



# Easy Tours Japan

Fully Escorted Luxury Travel for the Discerning Retired Traveller  
Japan Cultural Tour  
14 – 27 February 2025

**12 Nights – 13 Days**

Twin Room per person: \$7400

Single Room per person: \$7950

This tour includes a moderate amount of walking, and comfortable shoes are recommended. Transport will include private buses, Shinkansen, boat, and local public transport.

Your fully inclusive escorted tour includes:

#### Tour Escorts:

- Tour Escort, John, will accompany you on every day of the tour
- Private Limousine Bus, including Tour Escort, John, and English-speaking Japanese Guide for a tour of Nijo Castle, Ryoanji Temple and Rock Garden, and Kinkakuji Temple (The Golden Pavilion)
- Private Limousine Bus, including Tour Escort, John, and an English-speaking Japanese Guide for a full-day tour of Nara, including attractions such as Nara Park and Todai-ji Temple, The Hall of the Great Buddha and Isuien Garden
- Tour Escort, John, and English-speaking Japanese Guide for tour of Gion

#### Transport included in your tour:

- Return economy airfares Brisbane – Japan with Jetstar, including meals and entertainment
- Chartered coach on arrival at Kansai International Airport to transfer to your Kyoto hotel
- 5-day Kansai-Hiroshima Area Rail Pass
- Suica Card (Japanese Go Card) pre-loaded with Japanese Yen for local, fully escorted, rail travel
- Takkyubin large suitcase transfer from Kyoto to Osaka

#### Accommodation included in your tour:

- 8 nights accommodation in a 4 Star hotel, Kyoto, located next to the Kyoto train station
- 2 nights in a 4.5 Star hotel, Miyajima Island
- 2 nights in a 4 Star hotel, Osaka

#### Meals included in your tour:

- Breakfast: x 12
- Lunch: x 2
- Dinner: x 12, including 2 traditional Japanese dinners and one dinner at a Japanese Fishing Restaurant.

**All evening meals now included.**

### Experiences included in the Tour:

- Traditional Kyoto Tea Ceremony
- Tour of Kyoto Tower, viewing the expanse of Kyoto and surrounds.
- Sekka Shibori scarf and silk handkerchief class
- Sushi making class
- Return Miyajima Ropeway tickets
- English-speaking guide at Kiyomizu-dera with coach return in the evening to hotel
- Private Limousine Bus and English-speaking guide to tour Nijo Castle, Ryoanji Rock Garden and Kinkaku-ji Temple
- Gion Evening Tour with English-speaking guide, followed by traditional Japanese dinner
- Private Limousine Bus and English-speaking guide for included full-day Nara tour
- Return boat transfer from Miyajima Island to Hiroshima Peace Park
- Sagano Scenic Railway to Kameoka Station, with return to Arashiyama Station
- Kyoto Arashiyama Rickshaw Tour of the Bamboo Forest

### Entrance Fees to the following Temples, Shrines, and Temples included in the Tour:

- Heian-jingu Shrine and Gardens
- Kiyomizu-dera
- Sanjusangendo Temple
- Ryoan-ji Rock Garden and Temple
- Nijo Castle
- Kinkaku-ji – The Golden Pavilion
- Himeji Castle
- Osaka Castle
- Kuromon Ichiba Market
- Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
- Tenryuji Temple

### Included in your Tour with free entry:

- Nishiki Market tour
- Heian-Jingu Shrine Torii Gate
- Chionin Temple Gate and Temple
- Fushimi Inara-Taisha Shrine
- Arishiyama Kimono Forest
- Arishiyama Bamboo Grove
- Togetsukyo Bridge and Katsura River
- Gion historical and shopping district
- Arishiyama Iwatayama Monkey Park (Optional paid, 600jpy.)
- Hiroshima Peace Park and Hiroshima Atomic Dome
- Miyajima Island, including the giant floating Torii Gate, Gojunoto the Five-Storied Pagoda, the Omotesando Shopping Arcade and the world's largest rice paddle
- The Dotonbori precinct, including unique shopping as well as eye-catching signage and billboards, such as the giant pufferfish, octopus, and Kani Douraku crab, as well as the famous Running Man, Dotonbori Glico sign.

### Your Flights – JETSTAR

14 Feb. 2025	Brisbane – Osaka, Kansai (Direct Flight)
26 Feb. 2024	Depart Osaka, Kansai (Direct Flight)
27 Feb. 2024	Land- Brisbane

## Day 1.

Konnichiwa and welcome to Japan.

