

Tour Sample 10

22 Nights, Central, Eastern, Western & Southern Japan



Wesley House, 7 High Street
Kidlington Oxford OX5 2DH
Tel 01865 841443
Fax 01865 841445
www.intojapan.co.uk
info@intojapan.co.uk

Quote Details

- **Route to include:** Tokyo Hakone, Takayama, Kanazawa, Miyajima, Fukuoka, Kumamoto, Kyoto & Mt Koya
- **Accommodation:** 22 nights: Hotel (16 nights), Ryokan (4 nights), Temple (2 nights)

In a Nutshell

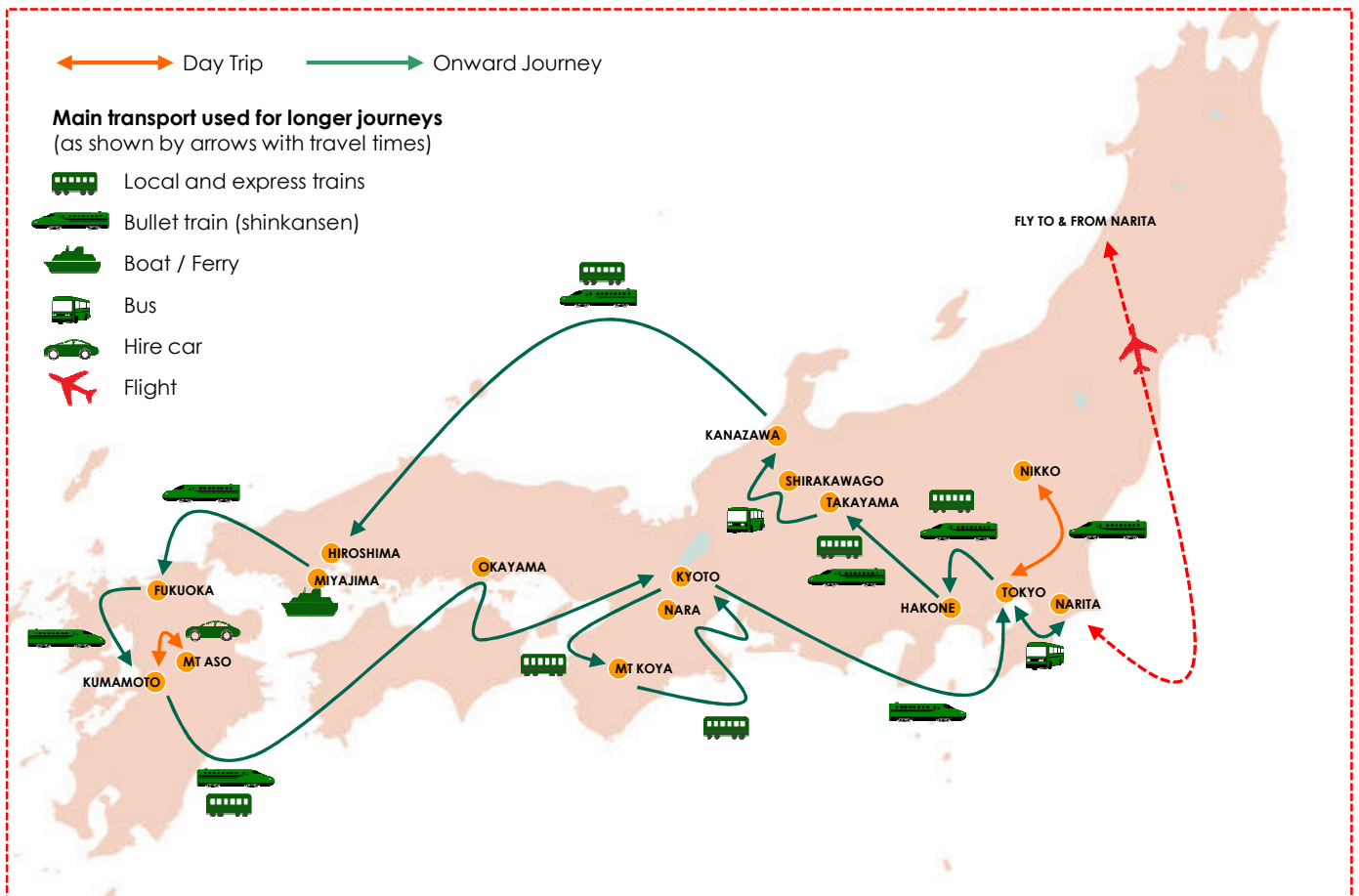
You're heading off for an amazing 22 night trip to Japan.

