



NEW! Sample Itinerary: 14-Night Tokyo, Mie & Kyoto

## NEW! Sample Itinerary: 14-Night Tokyo, Mie & Kyoto

Day 1	Airport meeting Transfer · Private car to hotel Orientation The Prince Gallery Tokyo Kioicho (5 Nights)
Day 2	Full-day private tour of Tokyo with local transport Evening at leisure in Tokyo
Day 3	Half-day private tour of Tokyo with local transport Afternoon at leisure in Tokyo
Day 4	Activity: Ninja & Samurai Dual Experience Afternoon at leisure in Tokyo
Day 5	Overnight luggage transfer: Tokyo - Ise Day at leisure in Tokyo Specialist Tour: Ramen Tour with Local Expert
Day 6	Transfer · Private car to station Rail · Ticket: Tokyo Station to Ise-Shi Station Afternoon at leisure in Ise Shioji-tei (2 Nights)
Day 7	Full-day private tour of Ise with private car Activity: Ama Diver Seafood Experience
Day 8	Transfer · Private car to Owase Day at leisure on the Kumano Kodo Trail Resort Kumano Club (2 Nights)
Day 9	Day at leisure in Kumano
Day 10	Overnight luggage transfer: Kumano - Kyoto Rail · Ticket: Kumano-Shi Station to Kyoto Station Half-day private tour of Kyoto with local transport Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto (5 Nights)
Day 11	Full-day private tour of Kyoto with private car
Day 12	Activity: Tea ceremony with kimono session and traditional lunch Afternoon at leisure in Kyoto
Day 13	Day at leisure in Nara
Day 14	Day at leisure in Kyoto
Day 15	Transfer · Private car to airport

# YOUR JAPAN TRIP

## Accommodation

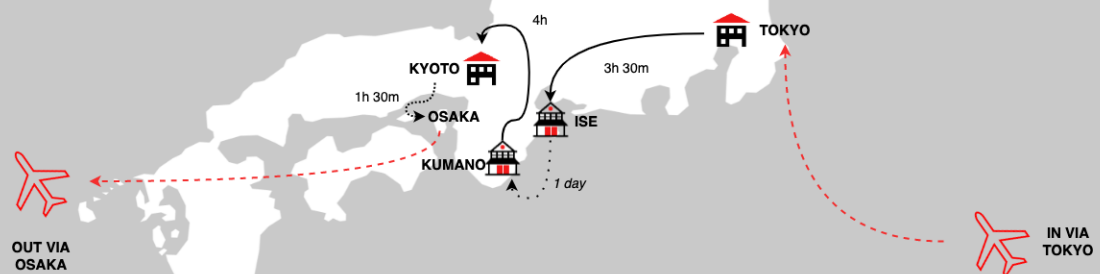


Hotel

Ryokan

## Transport (main mode)

—— Train  
..... Private car



## 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

Airport

Arrival Location

Prince Gallery Hotel

### Notes

You will be transferred to your hotel in Tokyo 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!



### The Prince Gallery Tokyo Kioicho

03 3234 1111

〒102-8585 東京都千代区紀尾井町1-2  
1-2, Kioicho, Chiyoda, Tokyo, 102-0094

**3:00 PM**

Check In

**12:00 PM**

Check Out

**5 Nights**

Kioicho is a town embraced in luscious greenery and a rich history, where Japanese traditions and Western culture intertwine. It's here, in Tokyo's most dignified neighbourhood, that The Prince Gallery Tokyo Kioicho welcomes guests. It is a hotel that marries lush nature and artistic designs with cutting-edge functions in a sophisticated manner, accompanied by the top floor views as magnificent as paintings. The Prince Gallery Tokyo Kioicho offers a personalised environment like never before, delivering comfort that's customised to the needs of each guest in an exquisite atmosphere via the latest and seamless services.



## Room Selection

### Room Category

Club Deluxe King

### Room Description

42 sqm. Ample natural light from oversized windows and a refined palette of gold, orange, umber, and cream underscore the space's sleek but inviting ambience. Crowned by a cream leather headboard, the plump bed invites you to take in a favourite program on the 55-inch 4K-resolution television. King Club Rooms boast a generous cushioned window seat, with glass side table, overlooking the city. A contemporary wood writing desk and chair provide an ideal space for work or study. Separated by glass doors and encased in grey marble, the bathroom extends the space's open atmosphere. A glass-enclosed wet room features a deep soaking bathtub as well as a rainforest shower with handheld wand and bench. Plush robes and signature Luxury Collection bath amenities elevate the experience. Guests of our Club Rooms enjoy access to our Club Lounge.

- Breakfast included

## Day 2



### Full-day private tour of Tokyo with local transport

Spend the day exploring some of Tokyo's highlights with your guide.

Start your day at the Hamarikyu Garden. Located right by Tokyo Bay, it features tidal seawater ponds, as well as a tea house on an island, where visitors can take a rest and enjoy the scenery. The traditionally styled garden stands in stark contrast to the skyscrapers of the next door Shiodome district. From there you can take a boat along the Sumida River to Asakusa to see Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest and most famous Buddhist temple.

From Asakusa head to Kappabashi, Tokyo's restaurant-supply district, a wonderful area for souvenir shopping for all things cooking-related. Convincingly realistic plastic replicas of Japanese foods, the likes of which you may have seen displayed in restaurant windows, can also be found here.

- Guided
- Transport: Local transport



## Evening at leisure in Tokyo

If you are still feeling energetic this evening, we suggest a visit to Tokyo Skytree, one of the tallest structures in the world. From the top you can enjoy stunning views of the metropolis below as the day turns into night.

- Unguided

## Day 3



## Half-day private tour of Tokyo with local transport

Spend this morning exploring Tokyo with your guide.

Start your day at Meiji Jingu, Tokyo's most important shrine, situated in a large, forest-area in amongst the bustling city. From here you'll venture over to the trendy nearby districts of Harajuku and Omotesando: the former is the centre of Japanese teen culture, bursting with life, and the latter boasts more buildings by great modern architects than anywhere else.

- Guided
- Transport: Local transport





## Afternoon at leisure in Tokyo

Spend the afternoon at leisure.

Perhaps explore Shibuya, one of Tokyo's busiest, most colourful districts, and home to the famous 'Shibuya Crossing.' The area has many great arcades where you can try Japanese-style games and make some memories in the amazing 'purikura' photo booths.

Famous for shopping and nightlife as well as unparalleled people watching, Shinjuku Station is the busiest station in the world and is surrounded by department stores, restaurants, and izakaya. You could then end the day trying out one of the most famous Japanese pastimes, karaoke. There is no shortage of karaoke venues in the city, and it's easy to simply walk in and request a private room to sing the night away!

- Unguided

## Day 4



## Activity: Ninja & Samurai Dual Experience

Today you will enjoy a workshop in Ninjutsu with members of a genuine ninja clan who can trace their roots back to 1583. During the session you will learn about some of the history of Ninjas and also the spiritual side of Ninja, including meditation and ancestor veneration. You will also have the chance to study and handle a variety of distinctive Ninja weapons, and practice Ninja techniques such as stealthy steps.



Then, change into your Hakama outfit for the Samurai session, in which you will have a sword experience, and learn about the concept of the 'inner eye.'

- Unguided
- Duration: Approx. 2 hrs



Afternoon at leisure in Tokyo

Spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Begin by enjoying a stroll around the Imperial Palace Gardens. The East Gardens - the only part of the palace generally open to the public - is both large and varied. As it is famous for cherry blossoms, azalea, irises and pine, it is lovely at any season.

Then head to the next door Ginza area, renowned for its upmarket shopping and dining, as well as for being an entertainment district. Here you'll find numerous department stores, boutiques, art galleries, restaurants, night clubs and cafes. There are many notable stores in the area. For department stores, we recommend Matsuya, which also houses an exhibition floor; or Mitsukoshi, whose history dates back to 1673. Tokyu Plaza Ginza offers tourists tax-free shopping, and also boasts an open-air roof top, which offers great views over the city.

As the day turns into evening, head to nearby Akihabara, also known as Akiba, a district that is famous for its many electronics shops. In more recent years, Akihabara has gained recognition as the centre of Japan's otaku (diehard fan) culture, and many shops and establishments devoted to anime and manga are now dispersed among the electronic stores in the district. In the evening the area is buzzing with people and many of the stores are open well into the later hours. Here is a great place to grab some food as there are plenty of options to choose from!

