

Tour Sample 4

12 Nights, The Classic Japan itinerary



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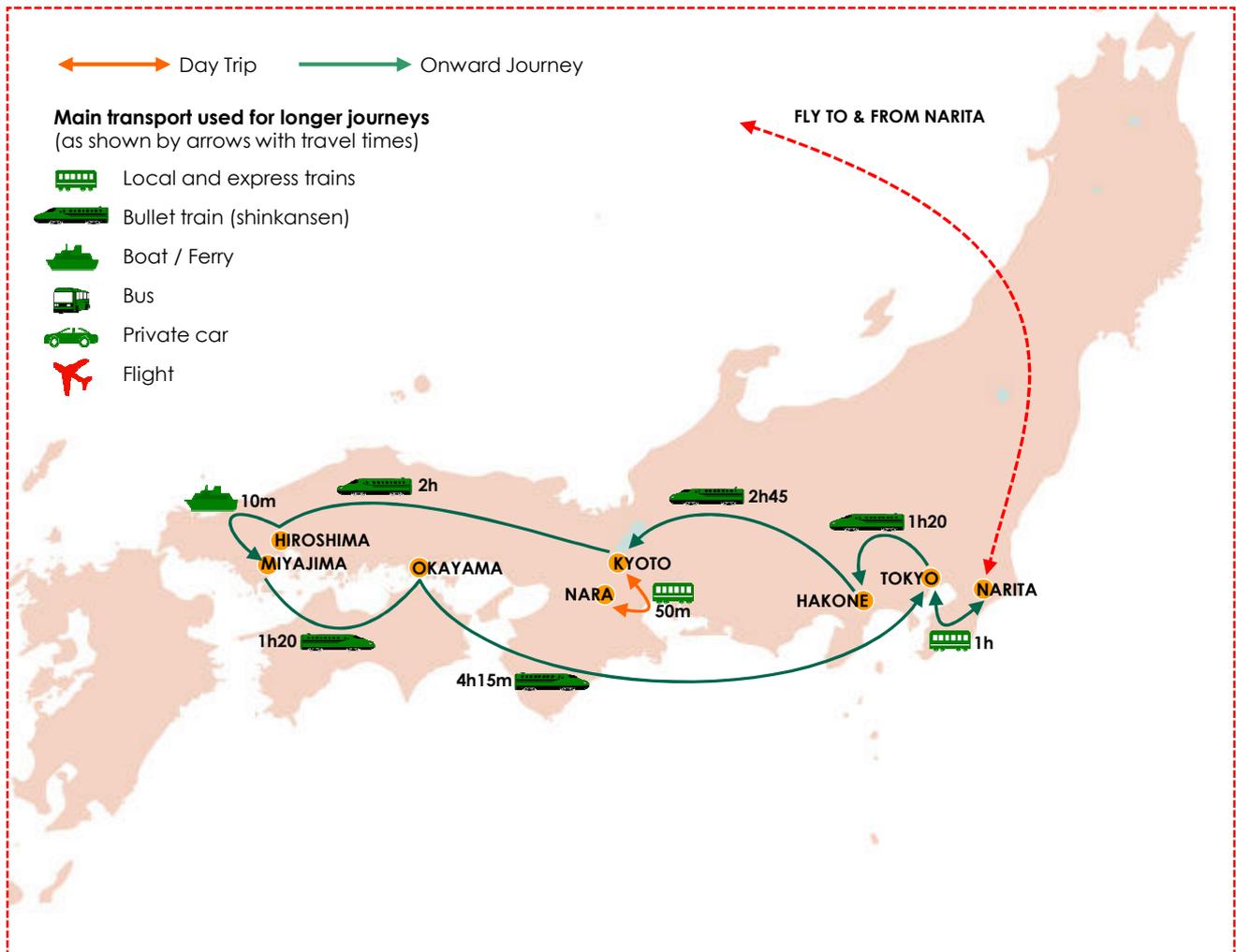
Quote Details

- **Route to include:** Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, Miyajima
- **Accommodation:** 12 nights (hotel 8 nights, ryokan 4 nights)

In a Nutshell

You'll be heading off for an 12 night stay in Japan, taking in most of the major highlights. You'll visit both the ancient and modern capitals and will be seeing some of Japan's finest temples and stunning gardens.

You will be able to see the famous geisha as well as the Shogun's castle and the Imperial Palace. You will have a chance to explore the world of Studio Ghibli animation and you will be able to experience the timeless elegance of a traditional tea ceremony.





