



715 - 250 Consumers Rd.
North York
Ontario, Canada
M2J 4V6

JAPAN 11 DAY TOUR – CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME

March 24 to April 3, 2024

Day One:

Today our limousine service will pick us up from our homes and transfer us to Pearson International Airport where we'll board our flight to Osaka. Relax on your overnight night to Osaka.

Day 2: Osaka

Upon arrival at the Osaka Airport, we'll be met by our representative and transfer to our hotel. After check-in the rest of the day is at leisure to relax and recover from our flight. **(B)**

Day 3: Osaka - Nara- Osaka

This morning we will visit Heijo, now known as Nara. This beautiful city remains full of iconic sites. Visit Todai-ji Temple, one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples, constructed in the 8th century. This huge area houses various national treasures of Japan. Step foot in the Daibutsuden (Great Buddha Hall), housing the world's largest bronze statue of the Buddha, Vairocana. Wander through Nara Park, and experience "Sakura" (don't forget your camera!). Nara Park also has over 1,200 wild sika deer roaming free! Next we travel back to Osaka. Visit the Osaka Castle, (also another fantastic opportunity to experience "Sakura"). Osaka Castle played a major role in the unification of Japan during the Azuchi-Momoyama period in the sixteenth century. Afterwards we'll be dropped o at Donburi, which exemplifies Osaka's vibrant food culture. Return to the hotel. **(B)**

Day 4: Osaka

After breakfast we'll start our Kansai Culture Day Tour. Today we visit the Higashi Hongan-ji, which is a religious complex of the Pure Land (Jodo Shinshu) Buddhism. Its monumental architecture is renowned for being sheltered by the largest wooden roof in the world. Here we can also take a great picture of Kyoto Tower. Afterwards we visit the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, a mesmerizing grove of thousands of tall bamboo plants, and another opportunity to experience "Sakura". A paved walkway runs through the middle of both sections, forming the famous "Bamboo Alley," one of Kyoto's most photographed sights. Japanese traditional lunch will be included at a local Japanese restaurant. Our next stop is one of the most sacred and impressive destinations, the Fushimi Inari-Taisha Shrine. Walk through the famous vermilion Torii Gates, the most picturesque location on tour. You may also choose the option to rent a Kimono (\$70.00CAD). You can dress in the traditional Kimono and explore great photo opportunities along the ancient street in Japan's beautiful national dress! In the afternoon, you will get a chance to experience a unique Tea ceremony and Wagashi making, which will make your travel memorable. You will make Japanese sweets called nerikiri perfect for the tea ceremony and ideal for taking back home as a souvenir. Afterwards we'll return to our hotel. This evening, we go out to a Kaiseki dinner! Kaiseki is a traditional Japanese multi-course meal. It generally consists of a sequence of light dishes and is often served at high-class Japanese restaurants. Return to the hotel after dinner. **(B, L, D)**

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Day 5: Osaka - Kyoto – Nagoya

This morning we experience a true modern marvel by riding the Shinkansen (bullet train) to Kyoto Station. Kyoto was Japan's capital and the emperor's residence from 794 until 1868. Countless temples, shrines, and other historically price less structures survive in the city today. Visit Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion), World Cultural Heritage featuring a shining golden pavilion and a pond-centered garden. Visit the shining Kinkaku with two doors covered entirely in thin layers of pure gold and detailed architecture incorporating three distinct styles of Shin den, Samurai, and Zen. This is also a great opportunity to experience "Sakura" Next we'll visit Nishiki market and experience local life. Rich with history and tradition, the market is renowned as the place to obtain many of Kyoto's famous foods and goods. Travel to Nagoya to visit Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology. Here you will learn about the history of Toyota which started out as a textile machinery manufacturer and how it became a successful mass exporter and manufacturer of automotive technology, including robots. Then we will continue our trip to Hamamatsu and stay overnight. **(B)**

Day 6: Nagoya -Takayama – Shirakawago Village - Matsumoto

After breakfast we visit Takayama. The old town has been beautifully preserved with many buildings and whole streets of houses dating from the Edo Period (1603-1868), when the city thrived as a wealthy merchant town. Visit Shirakawago village which was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1995. They are famous for their traditional gassho-zukuri farmhouses, some of which are more than 250 years old. Our coach will then bring us to Matsumoto where stay this evening. **(B)**

Day 7: Matsumoto - Mt. Fuji

This morning, we visit the Daio Wasabi Farm. The farm has multiple large elds with a meticulously maintained network of small streams that constantly provides each wasabi plant with clear, owing water from the Northern Alps. We continue on to Mt. Fuji. Stop at Oishi Park by Lake Kawaguchi to capture a breathtaking view of Mount Fuji. Visit Oshino Hakkai. Known as the springs of Mount Fuji, the eight ponds are fed by melting snow filtering down from the slopes of nearby Mount Fuji, through porous layers of lava, resulting in very clear spring water that is revered by locals. Afterwards, finish the day with a true cultural experience in our hot spring hotel. Dress in Yukata bath robes and enjoy a traditional dinner! **(B, D)**

Day 8: Mt. Fuji - Hakone -Tokyo

Visit Gotemba Peace Park to capture a breath taking view of Mount Fuji again before heading for Hakone where we visit Hakone Shrine. Enjoy a cruise on Lake Ashi, a crater lake famous for its view of the famous peak, Mount Fuji, from a distance. We will arrive in Tokyo in the late afternoon. Spend the balance of the evening to relax or explore on your own. **(B)**



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Day 9: Tokyo

Today we visit Meiji Shrine, dedicated to the deed spirits of Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken. Our next stop is Tokyo Metro to enjoy a panoramic view of enormous Tokyo city. Lunch on your own at Shinjuku Golden Street, where you can easily find local cuisine and enjoy one of Tokyo's most busy and lively areas. Later, stroll through the Sensoji Temple (Asaku sa Kannon Temple), one of Tokyo's most colorful and popular temples. Then walk along the famous 820-ft long Nakamise shopping street where you can explore the lines of stalls selling different Japanese-styled goods and souvenirs. Return to the hotel. **(B)**

Day 10: Tokyo

After breakfast we'll board our coach and travel to Kamakura and Yokohama, two of Japan's most captivating cities. This is a fascinating full day tour. Travel southwest to Kamakura, a picturesque seaside city nestled in forested hills on Sagami Bay renowned for its Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines and rich history. Next, continue to Yokohama, Japan's second-largest city. Visit Sankeien Garden and the Red Brick Warehouse, where early-20th century custom buildings now house stylish shops, and stroll in waterside Yamashita Park and Chinatown. After our tour we return to our hotel. **(B)**

Day 11: Tokyo- Toronto

Enjoy a free morning to explore and delight in bustling Tokyo at your own pace. Perhaps discover Japanese history and art at a museum or indulge in some retail therapy at Tokyo's cutting-edge stores. The choice is yours. Alas, all good things must come to an end. This afternoon we'll board our coach for Tokyo's Narita Airport to board our flight to Toronto. Upon arrival in Toronto we'll clear customs and take our limousine service back to our homes. We'll bring with us fond memories and a new knowledge of this ancient culture! **(B) WELCOME HOME!**

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner