



Sample Itinerary: Tokyo, Okayama, Kurashiki,
Naoshima, Kotohira, Iya Valley, Takamatsu, Kyoto

Sample Itinerary: Tokyo, Okayama, Kurashiki, Naoshima, Kotohira, Iya Valley, Takamatsu, Kyoto

Day 1	ARRIVAL IN TOKYO Transfer · Private car to hotel Airport meeting Orientation The Prince Gallery Tokyo Kioicho (3 Nights)
Day 2	Full-day private tour of Tokyo with private car
Day 3	Full-day private tour of Tokyo with private car
Day 4	Transfer · Private car to Tokyo Station Rail · Tokyo Station to Okayama Station Full day private tour of Okayama & Kurashiki with private car Ryokan Kurashiki (1 Night)
Day 5	Transfer · Private Car to Uno Port Ferry to Naoshima Island Full day private tour of Naoshima with private car Ryokan Roka (2 Nights)
Day 6	Day trip to Teshima
Day 7	Transfer · Private Car to Miyanoura Port Ferry to Takamatsu Full day private tour of Kotohira with private car Hotel Iya Onsen (1 Night)
Day 8	Full-day private tour of Iya Valley with private car JR Hotel Clement Takamatsu (1 Night)
Day 9	Half day private tour of Takamatsu with private car Activity: Sanuki Udon Lesson Rail · Takamatsu Station to Kyoto Station Transfer · Private car to hotel Hotel The Mitsui, Kyoto (3 Nights)
Day 10	Full-day private tour of Kyoto with private car
Day 11	Half-day private tour of Kyoto with private car Activity: Tea ceremony at private temple
Day 12	Transfer · Private car to airport DEPARTURE



ARRIVAL IN TOKYO

Transfer · Private car to hotel

Notes

You will be transferred to your hotel by private car.

Airport meeting

After clearing immigration, you will be met by a member of staff and escorted to your 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, 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, Chiyodaku, Tokyo 102-8585

15:00

Check In

12:00

Check Out

3 Nights

Duration

The Prince Gallery Kioicho is perhaps at first “hidden,” in the sense that you need ascend to the 16th floor in order to locate the lobby. Only a short distance from Akasaka-Mitsuke Station and directly connected to Nagatacho Station, the Prince Gallery Tokyo Kioicho has easy access to the dynamic capital. It’s also conveniently located near to an upmarket shopping and entertainment district, making it an excellent choice for being in amongst the action in Tokyo, whilst still treating yourself to the best in luxury and comfort.

The hotel, which opened in 2016, is situated atop 15 floors of offices so it won’t come as much of a surprise that the rooms at the Prince Hotel all have splendid, unobstructed views. With 250 rooms and 11 suites, it is a large-scale, distinctly modern hotel, with much of the electronic and creative prowess commonly associated with Japan. One of the hotel’s unique selling points is that it is not surrounded by any other tall buildings, meaning that the view from the hotel rooms is really quite spectacular, and like a tour of Tokyo in itself. Rooms have one, entirely glass wall, with a long “day bed” in front of it, meaning you can sit and look out across the city for miles, right the way from Tokyo station to Shinjuku station, from the comfort of your own room. Even from the bathroom, as you soak in the bath after a long day of sightseeing, you can look out over the beautiful Tokyo skyline. Then, at the touch of a button, you can obscure the bathroom’s glass and get changed in privacy. It’s little touches like these which make the hotel feel so luxurious.

The hotel offers a variety of dining options, including the Washoku Souten restaurant, which serves contemporary Japanese cuisine, including sushi and teppanyaki. The all-day Mediterranean restaurant features a “hanging garden” concept, plus buffet, à la carte and full-course menu options.

With views that are among the best of any hotel in Tokyo, The Prince Gallery Kioicho is a great choice for a stay in the city.



Full-day private tour of Tokyo with private car

Spend a day with your guide learning about areas in northern Tokyo, starting with Ueno. No expedition to the area is complete without visiting the sprawling grounds of Ueno Park, replete with museums as well as bountiful plants. Arguably the cultural heart of Tokyo, there are numerous temples and shrines scattered amongst museums like the National Museum of Nature and Science, the National Museum of Western Art, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum. Particularly magnificent during the spring, over 1000 cherry trees line the street leading towards Shinobazu Pond and the National Museum. You can easily spend hours uncovering the splendours of Ueno.

