

Timeless Japan: Past & Present

10-DAY ADVENTURE THROUGH JAPAN

Trip Overview

Embark on a cultural journey through Japan, where ancient temples meet modern skyscrapers. Explore Kyoto's serene shrines, experience the poignant history of Hiroshima, immerse in samurai traditions in Kanazawa, and witness Tokyo's futuristic allure. This 10-day adventure offers a harmonious blend of Japan's rich heritage and contemporary marvels.

Trip Highlights

Kyoto's Timeless Traditions

Discover Kyoto, the heart of Japan's cultural heritage. Wander through ancient temples, stroll the Philosopher's Path, and experience a traditional tea ceremony. In the evening, the lantern-lit streets of Gion offer a glimpse into the world of geishas, preserving traditions that have endured for centuries.

Hiroshima's Resilience and Reflection

Visit Hiroshima, a city that embodies resilience. Pay respects at the Peace Memorial Park and explore the poignant history that shaped the modern world. A short ferry ride takes you to Miyajima Island, home to the iconic floating torii gate of Itsukushima Shrine, symbolizing the harmony between humanity and nature.

Kanazawa's Samurai Legacy

Step into Kanazawa, a city where samurai traditions thrive. Explore the well-preserved Nagamachi district, visit the Nomura Samurai House, and stroll through Kenrokuen Garden, one of Japan's most beautiful landscapes. The city's rich history is complemented by its vibrant markets and artisanal crafts.

Tokyo's Futuristic Pulse

Conclude your journey in Tokyo, a metropolis that epitomizes modernity. From towering skyscrapers to bustling markets, experience the dynamic energy of Japan's capital. Yet, amidst the neon lights, discover pockets of tradition, where ancient shrines and time-honored customs coexist with cutting-edge innovation.

Daily Itinerary & Logistics

Day 1: Arrival in Kyoto

Arrive in the cultural capital of Japan, Kyoto. Meet your tour leader and fellow travelers for an orientation walk through the atmospheric streets. Settle into the rhythm of Japan with a traditional meal and introduction to the days ahead.

Day 2: Golden Temples & Zen Gardens

Dive into Kyoto's highlights, starting with the shimmering Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion) and the tranquil Ryoan-ji Zen rock garden. Later, walk the Philosopher's Path, lined with cherry trees and charming shrines, ending the day in historic Gion.

Day 3: Day Trip to Nara

Travel to Nara, Japan's first permanent capital, home to the towering Great Buddha of Todai-ji Temple. Stroll through Nara Park where sacred deer roam freely and visit the Kasuga Taisha shrine. Return to Kyoto for dinner and a geisha district stroll.

Day 4: Free Exploration in Kyoto

Enjoy a free day to explore Kyoto your way. Optional experiences include visiting the bamboo groves of Arashiyama, learning the tea ceremony ritual, or exploring hidden temples and artisan streets. A perfect chance to dive deeper into local culture.

Day 5: Bullet Train to Hiroshima & Miyajima

Ride the Shinkansen (bullet train) to Hiroshima. After arrival, ferry to Miyajima Island to see the iconic floating torii gate of Itsukushima Shrine. Enjoy the island's peaceful trails and sample local specialties like grilled oysters and momiji manju.

Day 6: Hiroshima Peace Memorial & Kanazawa

Reflect at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum, a moving tribute to resilience and hope. In the afternoon, travel by train to Kanazawa, known for its samurai roots, preserved Edo-era districts, and contemporary art scene.

Day 7: Samurai District & Art in Kanazawa

Start with a sensory stroll through Omicho Market, followed by a walk in the beautifully preserved Nagamachi Samurai district. Visit the Nomura Samurai House and the celebrated Kenrokuen Garden, one of Japan's "Three Great Gardens."

Day 8: Matsumoto Castle & Mountain Scenery

Journey into the Japanese Alps to Matsumoto, famous for its striking "Crow Castle." Explore this 16th-century fortress and enjoy local soba noodles. The town's charming streets and mountain views offer a refreshing contrast to the cities.

Day 9: Mt. Fuji Views in Kawaguchiko

Head to the Fuji Five Lakes region. If weather permits, enjoy breathtaking views of Mount Fuji from Lake Kawaguchi. Visit the Mt. Fuji Visitor Centre and unwind in a lakeside onsen. A tranquil day immersed in Japan's natural beauty.

Day 10: Tokyo – Past & Future Collide

Conclude your journey in Tokyo. Explore the historic Asakusa district and Senso-ji Temple, then contrast it with the buzzing streets of Akihabara or Shibuya. Say farewell to Japan with an optional group dinner in a local izakaya.