



## 14 Days Itinerary

# Setouchi Itinerary

- Day 1**      Airport meeting  
Transfer · Private transfer to Tokyo hotel (90 minutes approx)  
The Peninsula Tokyo (3 Nights)  
Orientation
- Day 2**      Full day tour of Tokyo by private car including taiko drumming class
- Day 3**      Activity: Sushi-making lesson  
Activity: Ninja Experience  
Specialist Tour: Ramen Tour with Local Expert
- Day 4**      Overnight luggage transfer: Tokyo - Kyoto  
Transfer · Private transfer to Tokyo station  
Rail · Tickets: Bullet train to Odawara  
Transfer · Private transfer to Hakone ryokan  
Gen Hakone (1 Night)  
Hakone Freepasses  
Day at leisure in Hakone
- Day 5**      Transfer · Private transfer to Odawara Station  
Rail · Tickets: Bullet train to Kyoto  
Half-day Private Tour of Kyoto by private car  
Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto (3 Nights)
- Day 6**      Day at leisure in Kyoto including rickshaw ride  
Rickshaw tour of Arashiyama
- Day 7**      Kyoto backstreets Cycling Tour  
Afternoon at leisure in Kyoto

<b>Day 8</b>	Over-night luggage transfer: Kyoto - Kobe Transfer · Private transfer to Kyoto station Rail · Tickets: Bullet train to Hiroshima Half-day private tour of Hiroshima with private car Kurayado Iroha Ryokan
<b>Day 9</b>	Transfer · Private car to Hiroshima Station Rail · Tickets: Bullet train to Shin-Kobe Half-day private tour of Kobe with private car Kobe Takenaka carpentry tools Museum Hyogo Prefectural Art Museum Hotel La Suite Kobe Harborland (2 Nights)
<b>Day 10</b>	Full-day tour of Awaji shima with private car Awaji-shima Activity: Zen Meditation Experience Activity: Indigo Dying Experience
<b>Day 11</b>	Overnight luggage transfer: Kobe to Osaka Transfer · Private car to Kobe Airport Helicopter to Naoshima Transfer · Private car to Benesse House Lunch at Museum Restaurant Issen Half-day private tour of Naoshima with private car Chichu Art Museum Lee Ufan Museum Ando Museum Benesse House Hotel (2 Nights)
<b>Day 12</b>	Transfer · Private cruise to Teshima Half-day private tour of Teshima with private car TESHIMA Teshima Art Museum Teshima Yokoo House Transfer · Private cruise to Naoshima
<b>Day 13</b>	Transfer · Private cruise to Takamatsu Port Half-day private tour of Takamatsu with private car Takamatsu Rail · Ticket: Takamatsu Station to Shin-Osaka Station Four Seasons Hotel Osaka (1 Night)
<b>Day 14</b>	Transfer · Private transfer to KIX Airport
<b>Itinerary Notes</b>	What's Included

## Day 1

### Airport meeting

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

### Transfer · Private transfer to Tokyo hotel

90 minutes approx

Duration

Departure Location  
Narita Airport

Arrival Location  
Tokyo hotel



**3:00 PM**

Check In

**12:00 PM**

Check Out

**3 Nights**

Duration

The Peninsula Tokyo is located in the prestigious business district of Marunochi, opposite the Imperial Palace and Hibiya Park and within minutes' walk of the shopping capital of Ginza.

The hotel has 314 spacious guestrooms, including 47 suites. Guestrooms are among the largest in Tokyo and have stunning view of the city and all the rooms and suites blend traditional Peninsula standards of comfort and innovative technology with elements of Japanese heritage and culture

### Room Selection

#### Room Category

Deluxe King

#### Room Description

The spacious Deluxe Room is the most popular room category with guests. Styled with soft greys and earth tones it boasts a large dedicated seating area with a dining table, subtle recessed ceiling lights and contemporary floor and table lamps. Complimentary high speed internet access and a host of high-tech amenities make this room the perfect environment for work or leisure. The room also features a spacious self-contained dressing room with a unique vanity fabricated of linear bands of gold and blonde local wood.

Room Size: 54 sq m / 579 sq ft

Beds: 1 King or 2 Twin

Location: 8/F - 23/F

View: City

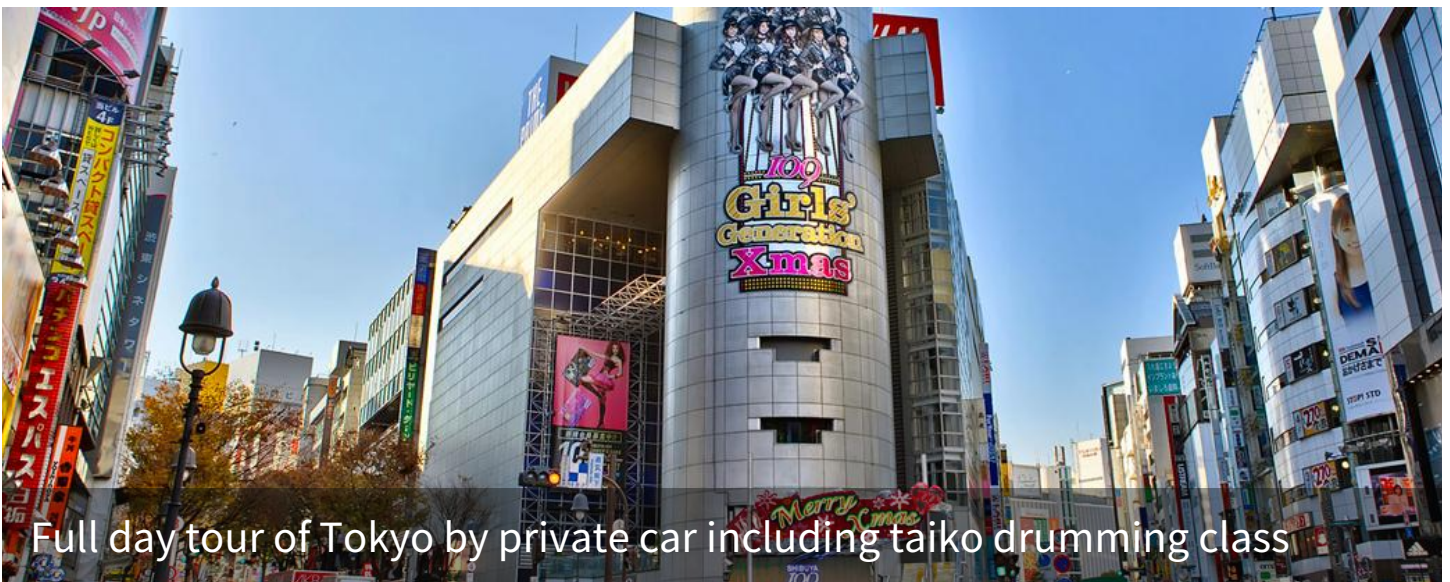


## Orientation

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 on your own 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!

