

**Taste of Japan
(10 Nights)**

Tokyo X 3 Nights

Mt. Koya X 1 Night

Kyoto X 3 Nights

Hakone X 2 Nights

Tokyo X 1 Night



Introduction

Japan has an enormous amount to offer any visitor but the most interesting part about Japan, in our opinion, is the culture and the people. If you could read Japanese and learn the language quickly, we put money down that you'd move here for a lifestyle change. Not only does the culture still demonstrate amazing levels of respect and courtesy which has somewhat disappeared in the West, but the general state of the country is to be admired for the low crime rate, the way everything runs like clockwork, the cleanliness of the streets and unique spectacles like Sumo wrestling and train cabin crew who bow to each carriage before departing to the next. Once you've absorbed the fact that it is possible to live in a modern country where you can feel safe but every convenience is provided, you can start to discover its other treasures. The ancient history is fascinating with its Feudal Systems and Samurai, the architecture of those bygone days awe inspiring (along with the new), Mount Fuji is breathtaking and the food is simply

scintillating as well as having major health benefits (if you don't like raw fish, try the melt in the mouth Kobe Beef). We really cannot emphasise enough the standard of the food in Japan - there are more Michelin stars handed out to Tokyo restaurants (191) than Paris and London combined. Incredible but true. Modern Tokyo is a bastion of gadgetry whilst maintaining some historical wonders, while the ancient city of Kyoto has a wealth of temples, castles and even a real Ninja house, with all the false walls and trap doors to boot. Hiroshima has risen from the ashes of the bomb that obliterated it over 60 years ago and now stands as a symbol of peace and the people of that city have an amazing grace about them. Nearby Miyajima Island possesses the iconic Torii Gate off its shoreline and the shrine it protects is well worth a look for the stories behind it alone, as well as the quaint island itself. Just as you think that Japan is cities and more cities, simply linked by a brilliant and rocket like bullet train system, the countryside beckons

and small quaint castle towns like Takayama spring up on the horizon, hosting colorful and bewildering festivals and hiding deep history within her walls. Then the extremes - Hokkaido to the north, possibly the best skiing area in the world for its fine powder snow. Then to the south, the tropical pearl of islands, collectively known as Okinawa, boast beautiful beaches and clear blue waters as they drip down towards Taiwan.

All this before you've experienced the famous Onsen - hot springs, which lie dotted all over Japan, heated by the volcanic activity that takes place all along these islands. These are some of the finest, if not The finest natural hot springs in the world and we have sourced some of the very best for you to experience, as well as some more classical style "hotel" accommodation. **A trip to Japan** is a must in anyone's lifetime and the sooner you go, the sooner you'll feel better about life, better in yourself and will long to go back!



Day 01 Fly to Tokyo Depart for your 12 hour flight to Tokyo.

Day 02 Arrival Tokyo On arrival at Tokyo Int'l Airport, you will be welcomed by an English speaking local guide and transferred to your hotel by the airport limousine coach service. After you check-in at hotel, the rest of the day is free to explore the city.

Overnight Mandarin Oriental Tokyo

Day 03 Tokyo Breakfast at hotel. Full-day city tour of Tokyo by coach with an English speaking local guide, visiting: Meiji Shrine, Harajuku Omote-sando street, Sky Tree (drive by), Asakusa and Akiharabara. Lunch (Japanese style) at a local restaurant en route. Later return to your hotel. **B, L**

Overnight Mandarin Oriental Tokyo

Day 04 Tokyo After breakfast, we experience some Japanese culture, with a tea ceremony or flower arrangement. After we proceed to Tsukiji outer fish market with lunch at a local restaurant en route. After our visits, the rest of the day is free at leisure. **B, L**

Overnight Mandarin Oriental Tokyo

Day 05 Tokyo – Osaka – Mt. Koya After breakfast, transfer to Tokyo Central Railways station by coach with an English speaking local guide. We board a JR Shinkansen bullet train for Osaka. Upon arrival, you will met by your English speaking guide at the platform and proceed to Mt. Koya. On arrival at c. 3:30 p.m. you will be taken for a walking tour of Mt. Koya. **B, L, D**
Dinner & Overnight at the Shukubo (temple house)

Day 06 Mt. Koya - Osaka – Kyoto Today you experience a morning meditation ceremony followed by breakfast at your Shukubo (*temple house*). After check-out you continue the walking tour of Mt. Koya, Visiting Okunoin and Kongo Houji Temples. Lunch will be taken Japanese style at a local restaurant en route. Later we continue to Kyoto. We arrive around 5:30 PM. and transfer to your hotel. **B, L**

Overnight at Hyatt Regency Kyoto

Day 07 Kyoto After Breakfast, you begin a full-day city tour of Kyoto by coach with an English speaking local guide visiting: Ryoanji Temple, Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion, Nijo Castle, Nishiki market and Kiyomizu Temple. Japanese style lunch will be taken in a local restaurant en route. Later return to hotel. **B, L**



Overnight at Hyatt Regency Kyoto

Day 08 Kyoto - Nara – Kyoto After breakfast you start a full-day city tour of Nara by private car/coach with an English speaking local guide. Visiting Todaiji Temple, Kasuga shrine, deer park, and Kofukuji Temple. Lunch at local restaurant en route. In the evening, return to your hotel. **B, L**

Overnight at Hyatt Regency Kyoto

Day 09 Kyoto – Mishima – Hakone Morning free at leisure, later transfer to Kyoto station by coach with an English speaking local guide. Leave Kyoto for Mishima by JR railways Shinkansen bullet train. Upon arrival, you will be welcomed by your English speaking local guide and proceed to Hakone. **B, D**

Dinner and Overnight at Hyatt Regency Hakone Resort & Spa

Day 10 Hakone After breakfast, you start a full-day Hakone tour by coach with an English speaking guide, visiting Hakone Open Air Museum, Owakudani valley, Lake Ashi Cruise & Mt. Komagatake aerial ropeway. Lunch at local restaurant en route. **B, L, D**

Dinner and Overnight at Hyatt Regency Hakone Resort & Spa

Day 11 Hakone – Mt. Fuji – Tokyo After breakfast, you start your visit to Mt. Fuji by coach. Later continue to Tokyo.

Itinerary:

Taste of Japan

Hotels: 5* (except Mt. Koya)

Duration:

12 Days & 10 Nights

2014 Departures:

TBA

Highlights:

Tokyo visiting Meiji Shrine, Harajuku, Asakusa and Akiharabara, Mt Koya, Kyoto visiting: Ryoanji Temple, Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion, Nijo Castle, Nishiki market and Kiyomizu Temple and more...

Prices starting from:

£ 4,600.00 Per person incl flights

Lunch at local restaurant en route. Arrive to Tokyo and check-in to your hotel. The rest of the day is free at leisure. **B, L**

Overnight at Mandarin Oriental Tokyo

Day 12 Depart Tokyo After Breakfast, you will be transferred to Narita Airport by the airport limousine bus. Depart Tokyo for you onward flight. **B**

End of Tour

