



Japan Holidays
EXCLUSIVE TOUR

WORLD HERITAGE &
KUMANO
KODO AUTUMN TOUR 2019

Tue 12th November – Wed 27th November | 16 days - 15 nights

from A\$7990 per person Twin Share



TOUR DESCRIPTION

Introduction:

Tour Commences:

Tuesday 12th November 2019

Tour Finishes:

Wednesday 27th November 2019

Period:

16 days-15 nights

Price:

\$7990 per person- Single Supplement - \$1500

Short Description:

Autumn colours, hot springs, outstanding food, stays in Japan's most popular cities of Tokyo and Kyoto coupled with walking in the footsteps of the ancient pilgrims will revitalise any person seeking a tour offering unrivalled beauty where you will gain an understanding of both historical and contemporary Japan.

Escorted by Judy Luxton

Highlights:

- Visit Tokyo's Must See sights including Mt Fuji/Hakone, Ginza, Imperial Palace, Asakusa
- Travel by super-fast bullet train
- Stay in a Buddhist temple & experience morning prayers & fire ritual 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, rock gardens, castle & Fushimi Inari Tori Gates
- Ride the Hozu rapids and walk the streets of Arashiyama & Bamboo Forest
- Visit Ise and stay on the coast at Toba
- Experience excellent Japanese cuisine and local sake, tea ceremony and Kimono dressing
- 16 B'Fasts, 4 Lunches & 7 Dinners included, plus welcome drinks



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Tue 12 Nov : Tokyo (B)

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 Omotesando areas

Accommodation: Tokyu Stay Ginza



Day 2 - Wed 13th Nov : Tokyo (B)

On this Guided walking tour you will see some of Tokyo's most famous sights; Tokyo Tower, Imperial Palace, Senso-ji Temple in Asakusa., Meiji shrine and Omotesando using public transport. This evening we host welcome drinks at a local Izakaya - Japanese style pub, nearby.

Accommodation: Tokyu Stay Ginza

Day 3 - Thu 14th Nov : Mt Fuji - Hakone Day tour (B)

Today we shall view Mt Fuji from our route in Hakone Yumoto. We start at Shinjuku and travel by the Romance Car to Hakone-Yumoto. From there we enjoy the cable car, rope way, and cruise on Lake Ashi, to see 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 - Fri 15th-Sat 16th Nov: Tokyo - Nara (B x 2)

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 Todaiji Temple, Kohfukuji Temple and Kasuga Shrine before enjoying a local *Okonomiyaki* dinner.

On our 2nd day in Nara, we visit Kasuga Taisha Shrine, decorated with thousands of lanterns and take a walk to explore the Old District, Naramachi and Nara Park with the Ukimido Gazebo floats on Sagiike Pond.

Accommodation : Ryokan Matsumae or similar



Day 6 - Sun 17th Nov : Nara - Koyasan (B, D)

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 3pm), 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.

Accommodation : Ekoin Temple Lodging, Koyasan

Day 7- Mon 18th Nov : Wakayama (B, D)

Very early this morning, you have the opportunity to attend a Buddhist Ceremony (6.00am) followed by a fire ritual at 6.30 before breakfast. The group will meet with our guide Noriko for a morning of sightseeing before departing for our next stay at around 2.00pm. Enjoy a scenic drive to Ryujin village and relax in a traditional onsen and an amazing Kaiseki dinner at Kamigoten Ryokan, a traditional inn originally built for a feudal lord that has been in the Ryujin family for 29 generations.

Accommodation : Kamigoten Ryokan



ITINERARY

Day 8 - Tue 19th Nov : Kumano Kodo (B, L, D)

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 local expert guide, Mr Nishiihata for the walk. After the day's walking is finished, the group will drive to Kawayu Onsen to relax in the hot springs before dinner. We cater for non-walkers on this day with another guide and transport to visit the local villages and coastline of Wakayama.