Tour Itinerary Page 1

Day	Suggested Schedule	Special Arrangements	Transport	Accommodation	Meals
Day 1 9th Sept Mon	ARRIVAL Your flight arrives at Narita International Airport. After clearing immigration, you'll be met and escorted by on the train and then by taxi to your hotel in Tokyo. Following a chance to freshen up after your flight, 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.	Airport Meeting Airport to hotel by airport train with assistance Orientation	Airport train	Mercure Ginza TOKYO Superior Queen Room	-
Day 2 10th Sept Tue	TOKYO Start the day with a tour of the fascinating Tsukiji Fish Market. Your tour will include both the Inner and Outer markets and will end with a lunch of the freshest sushi imaginable. From there, stroll to nearby Hamarikyū Gardens, then take the waterbus along the Sumida River to Asakusa for the Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest and most important temple. End the day by exploring the electronics paradise of Akihabara.	Tsukiji Market Small Group Tour	Local transport	Mercure Ginza TOKYO Superior Queen Room	B
Day 3 11th Sept Wed	TOKYO Today you have tickets to the Studio Ghibli Museum. Make your way to Mitaka on the JR Chuo line and enjoy a stroll around the museum, dedicated to the animation from Studio Ghibli. If you have time before or after going to the museum, perhaps go for a stroll in the Imperial Palace Gardens or the Ginza area. End the day enjoying the excellent nightlife in Shinjuku. We particularly recommend the view from the Metropolitan Building's 45th floor observatories.	Studio Ghibli Museum Tickets	Local transport	Mercure Ginza TOKYO Superior Queen Room	B
Day 4 12th Sept Thu	TOKYO – HAKONE Take the bullet train and connecting mountain train to Hakone in the hills surrounding Mount Fuji. 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. After checking in to your ryokan, we suggest that you spend the afternoon visiting the excellent Open Air Museum, which houses an impressive array of international art including over 300 works by Picasso alone.	Hakone Free Pass	Local transport, Bullet train	Yoshiike Ryokan HAKONE Japanese style room with bath	B & D
Day 5 13th Sept Fri	HAKONE After breakfast, set out to 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 cable car 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 by boat across the lake.	Hakone Free Pass	Local transport	Yoshiike Ryokan HAKONE Japanese style room with bath	B & D
Day 6 14th Sept Sat	HAKONE – KYOTO On arrival at Kyoto Station make your way to your hotel to leave your bags, then set out to see some of the famous sights in the North West of the city. Your guide will meet you in the lobby of your hotel. From there, you'll be visiting the iconic Golden Pavilion and Ryoanji Zen Garden before ending the day at nearby Ninnaji Temple, which houses one of Kyoto's loveliest gardens.	Hakone Free Pass Half-day private tour	Local transport, Bullet train	New Miyako Hotel KYOTO Double Room (26 sqm)	B
Day 7 15th Sept Sun	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, head on to Nijo Castle, the former home of the Shogun and famed for its lovely gardens and 'nightingale' floors. Later, continue 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	New Miyako Hotel KYOTO Double Room (26 sqm)	B
Day 8 16th Sept Mon	KYOTO – NARA – KYOTO A day trip to Nara 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! The Kasuga Taisha Shrine, which dates from Nara's time as the capital of Japan, is also located in the park and is well worth a visit. We also recommend visiting the lovely Isui-en Strolling Gardens, where you can watch the carp and wander amongst the plum, cherry, and maple trees.	-	Express train, local transport	New Miyako Hotel KYOTO Double Room (26 sqm)	B

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Day	Suggested Schedule	Special Arrangements	Transport	Accommodation	Meals
Day 9 17th Sept Tue	KYOTO Experience the Japanese tea ceremony at a traditional tea room (confirmation required). You will be picked up from your hotel by taxi and taken to the tea room. After the experience the rest of the day is yours to spend at leisure. Perhaps visit Arashiyama in the west of Kyoto. The area is most famous for its bamboo groves and river bridge. While walking is an excellent option, you can also hire bicycles and explore further afield – Sagano is particularly delightful.	Tea Ceremony	Local transport	New Miyako Hotel KYOTO Double Room (26 sqm)	B
Day 10 18th Sept Wed	KYOTO – HIROSHIMA – MIYAJIMA When you arrive at Hiroshima, spend a moving few hours visiting the Peace Park and Memorial Dome. Afterwards take a short train or taxi ride to Miyajima-guchi station for the ferry over to the sacred island of Miyajima, and enjoy the rest of the evening relaxing at your ryokan.	-	Local transport, Bullet train	Watanabe Inn MIYAJIMA Momiji (Japanese style room with private bathroom)	B & D
Day 11 19th Sept Thu	MIYAJIMA After breakfast, set out to explore Miyajima. You'll see Itsukushima Shrine and its famous 'floating' torii gate, the five-tiered Pagoda, and Daisho-in Temple. To finish take the cable car (or hike) to the peak of Mount 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. While technically wild, they are fond of any kind of treats - they will happily eat your rail pass, so please keep it tucked away safely while you're on the island!	-	Local transport	Watanabe Inn MIYAJIMA Momiji (Japanese style room with private bathroom)	B & D
Day 12 20th Sept Fri	MIYAJIMA – TOKYO This morning you will take the ferry back to Hiroshima and make your way to the train station. The bullet train will take you back to Tokyo. Although the journey is fairly long, the bullet train is very comfortable. If you wish to break your journey, we recommend a stop in Okayama to spend some time in the lovely Kōrakuen strolling gardens, which are said to be one of the three best in Japan. Characterised by contrasts of ponds, flat lawns and curious tea plantations, the gardens also boast shrines, pavilions, and a tea house where you can relax over a bowl of whipped matcha tea. Continue on your way back to Tokyo where you will arrive in the evening. Check in to your hotel for your last night in Japan.	-	Local transport, Bullet train	Mercure Ginza TOKYO Superior Queen Room	B
Day 13 21st Sept Sat	DEPARTURE On to Narita International Airport for your flight home. We suggest you arrive at the airport extra-early, which will give you time to pick up any final souvenirs at the excellent array of shops after check-in.	-	Airport train	-	B

Price Includes

- Standard class rail pass for **14** 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 pass (unplanned rail trips, metro in Tokyo, taxis, etc.)
- Entrance fees (except during private tours)
- Additional beverages at Ryokan
- Incidental hotel fees (telephone, minibar, etc.)

