



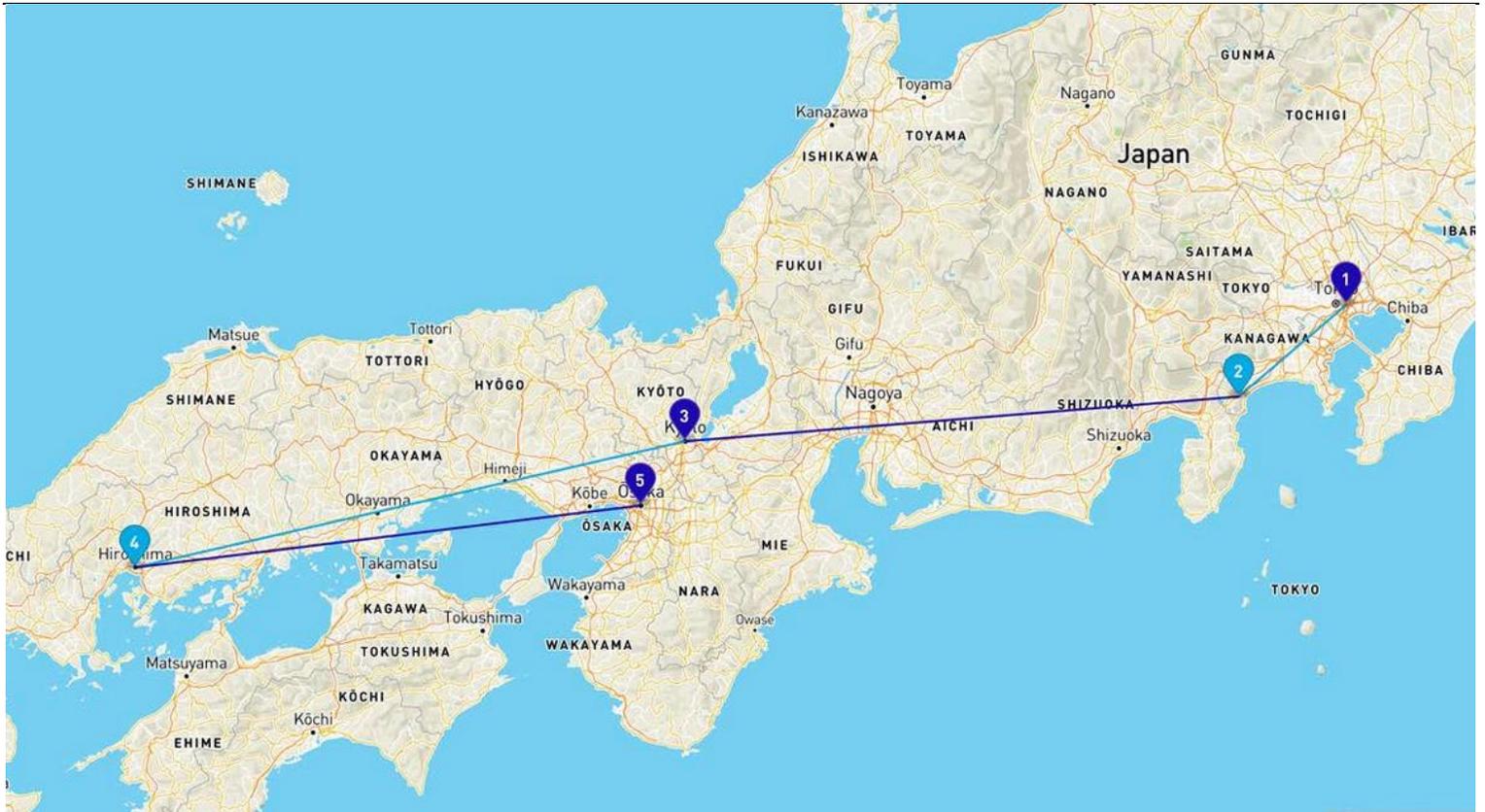
**BEST OF JAPAN**

**VALIDITY:**

**1 FEB 2025 – 10 DEC 2025**

**PRICE BASED ON TWIN SHARING \*CAD 5,380 PER PERSON**

Tourcan Vacations works in conjunction with local suppliers. We are contactable 24 hours a day and would be delighted to be of assistance should you have any questions during your stay.



## Day by Day Itinerary

**DAY 1: ARRIVAL TOKYO**

**FLIGHT: TBA**

### ARRIVAL Flight Details: TBA

You will travel from Narita Airport to Hotel / Ryokan in central Tokyo. You will be welcomed by airport representative.

### Flight change policy (Flexible)

If the flight number is changed and / or cancelled but you need to re-arrange for new flight, please immediately inform us accordingly with original booking number and new flight number. We will re-arrange shuttle transfer service without an additional fee.

### Operating hours

06:00-20:30 (based on flight scheduled arrival time). A private transfer must be booked beyond those hours.

### REMARKS

- Free (under 2 years old not occupying seat)
- Due to limited time at the airport, passengers can only go to currency exchange and lavatory before departing the airport.
- Please refrain from stopping by JR Pass exchange and mobile phone rental.
- Amendment and Cancellation fees are applied based on / in Japan time ( UTC +9 )

Notes:

- This is a shared transfer service. There may be waiting time for other passengers and multiple stops on route.
- If you have sky, snowboard, golf bag and cardboard, please notify us in advance.
- If you are travelling with a service dog, please notify us in advance.
- Child seat is not available.



**Accommodation: The Blossom Hibiya – Superior room - breakfast included**

**Meals: N/A**

**DAY 2: TEAMLAB PLANETS TOKYO DMM ADMISSION TICKET + TOKYO SKYTREE® ADMISSION TICKET (FOR SPECIFIED DATE AND TIME)**

**TeamLab Planets TOKYO DMM Admission Ticket**



Immerse your Body, and with Others, Become One with the World teamLab Planets is a museum where you walk through water, and a garden where you become one with the flowers. There are four massive exhibition spaces and two gardens. By immersing the entire body with other people in these massive body immersive artworks, the boundary between the body and the artwork dissolves, the boundaries between the self, others, and the world become continuous, and we explore a new relationship without boundaries between ourselves and the world. Enter barefoot, immerse your body with others in the artwork spaces, and become one with the world.

**RESTRICTIONS**

Children who are 3 years old and younger can enter for free. Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by adults. “Youth price” applies to junior high school students and high school students.

**REQUIREMENTS**

The opening hours of teamLab Planets TOKYO DMM may be subject to change.

Please check the homepage for the opening hours before visiting. (<https://planets.teamlab.art/tokyo/jp/>)

\*Last entry is 1 hour before closing time. Please note that you will not be allowed to enter the venue after the last admission time.

This ticket can only be used at TeamLab Planets located in Toyosu and cannot be used at other TeamLab venues. Please pay attention to the correct venue.

### **REQUIRED ITEMS TO BRING & ATTIRE**

Voucher You need to show your student card when visiting if you purchased a “Youth ticket”.

