TIMELESS JAPAN

2570 • TOKYO → OSAKA

Leisurely ○ ○ ○ ● ○ On the go

Meals

Breakfast: 9 Lunch: 1 Dinner: 0

Transport

Touring by private, air-conditioned motorcoach.
Free Wi-Fi (where available)

Accommodation

Rooms with private bath or shower. Includes hotel taxes, porterage, tips and service charges

HighLights

Tokyo
Kamakura
Mount Fuji Cable Car
Cruise on Lake Ashi
Nijo Castle
Kiyomizu Temple

DAY 1: TOKYO, JAPAN.

Welcome to Japan's capital city. Hotel rooms are available for midafternoon check-in.

DAY 2: TOKYO.

Meet your Tour Director and travelling companions prior to morning sightseeing in Tokyo. Your tour starts with a visit to MEIJI SHRINE, a magnificent 20th-century Shinto monument set in a manmade forest. Next, visit SHINJUKU GYOEN GARDEN. Originally dating from the early 1600s, the garden was destroyed in World War II and reopened in 1949 as a public park. Today, it remains a very popular stop for locals and visitors alike. Last stop is the ASAKUSA KANNON TEMPLE and the bustling NAKAMISE SHOPPING ARCADE. The balance of the afternoon is at leisure. (B)

DAY 3: TOKYO-KAMAKURA-MOUNT FUJI AREA.

This morning, leave Tokyo and head south along the coast to Kamakura to see the 750-year-old GREAT BUDDHA. Continue on to the Mount Fuji area for a CRUISE on Lake Ashi, followed by a CABLE-CAR RIDE (weather permitting) for panoramic views of spectacular Mount Fuji, Japan's highest mountain. (B,L)

DAY 4: MOUNT FUJI AREA-KYOTO.

This morning, board one of Japan's famous BULLET TRAINS bound for Kyoto. Upon arrival, visit the FUSHIMI INARI SHRINE, renowned for the thousands of brightly coloured Torii Gates. This evening, you may choose to stay in a traditional Japanese ryokan (additional expense). (B)

DAY 5: KYOTO.

Your day begins with a visit to NIJO CASTLE, built in 1603 as the official residence of Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu. Then, visit stunning Kinkakuji, the TEMPLE OF THE GOLD PAVILION, covered in shimmering gold leaf. Lastly, visit KIYOMIZU TEMPLE, the "Pure Water Temple," with stunning views over Kyoto. Along the way, walk through the busy streets where shops and restaurants have been catering to pilgrims for centuries. (B)

DAY 6: KYOTO-HIROSHIMA.

The morning is at your leisure to explore more of Kyoto's historic temples and shrines. This afternoon, drive south to Hiroshima. (B)

DAY 7: HIROSHIMA.

Today's sightseeing starts at PEACE MEMORIAL PARK, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the PEACE MEMORIAL, commonly referred to as the Atomic Bomb Dome, that has been preserved just as it was on August 6, 1945, immediately after the bombing. You will also visit the MEMORIAL MUSEUM and MEMORIAL HALL, which commemorate the lives lost that day. Next, join the afternoon excursion to MIYAJIMA ISLAND to visit ITSUKUSHIMA SHRINE, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its floating Torii Gate. (B)

DAY 8: HIROSHIMA-OKAYAMA-OSAKA.

Drive north to Okayama and visit KORAKU-EN, one of the "Three Great Gardens of Japan." Covering some 30 acres, the garden features ponds, plum groves, and tea fields. A unique feature not typically found in Japanese gardens are the wide lawns which are said to help uplift the spirit and promote open mindedness. Continue on to Osaka and enjoy the evening at leisure. (B)

DAY 9: OSAKA.

Your sightseeing tour starts at the OPEN-AIR MUSEUM OF OLD JAPANESE FARM HOUSES, where traditional thatchedroof farm houses dating from the Edo period have been restored. See the old architecture and be transported back in time. Next, visit OSAKA CASTLE and take a WALKING TOUR in Dotonbori, the city's most famous entertainment district. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. Perhaps return to Dotonbori this evening to sample some local cuisine and see the sparkling neon lights. (B)

DAY 10: OSAKA.

Your tour ends with breakfast this morning. (B)