



## Essential Japan and Complete Korea 14 Nights / 15 Days

### Tour Itinerary

#### Day 1

#### TOKYO

Welcome to Japan! After completing customs procedures, you'll be transferred to your hotel by shared shuttle bus. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure. In the afternoon, you'll receive details about the start of your tour.

#### Day 2

#### TOKYO

In the morning, we'll enjoy an extensive **guided tour** of this truly mesmerizing city, lasting approximately five hours. Tokyo's vibrant energy and cutting-edge neighborhoods coexist beautifully with its tranquil, serene spaces.

We'll begin with a brief stop at **Zojoji Temple**, where you'll capture one of the most iconic views of the **Tokyo Tower**. The temple grounds are adorned with hundreds of Jizo statues, intricately carved stone figures believed to be protectors of children, dressed in colorful knit caps, bibs, and windmills.

Next, we'll head to the famous **Shibuya Crossing**, often hailed as the busiest intersection in the world, followed by a visit to the **Meiji Shrine**, dedicated to the spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife.

Our journey will continue by bus along the elegant Omotesando Avenue. We'll then see the most picturesque parts of the Imperial Palace and its gardens and stop to admire the iconic **Nijubashi Bridge**.

As we proceed, we'll pass through the vibrant **Akihabara district**, also known as the "Electric Town," a hub for Japanese manga and anime culture. We'll also drive past the Kokugikan, Japan's renowned sumo wrestling arena.

We'll conclude our tour in Asakusa, visiting the historic Sensoji Temple and the famous Nakamise Street.

**Lunch will be included** at a local restaurant. Afterward, we'll return to the hotel.

At **6:30 p.m.**, we'll meet our guide in the hotel lobby and take the **metro** (tickets included) to the lively **Shinjuku district**. Here, we'll enjoy a stroll through its bustling streets, renowned for their vibrant nightlife, as we head to a local restaurant for **dinner** (included). Afterward, we'll return to the hotel by metro, accompanied by our guide.

#### Day 3

#### TOKYO - MOUNT FUJI - KAWAGUCHIKO

We'll journey to the stunning Mount Fuji area, traveling through picturesque landscapes along the way.

Our first stop will be the **Arakurayama Sengen Park**, home to beautiful



pagodas and offering the most iconic views of Mount Fuji. From here, we'll continue to **Kawaguchiko**, a charming town surrounded by mountains, vibrant flowers, and its namesake lake. Upon arrival, we'll visit the **Fuji Sengen Shrine**, a serene site nestled among towering trees, which marks the traditional starting point for pilgrimages up Mount Fuji. During our visit, we'll take a moment to express gratitude for experiencing such a magical place.

The tour will also include a delightful **boat ride on Lake Kawaguchiko**, where you can soak in the area's tranquil beauty. After, we'll ascend **Mount Fuji** via the scenic road to the Fifth Station, at 2,305 meters, surrounded by breathtaking forests and vistas.

Note: In winter, the ascent to Mount Fuji may be closed due to snow or adverse weather conditions. During this season, we will go as far as permitted.

We'll return to Kawaguchiko, with time to enjoy a leisurely stroll along the lake. Tonight, we'll stay in a ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn, where you can relax in the onsen (public bath). **Dinner will be included.**

Note: At the planned ryokan, some rooms feature traditional Japanese-style tatami mats, while others are Western-style. Occasionally, accommodation may be arranged in a Western-style hotel.

#### Day 4

#### KAWAGUCHIKO - IYASHI NO SATO NENBA - TOYOTA - KYOTO

In the morning, we'll follow a scenic road that winds around picturesque lakes to visit **Iyashi no Sato Nenba**, a small village that was destroyed by a typhoon in 1966 and later restored as an open-air museum. Its traditional houses have been converted into arts and crafts shops, restaurants, and cultural exhibits, offering a glimpse into Japan's past.

Next, we'll visit the breathtaking **Shiraito Falls**, one of Japan's most stunning natural attractions, with cascading water that spans a height of 20 meters.

