



JOURNEY TO JAPAN

Art, Culture, History, Palaces,
Temples, Mt Fuji, Bullet Trains,
Museums, Gardens, shopping,
cultural immersion tours.

21 MAY - 7 JUNE 2024



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Art, Culture, History, Palaces, Temples, Mt Fuji, Bullet Trains, Museums, Gardens, shopping, cultural immersion tours.

Experience the Exceptional...

- 18 day extensive tour of Japan visiting the following regions: Osaka, Nara, Himeji, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Yudanaka, Nagano, Mount Fuji, Hakone, Mishima and Tokyo.
- Experience Osaka and Nara including a stroll through Nara Park with its 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Todaiji Temple, Isui-en Garden, Osaka Castle, one of Japan's most famous castles and enjoy a short cruise down the Yodogawa River.
- Learn about Hiroshima: visit the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, take a short ferry ride to Miyajima Island and visit Itsukushima Shrine.
- Visit Kyoto: Ryoanji Temple, Kinkakuji Temple, known as the 'Golden Pavilion' due to its golden exterior, Kiyomizu Temple, experience the traditional tea ceremony accompanied by a Tea Master, visit Fushimi Inari Shrine with its thousands of vermilion torii gates.
- Enjoy Kanazawa including the beautiful Kenroku-en Garden, the excellent art collection of the Kanazawa 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art and the Nomura Samurai House (a restored Samurai house) and garden.
- Travel to Takayama with sights including markets, Takayama Festival Floats Exhibition Hall, the Kusakabe Folk Crafts Museum, Takayama Jinya and wander around traditional houses, sake breweries, shops and cafes — some of them have been operating for centuries.
- Visit Nagano with special inclusions: the Japanese Alps to visit the Snow Monkeys at the Jigokudani Monkey Park and Zenkoji, one of Japan's most prolific Buddhist temples.
- Mt Fuji region which includes the Fuji Five Lakes area, Mount Fuji, the Itchiku Kubota Art Museum and a boat cruise in Hakone on the peaceful waters of Lake Ashi.
- Japan is highly regarded for its wealth of both traditional and modern arts and crafts and on this journey we will experience the full spectrum. From the meticulous rituals of the tea ceremony to refined garden design; dramatic and thought-provoking contemporary sculptures and light installations to a collection of world class galleries and museums.



**OUR ARTISTS FOR THIS TRIP:
Bonaventure Allan-Moetaua and
Kelly Lim Harris + 1 Escort TBC and local guides**



PLACES WE STAY

We will stay in the following 4 star hotels, all centrally located.

Hotel Nikko Narita, Tokyo (1 night) This hotel features spacious rooms, options for in room massages and an onsite restaurant that looks out on garden views. Stopover on route to Osaka.

ANA Crowne Plaza, Osaka (2 nights) Located a short drive from the airport. This hotel has beautiful views of the Dojima River.

Hotel Granvia, Hiroshima (2 nights) Conveniently located adjacent to the Hiroshima Train Station. This luxury Hotel boasts 407 comfortable rooms perfect for a relaxing nights sleep and stay.

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo, Kyoto (2 nights) The gateway to the ancient capital Kyoto. The hotel offers a variety of dining with something to fit all visitors to this exquisite complex.

Hotel Vista, Kanazawa (1 night) This hotel is decorated in the contemporary Kanazawa style and features a large public bath and a sleeping bath. The hotel's interior is decorated with motifs, local famous places, traditional crafts and contemporary art.

Takayama Ouan, Takayama (2 nights) The Takayama Ouan is styled in the traditional Japanese design with tatami-mat flooring throughout. Guests can make use of the public bath or indulge in a relaxing massage at the onsite salon.

Metropolitan Hotel, Nagano (2 nights) The Metropolitan Hotel has extraordinary views of the mountains surrounding the area. The rooms are open and spacious and immerse guests in relaxation and sophistication.

