

Japan Essentials at Cherry Blossom Time

11 day tour beginning in Tokyo on 26 March 2017 and visiting Hakone, Kawaguchiko, Matsumoto, Takayama, Shirakawago, Gifu, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Himeji, Kobe, Nara and Osaka.



For bookings contact your travel agent or

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InterAsia

Travel Exotic Asia With Us

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Sun 26 Mar Arrive Tokyo

On arrival at Tokyo's Narita Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The transfer is included for those arriving between 0700 and 0830 - an additional transfer cost will apply if arriving at other times. The remainder of the day is at leisure to rest or explore. Stay two nights at the *Shinjuku Washington Hotel*.

Mon 27 Mar Tokyo

A city sights tour begins with a visit to the Koishikawa Korakuen Garden, a peaceful garden begun in 1629 and influenced by Chinese design. Visit the Edo Tokyo Museum, the historic entertainment district of Asakusa, with free time for lunch and browsing in Nakamise Arcade. Next is shopping time in the famous Ginza district. Meet up at a local restaurant for dinner, followed by a scenic drive with night time views over Odaiba Island in Tokyo Bay. Odaiba will host venues for the 2020 Summer Olympics. (B,D)

Tue 28 Mar Hakone - Kawaguchiko

Travel to Hakone by coach. Visit the Hakone Shrine, a Shinto shrine on the shore of Lake Ashi, then take a cruise on the lake. In the afternoon ride the Owakudani Cable Car – you can view Mt Fuji on a clear day. See the cherry blossom trees in Gotemba Peace Park, also with views of Mt Fuji, then visit Gotemba Outlet stores for shopping and free time for dinner.

Stay one night at the *Hotel Regina Kawaguchiko*. (B)

Wed 29 Mar Matsumoto - Takayama

On the drive to Matsumoto stop at the Daio Wasabi Farm to learn about wasabi production and perhaps try some wasabi flavoured treats. Visit Matsumoto Castle set amidst impressive gardens. Travel on to Takayama, arriving early evening.

Stay one night at the *Hida Hotel Plaza* in Takayama. (B)

Thu 30 Mar Gifu

Take a guided walking tour of Takayama this morning, including the morning market and historic streets of Sanmuchi Suji.

Drive to Shirakawago by coach and take a walk to the Kanda residence built in traditional Japanese style. In Gujo Hachiman try your hand at making plastic food samples – the kind that feature in the windows of many Japanese restaurants. Travel on to Gifu.

Stay one night at the *Gifu Miyako Hotel* near the banks of the Nagara River, a popular spot for cormorant fishing in the warmer months. (B)

Fri 31 Mar Kyoto

Drive on to Kyoto this morning. Visit Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion, Kyoto's most iconic sight, rising above its reflecting pond. Visit Nijo Castle, the Heian Shrine in the Shinen Gardens and take a stroll through the Gion, the city's most famous entertainment district and the centre of its traditional arts. Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant in the Gion.

Stay one night at the *Kyoto Royal Hotel & Spa*. (B,D)

Sat 01 Apr Kyoto - Hiroshima

Visit Kiyomizu Temple then enjoy some time among the blossoms on the Philosopher's Walk, a cherry tree lined path along a canal. The art of the kimono is on show at a parade in the Nishijinori Kaikan textile museum. Experience a Tea Ceremony in the afternoon, then transfer to the station to catch the Bullet Train to Hiroshima.

Stay two nights at the *ANA Crowne Plaza* in Hiroshima. (B)

Sun 02 Apr Miyajima - Hiroshima

Visit Miyajima by coach and ferry this morning to see the Itsukushima



Shrine and "floating" red torii gate. Return to Hiroshima, the first city in the world to experience an atomic explosion. Your city tour includes visits to the Bomb Dome and Peace Memorial Park and Museum, and in the evening, a walking tour with your guide. (B)

Mon 03 Apr Himeji - Kobe - Osaka

Drive to Himeji. Visit the Kouko-en Gardens at Himeji Castle, featuring heritage garden styles from throughout Japan. Cherry blossoms should be in abundance here! Proceed to Kobe for a walk in Motomachi, an Asian inspired shopping precinct. Arrive Osaka early evening.

Stay two nights at the *Hotel Granvia Osaka*. (B)

Tue 04 Apr Nara excursion

Travel to Nara, the first permanent capital and birthplace of much of the Japan's traditional arts and literature. Visit Todaiji Temple to see the Great Buddha statue, the Deer Park and Kasuga Shrine. Return to Osaka with time to refresh before a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

Wed 05 Apr Depart Osaka

An early start for the transfer to Kansai International Airport, arriving at 0730 in time for homebound flights departing from 1030. Transfers for flights at other times will incur an additional transfer cost. (B)

Tour Price:

11 day tour: \$8,495 per person, twin share

Single supplement: \$950

Price includes:

- 10 nights in well located 3.5 and 4 star hotels
- Meals as listed - 10 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners
- Exquisite cultural experiences
- Transfers and internal transportation, tourist class seats on the Bullet Train
- English speaking experienced guide throughout, sightseeing as listed and entrance fees
- InterAsia's versatile travel bag
- Australian tour escort, subject to a minimum of 15 passengers

Tour prices and inclusions are based on a minimum of 10 passengers. This tour is operated by InterAsia Tours – your specialist in Asia since 1989.