



# Japan

## Summer Manga Tour 2024

14 – 22 August 2024

The holiday of a lifetime for fans of manga, anime, and all aspects of Japanese pop culture! As well as visits to Akihabara and Nakano Broadway, we take you to all sorts of fantastic anime/manga related places in Tokyo! We start out by visiting the coveted Ghibli Museum, before moving on to quirky Harajuku, where we'll see the latest trends in fashion and food among Japanese youth. A trip to Japan wouldn't be complete without seeing the infamous Shibuya Crossing and statue of Hachiko, the dog who waited for his owner every day at the station. After that, we visit Ikebukuro, home to Japan's largest Pokemon Centre and Animate store, Akihabara, and so much more! Experience Tokyo in all its neon glory with the original *Japan Summer Manga Tour*. We don't just visit Japan – we live it!

## Japan Summer Manga Tour 2024 Highlights:



### Studio Ghibli Museum

Visit Tokyo's Studio Ghibli Museum, dedicated to the art and animation of Japan's most famous animation company. Inside, see the process of creating an animated film, with sketches, storyboarding, keyframing, cleanup, colouring and background painting. Other sights to see include a replica Catbus from *My Neighbour Totoro*, and a 5 metre tall replica statue from *Laputa*!

### Nakano Broadway

Nakano Broadway is home to over 30 Mandarake stores – stores selling used (but like new!) pop culture memorabilia. From anime figurines to Godzilla statues, you can find it all in this quirky street-styled mall! Also to not be missed for arcade fans are the connecting arcades, where you can play a number of arcade games including *Taiko no Tatsujin*, a rhythm game where you hit a huge replica Taiko drum!



### Harajuku

Harajuku is where the latest trends in fashion and food amongst trendy Japanese youth are born and thrive. From lolita fashion to cosplay, Harajuku has it all, and nearby Yoyogi Park is home to a thriving scene of 1950s-style rockers and street performers. Harajuku's hub is the bustling Takeshita Dori (Takeshita Street), which is full of trendy clothes shops and Instagrammable crepe, cotton floss, and donut stores. There's something for everyone, and we'll visit the nearby Meiji Jingu shrine too!

### Asakusa

Asakusa is home to one of Tokyo's most colourful and popular temples, Sensoji Temple. Going from the outer gate to the temple's second gate, you will find the lively Nakamise street. Here, you will find many Japanese souvenirs such as yukata and folding fans, as well as traditional Japanese sweets. Beyond the Hozomon Gate (the second gate) stands the temple's main hall and a five-storied pagoda.



### Ikebukuro

Famous for the Sunshine City mall, home to the biggest Pokémon Centre Japan, thousands flock to Ikebukuro every weekend to cosplay, meet up with friends, and show off merchandise of their favourite characters with intricately-designed bags. Just a short walk from Sunshine City is the whopping 8 floor high Animate Ikebukuro, the flagship store of the biggest anime and manga retailer in Japan.

## Shibuya

Along the way, we'll visit Shibuya and cross the famous Shibuya Crossing - the world's busiest pedestrian crossing. Here, you will also get the chance to see the Hachiko Statue: a statue of a loyal dog named Hachiko who waited for his owner at Shibuya Station every day years after he had passed away. Nearby Shibuya 109 is famous for its fashion retail, and will be familiar to fans of Japanese pop culture, as it and Shibuya Crossing have featured in many, including *The World Ends With You* and *Alice In Borderland*!



## Akihabara

Akihabara is perhaps Japan's most famous anime and manga subculture hotspot. Known by the locals as Akiba, Akihabara is a district famous for its many electronics shops. Here you can find many shops selling anime merchandise, figures, trading cards, as well as many second-hand retro electronic gadgets – all of which look brand new!

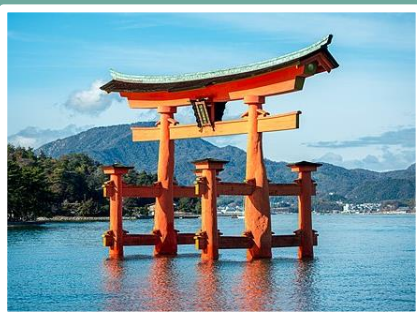
## One Week Extension Package Highlights:

### Kyoto

Kyoto is where you will find the Japan of silent temples nestling in bamboo groves, gardens of finely raked sand and bewitching geisha. This city is home to over 2,000 temples and shrines, exquisite crafts and some of the best cuisine in the country. In short, Kyoto is the heartbeat of traditional Japan.

Not to be missed are Kinkaku-ji, Ginkaku-ji and Kiyomizu temples, although be aware that these do become crowded. For a more peaceful, intimate temple experience we recommend the temple complex of Daitoku-ji, in particular Daisen- in sub-temple, and the Arashiyama area to the west of the city.

Also enjoy trips to nearby Nara and Osaka! Explore Nara's 8 UNESCO World Heritage sites and meet its famous bowing deer, and experience the best of Japanese cooking in lively and welcoming Osaka.