Your route will take you to see many of the iconic sights on Honshu, the main island and you'll also be visiting Kyushu to see the active volcano Mt Aso.

In addition to 4 nights spent in traditional ryokan, you'll also have the opportunity to experience life in a Buddhist Temple with a stay on sacred Mt Koya.

You'll be seeing some of Japan's loveliest gardens, travelling on the fantastic Bullet trains, visiting iconic temples and both the modern cities and rural countryside.

A fabulous adventure awaits!





Tour Itinerary Page 1

Day	Suggested Schedule	Special Arrangements	Transport	Accommodation	Meals
Day 1 Tuesday 29/10	Depart London Heathrow for Tokyo Narita Airport.		Flight	-	-
Day 2 Weds 30/10	Your flight arrives at Narita International where you will be met & escorted to your hotel in Tokyo, about 90 minutes from the airport. After a chance to freshen up, to give you everything you need to travel confidently in Japan – from walking maps to phrase sheets to good advice – one of our Tokyo staff members will meet you in the lobby of your hotel for your orientation session. Spend the rest of the day at leisure.	Airport meeting Limousine Bus transfer Orientation	Limousine Bus	Park Hotel TOKYO (Double room)	B
Day 3 Thursday 31/10	Start the day with a guided tour of the Tsukiji Fish markets. Your tour will end with a lunch of some of the freshest sushi and sashimi in Tokyo! After, head to the nearby Hama Rikyū Gardens, from where you can take a boat up the Sumida River to Asakusa for Tokyo's oldest temple.	Tsukiji Tour	Local Transport	Park Hotel TOKYO (Double room)	BL
Day 4 Friday 01/11	A day at leisure in Tokyo. Spend the morning at the Meiji-jingū – Tokyo's most important shrine, where we highly recommend the Inner Gardens. Strolling through the trendy nearby districts of Harajuku, Omotesando, and Shibuya makes an interesting contrast to the traditional shrine, and allows you to really get a taste of modern Tokyo.	-	Local Transport	Park Hotel TOKYO (Double room)	B
Day 5 Saturday 02/11	Set off for a day trip to the World Heritage temples of Nikko. You'll see the intricately carved Tōshō-gū Shrine complex, and the Rinnō-ji Temple, which dates from the eight century and houses three important Buddhist deities. The Futarasan Shrine – a Shinto place of worship – also, interestingly, founded in the eighth century by a Buddhist monk, is the third of Nikkō's main sights.	-	Local Trains & Buses	Park Hotel TOKYO (Double room)	B
Day 6 Sunday 03/11	Take the train on to the hot springs area of Hakone to experience a stay in a traditional ryokan, or Japanese inn. Enjoy the onsen baths, peaceful views of the forested hills, and the spectacular kaiseki cuisine which is one of the main joys of ryokan accommodation. Spend the afternoon at the excellent Open Air Museum, which houses an impressive array of international art, including over 300 works by Picasso alone.	Hakone Freepass	Private Trains	Ichinoyu Ryokan HAKONE (Japanese room with outdoor bath)	BD
Day 7 Monday 04/11	Take the circular tour of the Hakone area, by mountain train, funicular railway, cable car, and boat. Weather permitting there are great views of Mount Fuji from the fascinating geothermic Great Boiling Valley and from Lake Ashi. If you're feeling energetic, the old cobbled Tōkaidō Road to Hakone-Yumoto can be walked in full in an afternoon, or you can choose to return across the lake.	Hakone Freepass	Local Transport	Ichinoyu Ryokan HAKONE (Japanese room with outdoor bath)	BD
Day 8 Tuesday 05/11	Take the Bullet & Express trains to Takayama, nestled in the foothills of the Japan Alps. Start the afternoon at Takayama Jinya, before visiting the San-machi Suji area of wooden merchant houses, many of which are now museums. The old town is full of sake breweries, which can be identified by the cedar balls hanging outside.	-	Bullet & Express Trains	Hida Hotel Plaza TAKAYAMA (Twin room)	B
Day 9 Weds 06/11	A day at leisure in Takayama. Start early at the vibrant morning markets, which have an interesting mix of crafts and produce for sale, and make a great place to try local foods, people-watch, and shop for souvenirs. Teramachi, the temple district, is home to over a dozen temples and shrines, and exploring the buildings and precincts, and the pleasant walk between them is a good way to get to know one of Takayama's important districts.	-	Local Transport	Hida Hotel Plaza TAKAYAMA (Twin room)	B
Day 10 Thursday 07/11	Continue your travels to Kanazawa, via the the beautifully preserved World Heritage area of Shirakawa-gō, famous for steeply thatched gasshō-zukuri houses. After lunch continue on to Kanazawa and spend the rest of the afternoon strolling around the stunning Kenrokuen Garden, considered to be the most beautiful in Japan.	Bus tickets to kanazawa	Highway Bus	ANA Crowne Plaza KANAZAWA (Double room)	B