### **OTHER INFO**

- Please visit on the date and time stated on the ticket and wait in line at the entrance of the venue.
- The time stated on the ticket is not the fixed time you can stay in the venue.
- Please make sure there's at least of your companions waiting in the line if you have to leave the queue. If you visit alone and must leave the queue, please notify our staff nearby.
- Please put the stroller in place before entering.
- Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by adults.
  - Although wheelchair access is possible, we will guide the wheelchair users by a route that bypasses work that use water and works that wheelchairs cannot pass. Please be sure to change to the wheelchair prepared by TeamLab Planets when you enter the venue. (\* The number of wheelchairs in the building is limited.) Please note that wheelchairs prepared by Teamlab are normal ones without fixtures.
- Re-entry is not permitted. Please note that your ticket cannot be refunded once you have entered the venue.
- You will be barefoot.
- In some areas the water depth can reach an adult's knees.
- We recommend that you bring a change of clothes for your children or dress your children in clothes that do not get wet.
- Some areas have mirrored floors. Please be careful if you are visiting in a short skirt or wide-leg pants.
- There are areas where the light is strongly stimulated and areas where it is dark.
- For safety purpose, if you are visiting with your child, please always hold your child's hand.
- During rush hours, our staff may ask the customers who have been using a service for a long time to move forward.
- There are free lockers. After passing through the entrance gate, you will be asked to put your luggage in a locker.
  - The locker size is 26 cm wide x 49,5 cm deep x 87,5 cm high.
  - Luggage larger than the above size cannot be stored as we do not have a cloakroom.
  - Please note that suitcases larger than the above size will be managed with a wire lock at the stroller storage area. About "Moss Garden of Resonating Microcosms - Solidified Light Color, Sunrise and Sunset"
  - In the event of light rain, the artwork will remain open to the public. In the event of typhoon-level winds or heavy rain, the artwork show will be suspended.
- Please note that we are not responsible for any loss or theft within the venue.
- Please note that we may take pictures without notice. If you do not agree us to take pictures regardless of the purpose, please let our staff know.
- Please note that you may not be able to see the works due to unexpected circumstances. Those who experience the following should be careful when visiting
  - Those who experience muscle cramps or loss of consciousness caused by light stimulation.
  - Those who experience extreme fear in confined, dark, or high places. You will not be allowed to enter the venue if you are:
    - Being drunk or rude.

- Eating, drinking, or smoking on site.
- Bringing dangerous items or any items judged inappropriate by our management staff.
- Trying to Re-entry after leaving.
- Taking videos or photos to be used for commercial purposes without prior consent.
- Visiting with any animals including assistance dogs.

For inquiries, please contact the website where you purchased the ticket or your travel agent.

"Expanding Three-Dimensional Existence in Transforming Space - Flattening 3 Colors and 9 Blurred Colors, Free Floating" will not be available for visiting due to the work update.

Duration: June 10th (Sat) - June 30th (Fri)

### Location

【teamLab Planets TOKYO DMM】 teamLab Planets TOKYO, Toyosu 6-1-16, Koto-ku, Tokyo

By Train:

- 1 minute on foot from Shin-Toyosu Station (Tokyo Waterfront New Transit Waterfront Line Yurikamome Line)
- 10 minutes on foot from Toyosu Station (Tokyo Metro Yurakucho Line)
- 5 minutes on foot from Shijoumae Station and Toyosu Market (Tokyo Waterfront New Transit Waterfront Line Yurikamome Line)

### CANCELLATION POLICY

The booking cannot be canceled or changed.

Once the booking is completed, we'll send you a voucher via email which will include a QR code and important information about the meeting location, time, and a local contact telephone number. The voucher will be sent within two business days after the booking has been received. Please ensure to provide the email address where the voucher will be sent and review the voucher carefully once received.

**Start time** 9:30AM

### Included

Admission Ticket (Meals not included)

### Not included

Transportation, other services not mentioned.

**Tokyo Skytree® Admission Ticket (for specified date and time) - Tembo Deck Floor 350**



### RESTRICTIONS:

- Free entrance for children under 5 years old.
- Children who are 6 years old but have not started primary school will be free of charge as well.
- Children who are 12 years old but still in primary school will be charged with children's price.
- High school students who are over 18 years old will be charged an adult price.
- This combo ticket allows you to enjoy both Tembo Deck (350 m) and Tembo Galleria (450 m).

**OPERATIONAL DAYS:**

- 10:00 - 20:00
- Sundays - Saturdays

**AVAILABLE PERIOD:** Within 31 days

**VOUCHER EXPIRATION PERIOD:** 1 day(s) since the activity date.

**REQUIREMENT ITEMS TO BRING & ATTIRE:** Please present your voucher to the staff when you exchange the ticket.

**HOW TO USE THE TICKET:** E-tickets must be exchanged at 4F Ticket Counter – enter from Main Entrance.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** <http://www.tokyo-skytree.jp/en/access/>

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Once the booking is completed, we'll send you a voucher via email, including a QR code and important information about the meeting location, time, and a local contact telephone number. The voucher will be sent within two business days after receiving the booking. Please ensure to provide the email address where the voucher will be sent and review the voucher carefully once received.

**Meeting point:** Tokyo Skytree, 1 Chome-1-2 Oshiage, Sumida City, Tokyo 131-0045, Japan.

**Start time** 14:00 PM

**Included**

Tokyo Skytree Combo Ticket (Tembo Galleria + Tembo Deck) & Experience fee / Colored glass.

**Not included**

Transportation, other services not mentioned.

**Accommodation:** The Blossom Hibiya – Superior room - breakfast included

**Meals:** Breakfast

**DAY 3: FREE DAY**

Breakfast at the hotel and free day for your own leisure.

**Accommodation:** The Blossom Hibiya – Superior room - breakfast included

**Meals:** Breakfast

**DAY 4: MT. FUJI AND HAKONE FULL DAY TOUR FROM TOKYO (PRIVATE)**



## Unveil the Magic of Mt. Fuji: A Day of Scenic Splendor and Cultural Delights

Start your adventure with the ease of a hotel pick-up, accompanied by an English-speaking driver who will ensure a comfortable and informative journey.

Departing from the hotel at 8:00 AM, we'll journey along the picturesque Tomei Expressway Hakone Turnpike Road, offering breathtaking views of Mt. Fuji. Around 9:30 AM, we'll arrive at Hakone Daikanzan, where you can immerse yourself in the stunning mountain vistas. Our next stop is the Hakone Open Air Museum, renowned for its beautiful blend of art and nature. Finally, we'll visit Owakudani, a fascinating sulfur hot spring located near the serene Lake Ashi in Hakone.

The tour ends at your accommodation in Hakone between 15:30 and 16:00

**Please note that from March to September, due to low visibility of Mount Fuji from the Hakone area, the itinerary may be modified, which your driver will discuss with you when the driver contacts you the day prior.**

**Start time:** 8:00h

**Meeting point:** Hotel (Pick up 08:00).

**Included:** Standard car. Tool. English speaking driver.

**Not included:** Lunch. Admission fee



**Accommodation:** Hotel Indigo Hakone Gora, An Ihg Hotel – Standard Private Hot Spring room - breakfast included

**Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 5: HAKONE - KYOTO

Today, your own arrangement to catch your JR train to Kyoto.

## Japan Railway (JR)\_Shinkan sen (Bullet train) - Japan Railway (JR)\_Shinkan sen (Bullet train)

↳ 8:05 AM - Odawara, Odawara City Center

↳ 10:15 AM - Kyoto, Kyoto Train Station

🕒 2h 10m 📦 20 KG 🚫 Nonstop

Upon arrival in Kyoto station, your arrangement to arrive your hotel in Kyoto.



**Accommodation: Almont Hotel Kyoto – Deluxe room - breakfast included**

**Meals: Breakfast**

## DAY 6: KYOTO AND NARA DAY TRIP TOUR FROM KYOTO (BUS TOUR)



Breakfast at the hotel

A full-day tour of Kyoto and Nara offers a rich blend of historical, cultural, and natural sites in a comfortable coach.

### **Explore World Heritage Site 'Kinkaku-ji' (Including Admission)**

Visit the iconic 'Kinkaku-ji,' a symbol of North Kyoto culture. This three-story building facing Mirror Lake is covered with gold leaf on the second and third floors, representing the architecture of the Muromachi period. Its garden is designated as a Special Historic Site and Special Place of Scenic Beauty.