- Unguided

## Day 5

### Overnight luggage transfer: Tokyo - Ise

Because luggage space on trains is very limited and to allow you to travel comfortably, your luggage will be sent ahead from Tokyo to Ise overnight. We suggest packing small overnight bags as you will be without the bulk of your luggage for your final evening in Tokyo.





## Day at leisure in Tokyo

Spend the day at leisure, exploring at your own pace. We suggest you start the day in Ueno Park, best known for its popularity as a cherry viewing spot, and in a way the cultural heart of Tokyo nowhere else can rival the sheer number of museums.

Ueno's gems are the Tokyo National Museum, the National Science Museum, the National Museum of Western Art, the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, and the tiny but fascinating Shitamachi Museum.

This afternoon we suggest visiting Yanesen. North of

Ueno, Nezu and Yanaka are two of Tokyo's most charmingly old-fashioned neighbourhoods and a world away from the usual hustle and bustle of the city. Along with neighbouring Sendagi they form an area referred to as Yanesen where you can experience a slower and more relaxed side of Tokyo. Strewn with small temples, craft shops, galleries and cafes, it's a great area to wander and make your own discoveries. Highlights include the historic and tranquil shrine Nezu-jinja, picturesque and historic Yanaka Cemetery, and the old-style shopping street of Yanaka Ginza.

- Unguided



## Specialist Tour: Ramen Tour with Local Expert

This evening you will be taken on an exciting tasting tour of one of Japan's most famous dishes - ramen. The expert guide will enable you to sample different variations of this popular dish. Experience ramen like never before, leaving with a full stomach and a greater knowledge about Japan's favourite dish.

You'll visit various Tokyo neighbourhoods, visiting award-winning ramen shops in each. You'll be able to select ramen from several choices via fun, customisable menus and you'll sample a few completely different, mini bowls of delicious ramen during the tour.

- Accompanied by specialist
- \*Subject to availability of specialist\*

## Day 6

### Transfer · Private car to station

**Departure Location**  
Prince Gallery Hotel

**Arrival Location**  
Tokyo Station

#### Notes

- This morning you will be transferred to the station by private car ready to board your train towards Ise.

### Rail · Ticket: Tokyo Station to Ise-Shi Station

**Departure Location**  
Tokyo Station

**Arrival Location**  
Ise-Shi Station

**Train Type**  
Japan Rail Shinkansen &  
Local Line Train

#### Notes

- Green (First) Class tickets.
- Take the bullet train to Nagoya Station, where you will need to change to a local line train bound for Ise.



On arrival in Ise, we suggest heading out to explore at leisure.

The Shima Peninsula is home to Japan's most sacred Shinto shrines, the Ise Shrines. Begin at Oharaimachi, the traditional approach to the Inner Shrine of Ise. Nearly one kilometer long, it is lined by many traditional style buildings, housing shops and restaurants. Some of the businesses found here have been serving pilgrims and tourists for several centuries.

Finally approach the Inner Shrine, one of the two main shrines making up the Ise Shrines in Ise City. Formally known as Kotai Jingu, the Inner Shrine enshrines Shinto's most venerated deity, the Sun Goddess, and is considered Japan's most sacred shrine.



- Unguided



**Shioji-tei**

0599 26 5477

〒517-0011 三重県市1-23-1  
1-23-1 Toba, Mie 517-0011

**2:00 PM**

Check In

**11:00 AM**

Check Out

**2 Nights**

This stunning hot spring hotel is located right by the ocean with views of the glistening water. Traditional Japanese architecture and design meet modern luxuries and comforts to form the perfect combination, creating a truly relaxing atmosphere.

Rooms are well-appointed, with books about the Ise Grand Shrine in each - a way to connect with the history of this culturally rich area. Ise Cut Paper and Ise Cotton products such as yukata can also be found in the rooms. Find luxury Mikimoto bath amenities that contain minerals and collagen that can only be derived from specific pearls in this area.

Dine on a bounty of the freshest local ingredients, and find yourself on a journey of taste across the region.

Enjoy a relaxing outdoor bath in the Therapy onsen bath for relief of a number of ailments, or the Pearl Aurora sento bath, which contains an enriching balance of pearl conchiolin, pure pearl minerals and pearl collagen - created in collaboration with Mikimoto.

Relax in the beautiful library where you can learn more about this fascinating area, and enjoy the traditional Cut Paper art adorning the walls around the property. Spend time on the outdoor terrace right next to the ocean for a moment of quiet reflection. There is also a shop on-site where you can find local crafts and sweets.

