

15 Days Itinerary

Sample Itinerary: 14-Night Western and Southern Japan

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|-------|---|
| Day 1 | Airport meeting
Transfer · Private car to hotel
Orientation
Art Mon Zen Kyoto (4 Nights) |
| Day 2 | Full-day private tour of Kyoto with local transport |
| Day 3 | Full-day private tour of Kyoto with local transport |
| Day 4 | Day at leisure in Nara |
| Day 5 | Overnight luggage transfer: Kyoto - Miyajima
Activity: Tea ceremony with kimono session and traditional lunch
Afternoon at leisure in Kyoto |
| Day 6 | Transfer · Private car to station
Rail · Ticket: Kyoto Station to Hiroshima Station
Half-day private tour of Hiroshima with private car
Kurayado Iroha Ryokan (2 Nights) |
| Day 7 | Day at leisure on Miyajima |
| Day 8 | Transfer · Private car to airport
Flight from Hiroshima to Okinawa
Half-day private tour of Naha with private car |

The Ritz-Carlton Okinawa (3 Nights)

Day 9	Day at leisure in Okinawa
Day 10	Full-day private tour of Okinawa by private car
Day 11	Transfer · Private car to airport Flight from Okinawa to Kumamoto Airport meeting Transfer · Private car to ryokan Takefue Ryokan (3 Nights)
Day 12	Full-day private tour of Mt. Aso
Day 13	Half-day private tour of Ontayaki Pottery Village with private car Afternoon at leisure at Takefue
Day 14	Transfer · Private car to Fukuoka Afternoon at leisure in Fukuoka Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk (1 Night)
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
Art Mon Zen Kyoto

Notes

- You will be transferred to your hotel in Kyoto 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!



Art Mon Zen Kyoto

075-551-0009

391 Motomachi, Furumonzen-dori, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto 605-0089

〒605-0089 京都市東区古前通和路東元町 391 番地

3:00 PM

Check In

11:00 AM

Check Out

4 Nights

Art Mon Zen offers fifteen individually designed rooms which are ornamented at every turn with the beauty and craftsmanship of the *sukiya-zukuri* style of architecture; the pride of Japan and recognised all over the world. These rooms are decorated with domestic and international works of art selected with an exacting aesthetic sense. All rooms are outfitted with beds, bubble bathtubs, air conditioning, and amenities of the highest quality.

The hotel is located in the northern part of Gion near the Kamo River on Furumonzen Street, the foremost antique art district in all of Kyoto. The Tatsumibashi, the symbol of Gion, is a mere stone's throw away. Popular sightseeing spots within walking distance include Chion-in Temple, Maruyama Park, Yasaka Shrine and Kodaiji Temple.

Room Selection

Room Category

Penthouse West

Room Description

A penthouse-type room designed to make the most of its location on the top floor. The space created by the sloped ceiling and the large glass windows that open out to both the west and the north provides a sense of spaciousness and makes the room feel like a part of the Kyoto cityscape. In the interior, the techniques of *sukiya-zukuri*, which originated in Kyoto, have been applied at every turn, giving a Japanese dignity and warmth to the modern design of the room. Uncompromising comfort has been pursued in both the function and layout of the bathroom. Featuring a large, circular jacuzzi and separate shower room, this is the perfect place to relax after the stress of a long trip.

- 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.

There are plenty of places to stop for a traditional lunch, and plenty of shopping too! Here is the perfect place to start souvenir shopping, or if you have an eye for traditional arts, you can pick up some lovely ceramics, kitchenware, and kimono amongst a whole host of other goodies.

Finish your tour in Gion where 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 local transport

Start the day with your guide 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.

Also of interest here is Jojakko-ji temple, founded in 1596, and the Okochi Sanso Villa.

- Guided
- Transport: Local transport

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.

On your way back into Kyoto, why not stop off at the Fushimi Inari Taisha? This is one of Japan's most revered shrines and is famous for its thousands of red torii gates leading up the hillside. A visit here is the perfect way to work up an appetite for Kyoto's wonderful cuisine.

- Unguided

Day 5

Overnight luggage transfer: Kyoto - Miyajima

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



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, the 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

Transfer · Private car to station

Departure Location

Art Mon Zen

Arrival Location

Kyoto Station

Notes

- You will be transferred to the station by private car.

