

JAPAN EXPRESS

10 DAYS SMALL GROUP TOUR

USA - TOKYO – Mt. FUJI - HAKONE - KYOTO- USA

Join this tour; starting in Japan's capital city, tour Tokyo's most popular sightseeing spots before continuing to Hakone after a visit to Mt. Fuji. Visit Mt. Fuji's 5th station at an elevation of 2,300 meters and learn about the historic eruptions, nature, and culture surrounding Japan's most iconic mountain. Cruise on pristine Lake Ashi, and a ride on the Komagatake Ropeway which boasts great views of the surrounding Hakone National Park.

The journey takes you then to Kyoto, where you will visit renowned temples, shrines, and the World Heritage Site Nijo Castle. Head then to Hiroshima & Miyajima and tour the World Heritage Sites of Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima and Hiroshima's Atomic Bomb Dome. The tour ends in Kyoto.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Visit the Tokyo's most famous sites; renowned temples, shrines, World Heritage Sites and more
- Ride the Shinkansen, and explore Mt Fuji's Visitor Center and Hakone
- See The Great Buddha of Kamakura
- Tour the World Heritage Sites of Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima and Hiroshima's Atomic Bomb Dome



TOUR PRICE & DEPARTURE DATE:

17 Mar, 2017

Price per person on twin sharing basis: **USD 5080 (Land Only)**
Single Supplement: **USD 980**

Price per person on twin sharing basis: **USD 5980 (Air & Land Only)**
Single Supplement: **USD 980**

TOUR LODGING INFO: *08 Nights at hotels + 01 Night on board flight*
Accommodation will be provided on a twin sharing basis

CITY	NIGHTS	HOTELS
Tokyo	04 Nights	Keio Plaza Hotel - http://www.keioplaza.com/
Kyoto	04 Nights	Ana Crowne Plaza Hotel https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/kyoto/kstna/hoteldetail

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Accommodation at listed hotels or similar
- Daily breakfast
- 6 Lunches & 1 dinner
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Transportation and sightseeing as per itinerary
- Bullet trains from Tokyo to Kyoto
- Services of english speaking guides
- International air from Miami (Air & Land only)
- All taxes & surcharges

TOUR PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Meals not mentioned as being included
- Visa fees
- Items of personal nature
- Travel insurance

TOUR ITINERARY:

DAY 01: USA - DEPARTURE

Today make your own way to the airport from where you will board your flight to Tokyo. Relax and enjoy in-flight services overnight onboard.

DAY 02: TOKYO

Today upon arrival in Narita airport you will be met by our company representative and transferred to the hotel. Overnight in Tokyo

DAY 03: TOKYO (B/L)

This morning enjoy breakfast at the hotel and proceed on a full day tour including lunch. You begin the day with Tokyo tower to enjoy a panoramic view of Tokyo – on a clear day you can see Tokyo Bay, Yokohama and even Mt. Fuji!. Make your stop at Meiji Jingu Shrine, consecrated in honor of the Emperor Meiji, and considered the most-renowned Shinto site in all of Japan. Hear about the practices behind this historic Japanese religion as you explore the shrine's treasure house, sanctuary and other structures, each of which is composed of cypress and constructed with copper-lined roofs. Continue to the Imperial Palace, making sure to watch for the National Diet Building, which hosts Japan's legislature, along the way. Arriving at the palace, observe the ancient foundations of Edo Castle, a structure that has all but disappeared except for its stone base. Then wander the idyllic grounds of the palace's serene East Garden, where you'll have time to check out its tea pavilion and moat. After a peaceful 45 minute stroll, head on to the brightly-colored Nakamise shopping street, its sidewalks jam-packed with food vendors and souvenir sellers. From there, continue with your guide to the Asakusa Kannon Temple, a 1300-year-old Buddhist Temple that is considered one of the country's most important



religious sites. On the grounds of the temple, take time to admire the golden image of Kannon, the female Buddhist Deity of Mercy. Return back to the hotel and Overnight.