La Vista Fuji Hotel, Kawaguchiko (1 night) This beautiful 4 star hotel is located perfectly to enjoy some of the areas most popular attractions. The hotel's large public bath offers a magnificent panorama of the surrounding area.

Tokyo Citadines Shinjuku, Tokyo (3 nights) Set in the heart of Tokoyo this lavish hotel is within reasonable distance of incredible attractions such as Hanazono Shrine, Shinjuku and Takashimaya Times Square.

Transport In Japan we travel by coach within the cities and shorter distances in the countryside and often by Shinkansen (bullet trains) between cities. We have First Class reserved seats on the bullet trains. Over the past half century, the made-in-Japan technology behind these sleek trains has continued to evolve. Top speed has risen from 210 km/h (130 mph) to 320 km/h (200 mph), and ridership is now 1 million passengers per day.

Please note: Our luggage will not travel with us on the train. We will charter a luggage truck to drive our luggage between cities so you will need a day bag on the train which will be more



Hotel Granvia Hiroshima



Takayama Ouan



Shinkansen (bullet train)

Our Operatunity tour also pays homage to Japan's ancient samurai, its rich Buddhist and Shinto heritage and its elegant and refined culinary traditions. We will be mesmerised by all we see.

TUESDAY 21ST MAY 2024

TOKYO (1 night)

Hotel Nikko Narita, Tokyo

Fly Auckland to Tokyo with overnight stay at Hotel Nikko Narita.

YO KO SO!!! (Welcome!!). We arrive at Narita Airport and transfer to our hotel for the evening.

WEDNESDAY 22ND MAY 2024 (B, D)

OSAKA (2 nights)

ANA Crowne Plaza, Osaka

Osaka is Japan's third largest city. Osaka is known for its flamboyance, fun loving people and amazing food.

Highlights Include:

- Fly to the lively, fast-paced city of Osaka.
- Welcome dinner this evening with music from our hosts.

THURSDAY 23RD MAY 2024 (B, D)

Highlights Include:

- Transfer around 1 hour by coach to Nara and stroll through Nara Park. Due to Nara's past as the first permanent capital, it remains full of historic treasures, including 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Todaiji Temple – A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Todaiji Temple is one the Seven Great Temples of Japan and is home to the world's largest bronze statue, Daibutsu.
- Isuien Garden – Isuien is an attractive Japanese garden divided into two parts, a front garden and a rear garden, with a number of tea houses scattered throughout. The front garden dates back to the mid-17th century, while the rear garden, the larger of the two, was built in 1899 by a wealthy merchant.
- Visit Osaka Castle, one of Japan's most famous castles known for sweeping views of the city from its hilltop perch. Construction began in 1583 by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who intended the castle to become the centre of a new, unified Japan under his rule.



Isuien Garden

FRIDAY 24TH MAY 2024 (B, L)

Bullet Train from Himeji - Hiroshima in First Class.

HIROSHIMA (2 nights)

Hotel Granvia, Hiroshima

Hiroshima, a modern city on Japan's Honshu Island, was largely destroyed by an atomic bomb during World War II. Today, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park commemorates the 1945 event.

Highlights Include:

- Widely considered Japan's most magnificent castle for its imposing size and beauty, the well-preserved Himeji castle is both a national and world heritage listed treasure. Himeji Castle has never been destroyed by war, earthquake or fire and survives to this day as one of the country's twelve original castles.
- Visit Koko-en Garden – Koko-en is a Japanese style garden consisting of nine separate, walled gardens designed in various styles of the Edo Period.



Himeji Castle

SATURDAY 25TH MAY 2024 (B, L, D)

Highlights Include:

- Visit the famous Peace Memorial Park and Museum, one of the most prominent features of the city. The museum focuses on the events of August 6th and the ensuing outcome for the residents.
- Take a short ferry ride to Miyajima Island, where sightseeing will be at a leisurely pace on foot.
- Visit Itsukushima Shrine and explore the traditional market town at leisure.

