

17 Day Japan Discovery

Asia Vacation Group – Worldwide Destination Operator

Established in 2015, Asia Vacation Group had been inspired passionately to bring Australians and New Zealanders to explore the beautiful landscapes of the world. We are proud to be 100% Australian/New Zealand owned and operated with our head office based in Melbourne and a main branch operated legally in Auckland.

The wanderlust for endless holidays grew powerful inside us that set out on a mission for comprehensive travel services and expanding a great network of partners across multiple continents.

Australian Owned Company	Return Flights Included	7-Day Change of Mind
Small Group Tour		

Day by Day Itinerary

Tokyo, Kawaguchiko, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride the iconic Japanese **bullet train**
- Tour **Tokyo's** incredible sites including the Meiji Shrine, the historic Asakusa, and the grounds of the Imperial Palace
- Take in views of **Mount Fuji** and a boat cruise on Lake Ashi
- Visit **Matsumoto Castle**, also known as the "Crow Castle"
- Tour the Miyagawa Open-Air Market and stop at Kamisannomachi Street in **Takayama's** Old Town
- Travel to **Shirakawa-gō**, a UNESCO World Heritage village with over 100 'Gassho-style' houses
- Explore the Higashi Chaya District & Nomura Samurai House in **Kanazawa**
- Visit the stunning **Kenrokuen Gardens** – one of the most beautiful in Japan
- Tour **Kyoto** exploring imperial palaces, Shinto shrines and traditional wooden houses
- Visit **Himeji's** "White Heron Castle" – the largest surviving traditional Japanese castle
- Experience the moving memorials in **Hiroshima** and the floating torii gate at Miyajima Island
- Full day tour of **Osaka's** main sites including the lively Dōtonbori area

ITINERARY

Day 1: Tokyo Arrival

Konichiwa! Welcome to Tokyo – Japan!

On arrival, you will be met by a local representative the arrivals hall and transferred to your accommodation.

Spend the remainder of the day at your leisure.

Meal: In-flight meals

Accommodation: Shinjuku Washington Hotel 3* or similar

Please note:

If purchasing the land only option, please be advised transfers are not included. You will need to make your own way to the joining hotel.

Depending on the time of your departure flight, the start date of your tour may be the day prior.

Day 2: Tokyo

Today, you will have a full day to explore Japan's ultramodern capital – Tokyo. Visit Meiji Shrine, located within a 170 acre forest in the centre of the city. Constructed of cypress wood and copper, the shrine commemorates Emperor Meiji, Japan's 122nd emperor, who presided over Japan's industrial revolution and emergence onto the world stage. We then visit the Tokyo Skytree and take in the stunning views from its viewing platforms. Next we

visit the Asakusa district, and the Sensō-ji Temple – Tokyo’s oldest temple dedicated to Kannon, the Buddhist goddess of mercy. On the approach to Sensō-ji is Nakamise Shopping Street, a centuries-old promenade of shops selling traditional snacks and souvenirs like kimonos and bottles of saké. Next, spend some time exploring the grounds of the Imperial Palace. Here, we view the two bridges that form one of the entrances to the inner palace grounds. The current Imperial Palace is home to Japan’s Imperial Family and is located in the former site of Edo Castle, surrounded by an imposing stone wall and moat system.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Shinjuku Washington Hotel 3* or similar

Day 3: Tokyo

Today is a free day to explore Tokyo, the world’s most populous metropolis. With endless options for shopping, entertainment, culture, and dining, you can immerse yourself in the city’s vibrant atmosphere. Enjoy exploring Tokyo’s diverse neighborhoods, discovering unique shops, savoring delicious local cuisine, and experiencing the city’s rich cultural offerings.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Shinjuku Washington Hotel 3* or similar

Day 4: Tokyo - Hakone - Lake Ashi - Kawaguchiko

After breakfast, depart Tokyo and journey to the picturesque Hakone national park. Upon arrival, enjoy a boat cruise on Lake Ashi, set within the caldera of Mount Hakone and renowned for its views of Mount Fuji. The lake’s western-inspired boats offer scenic rides through this forested area, which has long attracted hikers and sightseers.

