

Hidden Japan: Off the Beaten Path

12-DAY JOURNEY THROUGH JAPAN

Trip Overview

Embark on a 12-day journey through Japan's serene countryside, exploring ancient pilgrimage trails, historic post towns, and vibrant cities. From the majestic views of Mt. Fuji to the timeless streets of Kyoto, experience the harmonious blend of nature, tradition, and modernity that defines Japan's backroads.

Trip Highlights

Tokyo: A Fusion of Tradition and Modernity

Begin your adventure in Tokyo, where ancient temples stand amidst towering skyscrapers. Explore the historic Asakusa district, home to the revered Senso-ji Temple, and wander through the bustling Nakamise shopping street, offering traditional crafts and local delicacies.

Mt. Fuji and the Fuji Five Lakes

Journey to the Fuji Five Lakes region, nestled at the base of Japan's iconic Mt. Fuji. Hike scenic trails offering panoramic views of the sacred mountain, and immerse yourself in the natural beauty that has inspired artists and pilgrims for centuries.

Kiso Valley: Walking the Nakasendo Trail

Step back in time as you walk the Nakasendo Trail through the Kiso Valley. Visit the well-preserved post towns of Tsumago and Magome, experiencing the Edo-period ambiance with traditional wooden inns, cobblestone streets, and local hospitality.

Kyoto: The Heart of Japanese Culture

Conclude your journey in Kyoto, Japan's cultural capital. Explore ancient temples, serene gardens, and historic districts like Gion, where geisha traditions endure. Experience the refined elegance and timeless traditions that define Kyoto's unique charm.

Daily Itinerary & Logistics

Day 1: Arrive in Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo and settle into your accommodation. Meet your guide and fellow travelers for a welcome briefing.

Day 2: Explore Tokyo, Travel to Fuji Five Lakes

Visit the Tsukiji Outer Market and Senso-ji Temple in Asakusa. In the afternoon, travel to Lake Kawaguchi in the Fuji Five Lakes region. Overnight in Kawaguchiko.

Day 3: Hiking in the Kawaguchiko Area

Enjoy a guided hike with views of Mt. Fuji. Afternoon free to explore local attractions or relax in an onsen.

Day 4: Travel to Kiso Valley

Journey by train to Tsumago in the Kiso Valley. Walk a section of the Nakasendo Trail and explore the historic town. Overnight in a traditional ryokan.

Day 5: Hike the Nakasendo Trail, Travel to Kyoto

Continue hiking the Nakasendo Trail to Magome. In the afternoon, travel by train to Kyoto. Overnight in Kyoto.

Day 6: Explore Kyoto

Visit iconic sites such as Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion), Ryoan-ji Temple, and the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove. Experience a traditional tea ceremony.

Day 7: Free Day in Kyoto

Enjoy a free day to explore Kyoto at your own pace. Optional activities include visiting Nijo Castle, Fushimi Inari Shrine, or shopping in Nishiki Market.

Day 8: Travel to Nara, Return to Kyoto

Take a day trip to Nara to visit Todai-ji Temple and Nara Park. Return to Kyoto in the evening.

Day 9: Travel to Osaka

Travel to Osaka and explore the city's vibrant districts such as Dotonbori and Shinsekai. Optional visit to Osaka Castle.

Day 10: Free Day in Osaka

Enjoy a free day in Osaka. Optional activities include visiting Universal Studios Japan, exploring the Umeda Sky Building, or sampling local street food.

Day 11: Return to Tokyo

Travel back to Tokyo via Shinkansen (bullet train). Farewell dinner with the group.

Day 12: Depart Tokyo

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.