

Discover Japan: Treasures and Traditions

*A Small Group Tour led by
Japan-America Society of Tennessee
with JTB USA*

Tokyo – Hakone – Takayama – Kanazawa - Kyoto & Osaka

Preliminary Itinerary
November 8 - 19, 2017

Wed.
Nov. 8

Depart the U.S. for your overnight flight to Tokyo, Japan.
Suggested Flight Itinerary to be offered; each tour member will arrange her/his own airfare

Thurs.
Nov. 9

Arrive Tokyo.

Upon arrival at Tokyo, airport transfers with English speaking assistant will be arranged for those arriving at the airport meeting point. At leisure upon arrival; A Welcome Dinner is planned.

Overnight: Imperial Hotel Tokyo.
Meals: Dinner

Fri.
Nov. 10

Exploring Tokyo, including Ginza/Mikimoto Pearl Experience

Our first morning includes breakfast at the hotel, after which we will embark on a full-day of discovery in cosmopolitan Tokyo. Focal points will include the historic and cloistered Imperial Palace; the famed streets of the Ginza, including a stop at Mikimoto, the world's originator and most famous purveyor of cultured pearls; a sushi-making lunch while visiting the Tsukiji Fish Market; followed by a visit to Asakusa Kannon Temple and its "thunder gates" and the adjacent Nakamise Arcade. Before returning to the hotel, we will stroll through Ameyoko Street where a variety of shops sell popular locally consumed items, such as seafood, clothes, cosmetics and imported goods. *The evening is free for dinner and to explore special interests on your own. Tour and hotel staff will be happy to make recommendations and facilitate reservations and transportation.*

Overnight: Imperial Hotel Tokyo.
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Sat.

Nov. 11

Nostalgic Village Strolls, then Back to the Future

Today, after breakfast at the hotel, we will veer off the beaten path to Omiya Bonsai Village as spectators of the art of bonsai, practiced by more than a dozen nurseries in this area. We will then explore Yanaka, a quaint Tokyo neighborhood reminiscent of bygone era in Japan. The cemetery here showcases elaborately decorated tombs beneath ancient trees and among well-kept landscapes. We will stroll through the cemetery pathways to view the tomb of Tokugawa Yoshinobu, Japan's last shogun of the Edo period. *Lunch will be facilitated by tour staff.* The afternoon brings us back to the future as we visit the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) in Tokyo's futuristic Odaiba sector. *The evening is free for dinner and to explore special interests on your own. Tour and hotel staff members are available to make recommendations and facilitate reservations and transportation. A morning departure requires luggage to be prepared for pick-up before breakfast on Sunday.*

Overnight: Imperial Hotel Tokyo.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Sun.

Nov. 12

To the Sea and Mountains: Kamakura and Hakone/Mt. Fuji

After our final breakfast at the hotel in Tokyo, we will set out by chartered bus to the historic seaside town of Kamakura, Nashville's own "partner city" in Japan. While there, we will take in ancient Buddhist sites and a remarkable bamboo grove, with time to experience the quaint and captivating shopping street where you can choose a local specialty for lunch on your own. After lunch, we will continue on to Hakone, home to majestic Mt. Fuji, Japan's iconic symbol, nestled among Lake Ashi's glass-like waters, through which we will enjoy a late afternoon cruise, weather permitting, before checking-in to our hotel in the vicinity. A group dinner will be arranged at the hotel or a nearby location. *Tonight, you will pack an overnight bag with essentials and a change of clothes so that we may easily travel by train. Suitcases will be transferred separately and delivered to Kanazawa, where you will be reunited with them at the hotel on Tuesday evening.*

Overnight: Hakone or Kawaguchi-Ko or Atami, according to size of group

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Mon.

