



INSPIRING
VACATIONS

13 Days Cultural Treasures Of Japan

Tokyo

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Get Ready to Be Inspired

FROM

\$6,830^{NZD}

PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE

Travelling with Inspiring Vacations allows you to explore the wonders of the world in a variety of different ways. We have partnered with a worldwide network of local travel experts to bring you culturally unique and delightfully unforgettable travel experiences. Whether it is meandering through narrow canyons by rail, cruising the idyllic waters of the Mediterranean or touring through t...

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[TOUR ITINERARY](#)

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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination Tokyo

Meals included

Accommodation N/A

Explore ancient and modern Japanese culture firsthand. Discover peaceful temples and technological marvels set against unimaginable natural beauty. Welcome to Japan, the "Land of the Rising Sun." Begin in the electrifying city of Tokyo, where pop culture is turned all the way up and traditions are rich and long-kept.

DAY 2

Destination Tokyo

Meals included Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation N/A

Feel the excitement start to build as you pass by the grounds of the Imperial Palace and see the Niju Bridge and Sakurada Gate, the well-known symbols of the Imperial Palace. Walk through Ginza, one of the most elegant and luxurious streets in the world, where modern landscape meets rich history. Enjoy shopping at some of the most renowned "department stores" in Japan. Later, amid a lush forest outside of Tokyo, visit the Meiji Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. Tonight, join your fellow travellers at a festive welcome dinner.

DAY 3

Destination Tokyo

Meals included Breakfast

Accommodation N/A

Begin the day exploring Asakusa, Tokyo's oldest Geisha district. Visit the famous Buddhist temple, Senso-ji, the colourful temple famous for the red chochin (lantern) hanging at the entrance gate. Experience the long standing tradition of the Japanese tea ceremony, dating back to the 15th century. During your free time, explore the Nakamise Shopping Arcade and feel the energy of the oldest shopping street in Japan. Then, head to the Tokyo National Museum, the oldest museum in Japan. It features one of the largest and best collections of art and archeological artifacts.

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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 4

Destination Tokyo 🚗 Hakone

Meals included Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation N/A

Journey to the lakeside resort of Hakone, renowned for its hot springs. In the shadow of Mt. Fuji (UNESCO), this scenic town hugs the shorelines of Lake Ashi. Make a stop at Owakudani, located in an active volcanic zone. The Owakudani crater was created some 3,000 years ago, when Mt. Hakone erupted. Climb aboard the Hakone Ropeway, an aerial cable car descending from Owakudani for a breathtaking view* of Mt. Fuji. Next, take to the deep-blue waters of Lake Ashi on a cruise where you'll see epic views of the local mountains before stopping in the charming town of Moto-Hakone.

DAY 5

Destination Hakone 🚗 Matsumoto 🚗 Takayama

Meals included Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation N/A

This breathtaking day begins in Matsumoto at Matsumoto Castle, known as the "Crow Castle" because of its striking black exterior. Enjoy the local cuisine as we stop for lunch at a Soba noodle shop. Later, you'll step back in time in the rural Edo-period town of Takayama, nestled in the Japanese Alps. Well known to the locals for its connection to sake, this is the perfect place to gather for a visit to one of Japan's 200-year-old sake breweries. Afterward, experience a true Japanese epicurean treat – traditional rice wine paired with a special Hida beef dinner.

DAY 6

Destination Takayama

Meals included Breakfast

Accommodation N/A

The ancient cultures of Takayama come alive this morning in the town's historic district. Take a walk through the past and glimpse the 19th-century Jinya government building. Stroll through the morning market, a 600-year-old open air market with locally grown and produced products, located along the Miyagawa River. Circuit the winding streets, where the town's traditional charms are preserved in the inns and houses. This afternoon, relish some free time to continue your exploration of Takayama on your own.

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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 7

Destination Takayama 🚗 Shirakawa-go 🚗 Kanazawa

Meals included Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation N/A

Today, embrace the unique charms of Shirakawa-go (UNESCO). Hidden away in the mountain, this harmonious village is famous for its gassho-zukuri-style houses – thatched-rooftops designed to resemble two hands joined in prayer. Journey to Kanazawa, the origin of gold-leaf making since the 16th century. Visit the Samurai district where we will enter the former home of the Nomuras, a wealthy samurai family who served the ruling Maeda family. Then, travel to the Geisha quarters of Kanazawa, the Higashi Tea district.

