



9-DAY JAPAN ESSENTIALS: FROM TOKYO TO OSAKA

This is a private journey just for you and price is based on 2 people travelling together! If you've been wanting to travel to Japan but not on a large group tour this trip is perfect for you. Whether you're a couple or a family group or a group of friends this trip is perfect.

OVERVIEW Prepare yourself for an extraordinary journey through the Land of the Rising Sun, where every corner is adorned with vibrant culture, awe-inspiring landscapes, and boundless adventures waiting to be embraced! As you arrive in Tokyo, the energy of the city's bustling streets and the warmth of its welcoming people will immediately captivate you. From the tranquil oasis of Meiji Shrine to the lively streets of Shinjuku and the historic charm of Senso-ji Temple, Tokyo offers a kaleidoscope of experiences that will leave you enchanted. Then, venture into the scenic wonders of Hakone, where the majestic Mount Fuji looms over tranquil lakes and hot springs, inviting you to immerse yourself in nature's embrace. In Kyoto, dive into the city's rich history as you wander through the iconic Kinkaku-ji Temple, the ancient corridors of Nijo Castle, and the vibrant streets of Gion. And in Osaka, indulge your taste buds on a gastronomic adventure through the city's renowned street food scene, sampling delicious treats like Takoyaki and Okonomiyaki. With each day bringing new discoveries and unforgettable moments, your journey through Japan promises to be an exhilarating odyssey of culture, beauty, and endless excitement!

PRICE: low season price starting from AU\$ 5,428.00 per traveller sharing

This is an indicative price per traveller for a trip for 2 people based on low season pricing. Prices will vary depending on season and number of travellers. Itinerary may also be further customisation but price may change accordingly.

Day 1: Arrival in Tokyo

Day 2: Tokyo Unveiled

Day 3: Tokyo to Hakone, Lake Kawaguchiko

Day 4: Hakone to Kyoto via Shinkansen

Day 5: Kyoto's Timeless Treasures

Day 6: Kyoto - Free Day

Day 7: Osaka Adventure: Food Tour Extravaganza

Day 8: Osaka Exploration

Day 9: Farewell to Japan

INCLUDED

- 8 nights' accommodation
- 16 activities
- 8 breakfasts
- Airport transfer
- Entrance fees
- Ground transportation
- Licensed English-speaking guides

EXCLUDED

- Domestic flights
- Travel insurance
- International flights
- Entry visas / airport departure tax
- Alcohol beverages
- Gratuities
- Personal expenses
- Laundry
- Trekking permits

NOTES

Included: One bottle of drinking water per person per day

Excluded: Excess Baggage for Flights Optional Services

FULL ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN TOKYO



Step into Japan, a beautiful combination of Eastern traditions and Western modernity. When you arrive in Tokyo, your private driver will meet you at the airport to ensure a smooth trip to your hotel.

🚗 -.



Private Driver
10:00 to 11:00

From: Hanedakuko
To: Shibuya Excel Hotel Tokyu



Shibuya Stream Excel Hotel Tokyu
11:00 check-in
09:00 check-out (Day 3)
2 nights

Set three minutes to walk from Shibuya Station, this refined hotel is 15 minutes walk from the NHK Studio Park and two kilometres from the Nezu Museum.

Relaxed rooms with warm decor offer free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, and tea and coffeemaking equipment, plus safes and minifridges. Some quarters for up to three guests feature city views.

There's a stylish restaurant and a cocktail bar. Other amenities include a communal kitchenette, guest laundry

facilities and a fitness centre.

Address: Shibuya Stream Excel Hotel Tokyu, 3 Chome-21-3 Shibuya, Shibuya City, Tokyo, Japan

DAY 2: TOKYO UNVEILED



Journey through Tokyo's rich history! Delve into the serene Meiji Shrine, explore the Imperial Palace East Garden's beauty, and wander through the lively Nakamise Shopping Street before reaching the iconic Senso-ji Temple. This day promises a captivating contrast between ancient tranquility and the modern pulse of Tokyo.

🍳 Breakfast.