### Hiroshima, Miyajima Island

Hiroshima is an attractive, cosmopolitan city which has risen from the ashes of the world's first atomic bomb attack on 6 August 1945. The hypocentre of the explosion is now the Peace Memorial Park, flanked by the A-Bomb Dome, the former Industrial Promotion Hall which is the only surviving building from the blast. A superb network of trams will transport you around the city to some of Hiroshima's other attractions, namely Hiroshima Castle and Hiroshima Museum of Art. You can also use the tram to take the scenic route to Miyajima Island, famous for Itsukushima Shrine and its torii gate that appears to be floating on the sea.

# Japan Summer Manga Tour 2024

## The Itinerary

### 14 – 15 August: UK-Tokyo

Depart from London Heathrow on 14 August to Tokyo. Upon arrival the next day (15 August), you will be met by your Guide, who will take you via private coach to your hotel in Tokyo.

### 16 August: Ghibli Museum and Nakano

#### Broadway

After breakfast, we start with an orientation of Shinjuku, visiting local hotspots. Later, we will visit the superb Ghibli Museum in Mitaka, designed by one of the world's top animators, Hayao Miyazaki – Academy Award winner for "Spirited Away".

This afternoon, we go on to Nakano Broadway – the mega-mall home to Mandarake and countless other manga and memorabilia specialty stores.

### 17 August: Tokyo Tower, Asakusa, River Cruise

Today we visit the iconic Tokyo Tower – Godzilla's favourite haunt – where you will gain access to the Special Observatory. We then go on to bustling Sensoji Temple in Asakusa – beloved by all Tokyoites. We then enjoy a pleasure cruise from Asakusa pier along the Sumida River to Odaiba, a popular shopping and entertainment district on a man-made island in Tokyo Bay where you'll find a giant statue of Gundam.

### 18 August: Harajuku, Meiji Shrine, Yoyogi Park

Today we go on to wacky Harajuku and beautiful Meiji Shrine nearby. As it's a Sunday, you'll be able to soak up the atmosphere of Yoyogi Park where young Japanese get dressed up in their finest gear as...1950s rockers, punks, and Cosplay dolls! Enjoy the bands and performers in the park as we then move on to Omotesando and Takeshita Street – a great place for souvenir shopping.

### 19 August: Shibuya and Ikebukuro

Today we visit Shibuya and its iconic pedestrian crossing, considered to be one of the busiest crossings of the world! In Shibuya there are many department stores, and you will have some time to explore the area.

Later today, we head to Ikebukuro, visiting the largest Pokémon Centre in Japan! In Sunshine City shopping mall, you can also enjoy the indoor theme park – Namjatown – and visit the nearby Animate Ikebukuro flagship store, with its 8 huge floors dedicated to manga, anime and gaming.



### 20 August: Akihabara

After breakfast we visit Akihabara – Tokyo's "Electric Town" and home to dozens of anime, manga, and retro electronic goods stores. This day is not to be missed for fans of Japanese trading card games and anime figures. With tons of second-hand card shops, why not pick up a Japanese version of your favourite Pokémon card to commemorate your trip?

### 21 August: Free Day/Optional Tour

Today is yours to enjoy at leisure, or you may want to join one of our *Optional trips*. The first is a day out to the magical world of Tokyo Disneyland. Alternatively, how about a fully guided tour to Mt. Fuji and the beautiful nearby resort of Hakone, returning to Tokyo by Bullet Train? You can also stay in Tokyo and visit a few more sights! Maybe visit the famous staircase from Makoto Shinkai's *Your Name*, located in Yotsuya?

### 22 August: Return to the UK

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the Tokyo airport by private coach, from where you will depart for the UK.

**Not ready to go home yet?! Explore Japan for another week with our fabulous one week Extension Package (self-guided).**

## Extension Itinerary

### 22 August: Tokyo-Hiroshima

Check out of your Tokyo hotel with your fellow extenders. We will provide you with a 7-Day Japan Rail Pass for travel over the next few days. This gives you unlimited access to the entire Japan Rail (JR) network, including the world-famous Bullet

Train (Shinkansen). Head straight to Hiroshima on the Bullet train and continue by local train and ferry to the lovely island of Miyajima. Check into your ryokan for 1 night. A ryokan is a traditional Japanese inn where you'll sleep on a futon on a tatami mat floor. A delicious Japanese dinner (included) will be served to you. Enjoy the sights of this peaceful island. You can walk round the island in the evening wearing your cotton yukata (a robe provided in your room).

### 23 August: Miyajima & Hiroshima sightseeing

Head back to the mainland and visit Hiroshima's moving Peace Memorial Park, Museum and Atomic Bomb Dome. There are also several anime and game-related merchandise shops including the Pokémon Centre, Yellow Submarine and the Jump Shop that you might want to visit before heading via the Bullet Train to Kyoto, the cultural heart of Japan. Check into your superbly located, spotless 3\* hotel for 4 nights.