On arrival at the bustling Kansai International Airport, you will be welcomed by your Tour Escort, John, and your private Limousine Bus; to take you directly to your hotel.

On arrival at your hotel you will be welcomed with a delicious sushi box and a comfortable bed, so you get a restful sleep before we start our Japanese cultural tour.

## Day 2.

Ohayo Gozaimasu - Good Morning.

We start the day with an included delicious breakfast.

Your Tour Escort, John, will lead you the entire day.

Our day will start with a short taxi ride to the awe inspiring Kiyomizu-dera Temple. At Kiyomizu-dera Temple you will be guided by Tour Escort, John, and an English-speaking guide, who will share the amazing history of this beautiful Temple.

Following your tour of Kiyomizu-dera, we will walk down the beautiful Tea Pot Lane shopping street. Here you will find traditional shopping and your choice of delectable Japanese food from the market stalls and restaurants.

We will then walk to the imposing Chionin Temple Gate. If time permits, you may choose to venture up the stairs to see Chionin Temple, a traditional Japanese cemetery and the Chionin Temple Bell. The bell was cast in 1636, with a height of 3.3 metres, diameter of 2.7 metres and weight of 70 tons.

Following Chionin Temple, you will walk through the beautiful traditional streets to Heian-jingu Shrine and Gardens. You will pass under Japan's largest Torii Gate, the Heian-jingu Shrine Grand Torii Gate. On the way to the Shrine and Gardens, you will walk past a traditional Japanese antique store. Here you may find some Japanese treasures.

We will then travel back to our hotel at Kyoto Station, using your included transport card, via the Kyoto subway system. This will allow you to feel the true nature and pulse of Kyoto.

Dinner tonight is included in our hotel. After dinner, if you feel like further exploration, John will walk you through Kyoto Station to experience the Kyoto Viewing Deck, the Skywalk across the roof of the station and the beautifully illuminated staircase.



### Day 3.

Following your included breakfast, you will have an exciting day exploring Kyoto with John as your Tour Escort and guide.

We will leave the hotel via taxi and travel to Sanjusangendo (Rengeo-in) Temple. Here you will view the 1001 statues of Kannon, the Goddess of Mercy. This Shrine dates from 1164. This is an amazing shrine. You will be required to remove your shoes to enter the shrine. Photos are also not permitted in the shrine.

Following your visit to Sanjusangendo (Rengeo-in) Temple, we will walk to the subway and travel a short ten minute ride to Fushimi Inara-Taisha Shrine. You can walk through the hundreds of brightly coloured vermilion Torii Gate that straddle the network of trails behind the main Shrine. You may choose to do a short walk and enjoy the market atmosphere of the surrounding area. You may choose to enjoy some traditional Japanese street food, or have lunch at one of the many small restaurants surrounding the shrine.

You leave Fushimi Inara-Taisha Shrine, travelling again on the local train, for a ten-minute ride back to Kyoto Station.

On arrival at Kyoto Station, John will show the highlights of the Station, as well as the extremely interesting food floors, where many Japanese people shop each day for their evening meals.

We will be back at our hotel with some time to rest prior to our evening meal.

Dinner tonight is provided, and is a traditional Yakiniku meal. The translation of Yakinuki means 'grilled meat' cuisine. You will need to work for your dinner though, as you will be provided the meat, however you will need to cook it on a burner built into your table. This is a fun and interesting way to have dinner.

Following your included dinner, for those who wish to do a little more exploring, Tour Escort John will walk you through Kyoto Station, to The Cube Shopping Centre. This is a modern and interesting shopping centre with something for everyone.

### Day 4.

Following your included breakfast, you will travel with your Tour Escort, John, on a private mini-bus, to the beautiful tourist district of Arashiyama.

On arrival at Arashiyama, you will tour the enchanted Arashiyama Bamboo Grove on a traditional Japanese rickshaw. This is a truly beautiful experience, with the rickshaw driver taking special photos of you while in the private section of the bamboo grove. The Arashiyama Bamboo Grove is one of the most photographed sights of Kyoto, where you will view and hear the sounds of the towering bamboo.

Following your rickshaw ride, we will then walk to the historic Togetsukyo Bridge. This area provides excellent photo opportunities of both the Togetsukyo Bridge and the magnificent Katsura River. This bridge is used in many period film productions.

Lunch is your own choice in the bustling main street, filled with a variety of food and gift shops.

