



## Itinerary

### 16 Day Complete Japan With Flights

#### DAY 1: Depart Australia - Arrive Osaka

Depart from either Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney or Perth for your flight to Osaka, Japan! Upon arrival at Kansai Airport (0800-2000), you will be warmly greeted a tour representative and transferred to your hotel. After check-in the remainder of the day is at your own leisure. If your flight arrives outside the allocated times there will be an additional charge for transfer. MyHoliday2 will endeavour to get flights to arrive in this window but sometimes availability does not allow. Please note that some flight schedules will have you departing Australia on Day 0.

**MEALS:** In-Flight

**OVERNIGHT:** Izumisano Centre Hotel, Kansai

#### DAY 2: Osaka ~ Himeji ~ Hiroshima

After breakfast, we depart Osaka for Hiroshima. On route, we will stop at Himeji Castle, one of Japan's last surviving original castles. Himeji Castle is also called 'the White Heron Castle', because of its sweeping, elegant architecture. It was registered in 1993 as one of the first UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the country.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Hotel Kuretakeso, Hiroshima Otemachi

#### DAY 3: Hiroshima ~ Osaka

Today, we begin our day with a trip to Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima Island. The shrine and its torii gate are unique for being built over water, appearing to float on the sea during high tide. We then head back to Hiroshima city to visit the sprawling grounds of the Peace Memorial Park and the Atomic Bomb Dome, both of which commemorate the victims of the atomic bomb used in World War II. Afterwards we make our way back to Osaka.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Hotel Plaza, Osaka

#### DAY 4: Osaka ~ Nara ~ Osaka

Today we head to Nara, famous for its many temples and its free-roaming deer. First, we visit Todaiji (Great Eastern Temple), one of Japan's most famous temples. This massive building houses one of Japan's largest bronze statues of Buddha (Daibutsu). On your way back, wander through Nara Park, home to hundreds of deer. We will then head back to Osaka and stop at Osaka Castle. We then finish

our day with a tour of Osaka's central food and entertainment area, Dotonbori, where we will also enjoy a welcome dinner together.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Hotel Plaza, Osaka

### DAY 5: Osaka Free Day

Today you will enjoy a free day at your own leisure in Osaka. Optional programs are available or you can explore this amazing city at your own pace.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Hotel Plaza, Osaka

### DAY 6: Osaka ~ Kyoto

Today we will take the super-fast shinkansen bullet train from Osaka to Kyoto. Upon reaching Kyoto, we will first visit Nijo Castle, the former residence of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first shogun of the Edo period, and a designated UNESCO world heritage site. Then, we visit Nishijin Textile Centre. This is a large textile center selling kimonos, bags, ties & artwork. We will enjoy a traditional Kimono show.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Yamashina Hotel Sanraku, Kyoto

### DAY 7: Kyoto Bamboo Grove ~ Kanazawa

This morning we visit the iconic Bamboo Grove and Togetsu Bridge in Arashiyama, a district on the outskirts of Kyoto. It also refers to the mountain across the Arashi River, which forms a backdrop to the district. Arashiyama is a nationally designated Historic Site and Place of Scenic Beauty. Next, we visit Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion). This is a beautiful Zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. We continue on to Kanazawa where we will spend the night.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** The Square Hotel, Kanazawa

### DAY 8: Kanazawa City Tour

Today we will explore the castle town of Kanazawa. First up, we will visit Buke Yashiki, a preserved samurai district, and learn about how the high-ranked samurais lived during the Edo period. Later we will make our way through the streets of Higashi Chaya, an old teahouse district lined with preserved buildings. Next, we will visit Kenrokuen Garden, one of Japan's "three best landscape gardens" and widely believed to be the most beautiful of them all. Finally, we will visit Omicho Market, Kanazawa's largest fresh food market.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** The Square Hotel, Kanazawa

## DAY 9: Kanazawa ~ Shirakawago ~ Takayama

Today we travel out to Shirakawago for a half-day guided sightseeing tour, which will give you a chance to explore one of the rural villages in Shirakawago. Accompanied by a knowledgeable guide, you can see the traditional gassho-style houses of the area, some of which are over 200 years old. Afterwards we will head to Takayama, a thriving merchant town during the Edo period in mountainous Gifu prefecture.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** The Best Western Hotel, Takayama

## DAY 10: Takayama ~ Nagano

Today we will spend the day exploring Takayama. First we will stop by the preserved Old Town, where preserved Edo period shops and houses line the streets. Then we will visit the open air museum of Hida Folk Village, followed by Takayama Jinya, the former local government office which was in use from 1692 right up until 1969. Next, we visit Matsuri no Mori (Festival Museum), an impressive museum about the famous Takayama Matsuri (festival) that is held twice a year in the town. Lastly, we visit Yatai Kaikan (Festival Float Exhibition Hall) where some of the centuries old festival floats are on display to the public. Upon finishing your tour in Takayama we travel to Nagano, home to nature walks, natural hot springs, never-ending mountains and ninjas!

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Chisun Grand, Nagano

## DAY 11: Nagano ~ Matsumoto

After breakfast, we will head to the Hokusai Museum to discover the great artworks of Katsuhika Hokusai (1760-1849), one of Japan's leading Edo period ukiyo-e painters. Then, we will depart for Zenkoji Temple, which was founded over 1,400 years ago. Continue on to Matsumoto, where you will have the opportunity to see one of Japan's last remaining original castles, Matsumoto Castle.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** RAKO Hananoi Hotel, Matsumoto

## DAY 12: Matsumoto ~ Mt Fuji

Today we will visit Oshino Hakkai, a village in the Mount Fuji area known for its eight, crystal clear ponds. Fed by melting snow filtered down from the slopes of Mount Fuji through porous layers of lava, the ponds are a beautiful, natural attraction. Afterwards, we will head to Mount Fuji's breathtaking 5th Station, which is 2300m above sea level. Stay the night in the Mount Fuji area and enjoy a special dinner with your fellow travellers.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Dadu Fuji Resort Hotel, Mount Fuji

## DAY 13: Mt Fuji ~ Tokyo

Today we will visit Gotemba Peace Park to capture another breathtaking view of Mount Fuji. Then, we will take a relaxing cruise across Lake Ashi. This afternoon, we make our way Tokyo, Japan's largest city and the nation's capital.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Tokyo Bat Ariake Washington Hotel

### DAY 14: Tokyo Free Day

Today you will get to explore this fascinating city at your own leisure. You can take one of our optional programs such as a full day city tour with lunch. Alternatively, take it easy and choose one area of the city to get to know in depth – there are so many to choose from! Your guide can assist you with what to do and where to go.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Tokyo Bat Ariake Washington Hotel

### DAY 15: End of Tour ~ Departure

At the appropriate time (0800-2000), you will be transferred to the airport for your homeward flight.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, In-Flight

**OVERNIGHT:** In-Flight

### DAY 16: Arrive Australia

This morning you will arrive home in Australia. We hope you have enjoyed your Holiday2Japan with us!

**MEALS:** In-Flight