



## Secrets of Japan

### 14 Days/13 Nights

#### Tokyo – Hakone – Takayama – Osaka – Hiroshima – Kyoto

Explore the vibrant streets of Kappabashi Dori, a haven for culinary enthusiasts. Discover a multitude of shops offering an extensive range of kitchenware, from pots and pans to utensils and furniture for restaurant owners. Don't miss the intriguing stores selling lifelike food samples for display purposes. Immerse yourself in the world of textiles at Nippori Fabric Town, where a plethora of fabric stores await. From traditional silks to contemporary printed cotton, you'll find a treasure trove of fabrics. Experience the charming ambiance of Yanaka Old Town, known for its distinct "shitamachi" or downtown atmosphere. Delight in the stark contrast to Tokyo's modernity as you wander through this nostalgic neighbourhood.

#### 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

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. (B)

#### Day 3 Tokyo

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 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. (B)

#### Day 4 Tokyo to Hakone

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. (B,D)

#### Day 5 Hakone to Takayama

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. (B)

#### **Day 6 Takayama**

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. (B)

#### **Day 7 Takayama to Osaka**

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. (B)

#### **Day 8 Osaka**

Head to Umeda Sky Garden with its 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. (B)

#### **Day 9 Osaka to Hiroshima**

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. (B)

#### **Day 10 Hiroshima**

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. (B) (L)

#### **Day 11 Hiroshima to Kyoto**

Travel by train to Himeji famous for its 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. (B)

#### **Day 12 Kyoto**

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 and finish the day with the golden pavillion at Kinkakuji, Kyoto's most famous building. (B)

#### **Day 13 Kyoto**

Start the day with a visit to the one of Kyoto's most iconic sights, Fushimi Inari, with its 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 tour 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. (B) (D)

#### **Day 14 Kyoto**

Transfer to Kyoto Station for your onward journey.

#### **Included:**

- 13 nights in described Hotel or similar
- Daily Breakfast for 2 Persons
- 1 local lunch
- 2 local dinners
- 14 Day Rail Pass
- All high-speed trains travel as specified in the itinerary
- 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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