Rail · Ticket: Kyoto Station to Hiroshima Station

Departure Location

Kyoto Station

Arrival Location

Hiroshima Station

Train Type

Japan Rail Shinkansen

Notes

- Take the bullet train to Hiroshima.



Half-day private tour of Hiroshima with private car

You will be met on arrival in Hiroshima and taken on a half-day tour.

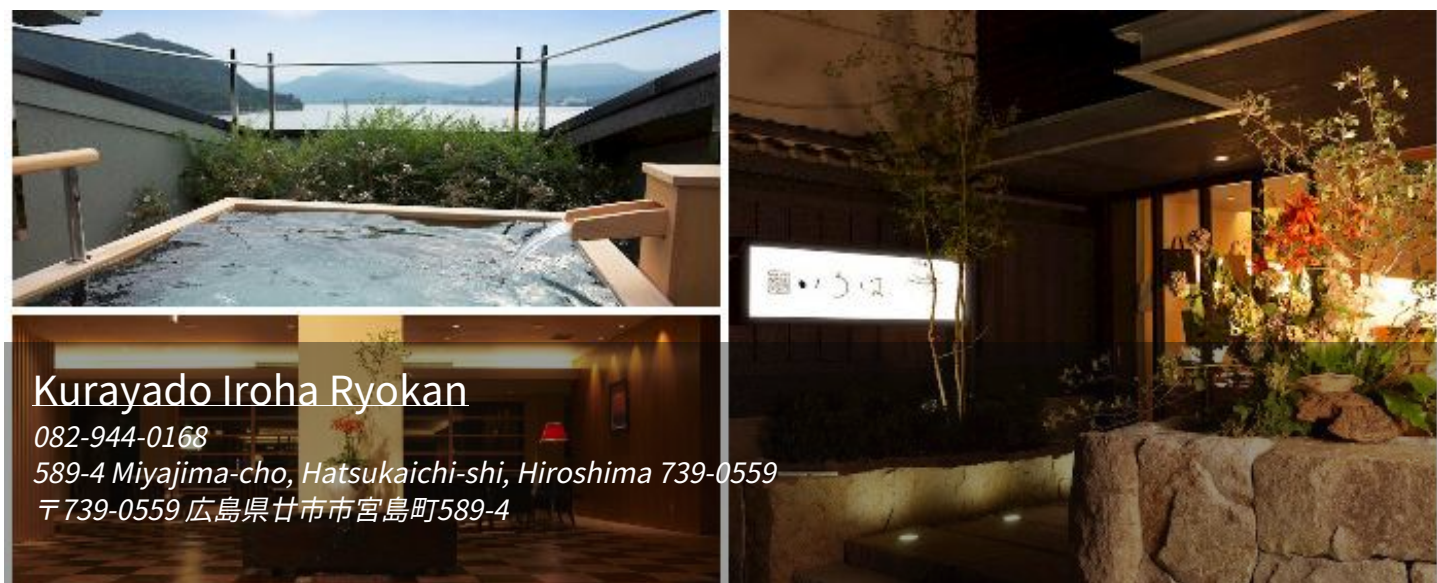
Begin by visiting Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park and Museum. This is likely to be most moving part of your holiday to Japan. The spacious park is full of memorials dedicated to those who lost their lives on August the 6th 1945, as well as those who later succumbed to diseases, and is also home to the 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.

Shukkeien has a long history dating back to 1620, just after the completion of Hiroshima Castle. The garden displays many features of the traditional aesthetics of Japanese gardens. Around the garden's main pond there are a number of tea houses which offer visitors ideal views of the surrounding scenery.

At the end of your tour you will be transferred to your accommodation on Miyajima Island. This will involve a ferry crossing.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



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. 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. You will be sure to find tranquillity and peace in our Sea-View Room.

- Breakfast and dinner included

Day 7



Day at leisure on Miyajima

Today spend some time exploring the sacred island of Miyajima, which is lovely to visit at any season. See 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 8

Transfer · Private car to airport

Departure Location

Kuroyado Iroha

Arrival Location

Hiroshima Airport

Notes

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

Hiroshima to Okinawa, Naha

HIJ •

OKA •

Notes

- Fly to Naha, Okinawa.



Your guide and driver will meet you at the airport.

Start with the Okinawa Prefectural Museum to learn all about the island's long and fascinating history. Afterwards, head to Kokusai Dori to explore the various souvenir shops and restaurants. Here you can try traditional Okinawan food or have some modern American cuisine - the American presence has had a tangible effect on the food culture.