After lunch, head east to discover Kappabashi, Tokyo's restaurant-supply district. Kappabashi is teeming with shops catering to all aspects of catering, and so is a wonderful area for buying anything cooking related. Those convincingly real replicas of Japanese foods that you'll have seen in restaurant windows? You can buy these here! They could be a tantalising reminder of your trip.

Continuing east, wander the iconic streets of Asakusa. This district is known for the famous Buddhist temple, Senso-ji, with a striking red structure that's often used as a symbol of the city. As the oldest temple in Tokyo, Senso-ji is also one of the most visited spiritual sites in the world. Traverse the paths around the temple and discover an enticing mix souvenir shops and traditional stores.

- Guided
- Transport: Private Car

Day 3



Spend today with your guide comprehensively exploring the exciting Western neighbourhoods of central Tokyo. Your guide will take you to roam the grounds of Meiji Jingu, one of Tokyo's oldest and most important shrines. Set in forestland, the shrine's space offers a spiritual contrast to the bustle of the city and neighbouring Harajuku. The Inner Gardens are particularly beautiful.

After appreciating the shrine, delight in the vibrancy of Harajuku. The trendy neighbourhood boasts a crazy cornucopia of fashionable cafes and boutique shops. A feast for the eyes as well as the stomach, try some delicious Harajuku crepes, or escape the busy streets in a cute themed café - there's a reason Harajuku is the centre of youth-culture in Tokyo.

From fanciful fashion to fantastic architecture, Omotesando is only a short distance from Harajuku, and you can enjoy trying to identify the unique features of its buildings. The area features some outstanding design by more of the great modern architects than anywhere else, including Tadao Ando's Omotesando Hills development, as well as Prada's flagship store.

After lunch, head to Shibuya for a real taste of modern Tokyo. One of the city's most colourful districts, observe the organised chaos of the famous Shibuya crossing and find your favourite of the many great game arcades. Offering uniquely Japanese arcade-games and machines, you can create personalised memories in the popular *purikura* photo booths.

Just north of Shibuya, find Shinjuku, the hot-spot for Tokyo's exuberant nightlife. Not only home to the famously intimate Kabukicho district, the area is known for its skyscrapers, the impressive Metropolitan Government building, the quiet green of Shinjuku Gyoen Park, and a wealth of shopping centres with nearly every kind of store imaginable. With Shinjuku Station being the world's busiest station, you also have the opportunity to relish unparalleled people watching.

- Guided
- Transport: Private Car

Day 4

Transfer · Private car to Tokyo Station

Departure Location
The Prince Gallery Hotel
Tokyo Kioicho

Arrival Location
Tokyo Station

Notes

You will be transferred to Tokyo Station by private car.

Rail · Tokyo Station to Okayama Station

Departure Location
Tokyo Station

Arrival Location
Okayama Station

Notes

Take the bullet train from Tokyo Station for your journey to Okayama.



Today, explore some of Japan's history with a trip to a castle!

Start the day at the Okayama Castle, known as a "crow castle" due to its black exterior. Originally built in 1597 in the style of the Azuchi-Momoyama Period, the castle was destroyed during the final year of World War 2, but was then rebuilt in 1966. From the Castle you can admire Korakuen Garden, named as one of the three best gardens in Japan.

Continue the tour at nearby Kurashiki. Best known for its charming cobbled old centre, as well as its superb museums and galleries, Kurashiki is a pleasant little town to explore. Spend the afternoon in the historic Bikan quarter near the canal, where merchant homes and storehouses dating back to the Edo and Meiji periods have been restored. Many of the buildings are now museums and galleries, such as the Kurashiki Museum of Folkcrafts.

- **Guided**
- **Transport: Private Car**



Ryokan Kurashiki

086 422 0730

〒710-0054 岡山県倉敷市本町4-1

4-1 Honmachi, Kurashiki, Okayama 710-0054

15:00

Check In

11:00

Check Out

1 Night

Duration

Ryokan Kurashiki welcomes you to the lovely Bikan Historical District in the town of Kurashiki. Its narrow streets are lined with traditional kura or storehouses and the former homes of merchants, recognizable by their thick black and white patterned walls and shiny black tiled roofs. Small boats drift through the willow-lined canal, a perfect way to experience this traditional and timeless quarter.

Day 5

Transfer · Private Car to Uno Port

Departure Location

Ryokan Kurashiki

Arrival Location

Uno Port

Notes

You will be transferred to Uno port for your journey on to Noashima.