Nov. 13

Mountain Views: Takayama and Shirakawago

After breakfast at Hakone, we will depart with our guide and overnight bags by train for Takayama, an old castle town and later a merchant town, situated in the mountains 150km north of Nagoya, where we will transfer trains. Takayama, a popular tourist destination, and one of the country's loveliest towns, attracts people from Japan and all around the world who are drawn to the serene atmosphere of the Edo period. Tradition is still alive here as seen in traditional wooden arts and crafts in the shops and the morning market. Our visit will afford the opportunity to stroll on your own and sample local food such as locally produced beef called Hida gyu, and sake, brewed rice wine. *Lunch will be "on the go" and on your own, with a group dinner option for the evening.*

Overnight: Takayama Hida Hotel Plaza

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tue.
Nov. 14

Shirakawago to Kanazawa

After breakfast and free time exploring Takayama on your own, we will travel by motor coach to **Shirakawago**, a village situated in the deep mountains on the northern edge of Gifu. A UNESCO World Heritage site, it conserves ancient “gassho style” farm houses, many of which are still occupied and some of which are open to the public. We will visit the Wada Residence, a traditional home built in the 17th century, and enjoy lunch in Shirakawago, before continuing on to our next stop in Kanazawa, a renowned culture and crafts center. Your belongings, having traveled separately from Hakone, will be awaiting you upon arrival at the hotel in Kanazawa.

Overnight: Hotel Nikko Kanazawa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Wed.
Nov. 15

Kanazawa: Landmarks and Legends

After breakfast, we will set out on a full day’s tour of the stunning Kenrokuen Garden, a national landmark dating back to the late 1600s. Among the highlights, we will plan to experience the technology of applying gold leaf, the techniques and tools for which Kanazawa is famous. We will view the Higashi Chayagi tea house and geisha district and the Nagamachi Samurai area, where the Maeda ruling family’s warriors resided. As time permits, we will also visit a sake brewery in the area to observe the process by which sake is made and sample the final product! *Lunch and dinner will be on your own today, with facilitation upon request by your tour staff. Once again, you will prepare to part with your belongings for our train trip to Kyoto on Thursday. Delivery will be arranged directly to our hotel in Kyoto.*

Overnight: Hotel Nikko Kanazawa

Meals: Breakfast

Thur.
Nov. 16

Thunderbird Express Train to Kyoto

You will have free time after breakfast to explore Kanazawa this morning before an afternoon departure to our next destination, where the traditions and treasures of Kyoto await! We will board the express train “Thunderbird” for the approximately two hour journey to Kyoto. Once there, we will be met by chartered bus for transfer to our hotel. A group dinner for the evening is planned, after leisure time for you to explore the environs of the hotel. *Your belongings will arrive from Kanazawa to the hotel by this evening.*

Overnight: Royal Park Hotel, The Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Fri.
Nov. 17

Glimpses of Kyoto: Temples, Geisha & Gardens

A full day of sightseeing is on the agenda today after breakfast, to highlight the major cultural sights and sites, such as Nijo Castle, Sanju-sangen-do Hall with 1001 statues of the Goddess of Mercy, Kiyomizu Temple, San-nen-zaka Slope and Ninen-zaka Slope, Nishiki Market, Arashiyama (Katsura River, Togetsukyo Bridge, Tenryuji Temple and bamboo groves) and Golden Pavilion Temple. Based on the group’s interests, we will tailor this tour accordingly. Options may also include affluent cultural legacies such as the making of kimono fabric and other textile, ceramic and metal working traditions created over the 1000 years that Kyoto served as Japan’s capital. *The evening is free for dinner and to explore special interests on your own.*

Tour and hotel staff members are available to make recommendations and facilitate reservations and transportation.

Overnight: Royal Park Hotel, The Kyoto
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Sat.
Nov. 18

Excursion to Nara: Japan's Ancient Capital

Marking our last group tour for this trip, a full day excursion to Nara by chartered bus will bring us up close to another of Japan's ancient capitals, with extant temples and shrines that are most notably among the world's oldest. *Lunch will be on your own, subject to your interests, as a special Farewell Dinner is planned at a local restaurant in either Nara or Kyoto.*

Overnight: Royal Park Hotel, The Kyoto
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sun.
Nov. 19

Out through Osaka

This morning will offer free time in Kyoto before we depart by chartered bus for Osaka's Kansai airport, our point of departure from Japan and tour termination point. Catch your late afternoon or evening flight directly back to the US or, extend your stay in Osaka or Japan with assistance from JTB or by your own arrangement. Please do not hesitate to request assistance for recommendations from JAST in this regard.

