



ALL-INCLUSIVE

All in Japan

12 Nights

Tokyo > Hiroshima > Kyoto > Awara Onsen > Kanazawa > Tokyo

INSIDE
Japan

Visit Himeji, Japan's largest original feudal castle

Enjoy dinner with a performance by one of Kyoto's geisha or *maiko*

Head to the top of Mount Misen on Miyajima Island

Visit the sobering Hiroshima Peace Park and museum

Learn about zazen meditation at Daianzen-ji Temple

Try your hand at traditional *taiko* drumming

IJT ALL-INCLUSIVE TOURS

Explore Japan's classic sights and lesser-known spots secure in the knowledge that every cost is included – from your lunch to your luggage handling.

Style Facts

- Local professional guides & experts in key destinations (in addition to your tour leader)
- Four-star accommodation
- En-suite rooms in all locations
- Meet-and-greet airport transfers
- All transport between destinations (mainly by private coach but with at least one bullet train journey)
- All meals and some drinks included
- A mix of sightseeing and hands-on activities
- Evening entertainment at several destinations
- All entrance fees included
- Luggage handling between all destinations
- Guaranteed maximum of 16 travellers
- Solo travellers: a single room is available throughout on payment of a mandatory supplement

Tour Overview

With all meals, transport, and luggage handling included – there's nothing for you to do on All-In Japan but sit back and enjoy the ride. Covering Japan's classic destinations with a few unusual twists, this trip is full of bursting with cultural experiences designed to give you a comprehensive and stress-free introduction to Japan.

Sometimes, a holiday should just be a holiday: a chance to relinquish all responsibilities, make no decisions, and worry about absolutely nothing. On *All-In Japan*, you'll do just this. Leaving every aspect of your trip to us, from your lunch to your luggage, you'll be free to concentrate on immersing yourself in Japanese culture – safe in the knowledge that you don't have a penny to pay on the ground.

This tour is an exhilarating journey through Japan's history and traditions, from the refined geisha houses of Kyoto to Tokyo's exuberant *taiko* drumming workshops. Tour the ancient temples of Kyoto, visit the biggest original castle in Japan at Himeji, and experience *zazen* meditation at a beautiful temple deep in Fukui Prefecture.

Try your hand at confectionary-making in Kanazawa, visit the fascinating Peace Memorial Park and Museum in Hiroshima, and take a trip out to the "floating" torii gate on Miyajima Island, inhabited by friendly shika deer. Forget the tour bus bubble – we'll take you to meet the artisans, restaurateurs and small business owners who make all this possible.

It's not all temples and tradition, however, and we'll make sure you're well-acquainted with modern Japan – from a tour of Tokyo's fashionable Omotesando and Aoyama districts with its many architecturally interesting buildings to Kanazawa's outstanding 21st Century Art Museum.

One of the great features of this tour is the balance of free time and evening entertainment, and you'll try a huge range of cuisines in all sorts of settings – including do-it-yourself *okonomiyaki* pancakes, multi-course *kaiseki* meals, plus an evening dinner with a dance performance from a trainee geisha.

All-In Japan is all about comfort and peace of mind, but don't let that fool you – this is all-inclusive as you've never seen it before: full-on, fast-paced, and packed full of action.



Day by day

Many of our customers choose to arrive a day or two early to get over jet-lag and get the most out of the tour. Whatever the case, we will be happy to make arrangements to suit your needs.

Day 1 Tokyo (D)

On arrival at Tokyo's Narita Airport you will be picked up for your shared shuttle back to your hotel in the heart of the city. Your tour leader will be waiting to meet you and answer any questions, and this evening you'll be able to get to know your group over a delicious welcome meal at a local restaurant.

Day 2 Tokyo (B, L, D)

We'll start the day with an exhilarating *taiko* drumming lesson, where you'll be introduced to the energetic, choreographed movements of Japan's traditional drumming.

Afterwards, we'll set off on a walking tour of Omotesando, Aoyama, and Harajuku, admiring the district's striking architecture and vibrant atmosphere. Our stroll will lead us to Meiji Shrine, one of Tokyo's most important spiritual sites, where you'll learn about Shinto traditions and the fascinating contrasts between old and new Japan.

This afternoon, we'll take a private coach across town to Asakusa, the most traditional area in the city. Here, you can wander the historic streets, explore lively market stalls, and visit Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest and most iconic temple.

Day 3 Hiroshima (B, L, D)

This morning we'll hop on the *shinkansen*, Japan's world-famous bullet train, for a speedy journey westward to Hiroshima. For lunch we'll sample the typical fare of the Japanese traveller – an *ekiben* "station lunchbox" – complete with included origami set to keep you entertained.