Ferry to Naoshima Island

Departure Location

Uno Port

Arrival Location

Naoshima Island



Full day private tour of Naoshima with private car

Spend a day immersed in the artistic treasures of Naoshima with your guide. Highlights include the renowned Chichu Art Museum, designed by Tadao Ando, which features masterpieces by Monet and other celebrated artists. Be sure to visit the Lee Ufan Museum and the Ando Museum, both offering unique perspectives on art and architecture. Beyond the museums, explore the island's captivating "Art House" projects, such as the whimsical *I Love Yu* bathhouse, the innovative Art House Project installations, and the contemporary Miyanoura Gallery.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



Ryokan Roka

087 899 2356

〒761-3110 川島川郡直島町1234

1234 Naoshima-cho, Kagawa-gun, Kagawa, 761-3110

15:00

Check In

2 Nights

Duration

Newly opened on Naoshima island in Kagawa Prefecture in April 2022, Roka is the grand vision of Shintaro Sasaki, a fourth-generation hotelier whose family founded the elegant Kifu no Sato ryokan in northern Okayama. Sasaki has launched stylish eateries in Osaka and Tokyo's Roppongi district, but Roka is his first foray into independent inn operations. His discerning eye shows in every micro-decision behind the conception and design of Roka, although he is quick to point out that the art-infused ryokan is not his brainchild but rather the "heart child" of all on his team. The fact that morning staff meetings conclude with a meditation on mindfulness is indication of the relaxed welcome you'll find here.

Day 6



Today, enjoy some island-hopping as you explore the island of Teshima, located only a short ferry ride away. Here you can enjoy visiting the island's own unique clusters of artwork, either by walking the island, taking the local bus, or by renting a bicycle.

The Teshima Art Museum was created among terraced rice fields restored together with local residents. The museum is developing art-related activities in the Ieura, Karato, and Kosei districts, seeking to become a place where people can deeply consider true abundance through artworks.

Art Facilities on Teshima include:

- Teshima Art Museum
- Les Archives du Cœur
- Teshima Yokoo House
- Teshima 8 Million Lab
- Storm House
- Tom Na H-iu
- La forêt des murmures