Following lunch, you will experience the beautiful Sagano Scenic Rail, known as the Romantic Train, on a 25-minute ride to Kameoka Station. You will then return to Arashiyama on the Sagano Scenic Rail, giving everyone the opportunity to sit on the picturesque river side of the train.

If time permits, on your return to Arashiyama, you may choose to visit the Arashiyama Iwatayama Monkey Park. Be warned that the 25-minute walk up the hill to the Monkey Viewing Area is steep. Entry to the Iwatayama Monkey Park will cost 600jpy.

John will then return you to Kyoto Station and your hotel, on our private minibuss. Dinner tonight is included in your hotel restaurant.

For those of you who are feeling adventurous, John will take you, following dinner, back to Fushimi Inara-Taisha Shrine, to experience this beautiful, eery shrine at night.

## Day 5.

Day 5 will be one of your favourite days. After your included breakfast, along with your Tour Escort, John, and an English-speaking Japanese Guide, you will board a private Limousine Bus, the most convenient and comfortable way to explore Nijo Castle, Ryoanji Temple and Rock Garden, and Kinkakuji Temple (The Golden Pavilion).

After your included lunch, you travel via the private Limousine Bus to Gion for a private tour with your Tour Escort, John, and an English-speaking Japanese Guide. Gion is Kyoto's geisha district, holding the history and mystery of Kyoto, where you will explore the narrow and traditional laneways of this historic area. When your tour concludes, Tour Escort, John will take you to a restaurant for you to experience a traditional Japanese meal. This unique experience is included in your tour.

Following dinner, Tour Escort, John will return you to your hotel via the subway train, using your included Suica Card. For the adventurous, you may choose to explore Gion after dinner and return to the hotel yourself. It is an easy trip.

## Day 6.

Today is a day for a sleep-in after the big tour day and night at Gion. You can enjoy a later included breakfast as we will not be leaving the hotel until 9:30 am.

Today, using your included Suica card, you travel by subway train to the amazing Nishiki Markets. The markets were founded in 1310 and are known as the "Kitchen of Kyoto". The markets sell an impressive range of fresh and cooked Japanese cuisine.

Lunch will be your own adventure as you explore the great variety of food found in the multitude of stores. While Nishiki Markets is mainly a food market, you will also find pottery, knives and other Japanese items of interest.

Following your time at Nishiki Markets, Tour Escort, John will return you to Kyoto Station, where you will be taken on a tour of Kyoto Tower. Here you will experience how vast Kyoto is, and from the top of Kyoto Tower, on a clear day, be able to view Osaka.

Following your sake tour, your Tour Escort, John, will then guide you to the subway and return you to your hotel, using your included Suica card. Dinner is tonight is provided.

## Day 7.

After your included breakfast, you will board the private minibuss, travelling in a convenient and comfortable manner, with Tour Escort, John, and an English-speaking tour guide, for an exciting day in Nara. The bus ride will take approximately 1 hour. You will tour attractions such as Nara Park and Todai-ji Temple, The Hall of the Great Buddha and Isuien Garden.

Nara is considered a cultural treasure of Japan. Your guides will tour you through temples and shrines. You will enjoy the beautiful gardens and see the wandering tame deer. Lunch will be your own experience, with recommendations from your English-speaking guide.

You will return to your hotel late in the afternoon, with dinner provided.

## Day 8.

Following your included breakfast, you will have the opportunity to demonstrate your creativity.

Today, using your included Suica card, you travel by subway train, with Tour Escort, John, to experience a private Sekka Shibori Scaff class and visit the Sekka Shibori Scaff Museum. You will learn how to dye a silk scarf or handkerchief, using the sekka shibori method. At the end of your private class, you will have a beautiful scarf or handkerchief to serve as a souvenir of your trip to Japan.

Following the scarf class, along with Tour Escort John, you will enjoy the excitement of a Japanese sweet making class. This will give you fun skills to share with family and friends when you return to Australia.

Tour Escort, John will then return you to your hotel, where you will pack for your trip the following day to Hiroshima and Miyajima Island. Your last night in Kyoto. Dinner will be provided.

## Day 9.

Today your large suitcase will be privately transferred to Osaka, as large suitcases are unable to be taken on the Shinkansen. You will need an overnight bag for the two nights on Miyajima Island.

Following your included breakfast, Tour Escort, John will lead you to the Kyoto Shinkansen Station, for your first ride on a Shinkansen or Bullet Train.

You will travel for approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes, via Bullet Train, to Hiroshima Station. This is a very relaxing and interesting trip, where you will see both built-up Japan and rural Japan.