## Room Selection

### Room Category

Premium Suite

### Room Description

84 sqm. This stunning suite features twin beds, living room, a private open-air sento bath, terrace, luxury Mikimoto bath amenities, Ise Paper Cut yukata, and a wide array of other amenities for a luxurious stay.

- Breakfast and dinner included



The region surrounding Ise is famous not only for the imperial Ise-Jingu, but also for a fascinating tradition of free-diving, which is said to go back as far as two millennia. Ama, as the tradition is called, is a practice almost exclusively performed by women (originally only clad in loin-cloth), for their bodies covered more evenly with body-fat were thought to withstand the freezing currents of the Pacific ocean. Nevertheless Ama diving is an extremely hard work, in fact originally forced upon slaves, and therefore it is hardly surprising that the tradition is slowly disappearing. At present it is practiced only by a handful of communities with the average age of the divers around 72 years. Although Ama are now famous for pearl diving, originally they were diving for seas urchins, lobsters, shellfish, oysters and seaweed.

This morning you will visit an Ama hut where you can meet the divers and enjoy a seafood lunch prepared by them - a truly special experience. Afterwards, stop by the Toba Observation Deck for stunning views of the ocean.

This afternoon, head back towards Ise and stop off at Mikimoto Pearl Island. This fascinating museum explains the history of pearl cultivation - learn about Mikimoto Kokichi, the pioneer who first succeeded in cultivating pearls. It will also expand your understanding of the world of Ama divers and their pearl-catching. Then, continue on to the famous Meoto Iwa - the 'Wedded Rocks'. They are extremely sacred rocks that are connected by a Shimenawa Rope that is replaced ceremoniously three times per year.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



Today you will have the rare experience of having lunch prepared by Ama divers. The Ama are a group of professional female divers whose culture goes back some 2,000 years. You will visit the hut where the divers prepare for work and rest after their dive. During this hand on experience, you will be able to chat to the divers about their lifestyle while they prepare seafood which was freshly caught by them earlier in the day.

Enjoy a luxury seafood set including lobster, abalone, shellfish, dried fish, seaweed, soup, rice and pickles.

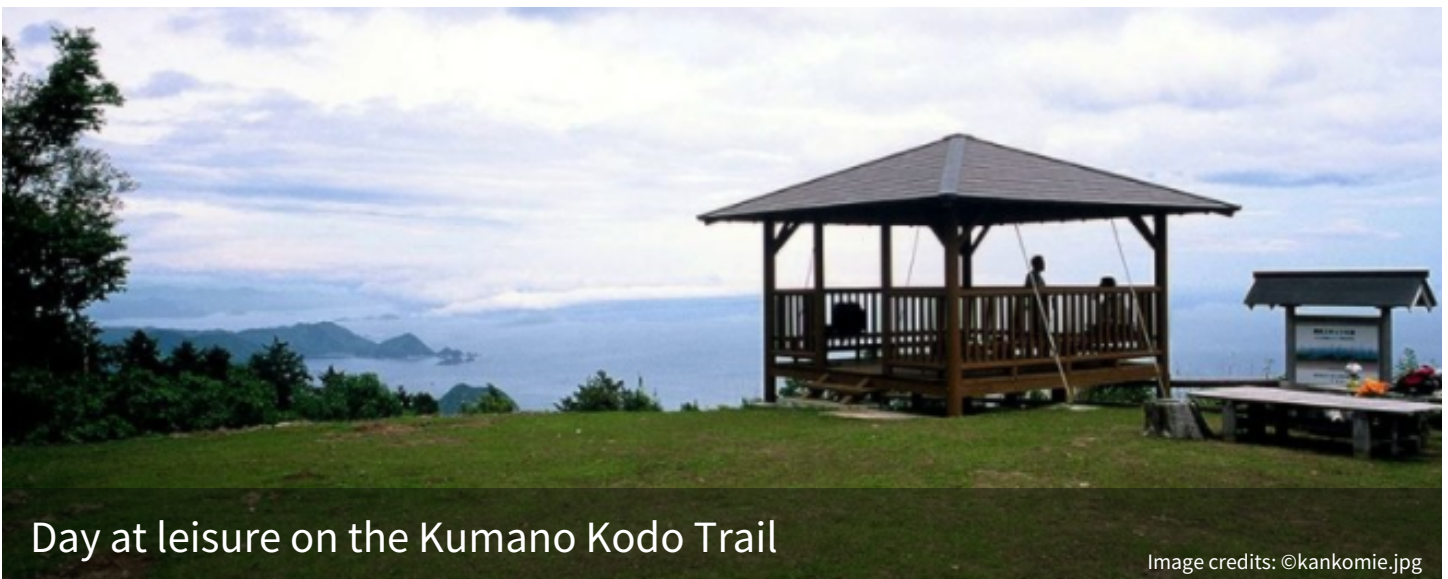
- Guided
- Duration: Approx. 1 hr 15 mins

## Day 8

### Transfer · Private car to Owase

#### Notes

- This morning leave Ise for Owase, from where you will hike a section of the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Route.



### Day at leisure on the Kumano Kodo Trail

Image credits: ©kankomie.jpg

This morning, you will be transferred to Owase by private car, from where you will start your hike of a section of the sacred Kumano Kodo trail.

Hike the 'Perilous Pass', so-called because pilgrims faced wolves and bandits here. The pass is quite steep so take your time on this hike! The hike is approximately 12km and will take around 4 hours 30 minutes. There is a lovely rest place called Sakura-no-mori (see image) where you can stop for some lunch and enjoy scenic views of the ocean below.

You will descend into Mikisato, from where you will need to take a 5-minutes train to Kata Station and a 20-minute train into Kumano City.

- Unguided





## Resort Kumano Club

0597 88 2045

〒519-4326 三重県熊野市久屋町1430  
1430 Kushiyacho, Kumano, Mie 519-4326, Japan

**11:00 AM**

Check In

**3:00 PM**

Check Out

**2 Nights**

This gorgeous ryokan features stunning, traditional Japanese and Western-Japanese rooms, as well as indoor and outdoor public baths and a stylish restaurant where you can dive into deliciously fresh cuisines, prepared with local, seasonal ingredients. There is also an on-site cafe and a shop, and afternoon tea and massages are also on offer!

### Room Selection

#### Room Category

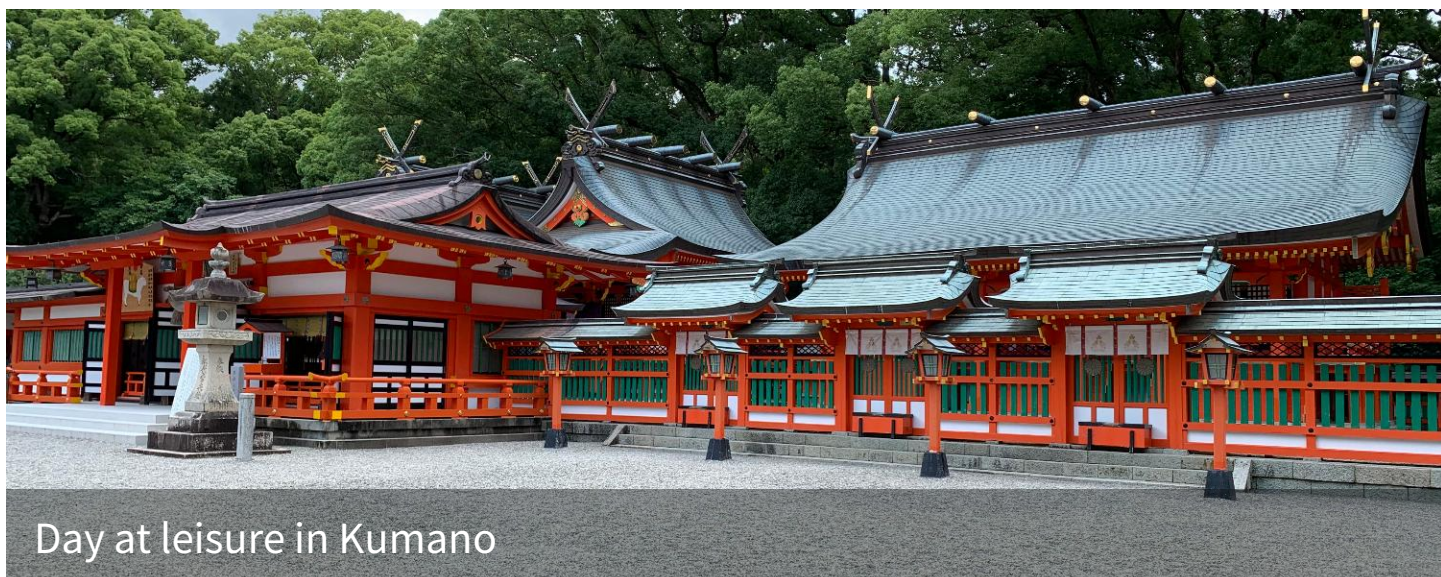
Western-Japanese Room with Open-Air Bath

