



SAMURAI TOURS

Adventures in Discovering Traditional Japan

www.samuraitours.com

Best of Japan's Hashtags



Tour Overview

More than any other country, the Japanese have managed to integrate ancient traditions and bleeding-edge technology harmoniously into their daily lives. With the perfect mix of new and old, this well-rounded tour has something for everyone.

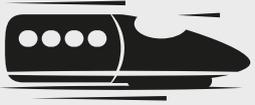
Destinations

Tokyo, Hakone, Takayama, Shirakawago, Kanzawa, Hiroshima, Miyajima Island, Kyoto, Fushimi, Osaka (optional add on day), Nara (optional add on day)

Tour Factors



Cultural Immersion
★★★★☆



Pace
★★★★☆



Physical Activity
★★★★☆

Tour Details

You do not want to miss this adventure of a lifetime! In the best that Japan has to offer, you'll enjoy a colorful mix of large cities like Tokyo and quaint and traditional Takayama and Shirakawago. You'll be able to find peace and zen in the ambiance and solitude of Miyajima Island and the ancient shrines and temples of Kyoto. Experience the testament to peace of Hiroshima and the natural beauty of Hakone, the thermally-heated mineral water baths at an onsen and more. While temporarily living and traveling like a Japanese person would, you will visit all of the most famous photo-worthy spots throughout Japan, leaving with memories, stories to tell and the best "grammable" photos in a lifetime. **Most importantly, with this tour limited to travelers between the ages of 20-35**, you will get to develop friendships with friends from around the world while you discover Japan together. Do it for the 'gram!

Tour Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Overnight at Onsen with naturally heated mineral waters✓ Tea Ceremony✓ Six separate rides on a Shinkansen (bullet train)✓ One overnight at a Japanese-style ryokan✓ Shirakawago - UNESCO World Heritage Site✓ Kenrokuen - Rated as One of Japan's Three Best Gardens
Tour Inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Travel Guard Gold Policy (for American tour members only)✓ 14 Day JR Rail Pass✓ Meeting service at the arrival airport✓ Sending service to the appropriate train station✓ Baggage transfer from city to city✓ Electronic version of Tour Handbook and Japanese History
Tour Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Airfare is NOT included.✗ A printed itinerary is not included✗ Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and desserts are NOT included

Map



Tour Destinations

- 📍 Tokyo
- 📍 Hakone
- 📍 Takayama
- 📍 Shirakawago
- 📍 Kanazawa
- 📍 Hiroshima
- 📍 Miyajima Island
- 📍 Kyoto

Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Tokyo

Welcome to the most populous metropolitan area in the world, Tokyo! Our meeting staff will be waiting for you outside of customs holding a sign with your name on it. They will help you transfer to the public chartered bus that will take you to your first hotel! You'll have the evening free to grab dinner and rest up. Come ready for an adventure of a lifetime! No meals included.

Travel: 1-1/2 Hours; Walking: Light

Day 2 Tokyo - Tokyo Tower, Ginza, Asakusa

After breakfast, we will meet up as a group and head out with your guide to Tokyo Tower. The Tokyo Tower is the second-tallest structure in Japan and was built to look just like the Eiffel Tower. It is definitely a must-stop spot for some iconic photos for your Instagram. Afterward, we will travel to the Ginza district. The Ginza is one of the most upscale shopping, dining, and entertainment districts in Japan, think New York's SOHO on steroids. We will stop in for a bit of shopping and then Kushiage for lunch (fried meat and vegetables on skewers). From there, we will walk over to the Asakusa area. Here we will tour the Nakamise-dori, Senso-ji Buddhist Temple and the Asakusa Shrine. It's an inspiring place to experience the Buddhist and Shinto Japanese religious practices. We will return to the hotel, receive your train tickets for the rest of the tour, and the evening is yours to explore. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant included.

#tokyotower

#ginza

#asakusa

#sensoji

Travel: 1 Hours; Walking: Heavy

Day 3 Free Day in Tokyo

Today you choose your adventure. Start the day by visiting a specialty coffee shop, go shopping, visit some shrines, or just eat lots of ramen. If you prefer to have something organized for you, we have a handful of optional tours you can choose from that won't disappoint.

