

Tour Sample 11

22 Nights, Japan from North to South



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Quote Details

- Route to include:

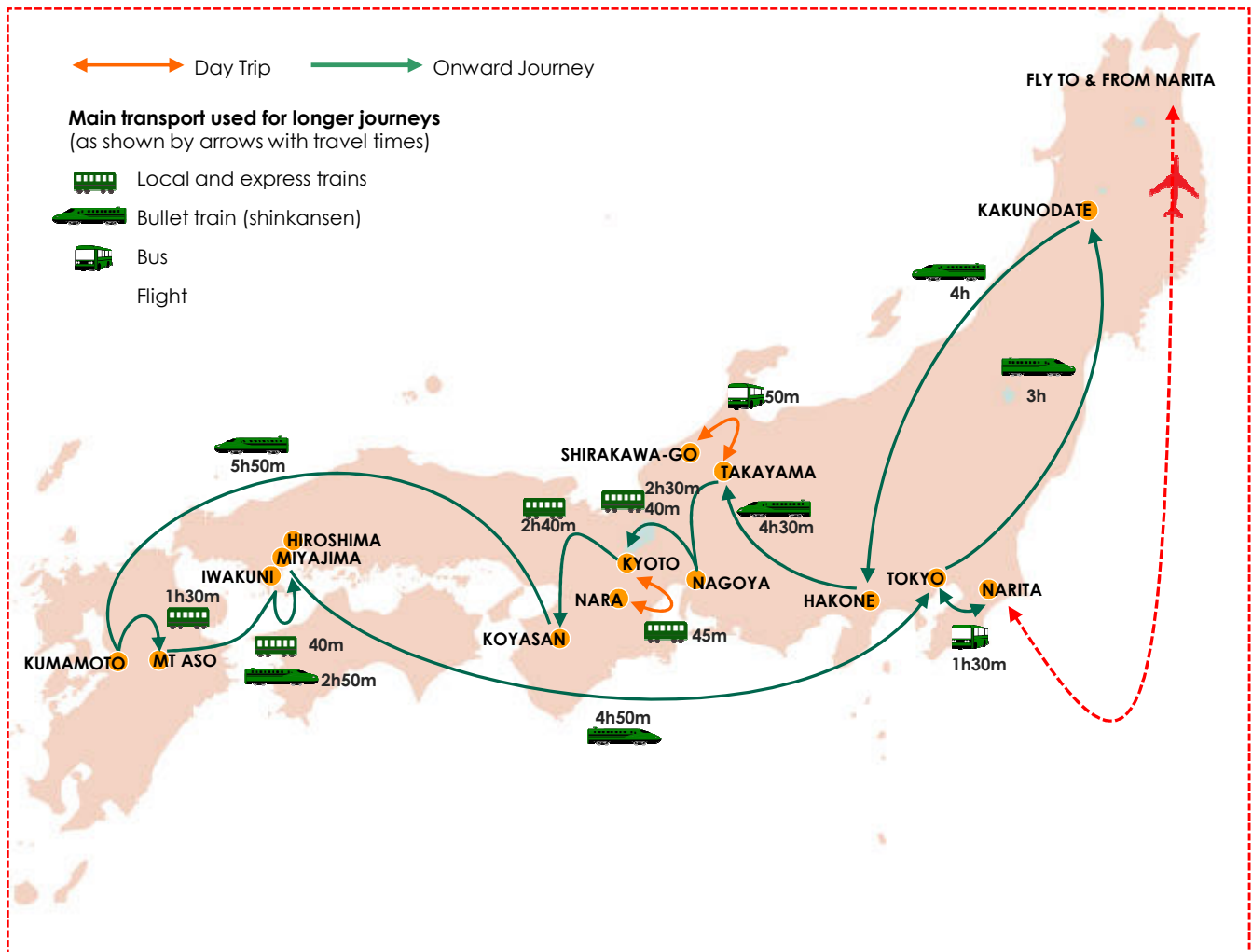
Tokyo, Kakunodate, Hakone, Takayama, Shirakawa-go, Kyoto, Nara, Koyasan, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Mount Aso.

- Accommodation: 22 nights (hotel 15 nights, ryokan 7 nights)

In a Nutshell:

You'll be heading off for a 22 night tour taking in the very best of what Japan has to offer. You'll be seeing some of Japan's finest temples and gardens, Samurai houses, and a Sumo match, as well as meeting a well-known photographer and a geisha.

You will be able to explore Japan's ancient capital and experience temple life as well as have the opportunity to spend some time relaxing in traditional ryokans with hot spring baths.