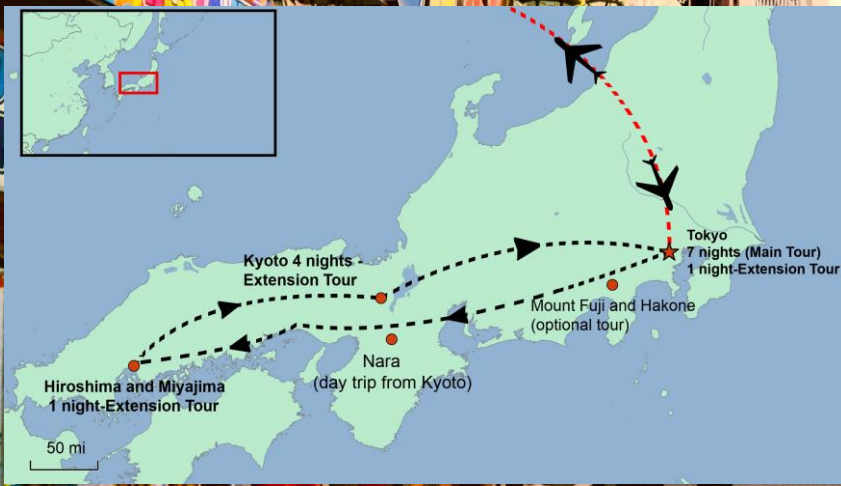
### 24 August: Kyoto sightseeing

Join a seat-in coach tour for sightseeing in Kyoto. The tour is guided, lunch is included, and sights include Nijo Castle, the beautiful Golden Pavilion (featured in Blue Exorcist) and Kiyomizu-dera (which appears in Love Hina & Negima), a lovely mountainside temple boasting stunning views over the city.

### 25 August: Nara sightseeing

Self-guided excursion to the nearby city of Nara, Japan's first permanent capital and home to eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We recommend visiting Todaiji where you can see Japan's largest Buddha statue, Nara Park which is home to hundreds of sacred deer and is featured in Lucky Star, and Kasuga Taisha, Nara's most celebrated shrine.





### 26 August: Osaka sightseeing

Using your Japan Rail Pass why not venture to Osaka, Japan's lively second city. Head to Namba, commonly known as Osaka's "mini-Akiba", home to an abundance of anime merch shops. Next you might like to head to Den-Den Town near Nipponbashi, where you can rummage for vintage Japanese electronics. Make sure not to miss Dotonburi, Osaka's street food haven.

### 27 August: Kyoto to Tokyo

After breakfast, explore Kyoto further – we recommend visiting Fushimi Inari Shrine, which is famous for its thousands of vermilion torii gates and is featured in *Inari*, *Konkon*, *Koi Iroha*, Arashiyama with its beautiful bamboo forests, or Toei Kyoto Studio Park.

Later today head back to Tokyo for your final night in Japan.

### 28 August: Return to UK

Sadly, it's time to say goodbye to Japan... until next time! Transfer by Express Train/Airport Limousine Bus to the airport for your flight back home.



## Japan Summer Manga Tour Price Includes:

- International airfare
- 7 nights' hotel accommodation at a centrally located 3\* hotel in Tokyo and breakfast daily.
- Fully guided tours daily
- Sightseeing and entrance fees to all temples, shrines, museums and other on tour attractions (except for the entrance ticket to Namjatown, which is optional) including access to the Main Observatory at Tokyo Tower.
- Meet & Greet at the Airport
- Transfer by Airport Limousine Bus or Narita Express train from the Airport to central Tokyo
- All subway and train fares.
- Services of a knowledgeable Japan Journeys Guide throughout.
- 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

## Extension Price Includes:

- 5 nights hotel accommodation at centrally located 3\* hotels in Kyoto and Tokyo with breakfast daily
- 1 night shared accommodation in a ryokan on Miyajima, dinner and breakfast included.
- 7-Day Ordinary Class Japan Rail Pass.
- Seat-in coach tour for guided sightseeing in Kyoto on 24 August

## Not Included In Price:

- Travel Insurance (Available on our website)
- Lunches & Dinners
- Optional Tours

## Not included in Extension Price:

Admission fees other than those included in your sightseeing tour on 24 August

### MAIN TOUR PRICE

**£2,999.00**

*per person based on  
Twin room occupancy*

*(including flights from  
Heathrow)*

### LAND-ONLY PRICE

**£2,199.00**

*per person based on  
Twin room occupancy*

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

### EXTENSION PRICE

**£1,375.00**

*per person based on  
Twin room occupancy*

### SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

**£299.00**

### EXTENSION SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

**£250.00\***

All price estimates are based on a minimum of 14 people travelling. All price estimates are based on current rates of exchange. To make a booking, a deposit of **£250.00 per person** is required. The balance of the price of the trip must be made 12 weeks prior to departure.

\*Single travellers will share a room (with passengers of the same sex) for one night in the ryokan on Miyajima Island as is customary at a Japanese ryokan. We will endeavour to accommodate you with another single traveller of the same sex, please ask us about this. There is no guarantee we can find you a suitable sharer.



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