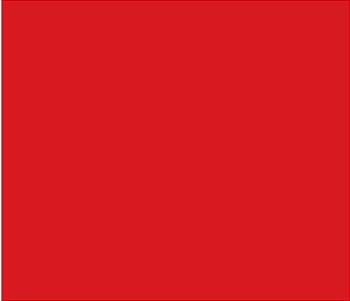


The Best of Tokyo & Kyoto Japan



Konnichiwa! Get ready for a stunning trip through magical Japan!

Experience some of the most diverse scenery, cultures and traditions in the world. From the quirky metropolis of Tokyo to the cultural haven of Kyoto via the famous bullet train, get ready for the freshest sushi, the crispest tempura, a taste of the future, and a glimpse of the past. Enter temples and shrines, witness kabuki and tea ceremonies, stay in traditional inns and soak up the rich history in museums packed with treasures.... welcome to Japan.

What's Included

This is a list of included activities on this trip. If you choose not to participate in the included activities on this itinerary, the cost will not be refunded.

- City tour - Tokyo
- Sumida river cruise Tokyo
- Hamarikyu Garden Tokyo
- Tsukiji fish market - Tokyo
- Bullet train between Tokyo and Kyoto
- Ryoanji Zen Garden Kyoto
- Ryoan-ji Temple - Kyoto
- Sanjusangendo Temple - Kyoto
- Nijo Castle Kyoto
- Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion) Kyoto
- Kiyomizu Temple Kyoto
- Philosopher's path Kyoto
- Nishiki-koji market Kyoto
- Tea ceremony Kyoto
- Gion geisha district walk Kyoto

Please note that during sumo tournaments the stables are not accessible to the public. Another activity will be substituted in its place. Also, the Tsukiji Fish Markets are closed every national holiday and every Sunday.



Trip Duration	7 days
Grade	Basic level
Accommodation	Traditional Inns (6 nights)

At a glance

Day 1-3 Tokyo
Days 4-7 Kyoto

Accommodation

Traditional inns (6 nights)

Please keep in mind that accommodation as shown in the itinerary is subject to availability at time of booking. The closest available alternative will be substituted if our first choice hotels are not available. Deductions or supplements may be applied to the trip price as a result.

Meals

While travelling with us you will experience the vast array of wonderful food available in the world. Generally, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where and what to eat, not all meals are included in the trip price. This also gives you more budgeting flexibility.

Meal Inclusions

6 Breakfasts

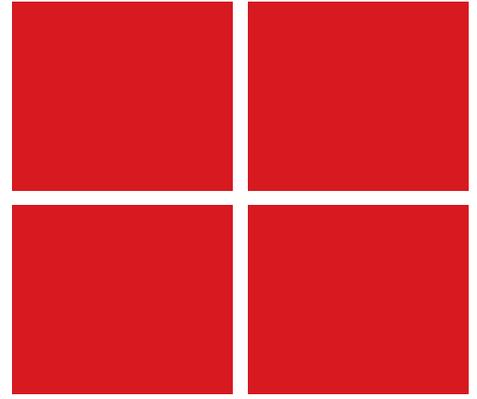
Transport

Bullet train, train, bus, metro, ferry, walking



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Trip dates. 2012

25th Feb - 5th Mar

Trip cost

Joining Picton Base Cost: AUD \$2290

Options & supplements

single supplement: AUD \$572



Detailed Itinerary

Days 1-3 Tokyo

Having arrived at Narita International Airport, check-in to your accommodation, a comfortable traditional Japanese Inn (ryokan) located in Tokyo's old downtown area. Just a few minutes walk from the scenic Sumida River and busy Asakusa with its famous Senso Temple, you'll be based close to shops, bars and restaurants. You will get to experience how a typical family lives in the ryokan, sleeping in the traditional style of a futon which the staff will prepare for you each night. Slippers and a yukata (Japanese bathrobe) are provided as is tradition with the addition of modern conveniences in all the rooms including air-conditioning, private bathroom facilities, minibar, TV and IDD telephone as well as complimentary Japanese tea.

The remainder of day 1 is at your leisure to discover a little of Tokyo and information will be left at the ryokan for those who arrive early to do some sightseeing.

On days 2 and 3 we explore Tokyo!