Tour Itinerary Page 1

Day	Suggested Schedule	Special Arrangements	Transport	Accommodation	Meals
Day 1 6th July Sun	Arrival Your flight arrives at Narita International Airport. After clearing immigration, you'll be meet and escorted to the Limousine Bus which will take you 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 limousine bus Orientation	Limousine Bus	Park Hotel TOKYO Double Room (22sqm)	-
Day 2 7th July Mon	Tokyo Your guide will meet you after breakfast and take you first to visit the Meiji-jingū, Tokyo's most important shrine, where we highly recommend the Inner Gardens. From there you will be taken for a stroll through the trendy nearby districts of Harajuku, Omotesando, and Shibuya, which make an interesting contrast to the traditional shrine, and allow you to really get a taste of modern Tokyo. From there you will be taken on to see the Ginza, Tokyo's most famous upmarket shopping district before ending the day at the Imperial Palace Gardens.	Full day private tour	Local transport	Park Hotel TOKYO Double Room (22sqm)	B
Day 3 8th July 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. After lunch, stroll to nearby Hamarikyu 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	Park Hotel TOKYO Double Room (22sqm)	B & L
Day 4 9th July Wed	Tokyo to Kakunodate This morning you will take the bullet train from Tokyo Station. Once you have checked into your ryokan, which has a beautiful lakeside setting, you are free to explore the area.	-	Local transport, Bullet train	Katakuri no Hana KAKUNODATE Japanese Style Room	B & D
Day 5 10th July Thu	Kakunodate There is a short journey from your hotel to the heart of Kakunodate. The town is known for its beautifully preserved Samurai and Merchant districts which are a joy to explore.	-	Local transport	Katakuri no Hana KAKUNODATE Japanese Style Room	B & D
Day 6 11th July Fri	Kakunodate to Hakone This morning you will take the Bullet train from Kakunodate as far as Odawara, the gateway to Hakone National Park, 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. After checking into 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 7 12th July Sat	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.	Hakone Free Pass	Local transport	Yoshiike Ryokan HAKONE Japanese Style Room with bath	B & D
Day 8 13th July Sun	Hakone - Takayama This morning make your way back to Odawara station and then take the bullet train to Nagoya where you will change again for the express train which will take you to Takayama. Start the afternoon at Takayama Jinya, before visiting the Sanmachi 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.	Hakone Free Pass	Local transport, Bullet train and express train	Hotel Associa Takayama Resort TAKAYAMA Twin Room (35sqm)	B
Day 9 14th July Mon	Takayama – Shirakawa-go – Takayama Take a day trip to visit the beautifully preserved area of Shirakawa-gō, famous for steeply thatched gasshō-zukuri houses. The largest village in the area is Ogimachi, which has a good look-out over the town. Many of the houses are open to the public as museums.	-	Local transport	Hotel Associa Takayama Resort TAKAYAMA Twin Room (35sqm)	B

Tour Itinerary Page 2

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Day 10 15th July Tue	<p>Takayama – Nagoya – Kyoto Today you will head on to Kyoto, with a stop in Nagoya to see a Sumo match. The match starts in the late afternoon, around 4pm. We suggest you get to Nagoya between 3pm and 4 pm. You can have a leisurely morning, and take the express train after lunch. There are luggage lockers available at large train stations, which you may find convenient today.</p> <p>You will have a guide with you during the Sumo match as they will be able to explain the procedure and help you get the most out of the experience.</p> <p>After the Sumo match, head on to Kyoto, where you will check into your hotel, which is in a prime location in the city centre.</p>	<p>Sumo Match Tickets</p> <p>Half-day private tour</p>	Local transport, Bullet train and express train	Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto KYOTO Double Room (32sqm)	B
Day 11 16th July Wed	<p>Kyoto After breakfast, you will meet your guide and go to Gion, where you should be able to catch sight of some of Kyoto's apprentice geisha on their way to lessons. From there, you will be taken on to Nijo Castle, the former home of the Shogun and famed for its lovely gardens and 'nightingale' floors. Later, you will 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 of time to see things at a leisurely pace and get some souvenirs on the way.</p> <p>The festivities for the Gion Matsuri are not restricted to one day. A whole month of preparation is involved and so the night before the big parade, people relax and start the party!</p>	Full day private tour	Local transport	Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto KYOTO Double Room (32sqm)	B
Day 12 17th July Thu	<p>Kyoto Today is the main festival day for the Gion Matsuri, one of Japan's most famous festivals. Many of the streets in the city centre will be pedestrianized, stalls selling food and games will be set up and you will see the procession of elaborate floats.</p> <p>If you feel the need to get away from the crowds head to the Golden Pavilion which has a lovely strolling garden, and then to Ryōan-ji for Japan's most famous Zen garden.</p>	-	Local transport	Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto KYOTO Double Room (32sqm)	B
Day 13 18th July Fri	<p>Kyoto This morning you will be picked up by a taxi from your hotel and taken to the teahouse where you will be able to experience a tea ceremony and learn how to wear a kimono.</p> <p>This afternoon, visit Nijo castle, the former home of the Shogun and known for its 'Nightingale Floor'.</p> <p>Peter MacIntosh's Gion walk starts at 7.30pm and this will be followed by a light meal and drinks which in turn will be followed by an hour in the company of a geisha.</p>	<p>Tea Ceremony with Kimono dressing</p> <p>Peter MacIntosh's Walking Lecture and Light meal with a Geisha</p>	Local transport	Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto KYOTO Double Room (32sqm)	B
Day 14 19th July Sat	<p>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.</p>	-	Local transport	Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto KYOTO Double Room (32sqm)	B
Day 15 20th July Sun	<p>Kyoto Day at leisure</p> <p>We suggest you explore the Arashiyama area in the west of Kyoto. It is most famous for its bamboo groves .</p>	-	Local transport	Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto KYOTO Double Room (32sqm)	B