## Day 2



## Full day tour of Tokyo by private car including taiko drumming class

You'll begin the day with an invigorating class in taiko drumming - guaranteed to shake out any lingering jetlag cobwebs!

From there you'll venture over to the trendy 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. Omotesando is often referred to as the Champs Elysees of Tokyo, with an abundance of luxury shopping. In Harajuku you can also enjoy sampling some of the areas great desserts.

You'll then explore Shibuya, one of Tokyo's busiest, most colourful districts, and home to the famous 'Shibuya Crossing.' The area has many great, typically Japanese game arcades which will give you a real taste of modern Tokyo!

This afternoon, you'll explore Shinjuku, one of Tokyo's largest shopping and entertainment districts. You'll ascend the Tokyo Government Metropolitan building which offers breathtaking views over this incredible city.

End the day in Tokyo's electronics district and geek culture centre, Akihabara. Stroll around soaking up the atmosphere, perhaps do some tech shopping, and try one of the quirky 'maid cafes'

- Guided
- Transport: private car

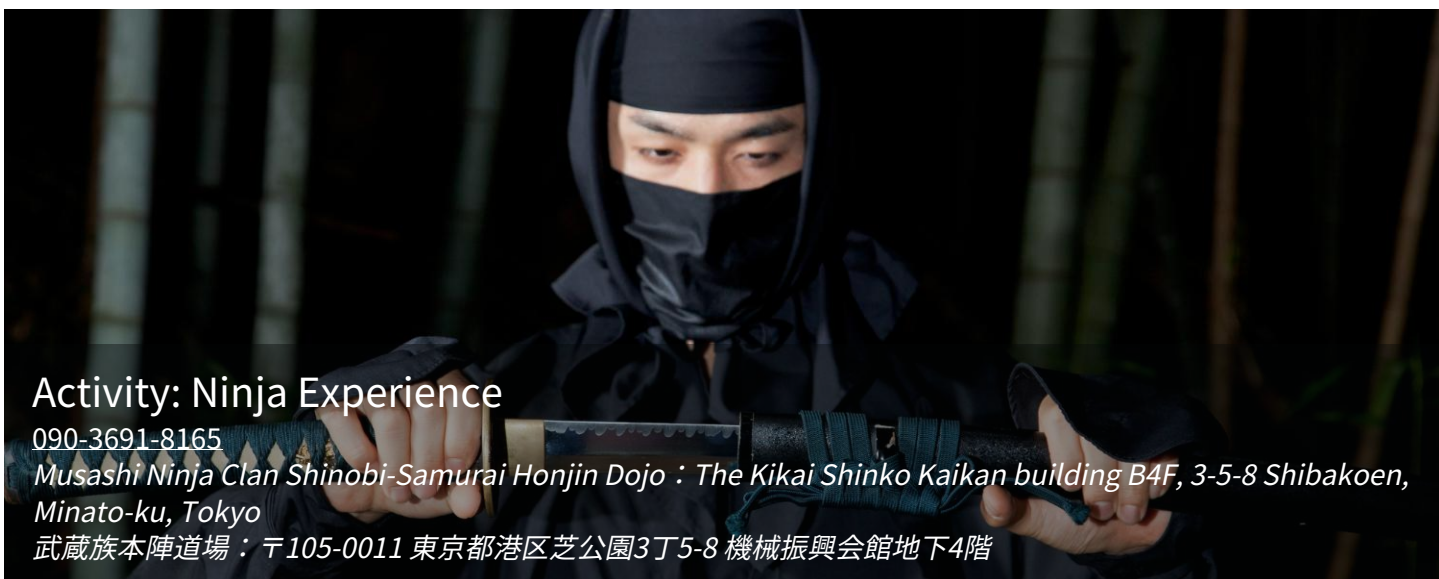
## Day 3



### Activity: Sushi-making lesson

This morning you'll take a taxi (included) to your sushi lesson. You will be taught how to prepare sushi rice and make a rolled Japanese omelette to go in your sushi roll. You will be using a variety of fish ingredients and learn how to make a piece of rolled sushi. You will be able to lunch on your creations with a bowl of delicious miso soup!

- Unguided
- Approx 2 hours duration



### Activity: Ninja Experience

090-3691-8165

Musashi Ninja Clan Shinobi-Samurai Honjin Dojo : The Kikai Shinko Kaikan building B4F, 3-5-8 Shibakoen, Minato-ku, Tokyo

武蔵族本陣道場：〒105-0011 東京都港区芝公園3丁5-8 機械振興会館地下4階

This afternoon 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 wear a Ninja outfit as you study and handle a variety of distinctive Ninja weapons, and practice Ninja techniques such as stealthy steps.

- Activity for 4 people
- Duration: Approx. 1.5 hrs



## 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 neighborhoods, visiting award-winning ramen shops in each. You'll be able to select ramen from several choices via fun, customizable 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 4

### Overnight luggage transfer: Tokyo - Kyoto

To allow you to travel comfortably your luggage will be sent ahead separately to Kyoto overnight. We suggest packing small overnight bags as you will be without the bulk of your luggage for your stay in Hakone

### Transfer · Private transfer to Tokyo station

Departure Location	Arrival Location
Tokyo hotel	Tokyo Station

#### Notes

You will be transferred to the station after breakfast



## Rail · Tickets: Bullet train to Odawara

**Departure Location**  
Tokyo station

**Arrival Location**  
Odawara Station

## Transfer · Private transfer to Hakone ryokan

**Departure Location**  
Odawara Station

**Arrival Location**  
Hakone ryokan

### Notes

You will be met on arrival and transferred to your ryokan.



## Gen Hakone

0460 82 2229

〒250-0408 神奈川県柄下郡箱根町強羅1300-238

1300-238 Gora, Hakonemachi, Ashigarashimogun, Kanagawa 250-0408

**3:00 PM**

Check In

**11:00 AM**

Check Out

**1 Night**

Duration

Part of the same group that operate the lovely Byakudan, Gen Hakone was completely renovated in 2021 into a stylish, contemporary style ryokan. Located in Gora, overlooking Mt. Myojogatake, Gen Hakone offers guests sublime views of that and other Hakone mountains from its stylish and spacious rooms, which all have wooden terraces with outdoor hot spring baths.

With very little light pollution, the night-time views of the starry skies are wonderful and for guests staying in mid August, they can be thrilled by an unobstructed view of the Hakone Daimonjiyaki fireworks festival.

