

Sample Itinerary: 14-Night Western Japan

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Day 10	Overnight luggage transfer: Hiroshima to Osaka Transfer · Private car to station Rail · Ticket: Hiroshima Station to Onomichi Station U2 Cycle Hotel (3 Nights)
Day 11	Day at leisure: Shimanami Cycling
Day 12	Rail · Ticket: Onomichi Station to Himeji Station Time at leisure in Himeji Rail · Suggestion: Himeji Station to Shin-Osaka Station Conrad Osaka (2 Nights)
Day 13	Full-day private tour of Osaka with local transport
Day 14	Day at leisure in Osaka
Day 15	Transfer · Private car to airport

Day 1

Airport meeting

After clearing immigration, you will be met by a member of staff and escorted to your private car.

Transfer · Private car to hotel

Departure Location
Kansai International Airport

Arrival Location
Four Seasons Kyoto

Notes

- You will be transferred to your hotel by private car.



Orientation

In order for your holiday to be as enjoyable and stress-free as possible, we have included a private and personalised orientation session, where you will be given everything you need to travel confidently in Japan.

One of our English-speaking staff members will meet you in the lobby of your hotel and will go through your itinerary with you, day by day, and answer any questions you may have. You'll also receive your "welcome pack" of additional information, such as tourist maps of each destination, suggested walking routes, and detailed information on any special activities you may have booked, as well as a Japanese phrase sheet, which should help you travel in Japan more easily!



Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto

075-541-8288

445-3, Myohoin Maekawa-cho, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto 605-0932

〒605-0932 京都市東区妙法院前側町445-3

3:00 PM

Check In

12:00 PM

Check Out

5 Nights

Opened in late 2016 in the scenic temple district of Eastern Kyoto, the Four Seasons Kyoto is one of the city's most luxurious hotels. Centred around an 800-year old ikeniwa (pool garden), the hotel offers guests a tranquil atmosphere in which to relax.

Room Selection

Room Category

Premier Room - Kyoto View

Room Description

Enjoy Kyoto city views or Myoho-in temple view. With clean-lined furniture, lantern-style light fixtures, dark hardwood floors and soothing purple and olive-green colours, feel at ease in a comfortable setting inspired by a Japanese home. Relax in the sitting area, which features a sofa for two, a coffee table and a desk area, all next to the floor-to-ceiling windows. Modern touches include powered curtains, ample charging stations for electronics, and an iPad to conveniently request Hotel services such as In-Room Dining.

- Breakfast included

Day 2



Full-day private tour of Kyoto with local transport

Accompanied by your guide, begin your day at Kiyomizu temple, which looks out over the city from the hillside. From there, continue down the slope, past Kodai-ji temple to Yasaka-jinja Shrine and into Maruyama Park.

Wind your way into Gion where you can spend time shopping for arts and crafts, ceramics, chopsticks, clothing and souvenirs. The famous streets of Gion are narrow and steep and lined with stunning traditional houses, most of which have been converted into shops. You can also grab a snack from one of the many street food vendors! As the evening draws in you can often catch a glimpse of Kyoto's apprentice Geisha on their way to their evening appointments.

- Guided
- Transport: Local transport

Day 3



Full-day private tour of Kyoto with private car

Start the day by visiting some of the iconic sights in the North West of the city. You'll be seeing the stunning Golden Pavilion and Ryoan-ji Zen Garden before visiting the nearby Ninna-ji Temple, which houses one of Kyoto's loveliest gardens.

Spend the afternoon exploring Arashiyama, an area in the West of the city. The famous bridge here has been depicted for centuries in woodblock paintings. The area has an old-timey atmosphere, and is a popular spot for kimono wearing in the Spring and Autumn.

The area is also famous for its bamboo grove, located right by the stunning UNESCO Tenryu-ji Temple. It is here that you can see the picture-postcard view of the green towers of bamboo swaying in the breeze.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car

Day 4



Day at leisure in Nara

Spend the day exploring independently at leisure. We suggest visiting Nara - a great place to escape from modern Japan. See the impressive giant bronze Buddha - Japan's largest - housed in the famous all-wood Todai-ji temple. Then enjoy a walk through Nara-koen 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. S

You might like to save time to visit the Fushimi Inari Taisha on your way back into Kyoto. This is Japan's most famous shrine and can be explored by venturing through its thousands of red torii gates leading up the mountainside.