Meiji Shrine
09:30 to 11:00
1 hour 30 minutes

Meiji is the Shinto shrine that is dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shōken. Covering a total area of 70 hectares, the shrine is surrounded by an iris garden and forestry. The grounds are very peaceful and offer a selection of paths throughout.

Born in 1852, Emperor Meiji was the first emperor of modern Japan and came to the throne in 1867 after Japan's feudal era came to an end and the emperor was given his rightful power. During his reign, Japan underwent modernisation and westernisation to align with the rest of the world.

The shrine was completed in 1920, eight years after the passing of the emperor and six years after the empress had passed. Unfortunately, during the second world war, the shrine was almost completely destroyed but rebuilt shortly after.

The shrine does not contain the emperor's grave, which is located at Fushimi-momoyama, south of Kyoto.

🗺️ guided

Address: 1-1 Yoyogikamizonochō, Shibuya-ku, Tōkyō-to 151-0052, Japan



The East Gardens of the Imperial Palace

12:30 to 13:30
1 hour

Located within the inner palace area, the Imperial Palace East Gardens (暇居東御苑, Kōkyō Higashi Gyoen) are accessible to the general public. They are the former locations of the honmaru ("main circle") and ninomaru ("secondary circle"), Edo Castle's innermost defense circles. Although the major buildings have been demolished, the entry gates, walls, moats, and many guardhouses are still in place.

The Tokugawa shogun, who controlled Japan from 1603 to 1867, lived at Edo Castle. From 1868 to 1888, Emperor Meiji also lived there before relocating to the recently built Imperial Palace.

🗺️ guided

Address: 1-1 Chiyoda, Chiyoda City, Tōkyō-to 100-8111, Japan



Sensoji Temple and Nakamise Street

14:30 to 16:30
2 hours

One of Tokyo's most colourful temples, the Senso-ji –also known as Asakusa Kannon Temple– is Tokyo's oldest.

In the year 628, it is said that two brothers fished a statue of Kannon, the goddess of mercy, out of the Sumida River. They put the statue back but it returned again and again, and so, to please the goddess, a temple was built by the river and dedicated to her, it was completed in 645.

You are first greeted by a gate and the main entrance of the temple, Kaminarimon, the Thunder Gate, which is the symbol of Asakusa and the city of Tokyo before walking along the 200-metre Nakamise shopping street. Lined with shops that date back to the Edo period that sell souvenirs and local snacks, the street takes you to the second gate of the temple that will lead you to the Main Hall and a five-storey pagoda.

The buildings in the centre of the temple are 17th-century reconstructions of the originals which were destroyed during the war.

🗺️ guided

Address: 2 Chome-3-1 Asakusa, Taitō-ku, Tōkyō-to 111-0032, Japan

DAY 3: TOKYO TO HAKONE, LAKE KAWAGUCHIKO



Set off for the Fuji Five Lake area for a two-hour picturesque drive. Here, you may see breathtaking views of Mount Fuji by taking a trip on Lake Kawaguchiko or a ride on the Kachi Kachi Ropeway, also called the Mount Fuji Panoramic Ropeway. As the tallest mountain in Japan, this famous peak is deeply symbolic due to its snow-capped crown and flawlessly shaped cone. Observe the unique "upside-down Fuji" phenomena if you're lucky enough to see the mountain's reflection in the serene lake waters.

The trip to Hakone, which is well-known for its unspoiled natural beauty, revitalizing hot springs, and traditional ryokans, takes around 1.5 hours.

🍽️ Breakfast.



Private Driver

09:00 to 11:00

From: Shibuya Excel Hotel Tokyu

To: Fuji Five Lakes



Mount Fuji Five Lakes Tour

11:00 to 13:00
2 hours

Explore the stunning landscape that surrounds the mystical Mount Fuji on a tour across the five lakes that present the best viewpoints formed by craters and lava flows.

Starting from Lake Kawaguchi-ko, you'll ascend on a panoramic ropeway for the best views of the volcano before

continuing to your next location, Oishi Park. Surrounded by lavender in summer and cherry blossoms in Spring, Oishi Park is an iconic photoshop on your Mount Fuji tour.

