



COLORS OF JAPAN AND HIROSHIMA 11 NIGHTS / 12 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 - HIROSHIMA

After breakfast, we'll transfer to the station to board the bullet train to Hiroshima, a journey of approximately four hours covering 800 kilometers.

Upon arrival, we'll explore this city, forever marked by the atomic bomb of 1945, which tragically destroyed the city. Our visit will include a stroll through the Peace Memorial Park, the Atomic Bomb Dome, and the powerful Peace Memorial Museum, a solemn tribute to the resilience and hope that emerged after devastation.

We'll later board a ferry to "the island where gods and men live together." Here, we'll visit the iconic Itsukushima Shrine, partially built over the sea and dedicated to the guardian of the seas. You'll have time to explore the shrine, wander through the island's charming center, and have some lunch.

We'll return to Hiroshima for the evening, where dinner will be included.

Note: The order of visits in Hiroshima may vary, but you'll experience everything as planned.

Day 4

HIROSHIMA - MATSUYAMA

Today, we'll take a **ferry** to **Shikoku Island**; a pleasant two-and-a-half-



hour journey that will help us understand Japan, a country made up of numerous islands. In **Matsuyama**, we'll ride the **cable car** to visit its impressive **castle**. After that, we'll visit **Ishiteji**, a beautiful Buddhist temple and a popular pilgrimage site. **Lunch will be included** at a local restaurant. Later in the afternoon, we'll include admission to **Dogo Onsen**, a traditional Japanese bathhouse built in the 19th century.

Day 5

MATSUYAMA - KOTOHIRA - TAKAMATSU - NARUTO - KOBE

We'll head to **Kotohira**, a Shinto shrine dedicated to the God of sailors and an important pilgrimage site built on Mount Zosu, accessible by climbing 785 steps. Next, in Takamatsu, we'll visit Ritsurin, one of the most beautiful gardens in Japan. **Lunch will be included** at a local restaurant.

Afterward, in **Naruto**, we'll stop at an impressive bridge that spans the sea. Here, we'll explore its remarkable construction and walk along its glass floor to observe the powerful sea whirlpools from 45 meters above. Our scenic route will then take us across stunning bridges connecting islands over the sea. Finally, we'll arrive in **Kobe** for accommodation.

Day 6

KOBE - OSAKA - MOUNT KOYA

In **Kobe**, we'll visit the **Earthquake Memorial Museum**, which serves to honor the memory of the devastating earthquake that struck the city in 1995 and its remarkable reconstruction.

We'll then continue to **Osaka**, before heading to the sacred **Mount Koya**, the most important center of Shingon Buddhism in **Japan**. This magical pilgrimage site is home to 120 temples and monasteries. We'll visit the Okuno Mausoleum, a deeply spiritual place and vast cemetery set in nature with over 200,000 graves. We'll also visit the Kongobuji Temple, originally built in 1593.

We will spend the night in a Buddhist monastery, where **the monks will lead us in a Zen meditation practice** (Ajikan). **Dinner will be included** (vegetarian meal). If you wish, you can also attend the early morning religious ceremony at the temple.



Notes:

- On certain dates, the visit to the Earthquake Museum may be replaced by a visit to the Sake Museum or a trip up Kobe Tower.
- Staying at the monastery is considered a highly valuable experience. The rooms are simple, without private bathrooms, and follow traditional Japanese style with tatami mats. Bathrooms are shared.
- We cannot guarantee the meditation practice during peak tourist dates. Since accommodation capacity in the temples on Mount Koya is limited, in some cases, we may accommodate groups in nearby hotels (with half board included).

Day 7

MOUNT KOYA - KYOTO

We'll start the day with a traditional Japanese breakfast at the temple. Early in the morning, we'll depart for **Kyoto**, a city that served as Japan's capital from 794 to 1868 and was home to the Imperial Court. Remarkably spared from bombings during World War II, Kyoto retains its extraordinary artistic and cultural heritage. The city is also famous as the site where the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions was signed in 1997.

Our visit will take us to some of the city's most iconic landmarks. We'll admire the magnificent Shinto Shrine of Fushimi Inari, explore the historic Imperial Palace, and marvel at the **Kinkaku-ji Temple**, also known as the "Golden Pavilion," with its stunning gardens.

You'll have free time to explore before we visit **Gion**, a bustling traditional district renowned for its Geisha culture. Here, you'll have additional free time to soak in the unique atmosphere.

Note: If you've already visited Kyoto as part of your tour, our guide will provide tips and recommendations to help you explore other parts of the city on your own.