On arrival in Hiroshima, we'll travel by private coach from the station to our hotel and have a chance to freshen up before we head to the Peace Memorial Park and Museum to learn a little more about the events of 6th August 1945. This evening, we'll lighten the mood with a bit of cookery: learn how to make *okonomiyaki*, the cabbage or noodle-based pancake typical of this part of Japan.

Day 4 Hiroshima (B, L, D)

On day four, we'll jump on a boat at the Peace Park for the 45-minute journey across Hiroshima Bay to the island of Miyajima, a beautiful island on the Seto Inland Sea. Though Miyajima is most famous for its World Heritage Shrine and "floating" torii gate, you're sure to enjoy the traditional town centre and its friendly local deer.

Day 5 Kyoto (B, L, D)

This morning we'll leave Hiroshima behind and head east toward Kyoto, Japan's former capital and cultural heart. Travelling once again by *shinkansen*, we'll stop off along the way in Himeji for a visit to one of Japan's finest castles. Himeji is one of just a handful of original feudal castles left in Japan, and it's the biggest of all. After a five-year facelift, it's never looked so impressive! Finally, arriving in Kyoto, we'll check in to our hotel and have time to relax and freshen up before an evening that is sure to be one of the trip highlights. We'll be joined at dinner this evening by a *maiko* (trainee geisha) who will give a dance performance followed by time for photos and questions, giving us a rare insight into this secretive world.

Day 6 Kyoto (B, L, D)

On day six we'll have a full day of sightseeing in Kyoto, giving you an in-depth introduction to this historic city. Travelling by private coach, we'll stop at the Golden Pavilion at Kinkaku-ji, the Zen rock garden at Ryōan-ji Temple, and some other of the city's hidden sites.

Day 7 Kyoto (B, L, D)

On day seven, we'll have another day to explore Kyoto and its impressive cultural heritage. Today's sightseeing will include visits to Gion, the old geisha quarter and Kennin-ji Temple, one of the five most important Zen temples in Kyoto.

Finally, to round off our first busy day in Kyoto, we'll head out this evening to GEAR – an exciting, non-verbal theatre show that will provide an interesting modern counterpoint to Kyoto's more traditional arts.

Day 8 Awara Onsen (B, L, D)

Today, we'll travel by private coach to Awara Onsen, stopping along the way to explore the partially reconstructed ruins of Ichijodani Castle Town. We'll also visit the beautiful Daianzen-ji Temple, we'll enjoy a lesson in *zazen* meditation under the tutelage of a temple priest – all the better to appreciate the quiet beauty of our surroundings.

This evening we'll spend the night at a traditional Japanese inn, or *ryokan*, with an included dinner of fine *kaiseki* cuisine. Don't miss the chance to try out the hot-spring baths – an integral part of any *ryokan* stay!

Day 9 Kanazawa (B, L, D)

Sleep in or rise early for another dip in the onsen baths, before taking our private coach on to our next destination: Kanazawa. Kanazawa retains some of Japan's best-preserved old-town districts, has one of the top 3 Japanese gardens in the country and is known for its rich artistic traditions.

On arrival in Kanazawa, we'll begin with a visit to Kenroku-en, one of Japan's top three gardens, renowned for its seasonal beauty and meticulously designed landscapes. We'll then explore the 21st Century Museum, known for its striking contemporary art and interactive exhibits.

Day 10 Kanazawa (B, L, D)

Today, start the morning with sightseeing in the old-town districts of Higashi Chaya and Nagamachi, to see these beautifully preserved areas and pay a visit to the Nomura Samurai House as well.

This afternoon we will get the chance to make delicate Japanese confectionery with a local expert, before heading back to the hotel. This evening is at leisure for you to relax and take at your own pace.

Day 11 Tokyo (B, L, D)

On day 11 it's time to jump back on the bullet train for the return journey to Tokyo, where you'll spend your final two nights in Japan. Arriving around lunchtime, we'll have plenty of time for an afternoon of sightseeing by public transport and on foot – including the lovely East Gardens of the Imperial Palace, Tokyo Tower, and Zōzō-ji Temple – which X-Men fans will recognise as the set of the film *Wolverine*.

Day 12 Tokyo (B, L, D)

With a final full day in Tokyo, we'll have the morning at leisure on day 12 – giving you time to do a bit of last-minute shopping or fit in anything you haven't yet had time to do. Otherwise, your tour leader will be on hand to take you to the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation on Odaiba Island, a man-made island in Tokyo Bay, so feel free to join them if you choose. This afternoon you're in for another afternoon of sightseeing by public transport and on foot, taking in the upmarket Ginza district as well as several other interesting sights before your final dinner of the tour.