#### Room Description

This stunning Western-Japanese room features twin beds, a lounge area, tatami area, balcony with countryside views and private open-air bath.

- Breakfast and dinner included

## Day 9



Day at leisure in Kumano

Today, spend the day exploring Kumano City at leisure.

This morning, we recommend heading out of the city to nearby Shingu, where you can visit the Hayatama Taisha, one of the three important shrines of the Kumano Kodo, along with Hongu Taisha and Nachi Taisha. Built in around the 12th century - or perhaps earlier - this shrine holds an important place in Japanese mythology. The treasure hall contains over a dozen Japanese national treasures (more than most major museums), including real offerings made by the original Pilgrims of the Kumano Kodo.

This afternoon, journey back to Kumano for a visit to the UNESCO Site of Onigajo, a scenic viewpoint with stunning cliffs over the sea. It is said in Japanese legend that this was once the domain of the demons, because the rock formations caused by water and wind erosion resemble frightening figures. Start at the Onigajo Centre where you can find restaurants and local souvenirs. You can then follow a narrow path along the rocks - aided by barriers and chains around the cliff - which takes you back into Kumano City and to the Benten Shrine, totalling around 1.2km.

- Unguided

## Day 10

### Overnight luggage transfer: Kumano - Kyoto

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

### Rail · Ticket: Kumano-Shi Station to Kyoto Station

Departure Location	Arrival Location	Train Type
Kumano-Shi Station	Kyoto Station	Limited Express Train & Japan Rail Shinkansen

#### Notes

- Make your way to Kumano-Shi Station this morning.
- You will need to change trains in Nagoya.





Accompanied by your guide, who will meet you on arrival, begin your afternoon 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. 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



**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 - Garden View

### Room Description

Showcasing floor-to-ceiling views of the Shakusuien Pond Garden, our Garden-View Rooms provide access to the breathtaking "four seasons" beauty of Kyoto throughout the whole year. Witness the changing colours of the trees, the vibrant summer flowers or the snow-kissed winter landscape from your sitting room, which features a sofa, coffee table and marble-topped desk.

Building off traditional minimalist Japanese design, the bedroom's relaxing interiors feature clean lines with little clutter. In the bathroom, a deep soaking tub sits below a window that looks out into the bedroom for natural light. Deluxe Garden-View Rooms make your stay in Kyoto effortless with convenient technological touches, including remote-controlled curtains, an iPad to access Hotel services, and a 140-centimetre (55-inch) flat-screen TV in the living area as well as an in-mirror TV in the bathroom.

- Breakfast included



## Day 11



### Full-day private tour of Kyoto with private car

With your guide, spend the day seeing some of the highlights of Kyoto.

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 12



### 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, UNESCO Site and former home of the 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 13



### 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. Spend the afternoon enjoying the particularly beautiful Isuien, a very pretty Japanese garden close to Todai-ji Temple which dates back to the mid 17th century.

- Unguided

## Day 14



### Day at leisure in Kyoto

Spend the day exploring independently at leisure.

We recommend enjoying a stroll along the Philosopher's Path which follows a tree-lined canal for two miles between two of Kyoto's most significant temples, Ginkaku-ji and Nanzen-ji Temple. There are many other lovely (and less frequented) temples and peaceful Zen gardens just off the path, ready for you to discover.

End the day with a visit to Fushimi Inari Shrine, most noted for its ‘tunnels’ of red torii gates leading up the hill behind the main shrine. This is a perfect place to stretch your legs and work up an appetite for Kyoto’s famous cuisine!

- Unguided

## Day 15

### Transfer · Private car to airport

**Departure Location**

Four Seasons Kyoto

**Arrival Location**

Kansai International Airport

**Notes**

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