Dinners are delicious multicourse kaiseki meals of local, seasonal ingredients. Gen's cuisine is based on the natural flavours of the four seasons, and is created with delicate Japanese cooking techniques, bold cooking methods, and a dash of style and flair. Breakfasts are also Japanese style but Western options are possible with advance notice.

The ryokan also offers a range of Spa treatments, which feature relaxation based on the theme of Mindfulness. Spa treatments are performed by therapists trained and certified by the Esalen Institute in the US and allow guests to enjoy a high quality treatment experience in the comfort of their room while enjoying the stunning view.

## Hakone Freepasses

We have included Hakone Freepasses to cover most of the local transport in the Hakone area, except taxis.



### Day at leisure in Hakone

Spend today exploring independently at leisure. We recommend setting out on 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 Tokaido Road to Hakone-Yumoto can be walked in full in an afternoon, or you can choose to return by boat across the lake.

Alternatively, if art appeals, the Open Air Museum houses an impressive array of international art and sculpture, including over 300 works by Picasso alone. Hakone offers more for art lovers and the Pola Museum of Art in nearby Sengokuhara features a wide range of artworks by both Japanese and Western artists, set in a forest of 300 year old beech trees and housed in a glass and concrete construction designed to blend in with the surrounding nature. Also in Gora is the Hakone Museum of Art, which showcases mostly Japanese ceramics and also has a lovely moss garden.

- Unguided
- Transport: Local transport. Your Hakone Freepass (included) will allow you to take all local transport (excluding taxis) for free.

## Day 5

### Transfer · Private transfer to Odawara Station

Departure Location  
Hakone ryokan

Arrival Location  
Odawara Station

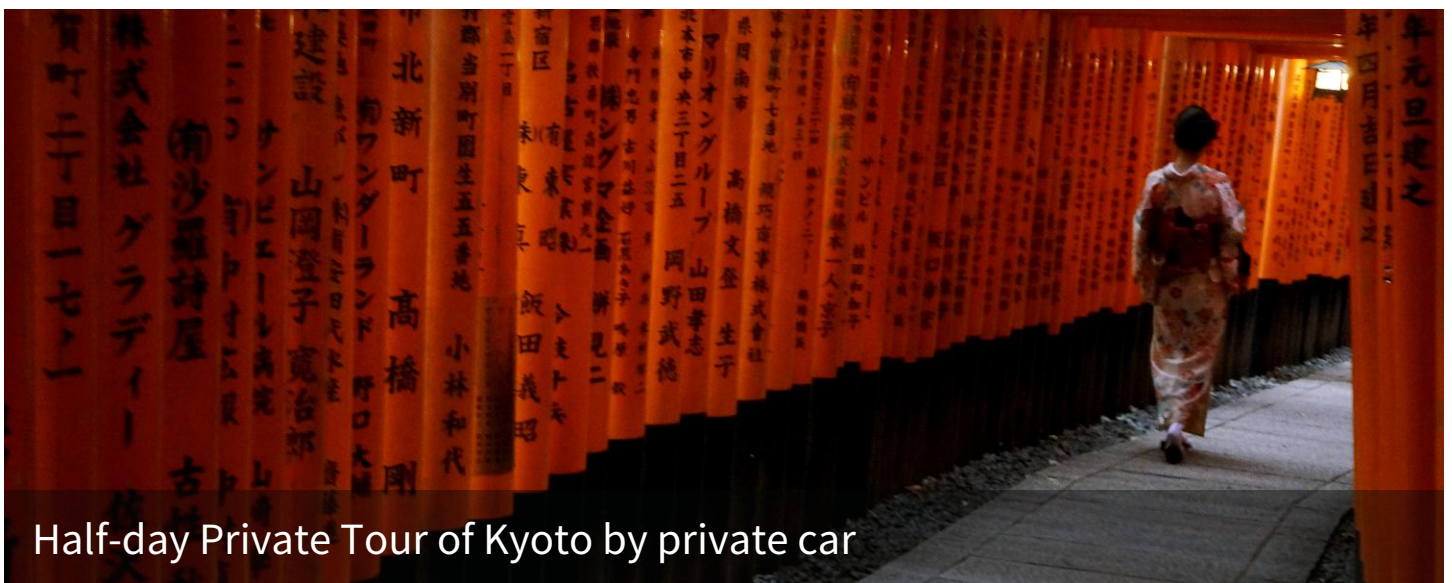




## Rail · Tickets: Bullet train to Kyoto

Departure Location  
Odawara Station

Arrival Location  
Kyoto Station



## Half-day Private Tour of Kyoto by private car

Your guide will meet you on arrival and you'll begin your half-day tour by visiting Fushimi Inari Shrine, most noted for its 'tunnels' of red torii gates leading up the hill behind the main shrine. From here you will head back towards the centre of Kyoto, to Kiyomizu dera, overlooking Kyoto from the base of the eastern mountains. This temple is renowned for its construction, which uses no nails to support the elaborate wooden structure of the main hall. Finish your tour with a stroll around Gion, the geisha district where you may be lucky enough to spot a geiko or apprentice maiko scuttling off for their evening appointments.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



## 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

**3 Nights**

Duration

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

#### Bedding

King

#### Room Description

Enjoy Kyoto city views or Myoho-in temple view from our Premier Room. 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.

- Beds: One king bed or two double beds
- Occupancy: One king bed: 3 adults, or 2 adults and 1 child/ Two double beds: 3 adults or 2 adults and 2 children
- Extra bed: One rollaway or one crib
- 3rd to 5th floors
- View: City or Courtyard
- Size: 3 61m2 (570 656 sq. ft.) View floor plan
- Bathroom: One full marble bathroom with separate shower and tub

#### Room Category

Connecting Premier Room

#### Bedding

Twin



## Day at leisure in Kyoto including rickshaw ride

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 Ryoanji Zen Garden before visiting the nearby Ninnaji Temple, which houses one of Kyoto's loveliest gardens. Spend the afternoon exploring Arashiyama, popular as a retreat from the city since the Heian Period. Most famous for its beautiful bamboo groves and river bridge, there are many stunning temples to visit as well. We especially recommend visiting Tenryu-ji Temple to see its breath-taking Cloud Dragon ceiling, Gio-ji for its lovely moss garden and Otagi Nenbutsuji, a small but charming temple, hidden away at the far end of the Arashiyama neighbourhood and featuring 1200 stone sculptures of rakan, the Buddha's disciples, all with different facial expressions and poses. The statues are scattered amongst a few small temples and pagodas. The statues themselves are well worth spending time admiring; many are covered in moss and with all the different expressions, you're sure to find one you love!

- Unguided



## Rickshaw tour of Arashiyama

Today you will enjoy a rickshaw ride around Arashiyama. In this 30 minute course, you'll start from Togetsukyo Bridge and head into the bamboo groves. The path takes you past Tenryuji Temple and Nonomiya Shrine and on to the Rakushisha hermitage before returning to your start point. Enjoy this tour of Arashiyama in style!