Next, travel to Lake Kawaguchiko, the second largest of the Fuji Five Lakes, known for its breathtaking vistas of Mount Fuji. Check in to your hotel and enjoy a delicious dinner. The evening is yours to explore the local nightlife at your leisure.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Accommodation: Route Inn Kawaguchiko (Onsen Hotel) 3* or similar

Day 5: Kawaguchiko - Mount Fuji - Takayama

Today, we depart Kawaguchiko and travel by coach to Mount Fuji’s 5th Station (weather permitting). This point is halfway up Japan’s tallest peak, known as one of the country’s three holy mountains. From here, if the weather is clear, we’ll enjoy views of the majestic summit above the clouds.

Next, we head to Matsumoto to visit Matsumoto Castle, famously known as the “Crow Castle” due to its striking black exterior. Built in the 1500s, it is designated as a National Treasure of Japan.

We then proceed to our final destination, the city of Takayama late this evening.

Meal: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Hotel Associa Takayama Resort 4* or similar

Day 6: Takayama

Today is a full free day to explore Takayama at your own pace. This charming city, known for its well-preserved Edo-period architecture and vibrant cultural heritage, offers a range of attractions and experiences. Take time to wander through the historic Sanmachi Suji district, famous for its traditional wooden houses, quaint shops, and local crafts. Don’t miss the morning markets, where you can sample fresh produce and unique local goods.

Meal: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Hotel Associa Takayama Resort 4* or similar

Day 7: Takayama - Shirakawago - Kanazawa

After breakfast, begin your day by visiting the Miyagawa Open-Air Market, where you can experience the local flavors and crafts. Next, explore Kamisannomachi Street in Takayama’s Old Town, a well-preserved area showcasing traditional Edo-period architecture from 1600-1868. Stroll through charming streets lined with historic houses, quaint cafés, and traditional saké breweries.

Continue your journey to Shirakawa-gō Village, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its ‘Gassho-style’ houses with steeply-pitched roofs. These centuries-old homes are nestled in a stunning natural setting, offering a unique glimpse into Japan’s past amidst beautiful mountain scenery.

Finally, transfer to Kanazawa and take a brief tour of the Higashi Chaya District. This area is known for its

picturesque streets and well-preserved historical ambiance, reflecting the charm of Kanazawa's rich cultural heritage.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel Mystays Premier Kanazawa 3* or similar

Day 8: Kanazawa - Kyoto

Today, explore the breathtaking Kenrokuen Garden, renowned as one of Japan's most beautiful gardens. Developed over 200 years starting in 1620, it boasts nearly 9,000 trees and 200 plant species. Next, visit the Nomura Samurai House, the historic residence of the Nomura Samurai clan. This fascinating site offers a glimpse into the samurai lifestyle from the 16th to 19th centuries, showcasing exquisite architecture, gardens, and intricately painted screen doors.

In the afternoon, travel by coach from Kanazawa to Kyoto. Upon arrival, enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure.

Meal: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Hotel MONday Kyoto Marutamachi 3* or similar

Day 9: Kyoto

Today is a full free day to explore Kyoto, the former capital of Japan. Nestled on the island of Honshu, Kyoto is renowned for its stunning array of classical Buddhist temples, serene gardens, majestic imperial palaces, and historic Shinto shrines. Wander through traditional wooden houses and immerse yourself in the city's rich cultural heritage. Don't miss the chance to see beautiful Geisha in the Gion district, known for its traditional charm and vibrant atmosphere.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel MONday Kyoto Marutamachi 3* or similar

Day 10: Kyoto - Nara - Kyoto

This morning, we take a short bus ride to Nara to visit Tōdai-ji (Great Eastern Temple), renowned for its Great Buddha Hall, one of the largest wooden structures in the world. Inside, you'll find a towering 15-meter bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana. After exploring the temple, stroll through Nara Park, where over 1,200 tame sika deer roam freely.

Following this, we return to Kyoto and visit Kinkaku-ji Temple, also known as the Golden Pavilion. This Zen temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, features two floors entirely covered in gold leaf, set within a stunning Zen garden. The temple's architecture beautifully blends Shinden, Samurai, and Zen styles.