Accommodation : Kawayu Midoriya Ryokan



Day 9 - Wed 20th Nov : Kumano Kodo Wakayama (B, L, D)

After a buffet breakfast, the group will drive to Hosshinmon-oji and walk the Kumano Kodo from Hosshinmon-Oji to Kumano Hongu Taisha (8km, 3 hours). (For those not walking, we are able to have them spend time at the visitors centre and view the videos and presentations along with the Kumano Hongu Taisha.) After a sandwich/obento picnic lunch with a local Shizo drink at Fushigami-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 after dinner enjoy a Taiko Drum performance, which will finish at 9.30pm.

Accommodation : Kawayu Midoriya Ryokan

Day 10 - Thu 21st Nov : Wakayama (B, L, D)

Today we leave Midoriya and drive to the boat launch to ride in traditional boats down the UNESCO Heritage Listed Kumanogawa River. 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. Today there are many steps to walk. We depart at 5:15pm back to Katsuura and take the ferry boat to Urashima Hotel- a James Bond like fortress - a popular holiday spot for Japanese who love tuna and the coastal *onsens*. Tonight we enjoy a kaiseki meal & relax in the town's hot springs and cave baths (Bukido) after a big day.

Accommodation : Hotel Urashima Sanjokan



ITINERARY

Day 11 - Fri 22nd Nov : Wakayama - Toba & Ise (B, D)

Some may wish to rise early before 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 a a la carte French or Japanese Restaurant and soak in the *onsen* afterwards

Accommodation : Toba International Hotel



Day 12 - Sat 23rd Nov : Toba - Kyoto (B)

Today we will tour by public transport to Ise Jinju, a shrine complex composed of a large number of Shinto shrines centered on two main shrines, Naikū (inner) and Gekū (outer). Afterwards, stroll through Oharai-machi where we can sample local foods and purchase interesting local souvenirs. after which we travel to Kyoto by train and take a taxi to our hotel.

Accommodation : Citadines Karasuma Gojo

Day 13 - Sun 24th Nov : Kyoto (B, L)

After Breakfast we will depart at 8.30 am for our sightseeing tour of Kyoto by private coach. Nijo Castle which was built by the Tokugawa Shogun in 1603 is beautifully detailed and has 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 and designed in 1473; and Fushimi Inari Shrine with its more than 7000 vermilion hued Torii gates which have been donated by members of the public. Japan Holidays will host lunch at a local Machiya house for a Tempura feast.

Accommodation : Citadines Karasuma Gojo



ITINERARY

Day 14 - Mon 25th Nov : Kyoto (B)

Today we travel to Arashiyama Sagano area of Kyoto and spend time viewing the Serene Bamboo forest and Arashiyama . We shall also ride the "Romance" train into the mountains and return via boat down the gentle "white water" to Arashiyama. This area is noted for its blazing maple colours in autumn and was a favourite of Emperors and Nobles throughout Japanese history. This evening we shall walk the Gion area and hopefully see a Maiko or Geiko during their work hours and learn all about this area and the education of Kyoto's Geisha

Accommodation : Citadines Karasuma Gojo



Day 15 - Tue 26th Nov : Kyoto - Free Day (B D)

Morning at your own leisure. Early afternoon we shall partake in a traditional Tea ceremony/ samurai Juku prior to Japan Holidays' hosting of the farewell dinner- drinks included.

Optional Extension tours to Hiroshima, Takayama, Kanazawa or elsewhere are available. Please enquire

Accommodation : Citadines Karasuma Gojo

Day 16 -Wed 27th Nov : Kyoto - End of Tour (B)

This is the last day of your tour. For those departing from Itami or Kansai airport there will be a shared shuttle transfer arranged for your departure flight.

Your Escort- Judy Luxton

Judy has been travelling internationally since 1972 when she was the youngest member of the Australian Olympic Swim Team to the Munich Olympics (Dual Olympian 1972 & 1976).

Since that time Judy has travelled extensively with sport, business and holidays.

Bachelor- degree-qualified in Sports Science with a Graduate Diploma in Education, Judy has been invited on several occasions to Japan to assist in sport, business and international relations.

Judy joined Japan Holidays after 15 years in executive recruitment and has been passionate and well-travelled throughout Japan since the 70's.

Special interest areas are snow skiing, golfing, food and culture.

Japan Holidays





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 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

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