At the end of your tour you will be transferred to your hotel, which will take around 1 hour.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



The Ritz-Carlton Okinawa

0980-43-5555

1343-1, Kise, Nago, Okinawa 905-0026, Japan

1343-1, 喜瀬 名護市 沖縄県 905-0026

3:00 PM

Check In

12:00 PM

Check Out

3 Nights

Blending the warmth of the local culture with the breath-taking beauty of the surrounding hills and sea, The Ritz-Carlton, Okinawa is a resort where luxury is expressed through a caring spirit and thoughtful amenities. Moments from Japan's Kise Beach and set amid the championship golf course at Kanehide Kise Country Club, resort guests will discover a true escape.

Discover a world of flavour at the three diverse on-site restaurants, enjoy a midday snack with afternoon tea in the lobby lounge, have a splash in the pool, and relax at the luxury spa.

Room Selection

Room Category

Premier Deluxe Room

Room Description

Absorb panoramic vistas of the sea and resort from the floor-to-ceiling windows. This 58sqm premier room features a full marble bathroom with double sink, bidet and rainforest shower head, a 42-inch flat screen, Geneva Sound System and iPod loaded with apps and music, a Nespresso Espresso Machine, and luxury Asprey bath amenities.

- Breakfast included

Day 9



Spend the day relaxing. You might like to spend the day at your resort, or instead head to a beach. The front desk will be able to arrange a taxi to take you anywhere you want to go.

Day 10



Your guide will meet you after breakfast and you'll set off first of all for the Hiji Falls, roughly an hour from the hotel. The waterfall can be accessed in an attractive and easy hike (approx 40 mins) along a nature trail through the forest. Because of the area's small population there has been much less human encroachment on the habitat of the area's wildlife than elsewhere on Okinawa main island and accordingly, a much larger diversity of wildlife can be found in the area. Visitors will have the chance to see a number of animals unique to the area, such as particular species of bird, turtle, snake and lizard.

From there you'll head on to visit the Nago Pineapple park, where you can learn about one of Okinawa's main exports before visiting the Nakijin Castle Ruins. Originally built in the late 1200s, the castle ruins are located lush forests, that bestow them with a unique atmosphere.

Head on to end the day at the Churaumi Aquarium, widely considered Japan's best and where the highlight is the massive Kuroshio Tank, one of the largest in the world and which contains a wide variety of species, the most striking of which are the giant whale sharks and manta rays.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car

Day 11

Transfer · Private car to airport

Departure Location
Ritz-Carlton Okinawa

Arrival Location
Naha Airport

Notes

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

Okinawa, Naha to Kumamoto

OKA •

KMJ •

Notes

- Fly to Kumamoto.

Airport meeting

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

Transfer · Private car to ryokan

Departure Location
Kumamoto Airport

Arrival Location
Takefue Ryokan

Notes

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



Takefue Ryokan

0570-064-559
5725-1 Manganji Minamiogunicho Asogun Kumamoto 869-2402
〒869-2402熊本県阿蘇郡南国町字満願寺5725-1

3:30 PM

Check In

10:30 AM

Check Out

3 Nights

Takefue, an idyllic rural retreat, maintains a refined rustic style, the farm-type buildings all black beams and straw-and-plaster stucco. Interiors are likewise rustic, but with modern amenities and huge windows giving access to the lovely surrounding forest. The onsen hot springs are generated by the same geological processes that keep nearby Mt. Aso rumbling. There are numerous ryokan in the neighbourhood, but the bamboo forest effectively muffles all sounds from outside the grounds, preserving the feeling of deep-forest privacy.

Most of the rooms boast their own private rotemburo outdoor baths - some of which are huge. There is also an enormous public rotemburo, which can be reserved for private bathing.

The cuisine is kaiseki haute cuisine, incorporating inaka ryori, or country fare, and taking full advantage of the delicate and delicious mountain vegetables of the area.

Takefue's location, nestled in a large bamboo grove, gives it a unique otherworldly air; this and its exquisite food, beautiful outdoor baths, rustic authenticity and premium service make this an outstanding ryokan.