DAY 8

Destination Kanazawa

Meals included Breakfast

Accommodation N/A

More than 25 acres of absolute beauty await you today at Kenroku-En – Garden of Six Qualities. From the beauty of Japan's most stunning gardens, dive into the ancient craft of gold leaf making during a hands-on lesson in decorating your own lacquer box at Kanazawa Katani! In the centre of town, take in the action of the Omicho fish market before venturing out on your own to really immerse yourself in Kanazawa's dynamic culture.

DAY 9

Destination Kanazawa 🚗 Kyoto

Meals included Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation N/A

Kyoto awaits! The former Imperial capital of Japan is now one of the nation's top cosmopolitan cities. At the same time, Kyoto's connection with its past is strong; you won't need to look far to see one of its 2,000 temples and shrines. For lunch, participate in a sushi making class – given by a professional sushi chef – and master the art of sushi making. This afternoon, visit Kinkakuji (UNESCO), the Golden Pavilion, a Zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf.

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DAY 10

Destination Kyoto 🚆 Hiroshima 🚆 Kyoto

Meals included Breakfast

Accommodation N/A

All aboard the Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima. Upon arrival, board a ferry for the short trip to Miyajima Island, or “Shrine Island” (UNESCO). Afterwards, head into Hiroshima city to visit the Peace Memorial Park, and pause to see the ruined Atomic Dome (UNESCO). Reflect at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. As this moving day comes to a close, return to Kyoto by the Shinkansen bullet train.

DAY 11

Destination Kyoto

Meals included Breakfast

Accommodation N/A

This morning, explore Fushimi Inari Taisha for a tour of the most revered shrine of Inari. Follow the spectacular rows of orange torii (made famous in the movie *Memoirs of a Geisha*) that weave through the forest, leading you to the inner shrine. Move on to the home of the first Shogun, Nijo Castle (UNESCO), and see intricate woodcarvings, wall paintings, and the Ninomaru Garden, designed by Kobori Enshu, a landscape architect and tea master. Next, visit Marumasa Nishumuraya for a lesson in the art of stenciling at a traditional Kyoto townhouse.

DAY 12

Destination Kyoto

Meals included Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation N/A

Today, spend some time relaxing or set out to explore Kyoto on your own. Fully immerse yourself in Japanese culture tonight during a special kaiseki farewell dinner and Geisha show.

DAY 13

Destination Kyoto

Meals included Breakfast

Accommodation N/A

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TOUR ITINERARY

Your tour comes to a close in this fascinating land. As you depart, reflect on its beauty and all you have learned about its rich history and culture.

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Inclusions

WHATS INCLUDED

Immerse yourself in the ancient and modern cultures of Japan.
Explore Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and Hiroshima
Board the Shinkansen "bullet" train to travel to Hiroshima to visit Shrine Island and the Peace Memorial Museum
Japan slowly draws you into its eclectic culture and charm, revealing incredible moments every step of the way.
19 Meals - 12 Breakfasts - 2 Lunches - 5 Dinners
Superior twin share accommodation
Sightseeing and transportation as per the itinerary

Fine Print

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payments

Book now and secure your package with only a \$250 deposit per person.
Pay a 2nd instalment of \$435 per person within 28 days.
You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.
Booking Process

Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)
Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
Your position on the tour will be confirmed within 48 hours of completing your order. If your place cannot be confirmed, a full refund of the deposit will occur.

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TOUR ITINERARY

OPTIONAL TOURS

Cultural Treasures of Japan Tour Gratuities \$246 pp

EXCLUSIONS

Airfares
 Personal Expenses
 Travel Insurance
 Optional activities
 Anything not mentioned in the itinerary or optional

HOTEL LIST

Tokyo - Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba
 Hakone - The Prince Hakone Lake Ashinoko
 Takayama - Takayama Green Hotel
 Kanazawa - Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel
 Kyoto - Kyoto Tokyu Hotel

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Accommodation
 The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however, any changes are beyond our control.

Single Supplement
 A single supplement is available on all nights of this trip from an extra \$1250 subject to availability.

Triple Share
 Not available.

Children
 Children must be 5 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

Tour Documentation
 Final documentation will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

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