



# The Essence of Tokyo

Become immersed in the essence of Tokyo as you travel like never before! Explore the “Land of the Rising Sun”, the culture, the cuisine, and the many sensational things to see and do during your guided tour. Visit Tokyo, ride the bullet train, visit Kyoto, and Osaka. So grab your family and friends for the extraordinary journey!

## What's included

- 7 nights First Class accommodations
  - 3 nights Tokyo
  - 2 nights Kyoto
  - 2 nights Osaka
- Hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- Hotel portorage
- All transfers included only with airfare purchase on package arrival & departure dates
- High-Speed Bullet Train: Tokyo-Kyoto
- 9 meals: 7 breakfasts, 2 dinners with wine
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Entrance fees per itinerary

## Special Features

- Tour dazzling Tokyo, a city of ancient traditions coupled with state-of-the-art technology
- View the serene Meiji Shrine honoring the first Emperor of modern Japan and his Empress
- Board the famous shinkansen, or “bullet train” that whisks you from Tokyo to Kyoto
- Discover Kyoto, founded in the 8th century, one of the early capitals of Japan
- Stand before the celebrated gold-gilded Kinkaku-ji Temple, known as the “Golden Pavilion”
- Marvel at the Fushimi Inari Shrine, with its endless arcades of vermilion colored torii
- Visit dramatic Osaka Castle with its extraordinary collection of art, armor and collectibles
- In Osaka, walk through bustling Kuromon Market, with vendors selling fast-food Japanese-style



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**DAY 1 - Depart for Japan.**

**DAY 2 - Arrive in Tokyo.** Arrive in the "Land of the Rising Sun"; transfer to your hotel. Your tour will begin with an orientation meeting with you Tour Manager. We recommend you select flights that arrive no later than 5 PM. Following the meeting there will be a light dinner served. Overnight: Tokyo; Meals: Dinner

**DAY 3 - Tour of Tokyo.** On today's tour of Tokyo, witness the contrast of this city of ancient traditions coupled with state-of-the-art technology. Begin your tour at the serene Meiji Shrine, nestled in a beautiful forested area that honors the first Emperor of modern Japan and his Empress. Afterward, on to the Imperial Palace . . . the residence of Japan's Imperial family. View the famous stone arched Nijubashi bridge. Continue to Asakusa, once Tokyo's leading entertainment district. Here, enter the massive gates to the ancient Buddhist temple of Sensoji built in the 7th century and the Kannon Temple, one of the most visited spiritual sites in the world. Stroll along bustling Nakamise Street; see endless rows of traditional local snacks and souvenirs. Tonight, discover on your own why Tokyo is one of the best cities in the world for nightlife. Overnight: Tokyo; Meals: Breakfast

**DAY 4 - Full Day in Tokyo.** Spend the day at leisure to explore all of the delights of Tokyo on your own, or, participate in the optional full day tour to Mt. Fuji and Hakone.\* Upon arrival, ascend to the 5th Station of Mt. Fuji, located at an elevation of 7,545 feet pausing to admire the gorgeous panorama of the park and lake. After lunch, take off to the summit by cable car to marvel at the sweeping views of Hakone National Park. Enjoy a picturesque boat cruise around pristine Lake Ashi. (\*This optional tour and its inclusions are weather dependent, and subject to change.) Optional: Full day Mt. Fuji & Hakone with lunch; Overnight: Tokyo; Meals: Breakfast

**DAY 5 - Bullet Train to Kyoto, Kinkaku-ji Temple, Gion District.** At the Tokyo Station, board the world-famous shinkansen, or "bullet train" that whisks you to Kyoto - a unique experience! Upon arrival, have lunch on your own. Afterward, enjoy a traditional tea ceremony, where you participate in the ritualized art of preparing, serving and drinking green tea. Your sightseeing of Kyoto begins with a visit to the celebrated gold-gilded Kinkaku-ji Temple, known as the "Golden Pavilion" surrounded by trees and nestled on a reflective pond. Conclude the city tour with a walk in Gion, Kyoto's most famous Geisha district; view the shops, restaurants and tea houses where Geisha entertain. Later, check in to your hotel and spend the evening at leisure. Overnight: Kyoto; Meals: Breakfast

**DAY 6 - Full Day in Kyoto.** Time to discover Kyoto on your own, or, join the fascinating optional tour to Hiroshima and Miyajima Island. After arriving by train, take a short ferry ride to Miyajima Island, not far from the coast. Enjoy views of the striking Itsukushima Shrine best-known for its floating torii gate, dating back to the 6th century. Spend free time on the island with its many shrines and temples before boarding the ferry to Hiroshima. A bus or tram takes you to the Peace Memorial, a historic site near where the atomic bomb exploded, dedicated to the many lives lost in Hiroshima. The burning flame that marks these graves "will only be extinguished when all nuclear weapons in the world are destroyed!" This park was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996. Optional: Full day Hiroshima & Miyajima Tour; Overnight: Kyoto; Meals: Breakfast

**DAY 7 - Kyoto City Tour, Drive to Osaka.** Embark on a tour of historic Kyoto, home of the country's most treasured remnants of Japanese imperial life. Start with a stop at Fushimi Inari Taisha, an impressive Shinto shrine that sits at the foot of Mount Inari. Marvel at the ten thousand vermilion torii gates that line the paths up the mountain. Later, depart Kyoto and drive south to cosmopolitan Osaka, Japan's third largest city, known for its cuisine and nightlife. Begin your exploration at Kuromon Market, an Osaka landmark, with vendors selling fresh food and fast-food Japanese-style. Stop for lunch, or just try the tasty snacks. Then, free time to wander along the iconic Shinsaibashi and Dotonbori shopping streets with an array of fabulous selection of fashionable boutiques. Conclude the tour with a visit to dramatic Osaka Castle, built as a display of power in the 16th century, strategically looming over the surrounding park and moat. Inside, see an excellent collection of art, armor, and collectibles. Check in to your hotel. This evening, discover Osaka's regional cuisine. Overnight: Osaka; Meals: Breakfast

**DAY 8 - Full Day in Osaka.** The morning is at leisure to enjoy this city on your own, or, embark on the optional tour to the 8th century Imperial capital of Nara. In this repository of Japan's cultural heritage, there are eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites and a wealth of historic treasures including some of Japan's oldest Buddhist temples. Arrive at the exquisite wooden Todai-ji Temple, home of the impressive Daibutsu (Great Buddha) bronze statue, rising over 50 feet high and visit the famous and beautiful Kasuga Grand Shrine displaying over 3,000 antique hanging bronze and stone lanterns . . . Bid goodbye to your Tour Manager and newfound friends at dinner in the hotel. Optional: Imperial Capital of Nara (AM); Overnight: Osaka; Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 9 - Depart Japan.** Transfer to the airport for your departure flight. Meals: Breakfast