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Day 11 Friday 08/11	A day at leisure in Kanazawa. Visit the well-preserved samurai district of Nagamachi, where many of the houses are now museums giving a glimpse into Kanazawa's feudal past. Teramachi is a collection of temples, the most famous of which is the Ninja Temple. Nearby, the Kutani Kosen Gama Kiln still makes highly decorated functional pottery, and you can visit the workshop and see how the traditional ceramics are made here. Higashi Chaya-gai is one of Japan's best preserved geisha districts, and the old wooden buildings are a wonderful place to feel transported back centuries. Some of the traditional buildings are open as museums, and it is also here that you can visit the gold-leaf workshop which produces so much of Kanazawa's most famous product.	-	Local Transport	ANA Crowne Plaza KANAZAWA (Double room)	B
Day 12 Saturday 09/11	Today you'll set off for Hiroshima and the tranquil island of Miyajima. After arriving in Hiroshima, spend a few hours visiting the Peace Park and Memorial Dome to learn about the tragic events of August 1945. Later, make your way on to Miyajima and your ryokan.	-	Express & Bullet Trains	Miyarikyu Ryokan MIYAJIMA (Japanese room)	BD
Day 13 Sunday 10/11	Spend the day on Miyajima exploring the Island's main sights. You'll see Itsukushima Shrine and its famous 'Floating' Torii, the 5 Tier Pagoda and Daisho-in Temple. Cable car (or hike) to the peak of Mt Misen for stunning views across the island studded Inland Sea. Deer wander freely on the island, and are traditionally believed to be messengers of the gods.	-	Local Transport	Miyarikyu Ryokan MIYAJIMA (Japanese room)	BD
Day 14 Monday 11/11	Set off after breakfast for Fukuoka, a historic port city in the north of Kyushu island. Check into your hotel and spend the afternoon and evening enjoying the spectacle of the Sumo Tournament.	Sumo Tickets	Bullet Train	Hyatt Regency FUKUOKA (Double room)	B
Day 15 Tuesday 12/11	Set off after breakfast for the city of Kumamoto. Check into your hotel and spend the day sightseeing. You'll see the castle, which is one of Japan's largest, and the lovely Suizenji Gardens.	-	Bullet Train	Hotel Castle KUMAMOTO (Double room)	B
Day 16 Weds 13/11	Pick up your hire car and drive through Kyushu's "Land of Fire" to Mount Aso (road signs are in English and we will give you clear directions) for spectacular views of the active volcano and massive caldera. It is possible to get close to the actual crater, at Nakadake, though there are plenty of other things to see on the way. The volcano gases here are noxious but are constantly monitored (as is the volcano itself) to protect visitors, however if you have any respiratory issues please choose another destination. It is worth stopping regularly to catch the panoramic views of the valley and its beautiful patchwork of rice fields.	Hire Car	Hire Car	Hotel Castle KUMAMOTO (Double room)	B
Day 17 Thursday 14/11	Head back east this morning as you travel on to Kyoto. Changing bullet trains in Okayama is the perfect excuse to stop at the lovely Kōrakuen strolling gardens, which are said to be one of the three best in Japan.	-	Bullet Train	Hotel Monterey KYOTO (Double room)	B
Day 18 Friday 15/11	A day at leisure to explore Kyoto. Start the day in Gion, where you should be able to catch sight of some of Kyoto's apprentice geisha on their way to lessons. From there, move on to Nijo Castle, the former home of the Shogun. A short walk away is the Nishijin Textile Centre, where you can learn about the fascinating process behind making kimono. From there, head on to Yasaka-jinja Shrine and into Maruyama Park, where the path will lead you past Kōdai-ji Temple and on to Kiyomizu Temple, which looks out over the city from the hillside. There is plenty to explore!	-	Local Transport	Hotel Monterey KYOTO (Double room)	B
Day 19 Saturday 16/11	Head out to visit some of the sights in the North West of the city. See the iconic Golden Pavilion and Ryoanji Zen Garden before visiting Ninnaji Temple, which houses an impressive collection of Buddhist treasures as well as one of Kyoto's most beautiful gardens. In the afternoon head further West to Arashiyama, most famous for its beautiful bamboo groves and river bridge. While walking is an excellent option, you can also hire bicycles and explore further afield – Sagano is particularly delightful.	-	Local Transport	Hotel Monterey KYOTO (Double room)	B