#exploretokyo

#tokyoshopping

#ramen

Only the Pop Culture Optional Tour can be combined with any other tour.

Day 4 Travel to Hakone, Tour Hakone- Hakone Shrine, Hakone Ropeway, Lake Ashi Sightseeing Boat

Before we say goodbye to Tokyo, you will need to get your bags packed and ready to be transferred to Takayama, packing one small bag to take with you to Hakone. You will need enough clothes for 2 days and 1 night. After breakfast, we will hop on the Shinkansen (bullet train) to Hakone Yumoto Onsen, where we will stay the night. Hakone is a beautiful rural town with views of Mt. Fuji (weather permitting). We will spend the day taking in the sights via an electric train, funicular, gondola, bus and sightseeing boat. Be ready for some amazing photo ops. After returning to Hakone Yumoto and picking up our overnight bags, we will check into the ryokan. You

can spend the rest of the evening enjoying the ryokan's hot springs. Breakfast at the hotel, lunch at a local Japanese restaurant and dinner at the ryokan are included.

PLEASE NOTE: High winds and/or heavy rain can, and will often cause cessation of services on the Sightseeing Boat cruise and/or ropeway. Should this occur, we will not be able to operate the itinerary as listed above, and will replace it with the best possible alternative given the weather conditions. Also, in the case of bad weather, even if the boats are still operating, we may alter the itinerary for your comfort and safety as Mt. Fuji will more than likely not be visible anyway.

#hakone
#mtfuji
#hakoneshrine
#hakoneropeway
#owakundani
#lakeashi
#ryokan

Travel: 1 Hour; Walking: Medium

Day 5 Hakone Free Time; Travel to Takayama

This morning you will grab breakfast at the local convenience store and then get packed up for our next adventure. We will meet up after breakfast before you have the day to yourself. After checking out of the ryokan, you will have some free time to explore Hakone Yumoto Onsen. You can head to the Hakone Open Air Museum with the guide, or spend the morning exploring Hakone on your own. We'll meet back together and travel to Takayama by local train and shinkansen. Takayama is in the middle of the Japan Alps and has managed to keep its traditional charm with its traditional inns, shops, and sake breweries. Yes, we said sake breweries.

#shinkansen
#japanalps

Travel: 5 Hours; Walking: Light

Day 6 Takayama - Miyagawa Morning Market, Jinyamae Morning Market, Takayama Jinya, San-machi-suji District, Free afternoon

This morning we will walk down to the farmers market where you will get a real taste for Takayama, sampling different things from the local growers. After that, we will tour the Takayama-jinya, the governing office of Takayama and the surrounding area since the early 17th century. The guide will then take you to the San-machi-suji district, a very old neighborhood lined with traditional Japanese homes (merchant homes) dating back to the 16th century. They are made entirely from wood and were built to house a shop, a workshop, and a residence all in one. Its stunning history you are sure to enjoy. From here the rest of the day is yours to explore Takayama. Visit the many temples, shrines, and museums, rummage through antique shops, or relax at one of the sake breweries. For dinner, we recommend trying one of the nearby Hida Beef restaurants. (Hida Beef is the same thing as the more famous Kobe Beef.) Breakfast at the ryokan is included.

#morningmarket
#takayamaoldtown
#hidatakayama

Travel: TBD; Walking: Medium

Day 7 Travel to Shirakawago; Tour Shirakawago; Travel to Kanazawa

Before leaving Takayama, you will need to get your main luggage ready for transfer and pack a small bag for our trip to Kanazawa. Pack enough clothes for 2 days and 1 night. We will have breakfast at the hotel and then jump on a public chartered bus to the valley of Shirakawa-go. Shirakawa-go, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a very 'grammable' location, a breathtaking little town surrounded by mountains and is the home of many Gassho-zukuri (Praying Hand) style homes, or very old farmhouses with thatched roofs. These homes were built in the 18th century and are still being used today. We will have lunch here as a group and then you will have free time in the afternoon. We catch another public chartered bus to the city of Kanazawa. Kanazawa, located on the northern coast of Japan and is best known for its arts. Here you will find amazing museums, gardens, and trinkets made from skilled craftsmen. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant is included.

