

14 Day Discover The Wonders Of Japan Off The Beaten Path



CUSTOM ITINERARY - YOUR FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS DATES - 14 DAY ITINERARY



14 Day Japan Itinerary: Discover The Wonders Of Japan Off The Beaten Path



HIGHLIGHTS

Discover Japan
Get off the beaten track and discover the wonders of Japan. As well as Tokyo and Kyoto, you'll discover lesser-known destinations such as 17th-Century Kanazawa, home to oldworld culture and arts.
UNESCO World Heritage sites, mountainous towns in the Hilda Alpine regions



and a wealth of cultural and culinary delights. Journey by bullet train, bike, foot and even cable car to discover the charm and diversity of this fascinating country.

Day 1 Arrival Japan: US - Tokyo



Upon arrival in Tokyo, your Guest Services Representative will be waiting to assist you through immigration and customs and forward to baggage claim, where you will meet your private English-speaking Driver. Your luggage will be managed and you will be transferred to your hotel.

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be met by the concierge who will welcome you with a VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

After Check-in, you are at leisure to explore on your own, relax in the hotel or enjoy a relaxing and rejuvenating spa experience.

Lunch & Dinner are on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dinning in Tokyo.

Day 2 Japan: Tokyo







Royal Monistary

Kabuki Theater





Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).

After Breakfast, you will be given an orientation session to familiarize you with Tokyo and the procedures in your itinerary program.

After the orientation, you will meet your private driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for the half-day guided city tour which ends with a visit to local sightseeing spots.

The guide will show you how to use the PASMO card and other transportation passes, and they will also be on hand to provide recommendations for the following self-guided days.

Lunch will be en-route today. Your guide will offer suggestions for dining in the area. (Payment direct to the restaurant at time of service).





After the tour, you will be returned to your hotel, where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.



At the appropriate time, you will experience a very special and unique Dinner with a Geisha.



Mysterious and exotic, exploring the world of a Geisha is fascinating. Enjoy dinner with her, learning about her craft. Then watch her dance. You can play Japanese drinking games too.

After dinner and the entertainment, you will be returned to your hotel, where you are at leisure for the remainder of the evening.

Day 3 Japan: Tokyo



Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).

After breakfast, you are at leisure, free to relax in the hotel, enjoy the spa, or explore Tokyo at your leisure.



Tokyo Culture Center





Lunch is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dinning in Tokyo.

At the appropriate time this evening, you will meet your private professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel, for guided Japanese food crawl. The izakaya is a type of Japanese bar in which a variety of small, typically inexpensive, dishes and snacks are served to accompany the alcoholic drinks. like a They have been compared to Irish pubs, tapas bars and early American saloons and taverns.

Veer off into the maze of laneways that fill the capital, sampling barbecued meats and sweet desserts, before you enter an izakaya for a distinctly Japanese experience.

These small pubs are popular gathering places for an after-work beer, and traditional izakaya favorites like chicken wings and cold edamame are served as tapas.



After the Food Crawl, you will be returned to your hotel, where you are at leisure for the remainder of the evening. **You may select to remain in the city on your own to continue to explore. You would make your own way back to the hotel.

Day 4 Japan: Tokyo

Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel, for a visit to the electronics district of Akihabara.







Lunch is on your own today en-route. Your guide will offer recommendations for dining in the area. (payment direct to restaurant at time of service).



After lunch, you will have the opportunity of discovering with your guide, Tokyo's world-class art galleries.

Alternatively, You can use the included Japan Rail Pass for a day trip outside Tokyo to Kamakura or Nikko.



One of Japan's former capitals, Kamakura is a seaside home to ancient shrines, temples, and the Daibutsu, a bronze Buddha that stands at 13-meter tall.





Nikko lies in a northern mountainous region, and you can visit the Toshogu Shrine complex and the Tamozawa Imperial Villa.



Day 5 Japan: Tokyo - Kanazawa

Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).



After breakfast, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel, for your transfer to Kanazawa.