## Day 7

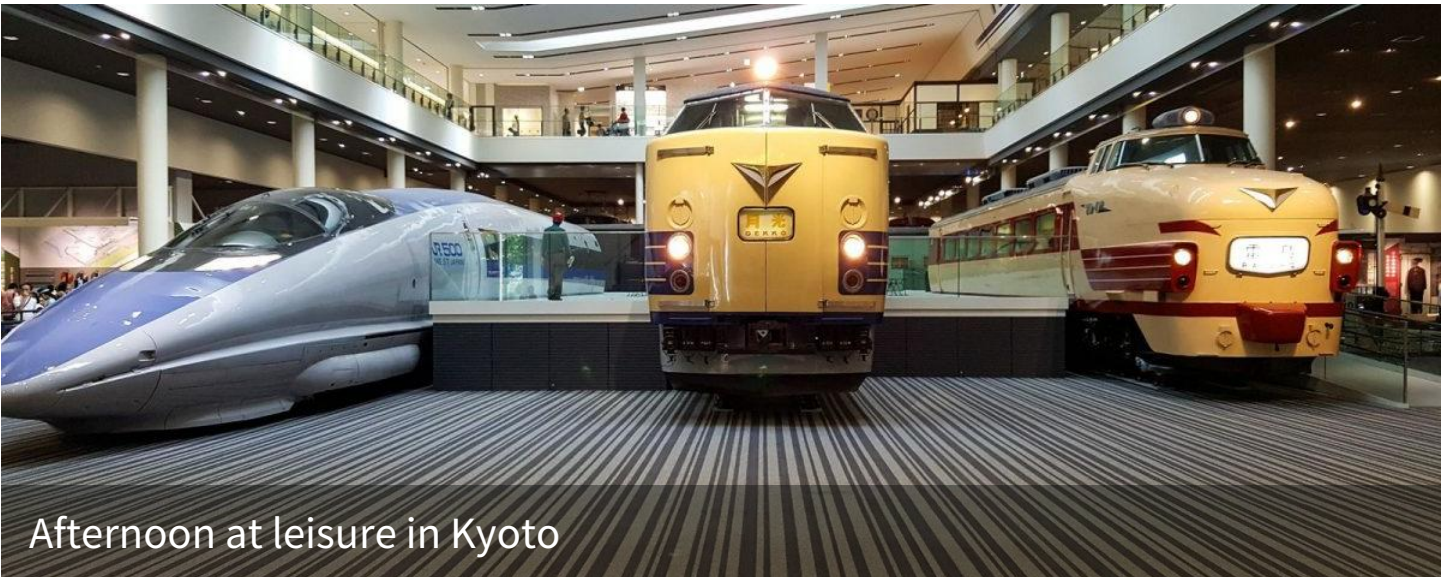


### Kyoto backstreets Cycling Tour

In this tour you'll get the chance to cycle through Kyoto with a local guide and explore the city's backstreets and other areas away from the tourist crowds.

You'll cycle along riverside paths and through residential areas, as well as visiting the Imperial Palace Park.

- Guided



### Afternoon at leisure in Kyoto

Spend the afternoon at leisure, exploring or shopping at your own pace.

We recommend visiting the Kyoto Railway Museum to learn about Japan's love affair with the locomotive. Covering three floors on a 30,000 square metre site, the museum exhibits a total of 53 trains, from steam locomotives to more recent electric trains and shinkansen.

- Unguided

## Day 8

### Over-night luggage transfer: Kyoto - Kobe

- To allow you to travel comfortably, your luggage will be to Kobe ahead of you. Please prepare overnight bags for tonight.

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## Transfer · Private transfer to Kyoto station

**Departure Location**  
Kyoto hotel

**Arrival Location**  
Kyoto station

### Notes

You will be transferred back to the station this morning



## Rail · Tickets: Bullet train to Hiroshima

**Departure Location**  
Kyoto Station

**Arrival Location**  
Hiroshima Station



## Half-day private tour of Hiroshima with private car

Visiting Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park and Museum 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.

From here, visit the lovely Shukkei-en strolling gardens. Valleys, mountains, and forests are represented in miniature in the garden's landscapes.

- Guided
- Private car



## Kurayado Iroha Ryokan

0829-44-0168

589-4 Miyajima-cho

Hatsukaichi shi, Hiroshima 739-0559

〒739-0559 広島県廿市市宮島町589-4

**4:00 PM**

Check In

**11:00 AM**

Check Out

Kurayado Iroha ryokan faces the Seto inland sea. The ryokan offers superb ocean views from its large windows, and the spacious rooms (a mixing of Japanese and contemporary styles) give a sense of calm and coziness. There is an open air bath located on the roof of the building from which guests will have a panoramic view over the sea and the Island of Honshu.

### Room Selection

#### Room Category

Ocean View Room x2 (Adjacent)

#### Room Description

Located on the 3rd and 4th floors, from these rooms you will see the Red Torii Gate floating on the water.

## Day 9

### Transfer · Private car to Hiroshima Station

#### Departure Location

Miyajima ryokan

#### Arrival Location

Hiroshima Station



## Rail · Tickets: Bullet train to Shin-Kobe

**Departure Location**  
Hiroshima station

**Arrival Location**  
Shin-Kobe Station



## Half-day private tour of Kobe with private car

Upon arriving at Shin-Kobe Station, you will be met on the train platform by your guide who will whisk you away to enjoy the sights.

First you will drive over to Takenaka Carpentry Museum to take in the beautiful artistry of some of Japan's most treasured artisans. The museum is a mecca for architecture enthusiasts from Japan and all around the world who flock there to learn more about the craft which goes into traditional Japanese wooden construction techniques.

Next you will journey over to Kobe's waterfront to the Hyogo Prefectural Art Museum. The sleek structure will delight architecture nerds who will enjoy the signature style of the Tadao Ando designed building. One of the largest art galleries in Western Japan, it houses a large collection of both Western and Japanese artists which you can enjoy leisurely.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



Kobe  
<https://plus.feel-kobe.jp/>

Kobe is a port city located in the Kansai region of Japan, known for its scenic views, modern architecture, and rich history. Situated between the sea and the Rokko Mountains, it offers a unique blend of urban and natural beauty. Kobe is famous for its high-quality beef, called Kobe beef, and is also a hub for international trade and culture. The city was one of Japan's first ports to open to foreign trade in the 19th century, which led to its diverse cultural influences. Key attractions include the Kobe Harborland, the iconic Kobe Port Tower, and the scenic Mount Rokko.