- Unguided

Day 7

Transfer · Private Car to Miyanoura Port

Departure Location
Ryokan Roka

Arrival Location
Miyanoura Port

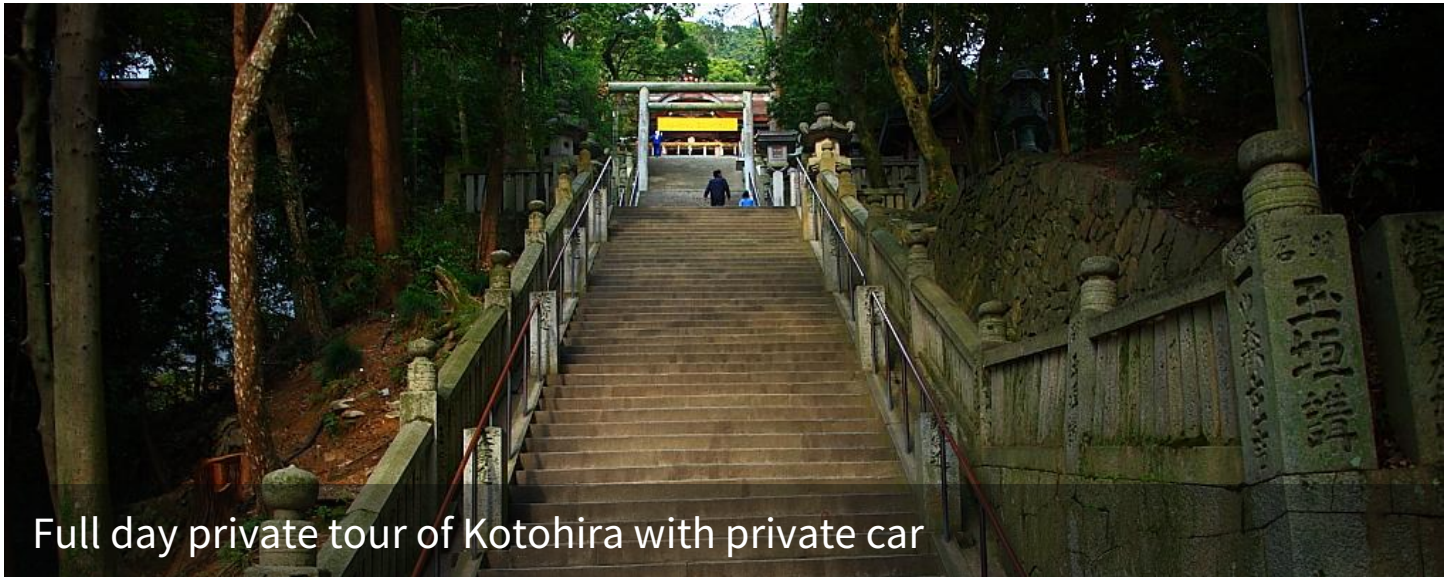
Notes

You will be transferred to Miyanoura Port for your journey in to Takamatsu.

Ferry to Takamatsu

Departure Location
Miyanoura Port

Arrival Location
Takamatsu Port



Full day private tour of Kotohira with private car

Discover the fascinating blend of Shinto and Buddhist influences at Kōpirasan, a revered shrine that has drawn pilgrims for centuries. Officially designated a Shinto shrine during the Meiji Period's separation of religions, its architecture still reflects a harmonious mix of both traditions, offering a glimpse into its rich history.

Begin your visit with a stroll through a lively shopping arcade filled with souvenir shops and Sanuki Udon restaurants, before embarking on the famed ascent. The approach to the main hall involves a 785-step climb (approximately 45 minutes) past auxiliary shrine buildings and museums. Despite its difficulty, the journey is highly rewarding, and the main hall offers breathtaking views over Kotohira Town. Nearby, the Ema Hall showcases fascinating plaques, illustrations, and even a real mini submarine, representing those who sought the shrine's protection—including crews of ships, battleships, and space rockets.

For those seeking an even greater adventure, continue an additional 583 steps (about 45 minutes) through a serene forested path to the shrine's inner sanctum, Okusha. If the climb seems daunting, you can hire a traditional palanquin for an elevated and unique experience.

If time allows, don't miss a visit of Kanamaruza Kabuki Theatre, a beautifully preserved old kabuki playhouse dating back to 1835. When no shows are held, the theatre is open to visitors who can explore the audience hall, stage, and dressing rooms. Be sure to check out the basement to see the workings of the human powered rotating stage and trapdoors used by actors to dramatically enter and exit performances.

After the tour, proceed by private car to your accommodation in the remote Iya Valley.

