

# Cultural Treasures of Japan

**13 DAYS**    **\$5,999** pp\*    Save up to **\$300**

## About This Tour

Immerse yourself in the ancient and modern cultures of Japan. Learn the art of the tea ceremony, and stand before the famous Senso-ji Buddhist temple. Tour Matsumoto Castle, known as the “Crow Castle” for its black exterior. Taste legendary Hida beef and sip sake at a local brewery. Delve into Kyoto, the marvellous cultural capital of Japan. Absorb the beauty of the Golden Pavilion and the majesty of Nijo Castle. Board the Shinkansen “bullet” train to travel to Hiroshima to visit Shrine Island and the Peace Memorial Museum. Japan slowly draws you into its eclectic culture and charm, revealing incredible moments every step of the way.





## Your Tour Includes

- 5 Handpicked Accommodations
- 19 Meals

## Included Highlights

- Tokyo
- Asakusa Sensoji Shrine
- Ginza
- Tea Ceremony

### Your Tour at a Glance

<b>Stay</b>	13 Days
	12 Nights
<b>Meals</b>	19 Meals
	12 Breakfasts
	2 Lunches
	5 Dinners
<b>Activity</b>	3
	<a href="#">What's This?</a>
<b>Travel Style</b>	Classic
	<a href="#">What's This?</a>

## Itinerary

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### Day 1: Tokyo, Japan - Tour Begins

Welcome to Japan, the "Land of the Rising Sun." Begin in the electrifying city of Tokyo, where pop culture is turned all the way up and traditions are rich and long-kept.

#### Hotel

Grand Nikko Tokyo **Culinary**  
Daiba

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## Day 2: Tokyo

Feel the excitement start to build as you pass by the grounds of the Imperial Palace and see the Niju Bridge, the well-known symbol of the Imperial Palace. Later, walk through Ginza, one of the most elegant and luxurious streets in the world, where modern landscape meets rich history. Enjoy shopping at some of the most renowned "department stores" in Japan. Later, amid a lush forest outside of Tokyo, visit the Meiji Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. Tonight, join your fellow travellers at a welcome dinner.

**Hotel**  
Grand Nikko Tokyo  
Daiba

**Culinary**  
Breakfast & Dinner

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## Day 3: Tokyo

Begin the day exploring Asakusa, Tokyo's oldest Geisha district. Visit the famous Buddhist temple, Senso-ji, the colourful temple famous for the red chochin (lantern) hanging at the entrance gate. Experience the long standing tradition of the Japanese tea ceremony, dating back to the 15th century. During your free time, explore the Nakamise Shopping Arcade and feel the energy of the oldest shopping street in Japan. Then, head to Tokyo National Museum to learn about the fascinating history and culture of Tokyo. The museum displays artwork and antiques from Japan and the surrounding area.

**Hotel**  
Grand Nikko Tokyo  
Daiba

**Culinary**  
Breakfast

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## Day 4: Tokyo - Hakone

Journey to the lakeside resort of Hakone, renowned for its hot springs. In the shadow of Mt. Fuji (UNESCO), this scenic town hugs the shorelines of Lake Ashi. Make a stop at Owakudani, located in an active volcanic zone. The Owakudani crater was created some 3,000 years ago, when Mt. Hakone erupted. Climb aboard the Hakone Ropeway, an aerial cable car descending from Owakudani for a breathtaking view\* of Mt. Fuji. Next, take to the deep-blue waters of Lake Ashi on a cruise where you'll see epic views of the local mountains before stopping in the charming town of Moto-Hakone.

### Hotel

Odakyu Hotel de  
Yama

### Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

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## Day 5: Hakone - Matsumoto - Takayama

This breathtaking day begins in Matsumoto at Matsumoto Castle, known as the "Crow Castle" because of its striking black exterior. Enjoy the local cuisine as we stop for lunch at a Soba noodle shop. Later, you'll step back in time in the rural Edo-period town of Takayama, nestled in the Japanese Alps. Well known to the locals for its connection to sake, this is the perfect place to gather for a visit to one of Japan's 200-year-old sake breweries. Afterward, experience a true Japanese epicurean treat – traditional rice wine paired with a special Hida beef dinner.

