

# *Highlights of Japan*

*Tokyo, Hakone, Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto*



Japan, an archipelago of 6800 volcanic islands, is a world apart from any other country. It is a wonderful contrast of tradition and modernity - glitzy skyscrapers co-exist with Geisha girls, flashy neon lights do not overshadow quaint little tea shops, cutting edge modern technology works in tandem with ancient craftsmanship. Besides sheer curiosity, savouring the delights of Japanese cuisine is a large reason to visit this country. The people are charming and courteous, the rail network is fantastic. However, its best kept secret is the stunning natural beauty of Japan and it should be a large reason for visiting this island country.

### **Highlight**

Japan is nothing less than magical in spring time when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom. These beautiful pink flowers form a natural blanket over the country in soft, colourful splendour. It is the perfect time to visit Japan.

## Itinerary

### **Day 1 – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - Arrival in Tokyo**

On arrival in Tokyo, you will be booked to for a stay of 3 nights.

On arrival, the transfer to the airport will be arranged for you. (Early check in is on request)

*(The transfer will be arranged for flights arriving at around 0800 hours. For any other arrivals, a separate transfer fee will be applicable)*

You will be booked at the **Hotel Hyatt Regency or similar** in Tokyo.

Rest of the day at leisure.

Tonight, dinner will be at a local restaurant, including transfers.

Overnight in Tokyo.

### **Day 2 – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - Tokyo sightseeing**

#### **City tour of Tokyo: This morning's tour will include the following**

Asakusa - visit the lively Sensoji Temple district, which is home to Tokyo's first temple and scores of interesting souvenir and craft stalls. You will visit Nakamise Dori, one of the oldest shopping streets in Japan.

Panoramic view of Tokyo Skytree (from outside)

Tokyo Tower, which provides a panoramic views of Japan's capital from the main observatory. Climb to the 476-foot-high (145-meter) viewing platform in Japan's second tallest structure, and be sure to stand over the glass-floor 'lookout window.' (150 metres entrance included)

Imperial Palace visit from the outside

Cruise down the Sumida River to see the cherry blossoms

A visit to Chidorigafuchi park in the embassy area is also included. This is a 700-meter-long walkway lined with 260 cherry trees along the moat of the Imperial Palace and one of the best spots in Tokyo for viewing the cherry blossoms.

A highlight will be a drive by Tokyo's Rainbow bridge. The Rainbow Bridge is a stretched and beautiful shaped bridge, like a rainbow over Tokyo Bay as its name suggests. It is a 798-meter suspension bridge spanning from Shibaura Pier and the Odaiba waterfront development in Minato Ward.

Tonight, dinner will be at a local restaurant, including transfers.

Overnight in Tokyo.

### **Day 3 – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - Tokyo – Visit Kamakura**

This morning, post breakfast, you will visit the The Great Buddha of Kamakura (Kamakura Daibutsu) is a bronze statue of Amida Buddha, which stands on the grounds of Kotokuin Temple. Plus see one/two temples in the area.

Next, you'll take part in a traditional tea ceremony. While you sip tea, admire bonsai trees in the Japanese garden, which has carefully preserved the lovely Edo-style ambience throughout the centuries.

Lunch and shopping time at Komachi Dori

After lunch, back to Tokyo, and drop off at Ginza for shopping. Enroute we will drive past the famous Shibuya Crossing.

You can then spend some time enjoying walking around Ginza and indulging in some shopping.

Tonight, dinner will be at a local restaurant, including transfers.

Overnight in Tokyo.

#### **Day 4 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 - Tokyo to Hakone (Mount Fuji)**

Escape the big-city bustle to explore Mt Fuji and stay in scenic Hakone. Relax during the 2-hour coach trip to Mt Fuji, Japan's highest mountain, which provides a breathtaking backdrop as its iconic peak looms closer.

On arrival, you will be taken to the Fuji visitor center for approx. 20 minutes to learn about current weather conditions as well as the history, formation and ecology of beloved 'Fujisan' through exhibits and films. The second-floor observatory deck provides spectacular close-up views.

Prepare to be wowed as your coach heads uphill to Mt Fuji 5th Station, climbing 7,546 feet (2,300 meters) above sea level. On a clear day, look up the mountain slopes and take in its surrounding lakes; you'll feel almost close enough to reach out and touch the summit. Torii gates, shrines and souvenir shops decorate this station, known as the border between the heavens and the earth.

You will continue on to Lake Ashi for a 15-minute boat cruise from Kojiri to Hakone.