### **Visit the Famous 'Senbon Torii' Gates at Kyoto's 'Fushimi Inari Taisha'**

Head to 'Fushimi Inari Taisha' to explore Japan's immensely popular attraction, the 'Senbon Torii' gates. The deep red torii gates connected like a tunnel make for a spectacular sight.

### **Stroll through 'Nara Park,' Home to Todai-ji Temple, Kofuku-ji Temple, Kasuga Shrine, and the National Museum**

Venture to the expansive 'Nara Park' stretching across the eastern part of Nara city, covering an area of approximately 660 hectares. It encompasses prominent sites such as Todai-ji Temple, Kofuku-ji Temple, Kasuga Shrine, the National Museum, and the untouched Kasugayama Primeval Forest, making it a magnificent park that rivals the ancient capital. The park features around 1,300 wild deer roaming in harmony with the rich natural landscapes, including beautiful lawns and ancient cedar groves. It is a prominent tourist attraction symbolizing the historic city of Nara.

**Start time:** 9:00h

**Meeting point:** To be advised

**Included:** English Speaking Guide. Air-Conditioned coach. Entrance fee to Kinkakujij temple.

**Not included:** Entrance fees in Nara . Lunch. Hotel pick up / drop off.

**Accommodation:** Almont Hotel Kyoto – Deluxe room - breakfast included

**Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 7: FREE DAY

Today is free for your own leisure.

**Accommodation:** Almont Hotel Kyoto – Deluxe room - breakfast included

**Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 8: KYOTO – HIROSHIMA - HIROSHIMA WALKING TOUR WHY A BOMB WAS DROPPED TO HIROSHIMA

Today, your own arrangement to catch your JR train to Hiroshima.

### Japan Railway (JR)\_Shinkan sen (Bullet train) - Japan Railway (JR)\_Shinkan sen (Bullet train)

[->] 10:00 AM - Kyoto, Kyoto Train Station

[->] 11:40 AM - Hiroshima, Hiroshima Train Station

🕒 1h 40m 🧳 20 KG 🚦 Nonstop

Upon arrival in Hiroshima station, your arrangement to arrive your hotel.



**Accommodation:** Rihga Royal Hotel Hiroshima – Economy room - breakfast included

**Hiroshima Walking Tour Why A Bomb was dropped to Hiroshima**



Join us on a profound journey through Hiroshima to understand why the atomic bomb was dropped on this city. Our thematic tour covers three key sites: Gokoku Shrine, Hiroshima Castle, and the Peace Memorial Park. Each location provides unique insights into Hiroshima's military significance during World War II, the strategic reasons behind its selection as a target, and the devastating human and cultural consequences of the bombing. Explore the historical and military context at Gokoku Shrine and Hiroshima Castle, and then reflect on the tragic aftermath and the enduring call for peace at the Peace Memorial Park. This tour offers a comprehensive look into the events leading up to the bombing, fostering a deep appreciation for peace and reconciliation. Join us to explore the profound impacts and the ongoing legacy of one of the most pivotal events of the 20th century.

### **Additional information**

Wheelchair accessible

Infants and small children can ride in a pram or stroller

Service animals allowed

Public transportation options are available nearby

Transportation options are wheelchair accessible

All areas and surfaces are wheelchair accessible

Suitable for all physical fitness levels

### **Itinerary**

Visitors begin their experience at Hiroshima Gogoku Shrine by exploring its elegant architecture and tranquil surroundings. Originally established to enshrine the protective deities of Hiroshima domain, the shrine now also serves as a place of solace and remembrance for those affected by historical events. Duration: 20 minutes.

Hiroshima Castle, also known as Carp Castle, is a historic landmark in Hiroshima, Japan. Originally constructed in the 1590s, it served as the home of the daimyō (feudal lord) of the Hiroshima han (domain). The castle was an important military and administrative center until it was destroyed by the atomic bomb in 1945. It has since been reconstructed and now functions as a museum that offers insights into Hiroshima's history, Japanese feudal architecture, and the samurai culture of the Edo period. The castle's grounds, surrounded by a moat and lush gardens, provide a scenic walk and a peaceful retreat from the modern city surrounding it. Duration: 20 minutes.

Hiroshima Green Arena, officially known as Hiroshima Prefectural Sports Center, is a multi-purpose indoor sporting arena located in Hiroshima, Japan. It is often used for a wide range of sporting events such as basketball and volleyball matches, as well as for martial arts competitions. The arena also hosts a variety of other events, including concerts, exhibitions, and cultural festivals, making it a versatile venue within the city. Duration: 30 minutes.

Orizuru Tower is a modern and innovative addition to Hiroshima's cityscape, located right next to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Opened in 2016, this 13-story building is known for its distinctive architecture and the panoramic views it offers of the surrounding city, including the Peace Park and the A-Bomb Dome, one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites. The Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, originally the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall, stands as a solemn reminder of the devastating power of nuclear weapons. Located near the

blast's epicenter, it was one of the few structures left standing after the atomic bomb was dropped on August 6, 1945. This haunting ruin, with its exposed steel and crumbled walls, has been preserved as a peace monument and UNESCO World Heritage Site. It symbolizes the hope for global peace and the abolition of nuclear arms, serving as a poignant educational and contemplative site for visitors worldwide. Duration: 20 minutes.

The Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima, located in the Peace Memorial Park, commemorates Sadako Sasaki and the thousands of child victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Inspired by Sadako, who developed leukemia from radiation exposure and folded origami cranes as a symbol of peace and healing, the monument features a statue of her holding a golden crane overhead. Surrounding the statue are thousands of colorful paper cranes sent from children around the world, symbolizing a universal wish for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons. Duration: 10 minutes.

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park is a poignant site dedicated to the memory of the victims of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Located in the heart of Hiroshima, near the epicenter of the explosion, the park is home to several important monuments, memorials, and museums, including the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the Atomic Bomb Dome, and the Children's Peace Monument. The park itself is designed to promote reflection and peace, featuring lush greenery, tranquil water features, and broad pathways. It serves as a reminder of the tragic consequences of nuclear warfare and as a symbol of a continuing commitment to world peace. Each year, thousands of visitors from around the world come to the park to learn, remember, and reflect on the events of 1945 and the importance of peace. Duration: 30 minutes

**Start time:** 14:00h

**Meeting point:** Guide will be waiting for you in front of Hiroshima Gogoku Shrine around the Torii Gate near the main Hall.

**Included:** All Fees and Taxes.

**Not included:** Other services not mentioned

**Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 9: HIROSHIMA – OSAKA - OSAKA LOCAL FOODIE TOUR IN DOTONBORI AND SHINSEKAI (SMALL GROUP)

Today, your own arrangement to catch your JR train to Osaka.

**Japan Railway (JR)\_Shinkan sen (Bullet train) - Japan Railway (JR)\_Shinkan sen (Bullet train)**

↳ **11:40 AM** - Hiroshima, Hiroshima Train Station

↳ **1:05 PM** - Osaka, Shin-Osaka

🕒 **1h 25m** 🧳 **20 KG** 🚦 **Nonstop**

Upon arrival in Osaka station, your arrangement to arrive your hotel.