Next, visit Heian-jingū (Heian Shinto Shrine), a grand replica of an ancient imperial palace and a symbol of Kyoto's post-World War II revival. The massive vermilion torii gate is particularly striking.

Meal: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Hotel MONday Kyoto Marutamachi 3* or similar

Day 11: Kyoto - Osaka

This morning, embark on a full-day coach tour of Kyoto. Our first destination is Arashiyama, renowned for its stunning bamboo forest, officially designated a Place of Scenic Beauty by the Japanese government.

Next, visit the breathtaking Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its thousands of vibrant vermilion torii gates that form a captivating network of trails behind the main temple. These trails lead into the forested slopes of Mount Inari, a sacred peak standing at 233 meters. As the most important of the many shrines dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice, Fushimi Inari offers incredibly photogenic views.

After the tour, we'll depart Kyoto and travel to Osaka. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening.

Meal: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Osaka Sheraton Miyako Hotel 4* or similar

Day 12: Osaka - Himeji - Kurashiki - Hiroshima

After breakfast, depart Osaka to visit Himeji Castle, also known as the "White Heron Castle." This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the largest surviving example of a traditional Japanese castle, consisting of 83 buildings. Its white

roof, reminiscent of a heron in flight, gives it its popular name, Shirasagi-jō. Enjoy stunning views of Himeji city from the castle grounds.

Next, travel to Kurashiki, located on Japan's Seto Inland Sea. Explore the Bikan Historical Quarter, renowned for its well-preserved historic buildings and charming local shops. After your visit, transfer to your hotel in Hiroshima.

Meal: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Grand Prince Hiroshima Hotel 4* or similar

Please note: Your luggage will be transported separately to Kyoto by courier. We recommend to pack an overnight bag for your two nights in Hiroshima.

Day 13: Hiroshima - Miyajima - Hiroshima

After breakfast, board a ferry for a short trip to Miyajima Island, renowned for its lush forests and ancient temples. On arrival, visit the iconic "floating" torii gate, which appears to be partially submerged at high tide and marks the entrance to Itsukushima Shrine, first built in the 12th century. Nearby, explore the Museum of History and Folklore, housed in a 19th-century merchant's home and showcasing cultural artifacts. Enjoy a stroll along Omotesando Shopping Street, where you can grab lunch before returning to Hiroshima by ferry.

Upon returning to Hiroshima, visit the Atomic Bomb Dome, or Genbaku Dome, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. This partially ruined building is one of the few structures that survived the 1945 atomic bombing and stands as a powerful symbol of the city's resilience and the tragedy of war.

Next, tour the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, which features moving and significant exhibits. The eternal flame in the cenotaph symbolizes the city's hope for the abolition of nuclear weapons, intended to burn until the last nuclear weapon is destroyed.

Meal: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Grand Prince Hiroshima Hotel 4* or similar

Day 14: Hiroshima - Osaka

This morning, travel from Hiroshima to Osaka via bullet train, arriving at Shin-Osaka Station. Begin your full-day coach tour with a visit to Osaka Castle (entry not included), a key site in Japan's unification during the 16th century Azuchi-Momoyama period.

Next, explore Kuromon Ichiba, one of Osaka's main food markets. This lively covered market offers a variety of street food, fresh produce, shellfish, and unique trinkets.

After a lunch break, head to the Minami area, the city's bustling southern district known for its boutiques, designer outlets, restaurants, and bars.

Later, enjoy a walking tour of the Dōtonbori area, a vibrant entertainment district running along the Dōtonbori canal. Popular for shopping, street food, and nightlife, Dōtonbori is famous for its colorful neon lights and iconic signs, including the famous Glico Man and Kani Doraku crab signs.

Meal: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Osaka Sheraton Miyako Hotel 4* or similar

Day 15: Osaka

Today is a full free day to explore Osaka at your own pace. Feel free to ask your guide for recommendations on must-see attractions and dining spots. Whether you choose to visit cultural landmarks, shop in bustling districts, or sample local cuisine, the city offers a wealth of options.

