



Ready to say Kon'nichiwa to Japan? Let us show you how. Famed for futuristic cities, ancient traditions, drool worthy food and outstanding natural beauty, Japan is a country that will bring all your senses to life and send you home wanting more. Over 13 days visit Tokyo, Nagano, Hakone, Osaka, Koyasan and Kyoto, where you'll learn to roll sushi, wield a sword like a Samurai, fall in love with enchanted castles and spend the night in the company of monks, in a 1000 year old Buddhist temple. Oh, and did we mention you'll be doing all this with an awesome group leader and an instant crew of new mates? The trip of a lifetime just got even better...

TOKYO → KYOTO

Transport:	Trains, Shinkansen (Bullet Trains), Buses
Meals:	12B, 2L, 2D
Group size:	4 - 16
Age Range:	18 - 40's

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit temples, shrines and castles as you deep dive into Japan's rich and fascinating history
- Get up close to the famous red faced snow monkeys of Jigokudani
- Cruise around Hakone by pirate ship and cable car, for outstanding views of Mount Fuji
- Learn how to wield a Samurai sword under the watchful eye of a Samurai master who's dedicated their life to the art of the sword
- Sleep in the company of monks in a 1000 year old Buddhist temple

INCLUSIONS

- ✓ 12 Nights Accommodation
- ✓ 16 Meals
- ✓ All Transport
- ✓ Awesome Group Leader
- ✓ Tokyo City Tour
- ✓ Nightlife & Karaoke Bars
- ✓ Traditional Japanese Style Accom
- ✓ Ancient Temples & Shrines
- ✓ Sushi Class
- ✓ Origami Experience
- ✓ Roll Your Own Soba Noodles
- ✓ Jigokudani Snow Monkeys
- ✓ Shiga Kogen National Park (summer)
- ✓ Lake Ashi Pirate Ship Cruise
- ✓ Mount Fuji Cable Car Views
- ✓ Osaka Castle Visit
- ✓ Overnight Stay at Buddhist Temple
- ✓ Meditation & Night Cemetery Walk
- ✓ Morning Prayer & Fire Ceremony
- ✓ Night Tour of Kyoto's Geisha District
- ✓ Arishiyama Bamboo Forest
- ✓ Kinkakuji Golden Pavillion Temple
- ✓ Fushimi Inari Shrine
- ✓ Samurai Experience
- ✓ Help with Onward Travel

NOT INCLUDED:

Flights, travel insurance, visas & some meals



ITINERARY & IMPORTANT INFO

DAY 1 - ARRIVE IN TOKYO!

• **TOKYO** Kon'nichiwa and welcome to Tokyo! Today you'll arrive into one of the world's buzziest, most forward thinking cities. Checking in to your hostel, you'll then meet up with your travel crew and get excited for the adventures to come.

DAY 2 - TEMPLES, CULTURE & TINY BARS

• **TOKYO** Today is all about discovering all that Tokyo has in store. First up, we'll pay a visit to one of the country's oldest temples, Senso-ji Temple, before checking out the Meiji Shrine. Colourful, eclectic and fashion forward Harajuku is up next, before we brave the iconic Shibuya Crossing, the world's busiest intersection. After dinner this evening, we'll then squeeze in to one of the hilariously tiny bars in the district of Shinjuku.

DAY 3 - SUSHI CLASS & THE ELECTRIC CITY

• **TOKYO** First up today we're meeting with a sushi master to try our hand at the art of sushi rolling. With full bellies we'll have some free time to explore Tokyo before venturing over to the futuristic sights and sounds of Akihabara. Known locally as the 'Electric City', it's famous for its arcades, maid cafes, Japanese photo booths and game centres.

DAY 4 - BULLET TRAIN, ORIGAMI & ONSENS

• **NAGANO** Now's your chance to experience Japan's famous bullet train for real. Shooting out of Tokyo at over 200mph, we'll reach Nagano just in time to try out the ancient art of origami, followed by a relaxing dip in an Onsen, aka a volcanic hot spring. This evening we'll live like a local, settling in to our traditional Japanese Ryokan where we sleep on tatami mats and comfy futon bedding.

DAY 5 - NOODLES, MOUNTAINS & SNOW MONKEYS

• **NAGANO** Rolling pins in hand, this morning we're diving deeper into Japanese cuisine by learning how to make our own soba noodles. We'll then be venturing out into the mountains today to spot the region's famous snow monkeys, or Japanese Macaques. These red-faced troublemakers play amongst the trees in the summer months & warm by bathing in the natural hot springs once winter hits. Enjoying the fresh mountain air, we'll then take our time exploring the gorgeous lakes and forests of Shiga Kogen National Park (summer).