Upon arrival in Kanazawa at the hotel, you will be met by the concierge who will welcome you with a VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

After Check-in, you will meet your professional local guide in the lobby of the hotel who will join you and your driver for a half day tour of Kanazawa.

In the 17th century, Kanazawa used to be Japan's wealthiest area and a thriving center for the arts. Today you will explore a few of the sites in this gracious area.





You will start with Kenroku-en Garden, located in Kanazawa, Ishikawa, Japan, is an old private garden. Along with Kairaku-en and Kōraku-en, Kenroku-en is one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan.







Next you will visit the Kanazawa Castle which is accessed through the Ishikawa-mon Gate.







Afterwards, we will have Lunch is at Omicho Market today; known throughout Japan for its fresh seafood and fine sushi. (Payment direct to the market at time of service)

Finally, there's Nomura House, a restored residence of a samurai family.











You will be returned to your hotel after the tour today.

Dinner are on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dinning in Kanazawa.





Day 6 Japan: Kanazawa - Shirahawago Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking Driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to Shirajawago. a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its gassho-zukuri farmhouses.



Gassho-zukuri means "constructed like hands in prayer," referring to the farmhouses' steep thatched roofs.

This traditional architectural style allows the roofs, which can withstand heavy snow, to be constructed without nails.

Wada House is open to the public – a legacy left behind by the Wada Family who used to be the richest family in Ogimachi.

You will be returned to your hotel after the tour today.



Dinner are on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dinning in Shirakawago.



Day 7 Japan: Shirakawago - Takayama

Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking Driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to Takayama.

Journey to Takayama, a small town situated in the Hida Alpine region of Gifu Prefecture. Wander through Takayama's shitamachi to see the century-old merchants' homes and sake breweries.

Stop at one of the breweries for a taste of the local drop and try the famous Hida beef sushi.

After the tour, you will check into a traditional Japanese ryokan (inn) furnished with low furniture, sliding shoji doors, and tatami flooring.



Dinner is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dinning in Takayama.



Day 8 Japan: Takayama

Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tour of Takayama today.







Explore Takayama with your guide, learning about the town's history and familiarizing your taste buds with local delicacies.

The walking tour includes visits to a tofu seller and a rakugan (traditional candies) shop.

Hida Furukawa, a quiet farm village, is a 15-minute cycle away. It's well-known for its machiya houses as well as the view of the surrounding Japanese Alps.

Spend an afternoon passing rice paddies and old houses, taking a closer look at the lifestyle in this rural region.





After the tour, you will be returned to your hotel, where you are at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner are on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dinning in Takayama.









Day 9 Japan: Takayama – Kyoto

Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to **Kyoto**.





Today's destination is Kyoto, the reigning cultural capital of Japan, home to 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and 2,000 shrines and temples.













In the afternoon, enjoy an authentic tea ceremony in a machiya, a beautiful restored wooden townhouse typical of Kyoto.

After getting dressed in your kimono by your host, the tea master will teach you the dos and don'ts during the ceremony as well as the proper way of drinking the tea.



















Traditional tea ceremony

The ritual of preparing and drinking tea lies at the heart of Japanese culture. Clad in a traditional Kimono, you'll receive instruction from a tea master and sample revitalizing teas.



After the tour, you will be returned to your hotel, where you are at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dinning in Kyoto.

Day 10 Japan: Kyoto

Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tours in **Kyoto**















Start your day with a bike tour through Gion, Kyoto's entertainment district. Pedal along Miyagawa-cho, a narrow lane lined with machiya houses, stopping for photos of these well-preserved dwellings.



