



Splendours of Japan

13 Days/12 Nights

Tokyo – Kanazawa – Kyoto – Okayama – Osaka

Indulge in a moment of tranquillity at Hamarikyū Garden while savouring the flavours of matcha (green tea) and traditional Japanese sweets. Immerse yourself in the captivating world of bonsai as you stroll through the enchanting Omiya Bonsai Village, home to numerous nurseries and private gardens. Discover the profound Zen culture and exquisite architecture at the Daitokuji Temple complex. Delve into the historic charm of Kurashiki, where former rice storehouses have been transformed into captivating museums and charming cafés.

Day 1 Tokyo

Upon arrival in Tokyo, you will be transferred to your hotel. Take advantage of some free time to unwind and explore the city at your own pace before your tour briefing. You will be staying in Tokyo for three nights, immersing yourself in its vibrant atmosphere and discovering its captivating attractions.

Day 2 Tokyo

Embark on a day of exploration in Tokyo using the city's efficient public transportation system. Begin by immersing yourself in the lively atmosphere of Asakusa, where you can visit the vibrant Sensoji Temple. Experience a unique perspective of the city as you board a boat and cruise along the scenic Sumida River, passing by the headquarters of renowned Japanese companies. Take a leisurely stroll through the serene Hamarikyū Garden, where you can indulge in the traditional flavours of matcha accompanied by a delightful Japanese sweet at the Floating Garden Pavilion. (B)

Day 3 Tokyo to Omiya Bonsai Village

Take a short train ride to Omiya Bonsai Village, renowned for its multiple bonsai nurseries and gardens. Immerse yourself in the art of bonsai and behold the beauty of 1,000-year-old bonsai trees at the Bonsai Art Museum. Explore the ancient Hikawa Shrine, rumoured to have a history spanning over 2,000 years, as it honours the Shinto god of the sea and storms. Return to Tokyo to visit the illustrious Meiji Jingu Shrine, a prominent Shinto shrine, and meander along the tree-lined avenue of Omotesando. (B)

Day 4 Tokyo to Kanazawa

Take a scenic train journey to Kanazawa and savour a delightful bento box lunch along the way. Explore the Teraohama Kurando House, once the residence of a middle-rank samurai during the Edo period, and gain insight into their lifestyle. Wander through the exquisite Kenrokuen Garden, renowned as one of the most picturesque landscaped gardens in the city. Immerse yourself in the tranquillity and Zen philosophy at the DT Suzuki Museum, featuring stunning buildings and gardens. Enjoy an evening of leisure. We will stay here for the next two nights. (B,L)

Day 5 Kanazawa

Savour a full day of leisure to delve deeper into the charms of Kanazawa. Take your time to discover the city's hidden gems, immerse yourself in its rich culture, or simply indulge in a leisurely stroll through its captivating streets. Alternatively, you have the option to join a

captivating day tour to Shirakawago, known for its distinctive 'gassho' style buildings, and Takayama, where tranquil streets and an old-world ambiance await you. The choice is yours to make the most of your time in this remarkable region. (B)

Day 6 Kanazawa to Kyoto

Hop aboard the train to Kyoto, a city filled with wonders and cultural treasures. In the afternoon, explore the mystical mountain complex of Fushimi Inari Shrine. Wander through the captivating trails adorned with thousands of vibrant vermilion torii gates, creating a truly unique and memorable experience. We will stay here for the next three nights. (B)

Day 7 Kyoto

Immerse yourself in the enchanting city of Kyoto as you embark on a captivating walking tour to discover its highlights. Start your journey at Kenninji Temple, Kyoto's oldest Zen temple, and soak in its serene atmosphere. Continue to Yasaka Shrine, one of the most renowned shrines in the city, and marvel at its beauty and cultural significance. Experience the elegance of a traditional tea ceremony, where you will gain insight into the philosophy and art of serving tea. Explore the charming shophouses of Ninenzaka before visiting the magnificent Kodaiji Temple, adorned with exquisite buildings and captivating gardens. Prepare to be captivated by the rich heritage and splendour of Kyoto. (B)

Day 8 Kyoto

In the morning, explore Kyoto's hidden gems, the lesser-known temples, and Zen gardens nestled within the Daitokuji Temple complex. Delight in the tranquil beauty of Koto-in, renowned for its mesmerizing maple trees. Experience the serenity of Ryogen-in, home to the world's smallest Zen garden, and marvel at its intricate details. Discover the captivating dry landscapes of Zuiho-in, a sanctuary of peacefulness. In the afternoon, indulge in leisure time to further explore the captivating city of Kyoto at your own pace. Immerse yourself in its vibrant streets, uncover hidden treasures, and create unforgettable memories. (B)

Day 9 Kyoto to Okayama

Travel by train to Okayama, where you will have the opportunity to explore the captivating Korakuen garden. Considered one of Japan's most exquisite landscaped gardens, it boasts tranquil streams, winding paths, and vast green lawns that contribute to its distinctive allure. Adjacent to the garden, you can also visit the impressive Okayama Castle, often referred to as the 'Crow Castle' due to its striking black exterior. Take your time to appreciate the castle's six stories and immerse yourself in its rich history. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure, allowing you to fully experience the charms of Okayama. Your accommodation for the next two nights awaits you here. (B)

Day 10 Okayama

Explore the enchanting preserved canal town of Kurashiki, renowned for its timeless beauty. Take leisurely walks along the historic tree-lined streets, soaking in the picturesque surroundings. Immerse yourself in the town's artistic ambiance by visiting its numerous art museums. For a delightful experience, consider taking an optional boat ride along the tranquil canals, allowing you to appreciate Kurashiki's unique charm from a different perspective. Afterward, return to Okayama, where you can enjoy a leisurely evening, indulging in your own preferred activities. (B)

Day 11 Okayama to Osaka

After departing from Okayama, embark on a train journey to the vibrant city of Osaka, where you'll have free time to explore upon arrival. In the afternoon, delve into the captivating history of Osaka Castle and uncover its intriguing past. Enhance your Osaka experience by boarding the Aqualiner for a scenic cruise along the Okawa River, offering a

fresh and distinctive perspective of the city's allure. Indulge in a leisurely evening, immersing yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of Osaka. Stay here for the next two nights. (B)

Day 12 Osaka

Savour a day of leisure in Osaka, where you have the freedom to explore at your own pace. Immerse yourself in the rich history and culture of the city by visiting the captivating Osaka Museum of Housing & Living or ascend to the breath-taking heights of the 173-meter Umeda Sky Building for a panoramic view of the cityscape. In the evening, indulge in a delightful farewell group dinner in the vibrant Dotonbori Area, savouring the culinary delights and vibrant atmosphere that Osaka is renowned for. (B,D)

Day 13 Osaka

Transfer to Osaka Station or Kansai International Airport for your onward journey. (B)

Includes:

- 12 nights in described Hotel or similar
- Daily Breakfast for 2 Persons
- 1 local lunch
- 1 farewell dinner
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles
- Small group touring
- All Entrance fees
- English speaking tour leader
- All Tipping
- Arrival and departure transfers



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