The next two of five are the less-developed lakes, Lake Saiko and Shojiko, where you'll be surrounded by woodlands and even caves that have been formed by volcanic eruptions of millennia. Lake Shoji-ko is the smallest of the five lakes.

Your final stop is Lake Motosuko, most famous for appearing on a 5000 yen note, this is the most scenic of the five - the best is definitely saved till last! Lake Motosuko was once connected to Saiko and Shojiko, however, an eruption separated them in pre-historic times. There are still underground tunnels that connect them.

👤 guided

Address: Fujinomiya, Shizuoka, Japan



Private Driver
13:00 to 14:30

From: Fuji Five Lakes
To: Hakone



Aura Tachibana
14:30 check-in
09:00 check-out (Day 4)
1 night

Offering natural hot spring baths with superb mountain views, Aura Tachibana is a four-star typical Japanese ryokan home to two restaurants and a living area.

The enhanced facilities within Aura Tachibana provide guests with a wonderful experience. As well as the hot spring baths, guests are treated to luxurious rooms, a sauna, massage facilities and a sky terrace overlooking the Hakone mountains.

Address: Aura Tachibana, 574 Yumoto, Hakone, Kanagawa, Japan

DAY 4: HAKONE TO KYOTO VIA SHINKANSEN



Mount Fuji
09:00 to 12:00
3 hours

Enjoy a calm morning of self-directed inquiry and learning. Imagine setting out on a trip to explore the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, navigating its many beauties via boat, cable car, and funicular train.

After saying goodbye to Hakone's stunning scenery in the afternoon, catch a Shinkansen train and travel quickly—about an hour—to Kyoto. When you arrive, head to the hotel of your choice to enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure.

🍽️ Breakfast.

Mount Fuji, known locally as Fujisan is the highest mountain in Japan, and the second highest island peak in Asia. The incredibly symmetrical volcano can be seen from Tokyo and Yokohama on a clear day; on the train from Tokyo to Osaka and from the nearby hot spring resort town, Hakone.

Mount Fuji is one of the "Three Holy Mountains" of Japan, the

others being Mount Haku and Mount Tate. Mount Fuji is the wife of one of the two gods "born from the reed that arose from the soil when the earth was in chaos", from the second old text "the chronicles of Japan", Nihon Shoki.

With its perfect formation and sanctity, the mountain was a very popular subject for artists in Japan, most notably, Hokusai, who is undoubtedly the most famous Japanese artist of the 19th century.

The sacred mountain is often covered by clouds, should the sky be clear, you'll be in luck! July and August are the best months to climb the mountain, with the hike being frequented by locals on the pilgrimage.

👤 guided

Address: Mount Fuji, Kitayama, Fujinomiya, Shizuoka Prefecture 418-0112, Japan

 Train 13:00 to 14:00	From: Hakone-Yumoto Station To: Kyoto Station
 Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo 15:00 check-in 10:00 check-out (Day 7) 3 nights	Just a two-minute walk from Kyoto station, Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo is perfectly placed to explore the city of Kyoto and also for day trips from the city by bullet train. If you're looking to explore modern Kyoto or the traditional parts of the city, both are accessible on foot from the hotel. The courteous staff will welcome you to the hotel and help with any arrangements you need during your stay. The hotel boasts 988 rooms as well as a variety of restaurants and a convenience shop. Address: Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo, 17 Nishikujō Inmachi, Minami Ward, Kyoto, Japan

