



QUO

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

KONICHIWA, JAPAN!



12 DAYS \$5,995

ARE YOU PRETTY MUCH OBSESSED WITH JAPANESE CULTURE? WE'RE TALKING ANIME, MANGA, HELLO KITTY, FINAL FANTASY, KAWAII, MIYAZAKI MOVIES, SAMURAI, HARAJUKU, BULLET TRAINS, ETC. YES? GREAT! NEXT STOP, TOKYO!

DAY 1

Take off to the Land of the Rising Sun. It's a long flight to Tokyo (about 13 hours) so settle in and enjoy the inflight entertainment. Don't forget to rest—the next few days are going to be busy!

2 Arrive in a new and different world. Upon arrival in Tokyo, you'll meet your:

- Travel Manager
- bus driver and
- local support team

Start bonding with this amazing and strange new land with a brief introduction to Tokyo and the exciting experiences that await you here. Begin discovering!

3 From Edo to Tokyo. Before it was known as Tokyo, this port city was called Edo. Begin this morning by glimpsing the Japan of old:

- Visit the Imperial Palace Plaza.
- Famous view: **see the Imperial Palace from the picturesque Nijubashi Bridge**, one of the most-photographed views in Japan.
- Marvel at the picturesque Nakamise shopping arcade, one of the oldest shopping streets in all of Japan.
- Later, you'll delve into modern Tokyo as you explore **Akihabara Electric Town**.
 - The world's playground for electronics and all things computer, it is said that any electronic device ever made can be purchased in this digital wonderland.
- Akihabara is known as the center of Japanese Pop Culture. Here you can focus heavily on:
 - Anime
 - Manga
 - Video Gaming



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Fly in and out of Osaka
- Hands-on workshop in a top anime studio
- Onsen hot spring, bathing rituals huts complete with tatami mats
- Climb to “the boundary between heaven and earth” on Mt. Fuji
- Minpaku homestay with a Japanese family
- Ride the Bullet Train at 200 mph
- Hiroshima Peace Shrine



DAY 4

Anime! Pop! Tokyo is ground zero for the Anime revolution. How would you like to step behind the curtain to work with industry insiders?

- Explore what it is like to be an anime producer.
- Attend a hands-on Anime Workshop at one of **Tokyo's most important Anime studios.**

Dragon's Eye View Rise high among the soaring skyscrapers of this cutting-edge city.

- In the **Shinjuku District**, take in magnificent views from the vantage of a special 45th-floor observation point.

Shinto Shrine After descending from the heights, you'll learn about Japan's Shinto religion.

- In addition to Buddhism, Shinto ("The Way of the Gods") is Japan's great indigenous faith, as old as Japan itself.
- Visit the **Meiji Shrine**, which is dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife Empress Shoken, the great-grandparents of the present emperor Akihito.

Harajuku Dive deep into Japan's spectacularly unique fashion-culture in the **Harajuku District**, soaking up distinctive Japanese Pop Culture.

- Discover the Oriental Bazaar in Omotesando.
- Take time to people-watch, snap selfies, souvenir shop or browse the outrageously fashionable shops!

5 The Wonders of Mt. Fuji & Hakone This morning, escape the city. Beyond Tokyo's limits lies breathtaking scenery you'll never forget.

- Marvel at the traditional beauty of Japan's countryside, teeming with golden rice paddies that reflect the sacred, towering majesty of prehistoric **Mt. Fuji.**
- Ascend to the heights of the "Fifth Station," the highest point on Mt. Fuji that's accessible by motor vehicles.
- Hike "The Lotus Peak"—Don your hiking shoes to enjoy a "soft trek" on Mt. Fuji.
- Later, in an aerial cable car you'll ride up Komagatake in Hakone National Park.

This evening, experience tradition, comfort and relaxation:

- Check into an authentic Japanese family-style inn.
- Then, it's your first opportunity to dip into the inviting waters of a traditional **Onsen.**
- Seated on tatami mats in the Onsen Hut, your local hosts will explain the complexity of the time-honored bathing ritual performed prior to soaking in the steaming water.

Settle in, relax and let the restorative waters do their thing!

6-8 Let's go Minpaku! For the next three days, you'll meet locals and become part of a Japanese family in your **minpaku homestay.**

- You'll be immersed in Japanese culture, joining a family to learn first-hand what life is like in a Japanese home.
- Here, you'll build a meaningful and enduring relationship with your hosts.

9 Ancient Mountain Paradise, Iiyama & Takayama

Today, you'll realize how much you feel a part of Japan and the Japanese way of life—just in time to say "Sayonara" to your new family. Once you've said

"Arigato! (Thank you!)" and boarded your bus, your journey becomes even more awe-inspiring.

- The Japanese love the beauty of their mountains, which is central to their traditional culture and lore, as well as modern pop culture.
- If the weather is clear in Takayama, you'll have a panoramic view of mountains, trees and alpine plants you've only seen in paintings, photos and movies.
- Today is a rich introduction to the distinctive natural treasures of Japan.

After a full day of exploring peaks, valleys and forests, you'll arrive at a Minshuku; a traditional Japanese inn common to the Takayama and Gifu area.

10 From Takayama to Hiroshima on a Bullet Train This day begins with an unforgettable exploration of old-fashioned Japan at the city of **Takayama** in the Gifu prefectures.

- Takayama has many colorful and culturally significant sites such as Kami Sannomachi town.
- This area is known for its narrow streets and beautiful, old-fashioned wooden Japanese houses. It's easy to feel like you've been transported in time to a long-ago Japan.
- You'll shake off those feelings of nostalgia, though, and zoom back into modern Japanese life as you board a JR Shinkansen train or super-express train to Hiroshima.
- Reaching speeds of almost 200 mph you'll realize why this is dubbed "the **bullet train.**"

11 Peace, Heritage and Contemplation Every visitor to Japan must experience the resilience and dynamic rebirth represented in historic **Hiroshima.**

- They say that the human spirit is forever elevated after a visit to Hiroshima's powerful **Peace Memorial Park.**
- Here, you'll have ample time to reflect on the destruction of WWII—a powerful and moving reminder of the destruction left behind by the atomic bomb on August 6, 1945.
- You'll be invited to make a vow of peace as you create your own delicate origami paper crane to leave at Sadako's monument.
- Then, board a ferry to Miyajima Island, home of **Itsukushima Shrine.**
- On the island, you'll stroll to the vermilion Itsukushima Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Here from the sea rises the **Grand Torii Gate**, which looks as if it's floating at high tide.

This magnificent, one-of-a-kind view is the ideal conclusion to a powerful day.

12 Say "Sayonara" to the Land of the Rising Sun Pack up your memories and souvenirs! One last adventure awaits as you board the bullet train.

- Today you're Osaka bound, where you'll bid farewell to Japan and, surely, pledge to return as quickly as possible.