- Unguided



Activity: Tea ceremony with kimono session and traditional lunch

Make your way to a traditional machiya townhouse, where you will first have a tour of the machiya before being dressed in kimono for your Tea Ceremony, perhaps the most enigmatic of the traditional arts. This will be followed by a light, Kyoto style lunch.

- Unguided
- Approx. 2 hrs duration
- Light lunch included



Afternoon at leisure in Kyoto

Spend the afternoon exploring independently at leisure. We suggest a visit to nearby Nishiki Market, a long, narrow covered street packed with shops selling local specialities which is sometimes referred to as Kyoto's kitchen. Barrels of fresh and pickled vegetables spill out into the street, and the air is fragrant with the savoury smell of grilling *sembei* crackers and steaming fish dumplings. Many of the shops offer free samples, and the Nishiki Market is a wonderful way to stock up on very Japanese picnic supplies for lunch.

Next, we recommend heading to Nishijin Textile Centre, where you can learn about the fascinating process behind the manufacturing of the kimono. In addition, there are daily kimono shows, displaying the beauty and potential of this beautiful garment.

Perhaps finish your day with a visit to the nearby Nijo Castle, former home of the Tokugawa Shogun. On exploring the beautifully decorated interior, you can walk on the 'nightingale floors', so-called because the design of the floorboards causes them to squeak when stepped upon - almost like a chirp. End your visit with a stroll around the lush gardens.

- Unguided

Day 6

Overnight luggage transfer: Kyoto - Hiroshima

To allow you to travel comfortably your luggage will be sent from Kyoto to Hiroshima overnight. We suggest packing a small overnight bag as you will be without the bulk of your luggage for your stay in Kinosaki Onsen.

Transfer · Private car to station

Departure Location

Four Seasons Kyoto

Arrival Location

Kyoto Station

Notes

- This morning you will be transferred to the station by private car.

Rail · Ticket: Kyoto Station to Kinosakionsen Station

Departure Location

Kyoto Station

Arrival Location

Kinosakionsen Station

Train Type

Limited Express Trains

Notes

- Take the limited express train to Fukuchiyama Station before boarding another bound for Kinosakionsen.
- On arrival at the station somebody from your accommodation will come to collect and transfer you to the ryokan.



Nishimuraya Hotel Shogetsutei

0796-32-3535

城崎温泉 村屋ホテル招庭

〒669-6101 兵庫県豊岡市城崎町湯島1016-2

3:00 PM

Check In

10:00 AM

Check Out

2 Nights

This sprawling hot-spring hotel is 1 km from both the Yosho Shrine and Kinosaki Straw Craft Museum, and 2 km from train services at Kinosakionsen Station.

Featuring minimalist furnishings, the airy rooms come with free Wi-Fi, TVs and mini-fridges. Some rooms feature tatami floors and chabudai dining tables. Breakfast is served in a relaxed restaurant/bar, which also offers seasonal seafood dishes. There's an outdoor pool and a karaoke lounge, plus a gender-segregated bathhouse with open-air baths, whirlpools and mist saunas.

Room Selection

Room Category

Japanese-Style Room with Open Air Bath

Room Description

This stunning Japanese room features all the things you would expect from a traditional-style room: tatami, floor seating, sliding paper doors and beautiful wall art. Enjoy the relaxing private open-air bath on the terrace and make use of the extensive amenities.

- Breakfast and dinner included

Day 7



Day at leisure at Kinosaki Onsen

Spend some time exploring Kinosaki Onsen. You can try bathing in one of the public baths to relax after your journey. Wander down to Onsen-ji temple at the western end of the town. This temple is dedicated to a Buddhist saint, who according to legend, prayed for 1000 days until spring water came to Kinosaki. Next to the temple is a small museum with temple artefacts and treasures.