From there, we'll continue to **Nagoya**, where we'll visit the **Toyota Museum** (admission included), a must-see destination for car enthusiasts and those curious about automotive innovation.

Finally, we'll proceed to **Kyoto** for our overnight stay.

#### Day 5

#### KYOTO

We'll spend the entire day exploring **Kyoto**, Japan's capital from 794 to 1868 and home to the Imperial Court. Remarkably, Kyoto was the only major Japanese city spared from bombing during World War II, allowing it to retain its rich artistic heritage. Notably, the Kyoto Protocol, aimed at limiting greenhouse gas emissions, was signed here in 1997.

We'll include a visit to Kyoto's most iconic landmarks. Our tour will begin in **Arashiyama**, where we'll admire the Togetsukyo Bridge, or "Bridge over the Moon." This spot offers a breathtaking panorama of the surrounding



landscape.

We'll then visit the **Tenryuji Temple**, one of Kyoto's "five great Zen temples" and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, followed by a serene walk through its **mystical bamboo forest**.

Next, we'll explore the magnificent **Fushimi Inari Shrine**; the **Imperial Palace**; and the **Kinkakuji Temple**, also known as the "Golden Pavilion," surrounded by its spectacular gardens. (The order of the visits may vary.)

After the tour, you can enjoy some time to stroll through **Gion**, Kyoto's vibrant traditional district, known for its lively atmosphere and geishas.

#### Day 6

#### KYOTO - NARA - OSAKA

We'll depart for **Nara** to visit **Todaiji**, a magnificent Buddhist temple built in 752, home to a giant Buddha statue. Here, you'll also have the chance to take photos and interact with the friendly deer that roam freely in the surrounding park. **Lunch will be included.**

Afterward, we'll visit the **Horyu-ji Buddhist Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that encompasses a seminary, monasteries, and temples. Its central pagoda is one of the oldest wooden structures in the world and holds the distinction of being Japan's oldest Buddhist temple, serving as an important place of worship.

Our journey will then take us to **Osaka**, where we'll arrive in the evening. Accommodation will be in this vibrant and modern city, known as Japan's second-largest urban area. Later, we'll visit **Dotonbori**, a lively and colorful district renowned for its bustling nightlife.

#### Day 7

#### OSAKA - BUSAN

We'll provide a transfer to **Osaka** for the included **flight to Busan**.

Welcome to **Korea**! Upon arrival, you'll be taken to the hotel, and you'll have some free time to explore. We're in one of the country's most vibrant cities, the second largest in **South Korea**.

Later in the day, the group we'll be joining will arrive, and we'll meet our guide for the remainder of this trip.

#### Day 8

#### BUSAN - SEOKGURAM - BULGUKSA - GYEONGJU - DAEGU

We'll depart for the **Seokguram Buddhist Grotto**, an 8th-century site nestled on the slopes of the Tohamsan. Afterward, we'll visit the **Bulguksa Temple**, considered one of the most beautiful temples in the country. Next, we'll arrive in **Gyeongju**, the Korean capital that endured the longest in the nation's history, with a reign of 992 years under 56 kings. You'll have the chance to photograph the stunning wooden **Woljeonggyo Bridge** along the banks of the Namcheon River. **Lunch will be included.** We'll then head to **Tumuli Park**, home to the burial mounds of kings from the ancient Silla Kingdom, which are over 1,500 years old. We'll visit one of their tombs before walking to the **Cheomsongdae Astronomical Observatory**, the oldest in East Asia and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our journey will



continue with our arrival in **Daegu**, the fourth most populous city in Korea. Before heading to the hotel, we'll see **Dongsan Cheongna Hill**, a historic area once home to Christian missionaries, and **the commercial street of Dongseong-ro**, the city's liveliest street, with its trendy shops, cafes, and restaurants. Overnight stay in Daegu.

