & Modern Traditions or New! South Korea: Seoul & Volcanic Jeju Island pre-trip extensions.

Lotte City Hotel Kinshicho or similar

**DAY 3 • Explore Tokyo • Meet former sumo wrestler • Explore Shinjuku**
Today, we’ll begin our first full day in Tokyo with a visit to a restaurant owned by a former sumo wrestler. We’ll enjoy an interactive demonstration of this iconic sport before engaging in conversation with a former wrestler who will share their experience with us—an exclusive O.A.T. feature. After lunch at the restaurant, you’ll have the freedom to explore on your own. You may wish to venture to Meiji Shrine, a Shinto holy place. Later in the evening, join your Trip Experience Leader on an orientation walk around your hotel.

B,L—Lotte City Hotel Kinshicho or similar

**DAY 4 • Tokyo • Taiko drumming experience • Explore Asakusa • Controversial Topic: Female sushi chefs & gender discrimination with sushi chef Yuki Chizui**
After breakfast, we’ll take the subway to visit a taiko studio. Taikos are traditional Japanese drums, and we’ll learn more about the history of these instruments when we speak with the drum master this morning. Then, we’ll travel to the Asakusa area, where we’ll stroll down streets that host more than 100 shops selling everything from kitchen appliances to hand-cut glass.

We’ll have lunch at a women-owned and operated sushi restaurant where we’ll learn about the Controversial Topic of gender discrimination in the world of sushi chefs, followed by free time this afternoon. Tonight, we gather for a Welcome Dinner.

B,L,D—Lotte City Hotel Kinshicho or similar

**DAY 5 • Overland to Hakone • A Day in the Life of Minamiashigara Village**
We travel to Hakone today, stopping along the way at Minamiashigara Village to enjoy an immersive A Day in the Life experience. We’ll visit a community farm before joining a local family for lunch. This afternoon, we’ll meet the master of a local karate studio, or dōjō, for a demonstration of this ancient martial art. Then, we’ll visit a local children’s nursery before we resume our journey to Hakone, arriving in late afternoon.

B,L,D—TKP Hotel & Resort Rekutore Hakone Gora or similar

**DAY 6 • Hakone • Wood workshop visit • Meet with local fisherman at Lake Ashi**
Today, we’ll get to know a local fisherman and understand the nature of this important industry in Hakone. Then, we’ll visit a woodcraft shop to see intricately carved, wooden inlaid pieces and learn how they’re produced. Afterward, we’ll eat lunch at a geisha house, watch a traditional performance, and talk to the women who keep the art of the geisha alive. This afternoon, we’ll return to the hotel where you’ll have free time.

Please note: Alternative activities may be substituted for some of the visits described above depending on weather.

B,L,D—TKP Hotel & Resort Rekutore Hakone Gora or similar

**DAY 7 • Bullet train • Express train to Kanazawa**
Today, we ride our first shinkansen (bullet train), boarding in Odawara for the first leg of our journey. At 200 mph, it remains among the fastest trains in the world. Later, we’ll take a limited express train
to Kanazawa, enjoying a view of Japan's rolling countryside and modern cityscapes.

B,D—Hotel Kanazawa or similar

DAY 8 • Explore Kanazawa • Visit Kenrokuken Garden • Controversial Topic: Nuclear energy with Fukushima survivor • Visit gold leaf factory • Omicho Market visit

We'll begin exploring Kanazawa with a visit to the Kenrokuken Garden, considered one of the most beautiful in Japan. Then, we'll meet with a Fukushima evacuee for a Controversial Topic about their firsthand account of the 2011 nuclear disaster. After, we'll walk around the Higashi Chaya District, known for its teahouses where geishas perform. Then, we'll visit a local company famous for its gold leaf production for an introduction to this intricate craft and a hands-on lesson before we visit the 300-year-old Omicho Market.

B,—Hotel Kanazawa or similar

DAY 9 • Kanazawa • Optional Gokayama tour

After breakfast, enjoy free time to explore Kanazawa on your own or you can join us for a full-day optional excursion to Gokayama—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This village, located in the remote Chubu Mountains, is renowned for its distinctive gassho-zukuri—style homes, which feature steeply pitched thatched roofs.

B—Hotel Kanazawa or similar

DAY 10 • Kanazawa • Home-Hosted Visit: Tea with a local family • Train to Kyoto

This morning, we have a Home-Hosted Visit with a local family, sitting down for tea and to get a firsthand glimpse of Japanese life. Following this opportunity, we ride the rails to Kyoto, Japan’s imperial capital from the eighth to 19th centuries. This city remains an important cultural center today, and has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Later, we'll enjoy an orientation walk around the neighborhood.

B,L,D—Aranvert Hotel or similar

DAY 11 • Kyoto • Arashiyama Bamboo Grove • Kinkakuji • Controversial Topic: Discrimination of ethnic Koreans in Japan

This morning, we’ll explore the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove before we visit Kinkakuji, the Temple of the Golden Pavilion. Then, we’ll venture to the outskirts of Kyoto for a Controversial Topic about the discrimination faced by ethnic minority Koreans living in Japan. Then the rest of the day is free for you to make your own discoveries.