#shirakawago
#WorldHeritage
#gasshozukuri
#kanazawa

Travel: 2 Hours; Walking: Light

Day 8 Kanazawa - Kenrokuen Garden, Kanazawa Castle, Nagamachi Samurai District

Before beginning our day we will visit a local kimono shop where we will each dress in a traditional kimono and getas. We will be able to wear these kimonos while touring around Kanazawa, making for some incredible photos! We will then head over to the Kenrokuen Garden. This garden is considered to be one of the three best gardens in Japan and was initially constructed in the 17th century. After enjoying some "zen" time in the gardens, we will head to Kanazawa Castle. After lunch, we will tour the Naga-machi Samurai District. This area of Kanazawa, located at the foot of Kanazawa Castle, was the residential district for the samurai serving the castle. The area preserves a historic atmosphere with its remaining samurai residences, earthen walls, private entrance gates, narrow lanes and water canals. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant are included.

#kanazawacastle
#Kenrokuen
#nagamachi

Travel: 1/2 Hour; Walking: Heavy

Day 9 Travel to Hiroshima; Tour Hiroshima - Peace Park and Museum

Today we are heading to Hiroshima. Please bring your luggage to the lobby to be transferred to Kyoto on your way down to breakfast. Your small overnight bag will need enough clothes for 2 days and 1 night. Arriving by train, we will tour the Peace Memorial Museum and the Peace Memorial Park, which are both sobering testaments to the dropping of the A-bomb on August 6, 1945. Here you will visit the Atomic Bomb Dome, one of the only buildings that wasn't completely destroyed. Seeing and documenting this building helps bring to life what happened on that horrible day. We will also get to enjoy Okonomiyaki (hiroshimayaki in Hiroshima) for lunch, a Hiroshima specialty and the equivalent to the world's best savory pancake. Breakfast at the hotel is included.

#hiroshima
#okonoyaki
#hiroshimapeacememorial

Travel: 5 Hours; Walking: Medium

Day 10 Travel to Miyajima Island; Tour Miyajima Island - Mt. Misen Ropeway, Itsukushima Shrine, Free Time; Travel to Kyoto

This morning you'll have a bento box breakfast provided by the hotel, and then we will travel by train to the harbor where we will jump on a ferry to Miyajima Island. Miyajima Island is definitely one of the most scenic spots in Japan with endless spots to snap incredible photos. While on the island we will visit the very popular Itsukushima-jinja shrine, which was built in 1168. After some free time on the island and snapping some shots of the famous "bowing deer" that congregate around the island, we will head back to the mainland and travel to Kyoto. Kyoto is a very traditional city loaded with history. From streets lined with traditional wooden houses, geisha in a flourish of brightly colored silks, and the click-clack of wooden sandals on the paving stones, you'll slip back into a simpler time. Once you get to Kyoto, you will retrieve your main luggage from the hotel. Once settled, if you'd like to sign up for the optional tour, you can test out your vocal cords and head to a traditional Japanese Karaoke bar and have a little bit of fun with your group! Bento box breakfast at the hotel is included

#miyajima
#itsukushima
#shinto
#miyajimadeer
#ferry
#mountmisen

Travel: 5 Hours; Walking: Medium

Day 11 Kyoto - Nijo Castle, Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion), Nishiki Koji, Tea Ceremony

