



Japan Bonsai Tour 2024

6 – 17 February 2024

On our Japan Bonsai Tour, you will visit some of Japan's most prestigious bonsai nurseries at Kinashi and Omiya bonsai villages, and visit the 98th Kokufu Bonsai-ten. Join us and explore the serene temples of Kyoto and take a train ride across the shimmering Seto Inland Sea.

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Itinerary

6/7 Feb: Depart UK and Arrive in Japan

Depart from London Heathrow Airport (with a change of plane en route) and arrive at Narita International Airport (Tokyo) the following day. (Non-UK passengers should make a flight booking to arrive before the main the group so that we can meet you at the airport). Transfer to your hotel in central Tokyo by private coach and check in for 4 nights on a bed and breakfast basis.

8 Feb: (Tokyo) Shunka-en and Asakusa

Today we visit the Shunka-en Bonsai Museum which is owned by the Bonsai Master Kunio Kobayashi who has worked on numerous Kokufu prizewinning trees. We then take the subway to the bustling Sensoji Temple in Asakusa before returning to our hotel. Enjoy a delicious included Welcome Dinner tonight.

9 Feb: Kokufu Bonsai Ten Part I

Today is the day we visit the wonderful Kokufu Bonsai-ten, the largest and most prestigious bonsai event held in Japan.

10 Feb: Omiya Bonsai Village

We travel a little further north today by train to visit a selection of beautiful nurseries at Omiya Bonsai Village in Saitama prefecture, followed by the wonderful Omiya Bonsai Museum.

(Tonight, you'll need to pack your main luggage as this will be sent ahead to your hotel in Kyoto for your arrival. You will therefore need to carry a small overnight bag for tomorrow night)

11 Feb: Tokyo to Kyoto (Today is a National Holiday in Japan)

Today we will spend a leisurely morning in Tokyo before speeding off on the Bullet Train to the old capital of Kyoto. This afternoon we will go for a walk around Gion, the traditional center of Kyoto.

Enjoy free time in the evening and maybe spot a couple Geisha going between appointments if you stay in this charming part of the city.

12 Feb: Kyoto

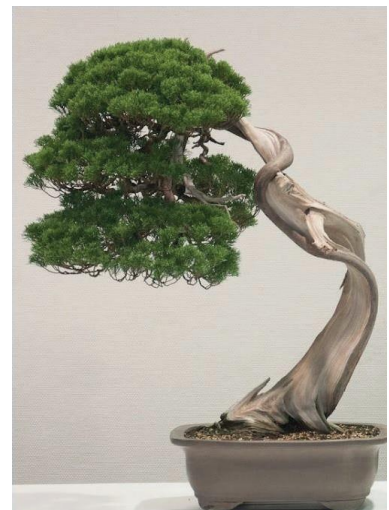
After breakfast, depart on a full day tour of Kyoto by private coach. Visit the beautiful Temple and gardens of the Golden Pavilion and then enjoy a series of Zen Buddhist rock gardens at Daitoku-ji Temple. Then on to the Kyoto Handicraft Centre where you have time to have lunch and browse a multitude of craft shops. Visit the stunning Sanjusangendo temple complete with 1001 human sized Buddhist statues.

13 Feb: Nara

We take a short train trip to the town of Nara. There we walk to Todaiji Temple – which used to be the largest wooden building in the world for centuries and contains the Great Buddha - Japan's largest. Take a stroll in Nara Park and feed the deer.

Tour Includes:

- Entry to the Kokufu Bonsai-ten – the biggest annual bonsai event in Japan
- Visit to Kinashi Bonsai Village – the largest bonsai village in Japan, with over 270 gardens
- Visit to Omiya Bonsai Village – a lovely district with many bonsai gardens near Tokyo
- Guided tours of Kyoto, Tokyo and Nara
- Travel on Japan's famous Bullet Train
- Visit Korakuen, one of Japan's top 3 most celebrated gardens.
- 10 nights hotel accommodation (6 nights Tokyo, 3 nights Kyoto & 1 night in Okayama)
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome Dinner and Farewell Dinner
- Airport transfers in Japan
- Services of a knowledgeable & experienced Japan Journeys guide throughout





You can either remain in Nara or return to Kyoto as the rest of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure.

(Tonight, you'll need to pack your main luggage as this will be sent ahead to your hotel in Tokyo for your arrival. You will therefore need to carry a small overnight bag for tomorrow night)

14 Feb: Kinashi Bonsai Village/ Okayama

After checking out of the hotel in the morning, we travel westward on the Bullet Train to Shikoku - the smallest and least explored of Japan's 4 main islands. Here you have all day to explore wonderful Kinashi Bonsai Village – the largest Bonsai village in Japan where, amongst other sights, you can view field upon field of miniature black pines. Later in the afternoon, we travel to our hotel in Okayama for 1 night.

15 Feb: Korakuen Garden/Tokyo

Today we visit Korakuen, a traditional stroll garden in Okayama and one of Japan's three most celebrated gardens. In the afternoon, we will speed off to Tokyo and check into our hotel for 2 nights.

16 Feb: Kokufu Bonsai Ten Part II

Today you have a chance to revisit the Kokufu Bonsai-ten as there will be a new display of bonsai on show for the second part of the exhibition. We will have a Farewell Dinner this evening.

17 Feb: Depart Japan

Sadly, it is time to say *sayonara*. Transfer to Narita Airport (Tokyo) from where you depart home.

Price Includes:

- International airfare
- 10 nights hotel accommodation at centrally located 3/3.5* hotels with breakfast daily
- Delicious Welcome Dinner, Farewell Dinner, and a lunch in Kyoto
- Airport Transfers in Japan for those passengers arriving and departing with the main group (pre- and post- extension passengers will need to arrange their own airport transfers)
- Private air-conditioned coach tour of Kyoto
- Bullet Train tickets
- All long distance, local and subway train fares mentioned in itinerary
- Sightseeing and entrance fees to all named attractions on tour
- Services of a knowledgeable Japan Journeys Guide throughout
- Separate baggage transfer for one piece of luggage per person from Tokyo to Kyoto, and from Kyoto to Tokyo

Not Included In Price:

- Travel Insurance
- meals (other than those mentioned above)

All price estimates are based on a minimum number of passengers travelling in February 2020. All price estimates are based on current rates of exchange.

Total Price £4,125.00	Land-Only Price £3,325.00	Single Room Supplement £495.00
per person based on Twin/Double room occupancy.	per person based on Twin/Double room occupancy. <i>(not including flights, non-UK passengers only)</i>	

To confirm a place on the trip, a deposit of 10% per person is required. The balance becomes due 12 weeks prior to departure.

Regional Flight Connections are available on request. Please contact us for details.
Tel: +44 (0) 208 064 2771



Japan Journeys Limited

Unit 16, 64-66 Wingate Square, London SW4 0AF

Tel: +44 (0) 208 064 2771

info@japanjourneys.co.uk

www.japanjourneys.co.uk