SUNDAY 26TH MAY 2024 (B, L)

Bullet Train from Hiroshima - Kyoto in First Class.

KYOTO (2 nights)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo, Kyoto

Kyoto, once the capital of Japan, is a city on the island of Honshu. It is famous for its numerous classical Buddhist temples, as well as gardens, imperial palaces, Shinto shrines and traditional wooden houses.

Highlights Include:

- Bullet train ride to Kyoto.
- Visit Ryoanji Temple, with its famous Zen Garden, and Kinkakuji Temple, known as the 'Golden Pavilion' due to its golden exterior.
- Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) – Kinkakuji Temple is a Buddhist temple and is an excellent example of Japanese garden design. The structure is a brilliant golden hue colour and is very minimalistic.

MONDAY 27TH JUNE 2024 (B, L, D, Japanese Tea Ceremony)

Highlights Include:

- Visit the spectacular Kiyomizu Temple. Meaning 'Pure Water Temple', the 16th century Kiyomizu Temple is one of the most celebrated temples of Japan and houses the Jishu Shrine dedicated to the deity of love.
- Experience the age-old rituals of a traditional tea ceremony accompanied by a Tea Master.
- Visit Fushimi Inari Shrine with its thousands of vermillion torii gates. The Shrine stretches up Mount Inari (233m high). The shrine itself is dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice. There are many fox statues in the grounds of the shrine as foxes are thought to be Inari's messengers.

TUESDAY 28TH MAY 2024 (B, L)

Today we transfer to Kanazawa

KANAZAWA (1 night)

Hotel Vista, Kanazawa

Set at the southern end of the Noto Peninsula along the coast of the Sea of Japan, Kanazawa is Japan's hidden secret. Authentically Japanese, the city is home to one of the country's three most beautiful classical gardens, a historic samurai quarter, a traditional geisha district and a number of elegant handicraft workshops.

Highlights Include:

- Wander through the beautiful Kenrokuen Garden. One of Japan's 'Three Great Gardens', Kenrokuen dates back to the early 17th century and is noticeable for its stunning beauty in all seasons.
- View the excellent art collection of the Kanazawa 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art. Opened in 2004, the Museum of Contemporary Art is home to some of Japan's most fascinating modern art, with most pieces dating from the 1980s onwards.



Itsukushima Shrine



Japanese Tea Ceremony



Kanazawa



Nomura Samurai House

WEDNESDAY 29TH MAY 2024 (B)

Transfer from Kanazawa to Takayama via the Samurai House, Gokayama and Shirakawago.

TAKAYAMA (2 nights) Takayama Ouan, Takayama

Highlights Include:

- Visit the Nomura Samurai House (a restored Samurai house) and garden. Nomura was a high-ranked samurai of the Meiji Period.
- Transfer around 1.5 hours to Gokayama.
- Enjoy lunch and then try your hand at making washi paper. Washi Paper – Washi is a type of Japanese paper made from fibres of bark, often used in the art of origami.
- Drive to Shirakawago and explore the 300-year-old Gassho style Wada House. Shirakawago – Alongside Gokayama, Shirakawago is a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its unusual architectural style known as Gassho-Zukuri. The roofs of these houses are tilted at an almost vertical angle.

THURSDAY 30TH MAY 2024 (B, D)

Highlights Include:

- Sample some of the delicious local fruits and vegetables (at your own expense) at Miyagawa Morning Market.
- Take a leisurely stroll around the traditional houses of the area and visit some of the local museums including Takayama Festival Floats Exhibition Hall.
- Visit Kusakabe Folk Crafts Museum, a former house for a wealthy merchant named Kusakabe.
- Visit Takayama Jinya – A former government office dating back to the Edo Period, Takayama Jinya is the only one of its type still remaining.
- Free time at Kamisannomachi Street, where we step back into the Edo Period (1600-1868).