Day 8

KYOTO - EIHEI-JI - KATSUYAMA-DINOSAUR MUSEUM - KATSUYAMA - KANAZAWA

We'll start our day with breakfast before departing along one of the



largest lakes in **Japan**. Our first stop will be at **Shirahige Ginra**, a small shrine located by the lake. We'll then head to **Eihei-ji**, a temple-monastery founded in 1244 and a central hub of Zen Buddhism in **Japan** (admission included). Its surroundings, architecture, gardens, and spiritual ambiance make it a key training center for monks who practice Zazen meditation and follow a strict daily diet. Next, in **Katsuyama**, we'll visit three key sites. First, the **Dinosaur Museum**, located at the largest dinosaur fossil site in **Japan**, where you'll have free time for lunch and to explore its educational exhibits featuring over 40 dinosaur skeletons. Then, we'll visit the **Great Buddha of Echizen** and its grand temple, along with a five-story **pagoda**, which we can climb to enjoy panoramic views. We'll arrive in **Kanazawa** by evening.

Day 9

KANAZAWA

We'll spend a full day in **Kanazawa**, beginning with a guided city tour in the morning. This city, which once rivaled **Kyoto** and **Tokyo**, was spared from destruction during World War II air raids. We'll visit the castle area, with its impressive walls, and take a stroll through the historic Nagamachi neighborhood, where samurai and their families once lived. This area preserves its historical atmosphere with remaining residences, earthen walls, private entrance gates, narrow alleys, and water canals. We'll also include admission to **Kenrokuen**, one of the three most beautiful gardens in **Japan**. The tour will end at **Omicho**, a lively traditional market with many options for lunch. The afternoon will be free for you to explore.

Day 10

KANAZAWA - AINOKURA - SHIRAKAWA - HIDA VILLAGE - TAKAYAMA

Today, we'll journey through beautiful mountain landscapes, forests, and traditional villages as we explore the **Gokayama** and **Shirakawago** regions. These villages have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and their traditional houses, with steeply sloped roofs, are known as "praying hands" for their resemblance to monks' hands joined in prayer—designed to withstand heavy winter snowfalls. We'll stop in **Ainokura**, a charming small village, and in **Shirakawa-go Ogimachi**, a larger, more popular



	<p>village. There will be time to stroll and enjoy lunch. Afterward, we'll continue to Takayama, where we'll visit the Hida Folk Village Museum, nestled in a peaceful setting. This open-air museum features over 30 traditional houses from the Edo Period (1603-1868), relocated from their original sites to form this museum in 1971. The buildings showcase tools and utensils used in everyday life in the past. We'll then have free time to explore the old town, with its wooden houses and traditional shops.</p>
Day 11	<p>TAKAYAMA - HIDA FURUKAWA - MATSUMOTO - TOKYO</p> <p>After breakfast, we'll depart for Hida Furukawa, where we'll stroll through its charming old town. The city's festival has been declared an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO, known for its large drums and beautifully decorated floats. We'll include admission to the museum, which showcases the festival's floats, costumes, and drums. We'll then continue our journey across the Japanese Alps, renowned for their snow-covered landscapes for much of the year. Upon arrival in Matsumoto, we'll visit the city's impressive castle, known as the "Crow Castle" due to its black color, dating back to the 16th century. Afterward, you'll have free time to enjoy lunch and explore the town. In the afternoon, we'll depart for Tokyo, arriving by the end of the day.</p>
Day 12	<p>TOKYO</p> <p>After breakfast, our journey will come to an end, leaving you with wonderful lasting memories.</p>

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, Kanazawa
- **Evening transfer:** Shinjuku, Traditional quarter of Gion
- **Ticket admission:** Metro,
Zoji Temple,
Meiji Temple,
Sensoji Temple ,
Peace Museum in Hiroshima ,
Dogo Onsen,
Ishiteji Temple ,
Shinto shrine ,
Ritsurin Garden ,
Naruto Brigde ,
Earthquake Memorial Museum ,
Okuno Mausoleum,Kongobuji Temple and Ajikan or Zazen meditation in Mount Koya , Shrine of Fushimi Inari,
Imperial Palace, Kinkaku-ji Temple ,
Shirahige Ginra Shrine and Temple-monastery of Eihei-Ji ,
Dinosaur Museum,
Great Buddha and Echizen Pagoda,
Heisenji Hakusan Shinto Shrine ,
Kenrokuen Garden ,
Small village ,
Village of Shirakawa-go Oguimachi ,
Hida Folk Village Museum ,
Museum , Castle
- **Ferry:** Hiroshima - Miyahima, Hiroshima- Matsuyama
- **Funicular:** Matsuyama castle
- **High speed train:** Tokyo - Hiroshima
- **3 Lunch included in:** Tokyo, Matsuyama, Takamatsu
- **3 dinner included in:** Tokyo, Hiroshima, Mount Koya



Planned Hotels

SHINAGAWA PRINCE HOTEL****

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790-8520 MATSUYAMA

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