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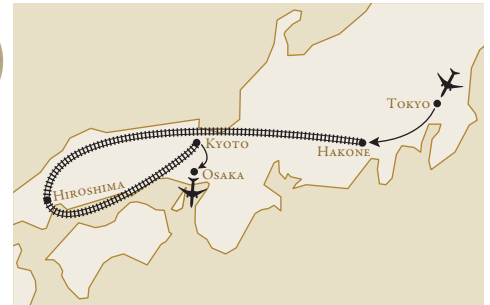
# JAPAN: LAND OF THE RISING SUN



## 9 DAYS & 8 NIGHTS / PRIVATE JOURNEY

### TOKYO, HAKONE, HIROSHIMA & KYOTO

This tour has been carefully designed to visit Japan's key sights using the country's superb public transport network. Discover the futuristic city of Tokyo, explore the splendor of Mount Fuji and Hakone National Park and visit Kyoto, a great base from which to visit Nara. From traveling on a Shinkansen, the bullet train, to staying in an authentic ryokan, experiencing city lights, taking your palette beyond Sushi and Sake, and spending time in ancient villages, Japan is a discovery that will never end.



2012 DATES	*PRICES FROM
Jan-Dec	\$ 12,975
Single Supplement	2,660

Note: Upon request, your travel consultant can provide an exact price based on your specific dates of travel.

#### Day 1: Arrive Tokyo

Upon arrival in Tokyo, you will be welcomed by your Cox & Kings local representative and transferred to your hotel. *The Peninsula Tokyo (Deluxe Room) – 3 nights*

#### Day 2: Tokyo

Set out on an exploration of this bustling city. Enjoy panoramic views from the main observatory of Tokyo Tower. Take memorable pictures of the Imperial Palace Plaza located next to the Imperial Palace, home of the Emperor of Japan. Visit the ancient Asakusa Kannon Temple and the traditional Nakamise Shopping Arcade. Your final stop is Meiji Shrine; Omotesando and Harajuku. (B)

#### Day 3: Tokyo

Spend the day at leisure and explore the city at your own pace. (B)

**Option:** Choose from two optional activities available.

**Full day Tokyo Tour:** Highlights include a visit to the Edo Tokyo Museum and Ginza area. Following lunch, visit Hamarikyu Garden and enjoy a cruise on Tokyo Bay. **OR**

**Sumo Wrestling Tournament:** Enjoy a Sumo Wrestling tournament, a popular sport dating back thousands of years. Also visit the Sumo Museum and experience a Dohyo-iri (entering the ring) ceremony at the amphitheater.



Torii Gate, Miyajima

#### Day 4: To Hakone

Enjoy a scenic drive to Mount Fuji. Visit Mt. Fuji 5th Station (subject to weather; in case of bad weather, you will visit the Fuji Visitor Center). Tour the magnificent Hakone National Park.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- EXPLORE BUSTLING TOKYO
- BOAT RIDE ON LAKE ASHI
- TAKE THE KOMAGATAKI ROPEWAY TO VIEW ICONIC FUJI
- ITSUKUSHIMA SHRINE IN MIYAJIMA ISLAND
- DISCOVER UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN KYOTO
- MAIKO SHOW AND TRADITIONAL JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY

### OPTIONALS

- FULL DAY TOKYO TOUR
- SUMO WRESTLING TOURNAMENT
- RYOKAN EXPERIENCE
- GEISHA EXPERIENCE WITH DINNER

### EXTENSIONS

- HONG KONG • BEIJING • SHANGHAI

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE VISIT  
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Asakusa Kannon Temple, Tokyo

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Tahoto Pagoda, Miyajima

After a traditional Japanese lunch, embark on a relaxing boat cruise on Lake Ashi. Ride an aerial cableway up and down at Mt. Komagatake. **Hyatt Regency Hakone – 1 night (B, L, D)**

### Day 5: To Hiroshima

This morning, the bulk of your luggage will be delivered to your hotel in Kyoto, only an overnight bag is required. Transfer to the Odawara station for your Shinkansen (bullet train) to Hiroshima.

Enjoy a full day tour of Hiroshima and Miyajima. Pay tribute to the victims of the bomb blast at the Peace Park and witness the aftermath of the blast through the photographs at the Atomic Bomb Museum. A short ferry ride takes you to the picturesque island of Miyajima. Admire the architectural beauty of the Itsukushima Shrine that emerges from the water, a UNESCO World Heritage site. **Rihga Royal Hotel – 1 night (B)**

**Option:** Overnight at Iwaso Ryokan

*Note: Guide will not join you on the bullet train.*

### Day 6: To Kyoto

Travel aboard the bullet train to Kyoto. Your city tour starts after you disembark at Shin Osaka station. Visit Osaka Castle and get some great deals as your shop at Shinsaibashi or Dotonbori. Later, transfer to Kyoto. **Hotel Okura – 3 nights (B)**  
*Note: Guide will not join you on the bullet train.*

### Day 7: Kyoto

Discover Kyoto on a city tour. Visit the Kinkakuji Temple, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site, Ryoanji (Peaceful Dragon Temple), a Zen temple and Nijo Castle (closed every Tuesday of July, Aug and Dec), famous for its Momoyama architecture. Following a traditional lunch, end the day by witnessing the famous Japanese tea ceremony. **(B, L)**

### Day 8: Kyoto - Nara - Kyoto

Morning visit to Nara, home to Japan's original emperors. Visit Todaiji Temple, Nara Park and Kasuga Shrine. Return to Kyoto and visit the hillside Fushimi-Inari Shrine. End the day with a visit to the Sake Museum to learn more about Japan's national drink. **(B)**

**Option:** Geisha Experience with dinner. A rare opportunity to experience an evening of traditional Geisha entertainment, including traditional performances and a sumptuous Kyoto style meal.

### Day 9: Depart Osaka

Today you will be transferred to the Kansai International Airport in Osaka for your international flight. **(B)**

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All hotel accommodations as per the itinerary
- First-class trains
- Meals as noted in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch & D=Dinner)
- All transfers and sightseeing on a private basis
- Private sightseeing as described in itinerary including entrance fees and services of professional local guides

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International air travel (USA to Asia)
- Airport departure taxes
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance
- Excess baggage fees
- Personal items and alcoholic beverages
- Gratuities to your guides, drivers, porters and hotel service

## VISA

U.S. Passport holders do not require a visa if traveling to Japan as a tourist under 30 days. However passport must be valid for six months and must have minimum two blank pages.

## WEATHER

**Spring (March - May)** — The plum blossom is a good sign that the cold winter will soon end and spring is just around the corner, followed by the cherry blossom at its best in the Tokyo area between the end of March and the beginning of April to bring this beautiful season to a climax. Splendid views of mountains, fields and gardens all blanketed in gentle pink abound in this season.

**Summer (June - August)** — The Japanese summer begins in June with a three to four week rainy season. This is an important time for farmers to plant rice. It becomes seriously hot and humid from July onward. Summer is also when many interesting festivals and other events are held all over the country.

**Autumn (September - November)** — Autumn always brings such freshness with a light breeze and cool temperature after the hot and humid summer. All forests are dyed in glorious autumn colors. Chrysanthemums create beautiful displays with their abundance of flowers to parks and gardens.