

Cultural Treasures of Japan

14 Days • 18 Meals: 12 Breakfasts, 6 Dinners • Avg Group Size 31

Immerse yourself in the ancient and modern cultures of Japan. Japan slowly draws you into its eclectic culture and charm, revealing incredible moments every step of the way.

Highlights: Tokyo • Ginza • Chanting, Meditation & Private Tea Ceremony with a Monk • Hakone • Lake Ashi Cruise • Matsumoto • Takayama • Shirakawa-go • Kanazawa • Kyoto • Sushi Making • Bullet Train • Hiroshima • Private Maiko Show

	TRAVEL STYLE	Classic - See the highlights, feel the history, and experience the culture — all thoughtfully curated with time to take it in. These are the world's icons, done right.
	ACTIVITY LEVEL	Level 3: Active  See page 5 for more information
	EXTEND YOUR TOUR	Pre Tour: arrive early with an extra night in Tokyo Post Tour: stay an extra night in Kyoto

Itinerary: Cultural Treasures of Japan



AT A GLANCE

On some dates similar accommodations will be used

Day 1	Overnight Flight	
Days 2-4	Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba	Tokyo
Day 5	The Prince Hakone Lake Ashinoko	Hakone
Days 6, 7	Mercure Hida Takayama	Takayama
Days 8, 9	Hotel Nikko Kanazawa	Kanazawa
Days 10-13	Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto	Kyoto

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS	MUST-SEE HIGHLIGHTS	CULINARY INCLUSIONS
Try your hand at the centuries-old art of gold leaf decorating.	Explore Takayama's beautiful old town, nestled in the Japanese Alps.	Enjoy a Hida beef dinner with <i>sake</i> in Takayama.
Tap into Japan's train culture as you travel by the famous Shinkansen bullet train.	Visit Fushimi Inari Taisha, made famous by the movie <i>Memoirs of a Geisha</i> .	Participate in a sushi-making class.
Explore Tokyo's famous Ginza District, the first Western-style shopping district in Japan where modern and old charms blend.	Visit multiple UNESCO sites including Shirakawa-go and Hiroshima Peace Memorial.	

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Explore ancient and modern Japanese culture firsthand. Discover peaceful temples and technological marvels set against unimaginable natural beauty.

Day 2: Tokyo, Japan

Welcome to Japan, the "Land of the Rising Sun." Arrive in the electrifying city of Tokyo, where pop culture is turned all the way up and traditions are rich and long-kept. As arrival times will vary, there is no scheduled sightseeing today. Spend the day as you wish, exploring the city independently.

 **Accommodation:** Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba or similar

Day 3: Tokyo

Explore the outer grounds of the Imperial Palace, where you'll see the famed Niju Bridge, the well-known symbol of the Imperial Palace and one of Tokyo's most recognizable landmarks. Amid a lush forest outside of the city, visit the Meiji Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. Later, walk through Ginza, one of the most elegant and luxurious streets in the world, where modern landscape meets rich history. Enjoy shopping at some of the most renowned "department stores" in Japan. Tonight, join your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

 **Accommodation:** Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba or similar

Day 4: Tokyo

Begin the day with a visit to the Avatar Robot Café, an innovative café where people who have difficulty leaving their homes or hospital rooms are able to work by remotely operating service robots. Order a drink and take a moment to converse with the robot operators, gaining insight into their daily lives and the technology that helps connect them with the world. Then, head to Tokyo National Museum to learn about the fascinating history and culture of Tokyo. The museum displays artwork and antiques from Japan and the surrounding area. Enjoy free time beginning around 3:30 p.m. *Today breakfast will be included.*

 **Accommodation:** *Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba or similar*

Day 5: Tokyo - Hakone

Journey to the lakeside resort of Hakone, renowned for its hot springs. In the shadow of Mt. Fuji (UNESCO), this scenic town hugs the shorelines of Lake Ashi. Make a stop at Owakudani, located in an active volcanic zone. The Owakudani crater was created some 3,000 years ago, when Mt. Hakone erupted. Climb aboard the Hakone Ropeway, an aerial cable car descending from Owakudani for a breathtaking view* of Mt. Fuji. Next, take to the deep-blue waters of Lake Ashi on a cruise where you'll see epic views of the local mountains before stopping in the charming town of Moto-Hakone. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