In the evening, join the group for a special dinner at a local restaurant, where you can enjoy a meal together and share experiences from your day.

Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

Accommodation: Osaka Sheraton Miyako Hotel 4* or similar

Day 16: Osaka - Home

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. You will have free time to explore or relax until it's time to head to the airport. We will drive you to Kansai Airport for your flight back home.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: In-flight

Please note: If purchasing the land only option, please be advised airport transfers will not be included and you will need to make your own way to the airport.

Day 17: Home

Arrive home today.

We hope you have enjoyed your journey through Japan trip with Asia Vacation Group.

INCLUSIONS

- Return flights from Australia
- Airport transfers included
- 3 and 4-star hotels in central locations
- Daily breakfasts and 2 dinners
- Bottled water during touring
- Air-conditioned transportation
- All entrance and sightseeing fees as mentioned in the program
- Experienced local English-speaking guides

EXCLUSIONS

- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses

DEPARTURE DATES: PRICE IS QUOTED IN AU\$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Tuesday 10 Sep 2024	Thursday 26 Sep 2024	AU\$6,899		Book
Tuesday 08 Oct 2024	Thursday 24 Oct 2024	AU\$6,999		Book
Tuesday 22 Oct 2024	Thursday 07 Nov 2024	AU\$6,999	Autumn Foliage	Book
Tuesday 05 Nov 2024	Thursday 21 Nov 2024	AU\$6,899	Autumn Foliage	Book
Tuesday 12 Nov 2024	Thursday 28 Nov 2024	AU\$6,999	Autumn Foliage	Book
Tuesday 17 Dec 2024	Thursday 02 Jan 2025	AU\$7,799		Book
Tuesday 11 Mar 2025	Thursday 27 Mar 2025	AU\$7,299	Cherry Blossom	Book

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Saturday 15 Mar 2025	Monday 31 Mar 2025	AU\$7,599	Cherry Blossom	Book
Tuesday 25 Mar 2025	Thursday 10 Apr 2025	AU\$7,649	Cherry Blossom	Book
Tuesday 08 Apr 2025	Thursday 24 Apr 2025	AU\$7,649	Cherry Blossom	Book
Tuesday 22 Apr 2025	Thursday 08 May 2025	AU\$7,599		Book
Tuesday 29 Apr 2025	Thursday 15 May 2025	AU\$6,899		Book
Tuesday 13 May 2025	Thursday 29 May 2025	AU\$6,299		Book
Tuesday 27 May 2025	Thursday 12 Jun 2025	AU\$6,299		Book
Tuesday 10 Jun 2025	Thursday 26 Jun 2025	AU\$6,599		Book
Tuesday 24 Jun 2025	Thursday 10 Jul 2025	AU\$6,599		Book
Tuesday 15 Jul 2025	Thursday 31 Jul 2025	AU\$6,899		Book
Tuesday 12 Aug 2025	Thursday 28 Aug 2025	AU\$6,599		Book
Tuesday 26 Aug 2025	Thursday 11 Sep 2025	AU\$6,699		Book
Tuesday 16 Sep 2025	Thursday 02 Oct 2025	AU\$6,549		Book
Tuesday 30 Sep 2025	Thursday 16 Oct 2025	AU\$6,899		Book
Tuesday 07 Oct 2025	Thursday 23 Oct 2025	AU\$7,099		Book
Tuesday 21 Oct 2025	Thursday 06 Nov 2025	AU\$7,099		Book
Tuesday 04 Nov 2025	Thursday 20 Nov 2025	AU\$7,099		Book
Tuesday 11 Nov 2025	Thursday 27 Nov 2025	AU\$7,099		Book
Tuesday 18 Nov 2025	Thursday 04 Dec 2025	AU\$6,899		Book

OPTIONAL TOURS

FINE PRINT

FLIGHT INFORMATION

This package includes the returned flights from Sydney/Melbourne/Adelaide/Brisbane/Perth.