Tour Itinerary Page 3

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Day 16 21st July Mon	<p>Kyoto – Koyasan Head off to the depths of the mountains for the World Heritage protected temples at Mount Kōya. You will have a half-day guided tour of the area. 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 if you have time.</p> <p>You'll spend the night 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, and by joining the monks at early morning prayers.</p>	Half-day private tour	Express train, local transport	Ichijoin KOYASAN Japanese Style Room with bath	B & D
Day 17 22nd July Tue	<p>Koyasan – Kumamoto – Mount Aso After morning prayers you will start your journey to Kyushu. Today is a long day of travel by train so just sit back and enjoy the views especially as you make your way down from Koyasan and once you reach Kyushu.</p> <p>This afternoon you will have the opportunity to stop in Kumamoto City on Kyushu. We recommend spending time at the castle. The castle is a reconstruction of the original, but it is of high quality and offers a complete castle experience.</p> <p>Later on, get back on the train for the final leg of your journey to Mount Aso. You should arrive at your ryokan in time for dinner.</p>	-	Local transport, Bullet train	Grandvrio Hotel Aso Resort MOUNT ASO Twin Room	B & D
Day 18 23rd July Wed	<p>Mount Aso From your accommodation – within Aso's impressive caldera – head off to the active part of the mountain. You can ascend by either cable car, bus, or on foot, and 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. The short helicopter trips offered give incredible views when the weather is good.</p>	-	Local transport	Grandvrio Hotel Aso Resort MOUNT ASO Twin Room	B & D
Day 19 24th July Thu	<p>Mount Aso – Iwakuni – Miyajima We suggest an early morning start today. You will make your way to Miyajima stopping off at the town of Iwakuni along the way to break your journey.</p> <p>Iwakuni is famous for its unique <i>Kintai-kyo</i> bridge. We suggest your hire a taxi by the hour in Iwakuni for easy transport and storage of your luggage for the duration of your visit. A couple of hours should be enough to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy the area.</p> <p>Take one last train to Miyajimaguchi, from where you will catch a ferry to the island of Miyajima and check in to your ryokan.</p>	-	Local transport, express train, Bullet train	Watanabe Inn MIYAJIMA Momiji	B & D
Day 20 25th July Fri	<p>Miyajima After breakfast, set out to explore Miyajima. 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. 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!</p>	Full day private tour	Local transport	Watanabe Inn MIYAJIMA Momiji	B & D

Tour Itinerary Page 4

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Day 21 26th July Sat	Miyajima – Hiroshima – Tokyo Take the ferry back to the mainland and spend some time in Hiroshima. The city is most famous for the events of August 6th, 1945, and today you'll have the chance to pay your respects and learn about the city's history at the moving Peace Park and Peace Memorial Museum before taking the bullet train to Tokyo.	-	Local transport, bullet train	Park Hotel TOKYO Double Room (22sqm)	B
Day 22 27th July Sun	Tokyo Day at leisure You could spend the afternoon at the lush and quiet of Shinjuku Gyoen Gardens before venturing into the bustling Shinjuku Station area. Famous for shopping and nightlife, as well as unparalleled people watching.	-	Local transport	Park Hotel TOKYO Double Room (22sqm)	B
Day 23 28th July Mon	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.	Hotel to Airport by limousine bus	Limousine Bus	-	B