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Day 20 Sunday 17/11	After a leisurely breakfast, head off to the depths of the mountains for the World Heritage protected temples at Mount Kōya. You'll be staying at one of the many temples which provide lodgings for pilgrims visiting the mountain, and can immerse yourself in temple life with an incredible traditional vegetarian meal in the evening, and by joining the monks at early morning prayers.	Nankai World Heritage Pass	Local & Private Trains Bus	Ichijo-in Temple MT KOYA (Japanese room with bath)	BD
Day 21 Monday 18/11	A day at leisure to explore Mt Koya. We highly recommend visiting the austere Kongobuji temple, the traditional centre of Shingon teaching. The sect's founder, Kūkai, is enshrined at the Okunoin temple, which is surrounded by the peaceful and sometimes surreal Okunoin cemetery, Japan's largest. The Garan has an interesting pagoda, and the smaller temples are also well worth exploring.	-	Walking	Ichijo-in Temple MT KOYA (Japanese room with bath)	BD
Day 22 Tuesday 19/11	After joining the monks for morning prayers and an early breakfast, set off back to Kyoto via Nara, Japan's ancient capital, for the impressive giant bronze Buddha – Japan's largest – housed in the famous all-wood Tōdai-ji temple. Walk through Nara-kōen Park, which is home to very friendly local deer who will follow you hoping for tasty treats! Continue on to Kyoto via Fushimi Inari to see its stunning 'tunnels' of red torii gates.	-	Private & Local Trains	Hotel Monterey KYOTO (Double room)	B
Day 23 Monday 20/11	Return to Tokyo on the Bullet Train. Spend the rest of the day at leisure, catching up on some last minute souvenir shopping or more sightseeing if you prefer.	-	Bullet Train	Park Hotel TOKYO (Double room)	B
Day 24 Tuesday 21/11	Transfer back to Narita Airport on the Limousine Bus for your flight back home.	Airport transfer	Limousine Bus Flight	-	B

Price Includes

- Standard class rail pass for 21 days
- Accommodation and meals as shown in itinerary
- Special arrangements as shown in itinerary (transfers, private tours, tickets, etc.)
- All entry fees for private tours
- All transport for private tours (using taxis and public transport unless otherwise described)
- 24-hour telephone assistance in Japan
- Personalised information pack

Not Included

- Flights to and from Japan
- Meals not shown on schedule
- Transport not during private tours or covered by an included rail pc (unplanned rail trips, metro in Tokyo, taxis, etc.)
- Entrance fees (except during private tours)
- Additional beverages at Ryokan
- Incidental hotel fees (telephone, minibar, etc.)

