



## Classic Japan 2023

### 4 – 14 September 2023

Experience the ancient temples, exquisite landscape, and highlights of Japan with our Classic Tour of Japan. Being the heartbeat of Japan, Kyoto is home to over 2,000 temples and shrines, exquisite crafts and some of the best cuisine in the country. Here we will enjoy a dinner with a Maiko (apprentice Geisha). You will then move on to peaceful Hiroshima and, a short ferry ride away, you will be stunned by the fantastic views of the lovely island of Miyajima. Next, enjoy a stay near beautiful Mt Fuji where you will relax indoor and outdoor hot springs. Finally, head to the bright lights of the buzzing metropolis of Tokyo, the capital of Japan where ancient and modern meet.

# Classic Japan 2023



## The itinerary

### 4 September: Arrival in Japan (*flights to be arranged by you*).

On arrival at Kansai International Airport (KIX) transfer by Express Train to your 4\* hotel in central Kyoto for 4 nights where you will be met by your Guide.

### 5 September: Guided sightseeing in Kyoto

Enjoy a full day visiting the sights of Kyoto by private air-conditioned coach, beginning with the beautiful Kinkaku-ji (the Golden Pavilion), a zen temple in northern Kyoto whose top floors are covered in golden leaf. After that we will visit wonderful Ryoan-ji, possibly the temple with the most famous Zen rock garden in Japan arranged in the karesansui (dry landscape) style. Following a bento box lunch at Kyoto Handicraft Centre, we will visit Sanjusangendo, a famous temple in eastern Kyoto renowned for its 1001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner.

### 6 September: Nara & Uji

Today we will take a coach to the sleepy town of Nara, Japan's first permanent capital with eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The highlight of the day is a visit to Todai-ji Temple, home to the Great Buddha. Nara Park is a lovely place to stroll, relax and get close to the deer. On the way back to Kyoto we will make a brief stop in Uji which is famous for the most delicious green tea. We will visit a lovely tea shop that has provided tea to the Shoguns and Imperial family, and you will have the opportunity to learn how to prepare green tea.



### 7 September: Kyoto Day excursion to Hiroshima, Miyajima

Today we will make an early start and board the world-famous Bullet Train to the moving city of Hiroshima. We first visit the Atomic Bomb Dome, Peace Memorial Park and Peace Memorial Museum. We will then stop for a delicious lunch before taking a short ferry ride to the beautiful island of Miyajima, once considered so sacred that commoners were forbidden. We return to Kyoto this evening

### 8 September: Kyoto at leisure

Today is yours to enjoy at leisure. In the evening we will enjoy a walk in the famous Geisha district of Gion followed by a very special experience where we will enjoy a light dinner in company of a Maiko (apprentice Geisha) who will entertain us with dances and Oshaku (pouring drinks).

*N.B. In order to make your journey to Tokyo more comfortable, we recommend that you pack a small overnight bag for your night's stay in Hakone as the remainder of your*

*luggage will be sent ahead separately to your Tokyo hotel. The cost of sending one standard-sized suitcase is included in our tour price. Additional baggage will cost extra. Your suitcase will be collected tomorrow morning.*

### 9 September: Kyoto to Hakone

Today we say goodbye to Kyoto and board the Bullet Train bound for Hakone, a peaceful mountain resort in the foothills of Mt Fuji. We check into a lovely 4\* hotel for the night. You are free to spend the afternoon strolling through the mountain paths and relaxing in your hotel's soothing private indoor and outdoor hot spring baths. Enjoy a delicious dinner tonight.

### 10 September: Hakone to Tokyo

Today we will explore the landscape of Hakone by private coach, ride in a cable car for a 360-degree panorama of the surrounding mountains and volcanic valleys of Owakudani and enjoy a wonderful cruise across Lake Ashi.



Later this afternoon the Bullet Train will speed you to Tokyo, a city which must be seen to be believed. Check in to your 4\* hotel in central Tokyo for 4 nights.

### 11 September: Guided sightseeing in Tokyo

Enjoy a full-day city tour by private coach beginning with a visit to the Sumida Hokusai Museum where you can browse the fantastic exhibits on show. We will then visit bustling Senso-ji Temple in the downtown area of Asakusa, before ending the day by ascending Tocho (the Tokyo Municipal Government Building) for a panoramic view of Tokyo.

### 12 September: Tokyo at leisure

Today is your free day and you will be able to explore more of Tokyo's attractions. We recommend the electronics district of Akihabara. Alternatively, you might like to join a 1-day optional tour to Kamakura (the political centre of medieval Japan) and Enoshima Bay, or a 1-day optional tour to Nikko, a superb temple town in the mountains north of Tokyo. Lunch is included on both optional tours.

### 13 September: Tokyo

This morning we will visit lovely Koishikawa Korakuen garden. We will then visit serene Meiji Shrine and the trendy nearby district of Harajuku. The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy at leisure. We will have a fantastic Farewell Dinner in the evening.

### 14 September: Tokyo

Transport to the airport by express train or Airport Limousine bus. Fly back home. You can also extend your stay in Japan if you wish!

#### Price Includes:

- 10 nights' accommodation at centrally located 4\* hotels in Kyoto, Hakone and Tokyo with breakfast daily
- Airport transfers by train/bus on arrival and departure
- Services of a knowledgeable Japan Journeys Tour Manager throughout
- Welcome and Farewell Dinners and also Dinner on 9 September
- Lunches on 5 and 7 September
- Light dinner with a Maiko in Kyoto's Gion district on 11 September
- 7-day Japan Rail Pass allowing you unlimited travel on the entire Japan Rail network including Shinkansen (Bullet Train) services
- Entrance fees and transportation fares to all attractions mentioned above
- All Japanese sales taxes and service charge
- Full financial protection via Japan Journeys' membership of the Travel Trust Association through which your monies are held in a Trust Account until you return home

#### Not Included In Price:

- International airfare (**flights to be arranged by you**)
- Travel Insurance
- Any journeys made by you on your free days.
- Other meals not mentioned above.
- Entrance to any attractions not named above.

#### Optional Tours Price:

1-Day Nikko World Heritage **£150.00** per person

1-Day Kamakura & Enoshima Bay Tour **£130.00** per person

#### Land Only Price

**£4,025.00**

**per person based on  
Twin/Double room  
occupancy.**

*(not including flights,  
non-UK passengers  
only)*

**Single room  
supplement**

**£750**

All price estimates are based on a minimum of 20 persons travelling. All price estimates are based on current rates of exchange. To confirm a place on the trip, a deposit of 10% per person must be paid. The balance of the price of the trip must be made 12 weeks prior to departure.

If you wish to extend your trip pre tour in **Kyoto** or post-tour in **Tokyo**, you can do so on request.

#### **COVID SAFETY**

**In order to maximise our customers' safety on tour, we request all guests over 18 years old be tripled vaccinated (i.e. they must have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination and the booster dose, at least 14 days prior departure). A vaccination document or evidence will be required at the time of departure. We appreciate your understanding.**



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