



**TRAVEL MAKERS**  
Journeys beyond Imagination



# PRIVATE JAPAN ESCAPE

10 October 2017 – 15 nights/16 days

Group Number: 12-16 passengers

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1/ TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2017: TOKYO

Konnichiwa! Welcome to Japan. Bursting with contemporary urban culture, there are many sides of Tokyo to explore, from fascinating museums and world-class shopping, to neighbourhood back-streets lined with restaurants and karaoke bars. You will be greeted at the airport by a representative and transferred to your accommodation by private transfer. Bursting with contemporary urban culture, there are many sides of Tokyo to explore, from fascinating museums and world-class shopping, to neighbourhood back-streets lined with restaurants and karaoke bars. This evening you'll have some free time to explore Tokyo's exhilarating night-life.

**Included Transfer:**

*Private Arrival Transfer: Tokyo Airport to Hotel*

*Accommodation: Shiba Park Hotel*

### DAY 2/ WEDNESDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2017: TOKYO

After breakfast around 9am this morning, you will take a tour of Tokyo by Public Transport. You will see the Meiji Shrine, Asakusa. You will stop for Lunch at the Imperial Palace and Gardens. Then the rest of afternoon is yours to spend at your leisure. You will meet in the lobby of your hotel at 5:30PM this evening. You will head out to visit Tokyo Tower followed by dinner.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

*Accommodation: Shiba Park Hotel*

### DAY 3/ THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2017: TOKYO

Head out to explore more of Tokyo today, departing around 8am. You will stop at the Tsukiji Fish Market this morning. Then later you will take a Sushi making class. You will also explore Ginza and Roppongi. You will have the evening free to spend at your leisure.

**Meals: Breakfast**

*Accommodation: Shiba Park Hotel*

### DAY 4/ FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2017: TOKYO – HAKONE

You depart Tokyo this morning Tour to make your way to Hakone. Hakone

is a wonderland of natural beauty and offers a long list of holiday activities – hot springs, mountains, bush walks, lakes, breathtaking views of Mt Fuji and some interesting historic sites (including an open-air modern art museum). Upon arrival in Hakone you will ride the Gondola Ropeway, take in the spectacular views and the crystal-clear blue waters of Lake Ashi, the rising volcanic fumes of Owakudani and the grandeur of Mount Fuji on a fine, sunny day. Later this afternoon you will take a Pirate Boat ride on Lake Ashi.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

*Accommodation: Hotel Green Plaza - Western/Japanese (smoking/non smoking not guaranteed)*

### DAY 5/ SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2017: HAKONE

Renowned as an excellent resort area since the Meiji period, Hakone and its onsens (hot spring baths) make a great place to relax and unwind with the family. Make a visit to the Karakuri secret box museum where the craft is in how to open the boxes. Touch and try to open the boxes yourself and find in there a unique Japanese gift to take home. You will also enjoy a walk around the scenic lake area. Your accommodation here is in a cosy, family-run guest house. You will be in a traditional Japanese room, sleeping on a tatami mat. There are Japanese baths for you to enjoy while you're here.

Note: A Hakone Transport Pass is included in Hakone. No guide will accompany the group today.

**Meals: Breakfast & Dinner**

*Accommodation: Hotel Green Plaza - Western/Japanese (smoking/non smoking not guaranteed)*

### DAY 6/ SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2017: HAKONE – MATSUMOTO

After breakfast today you will travel to Lake Kawaguchi by chartered bus, and take a ride on the Kawaguchiko Ropeway, You will continue onto Matsumoto. Upon arrival you will check into your hotel and the head out to the Nawate Shopping district.

**Meals: Breakfast & Lunch**

*Accommodation: Hotel Buena Vista*

#### DAY 7/ MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2017: MATSUMOTO – TAKAYAMA

After breakfast this morning you will take a tour of Matsumoto. You will stop by the Matsumoto-jo, one of the most complete and beautiful among Japan's original castles. This afternoon you will continue on to Takayama by bus where you will spend the night.

**Meals: Breakfast & Lunch**

**Accommodation: The Takayama Kanko Hotel**

#### DAY 8/ TUESDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2017: TAKAYAMA

After breakfast this morning you will head to the Market, then Sanmachi Suji. A collection of three streets that make up Hida Takayama's famous historic district. The area located in the centre of Hida Takayama served as a bustling merchant town in the past. Today it is easily recognized with its distinctive old architecture and charm.

Then later this afternoon you will make your way to Takayama Jinya. A former local government office and the only one of its kind remaining in Japan. Takayama Jinya is a designated historical landmark in Takayama.