## Takenaka carpentry tools Museum

+81 (0)78-242-0216

7-5-1, Kumochi-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe 651-0056, Japan

<https://www.dougukan.jp/?lang=en>

The better the quality of the carpentry tool, the greater is the likelihood that it will be used until it wears away and disappears. Moreover, technological development during the post-war rapid economic growth as exemplified by the spread of machine lumbering and electrically powered tools, has resulted in a dramatic decrease in carpenters who use hand tools.

The Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum was opened in 1984 in Nakayamate, Kobe, as the only museum of carpentry tools in Japan, with the objective to collect and conserve such disappearing tools as a cultural heritage, and to pass them on to the next generation through research and exhibitions.

More than 35,000 pieces of materials have been collected so far. We have been involved not only in conserving remarkable tools from the past, but also in holding diverse events such as exhibitions, lectures, seminars, classes outside of the museum, and workshops, to convey the skills, wisdom, and spirit of the people who make masterful use of tools, as well as the resulting architecture and the culture of wood that surrounds it.

In autumn 2014, the museum embarked on a new chapter, relocating to a location near Shin-Kobe Station that has strong ties with Takenaka Corporation.

Japan is a nation of monozukuri (making things). Carpentry tools contain within them the characteristic aesthetic sensibilities and attention to detail of the Japanese people. We aim to be a place for coming into contact with tools to make new discoveries, and for providing new stimuli to the traditional way of making things.





# 兵庫県立美術館

## HYOGO PREFECTURAL MUSEUM OF ART

### Hyogo Prefectural Art Museum

078-262-0901

〒651-0073 兵庫県神戸市中央区脇浜海岸通1丁目1-1

1-1-1 Wakinohama Kaigan-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe City 651-0073

<https://www.artm.pref.hyogo.jp/eng/>

The Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, located in Kobe, Japan, is a renowned cultural institution dedicated to showcasing a diverse range of art. Opened in 2002, the museum is known for its striking modern architecture designed by the famous architect Tadao Ando. The museum houses an impressive collection of both Japanese and international art, with a focus on modern and contemporary works.

In addition to its permanent collection, the museum hosts temporary exhibitions, educational programs, and events, making it a dynamic cultural hub for both locals and visitors. The museum is set in a scenic area with views of the Rokko Mountains and the Kobe harbor, adding to the overall experience.

With its blend of architectural beauty, rich collections, and engaging exhibitions, the Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art offers visitors a unique opportunity to explore the world of art in an inspiring environment.

- **Opening Hours:** 10:00-18:00 (Entry until 17:30)
- **Closed days:** Monday (The next day if Monday is a public holiday)
- **New Year's holidays** (December 31/January 1)



### Hotel La Suite Kobe Harborland

078 371 1111

〒650-0042 神戸市中央区波場町7-2

7-2 Hatoba-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe, 650-0042

**3:00 PM**

Check In

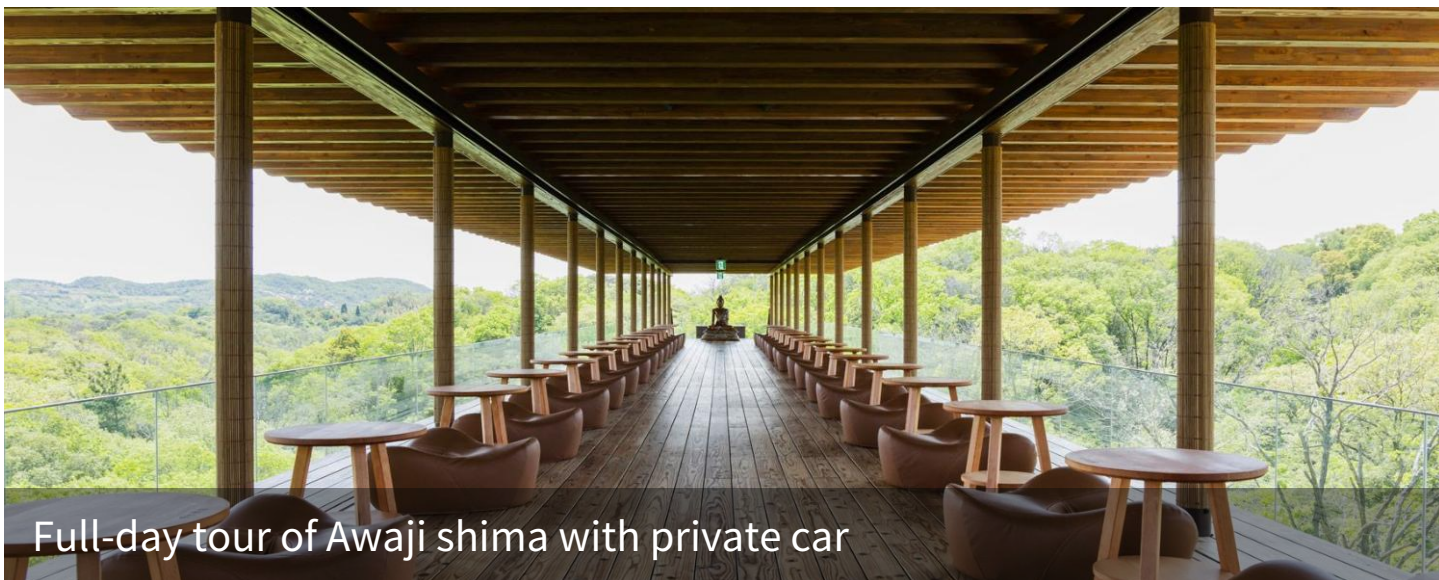
**12:00 PM**

Check Out

**2 Nights**

Duration

Hotel La Suite Kobe Harborland offers stunning views and the luxurious hospitality of *omotenashi*. With only 70 rooms, each has an ocean view balcony where guests can relax and enjoy sweeping views of the Port of Kobe. The name “La Suite” refers to musical suites, as the entirety of the building echoes with beautiful melodies, providing an atmosphere of utmost tranquillity.



## Full-day tour of Awaji shima with private car

### Meeting Point

Hotel La Suite Kobe Harborland

Today your guide will meet you at your hotel and take you for a picturesque drive along the coast to Awaji Island. Nestled in the heart of the Seto Inland Sea, Awaji Island is home to the world's longest suspension bridge which is truly a sight to behold! Seemingly precariously perched above a boiling sea of whirlpools, this bridge now safely connect Kobe to the city of Naruto.

Continue on to visit Zenbo Seinei, where you will experience an afternoon of zen tranquillity. The wooden building designed by famed architect, Shigeru Ban, has been created to promote a feeling of warmth and wellbeing. Experience an afternoon tea unlike any you've tried before with this zen retreat themed tea time. First you will start with a meditation session before enjoying a vegan afternoon tea created in harmony with the local ingredients.