Day 13 Tokyo (B)

Alas your tour must come to an end on day 13, and you will be taken by shared shuttle back to the airport for your flight home.

Our tour itineraries are not set-in-stone for each day. You will be provided on the ground with Day-by-Day sheets and the tour leader will outline what they are going to do each day in detail. If you would like to break away from the group and do something different, they will be available to offer advice, and help you plan your day.

What's included

- ✓ Your InsideJapan Info-Pack
- ✓ Full-time services of your InsideJapan tour leader
- ✓ 12 nights' accommodation
- ✓ Breakfast, lunch and dinner every day and a selection of drinks at every meal
- ✓ All transport between destinations in Japan, including airport transfers
- ✓ IC transport card with 3,000 yen credit for city transport
- ✓ Luggage handling between all destinations
- ✓ Extra local guides in Tokyo and Kyoto
- ✓ Entrance fees for all excursions described in the day-by-day itinerary
- ✓ Enjoy a private audience with a trainee geisha
- ✓ Make some noise at a taiko drumming class in Tokyo
- ✓ Experience Zazen meditation with a monk at a rural temple complex
- ✓ Make traditional wagashi confectionary in Kanazawa
- ✓ Visit Himeji Castle, one of Japan's finest original feudal castles
- ✓ Learn about Japanese history during a visit to the Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum
- ✓ Discover contemporary Japanese art at the 21st Century Art Museum in Kanazawa
- ✓ Tickets to GEAR, in Kyoto, a non-verbal theatre performance
- ✓ Shared portable Wi-Fi access throughout trip

NOT Included

- ✗ International flights
- ✗ Any extra transport, entrance fees, activities or meals not mentioned in the day-by-day itinerary
- ✗ Other items of a personal nature (souvenirs, laundry etc)

Sample Accommodation

Please note that accommodation is subject to change. Final details of the accommodation will be included in your Info-Pack, which will be sent out approximately four weeks before departure. If you'd like to know more, please speak to your travel consultant.

Gate Hotel Ryogoku, Tokyo

The Gate Hotel Ryogoku by HULIC offers a refined stay in one of Tokyo's most distinctive districts. Ryogoku, the historic heart of sumo wrestling, is home to the Ryogoku Kokugikan arena, the Edo-Tokyo Museum, and a rich cultural heritage.

Set along the Sumida River, the hotel balances tranquility with easy access to the city's vibrant core. Its sleek, minimalist design features dark wood tones and bright lighting, while rooms include large windows, plush Slumberland mattresses, and Nespresso machines.

A standout feature is the rooftop terrace, offering panoramic views of Tokyo, including the iconic Skytree.

Hilton Hiroshima, Hiroshima

The Hilton Hiroshima is ideally located near the Peace Park, with shops and restaurants just steps away. As one of the city's tallest buildings, it offers stunning skyline views from its stylish, comfortable rooms.

Its four in-house restaurants offer everything from freshly baked pastries and artisanal sweets to gourmet tapas and expertly crafted kaiseki, with menus consulted by Michelin-starred chef Takagi. Facilities are exceptional, including a gym, L'Occitane spa, large indoor pool, Jacuzzi, and sauna.

Blending the brand's signature hospitality with modern amenities, the hotel provides a perfect base for exploring Hiroshima.

Okura Hotel, Kyoto

In Kyoto you will stay at the Okura Hotel, a luxury hotel in a central location in downtown Kyoto. Established in 1888 the hotel has been extensively refurbished in recent years whilst thoughtfully retaining elements of history and tradition. The Okura is one of Japan's most prestigious hotel names and although not well known internationally, it is renowned for providing the very highest levels of service.

Guestrooms are bright and spacious providing the ideal base for exploring the sights of Kyoto. The hotel has its own range of restaurants and bars, plus a huge range of facilities to take care of every requirement during your stay.

Haiya Ryokan, Awara Onsen

Haiya Ryokan is a Japanese Inn based in the heart of Awara Onsen town.

Rooms are traditional Japanese-style with tatami mat flooring and futon mattresses. All rooms are en suite but there are also several excellent public hot spring baths (separated by gender) on site as well for guests to use. Some of the baths can be reserved by guests for private use as well. There is also a beautiful Japanese garden on the grounds.

Nikko Hotel, Kanazawa

Hotel Nikko Kanazawa provides an elegant European atmosphere while being perfectly located in front of JR Kanazawa Station and within walking distance of some of the most famous tourist spots in Kanazawa. At 130m, it is also the tallest hotel on the Japan Sea side of the country.