#### Day 9

#### DAEGU - ANDONG - HAHOE - SEOUL

We'll begin our day with a **tour of Daegu**, with a visit to the **Yangnyeongsi Museum of Oriental Medicine**, renowned for its history of medicinal herbs. Afterward, we'll take a stroll through the surrounding streets, known as the Herbal Medicine Market, famous for its abundance of herbal shops and the high quality of their products, particularly ginseng. We'll then head north to **Andong**, where we'll visit the outskirts of the traditional **Hahoe Village**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll have time to wander through this rural village, which feels frozen in time. We'll also visit the **Hahoe Mask Museum**, showcasing masks from around the world used in dances, medical practices, religious ceremonies, and theatrical performances. **Lunch will be included** at a local restaurant. Next, we'll visit the **Byeongsan Seowon Confucian Academy**, founded in the 16th century and set in a peaceful, idyllic landscape along a river. We'll arrive in Seoul in the evening. Weather permitting, we'll stop at the **Banpo Bridge** over the Han River, famous for its fountain that creates a rainbow of water and lights along the bridge's path. Overnight stay in Seoul.

Note: The visit to Banpo Bridge is subject to weather conditions.

#### Day 10

#### SEOUL

We'll depart early for the **Cheorwon region** and its section of the **DMZ**, the Demilitarized Zone that marks the division between the two Koreas. We'll explore the **Second Tunnel**, secretly dug by the North Korean army and discovered in 1975. We'll then head to the **Cheorwon Peace Observatory**, offering panoramic views of the DMZ and the first villages of North Korea. Inside, there is a small museum dedicated to the Korean War. Our route will continue with a visit to the abandoned Woljeong-ri railway station. We'll also visit the **Baek Ma Battle Memorial**, which honors the role of a French UN battalion during the battles. **Lunch included**. Finally, we'll visit a local producer of *Makgeolli*, a traditional Korean rice liquor. We'll return to Seoul in the evening.

**Important note:** Please remember to bring your passport, as it is required. The DMZ is a military zone and could be closed unexpectedly without prior notice. If this happens, an alternative route will be provided.

With our guide, we go to **City Hall**, to see this impressive tsunami-looking building. Across from City Hall, we'll see Deoksugung Palace, beautifully lit at night, allowing us to appreciate the blend of tradition and modernity in this country. From there, we'll walk to the **Myeongdong district**, South Korea's largest shopping and entertainment area, whose name means "bright town." Dinner will be included at a local restaurant. To return to hotel we'll take the modern and efficient **metro** (ticket included). Overnight accommodation.



### Day 11

#### SEOUL

Today, we'll enjoy an extensive five-hour **tour of Seoul**. We'll see the **Changdeokgung Palace**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, set within a large park and home to a collection of palaces. Afterward, we'll pass by **Bukchon Hanok Village**, a traditional and historic neighborhood with little homes. Next, we'll learn about the **War Memorial of Korea**, an impressive museum that provides a deep insight into the various conflicts that have shaped Korea's history, with a special focus on the Korean War, where soldiers from many countries fought under the United Nations. **Lunch will be included** at a local restaurant. We'll then head to the **Gangnam District**, one of the city's busiest areas, known for its shopping centers and entertainment venues. To conclude the day, we'll stop at **Lotte World Tower**, a stunning skyscraper standing 550 meters tall. You'll have free time either to go up the tower (ticket not included) or explore the surrounding park and luxury shopping malls. After, we will return to the hotel, and you will have free time.

### Day 12

#### SEOUL - SUWON - JEONJU

Today, we'll visit **Gyeongbokgung Palace**, a stunning palace with over 600 years of history. We'll have the chance to witness the ceremonial changing of the guard if it takes place at that time. Afterward, we'll depart from Seoul and head south. Our first stop will be **Suwon**, the former capital of Korea, renowned for its impressive UNESCO World Heritage walls. We'll see these remarkable fortifications and visit **Hwaseong Haenggung**, the summer palace. **Lunch will be included**. We'll then continue to **Jeonju**, where we'll discover its fascinating historic center (Hanok Village), with its little houses, traditional shops, and art galleries.