Once you've satisfied your mind, soul and spirit - get creative with an indigo dyeing activity! Continue on your tour to a specialist indigo dyeing specialist where you will get hands on with this fascinating art form.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



Awaji-shima

Awaji Island, located in the Seto Inland Sea, is the largest island in the Hyogo Prefecture of Japan. Known for its natural beauty, Awaji Island offers a blend of picturesque landscapes, historical sites, and rich cultural heritage. The island is famous for its lush greenery, stunning coastline, and the majestic Awaji Yumebutai, a complex designed by renowned architect Tadao Ando.

Awaji Island has a long history, with its mythology linked to the creation of Japan according to the ancient Japanese texts, *Kojiki* and *Nihon Shoki*. It is also known for its traditional industries, such as onion farming, which is one of the island's signature products.

The island is a popular destination for outdoor activities, including hiking, cycling, and visiting its hot springs. With its mild climate, scenic views, and rich cultural atmosphere, Awaji Island is a perfect getaway for nature lovers and those looking to experience traditional Japanese craftsmanship. It is also renowned for its artisanal products, including indigo dyeing, offering a unique opportunity to explore Japan's deep connection with nature and craftsmanship.



### Meeting Point

Front Desk

Zenbo Seinei is a Zen retreat located in the serene mountains of Awaji Island, Japan, offering an authentic Zen meditation experience. The retreat provides a peaceful environment where participants can immerse themselves in traditional Zen practices, including seated meditation (zazen), walking meditation (kinhin), and mindful breathing.

At Zenbo Seinei, visitors are invited to disconnect from the fast-paced world and reconnect with their inner peace through the teachings of Zen Buddhism. The experience is designed to help individuals cultivate mindfulness, reduce stress, and achieve mental clarity. In addition to meditation, guests can also engage in other Zen practices, such as tea ceremonies and calligraphy, fostering a deeper understanding of Japanese culture and spiritual traditions.

Surrounded by nature, Zenbo Seinei offers a tranquil and supportive atmosphere for those seeking personal reflection and growth. Whether you're new to Zen or have prior experience, the retreat offers a welcoming space to experience the transformative power of Zen meditation in a beautiful, natural setting.

- **Duration: Approx**  
2hours



## Activity: Indigo Dying Experience

On Awaji Island, you can experience traditional Japanese indigo dyeing using "Onokoro Ai," a unique indigo plant nurtured in harmony with nature. The indigo dye is made over the course of a year, using fermentation by microorganisms. The process is influenced by daily changes in temperature, humidity, and the positions of the moon and planets, creating a dynamic collaboration with nature.

Maintaining the perfect blue requires careful attention, with natural materials used to balance the dyeing solution. Unlike chemical dyes, this natural indigo from Awaji Island offers a deep, rich blue that reflects the island's fertile terroir. It's a journey into the unique, timeless beauty of natural dyeing.

Today you'll have the opportunity to experience the entire process for yourselves and leave at the end with your own handiwork.

- **Duration: Approx 2hours**

## Day 11

### Overnight luggage transfer: Kobe to Osaka

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

- Please note that there is a weight limit of 30kg for each individual piece of luggage
- Please bring your luggage, packed and ready to send, to the hotel front desk by 10:00am

### Transfer · Private car to Kobe Airport

#### Departure Location

Hotel La Suite Kobe  
Harborland

#### Arrival Location

Kobe Airport

#### Notes

- You will be met at your hotel and taken by private car to Kobe Airport.



## Helicopter to Naoshima

You will experience a helicopter ride sure to take your breath away today! Be swept up into the skies where on clear days, you'll have an aerial view of the stunning Himeji Castle before continuing on to Naoshima Island.

## Transfer · Private car to Benesse House

**Departure Location**  
Naoshima Heliport

**Arrival Location**  
Benesse House

### Notes

You will be met by a private car upon your arrival at Naoshima Heliport and transferred to Benesse House, which will be your accommodation for the evening.



## Lunch at Museum Restaurant Issen

*Located on the ground floor of Benesse House Museum.*

Once you've arrived at the hotel, you will have time to enjoy lunch at the Museum before checking in and exploring the myriad of art dotted across the museum buildings and Naoshima Island.



## Half-day private tour of Naoshima with private car

### Meeting Point

Okayama station

Embark on a half-day private tour of Naoshima, an island renowned for its contemporary art and stunning architecture. Your journey begins with a visit to the Chichu Art Museum, a masterpiece designed by Tadao Ando. This underground museum, built into the hillside, features works by Claude Monet, James Turrell, and Walter De Maria, beautifully integrated with natural light.

Next, explore the Lee Ufan Museum, a collaboration between artist Lee Ufan and architect Tadao Ando. The museum's minimalist design complements the contemplative nature of Lee Ufan's works, offering a serene and thought-provoking experience.

Continue to the Ando Museum, housed in a traditional wooden building that juxtaposes the old and the new. The museum showcases Tadao Ando's architectural philosophy and his works, providing insights into his unique approach to design.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



### Chichu Art Museum

087 892 3755

〒761-3110 川県川郡直島町3449-1

3449-1 Naoshima, Kagawa 761-3110

<https://benesse-artsite.jp/en/art/chichu.html>

The Chichu Art Museum is a unique modern art museum built into a hillside overlooking the southern coast of Naoshima. The museum building, designed by Ando Tadao and itself a work of art, is mostly located underground and uses exclusively natural light to illuminate the artwork. This creates a viewing experience that is heavily influenced by the surrounding natural environment.



## Lee Ufan Museum

087 892 3754

〒761-3110 川県川郡直島町字倉浦1390

1390 Azakuraura, Naoshima, Kagawa 761-3110

<https://benesse-artsite.jp/en/art/lee-ufan.html>

Opened in time for the 2010 Setouchi Triennale, the Lee Ufan Museum is one of the more recent additions to Naoshima. The museum features works by the Korean contemporary artist Lee Ufan, who was born in Korea but has been working and teaching in Japan. On display are large installations made of stone, concrete and huge slabs of iron, as well as a number of paintings from earlier in his career.



## Ando Museum

087 892 3754

〒761-3110 川県川郡直島町 736-2

736-2 Naoshima, Kagawa 761-3110

<https://benesse-artsite.jp/en/art/ando-museum.html>

The Ando Museum looks like a regular, traditional residence from the outside, blending in perfectly into the town's neighbourhood. The inside of the building, however, combines traditional interior design with Ando's signature use of concrete, creating a rather intriguing atmosphere. Explanatory signs and photographs along the walls document Ando's activities on Naoshima and elsewhere.



## Benesse House Hotel

087 892 3223

〒761-3110 川県川郡直島町琴弾地

Gotanji, Naoshimamachi, Kagawagun, Kagawa 761-3110

**3:00 PM**

Check In

**11:00 AM**

Check Out

**2 Nights**

Duration

Benesse House is a unique fusion of modern architecture and art that has a growing legion of worldwide fans. Designed by Japan's most famous architect, Tadao Ando, the hotel successfully marries art, architecture and nature in a stunning environment.