Disembark here to ride the Hakone Komagatake Ropeway for 50 minutes to the mountain peak, situated at an elevation of 4,452 feet (1,357 meters). You'll have superb views over Hakone National Park before making your descent with your guide. (Operation of the ropeway is subject to weather conditions)

Lunch and rest of the afternoon at Gotemba outlet mall

The transfer to the hotel will be arranged for you.

You will be booked at the Hotel **Prince Ashi Lake Hakone** or **Kowakein Hakone** or similar for a stay of 1 night.

Tonight you will have a BUFFET meal at the hotel.

Overnight in Hakone.

#### **Day 5 – 1st April 2017 - Hakone to Hiroshima**

After breakfast, the transfer to Odawara Station will be arranged for you.

You will be booked on a bullet train to Hiroshima.

On arrival, transfer to a local Indian Restaurant for lunch (cost not included)

After lunch, you will continue on a sightseeing tour of Hiroshima

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park was built to commemorate the dropping of the atomic bomb over Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and to promote a peaceful world. It is located in the area around the atomic explosion's epicenter, and houses the Peace Memorial Museum and many other related monuments.

The Peace Memorial Museum graphically displays the atomic bomb's horrible effects on the city and its inhabitants. A visit is naturally depressing. In the museum's east building, Hiroshima's militarist past and the process leading to the dropping of the bomb are documented. Audio guides are available in more than a dozen languages.

The Atomic Bomb Dome is one of the few buildings around the explosion's epicenter that partially survived the blast, and the city's only remaining bomb damaged building. Between the museum and the Atomic Bomb Dome stands the Memorial Cenotaph for Atomic Bomb Victims. It contains a list of all the people who were killed by the explosion or died due to the bombing's long-term effects such as cancer caused by radiation. The Statue of the A-Bomb Children and the Cenotaph for Korean Victims are some of many more monuments found in the park.

Later, the transfer to the hotel will be arranged for you.

You will be booked for a stay of 1 night in Hiroshima at **Hotel Rihga Royal or similar**.

Dinner tonight will be at an Indian Restaurant.

Overnight in Hiroshima.

#### **Day 6 --2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 - Hiroshima to Kyoto**

After Breakfast, proceed to Kyoto by Coach. (approx 3 ½ - 4 hours)

Enroute, you will visit Kurashiki Canal Town. This is a beautifully preserved historical district known as Bikan Historical Quarter. Visiting Kurashiki is a great way to get an idea of what old Japan was like.

Lunch will be at a restaurant enroute or in Kurashiki itself (cost not included)

Continue to Kyoto. On arrival in Kyoto – spend the entire afternoon in Gion district.

Dinner tonight will be at an Indian Restaurant.

(After dinner, those who want can go to Ponto Cho on their own)

You will be booked at the **Hotel Nikko Princess or similar** for a stay of 2 nights.

#### **Day 7 --3<sup>rd</sup> April - Kyoto & Nara Sightseeing**

See the main sights of both Kyoto and Nara in one day!

Stop by two of Kyoto's most important highlights with your guide, starting with 50 minutes at Nijo Castle, which was the home of the Tokugawa Shogun until the mid-1800s. This World Heritage-listed site, constructed in 1603, is renowned for the contrasts between its intricate interior and solemn exterior façade.

Head next to Kinkaku-ji, the city's most popular religious site and what is considered by many to be one of the world's most elaborate Japanese gardens, for 45 minutes. Check out the temple's Golden Pavillion, a three-story building sheathed in gold leaf and situated beside a picturesque pond, where you can take some great photos.

Pause your tour for lunch, then re-board your bus for a 1-hour drive south to Nara, where you'll stop by two of the temples and shrines that form the city's own UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit Todai-ji, a religious complex known for housing one of the world's largest statues of the Buddha (Great Buddha Hall) before continuing to the adjacent Nara Park.

Finish your excursion at Nara's Deer Park, a famous section of Nara Park with free-roaming groups of deer. Feel free to hand-feed these tame creatures with the special food for sale on site.

Hopefully, you will get to see clouds of beautiful cherry blossoms bloom in this lovely city.

Return to Kyoto for Dinner and Overnight in Kyoto.

#### **Day 8 – 4<sup>th</sup> April - Kyoto to Osaka**

After breakfast, travel to Osaka.

On arrival, enjoy a panoramic tour of Osaka. You will visit the Umeda Sky Building and Floating Garden observatory, one of the landmarks of Osaka. At its core is the Umeda Sky Building, a "pair of skyscrapers connected in midair" - built in an unusual architectural form not often encountered anywhere in the world.

You will then be dropped Shinshaibashi area for lunch and entire afternoon of shopping.

Dinner at an Indian restaurant.

You will be booked at the **Hotel Rohga Royal or similar** for a stay of 1 night.