- Unguided

Day 8

Rail · Ticket: Kinosakionsen Station to Hiroshima Station

Departure Location
Kinosakionsen Station

Arrival Location
Hiroshima Station

Train Type
Limited Express Train &
Japan Rail Shinkansen

Notes

- You will be transferred to the station using the shuttle service run by the ryokan.
- Take a limited express train to Himeji Station before changing to a bullet train bound for Hiroshima.



Half-day private tour of Hiroshima with private car

Your guide and driver will meet you at the station.

Visit Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park and Museum. This is likely to be most moving part of your holiday to Japan. The spacious park is full of memorials dedicated to those who lost their lives on August the 6th 1945, as well as those who later succumbed to diseases, and is also home to the famous Atomic Bomb Dome. The paper cranes found everywhere represent solidarity with these victims and an on-going prayer for world peace. The Peace Memorial Museum is in two buildings within the park, and while visiting it can be an upsetting and unsettling experience for many, it should not be missed.

If time allows, we also recommend visiting the lovely Shukkeien strolling gardens. Shukkeien's name can be translated into English as "shrunk-scenery garden", which is also a good description of the garden itself. Valleys, mountains, and forests are represented in miniature in the garden's landscapes. Through carefully cultivated land and vegetation, the garden mimics a variety of natural formations and scenic views.

To end the tour you will be transferred to your accommodation on Miyajima Island. This journey involves a ferry crossing.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



Kurayado Iroha Ryokan

082-944-0168

589-4 Miyajima-cho, Hatsukaichi-shi, Hiroshima 739-0559

〒739-0559 広島県廿三市宮島町589-4

4:00 PM

Check In

11:00 AM

Check Out

2 Nights

Kurayado Iroha ryokan faces the Seto Inland Sea. The charming ryokan offers superb ocean views from its large windows, and the spacious rooms (a mix of Japanese and contemporary styles) give a sense of calm and cosiness.

There is an open air bath located on the roof of the building from where guests can enjoy a panoramic view over the sea and the Island of Honshu.

Room Selection

Room Category

Ocean View Room

Room Description

Enjoy breath-taking views of the Seto Inland Sea and the sky. You might be especially enchanted with the scenery of the sunset of Miyajima Strait and the famous floating torii. The spacious 55-square-meter room is designed in the traditional taste of Japan but is also equipped with contemporary facilities.

The room offers high-speed Internet, a deep soaking tub, and two beds with plush down duvets and smooth cotton linens. Feel free to help yourself to the coffee maker provided as well.

- Breakfast and dinner included

Day 9



Day at leisure on Miyajima

Today spend some time exploring the sacred island of Miyajima, which is lovely to visit at any season.

Explore Itsukushima Shrine and its famous 'Floating' Torii, the 5 Tier Pagoda and Daisho-in Temple. Cable car to the peak of Mt Misen for stunning views across the island studded Inland Sea. Deer are traditionally believed to be messengers of the gods and wander the island freely.

- Unguided

Day 10

Overnight luggage transfer: Hiroshima to Osaka

To allow you to travel comfortably your luggage will be sent from Hiroshima to Osaka overnight. We suggest packing a small overnight bag as you will be without the bulk of your luggage for your stay in Onomichi.

Transfer · Private car to station

Departure Location
Kurayado Iroha

Arrival Location
Hiroshima Station

Notes

- This morning you will be transferred back to Hiroshima Station by private car. This journey involves a short ferry crossing.