DAY 04: TOKYO – HAKONE – TOKYO (B/L)

Breakfast will be served at the hotel early today. After breakfast embark on a full day tour visiting Mt. Fuji, including lunch

Tour departing 8:00 Am, you will be picked up from the hotel. Travel along the scenic roads, enjoy scenery of rural Japan driving. Arrive at Mt. Fuji Visitor centre. Ascend to 5th Station for a breath taking panoramic view.

Continue to Visit the Kubota Itchiku Museum. Kubota Itchiku (1917-2003) was the artist who revived the lost art of Tsujigahana silk dyeing, used to decorate elaborate kimono during the Muromachi Period (1333-1573). An intriguing museum devoted to Kubota Itchiku stands in the wooded hills along the northern coast of Lake Kawaguchiko. Exhibited are several of the artist's kimono creations, depicting themes of nature, the cosmos and the seasons. Also on display are parts of his unfinished masterpiece "Symphony of Light", a huge work comprised of 80 kimono that together form of a picture of Mount Fuji.

Enjoy a Japanese-style lunch and continue on a sightseeing cruising across peaceful Lake Ashi, enjoying the picturesque and serene natural beauty of the lake. This Crater Lake along the southwest wall of the caldera of Mt. Hakone was formed by a powerful volcanic eruption nearly 3,000 years ago, and provides postcard views of Mt. Fuji towering 30 km northwest.

Afterwards continue your tour with Hakone Ropeway. Blessed by its wonderful natural environment, superb scenery and an abundance of natural hot springs, Hakone is one of the leading tourist attractions in Japan. The Hakone Ropeway service operates at approximately one-minute intervals, and the 30-minute journey from Sounzan Station to Togendai Station, which nestles on the shore of Lake Ashi, allows visitors to take in such spectacular views as the crystal-clear blue waters of Lake Ashi, the rising volcanic fumes of Owakudani and the grandeur of Mount Fuji on a fine, sunny day. We are sure that you will enjoy your stroll in the sky, as you find yourself surrounded by some of the most famous sights that Japan has to offer. Board your bus back to the Tokyo. Overnight in Tokyo

DAY 05: TOKYO – KAMAKURA - TOKYO (B/L)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and then proceed on a full day tour visiting Kamakura. Explore the countryside outside Tokyo on a day trip to Kamakura and Yokohama. You'll see the Great Buddha, the Kotokuin was constructed in 1252 and is a bronze statue that stands 13 meters high. It sits outside against wooden hills. Later visit the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine. This shrine was originally built in 1063 and dedicated to Emperor Ojin (God of War). After Japanese style lunch, proceed to Komachi-Dori, a shopping street that started out as a market in front of the shrine and now famous for having over 250 restaurants boutiques etc. After lunch visit the Hokokuji Temple. A small temple of the Rinzaï Sect of Zen Buddhism, secluded in the hills of eastern Kamakura, Hokokuji Temple, however, is best known for the beautiful, small bamboo grove found behind the temple's main hall, which lies thick with over 2000 dark green bamboo stalks. Next visit the Jomyoji Temple a zen temple. Ranked among the five great Zen temples of Kamakura, Jomyoji was founded by the influential Ashikaga family and at its peak was made up of seven buildings and several pagodas. Over the centuries, however, many of the structures were destroyed by fire, and only its historic main hall, reception hall, main gate and warehouse remain today. The main hall sits at the end of a garden and houses a statue of Shaka Nyorai, the historical Buddha. Jomyoji Temple also has a restored teahouse where visitors can sit and enjoy a cup of tea for a small fee while enjoying the view of a nice dry garden. Hop on to your bus back to Tokyo. Overnight in Tokyo.