On arrival in Hiroshima, Tour Escort, John will guide you to a food hall where you will be able to purchase a bento box for lunch. You will then travel, with Tour Escort, John, via Trolley Car, to the Hiroshima Peace Park, The Atomic Dome and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. (For the Trolley Car you will need approximately 220jpy.)

When you reach the Peace Park, you will place your overnight bag in a locker, at a cost of approximately 100jpy, while you tour the Peace Park and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

Following your tour of the Peace Park and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, you will travel by boat from the Peace Park to Miyajima Island. This is a 45-minute boat ride and is a World Heritage Sea Route.

You will enjoy a beautiful seaside hotel, with dinner included on your arrival. On arrival at your hotel, you may choose to have a peaceful stroll on the beach or enjoy the rejuvenating waters of the hotel's ofuro bath.

Following dinner, you may choose to walk the Hiroshima Bay shoreline, an illuminated beautiful walk.

## Day 10.

Today, following your included breakfast you have a day of relaxation and exploration. We travel as a group, via boat, to beautiful Miyajima Island.

Lunch is your own adventure, with the island being famous for oysters and seafood.

We will head to the Miyajima Ropeway. The ropeway will take you to the top of Mount Misen, where you will have magnificent views of Hiroshima Bay. Following your ropeway tour, you will be free to explore the island at your leisure. This is a relaxing day where you can wander the island at your own pace. You can visit points of interest such as the Itsukushima Shrine, the giant floating Torii Gate, Gojunoto the Five-Storeyed Pagoda, the Omotesando Shopping Arcade and the world's largest rice paddy.

You will be able to travel back to the mainland at your leisure.

The included evening meal is a traditional Japanese dinner. You will enjoy the meal in the dining area with your fellow adventurers. You may even wear the hotel's Japanese yukata to dinner. A yukata is generally worn on special occasions, and you will be celebrating the culture of Japan.

## Day 11.

After enjoying your included breakfast, you will say farewell to Hiroshima Bay, and travel with your Tour Escort, John, to the Hiroshima Shinkansen Station.

You will then board the Shinkansen, with your Tour Escort, John; and travel approximately 3 hours to Himeji, to visit the beautiful Himeji Castle and accompanying garden. Himeji Castle is also known as the White Heron. Your Tour Escort, John, will guide you through Himeji Castle.

Lunch will be your own choice at Himeji. Options for lunch can be found close to the castle.

After your Himeji tour, you will board the Shinkansen for a 30-minute ride to Osaka. On arrival at Osaka, you will be taken to your hotel for a rest before your Tour Escort, John, takes you on a guided walk through the Dotonbori precinct. In Dotonbori you will see eye-catching signage and billboards, with a giant pufferfish, octopus, and Kani Douraku crab, as well as the famous Running Man, Dotonbori Glico sign.

On arrival at your Osaka hotel, you will be reunited with your main suitcase.

Dinner will be provided in one of the many restaurants of Dotonbori. In Dotonbori, Japanese use the word, *kuidaore*, which means "to ruin yourself with extravagant food found there."

## Day 12.

After enjoying your included breakfast, your Tour Escort, John, will take you via local train, using your included Suica Card, to Sumiyoshi Shrine. This is an extremely beautiful and unique Buddhist Shrine.

Lunch is an included sushi making experience. This is a fun cultural activity, where you will learn how to make traditional Japanese sushi and enjoy eating the sushi you made for lunch.

We will then travel to **Kuromon Ichiba Market**, know as the Kitchen of Kyoto. You will explore the local market stalls and see a variety of food not found anywhere outside Japan.

Your included dinner is at the Zauo Fishing Restaurant. You will sit around an indoor pond and fish for your dinner. Don't worry, if you can't catch a fish, you won't starve, as a meal is also included. This is a fun and sometimes hilarious way to have dinner.

Following dinner, your Tour Escort, John, will walk you back to your hotel, or you can choose to further explore the Dotonbori area for your last night in Japan.

## Day 13.

Today is our last day in Japan. After your included breakfast, you will board a private minibus and travel to Osaka Castle, where John will take you on a tour of the castle.

We return to our hotel at mid-day and are able to enjoy a final rest in our room until our late check-out at 01:00pm. Following our check-out, we will explore the local shopping area for lunch and the opportunity to purchase last minute gifts.

You will then be guided by Tour Escort, John to Kansai International Airport in a private minibus, to prepare for your flight home.