### Hotel

Takayama Green  
Hotel

### Culinary

Breakfast & Lunch  
& Dinner

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## Day 6: Takayama

The ancient cultures of Takayama come alive this morning in the town's historic district. Take a walk through the past and glimpse the 19th-century Jinya government building. Stroll through the morning market, a 600-year-

old open air market with locally grown and produced products, located along the Miyagawa River. Circuit the winding streets, where the town's traditional charms are preserved in the inns and houses. This afternoon, relish some free time to continue your exploration of Takayama on your own.

**Hotel**

Takayama Green  
Hotel

**Culinary**

Breakfast

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**Day 7: Takayama - Shirakawa-go - Kanazawa**

Today, embrace the unique charms of Shirakawa-go (UNESCO). Hidden away in the mountain, this harmonious village is famous for its gassho-zukuri-style houses – thatched-rooftops designed to resemble two hands joined in prayer. Journey to Kanazawa, the origin of gold-leaf making since the 16th century. Visit the Samurai district where we will enter the former home of the Nomuras, a wealthy samurai family who served the ruling Maeda family. Then, travel to the Geisha quarters of Kanazawa, the Higashi Tea district.

**Hotel**

Kanazawa Tokyu  
Hotel

**Culinary**

Breakfast & Dinner

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**Day 8: Kanazawa**

More than 25 acres of absolute beauty await you today at Kenroku-En – Garden of Six Qualities. From the beauty of Japan's most stunning gardens, dive into the ancient craft of gold leaf making during a hands-on lesson in decorating your own lacquer box! In the centre of town, take in the action of the Omicho fish market before venturing out on your own to really immerse yourself in Kanazawa's dynamic culture.

**Hotel**

Kanazawa Tokyu  
Hotel

**Culinary**

Breakfast

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## Day 9: Kanazawa - Kyoto

Kyoto awaits! The former Imperial capital of Japan is now one of the nation's top cosmopolitan cities. At the same time, Kyoto's connection with its past is strong; you won't need to look far to see one of its 2,000 temples and shrines. For lunch, participate in a sushi making class and master the art of sushi making. This afternoon, visit Kinkakuji (UNESCO), the Golden Pavilion, a Zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf.

<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Culinary</b>
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Kyoto Tokyu Hotel	Breakfast & Lunch
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## Day 10: Kyoto - Bullet Train - Hiroshima - Kyoto

All aboard the Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima. Upon arrival, board a ferry for the short trip to Miyajima Island, or "Shrine Island" (UNESCO). Afterwards, head into Hiroshima city to visit the Peace Memorial Park, and pause to see the ruined Atomic Dome (UNESCO). Reflect at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. As this long and moving day comes to a close, return to Kyoto by the Shinkansen bullet train.

<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Culinary</b>
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Kyoto Tokyu Hotel	Breakfast
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## Day 11: Kyoto

This morning, explore Fushimi Inari Taisha for a tour of the most revered shrine of Inari. Follow the spectacular rows of orange torii (made famous in the movie *Memoirs of a Geisha*) that weave through the forest, leading you to the inner shrine. Move on to the home of the first Shogun, Nijo Castle (UNESCO), and see intricate woodcarvings, wall paintings, and the Ninomaru Garden, designed by Kobori Enshu, a landscape architect and tea master. Next, learn about the ancient craft of stenciling during a hands on lesson.

<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Culinary</b>
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Kyoto Tokyu Hotel Breakfast

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## Day 12: Kyoto

Today, spend some time relaxing or set out to explore Kyoto on your own. Fully immerse yourself in Japanese culture tonight during a special kaiseki farewell dinner and maiko show.

### Hotel

### Culinary

Kyoto Tokyu Hotel Breakfast & Dinner

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## Day 13: Kyoto - Tour Ends

Your tour comes to a close in this fascinating land. As you depart, reflect on its beauty and all you have learned about its rich history and culture.

### Hotel

### Culinary

Breakfast

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