Rail · Ticket: Hiroshima Station to Onomichi Station

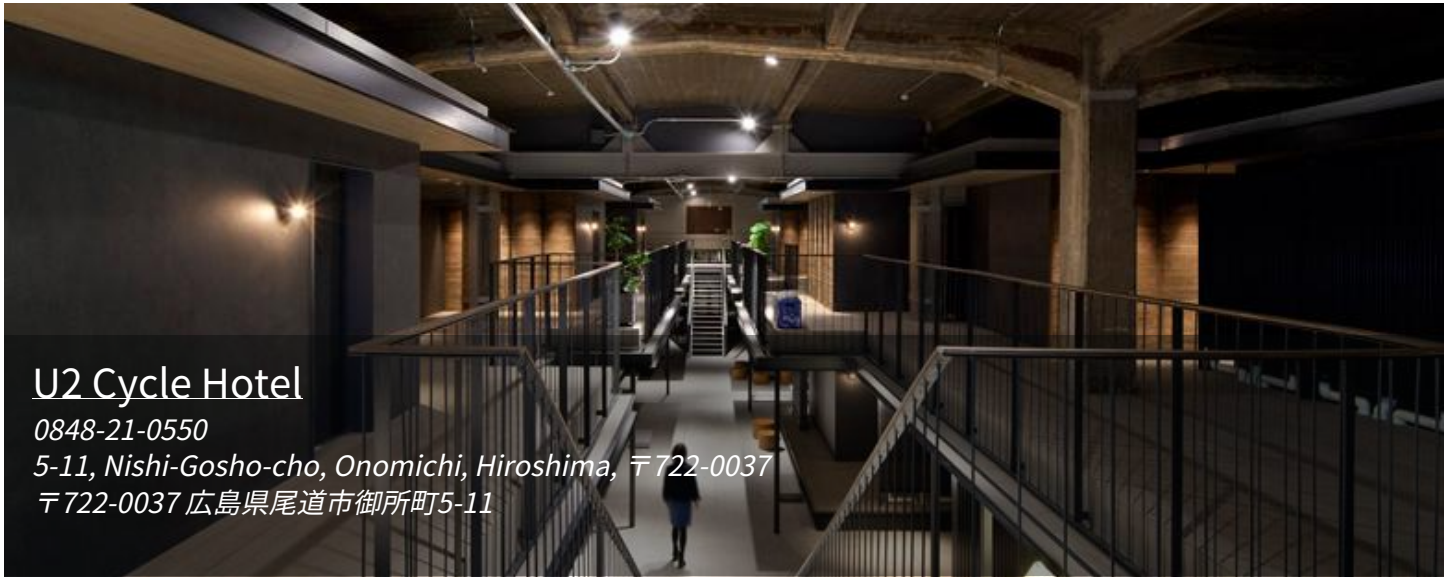
Departure Location
Hiroshima Station

Arrival Location
Onomichi Station

Train Type
Japan Rail Shinkansen &
Local Line Train

Notes

- Take the bullet train to Fukuyama Station before changing to a local line train bound for Onomichi.



U2 Cycle Hotel

0848-21-0550

5-11, Nishi-Gosho-cho, Onomichi, Hiroshima, 〒722-0037

〒722-0037 広島県尾道市御所町5-11

3:00 PM

Check In

11:00 AM

Check Out

3 Nights

Located in a renovated warehouse facing the Onomichi channel, U2 Hotel Cycle is an artsy boutique hotel which offers guests a unique stay. Guests are encouraged to interact with locals and other travellers, with comfortable common spaces and rooms which look out onto a stylish central walkway. U2 is a cyclists' heaven with cycle hire, repair, accessories and so much more all within the hotel building. Make sure you don't miss out on the hotel cafe's delicious coffee and pastries before you depart.

Room Selection

Room Category

Deluxe Twin

Room Description

This room is cosy and comfortable, but with a modern aesthetic. Sleek and stylish, this room comes equipped with all the amenities you need for a relaxed stay.

- Breakfast included

Day 11



Day at leisure: Shimanami Cycling

The Shimamane Kaido is one of Japan's most famous cycling routes, a 70km stretch that passes over the six small islands of the Seto Inland Sea. The small towns and communities that populate the route offer the chance to have a glimpse of Japan that tourists seldom see, a slower, gentler aspect of the country tucked underneath the quaint town of Onomichi. The route also boasts breath-taking views, from the azure-blue ocean to untrammelled beaches, with plenty of opportunities for picture-taking, relaxation, and a coffee in the sun.

Today we have arranged for you to enjoy some rental cycles, so make the most of the gorgeous coastal views! You can explore as little or as much as you like.