Overnight: In-flight or in Japan under separate arrangement (at additional cost)
Meals: Breakfast
Tour Concludes

Arrive US

PARTICIPANT COSTS

Airfare Booking Instructions: Please make arrangements directly with your preferred agent or airline. For preferential excursion rates available only to those booking the tour package, contact JTB USA's Chicago Office: Kiyoshi Yamada, 773-714-1284 or by email at Kyamada@jtbusa.com.

LAND PACKAGE from JAST:

- Tokyo/Hakone/Takayama/Kanazawa/Kyoto/Osaka: \$8250 Single / \$6950 Double Occupancy**
Includes
 - Deluxe Accommodation (10 Nights)
 - Point to point transportation as noted in the itinerary
 - Luggage transfers as noted in the itinerary
 - Meals as noted in the itinerary
 - Entry fees into all sites visited as noted in the itinerary
 - Guides and interpreters and all gratuities_____

- Hakone/Takayama/Kanazawa/Kyoto: \$ 5700 Single Occupancy / \$ 4900 Double Occupancy**
Includes
 - Deluxe Accommodation (7 Nights, beginning Sun., Nov. 12th)
 - Breakfast on Nov. 12th on your own
 - Meeting Point for Departure: Imperial Hotel Tokyo
 - Point to point transportation as noted, excluding transfer to Osaka
 - Luggage transfers as noted in the itinerary
 - Meals as noted in the itinerary
 - Entry fees into all sites visited as noted in the itinerary
 - Guides and interpreters and all gratuities_____

- Additional Night(s) in Tokyo (specify dates/rate to be confirmed):**
 - _____: \$400 Single Occupancy/ \$250 Double (per person) _____
 - _____: \$400 Single Occupancy/ \$250 Double (per person) _____

- Additional Night(s) in Kyoto (specify dates/rate to be confirmed):**
 - _____: \$400 Single Occupancy/ \$250 Double (per person) _____
 - _____: \$400 Single Occupancy/ \$250 Double (per person) _____

- Total:** _____

The costs for this trip are **per person based double occupancy and a minimum of 12 travelers**. If the number of participants is not met, a surcharge may be assessed should the situation arise. **JAST prefers payment by check, but will gladly accept credit card payment with an additional one-time charge of 3% of the trip's total cost to cover transaction fees.** **JAST members receive a discount of \$100 per person off tour pricing.**

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,000.00 per traveller is due at the time of booking. Payment in full is due no later than September 15, 2017. We will gladly accept payment prior to the deadline.

INCLUDED: Breakfasts, lunches and dinners as described in the itinerary, hotel accommodations, transportation as noted, entry fees into all places visited by the group as part of the itinerary, fees/tips for any local guides hired as part of a site visit. Specific hotels may differ from early itinerary due to availability and variation in group size. Group will not exceed 22, including guides and staff.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare, travel insurance, alcoholic beverages, any meals or snacks not described in the itinerary, any additional personal travel (taxis, trains, buses, etc.) which a participant chooses to use during free time.

AIRFARE: JAST will recommend a preferred air itinerary for tour participants who wish to be included in an airport transfer from the specified Tokyo Airport (Narita) to the Imperial Hotel. However, each traveller may opt to fly independently through direct association with any airline. In this case, it is the responsibility of the individual to ensure their arrival to our meeting point on time or to the hotel in advance of the tour's commencement.

J A S T T R A V E L E R S T E R M S & C O N D I T I O N S

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT To guarantee your reservation, a deposit of \$1000.00 per person is required at the time of booking. Payments must be made in accordance with the payment schedule stated in the itinerary. Final payment is due no later than September 15, after which time a late fee of \$100 per person may apply.

Payments must be made in the form of a check made payable to "JAST" and mailed to JAST, P.O. Box 330003, Nashville, TN 37203.