Overnight in Osaka.

#### **Day 9 –5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 - Departure from Osaka**

After your hotel check out, your tour comes to an end. The transfer to the airport will be arranged for you.

*(The transfer will be arranged at 0530 hours. For any other departures, a separate transfer fee will be applicable)*

\*\*\* Return home with wonderful memories of your holiday \*\*\*

<b>Price per person on a twin-sharing basis: INR 2,27,900</b> <b>Single supplement: INR 76,000</b>
---

#### **Price Includes:**

Accommodation as per the itinerary in 4 star hotels for 8 nights  
Daily Breakfast  
Daily Dinner (meals will be a mix of Oriental and Indian. Vegetarian meals will also be there)  
Airport transfers in Tokyo and Osaka (as per the timings specified)  
“Shinkansen” bullet train from Hakone to Hiroshima  
Luggage Delivery service from Mount Fuji to Kyoto  
Transportation services in an air-conditioned vehicle as per itinerary with qualified English speaking guide.  
Tours & Entrance fees as per the itinerary  
Service of an Odyssey Tour Escort from Tokyo to Osaka

#### **Price excludes**

- Air ticket to Tokyo and from Osaka
- Airport Taxes
- Meals and Sightseeing not mentioned in the itinerary
- Porterage
- Visa for Japan
- Overseas Medical Insurance policy
- Porterage at the hotels
- Items of a personal nature, such as laundry, telephone expenses, room service, alcoholic beverages, etc.
- Any other services not specified in the itinerary

#### **Notes:**

- Standard check in at hotels is at 14h00 onwards. Where necessary we will request an early check-in however, this is not guaranteed. The same applies to check out, which is at 12h00.
- Rates subject to change without prior notice due to circumstances beyond our control e.g. fuel increases, rate of exchange fluctuations.

- Please note that your passport should be valid for more than 6 months beyond the date of travel and that you must have at least 2 blank pages on your passport.
  - Please contact us if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation in Tokyo or post tour accommodation in Osaka.
  - ROE calculated at 1 JPY = Rs. 0.66. Any fluctuations at the time of payment will alter the cost
  - **Price based on a minimum of 16 people travelling together**
  - The Cherry Blossom flowers bloom from late March to mid April so we have organised our tour accordingly. It is however a natural phenomenon and the timing and duration of this cannot be controlled.
- 

## Map of Japan



## A few small tips on Japan

- ✓ Room sizes in Japan, especially Tokyo, tend to be quite small.
- ✓ A porter service is only offered in 5 star hotels in Japan.
- ✓ There is a Tourist Tax levied in Tokyo Hotels per tourist. JPY 200 per-day for Four-star hotels or above / JPY 100 per-day for Three-star hotels or below. The tax is to be collected from tourist directly by the hotel.
- ✓ Vehicle and Guide service is meant for maximum 10-hrs a day and according to Itinerary. No Route deviation is allowed once confirmed.
- ✓ The usual dinner time in Japan starts from 1700 HRS and to maintain the Law for Transport & Guide, dinner starts between 1830~1900 and finishes by 1900~1930.
- ✓ Generally, the check-in time for hotels in Japan is from 1500 hrs & check-out until 1000 hrs

## Terms & Conditions

### BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

1. A deposit of Rs 10,000 per person will be payable before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017. If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Odyssey Tours & Travels.
2. At the time of making the booking, please send a copy of the first page of your passport
3. Balance payment is to be made by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017.
4. All rates are subject to a revision if there is a fluctuation in the currency rates.

### CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

1. Should you be forced to amend / cancel the booking you must fill and sign the amendment / cancellation advice, which will entail cancelling your particular reservation, thereby the cancellation charges will apply. Should you wish to cancel any part of a confirmed booking / reservation all such cancellations must be advised in writing. Given below is the cancellation policy.
2. Payment of the booking deposit constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions.
3. Cancellation of a reservation due to any visa being rejected will amount to cancellation charges being levied as per the scale mentioned below and Odyssey Tours & Travels will not be responsible for any visa rejection by the respective consulates.
4. Cancellation of any reservations are subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Cancellation effected before 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015 will attract a service fee of Rs 5000 p
  - b. Cancellation effected between 45 to 30 days prior to departure will attract a cancellation charge of 30% of the tour cost.
  - c. Cancellation effected 29 – 15 days prior to departure will attract a cancellation charge of 50% of the tour cost
  - d. Cancellation effected 14 days prior to departure will attract a cancellation charge of 100% of the tour cost.
  - e. No refund will be due after commencement of travel.
5. Refunds due can take upto 5 weeks to process.