Guests have a choice of four separate hotel areas in which to stay: Oval, Museum, Beach and Park. Suites in the Oval section are above the main Museum and are accessed by a private monorail. Guests here and those staying in the Museum rooms also have the special privilege of being able to wander the museum late at night in their pajamas should they wish while it's almost entirely empty of other visitors; a true 'Night in the Museum' experience!

The hotel has two excellent restaurants, serving Japanese and French cuisine but we highly recommend reserving tables for dinner long in advance of your stay as spaces are limited and outside of the hotel, there is almost nowhere to dine out on the small island.

The staff at the hotel speak good English and are extremely attentive of guests' needs. There's a shuttle bus which visits some of the island's art installations as well as taking guests to and from the ferry port. Several of the installations can be visited on foot from the hotel but we also recommend renting electric bikes, which offer a great way to explore the island.

## Day 12

### Transfer · Private cruise to Teshima

#### Departure Location

Naoshima Port

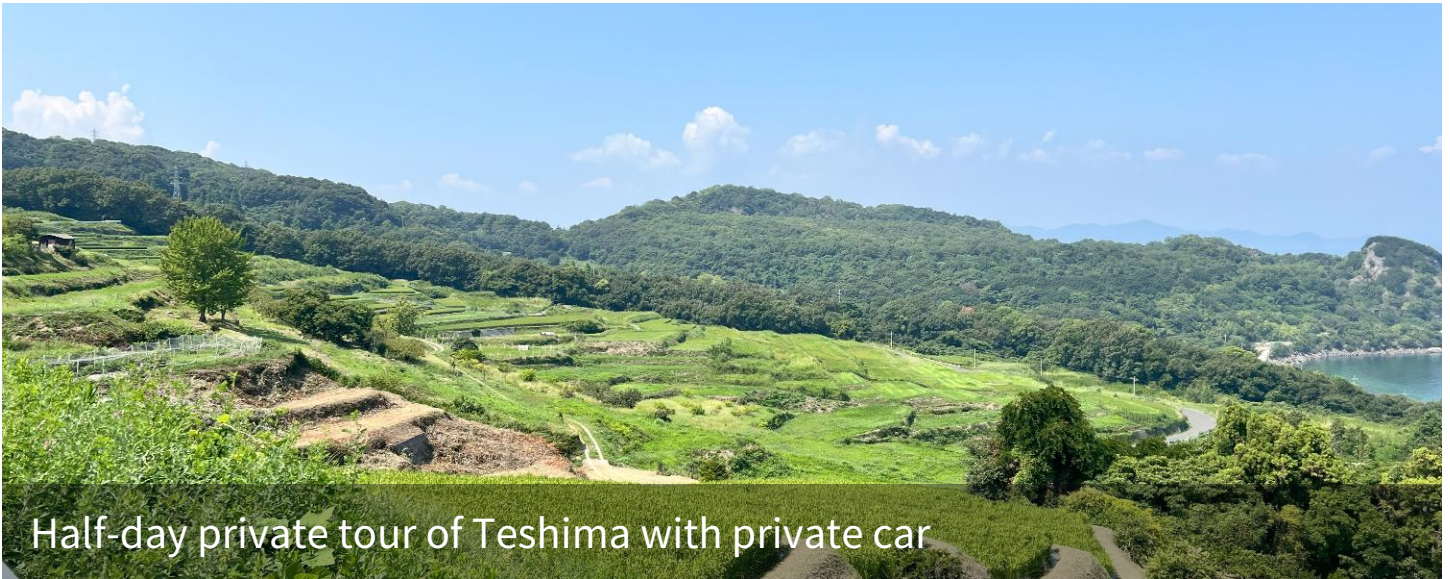
#### Arrival Location

Teshima Port

#### Notes

- You will be transferred to Naoshima Port by private car, then take a private ferry to Teshima island.



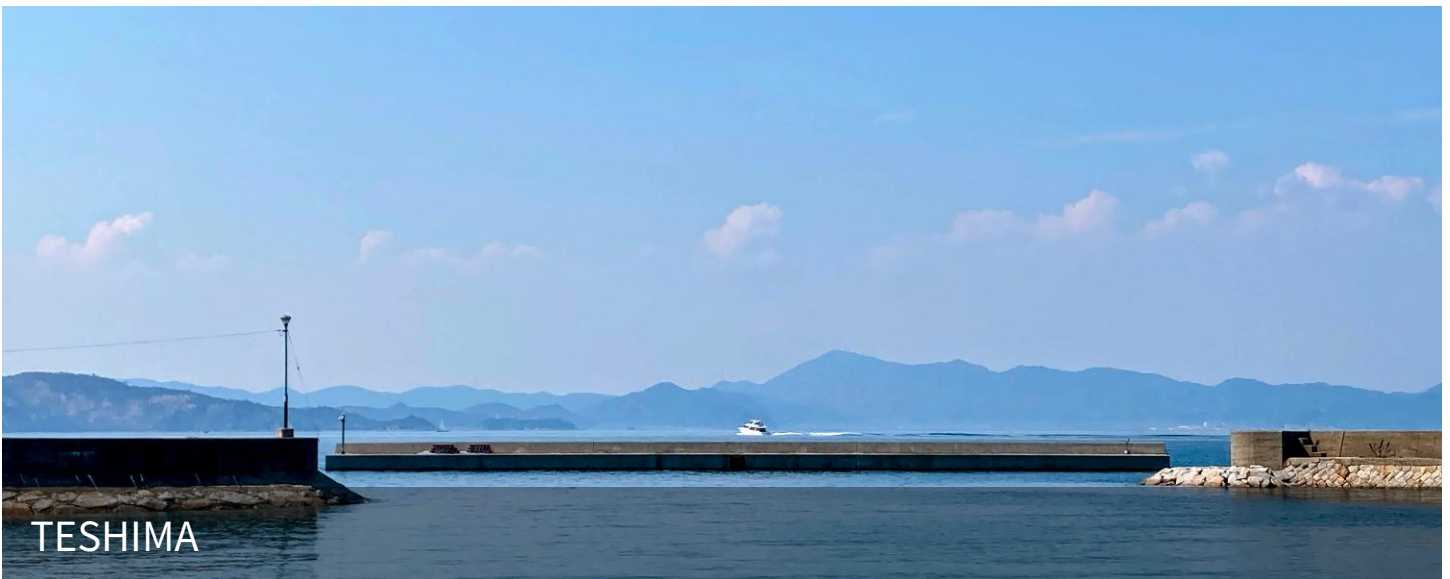


## Half-day private tour of Teshima with private car

You will be met by a private car and driven around Teshima to enjoy the art tour. The highlight of the journey being a visit to Teshima Yokoo House. A collaboration between artist Tadanori Yokoo and architect Yuko Nagayama, it was created by renovating an old private house facing the harbor that forms the entrance to Teshima Island.

