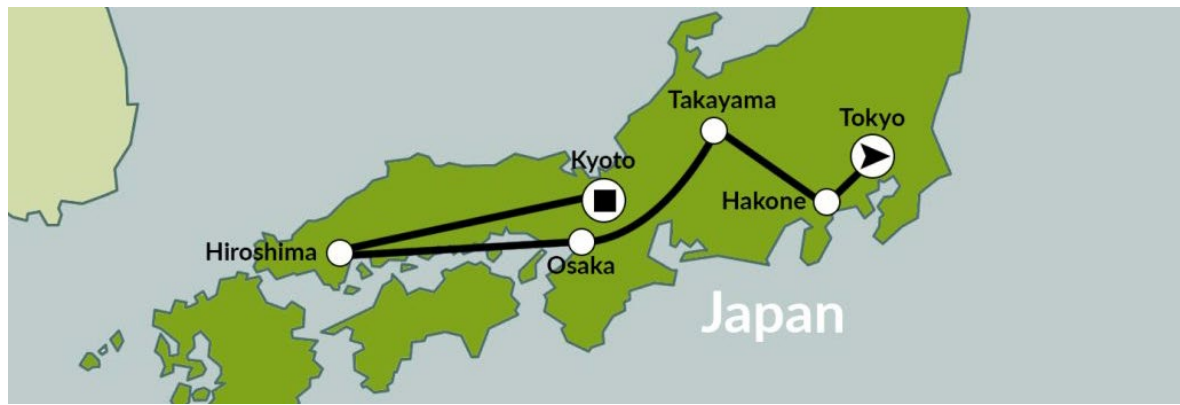


Small Group Journeys Itineraries

Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Japan - Validity 01 November 2024 – 31 March 2026

Secrets of Japan	14 Days IJDB-SGJ-31
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This 14-day journey offers a perfect blend of cultural discovery and scenic beauty. Begin by exploring Tokyo’s vibrant districts and historical landmarks before heading to the serene landscapes of Hakone. Enjoy a traditional stay in Takayama and marvel at the lively streets of Osaka. Visit Hiroshima’s poignant Peace Memorial Park and take a ferry to Miyajima Island. The tour concludes in Kyoto, where you’ll experience Zen temples, a traditional tea ceremony, and a farewell dinner with a Maiko performance. Highlights include visits to Mount Fuji, Itsukushima Shrine, and Fushimi Inari’s iconic torii gates.



- **Day 1: Arrival in Tokyo**

Welcome to Japan! 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 (B)**

Immerse yourself in the captivating city of Tokyo during a morning walking tour. Begin your journey at the renowned Meiji Jingu Shrine, a prominent Shinto shrine that exudes tranquillity. Continue your exploration to the vibrant district of Harajuku, renowned for its lively Cosplay subculture. Board a train to Shibuya and witness the iconic pedestrian crossing that adorns the front of Shibuya train station. Indulge in a culinary adventure as you navigate through the delectable offerings of the Tokyu Food Hall. Afterward, savour the freedom of leisure time to further discover Tokyo’s enchanting secrets.

- **Day 3: Tokyo (B)**

Today, you’ll have the opportunity to discover the rich cultural heritage of Tokyo. Begin by visiting Asakusa Temple, the city’s oldest and most revered temple. Take a leisurely stroll along Kappabashi Dori, renowned for its specialized stores offering a wide array of unique goods. Explore Yanaka Cemetery, a famous graveyard that exudes a park-like atmosphere, creating a serene and contemplative experience. Finally, wander through Yanaka Old Town, where the charm of the past