On your way to breakfast, please bring your suitcases to the lobby to be transferred to the airport. This transfer is optional, if you would prefer to keep your luggage you can. If you'd like to send it ahead to the airport, please pack clothes for 3 days and two nights. After breakfast, we will start the day at the Nijo Castle. Built in 1603, the finest artists of the day filled the castle with delicate transom wood carvings and paintings by the Kano School on sliding doors. One of the castle's most intriguing features is the so-called "nightingale" floors. To protect the Shogun from real or imagined enemies, these floorboards creak when stepped on. Next we will visit Kinkaku-ji, so be sure to have your cameras ready! Kinkaku-ji, also known as the Golden Pavilion, is one of the most instagrammed buildings in Japan. The gleaming building covered in gold leaf seems to float on the aptly named Mirror Pond, especially on a sunny day. After lunch you will have some free time at Nishiki Koji. Nishiki Koji, a foodie's dream, is a narrow, five block long shopping street lined by more than one hundred shops and restaurants. Known as "Kyoto's Kitchen", this lively retail market specializes in all things food related, fresh seafood, produce, knives, and cookware. It is also a great place to find seasonal foods and Kyoto specialties, such as Japanese sweets, pickles, dried seafood and sushi. Following this free time, we will participate in an authentic tea ceremony. The regimented discipline of the tea ceremony has been practiced for more than 400 years, and at one time was considered mandatory for Samurai as an aid to train the mind. After the tea ceremony, we will conclude our "Cultural Afternoon" by enjoying a calligraphy lesson where you can get an introduction to the complex world of Japanese calligraphy, and you will be able to try creating some characters yourself. We will return to the accommodations. Breakfast at the accommodations and lunch at a local restaurant included.

#nijocastle
#kinkakuji
#goldenpavilion
#nishikimarket
#teaceremony

#origami

Travel: 1 Hours; Walking: Heavy

Day 12 Kyoto - Fushimi Inari Shrine, Higashiyama District, Yasaka Shrine, Gion Geisha District, Sayonara Dinner

After breakfast, we are off by train to the nearby city of Fushimi, and visit the Fushimi Inari shrine. This Shinto Shrine, famous for its Shinto 'fox temple' and red torii gates, a quintessential Japan sight and must-see for keen photographers, was established in the 8th century. We will then travel to the Higashiyama District. This area of narrow, cobblestone alleys with its temples, shrines, numerous shops and restaurants is truly enjoyable and relaxing. We will stop for lunch in the Higashiyama District. After lunch we will stop into the Yasaka Shrine, also known as the Gion Shrine. This shrine, built over 1,350 years ago, is one of the most famous shrines in Kyoto. Next, we will walk to the famous Gion Geisha District. Here, you will see where the Geiko (in Kyoto they call themselves Geiko, not Geisha) and Maiko live and work. You may even see one on their way to one of their appointments. We will finish the day with a "Sayonara" dinner- where we will enjoy all you can eat Kushiage that you deep fry at your own table! Breakfast at the ryokan and lunch and dinner at local restaurants are included.

#fushimiinari
#higashiyama
#gion
#maiko
#geisha
#shabushabu

Travel: 1 Hours; Walking: Heavy

Day 13 Return Home

We're sad to say that this is where our adventure comes to an end. We'll head back to Kyoto Station, where you will return on your own to Tokyo's Narita airport, Tokyo's Haneda airport or Osaka's Kansai airport by train. (If you are flying out of Narita or Haneda Airport, be sure to schedule a flight after 3pm to allow yourself enough time to catch your flight.)

Retrieve your main luggage in the departure lobby of the airport (map in appendix). Breakfast at the ryokan included.

Travel: 1 to 4 Hours; Walking: Light

Optional Day 1 (Day 13 of tour) Osaka

If you decide to stay an additional day, you will have a free day in Kyoto on day 13. In the evening, we will head to Osaka where you will get to experience the bustling nightlife! You'll get an overview of the city with your guide. While there are not a lot of sightseeing options in Osaka, the best way to experience Osaka is to simply explore the city on foot. The numerous large, neon signs and the hawkers and pachinko parlors of the area combine to create an audio-visual overload. The tour will include Doguyasuji, a street in the Namba District lined with restaurant supply stores (including stores selling the plastic food models you see everywhere in Japan). In the Dotombori District, you will visit the Hozenji Temple and Yokocho, an area that retains an old-time atmosphere and where so many locals come to pour water over the temple's statues, they are now covered in moss. In contrast, you will also visit the Ebisubashi Bridge next to Dotombori Street. With its towering neon signs, a visit to the Ebisubashi Bridge is like stepping into the movie Bladerunner. After the walking tour of Osaka, you can either return to Kyoto with the guide, or stay and enjoy the nightlife, and catch the train back on your own. While in Osaka, head to a pachinko

parlor, try Fugu (blowfish) for dinner, or check out a karaoke bar.