 **Accommodation:** *The Prince Hakone Lake Ashinoko or similar*

Day 6: Hakone - Matsumoto - Takayama

This breathtaking day begins in Matsumoto at Matsumoto Castle, known as the "Crow Castle" because of its striking black exterior. Later, you'll step back in time in the rural Edo-period town of Takayama, nestled in the Japanese Alps and well known to the locals for its connection to *sake*. Tonight, experience a true Japanese epicurean treat – traditional rice wine paired with a special Hida beef dinner. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

 **Accommodation:** *Mercure Hida Takayama or similar*

Day 7: Takayama

The ancient cultures of Takayama come alive during a guided walk in the town's historic district. Stroll through the morning market, a 600-year-old open air market with locally grown and produced products, located along the Miyagawa River. Circuit the winding streets, where the town's traditional charms are preserved in the inns and houses. Here, **it's your choice!** Choose to glimpse into the past at the 19th-century Takayama

Jinya, a former government building **-OR-** visit the Matsuri Yatai Kaikan and view intricate, traditional, hand-carved floats used in festivals. This afternoon, relish some free time to continue your exploration of Takayama on your own. *Today breakfast will be included.*

 **Accommodation:** *Mercure Hida Takayama or similar*

Day 8: Takayama - Shirakawa-go - Kanazawa

Today, embrace the unique charms of Shirakawa-go (UNESCO). Hidden away in the mountain, this harmonious village is famous for its *gassho-zukuri*-style houses – thatched-rooftops designed to resemble two hands joined in prayer. Journey to Kanazawa, the origin of gold-leaf making since the 16th century. Visit the Omicho fish market, and then onto the beauty of Japan's most stunning gardens, where more than 25 acres of absolute beauty awaits you at Kenroku-En - Garden of Six Qualities. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant serving regional specialties. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

 **Accommodation:** *Hotel Nikko Kanazawa or similar*

Day 9: Kanazawa

Today, dive into the ancient craft of gold leaf making during a private, hands-on lesson in decorating your own lacquer box! Visit the Geisha quarters of Kanazawa, the Higashi Tea district, before venturing out on your own to really immerse yourself in Kanazawa's dynamic culture. *Today breakfast will be included.*

 **Accommodation:** *Hotel Nikko Kanazawa or similar*

Day 10: Kanazawa - Kyoto

Today, Kyoto awaits! The former Imperial capital of Japan is now one of the nation's top cosmopolitan cities. At the same time, Kyoto's connection with its past is strong; you won't need to look far to see one of its 2,000 temples and shrines. After settling into your hotel this afternoon, enjoy a private visit to the Women's Association of Kyoto in a traditional Kyoto town house. Here, delve into a wide array of enlightening Japanese activities, guided by your knowledgeable hostess. Try your hand at making sushi and learn to fold intricate origami shapes. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

 **Accommodation:** *Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto or similar*

Day 11: Kyoto

This morning, visit Fushimi Inari Taisha, one of Japan's most iconic and spiritually significant Shinto shrines (and made famous by the movie *Memoirs of a Geisha*).

Step beneath the first brilliant orange torii gate and follow the winding path as it climbs into the forested hillside. Thousands of torii gates stretch ahead in seemingly endless rows, creating shifting patterns of light and shadow as you walk towards the inner shrine. Along the way, you'll see worshippers stopping at small altars, offering prayers, waving their personal flags, and leaving tokens of devotion. Enjoy free time beginning around 2:00 p.m. to explore more of Kyoto at leisure. *Today breakfast will be included.*

 **Accommodation:** *Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto or similar*

Day 12: Kyoto - Bullet Train - Hiroshima - Kyoto

All aboard the Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima. Upon arrival, board a ferry for the short trip to Miyajima Island, or "Shrine Island" (UNESCO). Afterwards, head into Hiroshima city to visit the Peace Memorial Park, and pause to see the ruined Atomic Dome (UNESCO). Reflect at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. As this long and moving day comes to a close, return to Kyoto by the Shinkansen bullet train. *Today breakfast will be included.*

 **Accommodation:** *Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto or similar*

Day 13: Kyoto

This morning, spend time with a monk at Koshoji Temple,** where you'll have the opportunity to chant and meditate with them. Afterwards, take part in the ancient art of the tea ceremony and learn about its importance in Japanese culture. Take this rare opportunity to learn from and speak to the monk about their daily life. This afternoon, spend some time relaxing or set out to explore Kyoto on your own. Fully immerse yourself in Japanese culture tonight during a special farewell dinner and private maiko show. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

 **Accommodation:** *Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto or similar*

Day 14: Kyoto - Tour Ends

Your tour comes to a close in this fascinating land. As you depart, reflect on its beauty and all you have learned about its rich history and culture. *Today breakfast will be included.*

See page 5 for essential tour information

Pre-Tour Extensions

- **Pre-Night Stay in Tokyo:** Arrive early and enjoy an extra night in Tokyo. This is an independent hotel stay before your guided tour begins.