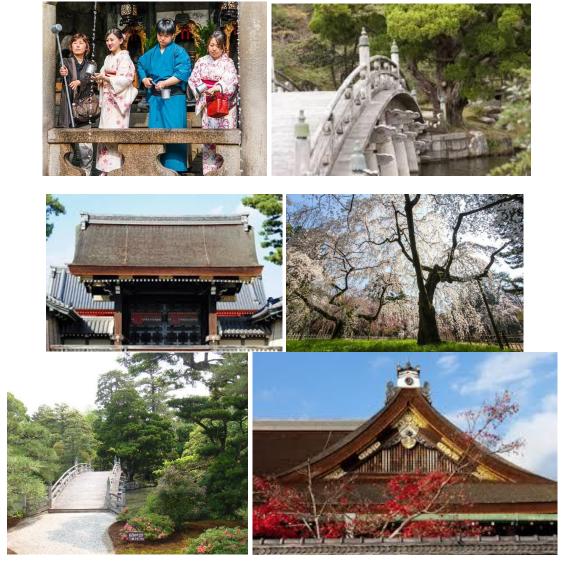
Continue along Shirakawa Canal, passing okiya and ochaya where Geishas and Maikos live and work.







Turn onto Hanami-koji "flower-viewing street" and cycle to Imperial Palace Park, where the Imperial Family's residence used to stand.



Then drop the bikes at the depot and spend the afternoon at your favourite spot.















After the tour, you will be returned to your hotel, where you are at leisure for the remainder of the day

Dinner are on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dinning in Kyoto.

Day 11 Japan: Kyoto - Koyasan





Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tour to Koyasan.





Koyasan has been the centre of Shingon Buddhism for over 1,200 years and is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. The journey there is one of the highlights of the visit, with the final ascent by a cable car up to the mountains.





You can visit Kongobu-ji, the head temple of Shingon Buddhism.









Continue to Okuno-in, Japan's largest cemetery that holds the mausoleum of Kobo Daishi.













The Mausoleum of Kobo Daishi











The guide will then escort you to the shukubo 'temple lodge' where Buddhist cuisine is served.









After the tour, you will be returned to your hotel, where you are at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner are on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dinning in Kyoto.

Day 12 Japan: Kyoto

Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your Geisha Tour today in Kyoto.





Nishijin Textile Center: This is a traditional-industry touring facility for a hands-on experience of the traditional culture of Japanese clothing. **Your first experience includes a Kimono fashion show.**





Kimono Wearing Experience

We will lend you footwear and undergarments as well. You can enjoy this experience without having to worry about bringing your own additional clothing.

Hair and makeup is not included. There are over 150 fashionable Komon (fine pattern) kimonos to choose from.

You can have pictures taken inside the textile center, and you can go outside and enjoy a stroll through the city of Kyoto, dressed in a kimono.





Junihitoe (12-layered ceremonial kimono) -

You can experience wearing the full kimono dress of the nobility from the Heian era by wearing authentic garments.

* 12-Layered Kimono is worn by women only.

Sokutai (ceremonial court dress)



The ceremonial court dress can be worn by both men and women. Our kimonos are available up to 145cm in height size.

- Hair and make-up, and souvenir photograph (cabinet size
- Please bring your own make-up.
- 80n Minutes
- A professional photographer will take photos at the kimono studio. Please refrain from taking your own photos.





Dress Up Like a Maiko (an apprentice Geisha)

Their jobs consist of performing songs, dances, and playing the shamisen or other traditional Japanese instruments) for visitors during ozashiki.

Enjoy the elegancant kimono, by dressing up like a Maiko . X This kimono wearing experience is for women only. For Maiko children (Handara), the height size is available starting from 135cm.

- Hair and make-up, and souvenir photograph (cabinet size
- Please bring your own make-up.
- 80n Minutes
- A professional photographer will take photos at the kimono studio. Please refrain from taking your own photos.







Dress Up Like a Geiko (Literally translating to 'arts person', geisha **are** highly trained in Japanese traditional arts, including music, singing and dancing.

By contrast, **geiko is** primarily used to refer to geisha from Kyoto.)

Enjoy the glamorous kimono, by dressing up like a Geiko. X This kimono wearing experience is for women only.

- •Hair and make-up, and souvenir photograph (cabinet size
- •Please bring your own make-up.
- •80n Minutes
- •A professional photographer will take photos at the kimono studio. Please refrain from taking your own photos.