DAY 6 - NAGANO TO HAKONE

• **HAKONE** It's back on board the bullet train this morning, this time bound for Hakone. Famed for hot springs, natural beauty and (of course) Mount Fuji, we'll check in to our trendy accom that comes complete with its very own onsen.

DAY 7 - EXPLORING HAKONE

• **OSAKA** You might not be walking the plank, but you will be exploring Hakone by pirate ship (and cable car) this morning, keeping eyes peeled for views of snow capped Mount Fuji. We'll then journey on to Osaka, also known as the Nation's Kitchen. To celebrate, a BBQ dinner will be on us, where we fuel up for a night out - Osaka style! Karaoke, anyone?

DAY 8 - OSAKA CASTLE

• **OSAKA** This morning you'll have time to yourself to chill and maybe squeeze in a spot of shopping, before we head out as a group to visit the 400 year old Osaka Castle. Looking like something straight out of a fairytale, you'll struggle not to get house envy as we explore the grounds and hear stories of Japanese history inside the castle museum, including of the country's most famous warriors - the Samurai. Then we'll head over to Dotonbori, the famous canal region home to the best food in the country! The evening is yours to eat away.

DAY 9 - BUDDHIST TEMPLE STAY

• **KOYASAN** Ready for something extra special? Today we have just the thing - an overnight stay in a 1000 year old Buddhist temple. Leaving Osaka behind we'll travel to the mountains for the town of Koyasan, where we'll be welcomed into the temple by the monks who live there. They'll teach us meditation and serve us their traditional foods. Later tonight we will explore Japan's most famous cemetery.

DAY 10 - KOYASAN & KYOTO

• **KYOTO** It's an early start today, but well worth it to watch the Buddhist monks perform their morning prayer ritual and fire ceremony. We'll then be served breakfast before travelling on to our final destination, Kyoto. After checking into our boutique hostel, you'll have time to yourself to explore Japan's ancient capital. Tonight we'll learn about Japan's mysterious Geishas with a tour of the Gion district.

DAY 11 - BAMBOO FOREST & THE GOLDEN PAVILION

• **KYOTO** Green, lush and vibrant, the insta-famous Bamboo Forest of Arashiyama is our first stop today. Photos snapped, we'll head to the luxurious Golden Pavilion, so named for being covered entirely in gold leaf. Tonight's a free evening to hit up a sushi restaurant, find an underground bar, or challenge your mates to a round of bowling at the arcades.

DAY 12 - FUSHIMI-INARI & SAMURAI EXPERIENCE

• **KYOTO** Ending on a high, today we'll visit the famous torii gates of Fushimi-Inari. One of Japan's most iconic shrines, we'll climb part way up the mountainside to see thousands of the magnificent orange gates. This afternoon, maybe saving best till last, we'll learn how to wield a traditional samurai sword under the watchful eye of a samurai master.

DAY 13 - DEPART KYOTO OR EXTEND YOUR STAY

• **KYOTO** Your unforgettable 13 day adventure comes to an end today. Those flying home will make their way to the airport, or keep living the dream and extend your stay in Kyoto or Japan with our help and the new friends you've made.

Return to Tokyo options available.

FLIGHTS AND ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Japan Adventure starts in Tokyo. We will provide you with detailed information in the INTRO Travel App that explains how to get from the airport to your Tokyo accommodation. Your group leader will meet you at the accommodation for your arrival.

It's best to arrive on the actual start date, as that's when most people get in. While there are no activities on the first day, the group usually meets up for dinner around 7pm. If you do arrive early, you can book and pay for extra nights accommodation in the [Manage My Booking](#) area.

It's also recommended to have onward travel booked out of Japan before travelling there, as you may get asked for proof of this before boarding your flight to Japan.

AFTER JAPAN ADVENTURE

Japan Adventure finishes in Kyoto. The closest airport from Kyoto is Osaka (Kansai) Airport, which takes approx. 1.5-2 hours by train to get to from Kyoto. If you plan to leave straight after the trip we'd recommend flying out of Osaka (so fly into Tokyo and out of Osaka if possible, for this tour).

If you're flying out of Tokyo and need to return to Tokyo straight after the trip it will take approx. 4 hours by bullet train. Your group leader can organise this for you in Japan and you can pay locally for it. Or you can prepay for this return journey with your travel agent if you like.

You can also fly from Osaka (Kansai) to Tokyo for around the same price as the train or possibly cheaper. You will need to book any return flights yourself or with your travel agent.