The hotel has a wide variety of restaurants as well as a pool, fitness centre, sauna and jacuzzi. This is a top-grade property and is sure to make for a wonderful stay.

Hyatt Hotel Shibuya, Tokyo

Hyatt House Tokyo Shibuya combines comfort and convenience in one of Tokyo's most dynamic districts. Just steps from Shibuya Scramble Crossing, the hotel offers easy access to Shibuya, Shinjuku, and Meiji Jingu Shrine.

Its 125 apartment-style guestrooms, starting at 32 sqm, are designed for both short and extended stays, featuring fully equipped kitchens, washer-dryers, and spacious living areas. Guests can unwind at the indoor pool with a rooftop garden view, stay active in the 24/7 fitness center, or savor modern Japanese-French cuisine at the on-site restaurant.

With easy access to Shibuya Station and Tokyo's top attractions, Hyatt House Tokyo Shibuya is the perfect base for a seamless and comfortable stay.

Important Tour Information

Fitness

Even when not using public transport, sightseeing in Japan often involves walking between sights, climbing up steps in temples and being 'on the go' for much of the day. To enjoy any of our Small Group Tours you should be of moderate fitness, able to walk and climb stairs without difficulty and able to maintain a pace that is comfortable for the majority of the group.

Meals & Dietary Requirements

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included on every full day of your tour, plus dinner on your first day and breakfast on your last day.

Drinks: at lunch one drink is included, at dinner two drinks will be included (or an all-you-can-drink option in some locations). You will be able to choose from a selection of beverages. If you wish to purchase extra beverages you will have to pay for them locally.

Please let us know in advance if you have any special dietary requirements and we will try to ensure that included meals meet these needs.

In addition, please note that dietary requirements (such as vegetarianism, gluten-free diets and even some allergies) are very uncommon in Japan so meals for those with specific requirements may be simpler and less varied. Restaurants or *ryokan* (Japanese-style inns) will not always be able to alter their menus to fully exclude specific allergens or to cater for strict dietary requirements.

En suite / shared facilities

All accommodation options on this tour have full en-suite bathroom facilities. The accommodation Awara Onsen also offers shared natural hot-spring baths.

Policy on single rooms

Single rooms are guaranteed at all night stops on this tour through payment of a mandatory single supplement.

Double rooms

Please note that in Japan, twin rooms are very much the norm, and there are far fewer double rooms available. Please understand that we will not be able to offer a double in every hotel on this tour. A double grade does not guarantee double rooms throughout.

Your tour leader

Our tours are led on the ground by a fluent English speaker, now a resident of Japan and able to speak Japanese. They are there to ensure that you get the most out of your trip and that the whole adventure goes smoothly. The tour leader travels with the group and stays at the same hotels and *ryokan*, so please feel free to ask for help or advice at any time.

Your tour leader is not a guide so may not know every historical detail of every shrine, temple or palace, yet they are available pretty much all day every day and will even be happy to accompany tour members out at night on occasion!

Please note that the tour leader reserves the right to deny participation in an activity if they feel that it is in the safety or best interest of you and/or any

other members of the group. Similarly, dangerous weather conditions may lead to cancellation of such an activity.

Luggage

Luggage handling between all destinations is included but we still recommend that you pack reasonably light to make your stay more enjoyable. Although there is often a porter service available at hotels, large suitcases might be an inconvenience to you. A small case or bag with wheels or a rucksack are most appropriate for this tour when you will have to carry your bags through the hotel's escalators or elevators/lifts.

Transport on tour

Please note that most transfers are by public transport making use of Japan's first-rate transport network. This tour uses a mixture of trains, taxis, public buses and boats, as well as private coaches for some transfers and sightseeing.

International Flights

This tour starts and finishes in Tokyo for arrivals and departures at Tokyo Narita Airport or Tokyo Haneda Airport. Please note that the included meet-and-greet and airport transfer to the first hotel is **ONLY** available from these two airports.

Check-in

Upon arrival you will probably be tired after a long international flight. Please note that rooms at the Tokyo hotel are only available **from 2pm**.

Hotels in Japan operate strict check-in policies. If you have an early arrival you can either book an extra night for any-time check-in, or the hotel will be happy to securely store your luggage for you whilst you go for a drink or explore the local area.

The tour leader will be staying at the first hotel for two nights before the tour starts so they will be available for advice if you choose to book pre tour nights. We recommend booking at least one extra night to check in and relax before the tour begins.