**Accommodation: The Royal Park Hotel Iconic Osaka Midosuji – Comfort room - breakfast included**

### **Osaka Local Foodie Tour in Dotonbori and Shinsekai (Small Group)**



Embark on a tantalizing adventure through Osaka’s iconic food hubs—Dotonbori and Shinsekai—where every bite tells a story. Dive into the city’s vibrant food scene as you savor must-try delicacies like crispy kushikatsu, savory okonomiyaki, and piping-hot takoyaki, alongside lesser-known local specialties. Wander through the neon-lit streets of Dotonbori and soak in the nostalgic charm of Shinsekai, guided by an expert who will share fascinating tales of Osaka’s culinary heritage. From bustling markets to hidden gems, this tour promises an unforgettable feast for your taste buds and a deeper connection to the heart of Japan’s “Kitchen of the Nation.”

#### **What makes this tour unique**

- An all-inclusive food tour where you will get to eat 8 different Osaka specialties, selected by our local guide.
- In 3 hours, enjoy a wide array of different Takoyaki, Okonomiyaki, and Kushikatsu, and learn about its origins.
- Explore hidden alleys and temples, away from the main streets (and crowds!) to learn the history of Osaka first-hand from a local.

#### **Itinerary**

Meeting Place:

- Imamiya ebisu station, Nankai Kouya line.
- Shinsekai
- Dotombori
- The tour ends at Namba Station

#### **Remarks**

- Because most Japanese restaurants are not fully ready to provide vegetarian menus, limited choices of vegetarian foods in our tour is available.
- If you would like a vegetarian course, please request it in advance (by the day before). We are unable to provide a vegetarian course upon request on the day of the tour.

- We are unable to accommodate gluten-free requests for this tour.
- All ages can join this tour
- Please note that there might be other participants.
- You do not need to pay for the guide's food and drinks.
- This tour could possibly visit places where smoking is not prohibited. Please note that we may not be able to change the tour venues in this case.
- The itinerary for this tour includes some locations that are not accessible by wheelchair or stroller.
- This tour is not recommended for people with mobility issues, if you have walking problems we recommend booking a private tour.
- Please inform us at least one day before the tour if you have any dietary requests or allergies to mention.

**Note:**

- Requests made on the day of the tour cannot be accommodated.
- Please note that we are unable to guarantee allergy-free or cater to dietary restrictions as the food is prepared in kitchens that do not belong to MagicalTrip.
- Additionally, there may be instances where substitutions are not possible at certain stops; however, we will make every effort to compensate at different stops throughout the tour.
- Out of respect for other guests and to ensure the best tour for everyone, we must start the tour on time.
- You will not be able to join the tour, get a refund or reschedule if you are late for the tour and miss the group.
- You are welcome to bring your young children and baby on this tour, but if you would like to leave your children with a sitter, we can refer you to an outside sitter service, please contact us before booking.
- Summer in Japan is very hot and humid, so we recommend that you bring water and wear a hat to prevent heat stroke.

**Start time:** 17:30h

**Meeting point:** In front of the exit of Imamiya ebisu station, Nankai Kouya line.

**Included:** 1 box of Takoyaki. Okonomiyaki. An English-speaking guide. Tour Photos. 6 pieces of Kushikatsu. 3 drinks.

**Not included:** Transportation fee. Personal expenses. Hotel Pick up.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Local Food Dinner

**DAY 10: OSAKA DEPARTURE**

Our driver will pick you up at the designated Hotel in central Osaka and drive you to Kansai International Airport.

**Flight change policy (Flexible)**

If the flight number is changed and / or cancelled but you need to re-arrange for new flight, please immediately inform us accordingly with original booking number and new flight number. We will re-arrange the shuttle transfer service without an additional fee.

**REMARKS**

Free (under 2 years old not occupying seat) Pick up about 3.5 - 4.5 hours prior to flight departure time at hotel. Service is only available for accommodation where you will be staying in Central Tokyo and Maihama Area. If you would like to specify other locations as pickup point, please use Private Transfer Service.

## Notes:

This is a shared transfer service. There may be waiting time for other passengers and multiple stops on route. If you have sky, snowboard, golf bag and cardboard, please notify us in advance. If you are travelling with a service dog, please notify us in advance. Child seat is not available.

## Meals: Breakfast

**\*\*End of the services\*\***

## INCLUSIONS:

- ✓ All services as mentioned in your itinerary.
- ✓ Accommodation as mentioned in the proposal Bed & Breakfast basis
- ✓ Meals as mentioned
- ✓ Transfers as mentioned
- ✓ All Sightseeing, entrance fees and English-speaking guide services as detailed in the itinerary
- ✓ JR trains as mentioned
- ✓ Multi-lingual 24-hour customer support hotline in all destinations.
- ✓ All applicable local taxes.

## EXCLUSIONS:

- × Visa fees
- × Personal expenses
- × Tips and gratuities
- × Any International flight
- × Optional Tours
- × Early check in & late check out.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### 1. LAND PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES (where booked):

- Meeting/Assistance/Transfers: Airport / Hotel round-trip transfers at all destinations and includes one suitcase per person ***(at some destinations, like Europe & Japan, the transfers are provided with drivers only, unless a guide service is booked separately. These drivers may only speak little or no English).***
- Accommodation: In twin/double rooms with en-suite facilities.
- Meals: Meals as per itinerary.
- Guide: Professional English-speaking local guide(s), where quoted.
- Sightseeing & Entrance Fees: Vehicle size depends on number of travelers. Entrance fees as per itinerary, unless indicated otherwise.
- Services Charges & Taxes: All taxes charged by local governments on services, which are part of the program ***(City taxes, Resort fee, Tourism fee, where applicable, are charged by the hotels directly from the guests upon check-in /check-out).***

### 2. PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Personal expenses: Telephone and data port charges at some hotels, meals and drinks, unless otherwise specified in the itinerary.
- Tips: To guides, drivers and hotel personnel.
- Insurance: Travel insurance is highly recommended and may be purchased at the time of deposit.
- Room service (meals at hotel, as applicable, are at the dining outlet only)

- Laundry, unless offered complimentary by the hotel(s)
- **3. PAYMENT CONDITIONS:** A non-refundable deposit of \$ 1000 per person, is required at time of booking towards the land package cost. *Luxury trains & cruise bookings require a fixed percentage of the total cost as deposit, which may be in addition to the deposit for land package. Some destinations also require a higher deposit (for e.g. Japan), due to a high demand for land services, which shall be communicated in the quote. Airfare is always paid in full at the time of making a firm booking, if getting issued through us.* Tourcan Vacations office must receive final payment 60 days prior to departure. For bookings made within 60 days of departure, full payment is due. Some suppliers may require additional deposits. You will be advised at time of confirmation. The additional amount is non-refundable. If final payment is not received 90 days prior to departure the booking will be cancelled.

**4. TERMS & CONDITIONS :** The purchase of packages, air only or tours (hereinafter referred to as the “Travel Services”) offered by Tourcan Vacations constitutes a contractual agreement between Tourcan Vacations and the customer and implies your acceptance of Tourcan Vacations terms and conditions. Please ensure you read carefully and understand these terms and conditions prior to booking.

**5. PRICES INDICATED:** Prices quoted in our website or by reservations staff are based on double occupancy and in Canadian dollars (\$CAN), unless otherwise indicated, and are based upon the prices of service providers, exchange rate, cost of fuel, taxes and other fees in force at time of preparation of the present brochure. All prices are valid upon date of publication and are subject to change without notice. Unless the customer has paid in full, all prices may be increased at any time and for any reason. Where there is an increase in the total price of the Travel Services after a deposit has been paid and the cumulative increase, except any increase resulting from an increase in retail sales tax or federal goods and services tax, is more 7 per cent the customer has the right to cancel the contract and obtain full refund.

**6. RESERVATIONS/DEPOSIT/CONFIRMATION:** Reservations must be accompanied by a deposit or payment in full before they can be considered confirmed.