Post-Tour Extensions

- **Post-Night Stay in Kyoto:** Extend your stay with an extra night in Kyoto. This is an independent hotel stay after your guided tour ends.

Essential Tour Information

What to Expect: Cultural Treasures of Japan

GROUP SIZE & AGE POLICY

Group Size: Travel with an average of 31 people (maximum of 32).

PHYSICAL EFFORT & ACCESSIBILITY

Activity Level: The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

Physical Requirements: **The visit to Koshoji Temple will require travelers to remove their shoes. During the meditation, travelers will sit on the floor. Those who cannot sit on the floor will be provided with a chair.

Medical Equipment/ Devices: Wheelchairs cannot be accommodated on this tour.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at the time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

Tour Pacing: The day we visit Hiroshima from Kyoto will be your longest touring day with an early morning departure before 8:00 a.m. and an evening return to the hotel after 8:00 p.m.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodation Restrictions: Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability. Triple and child accommodations are not available.

FOOD & DIET

Dietary Restrictions: This tour provides authentic dining experiences. Vegan, vegetarian, and even gluten-free diets are uncommon in Japan and not widely catered to. If you have any dietary restrictions, please notify us at time of booking so we can accommodate you as best as possible.

Travel Requirements: Cultural Treasures of Japan

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY RULES

Passport/ Identification Requirements: Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department's latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

Destination Entry/ Exit Requirements: Travelers are required to complete a Disembarkation Card and a Customs Declaration when entering Japan. These forms can be completed online in advance through <https://services.digital.go.jp/en/visit-japan-web/>. You may submit these forms before departure or upon arrival prior to clearing immigration and customs.

Collette will provide all necessary information, updates, and supporting documents for your travel requirements, including visa and Electronic Travel Authorizations (ETAs), if required, approximately 60-90 days prior to your departure.

Customs and Immigrations: At the end of your tour, and upon returning to the U.S., please be prepared to fill out a Declaration Form for U.S. Customs. You are allowed to bring back up to \$800 USD per person of purchases duty free. (Dollar amount is subject to change without notice). There may be restrictions as to quantities and types of items that may be brought back to the United States. For purchases being shipped home, check with the store for the proper VAT forms and any shipping or duty fees that may apply.

Terms and Conditions

IMPORTANT RESERVATION INFORMATION

***Airfare:** For your convenience, we offer airfare for purchase with all tour packages. If you purchase an air inclusive program, your airfare will be quoted inclusive of all fuel, taxes and fees. Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Preassigned seats are limited and may not be available on every flight or departure date. **Checked Baggage Charges:** Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

Cancellation Charges for this tour: After your seat reduction date has passed, a non-refundable deposit will be retained. For Cancellation between 90-16 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 15-1 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 75% of total price. For cancellation on the day of departure and after: 100% of total price. For Ocean Cruises: For cancellation between 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: 60% of total price. 30 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of total price. For River Cruises: including Europe, Russia, Egypt and China, 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 50% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 85% of total price. For cancellation 30 or fewer days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 100% of total price. For Galapagos and Antarctica: A cancellation fee of 60% will apply for cancellation between 120-90 days prior to departure; A cancellation charge of 100% will apply for cancellation less than 90 days prior to departure. Cancellation protection is highly recommended and must be purchased at time of deposit. Air rates are subject to change until tour is paid in full. If Travel Protection Plan has not been purchased and a reservation is cancelled for any reason prior to departure - Air is 100% non-refundable once paid in full. Cancellation charges also apply to reservations made for "pre" and "post" night accommodations. Payment of a Per Person Travel Protection Plan Fee guarantees a full refund of all payments (including deposit), except the Travel Protection Plan Fee itself, made to Collette for travel arrangements in case of cancellation of your travel plans for any reason prior to the day of departure. The Travel Protection Plan Fee with Air only covers airline tickets you have purchased from Collette. Exception: If you originally purchased nonrefundable airline tickets, Part B of the Travel Protection Plan may provide a refund for the airline tickets, taxes, or fees in the event of a cancellation for a covered reason (see Part B for more details). The Travel Protection Plan Fee does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's traveling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. However, the Part B travel insurance includes a single supplement benefit of \$1,500 for certain covered reasons as detailed in Part B. In this case, the single supplement will be deducted from the refund of the person who cancels. Division of this charge between the two passengers involved is solely their responsibility. If insufficient funds are deducted from the canceling client, the traveling client will be charged the remaining portion of the single supplement. Cancellation waiver protects you from penalties in the event you have a need to cancel your entire inclusive tour package up to the day prior to departure. Cancellation waiver does not indemnify you from penalties if you chose to cancel partial tour components or air. If you chose to partially cancel your vacation, you will be responsible for a revision fee as well as any penalties that are incurred at the time of the cancellation. Upon cancellation of transportation or travel services where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not canceled in violation of the terms and conditions above, you will be refunded 100%. Please see your sales agent for more information, or review our brochure for details.