*****Should you wish to pay by credit card, JAST may accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express. However, due to the ever-rising fees associated with credit card transactions, an additional fee of 3% will be required for credit card processing.**

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS A full refund minus \$1000.00 per person administrative charge will be made where written notice of cancellation is received more than 90 days prior to departure. Cancellations received 45-90 days prior to departure will incur a cancellation fee of 50% of the total tour price. A cancellation fee of 100% of the total tour price will apply where notice of cancellation is received less than 45 days prior to departure. JAST will try to recover from its vendors part of the cost of the trip, but cannot guarantee what will be recovered for the client. Once a tour has commenced there can be no refunds on unused portions. *The cancellation and refund policy refers to the ground package only, set forth by JAST in the trip itinerary. Airfare is the responsibility of the passenger and any cancellations or changes to airfare are subject to the agreement between the passenger and their chosen airline.*

TRAVEL INSURANCE: JAST does not provide travel insurance, but strongly urges passengers to secure travel insurance through their own agents, credit card companies or other providers.

PRICE CHANGE: Tour price is based on a minimum of 12 passengers. Should the number of passengers fall below 12, JAST reserves the right to alter the tour price, in order to reflect that change. Price is also based on hotels as given, motor coach costs as negotiated, and an exchange rate at the time of booking. Should hotels change for reasons beyond our control, or coach companies impose a fuel surcharge, or should the value of the dollar drop significantly against other currencies, the tour price may increase.

PRICES All prices are based in US dollars.

TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE Airfare, travel insurance, excess baggage charges, items of a personal nature, telephone calls, room service and alcoholic beverages or other special beverages ordered at group meals, optional extensions, or meals not listed in itinerary. (At some special meals the cost of beverages will be included, and the travelers will be made aware of these occasions.)

RESPONSIBILITY JAST reserves the right at all times to cancel all or part of the tour and refund monies paid by the participant, without further liability. For this reason, we strongly encourage participants not to make non-refundable travel reservations until we have confirmed that the tour will take place, or if purchasing such reservations, to also purchase travel insurance that would cover non-refundable travel cancellation costs. We strongly encourage participants to purchase travel insurance at the time reserve, to cover non-refundable costs and medical expenses.

Tour itineraries are planned in advance. JAST also therefore reserves the right to make necessary alterations, should local conditions dictate. When weather or unforeseen conditions beyond our control affect our routes or itinerary, the best alternative will be provided. In exceptional circumstances outside the control of JAST, its agents or suppliers, such as, but not limited to the threat of war, political unrest, riots, civil disturbances, terrorist threat or action, legal or illegal labor disputes, adverse weather conditions and Act of God, JAST, its suppliers, or agents cannot be held responsible for such limitations or withdrawal of facilities. The use by JAST of transport and accommodations in connection with the tour is subject to the conditions of the operator/owners of such transport or accommodations, for whom JAST acts as an agent. JAST does not, under most circumstances, book air travel unless the itinerary requires shuttling of passengers between local destinations by air. **The client is responsible for their own international travel and for meeting the group at the destination airport at the appropriate arrival time.**

Passengers agree that JAST or any associates thereof will not be held liable in the event of any circumstance that may cause personal distress or injury to any traveler. All participants must sign and return Waiver and Release of liability forms, which will be mailed to you after we receive the deposit and completed reservation form; please note that the reservation form and waiver and liability forms are to be sent to Leigh Wieland, at lwieland@jastn.org, or P.O. Box 330003, Nashville, TN 37203. No reservation will be considered complete without these signed forms.

Email Us: jastninfo@jastn.org or lwieland@jastn.org

[Call Leigh: 615-604-3124](tel:615-604-3124)

Airfare Booking Instructions: Make your arrangements directly with your preferred agent or airline. For preferential excursion rates available only to those booking this land package, contact JTB USA's Chicago Office: Kiyoshi Yamada, 773-714-1284 or by email at Kyamada@jtbusa.com.

For payments and written correspondence:

Japan-America Society of Tennessee, Inc.

P.O. Box 330003

Nashville, TN 37203