



Japan Holidays
EXCLUSIVE TOUR

WORLD HERITAGE & KUMANO KODO CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR 2018

Mon 26th March 2018 – Mon 9th April 2018 | 15 days-14nights

from A\$6250 per person



TOUR DESCRIPTION

Introduction:

Departure Date to Arrive in Japan:

Sunday 25th or Mon 26th March to arrive In Tokyo
by Mon 26th March

Departure Date from Tour & Japan:

Monday 9th April - Unless extension tour

Inclusions:

14 nights- accommodation 4 star western &
Japanese

Fully escorted- By Japan Holiday's GM - Judy Luxton

First Class English speaking guides

All transfers and tours as per itinerary

Non Inclusions:

International Air & Taxes

Tours & Meals Not shown In Itinerary

Price:

\$6250 per person- Single Supplement - TBA

Short Description:

Springtime in Japan is classy with the debut of
flowering plum blossoms followed closely by beautiful
soft cherry blossoms. Springtime is the time for
rebirth in the name of nature & human celebration
(Hanami parties) throughout the land. We have
always found Kyoto the place to see these beautiful
Sakura trees and we hit peak flowering time on this
tour in Kyoto.

Book today at:

www.japanholidays.com.au

Highlights:

- Visit Tokyo's Must See sights including Mt Fuji/Hakone, Ginza, Imperial Palace, Asakusa
- Travel by super-fast Bullet Train
- Stay in a traditional Buddhist Temple lodging and experience morning prayers with local monks.
- Minimum 4 star accommodation (except temple stay)
- Walk the spectacular mountainous scenery of Kumano Kodo with a local expert Guide
- Enjoy & experience Taiko Drumming
- Hot spring bathing in natural onsens and stay in traditional Ryokan accommodation
- Visit Kyoto's major temples, shrines, gardens, castle & imperial palace
- Ride the Hozu rapids and walk the streets of Arashiyama
- Visit Ise and stay on the coast at Toba
- Experience excellent Japanese cuisine and local sake



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Mon 26th Mar : Tokyo

Upon your arrival, Judy will greet you in the lobby of the hotel.

Day of leisure if your arrival is early morning.

Judy will be on hand for any sightseeing- suggestions -Tsujiki markets and Ginza & Harajuku, Meiji Shrine and Omotosando areas

Accommodation: Tokyu Stay Ginza



Day 2 - Tues 27th Mar : Tokyo

On this Dynamic Tokyo Day Tour you will see some of Tokyo's most famous sights; Tokyo Tower, Imperial Palace Plaza, Senso-ji Temple in Asakusa, and a Sumida River cruise, as well as a traditional Japanese tea ceremony experience. Includes a Japanese-style barbecue lunch (vegetarian menu available). The tour will conclude at 5.30pm at Tokyo Station, where Judy will meet you and arrange welcome drinks & dinner at a local restaurant – Izakaya

Accommodation: Tokyu Stay Ginza

Day 3 - Wed 28th Mar : Tokyo - Hakone - Tokyo

Let's hope weather is fine to see Mt Fuji from our route we shall take from Hakone Yumoto. We start at Shinjuku and travel by the Romance Car to Hakone-Yumoto. From there we shall enjoy the cable car, rope way, and cruise on Lake Ashi to see the breathtaking Mt Fuji from multiple perspectives throughout the day. We end our day in Shinjuku at the food halls of Odakyu Department store.

Accommodation: Tokyu Stay Ginza



ITINERARY

Day 4 & 5 - Thurs & Fri-29 & 30th Mar : Tokyo - Nara

Before travelling to Nara, we forward our main suitcases to Kyoto and Travel with cabin sized bags and a backpack.

Today we will board the bullet train "Shinkansen" and travel quickly to Kyoto- hopefully again seeing Mt Fuji on the way. After check-in at our local ryokan , you'll get an opportunity to visit Nara Park, the deer and the imposing Todajji Temple and Kasuga Shrine before a local Okonomiyaki dinner . The following day we will enjoy a tea ceremony and Kimono experience before heading to see the old capital. We shall enjoy a private Koto experience at the ryokan in the evening

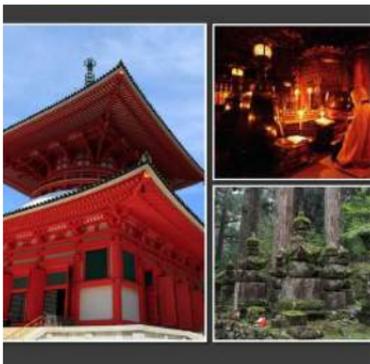
Accommodation : Ryokan Matsumae or similar



Day 6 - Sat 31st Mar : Nara - Koyasan

After a wonderful Western/ Japanese breakfast, we head to Koyasan via trains and one of the steepest cable cars in Japan. After meeting our expert Koyasan Guide, Noriko-san we board a bus to our temple and leave our luggage (check in is not available until 3.00pm), after which we have lunch before visiting Koyasan's temple complex. Amid 900m high mountains, you can view World Heritage-listed temples, monasteries and assembly buildings before dinner - served at 5.30pm in the Temple; vegetarian Buddhist cuisine. After dinner, you are welcome to spend more time in the Temple, or you can depart on the night tour through Okunoin Cemetery, or you can see the head temple - Kongobu-ji lit up- Night tour own cost..

Accommodation : Ekoin Temple Lodging, Koyasan



Day 7 - Sun 1st Apr : Wakayama

Very early this morning, you have the opportunity to attend a Buddhist prayer Ceremony (6.00am) before breakfast. The group will meet with our guide Noriko for a morning of sightseeing before departing for our next stay at around 2.30pm. Enjoy a scenic drive to Kawayu Onsen and relax in a traditional onsen beside the river.