**7. FINAL PAYMENT:** Final payment must be received by Tourcan Vacations 60 days prior to departure date. Reservations made less than 60 days prior departure date must be accompanied by payment in full. If final payment is not received within the required period, Tourcan Vacations reserves the right to cancel any such reservations without prior notice and levy applicable cancellation fees.

**8. PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD:**

Signed copies of Credit Card Authorization Forms must be in our possession before final documents will be issued.

**9. CHARGES FOR CHANGES:** Any changes to a reservation will be subject to a \$50 change fee outside of 65 days of departure. Within 65 days of departure cancellation penalties will apply. If any change made by one or more customers alters the basis of room occupancy, rates will be adjusted to reflect true room occupancy status.

Changes of customer names will be treated as a cancellation and cancellation fees will apply.

Charges will apply for any changes in customer reservations (subject to availability) subsequent to the departure date.

**10. CANCELLATION CHARGES:** Charges will apply in the event of any cancellation. Insurance premiums are non-refundable, in whole or in part, whether cancelled before or after the departure date. The day of departure is excluded when calculating cancellation or change fees. All cancellation fees must be calculated based on the total amount of the products and Travel Services purchased. Tourcan Vacations reserves the right to cancel a booking where any payment is not received by its due date (60 day prior to departure).

**CANCELLATION BEFORE DEPARTURE DATE:**

- Up to 60 Days prior – loss of deposit\*
- 59 to 0 Days prior- 100% penalty\*

No refunds will be made for any used portion including hotels, sightseeing, cruises, transfers, meals, international or domestic flight with or without notice, unless cancelled or missed by the supplier.

\*Plus any unrecoverable deposits paid to airlines or suppliers.

**11. FLIGHTS AND CARRIERS:**

Customers acknowledge and accept the following:

- Changes: Flights offered by Tourcan Vacations are conducted in accordance with the applicable tariffs of the air carrier and pursuant to regulations set out by the Canadian Transportation Agency. All such flights and rates are also subject to approval by the relevant government authorities. Consolidations and changes in the published schedule, aircraft type, days of operation, air carrier providing air transportation and flight itinerary may be undertaken at any time and without prior notice, in accordance with the air carrier’s tariffs.

- Fares and Names: Fares and taxes may increase between the time of quoting, booking and tickets being issued.

- The fares quoted are subject to class availability and may have booking conditions attached. **Unless specified otherwise, all air tickets once issued are non-refundable, so it's important to check all relevant details at the time of issuing the air tickets.**

- Tickets must reflect the passengers name as shown in their passport. If names are not reflected correctly boarding may be denied.

- Schedule Check and Connecting Flights: Flight schedules are subject to change without notice. Customers having purchased air only must reconfirm their return flight within 24 to 72 hours prior to the scheduled take-off time. Tourcan Vacations undertakes to notify customers reasonably in advance through means it deems appropriate of any schedule changes resulting in the advancement or delay of the flight departure times or in case of cancellation of a flight. Whenever customers book connecting flights, they must allow sufficient time to make their connection. No control can be exercised over air carriers to guarantee flight schedules, which may be altered or affected by various circumstances. Tourcan Vacations will not be liable for any change of schedule or a missed flight connection, including any additional fees incurred and special, incidental or consequential damages (including the carriage of baggage) arising from the foregoing, whether or not it had the knowledge that such additional fees or damages might be incurred.

- Airport check-in: It is recommended that customers arrive at the airport check-in counter at least 3 hours prior to departure. Failing this, their reservation may be cancelled and their seats assigned to other customers, with no right of recourse.

- Seat assignment: unless already pre-assigned, staff at the air carrier's check-in counter conducts aircraft seating.

- Other applicable conditions: Air transportation is subject to all applicable government regulations and is governed by the Montreal Convention, or the Warsaw Convention as the case may be, the applicable tariffs of the air carrier as well as the conditions of contract appearing on the airline ticket. Any amendments or changes to the applicable air carrier's general terms and conditions of carriage once filed with and approved by federal regulatory authorities, are not subject to additional public notice and are legally binding.

- Refusal to transport: Removal of passengers: Tourcan Vacations shall not be liable for refusal by itself or the air carrier to transport a passenger nor for the cancellation of a reserved space or removal of a passenger due to, but not limited to, safety reasons, to prevent the violation of any applicable laws of any country or to prevent any hazard or risk to such passenger, to any other person or property, or to the flight.

**12. VALIDITY OF TICKETS:** Tickets are made out in the name of the customer and are not transferable. Tickets are valid only on the dates and flights indicated. Unused portions of tickets may not be used for travel on other flights and are not subject to refund at any time.

### **13. BAGGAGE:**

- Limits: Air carriers have individual rules and regulations with respect to baggage weight, size and number. Customers must consult with the travel agent for applicable restrictions.

- Liability: The provisions of the Montreal Convention, or the Warsaw Convention as the case may be, the applicable tariffs of the air carrier, as well as the notice appearing on the passenger ticket and baggage check, govern the loss of and damage to baggage and establish the limits of air carrier's liability. Baggage lost or damaged while boarding or disembarking a ship must be reported to the Purser's office prior to the ship's departure from port or prior to leaving the local customs area. Passengers 'baggage and property are transported, stored and handled at owner's risk at all times.

**14. TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:** It is the full responsibility of customers to obtain at their own expense all necessary travel documents required by all relevant government authorities, including all ports of call, and to comply with the laws thereof. Passports will be required for all air and sea travel to or from all destinations and may have to be valid for six months beyond the date of the expected return to Canada. Canadian Citizens born in certain countries may require a visa in addition to a valid passport. A permanent resident card will be required for permanent residents/landed immigrants who are not Canadian citizens. One (1) parent traveling with a child under age 18 may have to obtain a notarized letter of consent signed by the parent not traveling. Customers are responsible for checking which documents are required, and then make certain that they have the necessary documents in hand prior to departure. The carrier or relevant authorities, without further recourse or the possibility of a refund, may deny customers boarding privileges failing to provide the required documents. Entry to another country may also be refused even if the required information and travel documents are complete. No refund or replacement will be given for lost or stolen travel documents. Tourcan Vacations shall not be liable for any aid or information given by its employees or the travel agent in connection with obtaining any necessary travel documents or complying with any laws, whether given orally, in writing or otherwise, or for the consequences suffered by any customer resulting from his/her failure to obtain such documents or to comply with such laws.

**15. CUSTOMER ADVISORY:** Some events are part of normal unpleasant occurrences, which can happen when traveling abroad. The customer realizes this, solely assumes the consequences thereof and agrees that Tourcan Vacations cannot be held responsible for any damages owing to such occurrences.

- Living Standards: Customers are asked to bear in mind and accept that living standards and practices at the destination, and the conditions there with respect to the provision of utilities, services and accommodations, may differ from those found in Canada.
- Service disruptions: Some services including water, electricity, air-conditioning, security, sanitary conditions, pools, food, beverages and other services or benefits may be suspended or interrupted partially or completely during the customer's stay. Likewise, depending on the occupancy rate of hotels, à la Carte dining may be replaced by buffet or vice-versa.
- Food, water and beverages: The food, water and beverages may not be up to North-American standards. Accordingly, customers assume sole responsibility for any illness suffered while abroad or upon return owing to the quality of the food, water and beverages.

**16. ROOM ALLOCATION:** Hoteliers are solely responsible for room allocation, in accordance with the category reserved by customers. Should customers choose to alter their room category upon arrival at destination (upon availability), they must make their own arrangements with the hotelier and assume all additional fees levied by them.

