



Whispers of Japan



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Tokyo - Hakone - Kyoto - Osaka

8 Days / 7 Nights

0 Persons

Date of Issue: 05 April 2026



Introduction

Designed for families seeking both connection and discovery, this thoughtfully curated journey through Japan blends cultural depth with engaging, all-ages experiences. From the vibrant streets of Tokyo and hands-on ninja adventures to serene escapes in Hakone and the timeless traditions of Kyoto, each day offers a balance of exploration, comfort, and meaningful interaction.

Children and adults alike will be immersed in Japan's rich heritage—walking through torii-lined pathways, meeting local artisans, and enjoying interactive cultural moments—while also embracing moments of leisure and fun. Seamlessly paced and enriched with unique experiences, this journey ensures every member of the family creates lasting memories together in one of the world's most fascinating destinations.

Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
Aman Tokyo	Tokyo	B&B	2 Nights
Gora Kadan	Hakone	B&B	1 Night
Aman Kyoto	Kyoto	B&B	2 Nights
The St. Regis Osaka	Osaka	B&B	2 Nights

Key

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

Day 1 Aman Tokyo, Tokyo

Tokyo

Tokyo is a massive, wealthy, and fascinating metropolis, including a mainland located northwest of Tokyo Bay and two beautiful and subtropical archipelagos, the Izu and Ogasawara Islands. It encompasses rugged natural scenery, high-tech visions of the future, and glimpses of traditional life. The various districts of this phenomenal city vary wildly in character, from the electronic blare of Akihabara to the magnificent Imperial gardens and shrines of Chiyoda; from the lively youth mecca of Shibuya to the splendid pottery shops and temple markets of Asakusa. If you don't like what you see, hop on the train and head to the next station, and you will find something entirely different. The city truly has a little bit of everything for everyone.

Day Itinerary

Arrive in Tokyo and settle into your hotel, taking time to unwind after your journey. As evening falls, step into the city's celebrated culinary scene—one that boasts more Michelin-starred restaurants than anywhere else in the world. Dressed for the occasion, you'll be chauffeured to a restaurant of your choice for an unforgettable fine dining experience.

Whether you choose the refined elegance of traditional Japanese kaiseki, where each course reflects seasonality and artistry, or prefer contemporary interpretations of global cuisine—from French to Italian—Tokyo offers an exceptional range. Indulge in delicately crafted sushi and sashimi, perfectly balanced tempura, or an elevated ramen experience that redefines comfort food. Your evening is seamlessly arranged, with private transfers ensuring a relaxed and indulgent introduction to Tokyo's gastronomic excellence.

Overnight: Aman Tokyo

Aman Tokyo is located within the Otemachi Tower in Tokyo, Japan and is an ideal accommodation option for leisure and business travellers. Accommodation options feature a selection of rooms and suites offering views of the Tokyo skyline, the Imperial Palace Gardens, and Mount Fuji. In-room amenities include Wi-Fi, TVs, furo soaking tubs, and minibars. The hotel offers a variety of dining and drinking options to suit all guests' palates. Leisure facilities and services include an indoor swimming pool, a fitness centre, hot baths, steam rooms, yoga and Pilates classes, and a spa offering a variety of body and beauty treatments.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 2 Aman Tokyo, Tokyo

Day Itinerary

Begin your day by immersing yourself in the vibrant energy of **Shibuya**, Tokyo's trendsetting hub and cultural heartbeat. Witness the iconic scramble crossing before setting out to explore the district's stylish retail and lifestyle spaces, from Shibuya109 and Hikarie to Seibu. Discover uniquely Japanese finds at Hands, Loft, and Don Quijote, or take a leisurely stroll through Miyashita Park, where urban design meets curated dining and boutiques. For a panoramic perspective, ascend to Shibuya Sky and take in sweeping views of Tokyo's skyline.

Later, step into a completely different world with an interactive **Ninja Experience**. Delve into the fascinating history of Japan's covert warriors through engaging storytelling and hands-on activities. Try your precision with shuriken (ninja star) throwing, test your aim with the traditional fukiya blowgun, and enjoy friendly challenges in a fun, guided setting. A curated introduction to ninja traditions, along with an optional samurai transformation, makes this a memorable blend of culture and entertainment.

Return to your hotel in the evening after a day that perfectly balances Tokyo's modern pulse with its intriguing historical traditions.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 3 Gora Kadan, Hakone

Hakone

The mountain town of Hakone lies in the shadow of Mount Fuji and forms part of the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, less than one hundred kilometres from Tokyo. As one of Japan's most popular destinations, Hakone is renowned for its hot springs, luxurious ryokans, natural beauty, and the view of Mount Fuji across Lake Ashinoko. More than just railway fans will enjoy a scenic ride on the Hakone Tozan Railway (Hakone Tozan Densha), Japan's oldest mountain railway. It winds through a narrow, densely wooded valley, stopping at small stations through bridges and tunnels. Other attractions in the area include walks to Hakone Shrine on the shore of Lake Ashi, day trips through the Hakone Open-Air Museum and explorations to Mount Kintoki to view the ruins of old Japan. No visit is complete without eating a black egg hard-boiled in the Great Boiling Valley of Owakudani. Legend has it that these eggs add some extra years to your lifespan.