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<p>comes alive through repurposed historic buildings. Immerse yourself in the highlights of Tokyo’s ancient traditions and modern transformations on this captivating day of the tour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Day 4: Tokyo to Hakone (B/D)</p> <p>Travel by train to the charming destination of Hakone, where a delightful day of cultural immersion awaits. Experience the tranquillity of Lake Ashi as you embark on a leisurely boat cruise, surrounded by serene natural beauty. Take in the magnificent views of Mount Fuji from the ropeway, providing a memorable sightseeing experience. In the evening, indulge in a flavoursome meal and unwind at your traditional Japanese hotel’s rejuvenating onsen.</p> <p>Day 5: Hakone to Takayama (B)</p> <p>Travel to Takayama by train, a destination renowned for its historical significance. Explore Takayama Jinya, a former government building that provides a fascinating glimpse into the region’s past. Wander along Kami Sannomachi Street, where beautifully preserved wooden houses create an authentic atmosphere. Enjoy a two-night stay in Takayama, allowing ample time to fully immerse yourself in the local culture and explore the town’s captivating heritage.</p> <p>Day 6: Takayama (B)</p> <p>Start your day with a walking tour of Miyagawa morning market, where you can explore fresh produce and local goods. Visit Takayama Yatai Kaikan to marvel at magnificent wooden floats which are paraded through the streets each year during the two Takayama Festivals. In the afternoon, you have the option to visit Hida no Sato, where 30 traditional houses are displayed in a scenic village setting.</p> <p>Day 7: Takayama to Osaka (B)</p> <p>Travel from Takayama to the lively city of Osaka via train. Upon arrival, check in at the hotel and get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere. Embark on a walking tour of the iconic Dotonbori area, renowned for its dazzling neon lights, bustling street food scene, and exciting shopping opportunities. Experience the energy and vibrancy of this lively district, soaking in the unique charm that Osaka has to offer. Stay here for the next two nights.</p> <p>Day 8: Osaka (B)</p> <p>Head to Umeda Sky Garden with it views of Osaka before walking through Kuromon Ichiba Market, also known as “Osaka’s Kitchen.” In the afternoon enjoy some free time to explore the city at your own pace.</p> <p>Day 9: Osaka to Hiroshima (B)</p> <p>Travel by train to Hiroshima and visit the Peace Memorial Museum, dedicated to the events of 1945 before seeing the sobering cenotaph of the Hiroshima bomb at Peace Memorial Park. Stay here for the next two nights.</p> 	

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<h2 style="margin: 0;">Secrets of Japan</h2>	<p style="margin: 0;">14 Days IJDB-SGJ-31</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="252 472 592 501"> <p>• Day 10: Hiroshima (B/L)</p> <p>Venture by ferry to peaceful Miyajima Island, home to Itsukushima Shrine. Hike or travel by ropeway to the summit of Mount Misen for spectacular views. Enjoy a traditional okonomiyaki pancake before returning by ferry to the mainland. Spend the evening at leisure.</p> <li data-bbox="252 712 679 741"> <p>• Day 11: Hiroshima to Kyoto (B)</p> <p>Travel by train to Himeji, famous for it’s imposing hilltop castle before continuing to Kyoto. Take an evening walking tour along Ponto-cho and Hanami-koji Lane in the Gion district where you may see a Geisha walking between appointments. Stay here for the next three nights.</p> <li data-bbox="252 898 513 927"> <p>• Day 12: Kyoto (B)</p> <p>Discover Kyoto’s highlights on a walking tour. Begin at Kiyomizudera Temple, in the hills of east Kyoto. Wander along the shophouses of Ninenzaka Street before visiting Kyoto’s oldest Zen temple, Kenninji Temple. Learn the philosophy and art of serving tea at a traditional tea ceremony.</p> <li data-bbox="252 1084 544 1113"> <p>• Day 13: Kyoto (B/D)</p> <p>Start the day with a visit to the one of Kyoto’s most iconic sights, Fushimi Inari, with it’s tunnels of vermilion torii gates. You have free time to further explore Kyoto or take an optional afternoon excursion to the bamboo forest at Arahiyama. Conclude this trip in Japan on a memorable note, with a delightful farewell dinner, where you’ll have the privilege of being entertained by a genuine Maiko or apprentice Geisha. Immerse yourself in the elegance and grace of this traditional Japanese art form, as you savour a delicious meal and witness a captivating performance. Cherish this special evening as you bid farewell to Japan, creating lasting memories of your remarkable journey.</p> <li data-bbox="252 1449 711 1478"> <p>• Day 14: Departure from Kyoto (B)</p> <p>Its time to say goodbye, but just think of all the wonderful stories you will take home.</p> <li data-bbox="252 1563 643 1592"> <p>• IMPORTANT INFORMATION</p> <p>We are thrilled to announce that our beloved Secrets of Japan itinerary will soon be transitioning to an enhanced experience! After the last departure, this tour will be discontinued and replaced by our brand-new itinerary, Japan's Hidden Treasures. Why the change? We’ve listened to your feedback and are committed to providing an unforgettable journey that truly showcases the beauty of Japan. Japan's Hidden Treasures includes even more enriching experiences and exclusive features, ensuring you delve deeper into the heart and soul of this magnificent country.</p> 	