- Guided
- Transport: Private Car



Hotel Iya Onsen

0883 75 2311

〒778-0165 徳島県三好市池町松尾松本367-28

367-28 Matsuo Matsumoto, Ikedacho, Miyoshishi, Tokushima 778-0165

15:00

Check In

11:00

Check Out

1 Night

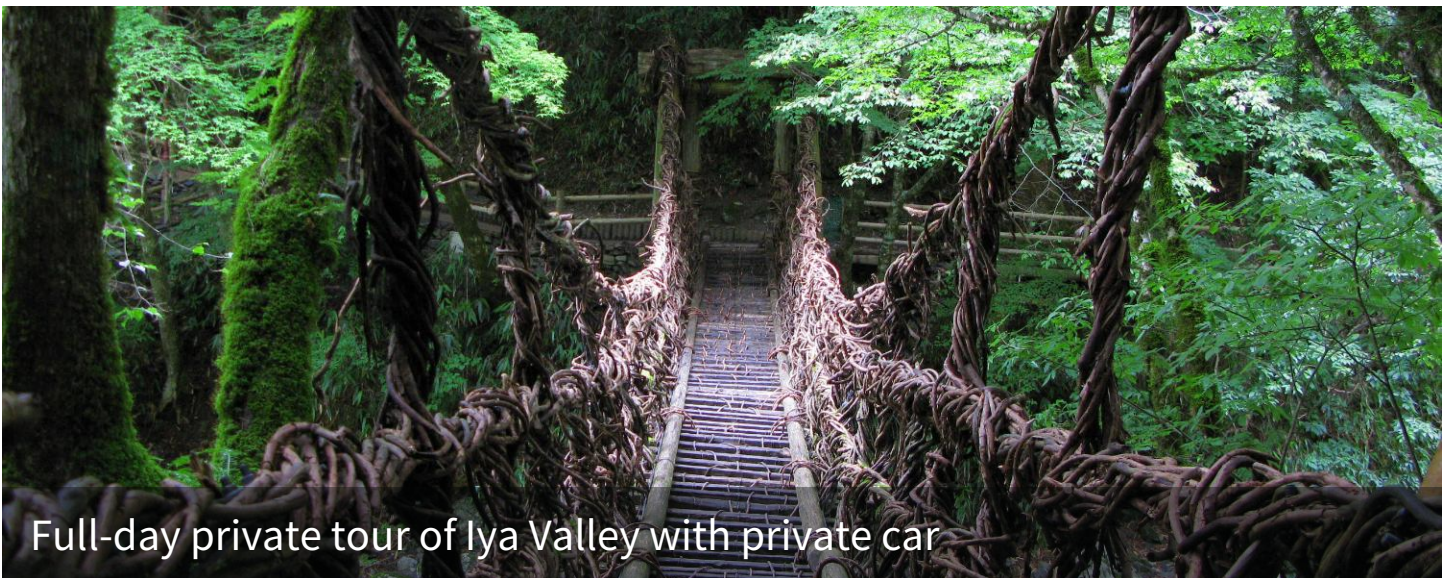
Duration

This ryokan hotel is located in the Northern part of Shikoku in Iya Valley. A unique feature of Hotel Iya Valley is the cable car which will take guests to the rotenburo (open-air bath) at the bottom of the valley. It takes about five minutes to descend the 170 meters drop. Along the way one can enjoy a panoramic view of the valley.

The open-air baths, one for men and one for women, have been constructed along the Iya river. They are rich with hot spring water which is cloudy with minerals which bubble straight from a source deep in the earth.

Traditional breakfast and dinner is served at the restaurant of the hotel, but for an extra fee guests can enjoy their meals in the privacy of their rooms.

Day 8



Full-day private tour of Iya Valley with private car

13 bridges once spanned the valley, but only three survive today. Iya Kazurabashi (祖かずら橋), the largest and most popular of the remaining bridges, stretches 45 meters across the Iya River at the centre of the valley, and gives visitors an unsettling view of the water 14 meters below the open slats of the span. The bridge, which is rebuilt every three years, is anchored to tall cedar trees at both ends and has steel cables hidden within the vines for safety. The bridge can be crossed in one direction only.

Continue on to visit Oboke Gorge and neighbouring Koboke Gorge. These are narrow, steep sided gorges near the entrance to the Iya Valley and popularly combined with a visit there. Cut by the swirling rapids of the Yoshino River, their names mean "big dangerous steps" and "small dangerous steps" as their jagged, rocky walls can be perilous to navigate.

The gorges are one of the leading outdoor destinations in Japan, and are known for their beautiful natural scenery and for the variety of outdoor attractions, such as white-water rafting and canyoning, that can be enjoyed on the river.

Today you will also visit the quaint Chiiori thatched farmhouses between 13:00 - 14:00. ****The area around Chiiori becomes very dangerous in snowy weather so this part of the tour will be changed depending on weather conditions.****

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



JR Hotel Clement Takamatsu
 087 811 1111
 〒760-0011 川島松市浜ノ町1-1
 1-1 Hamanochō, Takamatsushi, Kagawa 760-0011

1:00 PM

Check In

12:00 PM

Check Out

1 Night

Duration

The hotel offers its guests panoramic views of the Seto Inland Sea. Its spacious, warm interior is elegantly furnished and its rooms are perfect to relax in after a busy day. The hotel has offers a range of restaurants including Chinese, Western and Japanese styles which cater to every taste.



Half day private tour of Takamatsu with private car

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.

Today, as part of your guided tour, you will learn how to make Sanuki udon noodles, typical of Kagawa prefecture.

After the experience, you will be driven to Takamatsu Station to continue your trip.

- Guided
- Private
Car



Activity: Sanuki Udon Lesson

Learn the art of crafting authentic Sanuki Udon, a beloved specialty of the Shikoku region. Guided by local experts, you'll delve into the traditional techniques of kneading, rolling, and cutting the dough to create the perfect udon noodles, known for their distinctively chewy texture. Once the noodles are prepared, enjoy a delicious meal featuring your handmade udon served in a flavourful dashi broth.