When booking your flights to Japan we recommend comparing your flight cost options versus the extra time it will take to return to Tokyo and decide what's best for your circumstances.

VISAS

Most nationalities including the UK, Europe, Australia, NZ, Canada, USA, Scandinavia and Brazil will generally receive a 90-day visa on arrival for free. If you're unsure of your visa requirements or need any help just contact us.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance for Japan is compulsory to join our trip. Your group leader will ask to see proof of your cover before your trip begins. You can organise travel insurance [here](#).



ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

TOKYO - GRIDS TOKYO UENO HOTEL & HOSTEL

3 NIGHTS

A modern hostel in the heart of Ueno.

Quad Share Rooms

Shared Bathroom

WiFi, Air Con & Laundry

NAGANO - SHIBU HOTEL

2 NIGHTS

Traditional Ryokan with onsen facilities.

Quad Share Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi & Air Con

Japanese-style futon bedding on tatami mats.

HAKONE - EMBLEM FLOW HOSTEL

1 NIGHT

New funky hostel with onsen facilities.

Quad Share Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi, Air Con, Laundry & Balcony

OSAKA - IMANO OSAKA HOSTEL

2 NIGHTS

A fun modern hostel in central Osaka.

Quad Share Rooms

Shared Bathroom

WiFi, Air Con, Laundry

KOYASAN - EKOIN TEMPLE

1 NIGHT

Traditional Ryokan in a 1000 year-old Buddhist temple.

Quad Share Rooms

Shared Bathrooms

WiFi, Air Con & Onsen Facilities

The experience of a lifetime!

KYOTO - PIECE HOSTEL SANJO

3 NIGHTS

Private rooms in an amazing boutique hostel.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi, Air Con, Laundry & Rooftop Terrace



The accommodation featured in this document is our usual properties. At certain locations we use alternative accommodation (of equal standard) when needed.

Occasionally at some accommodations that are multi-share, rooms may be mixed gender.



NAGANO



HAKONE



OSAKA



KOYASAN

#SMALLCHANGE

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES



CULTURAL EXCHANGE & EDUCATION



ANIMAL WELFARE

Making a positive difference to the amazing destinations we travel is at the core of what we do, and we are proud to say that every INTRO tour is 100% carbon neutral.

Small Change is our socially conscious initiative aimed at travelling responsibly and changing the world for the better!

[Find out more.](#)

FAQS



DO MANY PEOPLE TRAVEL ALONE?

Yes. Lots of people on our trips are travelling solo. But by doing our trip you'll instantly be part of a group, so it's a great way to meet others and make friends!



HOW WILL I ACCESS MY MONEY WHILE I'M AWAY?

We recommend using a bank card local to your home country that has low or no transaction fees. Japan is also very cash heavy, so we highly recommend taking cash! There are ATM's available throughout Japan so it's easy to get access to cash.



CAN I CHAT TO MY GROUP BEFORE I LEAVE?

You can start chatting to people in your group and other travellers before you leave. Just go to our Facebook page, click on 'Groups' and choose [Japan](#).



IS THERE WI-FI THROUGHOUT THE TRIP?

All accommodations we stay at have free Wi-Fi available. Japans network quality is generally very good.



CAN I CHANGE MY START DATE?

Enjoy ultimate peace of mind and flexibility with INTRO. Should your travel plans change or be disrupted you can change your start date or tour for free up to 30 days before your start date.



HOW ARE ROOMS ASSIGNED?

If you are travelling with others let us know and we will room you together. If you are travelling solo we will always place you in a room with someone of the same gender if it's a twin room. If any accommodations are multi-share rooms we will do our best to keep the same gender, however occasionally it may be mixed.



WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT JAPAN?

The Japanese call Japan 'a country of four seasons' which basically means it's got four distinct seasons, all beautiful and amazing for different reasons. The winter months (Dec-Mar) are cold but bring snow-capped mountains and a magical winter wonderland feel, not to mention being the best time to see the famous Snow Monkeys. Spring (Apr - Jun) is popular for its colourful beauty and famous cherry blossoms. Summer (Jun - Aug) is hot, humid and great for outdoor activities and is the peak festival season. Autumn (Sep - Nov) again brings stunning colourful scenery such as the 'koyo' or Japanese autumn foliage.



TERMS & CONDITIONS

For the full set of terms & conditions for our tours including your responsibilities as a traveller with us, please see the [Terms & Conditions](#) section of our website.

That's about it for now!

Once you've booked you'll get access to Manage My Booking and the INTRO Travel App, which will give you all the information you'll need on Japan and Japan Adventure, so you can just relax and enjoy the experience.

Of course if you have any more questions just contact us. We're happy to help!

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