After the Kimono Experiences, it is time for some interactive workshops related to the Silk Industry and what is traditionally done with the silk in Japan.

How This Gorgeous Silk Is Made:

Diorama Exhibition (2F)



Did you know silk is made from threads generated by the silkworm? Ever wonder about the life a silkworm?

On this tour, you learn the process from worm to cocoon as well as how the silk is extracted with vidoes as well as dioramas. This program is designed to be enjoyable for all ages.





Silkworm Breeding Farm (2F)





Here you will be able to observe how silkworms eat and how they produce threads.

The demonstration of "Zakuri" will most definitely be an interesting experience.

Pure Japanese Silk & Textile Production Workshop (2F)





Recently, silk that has been purely produced in Japan have become a rare commodity to come by.

Our staff produce silk threads one by one making effort to pass on the cultural tradition and knowledge to future generations. All our products are inspected and marked with a sticker "100% Japanese Silk" ensuring of its high quality.

100% Japanese silk will never shrink or wrinkle. It feels cool in the summer and warm in the winter. You can even experience making your own silk scarf if you wish to.

Handweaving Demonstration (2F)



You can enjoy watching handweaving, demonstrated by a traditional craftsman. In addition, you can see the weaving style, called Nishijin Tsumekaki Hon Tsuzurebata, which is a method of weaving by gathering the stitches by finger nail.

It is a highly-skilled technique.

Handweaving Experience,



We have 50 mini handlooms. You can weave a table center cloth (approx. 20cm x 30cm in size). After completing your project, you can take it home with you as a souvenir.







Scarf Making Experience, Make your own original handwoven scarf with domestically produced pure silk threads. Silk scarf, approx. 20cm x 180 in size. It can be worn during both in the summer to stay cool, and in winter to keep warm; a perfect gift for your friends or family.





Handmade Academy

Use Nishijin's Kireji woven fabric and templates to create items such as tote bags, hats, Sukiya (traditionally to carry tea ceremony utensils) pouch, and others. Beginners are welcome too. You also have the option to make an authentic Amami Oshima Tsumugi, using Kireji fabric. Make a Bag, Hat, Sukiya Pouch, Cloth Bag, or Purse.



We have deep affilations with the World Heritage Site "The Tomioka Silk Mill" as well as the Silk Industry Heritage Group in Gunma Prefecture. In fact, we considered a sister entity to the Gunma Prefectural Japanese Silk Village. We often exchange information and promote our works as well as distribute each

others original works.



An Introduction to the Production Process (1F)





- 1. Planning of fabric patterns.
- 2. Preperation of original materials.
- 3. Loom machine preperation.
- 4. The weaving process.
- 5. Final touches.

These 5 processes account for more than 20 different tasks. The pictures on display will explain in further detail.



The History Room (3F)

Here you can find exhibitions of historical artifacts such as clothing as well as fabrics that reveal the history of Nishijin textile.

We also have historical cultural properties such as the wooden Jacquard machine along with the necessary documents required for purchasing a loom during the Meiji period.



Lastly, for a grand Finale, you will experience an authentic Geisha Show.

Watch the maiko in their colourful kimono, dancing in the elegant show.





Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will recommend dining options en-route.

After lunch, you will continue on with your Geisha Tour and explore Flower Town.

The guide will take you out to explore one of the city's hanamachi "flower town" where geisha live and work.











The local restaurants serve the ever-inviting kaiseki ryori (traditional Japanese multicourse meal).

The guide can then take you back to the hotel or you can choose to spend the rest of the evening unescorted.





Dinner is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dinning in Kyoto.



Day 13 Japan: Kyoto – Kiso Valley





Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).

After breakfast, check out of your hotel & meet your private English-speaking Driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to Kiso Valley.

Start the journey through Nakasendo Way in Kiso Valley.

Upon arriving in Magome, you will be delivered to your hotel for check-in. Your luggage will be handled and delivered to your accommodation.