### Day 13

#### JEONJU - DAMYANG - HAEINSA - BUSAN

We'll depart for the **Sunchang Gochujang Village**, located at the base of Mount Amisan, with its hanok houses and courtyards filled with clay pots called hang-a-ri. This village is home to master artisans who craft gochujang (Korean chili paste) using traditional methods. We'll enjoy a hands-on experience **learning how to make this famous sauce**. Afterward, we'll continue to **Damyang** to visit the **Juknokwon Bamboo Forest**, where the paths are considered some of the most beautiful in the country, perfect for meditation and enjoying the fresh breeze. We'll also find a variety of bamboo products, celebrated in places like the **Bamboo Museum**. **Lunch will be included**, and we'll taste a local specialty: rice cooked and served inside a bamboo stalk. Surrounded by stunning mountain landscapes and forests, we'll arrive at **Haemsa**, one of Korea's most important Buddhist temples and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built in 802, it houses the Tripitaka, the most complete collection of Buddhist scriptures, carved on 80,000 wooden tablets. We'll then continue to **Busan**, Korea's second-largest city, known for its vibrant atmosphere, for accommodation.

### Day 14

#### BUSAN

In the morning, we'll depart from Busan to visit **Haedong Yonggung**, a 14th-century Buddhist temple beautifully located by the sea. Afterward, we'll return to Busan to explore the **UN Memorial Cemetery**, the resting place for people from many nations. Next, we'll visit the country's largest **fish market**, located by Nampo Port, followed by an **included**



**lunch.** We'll then stroll to **Yongdusan Park**, home to the towering 120-meter pagoda. Later, we'll head to **Songdo Beach**, where you can ride the country's first **marine cable car** (ticket included, weather permitting) and take in the breathtaking views of the bay. Our journey will continue to the **Gamcheon Culture Village**, known for its vibrant, colorful buildings, maze-like alleyways, art galleries, pottery workshops, and beautiful cafes. Afterward, we'll return to Busan for an overnight stay.

### Day 15

#### **BUSAN**

After breakfast, our journey will come to an end, leaving you with wonderful lasting memories.

#### Included in the price

- **Luxury Vacations General Services:** Travel by bus with English speaking guide, basic travel insurance, hotel and breakfast buffet.
- **Includes arrival transfer**
- **City tour in:** Tokyo, Kyoto, Seoul, Busan
- **Excursion:** DMZ Cheorwon
- **Boat:** Kawaguchiko Lake
- **Evening transfer:** Shinjuku, Traditional quarter of Gion , Dotonbori in Osaka , Myeongdong district
- **Experiences:** Learning how to make this famous sauce in the Sunchang Gochujang Village
- **Ticket admission:**
  - Metro
  - Zojoji Temple,
  - Meiji Temple,
  - Sensoji Temple
  - Arakurayama Sengen Park
  - Village Museum
  - Toyota Museum
  - Tenryu-ji Temple,
  - Arashiyama bamboo forest in Kyoto
  - Fushimi Inari
  - Imperial Palace
  - Kinkakuji Temple
  - Todai-ji Temple and Horyu-ji Temple.
  - Gamcheon Culture Village
  - Seokguram Buddhist Grotto
  - Bulguksa Temple
  - Tumuli Park,
  - Cheomsongdae Astronomical Observatory
  - Yangnyeongsi Museum of Oriental Medicine
  - Hahoe Mask Museum and traditional Hahoe Village
  - Byeongsan Seowon Confucian Academy



- DMZ Cheorwon (Second Tunnel)
  - Cheorwon Peace Observatory
  - local distillery of Korea's traditional rice liquor)
  - Metro Seoul
  - Changdeokgung Palace
  - Bukchon Hanok Village
  - War Memorial of Korea
  - Gyeongbokgung Palace
  - Fortifications of Suwon
  - Summer palace of Hwaseong Haenggung
  - Hanok Village
  - Juknokwon Bamboo Forest and Bamboo Museum
  - Haeinsa Buddhist Temple
  - Haedong Yonggung Temple
  - UN Memorial Cemetery
  - Gamcheon Culture Village
- 
- **Funicular:** Marine cable car, Marine cable car
  - **Flights included:** Osaka-Busan
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- **9 Lunch included in:** Tokyo, Nara, Gyeongju, Hahoe, Seoul, Seoul, Suwon, Damyang, Busan
  - **3 dinner included in:** Tokyo, Kawaguchiko, Seoul