DAY 5: KYOTO'S TIMELESS TREASURES



 Kinkaku-ji - The Golden Pavilion 09:00 to 11:00 2 hours	The first stop on your tour is the opulent Kinkaku-ji Temple, its golden spire perfectly mirrored in the peaceful pond below. Visit Nijo Castle, which was formerly the home of the first shogun during the Edo Period, to get insight into Japan's fascinating past. History is echoed by the melodic creaking of its "nightingale" floorboards when you walk on them. Proceed to the revered Fushimi-Inari Shrine, where a road leading up Mount Inari bringing peace and holiness is lined with hundreds of crimson torii gates. Enjoy a leisurely stroll around Gion, Kyoto's historic entertainment area, where you may run across elegant geishas.  Breakfast. Kinkaku-ji is a Zen Buddhist temple, the temple's official name is Rokuon-ji literally meaning 'Deer Garden Temple'. It is a designated National Special Historic and a National Special Landscape site by UNESCO. Kinkaku-ji history dates back to 1397 when the villa was purchased from the Saionji family by shōgun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, and transformed into the Golden Pavillion. This was burned down by a novice monk who was then imprisoned. He was released soon after with signs of mental illnesses that needed to be cared for. The restoration you see today was made in 1955.  guided Address: 1 Kinkakujichō, Kita-ku, Kyōto-shi, Kyōto-fu 603-8361, Japan
--	--

 Nijo Castle 13:30 to 14:30 1 hour	The impressive Nijo castle was built in 1603 as a house for Tokugawa shoguns. With two rings of fortifications, Nijo Castle protects the Ninomaru Palace and the ruins of the Honmaru Palace, with various buildings and several gardens. Nijo Castle is an excellent example of social control manifested in an architectural space. When the castle was actively used, low-ranking visitors were received in the outer regions of the Ninomaru, whereas high-ranking visitors were shown the more subtle inner chambers. Rather than attempt to conceal the entrances to the rooms with bodyguards (as was done in many castles), the Tokugawas chose to display them prominently.  guided Address: Japan, 〒604-8301 Kyōto-fu, Kyōto-shi, Nakagyō-ku,
---	---



Fushimi Inari Taisha

15:00 to 17:00
2 hours

Kyoto's most sought after attraction, the Fushimi Inari Shrine is famous for its thousands of vermillion torii gates, which line a number of trails behind its main buildings.

Sitting at the foot of Mount Inari, 233 metres above sea level, these trails lead into the wooded forest of this sacred which belongs to the shrine. There are several thousand shrines dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice, but Fushimi Inari Taisha is the most important.

As foxes are believed to be Inari's messengers, you'll find many fox statues throughout the grounds of Fushimi Inari Taisha.

P guided

Address: 68 Fukakusa Yabunouchichō, Fushimi-ku, Kyōto-shi,



Gion District

17:30 to 18:30
1 hour

Gion, famously known as Kyoto's Geisha district, is a truly unique experience that cannot be missed when in the city. This area was the model for *Memoirs of Geisha* and it comes alive with people and lights in the evening.

Stroll past the 17th-century traditional restaurants and teahouses, many of which are still exclusive establishments for geisha entertainment. See the theatres and traditional shops, and soak up the atmosphere of this historic quarter.

P guided

Address: Gionmachi Minamigawa, Higashiyama Ward, Kyoto, Kyoto Prefecture 605-0074, Japan

DAY 6: KYOTO - FREE DAY



Arashiyama Bamboo Grove

09:30 to 10:30
1 hour

Today is filled with limitless opportunities for personal development. Consider visiting the lovely Arashiyama neighborhood in western Kyoto, which has the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, Togetsukyo Bridge, temples, shrines, cherry blossoms in the spring, and flaming autumn maple trees. Alternatively, take a short train ride to the neighboring city of Nara, which is known for its friendly deer in Nara Park, the awe-inspiring Big Buddha at the Todai-ji Temple, the myriad lanterns of Kasuga Taisha Shrine, and panoramic vistas from Mount Wakakusa that extend as far as the Former Site of Heijokyo Imperial Palace.

🍽 Breakfast.

Become entranced by the towering green stalks as they sway in the wind, creaking as they move. Arashiyama Bamboo Grove is one of the 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites found in Kyoto; it has also been recognised nationally as a Historic Site and Place of Scenic Beauty.

Situated just outside the gates of the Tenryū-ji Temple, also a World Heritage Site, Arashiyama Bamboo Grove is a popular destination for those exploring Kyoto. As you enter the bamboo forest, you'll notice how dark it is, even in pure daylight the sun just about struggles through and filters down through the leaves to the path you walk along.

Many people describe the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove as majestic, as though the rustling leaves are whispering to them.