**17. CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT CONDITIONS:** Customers acknowledge and accept that hoteliers, in accordance with international standards, have specific check-in times, usually from 3 PM and check out by noon on the scheduled day of departure or by noon on the day immediately preceding a late night departure.

**18. CUSTOMERS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE AND CARE WHILE TRAVELLING:**

All customers requiring special care, assistance, attention or treatment must advise Tourcan Vacations and the air carrier of any and all specific needs at the time of booking, in order to arrange air transportation, hotel and tour accommodations.

**19. CHANGES TO TRAVEL SERVICES:**

If Travel Services are no longer available prior to the departure date or subsequent to arrival at destination, Tourcan Vacations reserves the right to substitute them for comparable goods or Travel Services, or, alternatively, to cancel them.

- Changes to itinerary: Tourcan Vacations and the participating tour operator reserves the right to cancel, alter or re-schedule any timing, to omit one or more stops, to substitute alternative itineraries or to otherwise amend the content of the tour with or without prior notice to the passenger.

**20. CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITY:**

- Health: Customers, whose physical condition so requires, must ensure that they have a sufficient quantity of any required medication with them, and that they carry such medication in their hand baggage at all times. Customers must also consult competent medical authorities prior to departure about preventive medical measure as regards to the countries to be visited.
- Activities: Tourcan Vacations cannot be held responsible for any accident or mishap occurring at the destination during the practice of activities in which the customers participate of their own free will and initiative.

**21. FORCE MAJEURE:** Tourcan Vacations shall not be liable for failure in the performance of any of its obligations, including without limitation, for any loss or damage resulting from any delay, cancellation, loss of personal belongings, illness, bodily injury, accident, death, deterioration of Travel Services, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, disappointment or frustration, either mental or physical, due to:

- An Act of God or Force Majeure;
- A war, revolution, insurrection, riot, blockage or any other unlawful act against public order or authority, including an act of terrorism or threat thereof;
- Fire, flood, explosion, earthquake, epidemics, quarantine, storm, lightning, tornado or adverse weather conditions generally;
- Accident to or failure of an aircraft or equipment used in connection therewith, loss of or hijacking of an aircraft, or any shortage of or inability to provide labor, fuel or facilities;
- Any strike, lock-out, labor dispute or other industrial disturbance whether involving Tourcan Vacations' employees, the employees of its service providers or others upon whom Tourcan Vacations relies;
- Any government order, regulation, action or inaction or any failure to obtain the approval of a government authority having jurisdiction in the circumstances as may be required to the conduct of operations hereunder or any government or legal restraint upon such operation;
- Others upon whom Tourcan Vacations relies for the performance of the whole or any part of any Travel Services hereunder;

- Any other causes beyond the reasonable control of Tourcan Vacations and any other event not reasonably to be foreseen, anticipated or predicted, whether actual, threatened or reported, which may interfere with the operations of Tourcan Vacations or of its service providers.

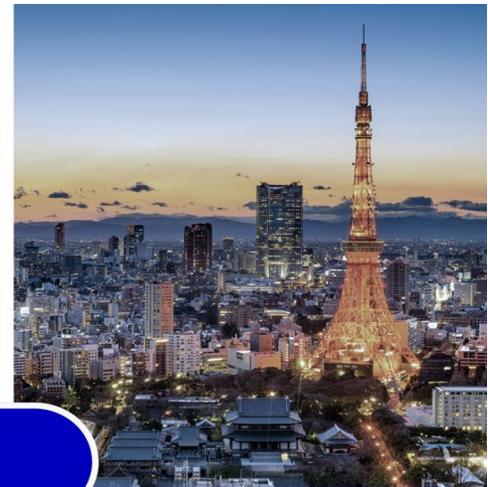
**22. EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY:** Tourcan Vacations makes arrangements with air carriers, hotels, transfer operators and other independent parties to provide customers with Travel Services they purchase. Although Tourcan Vacations takes great care in selecting these service providers, it does not have any control over them and cannot be held responsible for their omissions, fault or negligence, or that of their employees, nor for any loss or damages suffered as a result thereof. Travel Services provided are subject to the conditions imposed by the service providers and their liability is limited by their tariffs, conditions of carriage, tickets, vouchers, international conventions and agreements.

**23. ACTIVITIES NOT INCLUDED:** Tourcan Vacations shall not be liable for the quality or safety of activities (such as excursions, optional tours, little extras and others) available at the destination that customers may wish to participate in and which are not included in the package, nor for any other representation made by the operator of any such activities. Any written or oral contract for all such activities shall be deemed to be made between customers and the operator of such activities and shall be undertaken at the customers 'own risk of loss, damage or injury. Tourcan Vacations shall not be liable in any manner for any complaints or claims that may arise as a result of participation in any such activities which are offered by third parties over whom Tourcan Vacations has no control.

**24. CONFIDENTIALITY:** Tourcan Vacations strictly complies with principles of confidentiality with respect to customers 'personal information, including in accordance with the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act.

**25. LAWS:** The laws of the province in which the Canadian gateway city is located govern this agreement. Any legal action instituted against Tourcan Vacations must be heard before the courts of this province. For the purposes of any such proceedings, the parties hereby agree to elect domicile in the judicial district of the Canadian gateway city in question. The voiding of one or other of the clauses hereto shall neither annul nor invalidate this agreement, which is known as the Terms and Conditions. Tourcan Vacations is registered as a wholesaler in Ontario.

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# JAPAN



**POPULATION**  
126 MILLION



**ELECTRICITY**  
110V  
50Hz : Eastern  
60Hz : Western



**LANGUAGE**  
Japanese



**TIMEZONE**  
GMT +9



**TRANSPORTATION**  
TRAIN, SUBWAY,  
BUS, TAXI



**CURRENCY**  
JAPANESE YEN

## WHEN TO VISIT

	<b>JAN</b>	NEW YEAR (SHOGATSU) SAPPORO SNOW FESTIVAL
	<b>FEB</b>	SETSEBUN OTARU SNOW LIGHT PATH FESTIVAL KOBE LUMINARIE
	<b>MARCH</b>	HINAMATSURI (DOLL FESTIVAL) HANAMI (CHERRY BLOSSOM VIEWING)
	<b>APRIL</b>	CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVALS TAKAYAMA SPRING FESTIVAL
	<b>MAY</b>	GOLDEN WEEK AOI MATSURI
	<b>JUNE</b>	HYDRANGEA FESTIVALS SANNO MATSURI
	<b>JULY</b>	TANABATA (STAR FESTIVAL) GION MATSURI SUMIDA RIVER FIREWORKS FESTIVAL
	<b>AUG</b>	OBON AWA ODORI KANTO MATSURI
	<b>SEPT</b>	MOON VIEWING (TSUKUMI) AOMORI NEBUTA MATSURI
	<b>OCT</b>	TAKAYAMA AUTUMN FESTIVAL JIDAI MATSURI
	<b>NOV</b>	SHICHI-GO-SAN KOYO (AUTUMN LEAVES VIEWING)
	<b>DEC</b>	CHRISTMAS SEASON KOBE LUMINARIE

## DOs

### QUEUING

Stand in line and wait for your turn patiently. This is well-practiced in public transportation and services.

### PUBLIC SILENCE

Maintain a low voice and avoid loud conversations in public places

### TEMPLE & SHRINE ETIQUETTE

Dress modestly, follow purification rituals, and respect restrictions on photography.

## DONTs

### TIPPING

Tipping is not customary and may be seen as rude.

### DESIGNATED SEATS

When you onboard the trains or subway, do not occupy designated seats for the elderly, PWDs, pregnant women.

### SMOKING

Smoke in designated areas only

### SHOES

Take off your shoes when buildings has a sunken-foyer entrance or when entering private houses.