## Planned Hotels

### SHINAGAWA PRINCE HOTEL \*\*\*\*

T.: 334401111  
10-30 Takanawa 4-chome, Minato-ku  
108-8611 TOKYO  
JAPAN

### MOXY TOKYO KINSHICHO \*\*\*\*

T.: 356248801  
email: ayako.tamaki@moxymotels.com  
3-4-2 Kotobashi, Sumida-ku  
130-0022 TOKYO  
JAPAN

### GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA \*\*\*\*

T.: 355004500  
2 Chome-6-1 Daiba, Minato City, Tokyo 135-8701, Japón  
135-8701 TOKYO  
JAPAN

### FUJI VIEW HOTEL KAWAGUCHIKO \*\*\*\*

T.: 555832211  
Yamanashi Prefecture, Minamitsuru, Katsuyama District  
401-0310 KAWAGUCHIKO  
JAPAN

### FUJI KAWAGUCHIKO RESORT \*\*\*\*

T.: 8002007970  
4902-2 Funatsu, Fujikawaguchiko, Minamitsuru District, Yamanashi 401-0301, Japón  
401-0301 KAWAGUCHIKO  
JAPAN

### KOFU KINENBI \*\*\*\*

T.: 55253811  
3-2-30 Yumura, Kofu, Yamanashi 400-0073, Japón  
400-0073 KAWAGUCHIKO  
JAPAN

### MIYAKO KIOTO HACHIJO \*\*\*\*

T.: 756617111  
MINAMI WARD, NISHIKUHO INMACHI, 1  
6018412 KYOTO  
JAPAN

### NEW MIYAKO HOTEL \*\*\*\*

T.: 756617111  
email: MG01@gmt.jtb.jp  
17, Nishikujo-Inmachi Minami-ku, Kyoto 601-8412, Japan  
601-8412 KYOTO  
JAPAN

### CANDEO OSAKA NAMBA \*\*\*\*

T.: 0662122200  
email: miyoshi-s@candeo-hotels.com; ohuchi-k@candeo-hotels.com  
2-2-5, Higashishinsaibashi, Chiuo-ku, Osaka  
542-0083 OSAKA  
JAPAN

### HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS OSAKA CITY CENTRE - MIDOSUJI \*\*\*\*

T.: 649632422  
email: Daesang.Park@ihg.com; Jerome.Palacoer@ihg.com; Shinji.Maesaka@ihg.com;



waikin.mok@ihg.com

4-1-12 Kitakyuhojimachi, Osaka, 541-0057 Japan

541-0057 OSAKA

JAPAN

**CROWN HARBOR\*\*\*\*\***

T.: 516781000

114 Jungang-daero, Jung-gu, Busan, Corea del Sur

48938 BUSAN

SOUTH KOREA

**RAMADA ENCORE BUSAN STATION\*\*\***

T.: 519220000

10 Jungang-daero 196beon-gil, Dong-gu, Busan, Corea del Sur

BUSAN

SOUTH KOREA

**SUSUNG DAEGU \*\*\*\*\***

T.: 18991001

106-7 Yonghak-ro, Suseong District

DAEGU

SOUTH KOREA

**DAEGU PRINCE HOTEL\*\*\*\*\***

T.: 536281001

Daemyeong 2-dong, Daegu,

DAEGU

SOUTH KOREA

**MERCURE AMBASSADOR HONGDAE\*\*\*\*\***

T.: 237741101

email: mercure\_rev@ambatel.com; mercure\_rsvn@ambatel.com

Yanghwa-ro, 144 Mapo-gu, Seoul, Corea del Sur

144 Mapo-gu SEOUL

SOUTH KOREA

**BEST WESTERN PLUS JEONJU\*\*\*\*\***

T.: 632317777

41, Hyeonmu 1-gil, Wansan-gu Jeonju-Si,

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