Cultural Treasures of Japan

2019 - 2020

TOKYO - ASAUSA AND GINZA - TEA CEREMONY - HAKONE - LAKE ASHI CRUISE

13 DAYS • FROM $6,549 PER PERSON, DOUBLE, LAND ONLY

12 Breakfasts • 2 Lunches • 7 Dinners
GLITTERING SKYSCRAPERS & ANCIENT TEMPLES

Immerse yourself in the ancient and modern cultures of Japan. Experience the electrifying city of Tokyo with views from Tokyo Tower. Learn the art of the tea ceremony, and stand before the famous Senso-ji Buddhist temple. Tour Matsumoto Castle, known as the “Crow Castle” for its black exterior. Taste legendary Hida beef and sip sake at a local brewery. Delve into Kyoto, the marvellous cultural capital of Japan. Absorb the beauty of the Golden Pavilion and the majesty of Nijo Castle. Board the Shinkansen “bullet” train to travel to Hiroshima to visit Shrine Island and the Peace Memorial Museum. Japan slowly draws you into its eclectic culture and charm, revealing incredible moments every step of the way.

CULTURAL TREASURES OF JAPAN

collette EXPERIENCES

- Try your hand at the centuries-old art of the Japanese tea ceremony, gold leaf decorating and stenciling.
- Travel by the famous Shinkansen bullet train.
- Explore the famous Ginza district, the first Western-style shopping district in Japan where modern and history blend.

must-see INCLUSIONS

- Take in magnificent views of Mt. Fuji from the Hakone Ropeway.
- Visit multiple UNESCO sites including Shirakawa-go, Nijo Castle, Itsukushima Shinto Shrine and Hiroshima Peace Memorial.

culinary INCLUSIONS

- Enjoy a Hida beef dinner and sake tasting at a local sake brewery.
- Experience a traditional kaiseki dinner with Geisha show in Kyoto.
- Participate in a sushi making class given by a professional sushi chef.
CULTURAL TREASURES OF JAPAN

ITINERARY

Day 1: Tokyo - Japan - Tour Begins
Welcome to Japan, the “Land of the Rising Sun.” Explore ancient and modern Japanese culture firsthand. Discover peaceful temples and technological marvels set against unimaginable natural beauty. Begin in the electrifying city of Tokyo, where pop culture is turned all the way up and traditions are rich and long-kept. Tonight, experience a traditional Japanese-style meal alongside your fellow travellers at a festive welcome dinner.

Day 2: Tokyo
Feel the excitement start to build when you see the magnificent view of the city from above at Tokyo Tower, the iconic symbol of Tokyo. As this moving day comes to a close, return to Kyoto by train for a night in Kanazawa.

Day 3: Tokyo - Hakone
This breathtaking day begins in Matsumoto at Matsumoto Castle, known as the “Crow Castle” because of its striking black exterior. Enjoy the local cuisine as we stop for lunch at a Soba noodle shop. Later, you’ll stop back in time in the rural Edo-period town of Takayama, nestled in the Japanese Alps. Well known to the locals for its connection to sake, this is the perfect city to gather for a visit to one of Japan’s 200-year-old sake breweries. Afterward, experience a true Japanese epicurean treat – traditional rice wine paired with a special Hida beef dinner.

Day 4: Tokyo - Hakone
Travel to the Geisha quarters of Kanazawa, the Higashi Tea district, where you may spot women in traditional dress along the narrow lanes of teahouses. Tonight, dine in the heart of the city at an izakaya, a preferred establishment among the Japanese “salary man” (business men), featuring Japanese tapas-style food.

Day 5: Hakone - Matsumoto - Takayama
More than 25 acres of absolute beauty awaits you today at Kenroku-en – Garden of Six Qualities. From the beauty of Japan’s most stunning gardens, dive into the ancient craft of gold leaf making during a hands-on lesson in decorating your own lacquer box at Kanazawa Katani! In the centre of town, take in the action of the Omicho fish market before venturing out on your own to really immerse yourself in Kanazawa’s dynamic culture.

Day 6: Takayama - Kanazawa
Kanazawa awaits! The former Imperial capital of Japan is now one of the nation’s top cosmopolitan cities. At the same time, Kyoto’s connection with its past is strong: you won’t need to look far to see one of its 2,000 temples and shrines. Visit Kinkakuji (UNESCO), the Golden Pavilion, a zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Then, stroll through the Gion district where you may spot women in traditional dress along the narrow lanes of teahouses. Tonight, dine in the heart of the city at a traditional yakiniku (grilled chicken) restaurant.

Day 7: Takayama - Shirakawago - Kanazawa
Today, embrace the unique charms of Shirakawa-go (UNESCO). Hidden away in the mountain, this harmonious village is famous for its gassho-zukuri-style houses – thatched-roofed designs that resemble two hands joined in prayer. Journey to Kanazawa, the origin of gold leaf making since the 16th century. Visit the Samurai district where we’ll enter the former home of the Nomuras, a wealthy samurai family who served the ruling Maeda family. Then, travel to the Geisha quarters of Kanazawa, the Higashi Tea district. Gather in town this evening for dinner.

Day 8: Kanazawa
More than 25 acres of absolute beauty awaits you today at Kenroku-en – Garden of Six Qualities. From the beauty of Japan’s most stunning gardens, dive into the ancient craft of gold leaf making during a hands-on lesson in decorating your own lacquer box at Kanazawa Katani! In the centre of town, take in the action of the Omicho fish market before venturing out on your own to really immerse yourself in Kanazawa’s dynamic culture.

