



*Japan Holidays*

FEATURED TOUR

# TOHOKU SUMMER FESTIVALS

2nd August – 12th August 2018

From \$5775 per person



# TOUR DESCRIPTION

## **DURATION OF TOUR:**

2nd August - 12th August 2018

11 days 10 nights

## **PRICE:**

From \$5775 per person Twin Share

Single Supplement from \$500 per person

\* Subject to exchange rate

## **INCLUSIONS:**

- 10 Nights Accommodation 3-4 star Western & Japanese
- Fully Escorted by Japan Holidays Staff and English Speaking Guide in Japan
- 10 Breakfasts, 9 Lunches, 7 Dinners
- All transfers and tours as per itinerary.

## **NON INCLUSIONS:**

- International Airfares & Taxes
- Tours & Meals not shown in the itinerary
- Drinks and additional menu charges excluded

## **SHORT DESCRIPTION:**

Immerse yourself in a unique tour that celebrates the colorful summer festivals of Japan's northern "Tohoku" region. Each summer, small towns and cities revel in several days of celebrating summer with colorful parades, decorative floats, music, culture and fantastic light shows at night.

This tour will take you to some of the popular festivals as well as unforgettable sites with castles, shrines, panoramic vistas, handicrafts, and personal spa treatment to soothe your soul and satisfy your yen for exotic travel experiences.

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Travel via Bullet Train from Tokyo through the beautiful countryside of Tohoku region of Japan. View the World's largest drum Festival Sansa Odori Festival
- Be amazed at the Hachinohe Sansha Taisai Parade Festival floats which are all handmade works of craft
- The Nebuta Festival energizes the streets like no other
- Yamagata Hanagasa Festival allows visitors to join performers
- Experience cultural and historical sights of Tohoku including the famous rice paddy art
- Japanese cuisine and sake of northern Japan that is full of flavours
- Enjoy staying in a typical Japanese ryokan and bath in natural hot springs
- In Tokyo visit the major attractions of Asakusa, Imperial Palace and Ginza
- Mt Fuji/Hakone and ancient capitol of Kamakura are also included.

Booking/More information at:  
[www.japanholidays.com.au](http://www.japanholidays.com.au)

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# ITINERARY

Day 1 Thursday : Tokyo

Arrive at Narita International Airport. After clearing Customs, transfer to hotel in Tokyo.

Evening Free

Accommodation: Sotetsu Fresa Inn Tokyo



Day 2 Friday (B,L,D): Tokyo, Iwate

- **Morioka Station:** After an early breakfast, you'll take a scenic 2.5-hr ride on the Tohoku Shinkansen, where you'll get your first taste of festival performances here at the station. Then, you will check into the hotel and relax before our evening festivities begin.

- **Parade Viewing:** You'll enjoy the entire spectacle of parade, dancers and decorative floats from the perfect vantage point, just a short stroll from our hotel.

- **World's Largest Drum Parade:** Tonight, you'll be rocked by the sensational and traditional Sansa Odori Dance Parade, a Guinness World Records explosion of drums, colorful costumes and dance as the performers make their way down streets packed with locals and tourists celebrating summer.

Accommodation: Morioka Grand Hotel Annex



Day 3 Saturday (B,L,D): Iwate, Aomori

- **Morioka Handicraft Village:** Explore a variety of local crafts here, including textiles, ceramics, toys and foods.

- **Creative workshop:** Express your creative side, making your own indigo bandanna at the craft village. It's a wonderful gift with a personal touch!

- **Hachinohe:** After lunch, we return to Morioka Station and depart for Hachinohe for more festivities. But first, unwind and luxuriate with a relaxing massage here.

- **Hachinohe Sansha (Three Shrines) Festival:** You're in for a spectacular treat on the closing night of this special festival! Dating back to 1721, this festival has become more elaborate over the centuries with the addition of enormous, decorative floats and a special Closing Ceremony with unforgettable drum and flute performances.

Accommodation: Morioka Grand Hotel Annex



# ITINERARY

Day 4 Sunday (B, L, D) : Iwate, Aomori

- **Inakadate Village:** We travel to Shin Aomori, where you'll feast your eyes on an astonishing array of "rice paddy art".
- **Sannai-Maruyama Site:** After lunch we'll visit the historical Sannai-Maruyama Site, where you'll see how inhabitants thrived some 5,000 years ago.
- **Nebuta Festival:** In nearby Aomori City, you're in for another memorable experience: the annual "star" festival that celebrates cosmic alignment in a series of colorful nightly parades. Lining the parade route are elaborate floats that take a year in the making. Aglow with enormous lanterns made from exquisite "washi" papers, the floats depict a variety of Japanese historical or cultural figures. The sheer energy of the parade will give you the chills long after it is over.
- After the parade, we return to Morioka City by Shinkansen – while you daydream about the fantastical display of lights, colors, music and dance enjoyed!