Day Itinerary

This morning, board a comfortable train from Tokyo to Hakone, a picturesque mountain retreat known for its hot springs and views of Mount Fuji. Upon arrival, begin exploring this serene region shaped by volcanic landscapes and natural beauty.

Take in the tranquil charm of **Lake Ashi**, where, on clear days, the majestic silhouette of Mount Fuji reflects across the water. Continue to the dramatic **Owakudani Valley**, a geothermal wonderland of steaming vents and rugged terrain. Depending on your pace, you may also choose to visit the Hakone Shrine nestled amidst forested hills, explore the Hakone Open Air Museum, or simply unwind with a traditional onsen experience.

Later, enjoy a cultural interlude at the **Hakone Museum of Art**, home to an elegant collection of Japanese ceramics spanning centuries. Wander through its exquisite moss garden, where stone pathways, seasonal foliage, and gentle streams create a deeply calming atmosphere. Pause at the teahouse for a cup of green tea, soaking in the peaceful surroundings before continuing to the scenic Sekirakuen Garden, offering beautiful valley views.

As the day winds down, check into your accommodation and relax amidst Hakone's tranquil setting, a perfect contrast to Tokyo's vibrant energy.

Overnight: Gora Kadan

Gora Kadan is located in Gora in Hakone. The property provides spacious rooms and suites with Smart TVs, Bluetooth speakers, and free Wi-Fi. Guests can enjoy delicious cuisine at the on-site restaurant. Additional facilities include a spa, a large public bath, a fitness centre, and a swimming pool with an outdoor hot tub.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 4 Aman Kyoto, Kyoto

Kyoto

Located on Honshu Island in Japan's Kansai region, Kyoto, the nation's cultural heart, is renowned for its magnificent temples, tranquil Zen gardens, and historic shrines. Rich in tradition yet alive with modern energy, the city offers an extraordinary blend of ancient beauty and contemporary experiences. Not-to-be-missed highlights include the other-worldly Fushimi Inari-Taisha Shinto shrine; Kiyomizu-Dera, offering a 'love providing' ceremony as well as jaw-dropping views, and Buddhist Tōfuku-Ji, famous for its glorious garden. Kyoto is renowned for its food, with places like Nishiki Market offering a wide variety of culinary delights. Culture enthusiasts can attend a traditional tea ceremony; soak up the striking displays at the Kyoto International Manga Museum; or head to Gion, the vibrant downtown district, to visit artisan studios or watch a Kabuki show. Just beyond the city, scenic hikes and restorative hot springs provide the perfect way to connect with nature.

Day Itinerary

Today, journey onward to **Kyoto**, the cultural soul of Japan, where centuries-old traditions continue to shape everyday life. Board a comfortable train from Hakone and travel through ever-changing landscapes before arriving in this timeless city of temples, gardens, and refined artistry.

Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your **ryokan**, a beautifully preserved traditional inn tucked along a quiet Kyoto street. Once the residence of Count Yamashina, this historic property reflects the elegance of imperial-era living, with its wooden architecture, serene garden, and understated charm. Its central location allows for gentle exploration, with landmarks such as Heian Shrine and Shoren-in Temple just a short walk away.

As evening falls, step into Kyoto's most enchanting tradition with an exclusive **geisha cultural experience**. Accompanied by your guide, visit a traditional machiya townhouse—recognized as a Cultural Heritage property—where you will be welcomed into the intimate world of geiko and maiko. Witness a graceful dance performance, learn about the nuances of this centuries-old art form, and savour a beautifully prepared Japanese dinner featuring seasonal ingredients. The evening concludes with an opportunity to interact with the performers, capture photographs, and partake in light-hearted traditional games—an unforgettable glimpse into Kyoto's living heritage.

Overnight: Aman Kyoto

Nestled in a secret forest garden at the foothills of Hidari Daimonji mountain in Kyoto's northern Takagamine district, Aman Kyoto offers a serene retreat near the famed Kinkaku-ji Temple and other UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The minimalist ryokan-inspired suites and pavilions feature light-filled interiors that frame the surrounding nature, with refined amenities designed for comfort and tranquillity. Guests can savour Japanese cuisine at Taka-An and enjoy a blend of Western and local dishes at the convivial Living Pavilion. Beyond dining, the resort provides a wealth of facilities, including the Aman Spa with private mineral-rich onsen, a cultural tea house for traditional chanoyu experiences, and secluded spaces ideal for celebrations and events.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 5 Aman Kyoto, Kyoto

Day Itinerary

Begin your day with a privately guided exploration of Kyoto's most iconic landmarks. Start at the enchanting **Fushimi Inari Shrine**, famed for its thousands of vermilion torii gates that wind through the forested hills—an unforgettable and almost surreal experience. Each gate, donated over time, stands as a symbol of gratitude and devotion, creating a pathway that feels both spiritual and visually striking.