You will return to the Kyoto hotel, where you will stay the night. If you have decided to only stay the one additional night, the next morning you will return to Kyoto Station where you will return on your own to Tokyo's Narita airport, Tokyo's Haneda airport or Osaka's Kansai airport by train. (If you are flying out of Narita or Haneda Airport, be sure to schedule a flight after 3pm to allow yourself enough time to catch your flight.)

Cost: \$170 per person (double occupancy), \$220 per person (single occupancy)

Inclusions: 1 night in Kyoto hotel, transportation to/from Osaka, 4 hours with guide.

Transportation to airport on day 14

Optional Day 2 (Day 14 of tour) Nara

If you decide to stay an additional TWO days, you will have the opportunity to travel to Nara with a guide. We will begin the day traveling by train to the nearby city of Nara. Nara was the original capital of Japan in the 8th century before it was moved to Kyoto. We will start our tour of Nara by walking through the heavily forested Nara Park. Here, we will find numerous temples and shrines hidden among the trees. Along the way, you can also see the famous Nara deer. They have been since the 7th century, and roam freely protected by Buddhist traditions. At the far end of Nara Park, we will find Todaiji. Originally built in 752, the main hall is the world's largest wooden building, despite the fact that the current building, built in 1692, is only two-thirds the size of the original building. Inside the building is Japan's largest bronze statue of Buddha (it is almost 50 feet tall). Before returning to Kyoto, we will finish our tour of Nara at Kofukuji temple. Kofukuji temple was the family temple of the Fujiwara family, one of the most powerful families in Japan during the Heian period.

You will return to the Kyoto hotel, where you will stay the night. The next morning you will return to Kyoto Station where you will return on your own to Tokyo's Narita airport, Tokyo's Haneda airport or Osaka's Kansai airport by train. (If you are flying out of Narita or Haneda Airport, be sure to schedule a flight after 3pm to allow yourself enough time to catch your flight.)

Cost: \$428 per person (double occupancy), \$529 per person (single occupancy)

Inclusions: 2 nights in Kyoto hotel, transportation to/from Osaka, transportation to/from Nara, 4 hours with guide in Osaka, 8 hours with guide in Nara, lunch in Nara

Without Osaka Tour: \$359 per person (double occupancy), \$459 per person (single occupancy)

Inclusions: 2 nights in Kyoto hotel, transportation to/from Nara, 8 hours with guide in Nara, lunch in Nara. Transportation to airport on day 15.

Walking level descriptions:

Light - 0 to 2 miles on level ground

Medium - 2 to 4 miles on level ground or 0 to 2 miles on hilly ground

Heavy - 4 to 6 miles on level ground or 2 to 4 miles on hilly ground

Dates & Pricing

Dates	Price (land only) / Single Supplement (All prices are per Person)	Status
Oct 15, 2020 - Oct 27, 2020	\$3,494.00/ \$500.00	Available