## GREETING



**"KONNICHIWA"**  
Hello (used during the day)

**"OHAYOU GOZAIMASU"**  
Good morning (formal)

**"KONBANWA"**  
Good evening.

**"ARIGATOU GOZAIMASU"**  
Thank you (formal)

## SOME TIPS



**NIGHTLIFE:** RESPECT LOCAL CUSTOMS AND BEHAVIOR



**SHOPPING:** LOOK FOR TAX-FREE SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES; MAKE SURE TO BRING YOUR PASSPORT AT ALL TIMES



**DINING:** RESPECT LOCAL DINING CUSTOMS

## GEOGRAPHY

Japan is an island nation in East Asia, situated in the Pacific Ocean, with Tokyo as its capital city. It consists of four main islands—**Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, and Shikoku**—along with numerous smaller islands. The country is characterised by its mountainous terrain, including the prominent Japanese Alps and Mount Fuji. Japan's rugged coastline and diverse climates range from temperate in the north to subtropical in the south. Its geographical isolation has significantly contributed to its unique cultural and biological diversity.

## HISTORY

Japan's history extends over millennia, starting with the early Jomon and Yayoi cultures. During the classical era, influential dynasties emerged, and Buddhism and Shinto were developed. The feudal period, dominated by samurai and shoguns, defined much of Japan's medieval history. The Meiji Restoration in 1868 modernised Japan rapidly, transforming it into an industrialised nation with imperial ambitions. Following World War II, Japan adopted a pacifist constitution and rose to become a major economic power, leading globally in technology and culture.

## THE PEOPLE

Japan's population is over **126 million**, with most residing in densely populated urban areas.

## LANGUAGES

The primary language spoken in Japan is **Japanese**, with several dialects that vary by region, such as **Kansai, Kanto, and Tohoku**. Besides Japanese, there are minority languages spoken by specific groups. English is commonly taught in schools and used in business contexts, though it is not a native language.

## GOVERNMENT

Japan is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary government, with the emperor as the ceremonial head of state and political power vested in elected officials. The government is divided into three branches: the executive, legislative, and judiciary.

## CLIMATE

**Hokkaido (North):** Experiences a humid continental climate with cold winters and mild summers.

**Honshu (Central):** Has a range of climates, including humid subtropical in the east (Tokyo), with hot, humid summers and cold winters, and oceanic in the west (Kyoto), with moderate temperatures and higher humidity.

**Shikoku and Kyushu (South)** Feature a humid subtropical climate with hot, humid summers and mild winters, often with more rainfall and typhoons in summer and fall.

**Okinawa (Far South):** Experiences a subtropical climate with very warm temperatures year-round and high humidity.

## **BEST TIME TO VISIT**

**WINTER HOLIDAY:** Japan is a ski holiday destination from **December to March**, with peak conditions in January when resorts offer abundant powder snow. The ski season continues with great conditions through February, featuring various events and festivals. By early March, skiing is still good, but warmer temperatures may lead to wetter snow later in the month. Top locations for skiing include **Hokkaido, Nagano Prefecture, Niigata Prefecture, and Yamagata Prefecture**.

**SUMMER HOLIDAY:** Japan is a fantastic summer destination from **June to August**, each month offering unique experiences. Popular retreats like **Hakone** provide hot springs and views of Mount Fuji, while **Okinawa** remains a paradise for beach lovers. Additionally, **Aomori** is famous for its Nebuta Matsuri festival, showcasing vibrant floats and traditional dances.

## **CLOTHES TO WEAR**

**Winter (December to February):** Wear warm clothing such as coats, sweaters, and thermal layers. In northern regions like Hokkaido, heavier winter gear is necessary due to snow and colder temperatures.

**Spring (March to May):** Dress in layers, as temperatures can vary. Light jackets, sweaters, and long-sleeve shirts are common. Cherry blossoms make spring a popular time for outdoor activities.

**Summer (June to August):** Light, breathable clothing is ideal due to high humidity and temperatures. T-shirts, shorts, and light dresses are common. A hat and sunscreen are also advisable.

**Fall (September to November):** Like spring, layers are useful. Light sweaters, jackets, and long pants are suitable as temperatures gradually cool down.

## **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- **Tattoos:** Tattoos are not illegal in Japan, but they are not accepted everywhere. While visible tattoos are generally fine in public areas like streets or at temples and shrines, these more “traditional” locations often prefer that tattoos be covered. The same applies to many beach hotels and public onsens, where some establishments may ask guests with tattoos to cover them. To avoid any inconvenience, we recommend that customers with tattoos, especially in places like Hakone, book a room with a private onsen, where there are no concerns about covering up tattoos.

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

**Visa:** Depending on your nationality, you may need a visa to enter Japan. Many countries have visa-waiver agreements with Japan for short stays.

Please check the link for more information on Visa application requirements: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/visa/index.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html).

**Passport:** A valid passport is required for entry.

## **EXIT REQUIREMENTS**

**Valid Passport:** Ensure your passport is valid and not expired.

**Customs Declarations:** Be aware of customs regulations regarding the export of goods, including restrictions on certain items and duty-free allowances.

## **BANKS AND CURRENCY**

**Currency:** The official currency of Japan is the Japanese Yen (JPY), symbolised as ¥.

### **Banks:**

1. **Major Banks:** Include Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, and Mizuho Financial Group.
2. **ATMs:** Available widely, including at convenience stores like 7-Eleven and banks. International cards are generally accepted, but it's a good idea to inform your bank of your travel plans.
3. **Currency Exchange:** This can be done at banks, airports, and currency exchange offices. Exchange rates at airports may not be as favourable as those at local banks or exchange services.

Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in urban areas, though cash is still commonly used, especially in rural areas and small establishments.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Mobile Phones:** Japan has a well-developed mobile network. Visitors can use international roaming, rent a mobile phone, or get a local SIM card. Major providers include NTT Docomo, au, and SoftBank.

**Internet:** Wi-Fi is widely available in hotels, cafes, and many public areas. Portable Wi-Fi devices can also be rented for convenient internet access during your stay.

**Postal Services:** Japan Post provides reliable mail and parcel services. Post offices are widely available and offer various services, including international shipping.

**Emergency Services:** For emergencies, dial 110 for police and 119 for fire and ambulance services.

## CUISINE AND DRINKS

### 1. Cuisine:

- **Sushi and Sashimi:** Raw fish and seafood, often served with rice.
- **Ramen:** Noodle soup with various broths and toppings.
- **Tempura:** Battered and deep-fried vegetables and seafood.
- **Yakitori:** Grilled chicken skewers.
- **Okonomiyaki:** Savory pancakes with a variety of ingredients.
- **Kaiseki:** Traditional multi-course meal showcasing seasonal ingredients.

### 2. Drinks:

- **Green Tea:** A staple beverage, often served with meals.
- **Sake:** Rice wine, which can be enjoyed hot or cold.
- **Shochu:** A distilled spirit typically made from barley, sweet potatoes, or rice.
- **Beer:** Popular brands include Asahi, Sapporo, and Kirin.
- **Soft Drinks:** Include a range of options, with must-try Japanese specialties like Calpico and matcha-flavored drinks.

Japanese cuisine is known for its emphasis on fresh ingredients and presentation, and dining experiences can range from street food to high-end restaurants.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Self-drive Car Rental Tips

#### 1. Requirements:

- a. The driver must be 18 years old or older

- b. A valid international driving permit (IDP, adhering to the [1949 Geneva Convention](#)); countries that are not signatories to the Geneva Convention, like Belgium, France, Germany, Monaco, Switzerland, and Taiwan, can obtain licenses through [Japan Automotive Federation](#) (JAF) or specific consulates, you can drive freely for up to a year.
- c. Your home country's driver's license
- d. Be prepared to show your passport at the time of rental.