Room Selection

Room Category

Omachian Room

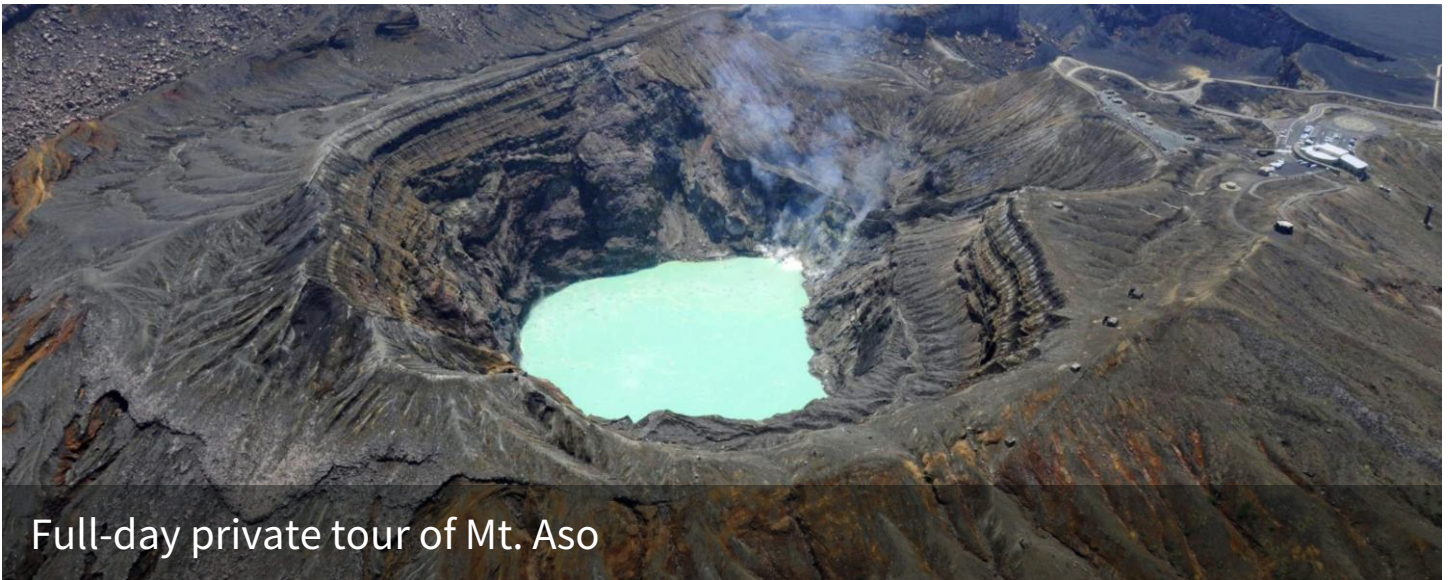
Room Description

A lovely Japanese style room, Omachian has a vast 5 metre outdoor hot spring bath made of cypress as well as an outdoor foot-bath and separate indoor cypress bath.

The room has two separate Japanese style spaces for living and sleeping and a separate dressing room.

