SAMURAI TOURS

Adventures in Discovering Traditional Japan

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Saigoku Kannon Pilgrimage



15 days/14 nights

Saigoku Kannon Pilgrimage

Tour Overview

The Saigoku Kannon Pilgrimage is a 1,300 year old, 1,000+ km pilgrimage to 33 Buddhist temples, each dedicated to the Goddess of Mercy Kannon. It stretches across Japan‘s fabled Kansai region. Every year, pilgrims from Japan and around the world follow this Japan Heritage route to introspect deeply and see western Japan through a different lens.

📍 Destinations

Kyoto, Kii-Katsuura, Wakayama, Azuka, Nara, Uji, Otsu, Kyoto, Kobe, Himeji, Nagahama, Lake Biwa

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Tour Details

The Saigoku Kannon Pilgrimage, also called the “Saigoku 33” or the “Kansai Kannon Pilgrimage”, is Japan’s oldest Buddhist pilgrimage route, established over 1,300 years ago. It winds over 1,000 kilometers through beautiful western Japan, taking pilgrims to both rural and urban locations. Along the way, travelers visit 33 temples dedicated to the Bodhisattva of Compassion and Healing,

Kannon..

For more than a thousand years, the sacred sites of the Saigoku Kannon Pilgrimage have been tied to stories of healing. Each temple along the way is associated with a miracle, and tales of the release of physical, mental, and spiritual pain surround the pilgrimage’s rich traditions. To this day, completing the Saigoku 33 is an expression of a desire to heal suffering in oneself and in the world. It is also an opportunity to experience popular destinations in Japan through a different lens.

Pilgrims go on the Saigoku 33 for many reasons. Historically, the Saigoku Pilgrimage has been a journey of healing and devotion to Kannon. The route is seen as a manifestation of Japan’s national identity, and people flock to the Saigoku 33 to immerse themselves in authentic Japanese culture.

People go on the Saigoku 33 to seek physical, emotional, and spiritual healing; to see popular tourist destinations through a more meaningful light; to visit impressive temples in locations less often visited; to immerse themselves in the nature of rural Kansai; to pause life and grow as a person; or to embark on a respected adventure. Everyone has their own reason for doing the pilgrimage.

Destinations





Azuka



Nara



Uji



Otsu



Kyoto



Kobe



Hi

Ma




Nagahama

Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Nagoya, Japan

Today you will travel to Nagoya. Japan. We will give you the name of the hotel and directions on how to get to the hotel from the train station. No Meals Included

Travel: TBD, Walking: light.

Day 2 Travel to KiiKatsuura Onsen; Overnight KiiKatsuura Onsen

Today we will first meet at the hotel, and distribute the pilgrimage items you will for the pilgrimage such as stamp book, candles, incense, etc. After checking into the ryokan at KiiKatsuura Onsen, you will have free time to use the baths in the seaside caves. Breakfast and dinner at the ryokan included.

Travel: 4 Hours; Walking: Light

Day 3 Seiganto-ji and Nachi Waterfall

We will start the pilgrimage today by visiting Seganto-ji, Temple #1. In addition we will also visit the nearby Nachi Waterfall, long worshipped by the Japanese. Breakfast and dinner at the ryokan.

Day 4 Temples 2 and 3; Overnight in Wakayama

We will drive to the western side of the Kii Peninsula. Here we will visit temples 2 and 3. The group will stay overnight in Wakayama

Day 5 Temples 4 and 5; Overnight Nara

Today we will visit temples 4 and 5. (It is a 2km walk to temple 4, all uphill.) After completing the visit to these two temples, we will drive to Nara where we will be staying overnight. Breakfast at the hotel included.

Travel: 2 1/2 Hours; Walking: Heavy

Day 6 Temples 6 to 9; Overnight in Nara

Visit Temples 6 to 9. Breakfast at the hotel included

Travel: 2 1/2 Hours; Walking: Heavy

Day 7 Temples 10 to 14; Overnight in Kyoto

Visit Temples 10 to 14. Breakfast at the hotel included

Travel: 3 Hours; Walking: Heavy

Day 8 Temples 15 to 19, Overnight in Kyoto

Visit temples 15 to 19 by public transportation. Breakfast at the hotel included.

Travel: 1 1/2 Hours; Walking: Heavy

Day 9 Temples 20 to 23, Overnight Takarazuka

Visit temples 20 to 23. Overnight at Takarazuka.

Travel: 2 1/2 Hours; Walking: Heavy

Day 10 Temples 24 to 26, Overnight in Himeji

Visit temples 24 to 26. Overnight in Himeji.

Travel: 1 1/2 Hours; Walking: Heavy

Day 11 Temple 27, Overnight Kyotango

Visit temple 27. Overnight at Kyotango.

Travel: 3 Hours, Walking: Light

Day 12 Temples 28 and 29, Overnight in Nagahama

Visit temples 28 and 29. Overnight in Nagahama.

Day 13 Temple 30, Overnight in Nagahama

Visit Temple 30 by boat. Overnight in Nagahama. Breakfast at the hotel is included.

Travel: 2 Hours; Walking: Medium

Day 14 Temples 31 to 33, Overnight in Nagoya

Visit temples 31 to 33, Overnight in Nagoya. Breakfast at the hotel included.

Travel: 4 Hours; Walking: Medium

Day 15 Fly home

🕮Map



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 – $175
75-79 – $375
80-84 – $700
85+ – $1,175
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.

Meeting service at Osaka’s Kansai Airport, Osaka’s Itami Airport, or Shin Osaka station and transfer to the hotel in Kyoto

The meeting service will meet you at the airport and provide you a transfer to the hotel in Kyoto

Sending service to the Kyoto train station

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.
Reserved seat tickets on the train to Osaka’s Kansai Airport (If you will be returning home from one of the Tokyo airports, please contact us for details about returning to Tokyo.) or on the bus to Osaka’s Itami 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 14 nights in Japanese-style hotels or ryokans and western style hotels

Meals

Japanese-style or Western-style breakfast every morning (Please Note: Some ryokans offer Japanese breakfasts only.)
3 Japanese-style or Western-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 (Itinerary specifics subject to change)
Electronic version of itinerary
Sayonara dinner at the end of the tour

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

International 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.

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MEMBERSHIPS/ASSOCIATIONS
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