Responsibilities: Collette monitors security situations around the world as well as government travel advisories. Conditions may require Collette to change or even cancel trips. You accept the risks involved in travel, both foreign and domestic, and accept responsibility for your own travel decisions. Travelers may be required to review and sign a participation agreement prior to engaging in certain activities on the trip. Neither Collette Travel Service, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their

employees, shareholders, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively "Collette"), own or operate any person or entity which is to or does provide goods or services for these trips. You agree to be bound by the conditions of carriage for all transportation providers. Collette does not maintain control or operate the personnel, equipment, or operations of these suppliers it uses and as such Collette assumes no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of (1) any wrongful, negligent, willful or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any of the suppliers or other employees or agents, (2) any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment, or instrument owned, operated or otherwise used by any of these suppliers, or (3) any wrongful, willful or negligent act or omission on the part of any other party. Client shall indemnify and hold harmless Collette Travel Service, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their employees, agents, shareholders, officers, successors and assigns (collectively "Collette"), from all suits, actions, losses, damages, claims or liability for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity which is occasioned by any negligent acts or omissions of Collette arising out of any goods or services provided for this or these trips. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, lack of appropriate medical facilities or practitioners, weather, strikes, theft or other criminal acts, war, terrorism, computer problems, or other such causes. Other risks may arise such as, but not limited to, hazards of traveling in foreign countries including undeveloped areas, the hazards of travel by aircraft, bus, van, train, automobile or other motorized vehicle, differing safety standards, sickness, criminal acts committed by others, allergic reactions, and/or animal encounters. You are voluntarily participating in the tour and Collette, and as lawful consideration for the agreement to travel with Collette, you agree not to make a claim against Collette, its related companies, officers and employees for injuries, death, or any other claim and agree to release Collette, its related companies, officers and employees from any such claim. This release is binding on all members of your traveling party, as well as your Estate and heirs and this provision shall be enforceable even after your trip has ended. If you make your own air reservations, Collette is not responsible and shall provide no refund if your flight schedule changes so that you are not able to enjoy the entirety of your tour. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Collette reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if Collette deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour. Collette reserves the right to withdraw any tour announced. Collette reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, when such action is determined by the Tour Manager to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. If you are traveling with children, you are solely responsible for their behavior and monitoring them throughout the tour. Neither does Collette accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline or other ticket to the tour departure city and return or otherwise. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owner at all times. Collette is not responsible, and will not be bound by, representations made by third party representatives, travel agents, unaffiliated websites, or any other party. Participants may be photographed for the promotional purposes of Collette. In addition, any comments that you submit as a review or your social media posts may be used for Collette's promotional purposes. Payment of the deposit to Collette constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Collette reserves the right to modify these terms and conditions at any time, without notice.

Consumer Protection Plans: Collette Travel Service holds membership in the following highly reputable industry organizations: the United States Tour Operators Association and the American Society of Travel Agents. Each association operates a consumer protection plan to cover deposits made by travelers. Full details are available from the organizations or Collette Travel Service. Collette is pleased to give this additional protection to our clients. **Our California Sellers of Travel registration number is 2006766-20. Our State of Washington Unified Business Number is 601-220-855. Florida Seller of Travel registration number. ST35613.**