Inclusions

- Local, licensed, English-speaking, Japanese guides
- **Travel insurance from Travel Guard**, one of the world's largest travel insurance providers, will be provided to everyone from the United States. All others will receive a \$100 per person credit and will be responsible for obtaining their own travel insurance in their own home country. (The insurance provided by Samurai Tours will cover the land portion only. Insurance to cover airfare and other additional expenses is the tour member's responsibility.)
 - Exact coverage dependent on state
 - For residents of the following states please click here for your available plan. FL, KS, MN, MO, MT, NY, and WA
 - For all other states and the District of Columbia click here
 - **Travel Insurance Surcharge:** Depending on your age at the time the travel insurance is purchased, you may be subject to the following surcharge for your travel insurance. Travel insurance surcharges will be due at the same time as your tour deposits. (the surcharge itself is not insured)
 - Up to 69 - \$0
 - 70-74 - \$100
 - 75-79 - \$175
 - 80-84 - \$300
 - 85+ - \$500
 - **Travel Insurance Opt-Out:** If you would prefer to opt out of the travel insurance, please note this at the time of registration. You will receive a \$100 credit per person, which will be reflected on your invoice. In the event that you would need to cancel your tour, cancellation penalties may apply. See the Terms and Conditions page for the Cancellation Fees Schedule.
- 14-Day Ordinary Car Japan Rail Pass (allows unlimited train travel)
- Meeting service at Tokyo's Narita Airport or Tokyo's Haneda Airport and transfer to the ryokan in Tokyo
 - The meeting service will meet you at the airport and provide you a transfer to the ryokan in Tokyo
 - Meeting service can only be provided between 6am and 9pm. If you arrive at a time outside of these hours, we will need to provide alternative directions for you to get to the ryokan on your own.
- Sending service to the Kyoto train station and transfer to Tokyo's Narita Airport, Tokyo's Haneda Airport or Osaka's Kansai Airport. (Transfers to Itami Airport are not included)
 - The sending service will escort you to the Kyoto train station and make sure you board the correct train. The sending service will not accompany you to the airport.

For those requiring meeting or sending services on other than the scheduled arrival/departure dates, there will be a \$100 fee for the meeting service from the airport into Tokyo or the sending service to the Kyoto train station.)

- Lodging for 12 nights in Japanese-style ryokans or western-style hotels
- Meals
 - Japanese-style or Western-style breakfast every morning (Please Note: Some ryokans offer Japanese breakfasts only.)
 - Six Japanese-style lunches
 - Two Japanese-style dinners
- The appropriate amount of free time to allow you to explore and discover your own personal Japan.
- All transportation costs when traveling with the group. (Transportation costs during scheduled

free times are the tour member's responsibility.)

- Admission fees to the destinations and activities listed in the Tour Highlights column on the right. (Itinerary specifics subject to change)
- Electronic version of itinerary
- Use of audio tour guide system (must provide own headphones)
- Sayonara dinner at the end of the tour
- Baggage transfer from the hotel in Tokyo to the hotel in Takayama (one bag only)
- Baggage transfer from the hotel in Takayama to the hotel in Kanazawa (one bag only)
- Baggage transfer from the hotel in Osaka to the hotel in Koto (one bag only)

Each tour member receives an electronic copy of our tour handbook. This handbook is full of tips and suggestions taken from our Japan travel experiences that allow you to better plan and prepare for your trip, and therefore enjoy your trip even more. The tips and suggestions included cover everything from how to save while exchanging money, what to pack, some basic Japanese-language tips, general etiquette do's-and-don'ts, ryokan customs, etc.

Exclusions

- Airfare is NOT included.
- A printed itinerary is not included
- Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and desserts are NOT included

Thank you for downloading this PDF version of our tour. Please visit our website at www.samuraitours.com/tours for the most current dates, prices and information.

Contact Samurai Tours

WEBSITE/EMAIL

www.samuraitours.com
info@samuraitours.com

USA CONTACT INFO

Toll-free: 1-866-316-SAMURAI
or 1-866-316-7268
Fax number: 720-210-5423

Samurai Tours
7900 East Union Ave, Suite
1100
Denver CO 80237

JAPAN CONTACT INFO

Call us: 075-361-7303

Samurai Tours

307 Yodokizu
Fushimi
Kyoto 613-0911 Japan

Kyoto-fu Chijitoroku

Ryokogyo 3-576/
Japanese Travel Agency License:
Kyoto Prefecture #3-576

MEMBERSHIPS/ASSOCIATIONS

Better Business Bureau
American Society of Travel
Agents
National Tour Association
Japan National Tourist
Organization
JNTO-approved Japan Travel
Specialist