B,L—Aranvert Hotel or similar

DAY 12 • Kyoto • Nara • Matcha tea experience

Today we'll explore Nara, visiting Todaiji Temple and Kasuga Shrine, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. At Todaiji Temple, the largest wooden building in the world, we’ll view its 52-foot bronze Buddha; in the temple’s park, we may spot its free-roaming deer. Then, we’ll visit a local tea company for a matcha tea-making demonstration and a hands-on experience of grinding our own green tea using a mill stone.

B,—Aranvert Hotel or similar

DAY 13 • Kyoto • Visit Buddhist Temple • Sushi-making in Kameoka

We head to Senkoji Temple. We’ll try Zen meditation and have a tea ceremony. Then, we’ll embark on a boat ride to Togetsu Bridge, followed by a visit to Heki-tei, a house where samurai once lived and trained. Here, we’ll learn to make sushi. Then the rest of the day is free for you to make your own discoveries.

*Please note:* This day includes an uphill walk of 200 steps to reach Senkoji Temple. Travelers do not have to participate in this walk.

B,L—Aranvert Hotel or similar

DAY 14 • Kyoto • Visit to ninja martial arts studio • Grand Circle Foundation visit: Kyoto’s YWCA • Controversial Topic: Empowering single mothers in a male-dominated society

Today, we’ll visit a local ninja martial arts studio, where we’ll have the opportunity to sit in on the students’ practice. Then, we’ll visit Kyoto’s YWCA (Young Women’s Christian Association) — a NEW Grand Circle Foundation site—which offers community services to meet the needs of women, children, and foreign residents in Japan. Here, we’ll learn about the Controversial Topic of the increased divorce rate in Japan and the impact it has had on the lives—and independence—of single mothers. You have the rest of the afternoon on your own to make independent discoveries. Tonight, we’ll celebrate our Japan adventure during a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

B,D—Aranvert Hotel or similar

DAY 15 • Return to U.S.

Today, transfer to the airport in Osaka for your flight home, or to Kagoshima to begin your New! Kyushu Island: Ancient Temples & Castles in a Subtropical Oasis extension. Travelers taking our optional Hiroshima: City of Peace post-trip extension will transfer to Hiroshima by bullet train today.

B

Expanding your discoveries with these optional tours

**GOKAYAMA** (Day 9 • $150 per person)

This full-day optional excursion highlights the remote mountain village of Gokayama, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its distinctive gassho-zukuri homes. We’ll also visit a workshop to see how washi—a thick, fibrous paper made from mulberry bark—is created, and savor a traditional lunch of soba (buckwheat noodles) at a local restaurant.

**NARA** (Day 12 • $165 per person)

This excursion takes us to the city of Nara—the capital of Japan before Kyoto—to explore two UNESCO World Heritage Sites. First, we visit Todaiji Temple, the largest wooden building in the world. We then continue on to Kasuga Shinto Shrine, which dates back to AD 768. We’ll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel.
Discover
the ancient legacies of Japan …

**Kanazawa**

Between the 16th and 18th centuries, Kanazawa was a prosperous castle town, and it has been one of Japan’s cultural centers ever since. It is famous today for its unique architecture, exquisite Kaga-style handicrafts, and the Kenrokuen Garden, one of the most beautiful in Japan. The Nagamachi quarter features several former samurai homes still standing on winding streets. The 300-year-old Omicho Market, known locally as Kanazawa’s Kitchen, is a very busy gathering place. We’ll join right in with the locals during a stroll through this popular market stocked with row upon row of fresh vegetables, fruit, and fish offered for sale to households and private restaurants.

**Hakone**

A popular retreat for Japanese locals, Hakone is an area of steaming hot springs and dramatic lava formations of the Owakudani Valley, formed 3,000 years ago by the last eruption of Mount Hakone. Our discoveries during our stay in this region of natural beauty include a visit to a local village and a scenic boat cruise along placid Ashinoko Lake, where clear weather often delivers breathtaking views of nearby Mount Fuji, longtime inspiration for Japanese paintings, poetry, and song.

**Tokyo**

Tokyo is in many ways more than a single city. Its distinct districts and styles set it apart from most other world-class destinations—and within Tokyo are several large areas that qualify as cities on their own. But a visit here provides a chance to see at least parts of perhaps the world’s busiest and most complex metropolitan area. With the help of our local Trip Experience Leader, our small group of 8-16 travelers (average of 13) will capture a glimpse of Tokyo’s fascinating culture when we connect with a former sumo wrestler to learn about Japan’s traditional sport and dive into Japan’s history during a visit to a taiko studio to learn about these traditional drums.

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**March 27, 2023 Prices**

Additional departure cities are available

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<th>AIR ADD-ONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Small Group Adventure only</td>
<td>$4595</td>
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**AIR ADD-ONS**

| Los Angeles | $1200 |
| San Francisco | $1300 |
| Sacramento | $1400 |

Additional departure cities are available. Call for details.

**Deposit:** $350 per person.

**Single Supplement:** FREE. Single accommodations are limited. If single rooms are full, ask about our Roommate Matching Service.

**Months That You Pay in Full Prior to Your Final Payment Due Date (90 days prior to your departure date)**

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<th>Good Buy Plan Savings Per Person:</th>
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Make your final payment by check within 120 days

$50 off

**Good Buy Plan savings are calculated based on total reservation cost.**

For more information, visit [www.oattravel.com/gbd](http://www.oattravel.com/gbd)

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**RESERVATIONS & INFORMATION:**

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**PLEASE MENTION THIS CODE WHEN BOOKING**

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