- Activity for XX people as part of a group
- Duration: Approx. 1.5 hours

Rail · Takamatsu Station to Kyoto Station

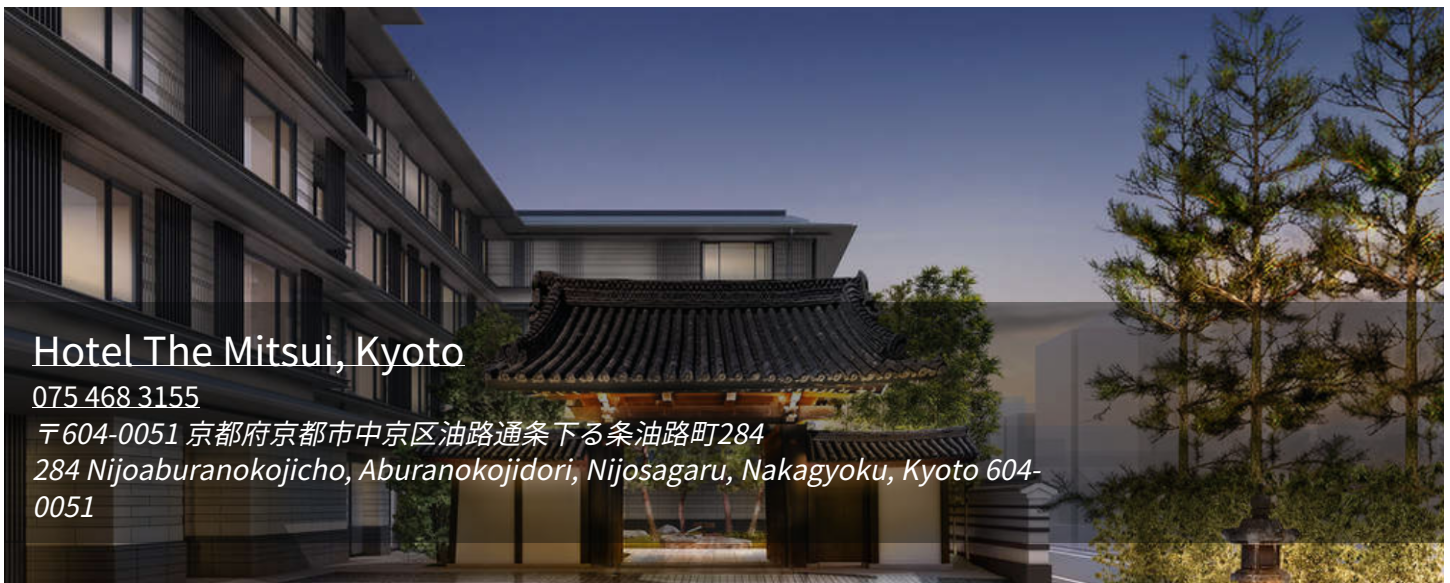
Departure Location
Takamatsu Station

Arrival Location
Kyoto Station

Transfer · Private car to hotel

Departure Location
Kyoto Station

Arrival Location
Hotel The Mitsui



15:00

Check In

11:00

Check Out

3 Nights

Duration

Only a stone's throw from the iconic Nijo Castle, this hotel is steeped in history. Built on the location of the Mitsui family's ancestral home, the property has been maintained for over 250 years. The incorporation of the traditional architecture of the original house is beautifully executed in the stunning entranceway and the Japanese garden. Hotel the Mitsui Kyoto perfectly combines modern Japanese design with classic Kyoto luxury to provide guests a calm and comfortable stay in the ancient capital. Hotel the Mitsui Kyoto is the ideal hotel for clients who want to encounter traditional Japan while staying in luxury. Centrally located for sightseeing, designed with natural materials, and equipped with a luxury spa as well as traditional Japanese onsen, any guest is sure to have a wonderful stay at Hotel the Mitsui Kyoto.



Full-day private tour of Kyoto with private car

Today, your guide will meet you and take you on a guided tour of Kyoto's Western wonders. Start with the stunning Golden Pavilion, also known as Kinkaku-ji, which glimmers majestically in the sunlight. One of the most dazzling structures in Kyoto, the pavilion successfully exhibits a different architectural style on each of its three floors - try to notice the differences as you look at it from across the pond. Tucked away to the side behind Kinkaku-ji are some luscious gardens, which might be the temple's best-kept secret!

A short journey away, your guide will then take you to Ryoan-ji. A must-see, Ryoan-ji's exemplary Zen Garden is a carefully curated composition of boulders and raked sand, designed to be only partially revealed no matter what angle from which you view the garden. The idea is that only when you reach enlightenment will you be able to see the whole garden in its entirety.