Accommodation : Kamigoten Ryokan or Kawayu Onsen Midoriya



ITINERARY

Day 8 - Mon 2nd Apr : Kumano Kodo

After breakfast, the group will drive to Takahara to hike the Kumano Kodo, from Takahara to Chikatsuyu-Oji (9.3km, 6 hours). The group will be provided with a picnic lunch- eaten at Jujo-oji, sandwiches or a Japanese bento (lunch box), and then set off with our guide Mr Nishihata for the walk. After the day's walking is finished, the group will drive to Kawayu Onsen for Onsens and relaxation before dinner. We cater for day 1 non-walkers with another guide and transport on this day.

Accommodation : Kawayu Midoriya Ryokan



Day 9 - Tues 3rd Apr: Kumano Kodo Wakayama

After buffet breakfast, the group will drive to Hosshinmon-oji and walk the Kumano Kodo from Hosshinmon-Oji to Kumano Hongu Taisha (7km, 3 hours). (For those not walking, we are able to have them spend time at the visitors centre and view the videos and presentations and also the Kumano Hongu Taisha.) After a sandwich/obento picnic lunch at Fushioigami-Oji, the group will see the Kumano Hongu Taisha (the main Kumano Shrine in Japan), Oyunohara and the Giant Torii Gateway. Leisure time until 3:45pm when we meet up at the Kumano Hongu Heritage Centre and drive to Yunomine Onsen – one of only two World Heritage Listed hot springs around the globe. Once the day is finished, the group will drive back to Kawayu Onsen and enjoy a Taiko Drum performance, which will finish at 9.30pm.

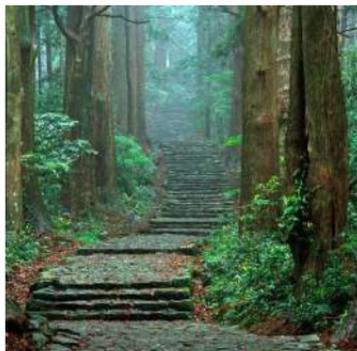
Accommodation : Kawayu Midoriya Ryokan



Day 10 - Wed 4th Apr : Wakayama

Today we leave Midoriya and drive to the boat launch to go in traditional boats down the Kumanogawa river- Unesco heritage listed. This 90 minute traditional boat ride traces the transportation of the Pilgrims many years ago. After visiting Kumano Hayatama Taisha and Kamikura-Jinja, the group will head to Katsuura, We stop off at Daimonzaka and walk the Kumano Kodo 1km to Kumano Nachi Taisha and waterfall. We depart at 5:15pm back to Katsuura and take the ferry boat to Urashima Hotel - a popular holiday spot for Japanese who love tuna and the coastal Onsens. Tonight we dine and see a tuna cutting performance & relax in the town's hot springs and cave baths (Budiko) after a big day.

Accommodation : Hotel Urashima - Sanjokan



ITINERARY

Day 11 - Thurs 5th Apr : Wakayama - Toba & Ise

Some may wish to arise early before buffet breakfast to attend the Fish/Tuna Markets. Many of the tuna from this market make their way to Tsukiji Market in Tokyo, the biggest in the world. We return to the hotel for the morning buffet breakfast, after which we check out of the hotel- and head to Toba and sightseeing in Ise. Tonight you can dine in an a-la-carte French or Japanese Restaurant and soak in the Onsen afterwards

Accommodation : Toba International Hotel



Day 12 -Fri 6th Apr: Toba - Kyoto

Today we will tour by public transport the main shrines of Isa- Geku- outer Shrine & Naiku -Inner Shrine and Oharai-machi where we can sample local foods and get interesting local souvenirs.

Later this day we travel to Kyoto and taxi to our hotel. We shall walk or take local transport to the Gion area for a Night tour of the Gion district, to view Maiko and afterwards eat dinner at a local Izakaya.

Accommodation : Citadines Karasuma Gojo or similar

Day 13 - Sat 7th Apr : Kyoto

After Breakfast we will depart at 8.30 am for our private coach day's sightseeing of Kyoto - Nijo Castle which was built by the Tokugawa Shogun in 1603 with its beautifully detailed and specially-constructed "nightingale" floors to warn of approaching visitors/intruders are of particular interest; Kinkakuji Temple or "Golden Pavilion" which still exudes an impression of timelessness; Ryoanji which is rightly famous for its exquisite garden of raked sand and 15 judiciously placed rocks designed in 1473; and Fushimi Inari Shrine with its more than 10000 vermilion hued Torii gates which have been donated by members of the public. Japan Holidays will host lunch on this day.

Accommodation : Citadines Karasuma Gojo or similar



ITINERARY

Day 14 - Sun 8th Apr : Kyoto

Today we travel to Arashiyama Sagano area of Kyoto. and spend time viewing the Serene Bamboo forest and Arashiyama area before heading to Saga Arashiyama to ride the "Romance" Train into the mountains and return via boat down the gentle "white water" to Arashiyama. This area is noted for its cherry blossoms in the spring, blazing maple colours in autumn and was a favourite of Emperors and Nobles throughout Japanese history. Japan Holidays will host a farewell dinner on this night.

Accommodation : Citadines Karasuma Gojo or similar



Day 15 - Mon 9th Apr : Kyoto - Home or Extension Tour

Today is your last day on tour or the first day for your extension tour. For those departing from Itami or Kansai airport there will be a Shared Shuttle transfer arranged for your departure flight.

Sayonara

**OPTIONAL EXTENSION TOURS AVAILABLE
PLEASE ENQUIRE**



Japan Holidays