Day 9: Kanazawa - Kyoto
Kyoto awaits! The former Imperial capital of Japan is now one of the nation’s top cosmopolitan cities. At the same time, Kyoto’s connection with its past is strong: you won’t need to look far to see one of its 2,000 temples and shrines. Visit Kinkakuji (UNESCO), the Golden Pavilion, a zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Then, stroll through the Gion district where you may spot women in traditional dress along the narrow lanes of teahouses. Tonight, dine in the heart of the city at a traditional yakiniku (grilled chicken) restaurant.

Day 10: Kyoto - Bullet Train - Hiroshima - Kyoto
All aboard the Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima. Upon arrival, head for the short trip to Miyajima Island, or “Shrine Island” (UNESCO), where the iconic torii gate and the Itsukushima Shrine appear to float on water. After lunch, head into Hiroshima city to visit the Peace Memorial Park, and pause to see the ruined Atomic Dome (UNESCO). Reflect at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. As this moving day comes to a close, return to Kyoto by train with the Shinkansen bullet train.

Day 11: Kyoto
Explore Fushimi Inari Taisha for a tour of the most revered shrine of Inari. Follow the spectacular rows of orange torii (made famous in the movie Memoirs of a Geisha) that weave through the forest, leading you to the inner shrine. For lunch, participate in a sushi making class given by a professional sushi chef and master the art of sushi making. Move on to the home of the first Shogun, Nijo Castle (UNESCO), and see intricate woodcarvings, wall paintings, and the Ninomaru Garden, designed by Kobori Enshu, a landscape architect and tea master. Next, visit Marumasa-Nishimuraya for a lesson in the art of stencililing at a traditional Kyoto townhouse.

Day 12: Kyoto
Today, spend some time relaxing or set out to explore Kyoto on your own. Fully immerse yourself in Japanese culture tonight during a special kaiseki farewell dinner and Geisha show.

Day 13: Kyoto - Tour Ends
Your tour comes to a close in this fascinating land. As you depart, reflect on its beauty and all you have learned about its rich history and culture.

HOTELS

Days 1-3 | Tokyo Prince Hotel or Shiba Park Hotel, Tokyo
Days 4 | Odakyu Hotel de Yama or The Prince Hakone Lake Ashinoko, Hakone
Days 5-6 | Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel or ANA Crowne Plaza, Kanazawa
Days 7-8 | Westin Miyako Kyoto or Kyoto Tokyu Hotel, Kyoto

Please Note: Rates are per person per night shared. Single accommodations is limited and is available on a first come, first serve basis. Triple and child accommodation is not available. *The view of Mt. Fuji from the Hakone Ropeway is weather dependent. Be sure to check if viewing is available. The days and order of sightseeing may change to best utilise your time on tour. International airfare not included. For more information, contact your travel consultant or the tour operator. Prices are subject to change without notice. An additional charge applies for the purchase of air tickets within Japan. Please consult your travel advisor or the tour operator for more information on any additional charges.

*Includes sightseeing, all visits, transfers, and entrances as described.
**HIROSHIMA**
A modern Japanese city, Hiroshima is most known for being one of two cities hit with an atomic bomb, helping to end the Second World War. Though reclaimed as a cosmopolitan centre, the city is never far from its past. The park’s main site, the A-Bomb Dome is the mark of the ruined remains of the Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall. The nearby Peace Memorial Museum gives you the opportunity to learn about life in Hiroshima before, during, and after WWII. For those interested in world history, Hiroshima is a must-see.

**JAPANESE CUISINE**
No trip to Japan would be complete without experiencing its flavourful dishes. A bowl of gohan, or cooked rice, is a central part of Japanese meals. From there we go to sushi, famous both outside of and inside Japan. Sushi is made from cold boiled rice, moistened by vinegar and typically combined with seafood and vegetables. Sashimi is thinly sliced raw food - mostly raw seafood. (Japan is an island, after all.) The most popular noodles are soba (buckwheat flour), udon (wheat flour), and ramen, a noodle soup dish. Tempura is lightly battered, deep-fried seafood and vegetables. Yakitori refers to grilled chicken skewers you can try at a yakitori-ya. Be sure to enjoy green tea with your meal, as the Japanese do.

**TEMPELS AND SHRINES**
Temples and shrines are found all over Japan, with most municipalities having at least one temple. (Kyoto has 1,200.) Temples are Buddhist places of worship, and they store and display sacred objects. They typically consist of a main hall, a lecture hall, a pagoda, gates, bells and a cemetery. Some were monasteries in the past, and some still are. Shrines are Shinto places of worship. They are the dwellings of the kami, or Shinto gods. Sacred objects are stored in the innermost chamber, and are not to be seen by anyone. People visit shrines to pay respect to the kami, or to pray for good fortune. The approach to the shrine is marked by torii gates; the komainu, a pair of guardian dogs or lions, is found on each side of the shrine’s entrance.

**THE TOKYO SKYTREE**
The Tokyo Skytree is the perfect way to get a panoramic view of the city and beyond. A television broadcasting tower, this Tokyo landmark is almost 1,200 feet high and is the tallest structure in Japan. A large shopping complex and an aquarium are at its base, but it’s the two observation decks that warrant a visit. Head to the “world’s highest skywalk” for views that will take your breath away!
always included...

- Expertly crafted itineraries
- 4-star+ accommodation
- Skilled and engaging tour managers
- Expert local guides with insider knowledge
- Attraction entrance fees with preferential access
- Many meals full of local flavour
- Unparalleled sightseeing
- Enriching cultural experiences
- Comfortable on-tour transportation
- Hotel-to-hotel baggage handling
- Plus, access to Wi-Fi hotspots on tour

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