P guided

Address: Arashiyama Genrokuzancho, Ukyō-ku, Kyoto, Kyoto



Togetsukyo Bridge

10:30 to 11:30
1 hour

For almost four hundred years, the Togetsu-kyo Bridge has served as a landmark in Western Kyoto's Arashiyama District. The wooden bridge over the Katsura River in front of

Arashiyama Mountain provides breathtaking views. The magnificent environment attracts considerable tourists during the spring cherry blossoms and fall hues.

👤 guided

Address: 1-5 Sagatenryūji Susukinobabachō, Ukyo Ward, Kyoto, 616-8384, Japan

 **Tenryū-ji Temple**
11:30 to 12:30
1 hour

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994 as part of the "Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto", Tenryū-ji Temple is the most important temples in the Arashiyama district of Kyoto. Founded in 1339, it was completed in 1345 and has been held in high esteem ever since.

The garden surrounding the temple was designed in the 14th century by a famous Japanese garden designer and has remained in the same form since featuring a central pond fringe by rocks and pine trees.

Ranked as one of Kyoto's "five great Zen temples", Tenryū-ji Temple is the head temple of its own school within the Rinzai Zen section of Japanese Buddhism.

Located just outside the gate of Tenryū-ji Temple is the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, a perfect addition to your visit to the temple.

👤 guided

Address: ☐☐ Sagatenryūji Susukinobabachō, Ukyō-ku, Kyōto-shi, Kyōto-fu 616-8385, Japan

DAY 7: OSAKA ADVENTURE: FOOD TOUR EXTRAVAGANZA



Set out in the morning by rail from Kyoto to the energetic metropolis of Osaka. Take a guided street food walk through the vibrant streets of Dotonbori to fully experience the gastronomic delights of this paradise. Discover undiscovered local restaurants that serve mouthwatering delicacies like okonomiyaki, kushikatsu, and takoyaki with the help of your knowledgeable guide.

🍽️ Breakfast.

 **Train**
09:00 to 10:00

From: Kyoto Station
To: Osaka Station

 **Dotonburi**
10:30 to 14:00
3 hours 30 minutes

The heart and soul of Osaka, Dotonburi is the city's colourful, famed tourist hotspot renowned for its bright lights, extravagant signage and huge array of restaurants and bars.

Taking over downtown Osaka, Dotonburi is where you can try a variety of speciality foods in Osaka: takoyaki, yakisoba, yakiniku (Korean barbeque), ramen, sushi and much more.

Once your belly is full, you can move into the entertainment part of Dotonburi of which there are endless establishments; karaoke bars, saunas, fish ponds, souvenir shops, comedy acts, storytelling, magic shows, theatres and galleries where you can admire paintings, pottery and ceramic art.

Dotonburi's history dates back to 1612 when a local merchant invested heavily in the area to create a new waterway that would link the local canal network to the Kizugawa River. The project was interrupted by war during which the merchant lost his life. In his honour, his family completed the canal and named it Dotonburi or "Doton Canal".

👤 guided

Address: Dotonburi, Chuo Ward, Osaka, 542-0071, Japan



Osaka Excel Hotel Tokyu

15:00 check-in
10:00 check-out (Day 9)
2 nights

Situated on a bustling tree-lined street, this refined hotel offers a prime location just 2 km from the vibrant Dōtonbori entertainment district, 5 km from the historic Osaka Castle, and a mere 2-minute walk from Hommachi station.

Unwind in relaxed rooms equipped with flat-screen TVs and minibridges, providing a comfortable retreat after a day of exploration. For an elevated experience, opt for upgraded rooms boasting city views, with some featuring traditional tatami mats and chabudai dining tables. Suites with floor-to-ceiling windows offer additional luxuries such as kitchenettes, dining and living areas, and in-room soaking tubs, ensuring a truly indulgent stay.

Savor delicious cuisine at the hotel's modern restaurant or unwind with a drink at the cozy bar and lounge, where panoramic city views add to the ambiance. Keep up with your fitness routine at the on-site gym or take advantage of the coin-operated laundry facilities for added convenience.

