

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 – Tuesday, 5. April 2016 - Arrival in Tokyo

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

You will be booked at the Hotel **Grand Prince Takanawa** or Similar in Tokyo.

Rest of the day at leisure.

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

Note – A complimentary transfer to the hotel will be arranged at 1700 hours. For any other timings, an additional cost will be applicable.

Overnight in Tokyo.

Day 2 – Wednesday, 6. April 2016 - Tokyo sightseeing

Today we go on a sightseeing tour to explore the city of Tokyo. In Asakusa we 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. You will also have Tokyo at your feet when you take in views from the Tokyo Skytree, one of the world's tallest towers (outside view only). Visit Yasukunijinja which is a shrine established to commemorate and to show appreciation and respect to those who dedicated their precious lives to their mother country. 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.

You will then be taken to a local restaurant for lunch (cost not included)

Post lunch, continue your tour of Tokyo.

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. In Odaiba, a popular shopping and entertainment district on a manmade island in Tokyo Bay, you will visit the Statue of Liberty, Mega Web & Daiso. From here, you will get on a boat and cruise the Sumida River from Odaiba to Hinode Pier. You'll glide through Tokyo and go underneath 12 bridges, providing a different perspective on the city. When your boat arrives at Hinode Pier, the transfer back to the hotel will be arranged for you.

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

Overnight in Tokyo.

Day 3 – Thursday, 7. April 2016 - Tokyo Sightseeing

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. You will then head to 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)

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.

You will then be taken to a local restaurant for lunch (cost not included)

Post lunch, you will be dropped off at Ginza for shopping. You can spend the rest of the afternoon enjoying walking around Tokyo and indulging in some shopping.

Once done, you can make your own way back to the hotel.

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

Overnight in Tokyo.

Day 4 – Friday, 8. April 2016 - 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.

Lunch will be a local INDIAN restaurant. (cost not included)

After lunch, 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.

The transfer to the hotel will be arranged for you.

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

Tonight you will have a Japanese meal with vegetarian options at the hotel.

Overnight in Hakone.

Day 5 – Saturday, 9. April 2016 - 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 at the **Hotel Grand Prince Hiroshima** or Similar

Dinner tonight will be at a local Indian Restaurant.

Overnight in Hiroshima.

Day 6 – Sunday, 10. April 2016 - Hiroshima to Osaka

After Breakfast, proceed to Osaka 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 (cost not included)

You will also visit the Earthquake Memorial museum in Kobe enroute. On January 17, 1995 at 5:46 am, the city of Kobe was hit by the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, resulting in the death of more than 5000 people and the destruction of tens of thousands of homes. The Earthquake Memorial Museum, part of the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, was opened in 2002 to commemorate the tragic event and to educate visitors about earthquakes and disaster prevention. The museum includes a large screen theater with realistic images of the earthquake's destructiveness, a documentary film about the recovery process, lots of information about the earthquake and various interactive games about disaster prevention.

On arrival in 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 taken to dinner at a local Indian restaurant.

Post dinner the transfer to the hotel will be arranged for you.

You will be booked at the Hotel **Hyatt Regency Osaka** or Similar for a stay of 2 nights.

Overnight in Osaka.

Day 7 – Monday, 11. April 2016 - Day trip to Kyoto & Nara

See the main sights of both Kyoto and Nara in one day! This day trip from Osaka takes you on a morning tour of Nijo Castle, Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavilion), Kyoto Imperial Palace and Kitano Tenman-gu Shrine. After lunch (own cost), visit landmarks in nearby Nara, home to Kasuga Shrine and the impressive Great Buddha of Todai-ji Temple. Hopefully, you will get to see clouds of beautiful cherry blossoms bloom in this lovely city.

At the end of your trip, you will be taken to the Umeda area in Osaka which is one of the city's largest shopping districts. It has the world's largest underground shopping mall complex.

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

Overnight in Osaka.

Day 8 – Tuesday, 12. April 2016 - Departure from Osaka

The transfer to the airport will be arranged for you.

After your hotel check out, your tour comes to an end.

Note – A complimentary transfer to Kansai airport will be arranged at 0800 hours. For any other timings, an additional cost will be applicable.

***** Return home with wonderful memories *****

Price per person on a twin-sharing basis: INR 1,61,000
Single supplement: INR 62,000

Price Includes:

- Accommodation as per the itinerary in 4 star hotels
- Daily Breakfast
- Daily Dinner
- Airport transfers in Tokyo and Osaka as per the timings mentioned
- “Shinkansen” bullet train from Hakone to Hiroshima
- 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 hotel
- Items of a personal nature, such as laundry, telephone expenses, room service, alcoholic beverages, etc.
- Any other services not specified in the itinerary

Airfare

The approx airfare per person is Rs 58000 – Rs 62000 on Thai Airways, Cathay Pacific or Singapore Airlines.

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. 0.50. Any fluctuations at the time of payment will alter the cost
 - **Price based on a minimum of 15 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.
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Terms & Conditions

BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

1. A deposit of Rs 10,000 per person will be payable before 31st January 2016. 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 15th February 2016.
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 15th February 2015 will attract a service fee of Rs 3000 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.

Map of Japan