FRIDAY 31ST MAY 2024 (B)

Travel from Takayama to Nagano via Matsumoto.

NAGANO (2 nights) Metropolitan Hotel, Nagano

Highlights Include:

- Depart Takayama and travel around 2.5 hours to Matsumoto to visit the formidable 16th Century Matsumoto Castle.
- After lunch, stop at a Miso House to learn about the process of making this Japanese seasoning and try Miso soup. Ishii Miso – Ishii Miso was founded in 1868 and is still producing miso, an essential ingredient in Japanese cuisine, by a unique traditional method.
- Visit a wasabi farm to learn about its cultivation. The Daio wasabi farm, one of Japan's largest wasabi farms, has multiple large fields with a network of small streams that constantly provides clear water to each wasabi plant.

SATURDAY 1ST JUNE 2024 (B)

Highlights Include:

- Travel deeper into the Japanese Alps to visit the Snow Monkeys at the Jigokudani Monkey Park. It is in the baths of this hot water that the resident Japanese Macaques like to soak. The monkeys live in large social groups and it can be quite entertaining to watch their interactions.
- Continue to Zenkoji, one of Japan's most prolific Buddhist temples. Built in the 7th Century, Zenkoji stores what many believe to be the first Buddhist statue brought to Japan.



Miyagawa Morning Market



Zenkoji

SUNDAY 2ND JUNE 2024 (B, D)

We transfer from Nagano to Kawaguchiko today.

KAWAGUCHIKO (1 night)

La Vista Fuji Hotel, Kawaguchiko

Highlights Include:

- Travel by coach to the Fuji Five Lakes area and ascend by road to Fuji's 5th station (weather permitting) for fantastic views over the area. Fuji Five Lakes – Formed by previous Mount Fuji eruptions, the Fuji Five Lakes is a region at the base of Mount Fuji made up of five beautiful lakes.
- Visit Itchiku Kubota Art Museum to view the elaborate dyed silk creations of artist Kubota Itchiku. Kubota Itchiku revived the lost art of Tsujigahana silk dyeing, used to decorate elaborate kimono during the Muromachi Period (1333-1573).

MONDAY 3RD JUNE 2024 (B, L, D)

Today we transfer from Kawaguchiko to Tokyo via Hakone.

TOKYO (3 nights)

Tokyo Citadines Shinjuku, Tokyo

Capital of Japan since 1889 and with a population of 38.1 million, Tokyo is the dynamic epicentre of 21st century Japan. A dazzling fusion of ancient and modern, traditional and avant-garde, the city pulsates with promise.

Highlights Include:

- Enjoy a boat cruise in Hakone, on the peaceful waters of Lake Ashi. On a clear day we can enjoy spectacular views of Mount Fuji in the distance.
- After lunch, continue around 2 hours to Japan's capital city, Tokyo.

TUESDAY 4TH JUNE 2024 (B, L)

Highlights Include:

- This morning, head to the Imperial Palace East Gardens, which are part of the Imperial Palace, the main residence of the Emperor of Japan and the former site of Edo Castle.
- Visit the Meiji Jingu Shrine, and walk the famous Shibuya Crossing. Meiji Shrine is a Shinto shrine dedicated to the Emperor Meiji and his wife Empress Shoken.
- We board a traditional yakata boat for a dinner cruise.

WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE 2024 (B, L, D)

Highlights Include:

- Stroll the vibrant Asakusa district and soak up the ambience of Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest Buddhist temple.
- Ascend to the observation deck of the 634-metre Skytree and enjoy lunch in a local restaurant.
- The afternoon is free until the evening, when we will enjoy our final night dinner with music from our hosts.

THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 2024 (B)

This day is free at leisure for final sightseeing or shopping before we transfer to the airport for our return flight home.

FRIDAY 7TH JUNE 2024

Arrive home, following our *Journey to Japan*, filled with wonder, knowledge and enjoyment of this amazing land.