DAY 06: TOKYO – KYOTO (B/L)

After breakfast you will meet our representative and transferred to Tokyo Station from where you will board the bullet train to Kyoto. Early morning leave your bags with the hotel bell desk. Your bags will be sent to Kyoto separately arriving the same day. Upon arrival another representative will be waiting for you and transferred to hotel. Lunch at traditional Japanese restaurant. Late afternoon visit Nishiki Market - If you're interested in seeing all the really weird and wonderful foods that go into Kyoto cuisine, wander through Nishiki Market. It's in the centre of town, one block north of (and parallel to) Shijō-dōri, running west off Teramachi shopping arcade. This market is a great place to visit on a rainy day or if you need a break from temple-hopping. The variety of foods on display is staggering, and the frequent cries of Irasshaimase! (Welcome!) are heart-warming. Overnight in Kyoto

DAY 07: KYOTO (B/L/D)

After breakfast **full day tour including lunch** visiting the ancient capital's most famous sites! This full day tour takes you across Kyoto to renowned temples, shrines, World Heritage Sites and more. You will be picked up from the hotel and driven to Nijo Castle; a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tour the historical castle completed in 1626, which was built to provide lodging for Tokugawa Shogun and as a palladium for Kyoto Imperial Palace. Continue to Kinkaku-ji Temple, a World Heritage Site, also



known as the Golden Pavilion. The wooden architecture is covered in thin layers of pure gold and is surrounded by a beautiful lake. Visit Kyoto Imperial Palace (except Saturdays, Sundays, when it is closed and instead we will visit Kitano Tenmangu Shrine). Enjoy a Japanese-style lunch and then continue to Heian Jingu Shrine; don't miss the characteristic red architecture of this beautiful shrine built to celebrate the 1101 year anniversary of the founding of the city of Kyoto. Visit the world's longest wooden structure, Sanjusangen-do, housing 1,001 life-size statues of Buddhist Kannon deities dating back to the 13th century. Continue to Kiyomizu-dera Temple, the view of Kyoto from this World Heritage Site is superb. The historic shopping lane that leads to the temple adds to a wonderful experience. Evening make your way to Gion, the famous Geisha district for guided walk tour. Dinner at Gion Restaurant. Overnight in Kyoto

DAY 08: KYOTO (B)

After breakfast we will embark on Kyoto walking tour is ideal for people who want to see a lovely temple, **Arashiyama's famed Bamboo Grove**, the most superb villa and garden in Kyoto and another small temple or two. This route explores the Arashiyama area, Kyoto's second-most popular sightseeing district, located at the base of the Western mountains. After marveling at the splendor of Tenryu-ji Temple, you'll enter the magical Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, and then make your way up to sublime Okochi-Sanso Villa before heading to one or two smaller Buddhist temples. Rest of the day at leisure in Kyoto. Overnight in Kyoto.

DAY 09: KYOTO – HIROSHIMA/ MIYAJIMA - KYOTO (B/L)

Today after breakfast proceed on a full day tour of Hiroshima & Miyajima. You will be picked up from the hotel and transferred to Kyoto Station to board the train to Hiroshima. As your train zips along, your guide introduces the history of Hiroshima, from ancient times to the devastation of World War II and on up to the present. When you arrive in Hiroshima, travel to Miyajimaguchi either by train or coach, then transfer to a boat that takes you to Miyajima, a revered locale also known as the Sacred Island. It is most famous for the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Itsukushima Shrine and its picturesque torii gate, which appears to float on water at high tide. You may spot tame deer roaming free, adding to the ambiance of the island scenery. After about 45 minutes on the island, have lunch then relax on the boat as you cruise back to Hiroshima. In the afternoon, visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. In the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, your guide leads you through exhibits about the atomic bomb that devastated Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and the city's remarkable recovery post-World War II. Take a bus or train to your tour's final destination, the Genbaku Dome (aka the Atomic Bomb Dome or Hiroshima Peace Memorial), one of the few buildings that survived the bombing. Nearby, the Children's Peace Monument is draped with thousands of origami cranes made by children. The Atomic Bomb Memorial Mound contains the ashes of 70,000 bomb victims; many were unidentified or had no surviving relatives to claim their ashes. When you have finished taking in Hiroshima, board the bullet train again at Hiroshima Station and travel back to Kyoto Station, where your tour ends upon arrival in the evening. Arrive in Kyoto station and proceed to hotel. Overnight in Kyoto

DAY 10: KYOTO, DEPARTURE (B)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, and transfer to Airport for your flight back home.

END OF OUR SERVICES