Tsumago is an historic town full of ancient reminders of the Edo period in which it thrived. In 1970, this small town was classified as a National Designated Architectural Preservation Site thanks to the collective effort of its locals to preserve most of the remaining historical buildings.

After check-in, you will enjoy lunch en-route. Your guide will offer recommendations for dining in the Kiso Valley and Magome.



You have an option to stay in a traditional **Minshuku Daikichi.**

This traditional Japanese inn dates back to feudal times, and in typical *minshuku* style comprises of just five small, simply furnished rooms with tatami mats and futon bedding, each of which enjoys views over the nearby wooded valley.

This is an ideal location for those who wish to explore the historic highway of Nakasendo Way.



Today you will enjoy a hiking journey in the Nakasendo Way, the 332-mile route traditionally linked Nara and Kyoto. You won't be going that far – on this tour you will explore only a very small portion of this famous highway, walking at a leisure pace and taking in all that this landscape has to offer.

Alternatively, you can choose to return to Tokyo today and enjoy more of Japan's capital.







Today, much of the route is through urban sprawl, with yellow and white stones set in the tarmac to mark the Nakasendo road. But some sections have remained much as they always were and a few of the 69 towns along the route, known as post stations, where travellers rested each night, remain resilient to the Japanese tendency to tear down the old and build anew.

Arguably the prettiest section of the route runs through the Kiso Valley. In spring the valley is decorated with cherry blossoms and in autumn the golden foliage of Japanese maples.

You will tread upon the road that has been worn down over the centuries by the footsteps of thousands of travellers. Now, there is barely a soul in sight but this trail would have once been teeming with people – commoners walked, nobles were carried in enclosed norimons, while samurai travelled on horseback.



You are now in a stretch of the Nakasendo, a 332-mile route linking Kyoto with Edo (now Tokyo) through the Kiso Mountains in central Japan. It is one of five roads used during the Edo period (1603 to 1868) when the emperor in Kyoto no longer held power over the country, having been usurped by the military, headed by the most senior samurai, the shogun in Edo.

After your hike, you will return to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Lunch & Dinner is on your own. Your guide will make arrangements for lunch and you can enjoy dinner in the town tonight.



Day 14 Japan: Kiso Valley - Tokyo

(Note, this itinerary would be Day 13 if you chose to return to Tokyo instead of the hike)

Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).



After breakfast, check out of your hotel & meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the train station **Tokyo**.

Get back to Tokyo by train today.

Upon arrival at the Train station in Tokyo, you will be met by your private English-speaking driver and transferred to your hotel.

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be met by the concierge who will welcome you with a private check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

After checking into your accommodation, you're free to explore in more depth the surroundings you discovered on your first day or enjoy one of the optional tours you missed.



After lunch, you will have the opportunity of discovering with your guide, Tokyo's world-class art galleries.

Alternatively, You can use the included Japan Rail Pass for a day trip outside Tokyo to Kamakura or Nikko.

One of Japan's former capitals, Kamakura is a seaside home to ancient shrines, temples, and the Daibutsu, a bronze Buddha that stands at 13-meter tall.







Nikko lies in a northern mountainous region, and you can visit the Toshogu Shrine complex and the Tamozawa Imperial Villa.



Other Options for this last day in Tokyo:

Visit The Tokyo Science Museum











Enjoy A Sumo Tournament.





Fish market Walk & Sushi Lunch. Enjoy selecting your own fish, learn how to cook it, and enjoy a luncheon after the preparations.

Tsukiji fish market is a riot of flappingly fresh seafood. You'll buy fresh tuna and wasabi, then prepare a whole range of sense-dazzling sushi dishes. Lunch is of course, included.





Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Tokyo.

Day 15 Japan: Kiso Valley - Tokyo

(Note, this itinerary would be Day 14 if you chose to return to Tokyo instead of the hike)

Breakfast in the hotel (Included in your package).

After breakfast, check out of your hotel & meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the airport to meet your international flight to the US & Forward to Home.

End of Services.

Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today! 678-500-9548

Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!