Continue to the stunning **Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion)**, a Zen temple set beside a reflective pond, its upper floors adorned in radiant gold leaf. Stroll through the meticulously maintained gardens, where every element is thoughtfully placed to create harmony and balance.

Later, delve deeper into Japan's cultural essence with an exclusive garden experience. Accompanied by your expert guide, explore some of Kyoto's most refined Japanese gardens and gain insight into their philosophy, symbolism, and design. A highlight of the day is meeting members of one of Japan's oldest gardening families, offering a rare glimpse into generations of craftsmanship and tradition.

In the evening, indulge in a classic **yakiniku dinner**, where premium cuts of meat are grilled to perfection at your table. This interactive dining experience, rooted in both Japanese and Korean influences, offers a relaxed yet flavourful end to a day rich in culture and discovery.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 6 The St. Regis Osaka, Osaka

Osaka

Osaka is a large port city and a busy commercial centre on the Japanese island of Honshu, known for its modern architecture, vibrant nightlife and delicious street food. This bustling city features a number of appealing attractions, most notably its restored 16th-century Shogunate Osaka Castle, surrounded by a moat and plum, peach and cherry blossom trees. The city also boasts an impressive array of museums including the National Museum of Ethnology, the Open-Air Museum of Old Japanese Farm Houses and the Japan Folk Crafts Museum. Other must-see attractions include the Universal Studios Japan and the Expo Commemoration Park, which features the iconic Tower of the Sun.

Day Itinerary

This morning, travel to **Nara**, Japan's first capital, for a leisurely and culturally rich walking experience. Begin in the lively local shopping arcade before visiting **Kofuku-ji Temple**, home to Nara's iconic five-storey pagoda. Continue to the magnificent **Todai-ji Temple**, where the towering Great Buddha sits in serene grandeur, guarded by impressive wooden statues.

Make your way up to **Nigetsu-do Temple**, offering sweeping views across the city, before strolling through charming lanes lined with local shops en route to **Kasuga Taisha Shrine**, famed for its enchanting lanterns and the gentle presence of Nara's free-roaming deer. Pause along the way to enjoy a delicious local lunch and step inside a traditional merchant's home, offering a glimpse into Japan's historic way of life.

Later, continue onward to **Osaka**, Japan's vibrant culinary capital, and check into your hotel.

Optional Evening Experience:

Immerse yourself in Osaka's lively food culture with an **Izakaya Night**. Dine at a local tavern where you'll savour a variety of Japanese dishes paired with free-flowing drinks. Alongside the meal, enjoy a light and engaging introduction to the Japanese language, learning useful phrases and cultural nuances from a local expert. Blending food, conversation, and cultural insight, this experience offers a fun and authentic way to connect with the spirit of Osaka.

Overnight: The St. Regis Osaka

The St. Regis Osaka is located in the heart of beautiful Midosuji, the Champs Elysées of Osaka, close to popular attractions such as Universal Studios Japan. The hotel features luxurious rooms and suites, each elegantly designed with themes inspired by nature, offering amenities such as HDTVs, Wi-Fi access, and air conditioning. Guests can enjoy dining at the hotel's restaurants, namely Rue d'Or, La Veduta, and Teppanyaki Wajo, and unwind at the spa.



BasisBed and Breakfast

Day 7 The St. Regis Osaka, Osaka

Day Itinerary

Today is yours to enjoy **Osaka** at a relaxed pace, allowing you to explore the city in a way that suits your mood. Begin with a leisurely breakfast before stepping out for a gentle walk along the river or spending quiet moments amidst the serene landscapes of **Keitakuen Garden**, a hidden oasis in the heart of the city.

For those inclined towards shopping, Osaka offers endless possibilities—from the bustling streets of **Shinsaibashi** to the refined boutiques and department stores of **Umeda**, perfect for browsing at your own rhythm. Alternatively, immerse yourself in local culture with a visit to the Osaka Museum of Housing and Living, offering a glimpse into the city's past. Nature lovers may opt for a short excursion to **Minoo Park**, where a scenic walk leads you through lush surroundings, with the chance to sample the region's unique maple-leaf tempura.

As evening approaches, unwind in your own style—whether at a sophisticated rooftop bar, a tucked-away café, or a casual izakaya. For a more vibrant experience, head to **Dotonbori**, where dazzling neon lights reflect across the canal, capturing the energetic spirit of Osaka before you return to your hotel for a restful night.