Asakusa is a great place to start as the city's contrasts of old and new are demonstrated clearly. New Akihabara electronics town, Sony Building, Ginza shopping area and the Harajuku youth culture hub contrast with the older sumo stable visit, traditional Japanese gardens, Sumida river cruise, the world's largest fish market (Tsukiji), and Meiji Shrine. To get around we rely on Tokyo's efficient public transport system.

There's also plenty of free time while in Tokyo to do some of your own personal sightseeing. We have allowed for a lot of flexibility because with so many sites, seasonal differences and special festivals, we don't want to peg you down to a rigid tour! There are a couple of things not to be missed if you're here at certain times of the year including cherry blossom viewing (hanami) at Ueno Park in spring, fireworks over the bay in summer and Japanese New Year, which also falls on 1 January, where homes are festively decorated and crowds flock to Buddhist and Shinto shrines to pray for a good year.

Sample some delicious Japanese cuisine with sushi at the Tsukiji Fish Market, ramen (wheat noodles), at any of the small stands, and delicious tonkatsu (deep-fried, breaded pork), served with a thick, dark sauce, to name but a few.

Meals included: 2 breakfasts

Overnight: Shigetsu Ryokan, Tokyo

The Shigetsu Ryokan has incredible views of temples and pagodas as well as a wonderful cypress-decorated Japanese-style bath where you will be able to truly relax.

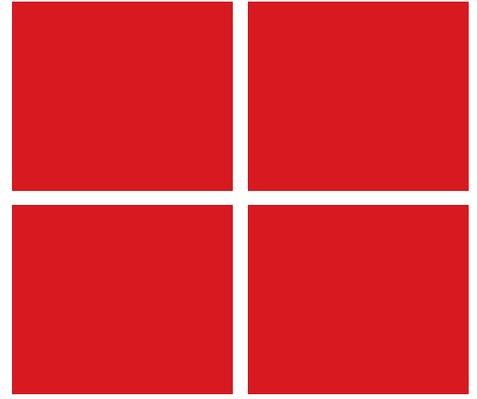
Days 4-7 Kyoto

Jump aboard the Shinkansen bullet train for the two and a half hour journey south to Japan's old capital, Kyoto. Be sure to keep your camera ready just in case you get a clear view of majestic Mt Fuji as you rush past - you'll have to be quick as your train travels at over 300 km/hour. Please note that you will not be accompanied on this train trip. On arrival in Kyoto make your own way to the Heianbo Ryokan, an 8 minute walk from the station, and then the rest of the day is yours to explore at your own pace.



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Fast facts

Private Groups:

Private group options are available for this trip

Singles:

A single supplement is available for this trip*

Leader:

Expert local leader

**Ask our staff for more information*



With more than 200 temples and shrines, Kyoto has a lot to choose from. Here are a few we recommend. Nijo Castle with its 'nightingale' floors that sing as you walk; Ryoan-ji's Zen rock garden and the enchanting Kinkaku-ji building; the incredible Sanjusangen Temple with over a thousand statues of the Buddhist goddess of mercy; the view of Kiyomizu Temple's pagoda and main hall, built on the edge of a hillside and supported by a system of wooden pillars and juts, is breathtaking; or perhaps just a leisurely stroll along the Path of Philosophy which runs alongside the cherry tree lined canal. If you're interested in Japanese cuisine, visit the Nishiki-koji market and its array of Japanese ingredients from seafood to pickles and dried bonito flakes. Participate in a traditional tea ceremony, then take an evening walk through the geisha district of Gion and learn about these beautiful women and their important contribution to keeping traditional Japanese arts alive.

Day 7

Day 7 in Kyoto is also at your leisure in Kyoto with your guide offering advice on attractions that will be the most enjoyable choice for you.

Meals included: 4 breakfasts

Overnight: Heianbo Ryokan, Kyoto

Located in a quiet and traditional neighbourhood, this ryokan is a short walk from a number of temples, gardens and shopping streets. Rooms have private facilities and air-conditioning. The property also features a Japanese bathhouse.

Trip Grading

Some easy physical activities included in your trip. No physical preparation is required to make the most of the journey. Please note that many of our travel connections require you to walk up flights of stairs at a fast pace.



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