After, embark on a trip to the Arashiyama area, at the base of Kyoto's Western hills. Famous for its groves of bamboo, the green towers swaying in the breeze, Arashiyama is also home to a famous bridge which has been depicted in woodblock paintings for centuries. Cross over this bridge as you follow the Hozu River, which widens in Arashiyama. Immerse yourself in the old-timey atmosphere of the area, and keep your eye out for the charming kimono and yukata patterns you're likely to see worn during the Spring and Autumn.

- **Guided**
- **Transport: Private Car**

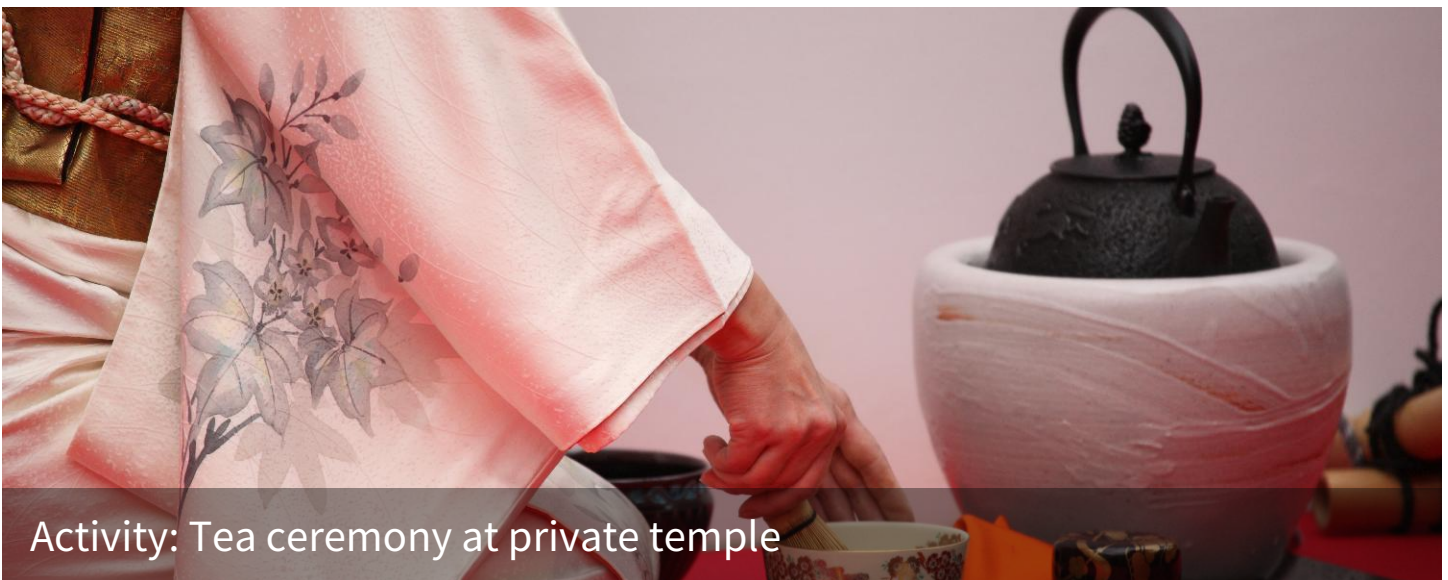


Half-day private tour of Kyoto with private car

Today, visit one of Kyoto's most famous shrines: Fushimi Inari Taisha. The hill on which Fushimi Inari resides is brimming with thousands of strikingly vermilion red torii gates, forming the 'tunnels' that provide the iconic photo back-drop. Whilst you can get your fill of this exquisite sight with a short walk up to the first main area, time permitting we highly recommend wandering through the tunnels all the way to the top of the hill; not only does it become more peaceful, but you will also be rewarded with breath-taking views of Kyoto further up, and a superb summit which is crammed full of tiny torii gates and offerings to the gods.

You will be transferred to your tea ceremony activity after the tour.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



Activity: Tea ceremony at private temple

Today you will head to a private temple, and will experience a tea ceremony, perhaps the most enigmatic of the Japanese arts. You will learn about this tradition that has been passed down for centuries, and of course try the bitter matcha tea for yourself!

- Conducted by tea ceremony expert
- Private activity for XX people
- Duration: approx. 1 hr

Transfer · Private car to airport

Departure Location

Hotel The Mitsui

Arrival Location

Kansai International Airport

Notes

You will be transferred to the airport for your departure.

DEPARTURE

Please make your way to your terminal in good time for your departure.