## 2. Rental Process:

- a. Prices can vary depending on the following:
  - i. Number of passengers
  - ii. Rental duration
  - iii. Insurance options
  - iv. Pick-up and drop-off location
- b. Book in advance and integrate it into your itinerary through our [travel specialists](#).
- c. Understand the rental terms, pickup and return policies, including mileage limits and fuel policies.

## 3. Driving Rules:

- a. Drive on the left side of the road.
- b. Speed limits are generally 60 km/h in urban areas and 100 km/h on highways.
- c. Seat belts are mandatory, and using a mobile phone while driving is prohibited.

## 4. Navigation:

- a. GPS systems are available in English, but having a smartphone with a navigation app can also be helpful.
- b. Familiarise yourself with Japanese road signs, which often include English translations.
- c. Map Codes, which are unique to Japan, are a convenient feature that can lead you straight to your destination without requiring a complete address.
- d. Useful Apps:

- i. **Google Maps** - Provides detailed directions, traffic updates, and the search for nearby gas stations and restaurants.
- ii. **Japan Travel by NAVITIME** - Offers detailed route planning, public transportation schedules, and insights on popular tourist attractions.

## 5. Road Tolls:

- a. **ETC Lanes:** These lanes are for cars with Electronic Toll Location (ETC) devices. Marked by purple lanes, they allow automatic toll payment without stopping.
- b. **Manual Payment Lanes:** These lanes require you to stop and pay the toll with cash or credit card. Marked by green signs, you'll hand your toll pass ticket to an attendant, who will calculate the fees based on your entry point and vehicle class.
- c. **Mixed Lanes:** These lanes are useful if you're unsure whether your rental car has an ETC device or if you prefer to pay with cash or a card. They are marked with both purple and green signs.
- d. **Expressway Pass Lanes:** These lanes are designated for users of special expressway passes, such as the 'Hokkaido Expressway Pass.' Marked by blue signs, they offer unlimited access to expressways at a flat rate, making the toll process easier.

**NOTE:** Your rental car may or may not come with an ETC device. Additionally, some tolls do not accept credit cards, so it's best to carry some cash with you.

## 6. Parking:

- a. In urban centres, fees are higher with limited space.
- b. In the countryside, parking is less of a hassle, with spaces available near tourist spots and retail establishments.
- c. Supermarkets and convenience stores often offer free parking spaces and typically provide a grace period for shoppers.
- d. Some car parks use trays and elevators to store cars in a compact and orderly fashion.

## 7. Insurance:

- a. Consider purchasing additional insurance for peace of mind, as standard coverage may have limitations.

## 8. Fueling:

- a. Gas stations may require payment in advance, and self-service is common. Fuel types include regular, high-octane, and diesel.

- b. Most stations accept cash or credit cards.
- c. Operating hours of gas stations may vary. It would be best to check to avoid inconveniences.

#### 9. **Driving Etiquette:**

- a. Be polite and patient; Japanese drivers are generally courteous.
- b. Use your turn signals and follow local traffic laws closely.

### **NIGHTLIFE**

1. **Bars and Izakayas:** Casual, often lively establishments serving drinks and a variety of small dishes. Izakayas are popular for their relaxed atmosphere and diverse menu.
2. **Karaoke:** A popular activity where individuals or groups sing along to their favourite songs in private rooms. There are many karaoke bars throughout Japan.
3. **Clubs:** Major cities like Tokyo and Osaka have vibrant club scenes featuring DJ sets, live music, and dancing. Areas like Shibuya and Roppongi in Tokyo are particularly well-known for nightlife.
4. **Entertainment Districts:** Areas such as Kabukicho in Tokyo and Dotonbori in Osaka offer numerous bars, restaurants, and entertainment options.
5. **Theatres and Shows:** Japan offers traditional performances such as Kabuki and modern entertainment like musicals and comedy shows.
6. **Late-Night Dining:** Many restaurants and eateries, especially in urban areas, stay open late, offering everything from ramen to sushi.

### **SHOPPING**

**Department Stores:** Major stores like Mitsukoshi, Isetan, and Takashimaya offer a wide range of products, including fashion, electronics, and gourmet food.

**Electronics:** Stores such as Bic Camera and Yodobashi Camera are famous for their extensive selection of electronics, gadgets, and appliances.

**Fashion:** Trendy districts like Shibuya and Harajuku in Tokyo and Shinsaibashi in Osaka are popular for fashion shopping, with numerous boutiques and international brands.

**Traditional Markets:** Places like Nishiki Market in Kyoto and Tsukiji Outer Market in Tokyo offer local food, souvenirs, and traditional items.

**Souvenirs:** Popular items include Japanese crafts, souvenirs from local speciality shops, and unique products like matcha (green tea) and traditional sweets.

**Convenience Stores:** Stores like 7-Eleven, Lawson, and FamilyMart offer a variety of snacks, beverages, and necessities.

**Shopping Hours:** Usually between 10:00 am-7:00 pm every day of the week

**Passport:** When shopping, especially for tax-free or duty-free purchases, your passport is crucial for identity verification and to qualify for certain benefits. It ensures you receive the correct tax refunds and can be essential for processing international transactions.

## **BAGGAGE**

### **1. Carry-On Baggage:**

- **Size and Weight:** Most airlines allow one carry-on bag and one personal item (like a purse or laptop bag). The typical size limit is around 55 x 40 x 25 cm (21.5 x 15.5 x 10 inches), and weight limits vary but generally range from 7 to 10 kg (15 to 22 lbs).
- **Liquids:** Follow the 100 ml (3.4 oz) limit for liquids, gels, and aerosols, which must be placed in a transparent, resealable plastic bag.
- Always check with your airline for the most current baggage policies and any additional fees or restrictions.

### **2. Checked Baggage:**

- **Size and Weight:** Standard weight limits are 20 to 23 kg (44 to 50 lbs) per bag, with size limits usually around 158 cm (62 inches) in total dimensions (length + width + height). Excess baggage fees may apply for overweight or oversized items.
- **Prohibited Items:** Follow restrictions on hazardous materials, including flammable items and certain electronics. Check with your airline for specific regulations.
- Always check with your airline for the most current baggage policies and any additional fees or restrictions.

### **3. Customs:**

- **Duty-Free Allowances:** Be aware of limits on duty-free items, such as alcohol and tobacco. Japan has strict rules on items like medications, so check regulations if carrying prescription drugs.

### **4. Special Items:**

- **Sports Equipment:** Special rules may apply for items like skis or golf clubs. Check with your airline for handling fees and size limits.
  - **Fragile Items:** If travelling with fragile or valuable items, consider declaring them and packing them securely.
5. **Shinkansen (Bullet-train):** Each piece of luggage must not exceed 250 cm in total dimensions (length, width, and height), 200 cm in length, or 30 kg in weight, and items with a combined total of less than 160 cm in dimensions can be brought aboard without prior reservation.
  6. **Storage and Delivery:** Japan's "Hands-Free Travel" ensures a hassle-free and comfortable journey by eliminating the burden of heavy luggage. Simply visit a Hands-Free Travel Counter to drop off your bags, complete the delivery form, and you're all set. Major airports in Japan, including Narita, Haneda, Kansai International, Chubu Centrair, New Chitose, Fukuoka, and Naha, offer luggage delivery services that will transport your bags directly to your hotel. Additionally, Vio Travel can arrange for your luggage to be transferred from your current hotel to your next hotel.