Mt Fuji with Bullet Train



Lake Ashi



Imperial Palace East Gardens



\$18,920 per person twin share

Single Room Supplement Add \$5440

Initial Deposit on booking: \$2000

Second Deposit due: 28 November 2023 \$4000

Final Balance due: 6 February 2024

THIS TRIP INCLUDES:

- Economy flights on Air New Zealand from Auckland - Tokyo return including all taxes. Internal airfares from Tokyo to Osaka.
- 18 day extensive tour of Japan visiting the following regions: Osaka, Nara, Himeji, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Yudanaka, Nagano, Mount Fuji, Hakone, Mishima and Tokyo.
- All hotel accommodation is included in 4 star hotels in Tokyo (stopover 1 night), Osaka (2 nights), Hiroshima (2 nights), Kyoto (2 nights), Kanazawa (1 night), Takayama (2 nights), Nagano (2 nights), Kawaguchiko near Mt Fuji (1 night) and Tokyo (3 nights).
- Experience Osaka and Nara including a stroll through Nara Park with its 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Todaiji Temple, Isui-en Garden, Osaka Castle, one of Japan's most famous castles.
- Learn about Hiroshima: visit the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, take a short ferry ride to Miyajima Island and visit Itsukushima Shrine.
- Visit Kyoto: Ryoanji Temple, Kinkakuji Temple, known as the 'Golden Pavilion' due to its golden exterior, Kiyomizu Temple, experience the traditional tea ceremony accompanied by a Tea Master, visit Fushimi Inari Shrine with its thousands of vermilion torii gates.
- Enjoy Kanazawa including the beautiful Kenroku-en Garden, the excellent art collection of the Kanazawa 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art and the Nomura Samurai House (a restored Samurai house) and garden.
- Travel to Takayama with sights including markets, Takayama Festival Floats Exhibition Hall, the Kusakabe Folk Crafts Museum, Takayama Jinya and wander around traditional houses, sake breweries, shops and cafes — some of them have been operating for centuries.
- Visit Nagano with special inclusions: the Japanese Alps to visit the Snow Monkeys at the Jigokudani Monkey Park and Zenkoji, one of Japan's most prolific Buddhist temples.
- Mt Fuji region which includes the Fuji Five Lakes area, Mount Fuji and the Itchiku Kubota Art Museum.
- Be amazed by Tokyo including visits to the Imperial Palace East Gardens, the Meiji Jingu Shrine, walk the famous Shibuya Crossing, board a traditional yakata boat for a dinner cruise, stroll vibrant Asakusa district, Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest Buddhist temple and experience the 634-metre Skytree.
- Other special experiences include a visit to Shirakawago Village, famous for the "Gassho Zukuri" houses preserved for hundreds of years, Himeji Castle, the 16th Century Matsumoto Castle, the oldest wooden castle in Japan plus Japanese Gardens including Koko-en Garden and famous Zen gardens.
- Numerous foodie experiences including markets, fish market, local restaurants, dinner cruise and tea house ceremony, miso house visit and visit a wasabi farm to learn about its cultivation.
- This tour includes all breakfasts, 8 lunches and 8 dinners. Tour is limited to 26 travellers and is hosted by the great team of Bonaventure Allan-Moetaua and Kelly Lim Harris, 1 other escort to be confirmed, and local guides.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- All itinerary details are subject to change, but changes will be replaced with a comparable or better option.
- Initial & Second deposits are fully refundable up until final balance due date, minus an administration fee of up to \$500 plus any non-recoverable costs.
- All monies are non-refundable at final balance due date. This becomes an insurance claim.
- Payment by direct credit incurs no surcharge. Credit card payments will incur a surcharge of 1.5%.
- Travellers need to be independently mobile and fit to travel.
- Bookings will only be accepted with initial deposit.
- All travellers must obtain comprehensive travel insurance for international travel and insurance for domestic travel is recommended.
- Please refer to our terms and conditions on booking form.