- Breakfast and dinner included

Day 12

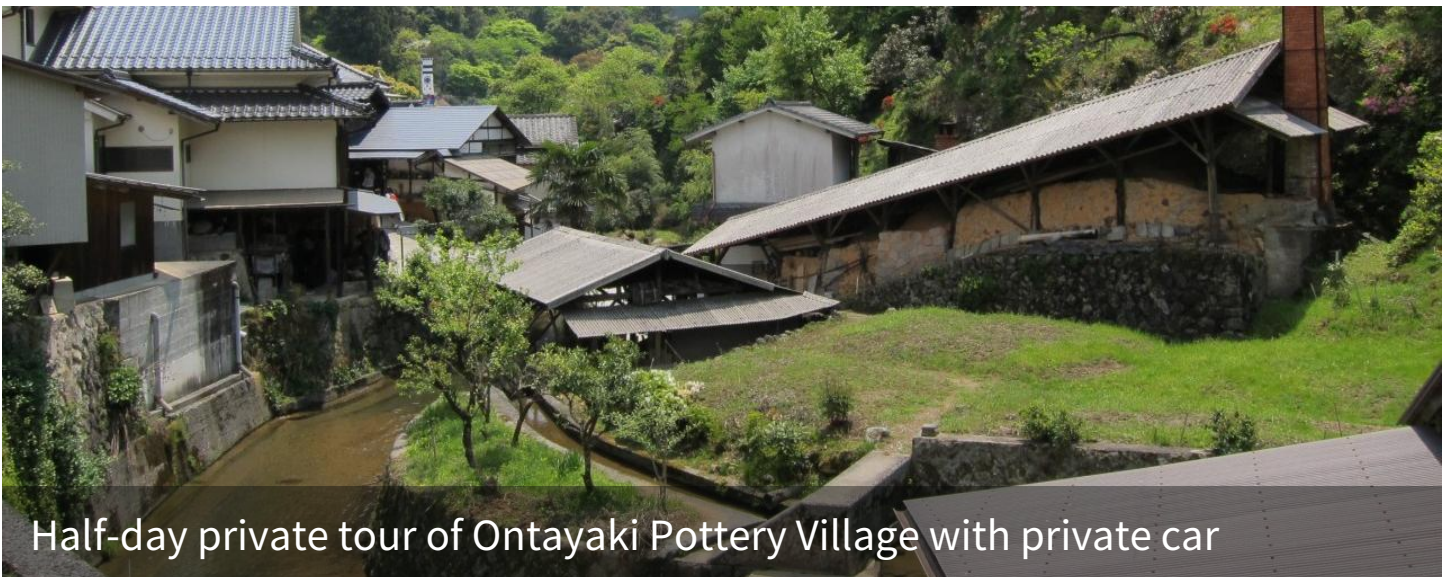


Full-day private tour of Mt. Aso

Spend your day visiting Mt. Aso, the volcano with which Kumamoto is synonymous. Mt. Aso is an active volcano in the centre of Kyushu which most recently erupted in 2016 but has since calmed down again. Aso's ancient caldera ranks among the world's largest, with a diameter of up to 25 kilometres and a circumference of over 100 kilometres. In the centre of the caldera stand the mountain's active volcanic peaks, including Mount Nakadake, whose spectacular crater is accessible to tourists.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car

Day 13



Half-day private tour of Ontayaki Pottery Village with private car

This morning your guide will take you to Ontayaki Pottery Village. The mountain village of Onta was established by visiting potters and is famous for its ontayaki pottery, which is characterized by geometric patterns. Workshops are built side-by-side in this, crammed into the small amount of space available. The Onta district has ten pottery studios and only ten! In order to preserve their traditional production methods, the number of studios is restricted. At each pottery studio, the production techniques for their pottery are passed down from parent to child from generation to generation.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



Afternoon at leisure at Takefue

Enjoy your luxurious surroundings and relax in your ryokan's hot springs.

Day 14

Transfer · Private car to Fukuoka

Departure Location

Takefue Ryokan

Arrival Location

Fukuoka

Notes

- You will be transferred to the final stop on your tour by private car.



Afternoon at leisure in Fukuoka

Spend the rest of the day exploring Fukuoka independently at leisure. First, take a stroll around Hakata station area. Here you will find many different shops and department stores, both in high-rise buildings above the station and in underground shopping streets below it.

When it starts getting darker, take a stroll along the river and through the streets to see the famous Yatai stalls - small stalls selling all kinds of street food! Some of these stalls have just six seats, and you will see long lines of hungry Yatai lovers outside the most popular ones!

- Unguided



Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk

092-844-8111

2-2-3 Jigyohama, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka-shi, Japan 810-8650

810-8650 福岡市中央区地浜2-2-3

4:00 PM

Check In

11:00 AM

Check Out

1 Night

Enjoying splendid views overlooking Hakata Bay and the City of Fukuoka, the first class Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk hotel is on a prime oceanfront location, adjacent to Fukuoka Yahoo! JAPAN Dome. This high-rise hotel is within easy access to the airport and the city centre. All of the rooms at the Seahawk Hotel are tastefully decorated in Western and traditional Japanese-inspired styles and feature a long list of amenities including luxurious beds, LCD TVs and high-speed internet access. Swim in the pools, work out in the Fitness Centre or relax in the Japanese stone hot tub.

Room Selection

Room Category

Panoramic Suite

Room Description

Stylish Suite Room located at the tip of the hotel with an incredible ocean view. This room features one king bed and a sofa. Relax on the sofa in the separate living room and watch a movie on the plasma TV. Work at the desk using WiFi. This suite also includes access to the Executive Lounge, serving a complimentary breakfast.

- Breakfast included

Day 15

Transfer · Private car to airport

Departure Location

Takefue Ryokan

Arrival Location

Fukuoka Airport

Notes

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