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Accommodation: The Takayama Kanko Hotel**

#### DAY 9/ WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2017: TAKAYAMA – HIROSHIMA

Today is a travel day.

After breakfast you will travel to Hiroshima by public transport. You will on your own before leaving Takayama you will transfer your luggage to Hiroshima. Upon arrival you will have free time to spend at your leisure.

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Accommodation: ANA Crowne Plaza Hiroshima**

#### DAY 10/ THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2017: HIROSHIMA

Today you will visit the Genbaku (A-Bomb) Dome and the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, both of which emotionally stand testament to the fateful day in August 1945 when Hiroshima was chosen as target for the first ever wartime use of the atomic bomb. The dome was just metres from where the bomb detonated so it was able to retain its shape; the fact that it looks almost exactly as it did after the bombing means it serves as a reminder and symbol of peace. The memorial park serves the same purpose, and has museums, memorials and monuments dedicated to the memory of victims, education on what lead to the bomb's use, as well as advocating world peace.

**Meals: Breakfast & Dinner**

**Accommodation: ANA Crowne Plaza Hiroshima**

#### DAY 11/ FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2017: HIROSHIMA

Today you will take a tour of Miyajima Island. It is less than an hour outside the city of Hiroshima. It is most famous for its giant torii gate, which at high tide seems to float on the water. The sight is ranked as one of Japan's three best views. While here you will also visit the Itsukushima Shrine. Centuries old, this shrine is the source of both the island's fame and its name. Formally named Itsukushima, the island is more popularly known as "Miyajima", literally "shrine island" in Japanese

**Meals: Breakfast & Dinner**

**Accommodation: ANA Crowne Plaza Hiroshima**

#### DAY 12/ SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2017: HIROSHIMA-KURASHIKI

Today you leave Hiroshima and travel to Kurashiki by public transportation. Upon arrival you will take a tour of Kurashiki. Visit the Bikan Historical Quarter. Take in the scenery of the old days is still mostly preserved, with white earthen-walled warehouses and villas lined up along Kurashiki River, weeping willows swinging their branches over the river, and stone bridges. Boats carrying supplies used to ply the Kurashiki River, but now sightseeing river boats operate there. You can look up at the streetscape from the river on these boats.

Later you will visit the Ohara Art Museum, Japan's first museum of Western art.

**Meals: Breakfast & Dinner**

**Accommodation: Vessel Hotel Kurashiki**

#### DAY 13/ SUNDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2017: KURASHIKI – HIMEJI – KYOTO

After breakfast today you will continue your adventure to Himeji by public transport. Here you will visit the Himeji Castle, also known as White Heron Castle. It is considered Japan's most spectacular castle for its imposing size and beauty and its well preserved, complex castle grounds. The castle is both a national treasure and a world heritage site. Later this afternoon you will travel to Kyoto by public transport. Upon arrival you will have the evening to spend at your leisure.

**Meals: Breakfast & Dinner**

**Accommodation: Wajun Kaikan – Western Rooms**

#### DAY 14/ MONDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2017: KYOTO

Today you will take a tour of Kyoto and take in the sights. You will visit Kiyomizu Temple, one of the most celebrated temples of Japan. Then head to the Golden Pavilion, a Zen temple in northern Kyoto whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf.

Continue onto Sanjusangendo Temple, famous for its 1001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy. Then Head to Heian Shrine. The shrine was built on the occasion of the 1100th anniversary of the capital's foundation in Kyoto and is dedicated to the spirits of the first and last emperors who reigned from the city. Then finally visit Nijo Castle.

Note: Your luggage will be transported to the airport today.

**Meals: Breakfast & Lunch**

**Accommodation: Wajun Kaikan – Western Rooms**

#### DAY 15/ TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2017: NARA

After breakfast this morning you will visit Todaiji Temple, one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples and a landmark of Nara. You will then visit to The Daibutsuden and the Kasuga Shrine Nara's most celebrated shrine. It was established at the same time as the capital and is dedicated to the deity responsible for the protection of the city.

Later this afternoon you will head back to Kyoto for the evening. You will have this time to spend at your leisure.

**Meals: Breakfast & Dinner**

**Accommodation: Wajun Kaikan – Western Rooms**

#### DAY 16/ WEDNESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2017: KYOTO DEPARTURE DAY

Your adventure comes to an end after breakfast this morning. You will take a shared transfer (public transport) to the airport to board your forward flight home unescorted.

**Meals: Breakfast**

## PRICES:

### PER PERSON

\$8999.00

### SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

\$1500.00

You can secure your spot by making a deposit of \$750.00 and balance will be due 60days prior to departure.

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