BasisBed and Breakfast

Day 8 End of Itinerary

Day Itinerary

Enjoy a slow and relaxing morning before departure. Take a peaceful walk, savor a final taste of local flavors, or unwind at a cozy café. If time allows, pick up last-minute souvenirs before heading to the airport. Depart with wonderful memories of your journey.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Transport

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
		Tokyo International Airport [HND]	Aman Tokyo		Transfer
		The St. Regis Osaka	Kansai International Airport [KIX]		Transfer

Journey Information

Date	Train	Agency	Departure Platform	Time	Arrival Platform	Time	Class	Ref
	Train		Aman Tokyo		Gora Kadan			
	Train		Gora Kadan		Aman Kyoto			
	Train		Aman Kyoto		The St. Regis Osaka			

Travel Information



Japan is one of the most visited countries in the world and many tourists wax lyrical when they share their travel experiences. The landscape offers an interesting blend of beautiful nature, well kept religious shrines and temples, historical landmarks, modern cities and world heritage sites. The influence of Japan's fascinating cultures and unusual subcultures have such an international impact that foreigners flock here to experience sumo wrestling, traditional tea drinking ceremonies, anime comic art, samurai legends and more. Japan is also known as the birthplace of sushi, aikido and calligraphy. A trip here would not be complete without experiencing the otherworldly music scene and diverse nightlife.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Local currency: Japanese Yen

Symbol: ¥

ISO code: JPY

Subunit: None

Banknotes: ¥1,000, ¥2,000, ¥5,000, ¥10,000

Coins: ¥1, ¥5, ¥10, ¥50, ¥100, ¥500

Banking

Card Transactions: Yes

ATMs: Yes

Mastercard: Yes

Visa: Yes

American Express: Limited acceptance

Diner's club: Limited acceptance

Banking Hours:

Weekdays: 09:00 - 15:00

Weekends: Limited hours

Public Holidays: Yes (If yes, add hours)

Foreign exchange services: Yes

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Air:

Main airlines: Japan Airlines (JAL), All Nippon Airways (ANA)

International Airports: Narita International Airport (NRT) in Tokyo, Kansai International Airport (KIX) in Osaka

Domestic Airports: Haneda Airport (HND) in Tokyo, Itami Airport (ITM) in Osaka

Road:

Driving on the: Left
Tar roads: Yes
Gravel roads: Limited
Valid International Driver's License needed: Yes
Car hire available: Yes
Taxis: Yes
E-hailing services: Yes

Bus:

Inter-city bus services: Yes
Local city bus networks: Yes

Rail:

Railway system: Yes
Subway System: Yes

Water:

Ferries: Yes
Water taxis: Yes
Leisure cruises: Yes

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice**Food and water safety:**

Can you drink the tap water: Yes (Generally safe)
Fresh fruit and veg: Yes
Ice: Yes
Meat: Yes (Ensure proper cooking)
Street food: Yes (Choose reputable vendors)

Local cuisine:

Japanese cuisine is renowned worldwide for its precision, freshness, and variety. Highlights include Sushi (raw fish and rice), Ramen (noodle soup), Tempura (battered and fried seafood or vegetables), and Okonomiyaki (savory pancake). Notable local drinks include Sake (rice wine), Green Tea (Matcha), and Shochu (distilled liquor).

Tipping: Not customary, but small gestures of appreciation may be welcomed.

Climate and Weather

Annual rainfall: Varies by region

Average temperature: 10-25°C

Summer:

Average highs: 25-35°C
Average lows: 20-25°C

Winter:

Average highs: 5-15°C
Average lows: 0-10°C

Best time to visit: The best time to visit Japan depends on your preferences. Spring (March to May) and Autumn (September to November) offer mild temperatures and beautiful cherry blossoms or fall foliage.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Spring and Summer

Cool, light, breathable and comfortable: Yes

Lightweight warm clothes: No

Winter and Autumn

Jerseys, cardigans, sweaters, jackets: Recommended

Heavyweight clothing and boots: No

General

Umbrella and raincoat: Yes

Warm gloves, hat and scarf: Yes (In Winter)

Swimming costume (bathing suit): Yes (For hot springs)

Hat, sunglasses and sunblock: Yes

Walking shoes: Yes

Casual: Yes

Smart-casual attire: Yes

Internet Availability

Internet cafes: Yes

Accommodation options: Yes

Restaurants: Yes

Cafes: Yes

Shopping malls: Yes

Public parks: Yes

Libraries: Yes

Electricity and Plug Standards

Plug Type: Type A, Type B

Voltage (V): 100

Frequency Hertz (Hz): 50/60

*Travel plug adapter and voltage converter might be necessary depending on your appliances.
