



Japan: Temples, Shrines and Geisha 10 Nights



Summary

Let us take you on a tour of the Japan that still honours the old ways — wooden houses, raked Zen gardens, Buddhist temples, shinto shrines and districts in which geisha still glide along cobbled streets like moving works of art. This journey into the heart of old Japan includes a floating culinary experience you'll never forget — served aboard a yakatabune, a Japanese barge. You'll also be wowed by a geisha performance and enjoy a saké tasting at a renowned brewery; a tea ceremony in a temple; and a rickshaw rides through Kyoto — Japan's ancient, imperial capital.

Wild Discovery Advantages

- A proven expertise in organizing successful holidays
- Experienced and knowledgeable staff
- High quality service & strong commitment to customer satisfaction
- Permanent assistance from Wild Discovery Head Office at any moment
- Attention to details that make the difference

Overview

Interest: couples — family — group

Level of Comfort: 3/5

Minimum # of passengers: 2

Maximum # of passengers: None

Information about the destination

- **Currency:** Yen
- **Language:** Japanese
- **Dialing Code:** +81
- **Transportation:** private car, train or bus
- **Recommended vaccine :** None
- **Banks & currency exchange:** Currency can be exchanged at major banks, exchanged offices or authorized hotels,

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**Day 1: Tokyo**

Upon arrival at Tokyo's international airport, one of our representatives will meet you and take you to your hotel. Your welcome dinner, will be in a yakatabune. This traditional, Japanese, barge-style boat will sail along the Sumida River to Tokyo Bay. During dinner, enjoy traditional music and a performance by geisha.

Day 2: Tokyo

Today see Tokyo's highlights. Visit the Imperial Palace Plaza. Stroll the grounds of Meiji-Jingu, the most popular Shinto shrine in Japan. Embark on a river cruise to Asakusa, Japan's oldest geisha district. Here you'll uncover Senso-ji. This atmospheric Buddhist temple is set among beautiful shrines, charming gardens and lovely boutiques. Then onwards to Hamarikyu — a gorgeous Japanese garden that was once the grounds of a shogun's villa.

Day 3: Tokyo

Today is at your leisure but comes with the option of having a private cooking lesson. This evening you will enjoy a visit to Happo-en, one of the most beautiful gardens in Tokyo.

Day 4: Tokyo — Nikko - Tokyo

This morning head into the mountains of Nikko. A beautiful area — highlights of this region include numerous shrines and temples. Visit magnificent Toshogu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Surrounded by forest, Toshogu is a space full of Shinto and Buddhist shrines. Despite a restoration project currently underway to spruce up the complex for its 400th birthday, it remains an impressive sight. Then it's on to the picturesque Lake Chuzenji and Tamozawa Imperial Villa. Before turning in for the night, sample local flavors at a saké brewery.

Day 5: Tokyo — Hakone

This morning leave Tokyo for Hakone. This onsen town is about more than its hot-spring baths and views of Mount Fuji — there's also a world-class museum here. At Hakone's Open-Air Museum, you'll find sculptures and artwork by the likes of Picasso, Rodin and Henry Moore. On your way to Hakone, stop in Kamakura — a seaside town with a laid-back vibe.

Day 6: Hakone — Takayama

This morning, board a private boat to cross Lake Ashinoko. You'll sail past the Hakone Shrine, which was popular with samurai during the Kamakura period. Stroll along the shore of Lake Ashinoko on the preserved old Tokaido walking trail. Later today, you'll hop onboard the express train to Takayama, a small town nestled in the Hida Mountains — also known as the Japanese Alps. Here you'll visit Hida no Sato, a village of 30 traditional thatch-roof houses.

Day 7: Takayama

Today you'll learn about the town's colourful history. Be sure to try some moreish local delicacies. This afternoon, travel to Shirakawa-go, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This site is famous for its gassho-zukuri farmhouses. These steep-roofed buildings are designed to withstand heavy snowfall.

Today take the express train to Kyoto — once the capital of Japan. This city is famous for its Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines, beautiful gardens, historical palaces and traditional wooden houses. There are over 2,000 shrines and temples to choose from as well as 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Spend the afternoon getting a taste of Kyoto with your knowledgeable guide.

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**Day 9: Kyoto**

Today's visit Kyoto's highlights. These include Nijo Castle, Ryoan-ji temple, known to be home of the Myoshin-ji School of the Rinzaï branch of Zen Buddhism, and Kiyomizu-dera temple*. The Higashiyama district is a maze of narrow alleyways. This labyrinth is lined with local stores, souvenir shops and pottery centres. *Kiyomizu-dera is currently undergoing partial renovations.

Day 10: Kyoto

Ride a rickshaw through the heart of the Arashiyama district today. You'll visit the area's highlights, as well as some hidden gems. Make a house call to a machiya, a traditional Japanese home. Later today don your kimono and partake in a tea ceremony. Afterwards, you'll walk the local district, which is lined with tea houses and artisan shops.

Day 11: Kyoto

Today is free and yours to enjoy, but some day trip options are available: take part in a day trip to Nara, Japan's first capital; take a tour of an Uji tea factory; or immerse yourself in a mochi-making activity. This evening you'll enjoy cocktail reception in a Japanese bar serving a traditional dinner of kaiseki-ryori — a multi-course meal inspired by the delicacies offered to guests of the imperial court.

Day 12: Kyoto — Osaka — Depart Japan

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home from Osaka.

This is a product sheet elaborated in order to give you a quick overview of our package with details pertaining to hotels, flights and proposed tours. This is not a tailor made quotation and should you wish to have specific details reviewed to better suits your need please do not hesitate to contact one of our travel consultants or visit one of our branches.

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