Interstate Surcharge

Surcharge of **\$400** for departures from Adelaide & Brisbane and Perth

Airline Selection: We book the best available airlines for your journey, which may include a mix of full-service and low-cost carriers. Specific airline requests can be made at the time of purchase. This includes upgrades to your preferred carrier, premium economy or business class cabins or specific seats. Whilst we will try our best, not all requests can be confirmed.

Flight Conditions: Flights may not be direct and could involve a maximum of two transits.

Ticketing Information: Once issued, tickets are non-refundable. Changes are subject to airline rules, airline change fees, and an Asia Vacations Group change fee of \$250 per person.

Passenger Details: Please ensure all traveller names are as per passports. This includes all middle names. Errors may incur a name change fee of \$150 plus airline charges, or require the purchase of a new ticket.

Flight Schedule Changes: Any changes or cancellations to airline schedules are outside our control. We recommend staying updated with airline schedules before departure. Additional expenses for extended transits or alternative arrangements are the traveller's responsibility.

Internal Airfares: Local flights included in your itinerary may utilise low-cost carriers without meals or entertainment. Checked baggage is included; any additional baggage fees are payable at check-in.

Booking Considerations: If travelling with others on separate bookings, we may not be able to guarantee all flights are the same due to availability.

Luggage and Fees: You are responsible for your luggage at all times. Excess baggage fees, if incurred, are payable directly to the airline. All tickets will include 20 kg checked baggage per person, plus 7 kg of hand luggage. We recommend travelling with a max 20kg per person due to restrictions on internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation. Please note, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters are not included.

No-Show Policy: Missing your flight may result in fees including a no-show fee, airline reissue fee, and possible new ticket purchase. Asia Vacations Group charges a \$250 admin fee for re-booking assistance.

Price Adjustments: Prices are final at the time of ticketing. Any subsequent changes may result in additional costs due to factors beyond our control, such as currency fluctuations or airline surcharges.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Land Only Packages

Transfers ARE NOT included for land only packages.

Please note that customers purchasing the land only option need to make their own way to the joining hotel and the airport at the end of the tour. Asia Vacation Group can assist with purchasing private transfers if choosing the land only option.

Physical Requirements

A reasonable level of fitness is required. Participants should be comfortable navigating stairs, boarding and disembarking from the coach, and walking reasonable distances, typically around 2 kilometers per day or more. Please disclose any physical conditions at the time of booking to assess suitability for the tour.

Tipping

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. Please be advised that tipping for tour guides, drivers and bellmen are required and will be collected by your travel consultant 7 days before you depart. A gratuity of \$10 per person/day can make a big difference to locals employed in the tourism industry as they have done an

impeccable job to serve you through your holiday.

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control

Single Supplement

Single supplement is **\$2,399 per person** in addition to the twin share price.

Paired Solo Traveler

Not available.

Group size:

Min: 10

Max: 20

Triple Share

Upon your request except for cruises

Visa & Passport information

It is the traveler's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of return and must have more than 2 blank pages.

Australian passport holders do not need a visa to travel to Japan, for stays less than 90 days.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

Children

Children must be 2 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are the same price as adults.

Tour Length

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land.

Cherry Blossoms

Please note that Cherry Blossoms are weather dependent and it is not guaranteed that they will be in bloom at the time of your arrival.

Luggage Policy:

1 Passenger is limited to carrying a maximum of 2 Suitcases with following Dimensions;

1 Suitcase having measurement of L 51 cm x W 31 cm x H 77 cm, with maximum weight 30 KG

1 Common Carry on Cabin Suitcase having L 38cm x W 23cm x H 60cm, with maximum weight of 10kg

Extra Charge for transfers is needed for any overweight and over quota luggage

HOW TO EXTEND YOUR STAY

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour. On this tour you can choose from the following options:

Pre Tour Accommodation

– \$315 per room, per night based on double/twin room share

Post Tour Accommodation

– \$315 per room, per night based on double/twin room share

Please select the number of extra nights required in the 'Additional Nights Accommodation' field when making your purchase. The additional cost for these arrangements will be added to your final payment invoice and are subject to availability.

ASIA VACATION GROUP

Australia Call: 1800 229 339