With its convenient location and array of amenities, this polished hotel provides the perfect base for exploring the vibrant city of Osaka. Welcome to your home away from home!

Address: Osaka Excel Hotel Tokyu, 4 Chome-1-15
Kyūtārōmachi, Chuo Ward, Osaka, Japan

DAY 8: OSAKA EXPLORATION



Osaka Castle

09:00 to 10:00
1 hour

Explore Osaka's marvels at your own pace. Think about taking in the lively ambiance of Kuromon Market, exploring the history of Osaka Museum of Housing and Living, or touring famous locations like Osaka Castle. Travel a little further to the nearby port city of Kobe, which is well-known for its flavorful beef, vibrant sake culture, and the breathtaking views from Mount Rokko, if you're feeling really daring.

🍽️ Breakfast.

Osaka Castle is widely known as an emblem of the power and fortune of Hideyoshi Toyotomi. In 1583, Hideyoshi began construction at the former site of Honganji Temple and completed the magnificent castle, which was reputed as being unparalleled in the country.

Hideyoshi, having employed the castle as his stronghold, succeeded in quelling the wars which had continued for more than one century, thereby unifying the entire nation.

After Hideyoshi's death, Ieyasu Tokugawa, who worked for Hideyoshi as his chief retainer, was appointed to the Shogun and he established the shogunate (government) in Edo (Tokyo). In 1615, Ieyasu ruined the Toyotomi family and destroyed the castle in the Summer War of Osaka.

Thereafter, the Tokugawa shogunate reconstructed Osaka Castle. It held the castle under its direct control until 1868, when the Tokugawa shogunate lost power and the castle fell. In 1931, the Main Tower of the Castle was reconstructed in the centre of Osaka Castle, which was used as a military base, with funds raised by the citizens.

The present-day Main Tower is the third generation. It follows the Main Tower from the Toyotomi period, which was destroyed by fire during the Summer War, and the tower from the Tokugawa period, which was struck by lightning and was burned down.

🗺️ guided

Address: 1-1 Ōsakajō, Chūō-ku, Ōsaka-shi, Ōsaka-fu 540-0002, Japan



Osaka Museum of Housing and Living

10:00 to 11:00
1 hour

A museum set in a house, the Osaka Museum of Housing and Living is a reflection of the past and observation of the present house of Osaka living. Opened in April 2001, this is a first sermon museum in Japan where history in a residence and culture has been made a theme.

The ninth floor of the building in a residence information centre, while another floor in the Edo Period. Osaka's streets in the Tenpo (the first half in the 1830s) have been set up to create a journey through time. Similarly, the modern side of Osaka is on the eighth floor alongside life during the Meiji,

Taisho and Showa eras.

There is a mix of special and temporary exhibitions are being held in the rotating exhibition room so there is always something to come here for!

ℙ guided

Address: Japan, 〒530-0041 Osaka, Kita-ku, Tenjinbashi, 6-chōme-4-□□ 住まい情報センタービル 8階



Kuromon Market

11:00 to 12:00
1 hour

A covered public market in the Minami neighborhood of Osaka, Kuromon Market (黒門市場, Kuromon Ichiba) is located around 600 meters parallel to Sakaisujidori Street. In addition to traditional sweets, inexpensive clothing, and household goods, the market features over 150 stores, the majority of which offer fish, meat, and produce. Since it was established during the Edo Period, the market has been a charming area to explore and sample various street cuisines.

A multitude of its stores sell greater quantities of food to be consumed later, but they also have smaller portions that may be eaten right away, which is one of the market's many attractions.

ℙ guided

Address: 2 Chome-3-2 Nipponbashi, Chūō-ku, Ōsaka-shi, Ōsaka-fu 542-0073, Japan

DAY 9: FAREWELL TO JAPAN



Enjoy a relaxing morning as your fascinating adventure across Japan comes to a conclusion, and then go independently to the airport. Take off on your trip back home with treasured recollections of your stay in Japan.
🍳 Breakfast.



Taxi
10:00 to 11:00

From: Osaka Excel Hotel Tokyu
To: Osaka International Airport