Once you've taken in your fill of the sights, you will be transferred back to the port for your cruise back to Naoshima!

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



A rural island in the Seto Island Sea, Teshima has joined Naoshima and the surrounding islands as a haven for contemporary art. Visit the calm Teshima Art Museum, as well as "Les Archives du Coeur", on the eastern end of the island where visitors can record their heartbeat and listen to the heartbeat of others.

Several more artworks are scattered around the island's three fishing villages. Most are open almost everyday, especially the larger museums and outdoor installations, however some of the smaller artworks are only open on weekends and holidays.



## Teshima Art Museum

0879 68 3555

〒761-4662 川県郡庄町豊島唐櫃607

607 Karato, Teshima, Tonoshocho, Shozugun, Kagawa 761-4662

<https://benesse-artsite.jp/en/art/teshima-artmuseum.html>

The Teshima Art Museum hosts a single piece of artwork and is located on the island of Teshima. Operated by the Benesse art Foundation, it has been designed by Ryue Nishizawa. The museum building is made of an impressive freestanding concrete shell.



## Teshima Yokoo House

2359 Teshimaieura, Tonosho, Shozu District, Kagawa 761-4661

<https://benesse-artsite.jp/en/art/teshima-yokoohouse.html>

A collaboration between artist Tadanori Yokoo and architect Yuki Nagayama, Teshima Yokoo House transforms an old private home into both a gallery and a work of art in itself. Making full use of the building's existing layout, the exhibition areas are divided into a "Main House," a "Warehouse," and an "Outhouse," displaying 11 two-dimensional works. Other features—a stone garden with a pond, and a cylindrical tower—are devoted to installations, so that the art spaces seem to expand symbolically to cover the entire site, making it a philosophical zone that simultaneously calls to mind thoughts of both life and death. Thanks to the building's use of tinted glass to control light and color, the sunshine, breezes, and natural hues of the island, as well as the artworks themselves, assume a range of different appearances, turning visitors' spatial experience into a series of interconnected collages.



## Transfer · Private cruise to Naoshima

**Departure Location**  
Teshima Port

**Arrival Location**  
Naoshima Port

### Notes

- You will cruise back to Naoshima, where you will stay for one more night.

## Day 13

## Transfer · Private cruise to Takamatsu Port

**Departure Location**  
Teshima Port

**Arrival Location**  
Takamatsu Port

### Notes

You will set off on a private cruise from Teshima to Takamatsu today, cruising through the azure waters of the Seto Inland Sea.



## Half-day private tour of Takamatsu with private car

You will be met by your guide at the port upon your arrival in Takamatsu and whisked away for a half day tour of the beautiful peninsula of Yashima. Providing the perfect viewpoint over the Seto Inland Sea, Yashima is a peaceful place to spend the afternoon soaking in the delights of nature. The view is especially spectacular from Shishi-no-reigan, a viewing platform from where you can get the best panoramic views of the area. Another must visit spot is Yashimaji, part of the great Shikoku temple pilgrimage trail.

We recommend exploring the beautiful Ritsurin Koen, which once served as a second residence for the lord of this province and which covers an impressive 75 acres. Though named for its chestnut trees, Ritsurin is now dominated by beautifully sculpted pines, which cover the tsukiyama, or artificial hills, and the banks of the large ponds. We highly recommend having a cup of thick, green, matcha tea at one of the tea houses in the garden the Kikugetsu-Tei in particular has lovely views out over the pond and for the price of tea you can wander through the traditional building.

Your tour will finish back at Takamatsu Station, from where you will take bullet train to Shin-Osaka station.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



The capital of Kagawa Prefecture, Takamatsu has been the political and economic centre in the region since the Edo period. Situated on the northern border of Shikoku and facing the Inland sea, A must-see location is Ritsurin Park, which features pavilions and ponds against a background view of Mt Shiun. Built by local feudal lords over more than a hundred years during the Edo period, it is renowned as one of the most beautiful landscape gardens in the country. In addition to visiting other attractive sights such as the Komya-san temple which offers stunning panoramic views across the area, we recommend you taste Takamatsu's own noodles, Sanuki udon, famous for being inexpensive and delicious.

## Rail · Ticket: Takamatsu Station to Shin-Osaka Station

**Departure Location**  
Takamatsu Station

**Arrival Location**  
Shin-Osaka Station

### Notes

- You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel



## Four Seasons Hotel Osaka

+81 6-6676-8682

〒530-0003 阪府阪市北区堂島2丁4番32号

2-4-32, Dojima, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0003, Japan

**3:00 PM**

Check In

**12:00 PM**

Check Out

**1 Night**

Duration

At the nexus of Osaka's ascendancy as a global metropolis stands the illustrious Four Seasons Hotel Osaka, anchoring a novel lifestyle enclave in the heart of Japan's largest western city and the epicenter of regional commerce and culture. Serving as a beacon of opulence and sophistication, the Four Seasons epitomizes modern luxury while paying homage to the revered ryokan (traditional Japanese inn), offering an array of bespoke, immersive encounters that evoke the essence of Japan. From the meticulously curated Japanese-inspired guest rooms occupying entire floors to the secluded ofuro (traditional baths), the Four Seasons serves as a contemporary conduit to Osaka's authentic soul, seamlessly intertwining the city's rich heritage with its dynamic modernity, ensuring an immersive experience that resonates deeply with discerning travelers.

### Day 14

## Transfer · Private transfer to KIX Airport

**Departure Location**

Osaka hotel

**Arrival Location**

KIX Airport

### Notes

- You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

## Itinerary Notes



### What's Included

*A minimum 15% deposit is required to book, with full balance due 60 days before departure. Contents of itinerary subject to change and availability.*

#### Price Includes

- Accommodation and meals as shown in itinerary
- Arrangements as shown in itinerary (transport, luggage 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
- Specialist tours subject to confirmation and availability of specialist

**All tours are privately guided, transport as indicated, and include all entrance fees.**

- A half day tour lasts approximately 4 hours, usually 9am - 1pm, or 1pm - 5pm
- A full day tour lasts approximately 8 hours, usually 9am to 5pm

#### Not Included

- Flights to and from Japan
- Additional beverages at ryokan
- Meals not shown on schedule
- Transport not during private tours (unplanned rail trips, metro in Tokyo, taxis, etc.)
- Entrance fees (except during private tours)
- Incidental hotel fees (telephone, minibar, etc.)