Accommodation: Morioka Grand Hotel Annex

Day 5 Monday (B,L,D): Iwate, Yamagata

- **Yamadera:** We travel by Shinkansen to the capital of Yamagata Prefecture. Our first stop is Yamadera, a 1,000-year-old "frontier town" temple nestled atop the picturesque mountains northeast of Yamagata City.
- **Hayamakan Kaminoue Onsen:** We check into a superb accommodation where traditional Japanese aesthetics blends seamlessly with modern elegance. Pamper yourself with a true onsen experience: a relaxing soak in a hot springs spa, guaranteed to make you sigh, "Ahhhhhhh-SO!"
- **Yamagata Hanagasa Festival:** After an early dinner, we take part in yet another stunning celebration of summer. Join elated throngs shouting "Yassho, Makasho!" as ten thousand costumed dancers in flower hats swirl to the throbbing beat of Taiko drums.

Accommodation: Hayamakan

Day 6 Tuesday (B,L,D): Yamagata

- **Kaminoyama Castle:** After breakfast, we visit the enchanting Kaminoyama Castle, which is perched above the city, offering a beautiful panorama in any season.
- **Ginzan Onsen Spa Town:** This quaint, hilly spa town is known as "the thermal baths of silver mountain" for its proximity to a once active silver mine!
- **Silver Mine tour:** After lunch, we'll take a lovely stroll along a path that meanders next to the river, leading to the silver mine. Enjoy the Zen-like music of the river and the small waterfalls along the way.
- **Ryokan Kosan Kaku:** You'll be transported back in time to the glamorous Edo Period at this special inn, which has been in operation for more than 100 years. You can enjoy a private onsen right in the hotel.

Accommodation: Ryokan Kosan Kaku



# ITINERARY

Day 7 Wednesday (B, L) : Yamagata, Tokyo

- After breakfast in the inn, relax on a 3-hour Shinkansen to Tokyo.

- **Tokyo:** Tonight, you can relax in your room or recharge yourself immersed in Tokyo's vibrant night-life! Our hotel here is a tourist favorite for walking tours, historical landmarks, great restaurants and luxury shopping.

Accommodation: Sotetsu Fresa Inn



Day 8 Thursday (B,L,D): Tokyo

- **Tokyo:** We meet up in the lobby with an English-speaking tour guide, who will show us the best of Tokyo by public transport – the quickest, easiest way to get around this vibrant city. Unparalleled shopping will tempt you along **Nakamise**

**Shopping street**, which leads to the oldest Buddhist temple in Japan:

**Asakusa Temple**. Relax among sea ponds that surge with the tides at **Hamarikyu Japanese Garden**, which has a charming island teahouse.

Japan's largest fish market, **Tsukiji** pulses with energy, where you'll weave your way among hundreds of stalls selling fresh seafood, vegetables and fruits.

Next, we are heading to **Ginza District**. You'll find everything from fashions to luxury gifts to foods. Here, we'll also tour the exquisite Imperial Palace gardens, the iconic Nijubashi Bridge and Meiji Jingo Shinto shrine. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes for a long, tall day!

Accommodation: Sotetsu Fresa Inn



Day 9 Friday (B,L): Tokyo, Hakone

- **Hakone:** Our tour guide today takes us on a magical day trip to Hakone which will saturate your senses in spectacular scenery, memorable landmarks and a majestic view of Mt. Fuji. We travel to Hakone by the renowned **Odakyu**

**"Romance Car"** - a limited express luxury train that's as sleek as the countryside is stunning. Enjoy the panorama of nature unfolding outside your window on the **Hakone Tozan** train that winds 450m up switchbacks! Among many activities in this famous resort town are an idyllic boat cruise on **Lake Ashinoko**, the bubbling cauldrons in **Hell Valley**, contemporary sculptures in the **Open Air Museum**, cable cars, ropeway views – something for everyone!

Accommodation: Sotetsu Fresa Inn



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# ITINERARY

Day 10 Saturday (B, L, D) : Tokyo, Kamakura

- **Kamakura**: Our tour guide for today takes us to several places: Kamakura promises to turn your soul inside out – literally – as you view the immense Daibutsu or “Great Buddha” not only from outside, but also by walking right into the heart of this massive cast bronze statue. Next, more than 40 varieties of colorful hydrangea can be viewed at the serene **Hasa-Dera Temple** complex. Finally, sip the sacred water or “zeniarai mizu” at the local temple in Kamakura – or indulge in delectable ricotta pancakes – a favorite treat!

Accommodation: Tokyu Stay Ginza



Day 11 Sunday (B): Tokyo  
After breakfast check out and depart hotel.





## About Japan Holidays

Our team of travel specialists have expert knowledge on the country which is unsurpassed by many travel companies. They hold a strong bond with Japan having either lived there or visited many times. Having specialists proficient in the language will make you feel confident in the having your travel plans managed thoroughly. Japan Holidays is supported by an office in Japan staffed with local experts who are available to assist you in case of need whilst touring the country.

## Contact us

Call: + 61 2 6674 4185

Website: <http://japanholidays.com.au/>

Address: P.O. Box 1175, Kingscliff NSW 2487 Australia

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