- Unguided

Day 12

Rail · Ticket: Onomichi Station to Himeji Station

Departure Location
Onomichi Station

Arrival Location
Himeji Station

Train Type
Local Line Train & Japan
Rail Shinkansen

Notes

- Take the local line train to Fukuyama Station and change to a bullet train bound for Himeji.



Time at leisure in Himeji

On your way to Osaka, stop off at Himeji.

Visit the famous castle, which is a 15 minute walk away from the station. The most impressive of Japan's scant dozen original castles, Himeji-jo is also known as the "white egret castle" or the "white heron castle" for its stately white walls. The main tower is particularly interesting, and the grounds are worth exploring in their entirety.

When you are ready to continue on your journey, simply head back to the station and purchase a bullet train ticket bound for Shin-Osaka. Ticket machines have English available and there are always station attendants to help out if you need assistance.

- Unguided

Rail · Suggestion: Himeji Station to Shin-Osaka Station

Departure Location
Himeji Station

Arrival Location
Shin-Osaka Station

Train Type
Japan Rail Shinkansen

Notes

- Purchase a bullet train ticket to make your way to Shin-Osaka Station, from where you can take a taxi to your hotel.
- Tickets not included.



3:00 PM

Check In

12:00 PM

Check Out

2 Nights

Conrad Osaka is located in the West tower of the Nakanoshima Festival complex which also houses an art museum a concert hall and a plethora of shopping and dining options. Nested from 33rd to 40th floor Conrad Osaka offers magnificent city views with stylish design and easy access for both business and leisure guests.

Room Selection

Room Category

Executive King Room

Room Description

This modern room, with traditional Japanese accents, offers more space and stunning views of the city and the river from floor-to-ceiling windows. Enjoy access to the Executive Lounge with a range of benefits including complimentary breakfast, afternoon tea, and evening cocktails.

Discover the latest technology including a 49-inch TV, Bluetooth speaker, an espresso machine, and multi-language alarm clock. Work is easy with WiFi and a spacious desk, plus USB and electric port at bedsides.

Stay comfortable with the black-out curtains, inviting king bed, bathrobe and bath slippers. Refresh in the elegant five-point bathroom, with double vanities, bathtub and separate shower. Extra amenities include complimentary mineral water and newspaper

- Breakfast included



Full-day private tour of Osaka with local transport

Spend the day exploring Osaka with your guide.

Start by strolling around Osaka's Kita area, where we recommend seeing the city from above by visiting the observatory at the Shin Umeda City Building, and below, in the underground shopping malls and arcades.

From here, visit Osaka Castle: the imposing castle structure spans five stories on the outside and eight stories on the inside, and is built on a tall stone foundation. Equally attractive are the expansive grounds.

Following this, you'll stop off at Shitennoji, one of Japan's oldest temples and the first ever to be built by the state. Nearby you'll find the Gokuraku-jodo Garden, designed based on descriptions of the Western Paradise of the Amida Buddha. The temple complex offers many items of historical interest. You'll visit the treasure house which displays paintings, scriptures and other valuable belongings of the temple in periodic, themed exhibitions.

Towards late afternoon, head on to the Dotonbori entertainment district, where you can experience Osaka's famous food and entertainment culture.

- Guided
- Transport: Local transport

Day 14



Day at leisure in Osaka

Spend the day exploring at leisure - we recommend visiting the Osaka Bay area.

Start with a visit to one of the largest aquariums in the world, Kaiyukan. This excellent aquarium displays marine life in several habitats comprising 27 tanks in 16 main exhibits with a total volume of 10,941 tons of water.

Head on to wander through the Naniwa Food Park to sample Osaka's street cuisine, before ending the day by climbing Japan's smallest official mountain - at only 4.5m high, you won't need crampons to ascend Mt Tempo!

- Unguided

Day 15

Transfer · Private car to airport

Departure Location
Conrad Osaka

Arrival Location
Kansai International Airport

Notes

- You will be transferred to the airport by private car in good time for your flight home.